



Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

Prize-Winner Canon Andrew White Speaks of Need to Work on Building Relationships Among Warring Religious Factions in Iraq



The Reverend Canon Andrew White, who has risked his life for peace in Iraq and throughout the Middle East, accepted the Civil Courage Prize Medal for 2010 and \$50,000 during an October 18th award ceremony at the Harold Pratt House in New York City.

Canon White, also known as the “Vicar of Baghdad,” is Rector of St. George’s Church of Baghdad, an ecumenical congregation that is Iraq’s sole-surviving Anglican Church.

In thanking the Foundation, and the more than 130 guests present, White said, “If we’re going to see any difference, we need two things: one, courage and, two, commitment. And that is what this prize is all about.”

Canon White lamented that too many Westerners ignore the central role of religion in the Middle East.

Since 2003, Canon White has worked continuously to build and maintain relationships among Iraq’s warring Sunni, Shia, Kurd and Christian leaders to restore Iraq’s civil society. He spoke about failing to convince the Coalition Provisional Authority that even the restoration of water and electricity would depend on sensitivity to religious differences. After CPA staff complained about weeks without progress, White recalled wanting to say, “Told you!” as he was then brought into the process.

White acknowledged that it was not easy to work in such *continued on page 2*

Meacham Calls for Honest and True Leaders in Time of Rising Conflict

In his keynote address at the Civil Courage Prize award ceremony, Pulitzer-prize winning author and journalist Jon Meacham decried the dearth of true leaders in the U.S. He praised 2010 CCP winner Canon Andrew White as a model of courage, honesty and civility in the pursuit of world peace.

Reflecting on America’s singular obligation to act responsibly on the global stage, Meacham said, “We must encourage our leaders to be honest or the whole enterprise falls apart.” He stated that too many American leaders are just “class provocateurs who have a direct stake in perpetuating conflict as opposed to resolving problems.” Meacham warned that dishonest leaders and the

lack of civil discourse in American politics have dire consequences for U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

Meacham, who wrote the New York Times best-seller, *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers and the Making of a Nation*, said, “All too often, religion is a force for division, not unity.” He said that White has helped make peace among warring factions in the Middle East because he “rises to the occasion...when confronted with challenges of history, and of necessity and moral complication.”

Of Canon White, Meacham commented, “It is given to few people to be able to act on the scale that our honoree has been able *continued on page 2*



Letter from the Chairman

The objective of the Civil Courage Prize has always been twofold. The first is to broaden awareness of the concept of civil courage, which is a necessary virtue in a good society. If everybody says, "The devil take the hindmost," the devil soon makes his way to the head of the line. Someone must make a resolute stand.

The second objective is to single out individuals in any part of the world who exemplify this virtue, like Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who inspired us. Such individuals hold up the torch of civil courage. Their courage inspires others. It is not only the effect of their deeds that is inspiring, but even more, the human qualities that their deeds illustrate.

We are always moved by the inspiration of one lonely hero defying an evil environment, whether he wins or loses, more than by a well-intentioned battalion, since within the larger group are many motivations.

Furthermore, a group needs a prospect of success, whereas at the moral level of our prizewinners we may well find a noble indifference to success. They do what they must, because it has to be done.



John Train

White Builds Peace through Courage and Commitment

continued from page 1 an area full of strife. He noted that "If you're going to try and make peace, you have to take risks. To work for peace, you have to be willing to work with people who make war."

As such, he was often in great personal danger and he was frequently called on to negotiate with kidnappers. "I was regularly at risk," he said. "I was held at gunpoint... During another occasion, posters were put up all around Baghdad with my picture on them, saying 'Wanted: Dead or Alive'." White said he has worked on more than one hundred Iraqi hostage cases, including his first, the successful rescue of a young boy, Ma'an. In an emotional moment, White and Ma'an, now a young man, met for the first time at the award ceremony reception. Ma'an had been whisked out of Baghdad with his Iraqi mother as soon as he was released and eventually settled in Washington, D.C., where he now lives. His attendance at the ceremony was a complete surprise for the Canon.

Peace-making and kidnap negotiations were just some parts of the mission that Canon White recalled. He stated that, all the while, his ministry was equally important. White spoke about holding chapel services in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces, beginning in 2003. Chapel services were later moved to the Shiite Iraqi Prime



Canon Andrew White and ex-hostage Ma'an Mansour

Minister's office within the protected Green Zone, and the Canon could often rely on seeing the top American military representatives in church on Sunday even if he was unable to contact them during the week. St. George's Church of Baghdad now serves a congregation of 4,000 people, most of them Muslims, providing health care and food as well as spiritual guidance as White continues to balance peace-making efforts with the spiritual and daily needs of his congregants. "Today our church is far more than a church. We have probably the biggest clinic as well, and most patients are not Christian. We, as a minority, can show love to the others in helping them in their need."

