

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: Denise Venuti Free
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6636
dvfree@constitutioncenter.org

Ashley Berke
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

JFK AND CIVIL RIGHTS DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 5, 2006) – The British Broadcasting System’s Nick Bryant takes a critical and surprising look at John F. Kennedy’s role in the civil rights movement in his new book, *The Bystander: John F. Kennedy and the Struggle for Black Equality* and in a program at the National Constitution Center on Monday, June 19, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission is free, but advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In this tough look at John F. Kennedy, Bryant makes the case that the former President squandered his opportunity to advance the civil rights movement. *The Bystander* reveals new first source research, including the Kennedy “civil rights plank” of his 1946 campaign for Congress, and newly released tapes from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Massachusetts African-American leaders who have remained silent until now.

Bryant is currently the BBC’s South Asian correspondent based in New Delhi, India. He received his M.A. from Cambridge University and his Ph.D. from Oxford University. He was the Washington, D.C. correspondent for BBC from 1998-2003. He has contributed to several London newspapers including *The Times*, *The Daily Mail*, and *The Independent*. Bryant has appeared on American television and radio programs such as *ABC World News Tonight*, NPR’s *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, and *The World*.

-MORE-

ADD ONE/JFK AND CIVIL RIGHTS

A book sale and signing will follow the discussion, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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 and debates, and is a partner of NPR's "Justice Talking," a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

###