



# Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

## Physician Denis Mukwege Wins 2013 Civil Courage Prize for Championing Victims of Gender-based Violence in DR Congo



This year's Civil Courage Prize will be awarded to Denis Mukwege. Founder of the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu in Eastern Congo, Dr. Mukwege is renowned for his treatment of survivors of sexual violence and his active public denunciation of mass rape. The Panzi Hospital has treated more than 30,000 women since its inception in 1999, many of whom have suffered the intolerable consequences of gender-based violence as a weapon of intimidation and war. Denis Mukwege will receive the CCP medal, together with the \$50,000 awarded annually by The Train Foundation.

Founded originally as a gynecological clinic for specialist maternity care, the Panzi Hospital has increasingly become a center for victims of brutal sexual attacks, often at the hands of soldiers and armed rebels. Dr. Mukwege has reported operating on as many as ten women a day, and working to train a staff who can keep up with the ever-increasing number of women

needing surgery and aftercare. On the subject of sexual violence as a weapon, Dr. Mukwege has noted that "It's a strategy that destroys not only the victim; it destroys the whole family, the whole community."

In September 2012, Dr. Mukwege spoke publicly, at the UN in New York, of the need to prosecute the crime of mass rape and rape as a tool of war and terror. He criticized the Congolese government, demanding that it take action against the perpetrators of this crime against women and society as well as other atrocities.

Over the years, Dr. Mukwege has shown extraordinary valor in the face of multiple death threats. Just this last October 2012, Dr. Mukwege narrowly escaped a brutal assassination attempt at his own home in Bukavu for which no assailant has yet been brought to justice. The assault on his house and family, which resulted in the shooting death of his bodyguard was just one of

*continued on page 2*

### New York Times Columnist Bill Keller to Deliver Keynote Speech

Bill Keller, Op-Ed columnist and former executive editor of The New York Times, will give the keynote address at the Civil Courage Prize Ceremony this October 15th at the Harold Pratt House in New York City. Mr. Keller was at the helm of The New York Times for eight years, during which time the paper won 18 Pulitzer Prizes and expanded its Internet presence and digital subscription. Previous to that he had been both managing editor and foreign editor for a number of years, and had been chief of the Johannesburg bureau, from 1992 to 1995, witnessing the end of white rule in South Africa.

Mr. Keller is himself a Pulitzer Prize winner for his coverage from Moscow of the collapse of Communist rule and the breakup of the Soviet Union, where he was first correspondent and then bureau chief from 1986 until 1991.



We are often asked how we select the Civil Courage Prize honorees. We're glad to explain. The procedure is as follows:

First, we invite nominations from an international list of distinguished persons. (If someone nominates a candidate who was not selected, the name may be carried over to another year.) The nominations ordinarily arrive with first-hand descriptions.

Our administration office then checks to see if the nominee fills the qualifications involved, both the obvious ones and others that have evolved from experience. Our model is Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, who inspired the Prize. For instance, he, or often she, should have many years of heroic resistance to evil, not one episode. And it must indeed be evil, not an abuse of civil rights. We do not define evil, but we think we know it when we see it.

We find it more admirable if the candidate is not acting in the course of his occupation, like a policeman, but rather is stepping forward as a matter of civic duty, although we recognize the civil courage in accepting extreme risks in one's role as, for instance, a journalist might. Indeed, sincere journalism has become a most hazardous career in many parts of the world. We prefer not to have consecutive winners from the same area, or those who have recently received very high recognition, e.g. the Nobel Prize. The standing of the nominator is very important, particularly if the nominee is from a remote place where verification is difficult.

One should remember that the Prize is not a competition, like Wimbledon, but rather a simple recognition of great virtue, one essential to a sound government. If everybody says the devil take the hindmost, the devil soon works himself to the head of the line.

Once the nominees have been filtered, they are contemplated by the Trustees and a short list is created. Those persons are then studied and commented on by our researcher, and then sent on to our Advisors for ranking.

The Advisors record their choices, which are in turn considered by the Trustees, after which the final decision is made.

This is a laborious process, but it insures impartiality, and we learn a lot from the different viewpoints. (The Chairman does not have, or seek, particular influence.)

If you have a candidate for the Prize whom you would like to nominate, please consult the form found at our website: [www.civildcouragprize.org](http://www.civildcouragprize.org). Your nomination can be sent by regular mail or emailed.

