



# Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

## Canon Andrew White Wins 2010 Civil Courage Prize for Steadfastly Advocating and Working Towards Peace in Iraq



The Reverend Canon Andrew White, a leading figure in the effort for peace in Iraq and throughout the Middle East, will receive the Civil Courage Prize Medal for 2010 and \$50,000 at a ceremony in New York on October 18th. Canon White, also known as the “Vicar of Baghdad,” is rector of St George’s Church Baghdad, an ecumenical congregation and the last Anglican church in Iraq. He is a key participant in the peace process there and has worked since 2003 to reconcile Iraq’s disparate religious factions by developing relationships with many of the most senior religious leaders within the Sunni, Shia, Kurdish, Christian and other minority communities. Working together with the Provisional Coalition Authority, Canon White helped facilitate the signing of the Baghdad Peace Accord in February 2004. The ensuing religious dialogue was seen as instrumental in the development of the reconstruction process in Iraq. In 2005, Canon White

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## Jon Meacham to Deliver Keynote Speech at Prize Ceremony

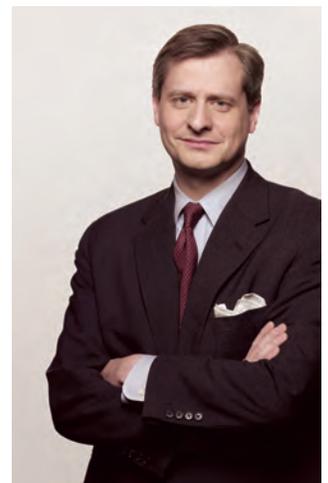
Jon Meacham, the noted journalist and Pulitzer Prize winning author, will deliver the keynote address at October’s Civil Courage Prize Ceremony at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Mr. Meacham has spent fifteen years at *Newsweek*, first as a writer, then as managing editor from 1998. He was appointed editor of the magazine in October 2006. In March 2010, Mr. Meacham also became co-anchor of the weekly PBS public affairs program, *Need to Know*.

Mr. Meacham is the author of the bestselling

*American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in April 2009. He has also authored two other New York Times bestsellers: *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and The Making of a Nation*; and the award-winning *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*, about the wartime relationship between the two leaders.

In addition to writing numerous book reviews for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times Book*

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We are exceedingly grateful—and at the same time a bit apologetic—for the thoughtful nominations that eminent persons and organizations have sent us. Grateful, because these nominations are the fuel of our process and bring to our attention an array of impressive individuals. Apologetic, since so many entirely worthy candidates could not be recognized this year, despite their clearly displaying lives full of civil courage.

We have developed criteria to help us choose prize-winners, including a desire to focus on a different geographical area from a recent prior year and not to favor a candidate who has recently received another high recognition such as a major prize. And of course acts recognized should be steadfast, over time.

We are profoundly moved by the heroic lives of these nominees.



John Train

*A list of nominators for the 2009 and 2010 Civil Courage Prize nomination cycle appears on Page 3.*

## Jon Meacham to Deliver Keynote Speech at Prize Ceremony

*continued from page 1* Review, and *The Washington Post Book World*, he edited, in 2001, *Voices in Our Blood: America's Best on the Civil Rights Movement*, a collection of distinguished nonfiction about the mid-century struggle against Jim Crow. In 2007, Mr. Meacham was awarded the Hubert H. Humphrey First Amendment Medal by the Anti-Defamation League, which recognizes those who have made significant and lasting contributions to the protection and advancement of the First Amendment.

## Canon Andrew White Wins 2010 Civil Courage Prize



*continued from page 1* co-founded the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, of which he is President and CEO. He is widely considered to be extremely courageous and to have played a vital part in the reduction of Iraq's sectarian violence. A highlight of his work was a 2008 joint Sunni-Shiite fatwa seeking peace, a call to end religious violence between the two warring sides. This proclamation was the result of an ongoing series of conferences that brought together many different religious groups in Iraq with no other forum for debate and reconciliation.

In addition to his bridge-building work with leading Iraqi clerics, Canon White, who himself suffers from multiple sclerosis, also attends to the medical needs of the people of Baghdad, operating medical and dental clinics which provide services to all who need them, regardless of religious affiliation—many of whom are Muslim. He has also worked as a mediator in over a hundred cases of kidnapping, effecting a successful release in many of those cases. In 2007, Canon White testified before the US Commission on International Religious Freedom and he also continues his directorship of the International Ministry for the Diocese and Cathedral of Coventry.

Before arriving in Iraq, Canon White was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Envoy to the Middle East and a strategic player in bringing about the signing of the Alexandria Declaration, which established a dialogue among many of the key religious

leaders in the Middle East in an effort to further the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. He was also one of the main negotiators during the siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 2002. Before that his efforts were focused on Nigeria where he worked in response to the terrible riots in Kaduna in 2000.

Canon White is exposed to considerable danger and has suffered frequent death threats from sectarian militia, as well as calls for his capture “dead or alive,” and has been beaten, held at gunpoint and had his quarters ransacked. He and his staff are constantly under threat, a significant number having been murdered or kidnapped. The Iraqi armed forces now provide him with a security detail and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office has insisted on him leaving the country at times, but he continues to return to pursue his important work. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, states that these threats have “not curtailed his desire to make a difference and I am quite sure that he would be willing to take the ultimate step of laying down his life, if it made a difference for peace.” Because of his work, Canon White is often away from his wife and two children who live in England.

