



# Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

Vol. 18, No. 1 • June 2022

For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

## City College and The New School Events Feature Prize-Winner Eric Ward

In partnership with the Civil Courage Prize, winner Eric K. Ward was featured at two virtual events prior to the awards ceremony.

On Tuesday, October 26th, at the Colin Powell School for Civil and Global Leadership at City College, Ward was introduced by Dean Andrew Rich and engaged in a conversation with Senior Fellow Gara LaMarche. The topic was "The Alarming Rise in White Supremacy and Nationalism: Its Roots and Remedies."

The second event took place on Thursday, October 28th, at The New School's Julien J. Studley Graduate Programs in International Affairs. The topic: "America's Human Rights Crisis: Hate Violence in the U.S. & Where We Go from Here - A Conversation with 2021 Civil Courage Prize Laureate, Eric Ward." Opening remarks were made by The New School's President Dwight McBride, followed by Margaret Huang, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Poverty Law Center, who spoke with Ward.

Videos of the prize ceremony and both events can be accessed at [www.civildCourageprize.org](http://www.civildCourageprize.org).

## 2021 Prize-Winner Eric K. Ward Continues His Mission to Create an Inclusive Democracy



Eric K. Ward

The 2021 Civil Courage Prize ceremony was held virtually on Friday, October 29th, honoring laureate Eric K. Ward. Train Foundation co-Chairman George Biddle gave an overview of the proceedings, and spoke about Ward's 30-plus-year mission to make democracy more inclusive. "There are few with more experience in the realm of civil courage in the United States than Eric Ward. He understands the deep connections between creating and sustaining inclusive, democratic institutions and combating extremism, bigotry and racism in all its forms."

He praised Ward for "demonstrating how extremism can only be mitigated through non-violent action and facilitating common ground."

Taryn Higashi from Unbound Philanthropy, who nominated Ward for the prize, gave the introductory remarks, followed by Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation, who formally introduced him. Ward's acceptance speech was followed by a live Q and A session, moderated by Biddle.

Ward has received national recognition as an expert on the relationship between authoritarian movements, hate violence, and the threat to inclusive democracy. His mission is to expose and counter the proliferation of hate crimes, white supremacy, extremism, and the antidemocratic activities of the far right espoused by white nationalist hate groups. Equally important is his effort to protect vulnerable communities.

He has found innovative ways to do this, not only by showing up at extremist group meetings to engage people, but also creatively as a working musician. He sees musicians as those "who keep souls fed and spirits lifted...music is a breath that helps to nurture the vision of inclusive democracy during the hardest moments." Unique to the ceremony were musical performances by Ward's friend singer/songwriter Anna Egge, who opened the ceremony with one of her songs and ended it with the first live video performance of her song Lie, Lie, Lie. He and Egge spoke about their shared

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## RECENT NEWS OF PAST WINNERS



Vladimir Kara-Murza

On April 12, 2022, as 2018 Civil Courage Prize-winner Russian dissident, activist, and politician **Vladimir Kara-Murza** returned to his home in Moscow, he was arrested, and later sentenced to 15 days in jail on a charge of disobeying law enforcement by offering "active resistance," despite the fact that the police were waiting for him and arrested him without incident.

A long-time critic of the Kremlin, Kara-Murza is a vocal opponent of the war in Ukraine and has launched an anti-war committee along with other opposition figures. His arrest came soon after CNN aired an interview in which he criticized the Russian invasion of Ukraine and called Vladimir Putin's government a "murderous regime." He suggested Russia's war in Ukraine would lead to Putin's downfall. He further told CNN that, "it doesn't mean it's gonna happen tomorrow. The two main questions are time and price. And by price, I do not mean monetary - I mean the price of human blood and human lives, and it has already been

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## Letter From The Chairman



John Train

Former Train Foundation Trustee and Advisor, Ambassador John K. Menzies has passed away. We send condolences to his family.

Amb. Menzies began his diplomatic career in 1982, and had a decorated career in the United States Foreign Service. He held posts in Hungary, Austria, Germany, and Bulgaria and eventually became the United States Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995. He also served in Sarajevo and Kosovo, working in various roles within the State Department and the United States Mission to the United Nations. He is considered as having greatly contributed to Eastern European democracy.

I met him in Eastern Europe through the Free Elections Project. He was one of the founders of the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) and AUBG praised his "visionary leadership, unwavering energy, and widely respected diplomatic skills." I was fortunate to work with him when he organized a program to get used equipment to support free elections and over the years, on other projects.

Ambassador Menzies also had a distinguished academic career. Before he became a diplomat, he served as Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate Division at the University of California, Santa Barbara. After he retired

from Foreign Service in 2002, he became the president of Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. Then it was on to Seton Hall in New Jersey, where he became the dean of the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations from 2007 to 2013. He was considered a "student-oriented dean," who, through his career as a Foreign Service Officer, understood the importance of bridging theory and practice. He created opportunities for students at Seton Hall by developing several programs including the Visiting Scholar Program and the Post-Conflict Reconstruction Program. The former provided students with the opportunity to interact with scholars and United Nations officials through hands-on workshops and research discussions, while the latter sought to teach students how to address issues within societies that have experienced conflict.

From 2012 to 2015, he was on the AUBG Board and served as a University Council Member. Later on, he became President of the American University of Kurdistan and then Vice President for International Relations at the American University of Iraq-Baghdad from 2018 to 2021.

He was a great supporter of the Civil Courage Prize and our work at the Foundation. We will miss the breadth of his knowledge of international relations, his innovative thinking and his wise counsel.

