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Inaugural Breakthrough Inspiration Award: Vikram Pandit, Chairman and CEO of Citi's Institutional Clients Group and Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone*.

New York - Breakthrough will be honoring **Vikram Pandit**, Chairman and CEO of Citi's Institutional Clients Group and **Ishmael Beah**, author of *A Long Way Gone* and former child soldier with the inaugural **Breakthrough Inspiration Award** at its third annual Let's Breakthrough Together benefit gala to be held on October 25, 2007 at the historic Puck Building in New York City. Both honorees embody the spirit of human rights and leadership in their respective fields.

Vikram Pandit is Chairman and CEO of Citi's newly formed Institutional Clients Group comprising of Citi Markets & Banking and Citi Alternative Investments. He was formerly a founding member and chairman of Old Lane, LP, a multi-strategy hedge fund and a private equity fund manager that was acquired by Citi in 2007. Prior to forming Old Lane, Mr. Pandit was President and Chief Operating Officer of Morgan Stanley's institutional securities and investment banking business.

Ishmeal Beah, author of the best-seller *A Long Way Gone* that chronicled the period of his youth as a boy soldier, has become a spokesperson and a beacon of hope for many who have had to live through such tragic circumstances as a direct result of conflict and civil war, and survived. Today, Beah is active with UNICEF's Ambassador Program and is educating and inspiring young people.

Breakthrough uses media, education and popular culture to promote public dialogue about challenging social issues facing the world today. Our media products and education programs have reached millions and we launched the first multi-media campaign addressing stigma and discrimination against HIV+ women in India in February 2007.

- The path-breaking campaign, *Is This Justice?* was created pro bono by Ogilvy & Mather and has reached more than 35 million people across India.
- The campaign has won the prestigious Radio & TV Advertising Practitioners' Association of India Ltd (RAPA) 2007 award in the category "Best Public Service Film of the Year in All languages."

In the US, Breakthrough is working to reframe the immigration debate to ensure due process and fairness for all those who live in the country. Its upcoming video game, ICED (I Can End Deportation), has already garnered a great deal of interest and media attention.

Tiffany McElroy and Sukanya Krishnan of the CW11 Morning News will host the Gala. Earl "the Pearl" Monroe, Basketball Hall of Fame player, will be special guest and awards presenter.