



Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

The Civil Courage Prize Symposium Speakers Will Include Mikhail Baryshnikov

The Civil Courage Prize, partnered with New York University's Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, and Columbia University's Harriman Institute, will honor Alexei Navalny with the Prize at a symposium on Monday, October 24th, at NYU's Kimmel Center.



Mikhail Baryshnikov

Mikhail Baryshnikov will offer remarks highlighting Navalny's work for freedom and transparency in Russia. Baryshnikov, who defected from the Soviet Union in 1974, is a choreographer, dancer and actor, who opened The Baryshnikov Arts Center, a foundation and arts complex, in 2005.

This past March, together with economist Sergei Guriev and writer Boris Akunin, Baryshnikov announced the formation of the True Russia Foundation to support victims of the war in Ukraine. He has condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Putin's "world of fear."

Remarks will also be made by Joshua Tucker, Director of the Jordan Center. Tucker has studied the relationship between social media and politics, as well as ways to use social media data to study politics. He has examined how authoritarian regimes respond to online opposition, and Russian bots and trolls.

Gillian Tett, a British author and journalist and Chair of the Editorial Board and Editor-at-Large, U.S. for the *Financial Times*, will follow, leading a conversation about Navalny's current

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The 2022 Civil Courage Prize Has Been Awarded To Russian Opposition Leader Alexei Navalny

On October 24th, the Train Foundation will award the Civil Courage Prize to Alexei Navalny.

Lawyer and opposition leader Alexei Navalny is a well-known anti-corruption activist. He is the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, which has investigated state corporations, oligarchs, and senior government officials. His explanation of why he does this work: "Everyone needs to understand that my work addresses existing problems, and one of the crucial problems in Russia today is corruption."

Navalny is outspoken about how he views corruption vis a vis the government. "I think very poorly of United Russia. United Russia is the party of corruption, the party of crooks and thieves. And it is the duty of every patriot and citizen of our country to make sure that this party is destroyed."

He is also the leader of the "Russia of the Future Party." In 2013, he ran for mayor in Moscow to advocate for reforms. He came in second. However, in 2018, because of his stand on corruption and his work organizing demonstrations, he was not allowed to participate in the Russian presidential election.

Then in August of 2020, he was poisoned in an assassination at-

tempt with the military nerve agent Novichok. He puts the blame squarely on the Kremlin.

He spent a month in a coma and went for emergency medical treatment and rehabilitation in Germany.



Alexei Navalny

In January 2021, he returned to Russia just as his Anti-Corruption Foundation released an investigation about president Putin entitled "Putin's Palace: History of the World's Largest Bribe." It has reached 125 million views on YouTube. The Foundation's investigations have also led to freezing assets of Russian officials and oligarchs in excess of one billion euros.

As soon as Navalny returned to Russia, he was arrested and imprisoned on fabricated charges and given a two and a half year sentence for a parole violation. The verdict of his criminal case was dismissed by the European Court of Human Rights. He said he returned because he "wanted to change Russia."

His sentence was then increased to nine years for fraud and contempt of court, charges he rejects as politically motivated and an attempt by the authorities to keep him behind bars for as long as possible.

This past June, he was moved

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Letter From The Chairman



The Hon John Train

Remembering John Train 1928 - 2022 Founder of the Civil Courage Prize

We are saddened by the loss of our founder and Chairman, John Train, who died on August 13, 2022.

He was a visionary leader, who honored the virtue of civil courage around the world, which he described as "steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk." Inspired by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the prize is given by the Train Foundation to those who fight corruption and abuse of power as a personal mission.

The story of the Civil Courage Prize is on the bottom of this page. For John Train's own words on the topic of "Why Civil Courage," which he wrote in 2006, please go to the website at www.civildCourageprize.org.

Recent News About Past Winners



Aminatou Haidar

Amnesty International revealed in March that 2009 Civil Courage Prize-winner and Sahrawi activist Aminatou Haidar had been targeted by the NSO Group's Pegasus spyware.

Just months after a massive data leak exposed how widely Pegasus was used to target activists, journalists and political leaders around the world, Haidar received security alerts that two of her phones were infected and may have been targeted by state-sponsored attackers. Haidar contacted Amnesty Interna-

tional's Security Lab for forensic analysis and they confirmed the targeting and infection, finding traces of spyware back to September 2018 on one phone, and traces of infection in October and November 2021 on the other.

Sahrawi activists believe that Morocco used Pegasus spyware to extract compromising information with which to discredit them. The Moroccan authorities disputed the latest findings, citing a "lack of material evidence."

Haidar considers the NSO Group "to be a company that profits from human rights violations with espionage technology provided to authoritarian countries such as Morocco, which uses espionage to restrict human rights defenders in Western Sahara and Morocco. I will resort to all legal means to prosecute them judicially."

There has been a territorial dispute between Western Sahara and Morocco since 1975, when Morocco annexed the territory from Spain, claiming sovereignty over Western Sahara. The Polisario Front, the national independence movement of the Sahrawi people, disputes this claim. and has established a government in exile.

