

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

Alex Podmaska
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6895
apodmaska@constitutioncenter.org

BARNETT RUBIN TO ADDRESS FOREIGN AID AND DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (May 25, 2010) – International affairs expert **Barnett Rubin**, the National Constitution Center's 2009-2010 Visiting Scholar, will join the Center for a lecture on the challenges of foreign aid and democracy in Pakistan and Afghanistan on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

One of the goals of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan is to support democracy and constitutional rule, while providing assistance to build up the economy and institutions. A central component of democracy, however, is participation by the citizens and their representatives in decisions about taxes and spending, as encapsulated in the American Revolutionary War slogan, "no taxation without representation." Foreign aid, however, is not subject to the same controls through the national budget. Rubin will address the question of how aid can undermine democracy, and how it can be reformed to strengthen it.

Barnett Rubin is the Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the Center on International Cooperation of New York University, where he directs the program on the reconstruction of Afghanistan. In 2001, he served as special advisor to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, during the negotiations that produced the Bonn Agreement. He also advised the United Nations on the drafting of

-MORE-

ADD ONE/FOREIGN AID

the constitution of Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Compact, and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. From 1994-2000, he served as Director of the Center for Preventive Action and Director of Peace and Conflict Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Rubin was Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Central Asia at Columbia University from 1990 to 1996. He has written numerous articles and books, including *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan* and *Blood on the Doorstep*.

The University of Pennsylvania Law School is a partner with the National Constitution Center's Visiting Scholars Program to promote constitutional scholarship by engaging scholars with the general public. Penn Law faculty and other distinguished constitutional scholars teach classes, conduct research, and present lectures on important legal issues.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

###