Canon White summed up his continuing work: "So much of my time in Baghdad today is just working on keeping relationships going."

Pulitzer-Prize Winner Lauds Faith-Based Middle East Peacemaker

continued from page 1 to engage in and really change the course of history." Meacham said too many American leaders are dishonest about their own motives and are interested in their own financial well-being. He described their rejection of civil discourse as not for ideological reasons, but because they see the fight "essentially as a game."

A former Newsweek editor who now co-hosts the PBS public affairs program *Need to Know*, Meacham said journalists like himself must help the public distinguish political activists from such politically

dependent commentators.

In contrast, Meacham pointed to Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as historic examples of honest leaders able to rally support for their policies, even in times of despair. Churchill credited such honesty with helping him survive a no-confidence vote in the winter of 1942, when the Allies were losing on all fronts. Churchill later wrote "people can face any misfortune with fortitude...if they are convinced their leaders are not deceiving them or are not themselves dwelling in a fools' paradise."

Reception and Ceremony to award Civil Courage Prize to White



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- 1 Nina Train Choa, Hon. John Train, Canon Andrew White, Ariadne Calvo-Platero, Jon Meacham
- 2 Dr. Trip Casscells, Canon Andrew White, Hon. Jerry Jones
- 3 Francie Train, Harry Gittes and Lois Severini
- 4 Musa Klebnikov and Tommy Bruce

- 5 John and Jennifer Clay
- 6 Ed Epstein and James Hoge
- 7 Hazel Haney, Canon Andrew White, Lielani Locet Haney
- 8 David Rockefeller Room at the Harold Pratt House
- 9 Hon. John Train, Edward and Betsy Cohen

- 10 Hon. John and Francie Train
- 11 Virginia Hurt and Ambassador Edward Streator
- 12 Canon Andrew White, Brig. Gen. Patrick Rea, Ambassador Nicholas Platt
- 13 May Al Najjar, Gen. Georges Sada, Connie Wilson

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- | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| 2010 | Canon Andrew White <i>Middle East Peacemaker</i> | 2003 | Shahnaz Bukhari <i>Battler against the burning and other abuse of Pakistani women</i> |
| 2009 | Aminatou Haidar <i>Champion of the non-violent campaign for self-determination in Western Sahara</i> | 2002 | Vladimiro Roca Antunez <i>Champion of freedom, Cuba</i> |
| 2008 | Ali Salem <i>Egyptian author and journalist. Voice for peace and reason in the Middle East</i> | | Gustavo Arcos Bergnes (Honorable Mention) <i>Early democracy activist, Cuba</i> |
| 2007 | Phillip Buck <i>Imprisoned in China for guiding North Korean refugees in their escape to freedom</i> | 2001 | Paul Kamara <i>Editor and journalist fighting tyranny in Sierra Leone</i> |
| 2006 | Rafael Marques de Morais <i>Journalist who exposed the slaughter of Angolans and the plundering of national assets</i> | 2000 | Natasa Kandic <i>Persecuted journalist and activist, Belgrade</i> |
| 2005 | Min Ko Naing <i>Imprisoned campaigner for democracy in Burma</i> | | Sergei Khodorovich (Honorable Mention) <i>Solzhenitsyn collaborator exiled to hard labor in Siberia</i> |
| | Anna Politkovskaya <i>Fearless reporter on atrocities in Chechnya, assassinated</i> | | Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer† <i>Anti-Nazi martyr</i> |
| | Munir Said Thalib† <i>Exposed disappearances and corruption in Indonesia, assassinated</i> | | Judge Giovanni Falcone† <i>Assassinated while prosecuting the Sicilian Mafia</i> |
| 2004 | Emadeddin Baghi <i>Imprisoned for exposing assassinations of Iranian intellectuals</i> | | Rosemary Nelson† <i>Civil rights lawyer, assassinated while defending accused persons in Northern Ireland</i> |
| | Lovemore Madhuku <i>Lawyer persecuted for demanding constitutional reform in Zimbabwe</i> | | Neelan Tiruchelvam† <i>Lawyer and educator, killed by a suicide bomber while working for solutions to Tamil-Sri Lankan conflict</i> |
| | Abdul al-Latif al-Mayah† <i>Iraqi political scientist and human rights advocate, assassinated</i> | | Raoul Wallenberg† <i>Saved thousands of Jews from extermination</i> |

† = posthumous

The Civil Courage Prize honors civil courage—steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk—rather than military valor. The acts so recognized should have taken place deliberately, over time.

Nominations for the Prize are solicited primarily from non-profit, non-governmental organizations worldwide. Further information may be obtained from our website: www.civildcourageprize.org.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

—Edmund Burke



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