An Analysis of the Mo Ibrahim Award for African Leadership and Achievement's Recipients

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Abstract

This essay will analyze the Ibrahim Prize for African Leadership and Achievement and attempt to predict who will receive it in the future. First, I will provide a brief overview of both the Ibrahim Foundation (the sponsor of the Ibrahim Prize), as well as a general appraisal of the award itself. Then I will outline and analyze the founder of the organization: Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim. After reviewing Dr. Ibrahim and his general ideology regarding the prize, the essay will illuminate the Ibrahim Prize's criteria generally, and the selection board's expectations, specifically. Taking into account the ideology of Dr. Ibrahim and the general criteria of the Selection Board, I will contend that there is, at the most basic level, a three-prong expectation placed upon possible awardees. By coming to a full understanding of the criteria, this essay will move on to assess the qualifications of two prior recipients of the Ibrahim Prize, and determine additional factors which may influence the Selection Board's decision. Utilizing the analysis of the Ibrahim Prize's standards, as well as the case studies mentioned above, this paper will conclude by predicting a future recipient of the award in question: President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia.

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