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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, two other activists, to share 2008 Gruber Foundation Women's Rights Prize

Criminologist advocates against violations of Palestinian women's rights

July 8, 2008, New York, NY – The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation (PPGF) today announced that **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** of Israel will share its 2008 Women's Rights Prize with two other women's rights activists – **Yanar Mohammed** of Iraq and **Sapana Pradhan Malla** of Nepal – in a ceremony to be held this fall. The three will share the \$500,000 prize.

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian has been an outspoken voice on behalf of Palestinian women, whom she sees as victims and survivors of both patriarchal culture and the violence associated with living in a conflict zone. She has helped bring to public attention the effects that violations of spatial and bodily safety and health are having on Palestinian women living both in Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza. She uses the term "femicide" to describe the type of victimization to which Palestinian women have been subjected, preferring it to "honor crime," "romantic crime," or "crime of passion" because, in her words, these are crimes that involve no honor, passion, or romance. Her work is directed toward the plight of Palestinian women who suffer from historical and current injustices and who are facing daily violations of their basic human rights. Much of Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian's work is done in association with Mada al-Carmel, the nonprofit Arab Center for Applied Social Research located in Haifa, Israel, and with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian is a criminologist, a clinical social worker, and a specialist in human rights and women's rights. She initiated the first hotline in the West Bank and Gaza at the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, which offers advocacy for Palestinian women in situations of domestic violence and the cultural practice of what have been referred to as honor killings. She is active in various Palestinian women organizations, including the Women Studies Center in Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Center for Women, Women Against Violence in Nazareth and Ma'an: the Forum of Arab Women's Organizations in the Naqab. She consulted with Human Rights Watch on its most recent report on violence against Palestinian women in Israel and with the UNIFEM division of the United Nations. Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian is a Senior Lecturer of Criminology and Social Work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a visiting Professor of Law and Women's Studies at USC and UCLA in the United States. She conducted academic research on the multiple forms of violence inflicted upon Palestinian women and girls. She is the director of the Gender Studies Project at Mada al-Carmel: Arab Center for Applied Social Research, and the chair of the board of Gisha: Legal Center for Freedom of Movement. She has trained both Palestinian and Israeli judges, as well as training women activists in the West Bank and Gaza. A prolific author, Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian has written extensively on domestic violence, the criminal justice response to violence against Palestinian women, militarization and violence against women in conflict zones, child abuse, and women in Palestinian society. In addition to publishing over 40 journal articles and book chapters, she has authored or coauthored three books: *Gender and the Militarization of Education in Palestine* (Women Studies Center, Jerusalem, 2006), *Tribal Justice and its Effect on Formal Justice in Palestine* (Institute of Law, Birzeit University, 2003), and *Femicide in Palestinian Society* (UNIFEM, New York, 2001). In 2007, she edited a book addressing the plight of Palestinian women in Israel entitled

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Palestinian Feminist Writings: Between Oppression and Resistance (Mada al-Carmel, Arab Center for Applied Social Research). Her book *Militarization and Violence Against Women in Conflict Zones: A Palestinian Case Study* will be published in the fall of 2008 by Cambridge University Press. The three main research projects with which she is currently involved examine the effect of militarization on parallel legal systems in conflict zones; women, security theology, and the political economy of fear; and internet use and abuse in conflict zones.

The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation Women's Rights Prize is presented to an individual or group that has made significant contributions, often at great personal or professional risk, to furthering the rights of women and girls in any area and to advancing public awareness of the need for gender equality to achieve a just world.

In addition to the cash award, Ms. Mohammed, Ms. Pradhan Malla, and Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian will each receive a gold medal.

The official citation reads:

The 2008 Gruber Women's Rights Prize is proudly presented to: Yanar Mohammed, Sapana Pradhan Malla, and Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, three activists devoted to enhancing women's rights and empowering women under the most difficult conditions of armed conflict and war.

Yanar Mohammed, co-founder of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), for fighting tirelessly to stop the eradication of women's rights in Iraq. OWFI is a women's organization that has continued to speak out openly for women's rights against all odds.

Sapana Pradhan Malla, a member of Nepal's Constituent Assembly, for fighting to include women's human rights in the constitution and, as a member of the Forum for Women, Law & Development (FWLD), for leading the successful effort to decriminalize abortion and to criminalize marital rape.

Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, a Palestinian feminist activist and researcher, for concentrating on sexual abuse and femicide, a term she coined for the abuse that puts women in a state of living death during times of war.

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