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# Uncovered: A Human Rights Media Watch



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## Moyers Returns to Public TV

After a nearly two year absence, journalist Bill Moyers will return to television in January with a new show called **Moyers & Company**. The show will focus on the role of democracy in society and "be a political series, but not a partisan one."

The *New York Times* reported that Moyers has completed interviews with Reagan Budget Chief David Stockman, the former Citibank Chief Executive John S. Reed and the poet Rita Dove. He also held four-hour chat with Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, authors of "Winner-Take-All Politics," the focus of the first three episodes.

Moyers & Company is being distributed by American Public Television (APT) and be broadcast Sunday's at Noon beginning January 15 on Channel 9 in St. Louis. Other local listings can be found at [BillMoyers.com](http://BillMoyers.com).

In a multimedia marketplace saturated with shallow sound bites and partisan name-calling, 'Moyers & Company' digs deeper. As the *Los Angeles Times* put it in 2010, "No one on television has centralized the discussion of ideas as much as Moyers... He not only gives a forum to unusual thinkers, he is truly interested in what they have to say ...because he believes their ideas really matter."

The core question the show seeks to address -- economic inequality and the interplay it has with the state of American democracy -- was also the question that most compelled Moyers' return to television. As he explained in a recent interview:

*"The growth of inequality in this country is the biggest story of our time. ...Since 1979, 40 percent of the growth of income has gone to one percent of the population. This is changing us radically.*

*You go back to ...the 19th century.. the first gilded age. We're living in the second gilded age. The first gilded age, the industrial revolution, released enormous wealth at the top and excruciating misery at the bottom. It took the populist movement, the progressive movement, finally leading into the New Deal and the Fair Deal, before we began to correct those imbalances."*



## Papers Correct Iran Reports Will PBS & NPR Do the Same?

Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting has noted that the *PBS NewsHour* (1/9/12) edited Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's comments on the January 8 broadcast of *Face the Nation* to exclude his statement that Iran is not trying to develop a nuclear weapon. The NewsHour then used his comments to try to suggest the opposite: that Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapon.

On NPR's *Weekend Edition Sunday* (1/8/12), reporter Tom Gjelten said, "The goal for the U.S. and its allies ... [is] to convince Iran to give up a nuclear weapons program," thereby implying that Iran already has a nuclear weapons program, which is not a known fact.

Reader complaints to the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* (NYT) concerning misleading reporting on Iran and nuclear weapons have had an effect. The *Washington Post* corrected a headline that said, "Iran's quest to possess nuclear weapons," and *Washington Post* Ombudsman Patrick Pexton wrote in his column that he agreed with the readers' complaints.

On January 10, NYT Public Editor Arthur Brisbane wrote that he agreed with reader complaints about a NYT report that spoke erroneously of "a recent assessment by the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran's nuclear program has a military objective," and he wrote that the NYT should run a correction.

### Action:

For more information and to urge NPR and PBS to correct their reports go to:

<http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/act/misleadingoniran>