



Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

U.N.'s ASG for Human Rights Andrew Gilmour Will be Keynote Speaker at CCP Ceremony

On Wednesday, October 18th, 2017, the Civil Courage Prize Ceremony's keynote address will be given by the U.N.'s Andrew Gilmour. He currently serves as the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.



Andrew Gilmour

Appointed by the Secretary-General in October 2016, Mr. Gilmour is the senior official leading the efforts to address intimidation and reprisals against those who cooperate with the U.N. on human rights. His aim is to "strengthen our collective action against reprisals" and he is looking to both civil society and Member States to prevent and react to reprisals if they occur. Coordinating with counterparts across the U.N. system, his main objectives are to "consolidate and build up the work already done, and ensure close cooperation" within the U.N. system, and to "end the terrible practice whereby human rights defenders are sometimes punished for cooperating with the mechanisms established by U.N. member states."

Mr. Gilmour, who holds master's degrees from Oxford University and the London School of Economics, began his career as an adjunct fellow of the Center

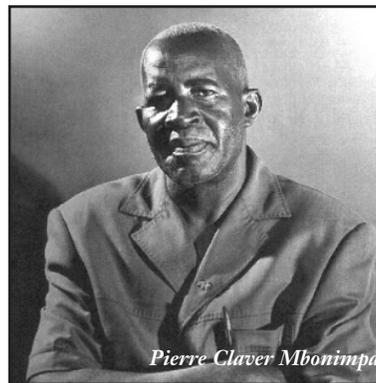
continued on page 2

Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, 2017 Civil Courage Prize Laureate, Fights for Justice in Burundi

Pierre Claver Mbonimpa has been chosen as the winner of the 2017 Civil Courage Prize. Hailed as the "grandfather of the human rights movement" in Burundi, he has acted with integrity, determination and courage to stand against the violence and injustice in his country.

After previously working at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mbonimpa was employed by the Air and Border Police. While there, in 1994, he was falsely accused and incarcerated for possession of an illegal weapon; an arrest thought to be politically motivated. He spent two years in prison where he was beaten and starved, and witnessed how badly other inmates were treated, especially young boys and women. He educated himself about the law and helped prisoners petition for their hearings. With two other prisoners, he formed a non-profit association for prisoners' rights and on his release, he initiated an anti-torture project. Next, he founded a broader-based organization to include all human rights: APRODH (the Association for the Protection of Prisoners and

Human Rights). APRODH became known for its impartiality in a country still in the throes of a civil war between the Hutus and Tutsis, who, despite sharing a common language, customs, and religion, fought each other for over 12 years.



Pierre Claver Mbonimpa

The war was fueled by those seeking to fill a power vacuum after independence from Belgium, who exploited ethnic differences between the two groups. As a Hutu, Mbonimpa's impartial stance was considered traitorous by other Hutus, and biased and extreme by Tutsis.

APRODH worked to end long delays in the judicial process, helped juvenile detainees, assisted women rape victims in obtaining care and legal representation, provided lawyers to destitute offenders and helped release hundreds of falsely accused prisoners. They also mediated land conflicts in a country rife with them, documented government abuses including attacks on human rights workers, opposition politicians and journalists, and exposed enforced disappearances, illegal detention and torture. They were the main advocates in

continued on page 3

Letter From The Chairman

Ambassador Edward Streator, our President, has retired after many years of exceedingly valuable service, and is moving to President Emeritus. He remains a Trustee. We are happy that his ripe wisdom will continue to be available to the Foundation.

Ariadne Calvo-Platero, who has for some years been our highly-qualified executive vice president, thus succeeds to the Presidency. We are sure that she will be very successful in this role.

Our distinguished Trustee George Biddle has accepted the position of Vice Chairman.

We welcome 2011 prize winner, Mexican investigative journalist, feminist and civil rights activist Lydia Cacho Ribeiro as a Train Foundation Advisor.