We are most grateful to our nominators. This year it was Nancy Prager Kamel, US National Commissioner of UNESCO, and board member, and Main Representative of Vital Voices Global Partnerships to the United Nations.

On another note, we are very pleased that Ambassador Nicholas Platt, after many years as an Advisor, is becoming a Trustee in January. Nick is one of our most distinguished citizens having, after a career in the Foreign Service, helped open our first diplomatic office in Beijing. He then became Ambassador to Pakistan. After retiring from government, he headed the Asia Society, from which he has now in turn retired. We treasure his advice.



## Physician Denis Mukwege Wins 2013 Civil Courage Prize

*continued from page 1* many threats as a consequence of his work. The assault was thought to be directly connected to Dr. Mukwege speaking out at the UN denouncing the results of 16 years of violent conflict. UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack stating that "Dr. Mukwege's extraordinary and heroic work has saved the lives of tens of thousands of Congolese...He continues to be a force for good, and Panzi Hospital a haven for the most vulnerable."

Dr. Mukwege's mission has brought support from many sources, both international governments and NGOs, and continues to shine a much-needed spotlight on the atrocities that continue in the DRC. His mission has further focused on attempting to limit access to the profits from valuable minerals, which have financed the many militia fighting for control in the country and resulted in an estimated 500,000 raped and 5 million killed over the last 16 years of violence. Dr. Mukwege's work not only focuses on the physical trauma of the violence but also offers psychological assistance, legal counseling and socio-economic services, and advocacy for the rights and empowerment of Congolese women.

Dr. Mukwege, who trained in both Burundi and France, was the third of nine children and first saw the needs of his future patients when he traveled with his pastor father when he visited parishioners. He himself is married with five children and, for his extraordinary and brave work, he has been honored with the Olof Palme Prize, the UN Human Rights Prize, the Clinton Global Citizen Award, and the Legion d'Honneur, among others.

# Recent News of Past Winners



## 2005 CCP Winner Min Ko Naing

*Long-imprisoned campaigner  
for democracy in Burma*

Since his nearly 20-year incarceration, Min Ko Naing made his first visit to the US to collect the Democracy Award bestowed by the National Endowment for Democracy in 2012. He also visited The Train Foundation offices to meet with Chairman John Train and other trustees and TTF representatives. Min Ko Naing, one of the founding members of the 88 Generation Students and an influential opposition leader in Burma, was released from his many years in prison in January 2012, and was accompanied by Ko Ko Gyi, another political prisoner freed in the same general amnesty. They are both now prominent leaders of the 88 Generation movement, considered one of the most powerful civil society organizations in the country and committed to ongoing grass roots work. Min Ko Naing spoke of using his CCP prize money, which he was unable to receive at the time of his award, to start a school or foundation to advance human rights. He described the situation in Burma for human rights and democracy activism as allowing the possibility of moving ahead, but only barely. He stated that he and colleagues could talk freely in private, but not in public and that they still feared re-arrest and a potential backslide toward repression. He also expressed his hope that Burma would continue to develop, with an increase in technology and skills through investment, while maintaining a focus on protecting the environment.

## 2006 CCP Winner Rafael Marques de Morais

*Journalist who exposed the slaughter of Angolans  
and the plundering of national assets*

Over a dozen pro-democracy, human-rights and anti-corruption groups sent a letter of support for Rafael Marques de Morais to Angola's Attorney General. The letter called for an end to the "politically-motivated" charges of defamation and libel against Marques stemming from his book, *Blood Diamonds: Corruption and Torture in Angola*. The letter also recalled the United Nations Human Rights Committee's 2005 decision requiring the Angolan government to pay damages to Marques after his unlawful detention; a ruling that has so far been ignored by the Angolan government. A recent trip to Angola by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, drew attention to concern that a wider pattern of criminalization of investigative journalism continues. She stated that, "freedom to investigate and expose possible abuses should not be undermined by heavy-handed actions, threats and intimidation on the part of the authorities".

