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### 8th "International Prize of Freedom" awarded to Gabriella Battaini Dragoni

Strasbourg, 18 June - Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, received the 8th "International Prize of Freedom" today in Lucca, Italy. The aim of the Prize is to highlight the role of international personalities pursuing freedom in several fields: culture, scientific research, economics, journalism and global governance.

The 2010 Special Award has been made to Rebiya Kadeer the Uyghur minority leader, invited as the next witness in the Council of Europe Anti-Discrimination Campaign.

The "International Prize of Freedom" was created in 2003 by "Societa' Libera", a non-profit organisation fostering freedom and promoting liberalism, in order to strengthen the concept of individual responsibility. The jury includes prestigious academics, senior media editors, leading civil society representatives, and well-known entrepreneurs.

The ceremony was organised in Lucca on the occasion of celebrations to mark the centenary of the famous reporter Mario Pannunzio's birth. The journalist, originally from Lucca, is an intellectual icon of sincere liberalism in Italy.

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