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SUKETU MEHTA, CAROL JENKINS, ISHMAEL BEAH AND OTHERS READ & PERFORM TO CELEBRATE HUMAN RIGHTS AT BREAKTHROUGH'S ANNUAL BENEFIT

New York (October 20, 2009) – Breakthrough will host its annual benefit, *Let's Breakthrough Together* on Thursday, October 22, 2009 with an evening of readings and performances by celebrated authors and artists to support human rights. The event will take place at the Harvard Club of New York City.

The evening will feature notable authors and performers like Ishmael Beah (*New York Times* bestselling author of *A Long Way Gone, Memoir of a Boy Soldier*); Suketu Mehta (author of *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*, Pulitzer Prize finalist); Carol Jenkins (Emmy award-winning TV anchor and President of the Women's Media Center); Andrew Solomon (author of *Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*, winner of the 2001 National Book Award); and Sarita Choudhury (actor best-known for lead performances in *Lady in the Water*, *Mississippi Masala* and *A Perfect Murder*).

Funds raised at the benefit will support Breakthrough's cutting-edge initiatives in India and the U.S. that seek to advance human rights for marginalized communities including women and immigrants.

Breakthrough's groundbreaking campaign, *Bell Bajao! (Ring the Bell!)* calling on men and boys to bring domestic violence to a halt, has been championed by Bollywood actor Boman Irani, and supported by partnerships with Ogilvy and the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development. *Bell Bajao!* has reached more than 130 million in India through television, radio and print PSAs, and was recognized as the Best Integrated Campaign of the Year at Goafest 2009 Abby Awards.

On October 21, 2009, Breakthrough's Executive Director, Mallika Dutt will testify before the House Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight to encourage passage of the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA), which seeks to ensure that the fundamental right to live a life free from violence can become a reality for the world's women.

Breakthrough recently produced *Restore Fairness*, a powerful documentary that has brought national attention to the harsh impact of unfair U.S. immigration policies on individuals, families, and communities. The video was produced in partnership with 26 leading organizations and features interviews with members of Congress, judges, and individuals affected by unfair immigration policies.

About Breakthrough

Breakthrough is an innovative international human rights organization using the power of popular culture, media, and community mobilization to transform public attitudes and advance equality, justice and dignity. Through initiatives in India and the United States, Breakthrough addresses critical global issues including violence against women, sexuality and HIV/AIDS, racial justice and immigrant rights.

For more on Breakthrough's human rights programs or to buy tickets, please visit www.breakthrough.tv

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