



Civil Courage News

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

New York District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. to deliver Keynote Speech at Ceremony



Cyrus R. Vance Jr., New York County District Attorney since 2010, will give the keynote address at the Civil Courage Prize Ceremony this October 15th. Since his inau-

guration, Mr. Vance has enhanced the Manhattan District Attorney's Office as a national leader in criminal justice by expanding the office's expertise on an array of 21st century crimes including identity theft, cybercrime, white-collar fraud, hate crimes, terrorism, domestic violence, human trafficking, and violent and gang-related crimes.

Mr. Vance has had considerable personal experience in prosecuting organized crime, dating from his time as Assistant District Attorney in New York in the 1980s. At the time of a recent organized crime arrest in New York, Vance said, "This indictment serves as a reminder that organized crime is still a persistent problem in New York City." He added that the Rackets Bureau "has a long tradition of investigating and prosecuting criminal organizations that use intimidation and fear to make a profit."

In July 2011, Mr. Vance was elected by his peers to serve as President of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York for the 2012 term. He also serves as co-chair of the New York State Permanent Commission on Sentencing.

Italian Nicola Gratteri Wins 2014 Civil Courage Prize for Relentless Efforts to Prosecute Mafia

The 2014 Civil Courage Prize will be awarded to Nicola Gratteri, Italian magistrate and Special Prosecutor for Reggio Calabria. He will travel to New York for the ceremony in October where he will receive the medal and \$50,000 prize. For the past 25 years, and under constant threat to his life, Gratteri has been on the front lines of the battle against the Mafia group known as 'Ndrangheta. Gratteri has been relentless in his efforts to stop the organization's international narcotic trafficking, arms dealing and other illegal activities. Though particularly active in the Southern Italian region of Calabria, the 'Ndrangheta has far-reaching global influence, including illegal activities and investments in Europe, the US and Africa. Their financial relationships extend to South American cocaine barons as well as drug dealers in the US and even the IRA.

Gratteri has had a seminal role in the arrest of more than 120 criminal fugitives, and personally led investigations which have eradicated some of the most important branches of the 'Ndrangheta. Gratteri's success is due not only to his extensive knowledge of the intricacies of the apparatus of the organization, but also to his remarkable and seem-



ingly fearless dedication to his goal. He has a deep understanding of the methods, legal and illegal, used by the organization, on an international scale, in order to move illegal gains around the globe and into the 'real' economy. Just in the area of narcotics, the Mafia organizations of Sicily, Naples and Calabria are estimated to have an annual turnover in excess of Euro100 billion. Although the Italian state has had some occasional success in stemming the activities of the Mafia and seizing its assets, Gratteri believes the 'Ndrangheta is not only growing wealthier but also strengthening its grip on society, for example, coercing support through both income and jobs in exchange for votes in local elections.

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“Steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk.” You are likely to find this virtue, indispensable to good government, among prosecutors and reporters. We have tried to give the Civil Courage Prize to those, like Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn, who perform their heroic acts not in the course of their profession but rather as acts of supremely good citizenship. Nonetheless, in some instances the heroes in those professions were performing deeds so dangerous that an exception had to be made. I well remember Anna Politkovskaya saying that she expected to be killed, which she was, as did Giovanni Falcone, who was indeed blown up by the Sicilian Mafia. We feel that Nicola Gratteri fits into this exception.

My own father, as a young prosecutor, needed to understand the roots of the Neapolitan Camorra, which had migrated from Naples to New York, where it was harassing local shopkeepers and small businessmen. My father went over to Camorra territory, studied the problem at first hand, and wrote a small book about it, probably the first one in English. Similarly, Mr. Gratteri has travelled to Bogota to investigate the 'Ndrangheta's South American connections. He has also come to America on the same errand.

Foreign centers of organized crime – Italian, Chinese, Russian, Latino – regularly come here to set up profitable branches. They thrive until the police or the FBI can penetrate them and gnaw at their vitals from inside, as has been made easier by the RICO Act, wiretap laws and the protected witness program. Although weakened, the Camorra was never fully run into the ground. Similarly, the American Mafia carries on.

Italian organized crime presents a particularly difficult and dangerous problem, in part because it has infiltrated the very structures of their government and, indeed, the Catholic Church. Over and over, those few Mafiosi who have been condemned by the justice system there have been released after a short time, and there has sometimes been a sinister alliance between the Church and certain criminals, who have even held meetings in Church buildings.

Pope Francis has done very well to excommunicate the Mafia – a fine thing, if long overdue.

The 'Ndrangheta is one of the three major Italian organized crime groups – along with the Mafia and the Camorra – and is the principal one being fought by Nicola Gratteri. It may be the most dangerous because it is extremely vigorous, utterly ruthless, and the least understood. From its base in Calabria, it has expanded around Italy and has a toehold here in America, as well as to the south, in Latin America.

One of our more important objectives in creating the Civil Courage Prize was to popularize the expression “civil courage,” which did not exist in English. We were thus very pleased indeed to encounter this passage in an article in The New York Times, January 10, 2014, on Hans and Sophie Scholl: “...to reinforce the message that Nazi crimes should never be repeated and that civil courage and resistance are important.”

Exactly our sentiment.