## 2011 CCP Winner Lydia Cacho Ribeiro

*Champion of abused women and children in Mexico*

Lydia Cacho Ribeiro continues to draw attention for her extraordinary work and became a deserving recipient of the French Legion d'honneur on International Women's Day in March of this year. The French embassy in Mexico stated that the honor is a "testimony to her distinguished work in defense of children and women victims of violence, her reporting on people trafficking networks and her contributions to freedom of expression in Mexico"

For further information and updates on current and previous prizewinners, please go to:  
[www.civildcourageprize.org](http://www.civildcourageprize.org)    [facebook.com/CivilCourage](https://facebook.com/CivilCourage)  
[twitter.com/TrainFoundation](https://twitter.com/TrainFoundation)    @TrainFoundation

## With Special Thanks to 2013 Civil Courage Prize Nominators

Bob Dietz  
*Committee to Protect Journalists*

Nguyen Cong Huan  
*Vietnam Path Movement*

Cat Lucas  
*English Pen*

Marcel van der Heijden  
*Hivos*

Ambassador Giovanni Ferrero  
*The Ferrero Group*

Virginia Armat Hurt  
*former CCP advisor/trustee*

Shadi Sadr  
*Justice for Iran*

Janet Walsh  
*Human Rights Watch*

Smitha Hanumantha  
*Asboka*

Nancy Prager Kamel  
*Vital Voices Global Partnership*

Hoi Trinh  
*VOICE*

Sarah Leah Whitson  
*Human Rights Watch*

Emma Hersh  
*Vital Voices Global Partnership*

Dan Kovalik  
*United Steelworkers*

Nhu Quynh Truong  
*Vietnam Path Movement*

Ji XiaoFong  
*Internet Magazine Chinacomment*

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Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

## Past Honorees

- 2012** Yu Jie  
*Author and advocate for reform in China*
- 2011** Triveni Acharya  
*Defender of victims of human trafficking in India*
- Lydia Cacho Ribeiro  
*Champion of abused women and children in Mexico*
- 2010** Andrew White  
*Steadfast advocate for peace in the Middle East*
- 2009** Aminatou Haidar  
*Champion of the non-violent campaign for self-determination in Western Sahara*
- 2008** Ali Salem  
*Egyptian author and journalist. Voice for peace and reason in the Middle East*
- 2007** Phillip Buck  
*Imprisoned in China for guiding North Korean refugees in their escape to freedom*
- 2006** Rafael Marques de Morais  
*Journalist who exposed the slaughter of Angolans and the plundering of national assets*
- 2005** Min Ko Naing  
*Long-imprisoned campaigner for democracy in Burma*
- Anna Politkovskaya  
*Fearless reporter on atrocities in Chechnya, assassinated*
- Munir Said Thalib†  
*Exposed disappearances and corruption in Indonesia, assassinated*
- 2004** Emadeddin Baghi  
*Imprisoned for exposing assassinations of Iranian intellectuals*
- Lovemore Madhuku  
*Lawyer persecuted for demanding constitutional reform in Zimbabwe*
- Abdul al-Latif al-Mayah†  
*Iraqi political scientist and human rights advocate, assassinated*
- 2003** Shahnaz Bukhari  
*Battler against the burning and other abuse of Pakistani women*
- 2002** Vladimiro Roca Antunez  
*Champion of freedom, Cuba*
- Gustavo Arcos Bergnes  
(Honorable Mention)  
*Early democracy activist, Cuba*
- 2001** Paul Kamara  
*Editor and journalist fighting tyranny in Sierra Leone*
- 2000** Natasa Kandic  
*Persecuted journalist and activist, Belgrade*
- Sergei Khodorovich  
(Honorable Mention)  
*Solzhenitsyn collaborator exiled to hard labor in Siberia*
- Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer†  
*Anti-Nazi martyr*
- Judge Giovanni Falcone†  
*Assassinated while prosecuting the Sicilian Mafia*
- Rosemary Nelson†  
*Civil rights lawyer, assassinated while defending accused persons in Northern Ireland*
- Neelan Tiruchelvam†  
*Lawyer and educator, killed by a suicide bomber while working for solutions to Tamil-Sri Lankan conflict*
- Raoul Wallenberg†  
*Saved thousands of Jews from extermination*

† = 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](http://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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The Train Foundation  
505 Park Avenue  
20th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

Tel: 212.888.5959  
Fax: 212.888.4018  
[www.civildCourageprize.org](http://www.civildCourageprize.org)