### A REMINDER TO OUR READERS

Please visit our redesigned website: [www.civillcourageprize.org](http://www.civillcourageprize.org) and sign up to receive the newsletter via email. Simply click on the mailing list link and fill out the form. While you are there, check out the website's new features

## RECENT NEWS OF PAST WINNERS

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horrendous, but the Putin regime will end over this; there will be a democratic Russia after Putin."

Kara-Murza has been poisoned twice - in 2015 and 2017 - in what he calls a deliberate attack by Putin's government in retaliation for trying to get the U.S. and Europe to impose sanctions against Russian officials.

In March 2022, Russia passed laws allowing law enforcement to prosecute anyone who uses the words "war" or "invasion" to describe Russia's actions in Ukraine or those who criticize the Russian Armed Forces. There are also stringent laws against anyone "discrediting" authorities, which have prompted many opposition figures to flee the country in recent years.

During his 15 days in jail, Kara-Murza was further charged with what Putin's prosecutors say is "deliberately disseminating false information about Russian military forces." The charges can bring a sentence of 15 years. He was to be held in pretrial detention until June but on June 8th, his pretrial detention was extended until at least August 12th.

Over the past few years, Kara-Murza has spent part of his time in the U.S. with his wife and children, who live here for their safety. He currently writes columns for the *Washington Post*. However, he keeps returning to Russia because, "the biggest gift we could give to the Kremlin is to give up and run," and he is determined to see a democratic Russia. "Look, I am a Russian politician, I have to be in Russia, it is my home country," He believes that, "Russia will be free. I've never been so sure of it as I am today."

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

[www.civillcourageprize.org](http://www.civillcourageprize.org)

Twitter: @TrainFoundation

Facebook / LinkedIn: Civil Courage Prize

## RECENT NEWS OF PAST WINNERS

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Min Ko Naing

It has been over a year since the military coup in Myanmar deposed the country's democratically elected ruling party. As of March 2022, at least 1,719 civilians, including children, have been killed by the junta and 9,984 people have been arrested.

Along with civilians, journalists have faced challenges; they are harassed, imprisoned, and prevented from reporting. They are helped by citizen journalists who continue to send information out of Myanmar.

At the time of the coup in February of 2021, the military issued an arrest warrant for seven well-known activists and "influencers," among them 2005 Civil Courage Prize-winner **Min Ko Naing**, for "using their fame to spread writing and speaking on the social media that would disturb the nation's peace process." Naing, a democracy activist and dissident, went into hiding but continued to post on social media, urging civilians to protest the coup by initially engaging in and then continuing a general strike.

As a student who organized anti-government protests, Naing was called the voice of his generation. Now 58, he has spent more than half of his life in prison. Throughout the years, he has continued to fight for democracy and to protest injustice, including the Rohingya genocide in 2017. He believes that the "good days for the military won't last forever."



Lovemore Madhuku

Like many former Prize-winners, politician, activist and opposition leader **Lovemore Madhuku**, the 2004 winner, has continued his mission to end autocratic rule in Zimbabwe and establish a democratic constitution. A lawyer and PhD, he has been appointed as a full time professor at the University of Zimbabwe.

As president of the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), in his 2021 State of The Nation address, Madhuku accused his country's current President, Emmerson Mnangagwa of perpetuating the systematic arrests, assaults and abuses by his predecessor, the late Robert Mugabe. Former strongman Mugabe, was deposed in a 2017 military-assisted coup, but while he was in power, Madhuku was repeatedly on the receiving end of Mugabe's government tactics.

Madhuku believes the government's position is that as long as the majority is quiet, there is no abuse. His stand is that the government should "not look at the majority of the people [but] look at the most active minority...human rights are about respect for everyone including those who are regarded as the minority."

## THE FIRST AMERICAN PRIZE-WINNER

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belief in the "importance of music to the social justice and anti-bigotry movements."



Anna Egge

In his address, he emphasized the significance of being the first American to win the prize, seeing it as "a clear and jarring message from The Train Foundation to governments and civil society domestically and internationally." He sees "America's dream of achieving a multiracial and inclusive democracy is in danger [and] how bigoted and authoritarian ideological movements are now an active threat to the very structures of our democracy."

Ward recalled that "Four decades ago, when I was a punk rock kid living in poverty and surviving racism in Southern California, if someone had told me I would one day be the recipient of such an honor, I simply couldn't have imagined it." He spoke of how "grateful and proud [he was] to accept this honor on behalf of all those who continue the struggle towards a strong, multicultural democracy."

Ward praised the people he works with in his role as the executive director of the Western States Center along with "the musicians and culture-makers, the community leaders and local elected officials and other civil society organizations. This award recognizes all of them and gives us another opportunity in the U.S. to be a part of a global movement for human dignity."

He also paid tribute to those who won the prize before him, "I'm humbled to join the company of 24 visionary leaders from around the globe," and looks to "all the previous laureates, for their example to the world: I pledge to try to live up to the bar of courage you have collectively set."

"We have much to learn from those who came before us. Not only about the tenacity needed to carry forward the great enterprise of building a just society, but the courage needed...to transform this nascent anti-bigotry field into its own burgeoning social movement."

He believes that American democracy has broad implications. "The health of democracy in the U.S. has very real consequences for the health of the world." In terms of emerging social movements, "I stand here today as a grateful representative of the thousands of people throughout the United States who...sacrificed their lives to resist bigoted violence and authoritarianism. I rest on the shoulders of generations who have resisted tyranny within the United States...because of their thirst for a fully inclusive American democracy."

He refers to the late Congressman John Lewis as "the United States' patron saint of civil courage." He shares Lewis's conviction that "ordinary people with extraordinary vision [and] all those who resist the shadows of fear...in communities in every corner of our country...have come together under difficult circumstances in order to say, 'In a world full of darkness, I won't turn out my light.'"



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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*

Yasmín 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 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*

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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](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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