Gratteri Wins 2014 Civil Courage Prize

continued from page 1 Gratteri, who was born and raised in Reggio Calabria where his family farmed, watched many of his childhood friends go on to become members of the 'Ndrangheta. Beyond engaging in efforts to stop the organization's illegal activities, the prosecutor emphasizes the need to focus on weakening the organization's roots as he witnessed their depth and strength at a local level firsthand. He has created an extensive outreach program to alleviate poverty and create opportunities to engage the local youth in the hope of keeping them from moving into a life of crime.

Gratteri has received countless threats to his life, and is required to be on the move constantly, escorted by bodyguards. Though he accepts that protection and secrecy are part of his life, he also knows that, should the 'Ndrangheta decide to end his life, there is little he could do. Aware that the influence he has on the group is more in the order of reducing their effectiveness than ever eliminating the 'Ndrangheta completely, he nonetheless relentlessly pursues justice and was recently named by the Prime Minister of Italy to head a special committee aimed at curbing the influence of organized crime. Although his work as a prosecutor is commendable alone, his dedication and doggedness at tremendous personal risk are heroic.

In 2013 Gratteri co-wrote the book, *Acqua Santissima* (published by Mondadori) with historian Antonio Nicaso, exposing the dense relationship of the church and the 'Ndrangheta, which may have spurred the present Pope into making his most recent declaration of excommunication of members of the Mafia.

Recent News of Past Winners

Denis Mukwege

In June 2014, Dr. Denis Mukwege participated in a global summit on sexual violence in London. Reuters reported that Mukwege met with British Prime Minister David Cameron and said he had only one message to give: that the “international community must establish a red line for the use of rape in war in the same way it had done for the use of chemical weapons.” He also stated that a new word should be found to replace “rape” because “it did not convey the comprehensive destruction caused by war-time sexual violence.” The four-day London summit committed to harnessing the pledges made by 150 governments who have backed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. In February 2014, Mukwege appeared before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee with the actor and director Ben Affleck who has created the Eastern Congo Initiative, a grant-making and advocacy organization investing in and working with the people of eastern Congo, inspired in part by Dr. Mukwege's work. Mukwege, who Affleck described as “legendary” and “one of the bravest people I have ever known,” did not testify, but helped to draft the statement that was submitted.

Rafael Marques De Morais

Rafael Marques de Morais was awarded the 2014 Loeb Award for Business Journalism, which he won, together with Forbes writer Kerry Dolan, for their reporting on the financial dealings of Isabel dos Santos, the eldest daughter of the president of Angola. Dolan reports that their article detailed their research that the billions of dollars amassed by Dos Santos were largely created by the “kleptocratic transfers” of her father. When asked by Dolan why he keeps “risking jail time and possibly his life”, Marques answered that he is doing it for the good of his country and fellow Angolans. Marques also received the Lusomonitor Magazine award for Personality of the Year, for last year. The magazine highlighted the “enormous influence on Angolan issues he has demonstrated inside and outside the country,” and spoke of his commitment to transparency and activism. In a ceremony in Germany, Transparency International awarded Marques their 2013 Integrity Award for his work against corruption in Angola and his detailing of the creation of shell companies and money laundering among the elite of the country. At the beginning of the summer, as was predicted, Marques was indicted by the Court of Common Crimes in Angola for defamation and libel for his article on Ms. Dos Santos.

Emmadeddin Baghi

Emmadeddin Baghi, one of Iran's most respected activists, wrote an open letter to French President Francois Hollande, criticizing France's stance in the nuclear talks in Geneva. Baghi claims that France's tough position played into the hands of hardliners in Iran and undermined the work of human rights campaigners, who were hurt by international sanctions. Baghi wrote: “In my capacity as a human rights activist, I would like to urge you to reconsider your government's decision to prevent the initiation of a first step in the world's process of building confidence in the peacefulness of Iran's nuclear program and the eventual ending of economic, technical, and scientific sanctions against Iran.” He went on to state: “You may not see a direct connection between these nuclear talks and the concerns of a human rights activist. But from my viewpoint and the point of view of many other activists in Iran, the continuation and extension of sanctions are causing the most egregious violations of human and citizen rights in Iran”. He warned that “France's decision to block the conciliatory efforts of the new Iranian government...will also unwillingly smooth the path for the unwritten alliance of extremist and authoritarian forces inside Iran and external radical forces bent on destabilizing the country.”

Lydia Cacho Ribera

Lydia Cacho's new book, *Slavery Inc.: The Untold Story of International Sex Trafficking*, has been released in the US with a forward by Italian journalist Roberto Saviano. Described as a raw and sobering look at the insidious world of sex trafficking, the book includes information and personal stories from Cacho's investigations and interviews in Mexico, Turkey, Thailand, Iraq, Cambodia, and Burma among many other places. Cacho highlights truths about the inhumane, and financially thriving, business of human trafficking and its close connections to the illicit sale of body organs, drugs and arms smuggling, money laundering, internet pornography and the tourist industry.

For further information and updates on current and previous prizewinners, please go to:

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Past Honorees

2013 Dr. Denis Mukwege
Physician and advocate for victims of violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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.civildcouragprize.org.

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

—Edmund Burke



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