

## **INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: A REMARKABLE RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT**

by Vartan Gregorian

President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

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I am very proud to be here today to add my voice to those raised in celebration of the work of the Institute of International Education and the Scholar Rescue Fund. As President of Carnegie Corporation of New York, I bring with me the pride and commitment of Corporation leaders and staff members who have supported IIE from its very inception.

It was Andrew Carnegie himself, the Corporation's founder, whose visionary conception of internationalism was rooted in the idea that America and American democracy must work toward promoting not only international peace but also the values for which our nation stands. Among those, naturally, are the freedom to learn, the freedom of thought, freedom of assembly, and the freedom of speech, all of which must be sacrosanct, even under the most difficult conditions. Our nation's founding father, George Washington, noted this principle when he said that even in wartime, the exchange of ideas and opinions must never be suppressed. Back in 1783—at the tail end of the Revolutionary War and eight years before the Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution—Washington wrote: “If men are to be precluded from offering their sentiments on a matter which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences that can invite the consideration of mankind, reason is of no use to us; the freedom of speech may be taken away, and dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

Hence, institutions such as universities that are the centers of learning and knowledge, along with the scholars and teachers who are their heart and soul, are critical to the advancement of all humankind. Universities, both in the United States and around the globe, are the laboratories for the sciences, for the humanities, the social sciences and for all other areas of study that seek answers to the endless questions that human beings have

about themselves, their world, and about how to improve conditions for men, women and children everywhere.

Therefore, it is not surprising that Carnegie Corporation and its sister institutions have been supporting international education for nearly a century because scholarship has no borders and no boundaries. By its very nature, it is international in character. From the time that the Institute of International Education was founded by a trio of educators and statesmen—including Elihu Root, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who was the first president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the second president of Carnegie Corporation of New York, succeeding Andrew Carnegie himself—the Carnegie institutions have been partners in IIE's efforts to promote international understanding through education but also to step in, when necessary, to rescue students and scholars from crises that threaten not only their work but their lives. Corporation funding began with \$30,000 in 1919, the year that IIE was established and continued steadily even through the Great Depression, with a five-year grant of \$300,000, made in 1927 and renewed for another period of five years, also at the level of \$300,000—amazing sums at that time. And, I should note, Carnegie Corporation's funding for IIE continues today, as evidenced by the Corporation's support of the *Scholar Rescue Fund World Report*.

Now, it is my privilege as a former board member of IIE and former academic administrator at the University of Pennsylvania and Brown University and former chairman of IIE's South African Fellowship Program during the era of apartheid, to be here to attend this meeting and to celebrate not only the accomplishments of the Institute of International Education in aiding and rescuing scholars through the Scholar Rescue Fund, which was established in 2002, but also to note the heroic efforts undertaken by IIE and its leaders to save teachers and scholars who were persecuted during the Nazi and Fascist eras. The contributions of these individuals to America's scientific, artistic and cultural life and hence, to the knowledge and wisdom available to the world, is incalculable. Through the Scholar Rescue Fund and all its international work to promote the exchange of knowledge and ideas, the Institute of International Education has dedicated itself to nothing less than advancing and preserving the knowledge and history

of the world's cultures and civilizations. How much would have been lost—and would continue to be lost—without their efforts is almost unthinkable.

As Dr. Henry Jarecki, Vice Chairman of IIE and Chairman of the Scholar Rescue Fund says in his introduction to the *Scholar Rescue Fund World Report*, “The Scholar Rescue Fund operates at a nexus where education human rights, and humanitarian relief work somehow come together. It is a dangerous intersection and, if history is our guide, bears close monitoring.” At Carnegie Corporation, we stand with IIE at that “dangerous intersection,” and are grateful that they continue to help nurture and protect the legacy of learning and knowledge that is the collective work of thinkers and teachers and scholars from every corner of the world.

Thank you very much.