He has been the recipient of a number of awards recognizing his tireless work for peace and has written several books about his views and experiences in Iraq, and many articles about his work and inter-faith activities.

## Recent News of Past Winners



### Aminatou Haidar, 2009

*Peaceful Pursuer of Western Saharan Self-Determination*

On her return home to Laayoune, Western Sahara from receiving the Civil Courage Prize in New York, Moroccan officials seized Aminatou Haidar's passport and denied her re-entry. She was forced onto a Spanish aircraft and began a life-threatening hunger strike when she disembarked in Lanzarote. She was finally returned to the Western Sahara by medical aircraft 32 days later. After just six months spent at home convalescing, Ms. Haidar returned to the United States to continue her efforts to gain human rights for the Sahrawi people. During her visit, Ms. Haidar met with Train Foundation trustees and stated that "Morocco's grip on the Western Sahara constitutes the last colony in Africa and it's the only one where human rights are not protected. Thus we do not enjoy freedom of speech or assembly, or political self-determination, and our resources are unilaterally exploited by Morocco, the occupying power. All we ask is the basic rights that belong to people everywhere, these found in the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights." Ms. Haidar who has previously been jailed by Moroccan authorities and "disappeared" without charge or trial and also held for four years in a secret location, arrived in New York looking fragile yet determined. In the last six months, Ms. Haidar has received numerous awards for her courageous and peaceful battle.



### Rafael Marques de Morais, 2006

*Angolan Journalist and Human Rights Activist*

Despite constant pressure and severe harassment, Rafael Marques returned to the United States in April of this year to continue in his efforts to bring attention to the wholesale looting of Angola by government officials. Mr. Marques met with The Train Foundation, journalists, think tanks and government representatives in New York and Washington, D.C. and reported that he found a sympathetic hearing. In a letter to The Train Foundation after his trip, he stated that "Corruption in Angola has become the main scourge of our society" and thanked the Foundation for its continued support stating that, "Moral support is as important as material assistance" and pledging to use his new contacts in his continued fight against corruption. In addition to providing vital information to US Congressional staff and officers, Mr. Marques has also been a key contact and resource and was quoted in a recent Wall Street Journal article about the human rights abuses that continue in the Angolan diamond industry. Mr. Marques disseminates the results of his investigations locally and worldwide in the press and on his website [www.makaangola.com](http://www.makaangola.com).

## With Special Thanks to Civil Courage Prize Nominators 2009-2010

Montu Ahanthem  
*of Wide Angle*

Hanan A. Awwad  
*of The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Palestine*

Barbara Becker  
*of EqualShot*

Carlos Brillembourg  
William Browder  
*of Hermitage Capital Management*

William J. Butler  
*of The American Association for the International Commission of Jurists*

Isobel Coleman  
*of The Council on Foreign Relations*

Sant Vivek Das  
*of Kabir Chaura Math*

Jack David  
*of The Hudson Institute*

Inna Dubinsky  
*of Voice of America, Russian Service*

Michella Findley  
*of Looking for My Sister*

Helen Fioratti  
*of L'Antiquaire & Connoisseur*

Donald T. Fox  
*of Fox Horan & Camerini LLP*

Andrew Fraser  
*of Mitsubusbi Corporation*

Brooke Galloway  
*of Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center*

Steven Gerber  
*of Rabbis for Human Rights*

Girmaye Gizaw  
*of Free Birtukan Mideska*

Germaine Greer  
*of the University of Warwick, Coventry*

Vartan Gregorian  
*of Carnegie Corporation of New York*

Paul Hamann  
*of Reprieve*

Mohammed Garba Hassan  
*of The Daily Trust Newspaper*

Alice Henkin  
*of The Aspen Institute*

Katherine Hill  
*of Focus: HOPE*

Virginia Hurt  
Giancarlo Ibarguen

Donna Inglima  
Marion B. Javits

Erol Kekic  
*of The Church World Service Immigration & Refugee Program*

Cat Lucas  
*of English PEN*

Faith McDonnell  
*of The Institute on Religion and Democracy*

Damien McElroy  
*of The Telegraph*

James Masuna,  
Kalenzi Victor  
*of High Hope Uganda*

Jamie Metzler  
*of Asia Society*

Arigbabu Opeoluwa  
Michael  
*of Zoom Mobile*

Aryeh Neier  
*of the Open Society Institute*

GC Onyekwere  
*of The Institute of Corporate Administration*

Rebecca Rimel  
*of Pew Charitable Trusts*

Shaiza Rizavi  
*of Gilder, Gagnon, Howe & Company*

Dr. Robert Rotberg  
*of The World Peace Foundation*

Teklemichael  
Sahlemariam  
*of The Ethiopian Canadian Citizenship League*

Suzanne Scholte  
*of The Defense Forum Foundation*

Daniel A. Sharp  
*of The Institute for Large Scale Innovation*

Paul Singer  
*of Elliott Management*

Paul Steiger  
*of Pro Publica*

Henri Tiphagne  
*of People's Watch*

Rev. Robert Tobin  
& Maurine Tobin

Hoi Trinh  
*of VOICE*

Lord Weidenfeld

Kenneth Weinstein  
*of The Hudson Institute*

Josh Weston  
*of Automatic Data Processing*

Elie Wiesel  
*of Boston University*

John F. Woolverton

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## Past Honorees

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

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

—Edmund Burke



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