We recently attended a screening of a documentary movie, "City of Ghosts," about the dangerous work of last year's awardees, Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS). The film, directed by 2015 Oscar-nominee Matthew Heineman, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. It contains scenes from the city of Raqqa, from which RBSS smuggles news and video footage to the outside world. Several Raqqa members have been killed, but one, founding member Aziz Alhamza, attended the showing and received a standing ovation. He spoke to the audience afterwards about their mission. The film has received critical acclaim and should draw attention to this important issue. After arrests and torture, Alhamza was forced to flee Raqqa and now lives in Europe. He and several other members, who also live outside of Syria, have had to give up their anonymity and, despite still receiving death threats, continue working to free Raqqa from ISIS domination.

Andrew Gilmour To Give Keynote Address

continued from page 1

for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and worked in politics and journalism before joining the U.N. in 1989. He has held positions at Headquarters and in the field in Afghanistan-Pakistan, Kosovo, the State of Palestine and West Africa. He served as the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in Iraq and then South Sudan, and as the Representative in Belgrade. In 2012, he became the Director for Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights affairs in the Secretary-General's Executive Office.

Throughout his distinguished career, he has published articles on varied topics including human rights, ethics and international affairs.

Recent News

In July, 2017, Chinese writer and human rights activist Liu Xiaobo died in custody from liver cancer that he contracted during an 11-year prison term. He used words to fight tyranny and he went to prison for only seven sentences that he wrote as part of "an exposition on the potential future" of his beloved country. In 2015, his friend, 2012 Civil Courage Prize-winner Yu Jie, chronicled Liu's journey in an English-language biography, *Steel Gate to Freedom*. It is an intimate look at Liu's life: from Inner Mongolia to Beijing intellectual circles to the founding of Chinese PEN; all of which culminated in the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize, which he received in absentia. Liu's words live on as an inspiration: "Freedom of expression is the foundation of human rights, the root of human nature, and the mother of the truth."

The Story of The Civil Courage Prize

Many years ago, John Train became concerned with the situation of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the great Russian hero and author, whose works helped destroy the prestige of Stalinism. After being exiled, he had moved to rural Vermont, but was living in poverty. Train was able to obtain substantial private support for him, and accompanied him to London, where Prince Philip handed him a check in a Buckingham Palace ceremony.

Train, who delivered the English-language response at the ceremony, realized that there was no word in English for the virtue that Solzhenitsyn so nobly exemplified, but that there should be, perhaps "civil courage," as distinct from valor in war. He resolved to create a prize for this virtue, and asked if Solzhenitsyn would like to receive it, or have it named after him, or be a judge. He chose the last, and acted in that role for the rest of his life. His son has followed him.

The prize, a substantial honorarium and a medal, is "for steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk." It was first awarded, in London, to Natasa Kandic, sometimes called the Serbian Schindler. Subsequent laureates have come from most parts of the world. One, Anna Politkovskaya, reporting on atrocities in Chechnya, was assassinated in the course of the very work for which she was honored, as were several others who were recognized posthumously, notably Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Giovanni Falcone and Raoul Wallenberg.

Civil courage is essential for a good society. Some few must step forward to challenge iniquity. Our hope is that by introducing the expression "civil courage" into the English language, and by holding up for general admiration heroes of conscience who exemplify it, we can encourage the good side of human nature.

To select the prizewinner, we invite nominations from an international list of distinguished organizations and persons. Our administrative office then checks to see if the nominee truly fills our qualifications. Once the nominations have been researched, they are reviewed by the Trustees and a short list is created, which is then sent on to our Advisors for ranking. Their choices are in turn considered by the Trustees, who make the final decision.

When the laureate has come to New York to receive the medal and the stipend, we introduce him to the press and to other organizations with similar objectives here and in Washington. He will probably make contact with twenty or thirty groups and hundreds of individuals. These encounters will fortify his resolve to continue on his difficult course and will help develop useful allies. It adds prestige to a good person pursuing a difficult goal to be able to invoke such connections. We have found that winning the prize confers a measure of protection to a laureate's life at home.

The hero of conscience is usually solitary: his companions are found in history books. He battles for a cause that even his friends may not understand or believe in, or dare to espouse. The noblest causes may be those that seem hopeless at the time. Civil courage empowers us to face the world alone.

Human Rights Activist Pierre Claver Mbonimpa wins 2017 Civil Courage Prize

continued from page 1



the passage of anti-torture legislation. As a result, Mbonimpa has become a symbol of the civil rights movement; an example for the next generation of activists.

