

For Immediate Release

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Afghani Activist for Women's Rights Will Speak at Yale
Women's rights advocate Malalai Joya



March 9, 2006. New Haven, CT - Women's rights advocate Malalai Joya will give a talk, titled "Women's Rights, Warlords and the U.S. Occupation of Afghanistan," at Yale's Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Ave., on March 23, 7:30 p.m.

The talk will be preceded by a screening at 6:30 p.m. of the documentary "Afghanistan Unveiled." The film, which aired on PBS, was made in 2003 by a pioneering team of women journalists trained in Afghanistan.

Joya is visiting the United States for the first time since her 2005 election to the new Afghan Parliament. She has been called "the most famous woman in Afghanistan" and has survived assassination attempts and many death threats for speaking out against warlords and fundamentalist leaders.

"They will kill me but they will not kill my voice because it will be the voice of all Afghan women. You can cut the flower, but you cannot stop the coming of spring," Joya said in a BBC News interview in January.

The talk, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Council on Middle East Studies at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies in cooperation with the Interfaith Refugee Ministry of New Haven and the Afghan Women's Mission.

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