



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 3, 2005

Mario Vargas Llosa to Receive 2005 Irving Kristol Award

Washington, D.C.—The renowned Peruvian novelist, essayist, playwright, and political thinker Mario Vargas Llosa has been selected to receive the American Enterprise Institute's Irving Kristol Award for 2005. Mr. Vargas Llosa will receive the award and deliver the Irving Kristol Lecture at the Institute's annual dinner on March 2, 2005, at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

One of the deepest and most prolific of contemporary novelists and a pioneering force in Latin America's literary revival since the 1960s, Mr. Vargas Llosa is also a prominent advocate of democracy, free markets, and individual liberty. In announcing his acceptance of the Kristol Award, AEI president Christopher DeMuth stated, "Mario Vargas Llosa's richly variegated work and career teach that the cause of freedom is universal—it is fundamental to the human condition and essential to the pursuit of justice and peace. As we confront this truth in a course of a strange and violent new political struggle, it is important to recognize that the narrative of freedom has unfolded in many times and places and has stirred the imaginations of our greatest creative artists."

Mario Vargas Llosa was born in 1936 in Arequipa, Peru, raised in Peru and Bolivia, and educated in literature and law at the University of San Marcos in Peru and at the University of Madrid (Ph.D.). Working as a journalist and editor of literary journals in the 1950s, he published his first collection of short stories, *Los jefes* (The Cubs and other stories), in 1959; his first novel, *La ciudad y los perros* (The Time of the Hero), appeared in 1963 and gained immediate international recognition. Among his best known works are *Conversación en La Catedral* (Conversation in the Cathedral, 1969), *La guerra del fin del mundo* (The War of the End of the World, 1981), and *La fiesta del chivo* (The Feast of the Goat, 2000). His novels, stories, and studies of Gustave Flaubert and Gabriel García Márquez have been translated into many languages and have spawned a substantial body of literary criticism.

Agitation against a government seizure of Peru's private banks in 1987 drew Mr. Vargas Llosa into active politics for several years. In 1990, he was the candidate of the FREDEMO Movement for the president of Peru, running on a platform of conservative reform and losing narrowly to Alberto Fujimori. His memoir *El pez en el agua* (A Fish in the Water, 1993) relates his brief political career.

A past president of International PEN, Mr. Vargas Llosa has held visiting professorships at Harvard, Princeton, Georgetown, and other American and European universities and is a member of the Scholars' Council of the U.S. Library of Congress. He was the first twentieth-century Latin American to be elected to the Spanish Royal Academy (1994); among his numerous other honors are the Cervantes Prize (1994), the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade (1996), and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism (1997). He and his wife, Patricia, have three grown children and currently reside in London, Madrid, and Lima.

(over)

The Irving Kristol Award, AEI's highest award, recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary intellectual or practical contributions to improved government policy or social welfare. The award was established in 2002 in honor of AEI senior fellow Irving Kristol, replacing the Institute's Francis Boyer Award, which had been awarded annually for the previous twenty-five years. The Kristol Award is selected by the AEI Council of Academic Advisers (for information about the Council, visit www.aei.org/caa).

Following is a list of Kristol Award and Boyer Award recipients. Many of their lectures are posted at www.aei.org/eventseries8.

The Irving Kristol Award and Lecture

2005	Mario Vargas Llosa	2003	Allan H. Meltzer
2004	Charles Krauthammer		

The Francis Boyer Award and Lecture

2002	Norman Podhoretz	1988	Ronald W. Reagan
2001	Clarence Thomas	1987	Paul A. Volcker
2000	Christopher DeMuth	1986	David Packard
1999	Michael Novak	1985	Jeane J. Kirkpatrick
1997	James Q. Wilson	1984	Robert H. Bork
1996	Alan Greenspan	1983	Sir Alan Walters
1995	George F. Will	1982	Hanna Holborn Gray
1994	Carlos Salinas de Gortari	1981	Henry A. Kissinger
1993	Richard B. Cheney	1980	William J. Baroody Sr.
1991	Irving Kristol	1979	Paul Johnson
1990	Thomas Sowell	1978	Arthur F. Burns
1989	Antonin Scalia	1977	Gerald R. Ford

###