Haidar has been subject to enforced disappearances, beatings, torture, arbitrary detention and stays in secret prisons by Moroccan authorities without charges or trial. She has been imprisoned twice for taking part in demonstrations calling for Western Sahara's right to self-determination. Despite death threats and harassment directed at her and her two children, Haidar has carried on with her nonviolent campaigns for a political solution, while working to instill the merits of non-violent action in the next generation of Sahrawis.

"My fight is not an individual fight; it is a fight for the collective rights of my people...My fight is not just for my two sons; it is a fight for all Sahrawi children so that they can live free and in happiness."

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.

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

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

SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD AT NYU

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condition following his transfer to the IK-6 prison, known for its widespread claims of torture and abuse. She will also explore Navalny's anti-corruption work with Leonid Volkov, chief-of-staff and political director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, along with Maria Pevchikh, head of the Foundation's investigative unit.

In addition, Ambassador Michael McFaul and Navalny's daughter Dasha Navalnaya will address the audience via video from Stanford University.

McFaul, an American academic, diplomat, and former U.S. Ambassador to Russia, is currently the Director of Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Navalnaya, who will accept the Prize for her father, is a student at Stanford, majoring in psychology and political science. She also has worked as a research assistant in political science at the University.

For more information on Alexei Navalny and his work, see our website at www.civillcourageprize.org.

Recent News About Past Winners

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Claudia Paz y Paz

Criminal law specialist, scholar, judge and litigator, 2015 Prize-winner Claudia Paz y Paz has worked for over 18 years to strengthen the judicial system in Guatemala. She has been a national consultant to the U.N. Mission in Guatemala and in 1994 she founded the Guatemalan Institute of Comparative Criminal Studies, a human rights organization promoting restorative justice and protecting the rights of marginalized and groups discriminated against during criminal proceedings. She has always believed in the rule of law as a force that could strengthen society through peace, justice and equality.

As the first female Attorney General of Guatemala from 2010 to 2014, she prosecuted organized crime, corruption and human rights violations, and was involved in the prosecution of the former President Efraín Ríos Montt, and the perpetrators of the Dos Erres massacres of 200,000 indigenous Mayan people.

Paz y Paz currently serves as the Director of the Mexico and Central American Program Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), an organization that defends human rights in the Central American region. Her challenges include the fight against impunity for violence against women, and defending indigenous peoples. She now makes her home in Costa Rica.

On June 8th, Guatemala's National Office for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment filed a complaint against Paz y Paz. She is accused of "abuse of authority, torture and usurpation of power" in

CCP HONORS ALEXEI NAVALNY

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to a maximum-security prison, which reportedly maintains secrecy as to the whereabouts of prisoners and has a reputation for using torture and abuse.

Navalny's closest ally, Leonid Volkov, his chief-of-staff and political director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, said that the politician's lawyer went to visit him in prison and was told that "there is no such convict here." The anti-corruption work he was able to carry out until recently from prison ended when his attorney-client privileges were denied.

Navalny's close associates have faced criminal charges and many have left the country, while his group's political infrastructure – the anti-corruption foundation and a nationwide network of regional offices – has been labeled an extremist organization.

He is still very much in the public eye, however. A documentary about him, produced by HBO Max and CNN Films, premiered in January at the Sundance Film Festival and the press continually follows his case.

Navalny maintains that "Putin and his advisers don't understand the power of public opinion in the West. They believe in conspiracy theories and that someone is orchestrating a malicious campaign against Russia. They don't realize that even conservative politicians have to react when newspapers and artists express their concern on such an issue."

He sees himself as "sort of a politician" but also realizes that, "there are concrete things that need to get done in order to achieve the basic goal of every opposition politician." He has shown that he is more than willing to fight to achieve that goal.

Recent News About Past Winners

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connection with the investigation she conducted on serious human rights violations during the armed conflict when she was Attorney General.

Political life in Guatemala is now dominated by right-wing parties. Many defenders and former justice personnel are being prosecuted for fighting against impunity and corruption. The criminalization of Paz y Paz is believed to be part of a systematic plan of persecution against justice seekers there.

When she speaks of her work in Guatemala, Paz y Paz recalls that "I've had the privilege of accompanying genocide survivors fighting for justice. I feel deep gratitude to them because they trusted me when it was very difficult to trust public officials...investigating the truth of the crimes. It is precisely this gratitude that is the source of my commitment. I am grateful for their trust and their struggle for justice."

For information on how to attend the October 24th Symposium, check our website at www.civillcourageprize.org.

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Past Honorees

2021 Eric K. Ward
Challenger of extremism and bigotry in the U.S.

2019 Gonzalo Himiob Santomé
Defender of persecuted Venezuelans

2018 Vladimir Kara-Murza
Heroic Russian opposition leader

2017 Pierre Claver Mbonimpa
Campaigner for social justice in Burundi

2016 RBSS
*(Raqqa 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 Sabara

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 2006

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

Rosemary Nelson
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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 and non-governmental organizations, and individuals worldwide. Further information and a nomination form 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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