When he became aware that young Burundians were being armed and receiving paramilitary training in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mbonimpa spoke out on the radio. "In my experience, it is always the youths that do the killing. Everywhere in the region, it is the youths that are used for violence."

The day after the broadcast, he was questioned about his sources and eventually arrested and held for four months in 2014. After his release, the machete killings of three nuns in neighboring DRC (their clinic was close to where the youth militia was training) mobilized him to work with a leading investigative journalist to root out the killers. The information they gave to police led to a number of arrests but the suspects were released by a government official and the investigation ended.

In August of 2015, after years of living with harassment, threats, surveillance, investigations, detentions,

and arrests, he barely survived a brutal assassination attempt and had to be taken to Belgium for medical treatment. Within months, his daughter fled after receiving death threats, her husband was killed, and police shot and killed his youngest son. Still in a Belgian hospital, he was unable to attend the funeral. He sent a note for a colleague to read after his son's burial, "Do not lose courage. The tragedies we face will end with a resolution of the conflict. I maintain hope that it will come soon."

Recently, the Burundian government revoked APRODH's license. Mbonimpa is committed to returning home "no matter what the cost." Until he can, he has vowed to "continue to fight for a concerted solution to be found to the crisis," and is determined to make the international community aware of the escalating human rights violations in his homeland. He has spoken at the U.N., the Hague, and in Geneva before members of the United Nations Committee Against Torture about the abuses perpetrated by the government, army, police and youth militia.

He believes that "dialogue is the only constructive path" to peace. Until that dialogue is possible, he will speak out against the ever-worsening violence and turmoil that has consumed Burundi. "They can imprison us, they can kill us, but they can't shut us up."

With Special Thanks to the 2017 Civil Courage Prize Nominators

Tabassum Adnan
Activist/Founder, Khwendo Jirga

Ko K Aung
General Secretary, Civil Society for Myanmar (US Chapter)

Amb. Glenn Babb
Train Foundation Advisor

Emadeddin Baghi
Iranian Journalist
2004 CCP Honoree

Shena Cavallo
Program Officer, International Women's Health Coalition

Sinee Chakthranont
Ashoka

Luigi deRosa
Soccer Coach, TV Commentator

Claire Fallender
Venture & Fellowship Global
Program Director, Ashoka

Maria Salazar Ferro
Committee to Protect Journalists

Neil Hicks
Director, Human Rights Promotion
Human Rights First

Hoi Trinh
VOICE

Nancy Prager-Kamel
Managing Partner,
Strategic Expansion Solutions

Sarra Karzai
Innovation & Strategic Investment
Program Coordinator
Vital Voices Global Partnership

Sergei Khodorovich
2000 CCP Honorable Mention

Daniel Kovlik
Associate General Counsel
United Steel Workers

Dr. Michael Leeden
Freedom Scholar, Foundation for
Defense of Democracies

Regan Ralph
President and CEO, The Fund for
Global Human Rights

Lavanya Ravulapalli

Rebecca Rimel
President/CEO, Pew Charitable Trusts

Suzanne Scholte
President, Defense Forum
Foundation; Chairman, North
Korea Freedom Coalition

Clive Stafford Smith
Repeive

Viren Shah
Saraswati Foundation

Suzanne Siskel
Executive VP and CEO,
The Asia Foundation

**Dr. Bahadur Singh Yadav, Prof.
Dr. Ahmad Saghir Inam Shastri**
Education Board Government of
Uttar, India; Visiting Professor of
Social Science, Lucknow University

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

www.civildCourageprize.org
Twitter: @TrainFoundation
Facebook: Civil Courage Prize

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Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Past Honorees

- 2016 RBSS
(Raqa is Being Slaughtered Silently)
Journalists revealing ISIS atrocities from inside Syria
- Thuli Madonsela
(Honorable Mention)
Anti-corruption crusader, South Africa
- 2015 Claudia Paz y Paz
Prosecutor of human rights abuses, Guatemala
- Yassmín Barrios
Presiding judge in Rios Montt genocide trial, Guatemala
- 2014 Nicola Gratteri
Relentless prosecutor of the Italian Mafia
- 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.civildCourageprize.org.

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



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