

# Civil Courage Prize

for steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk

Newsletter of the NORTHCOTE PARKINSON FUND

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## WINNERS OF 2005 PRIZE

# Min Ko Naing of Burma and Anna Politkovskaya of Russia To Be Honored in Dual Award of 2005 Civil Courage Prize

## Munir Said Thalib of Indonesia Awarded Posthumous Prize

TWO DISTINGUISHED FIGURES will share the 2005 Civil Courage Prize: **Min Ko Naing** of Burma and **Anna Politkovskaya** of Russia. The awards will be made at a ceremony to be held October 11, 2005 at the Harold Pratt House in New York.

**Min Ko Naing** is one of the foremost leaders of the 1988 non-violent popular uprising against Burma's brutal dictatorship and was imprisoned for 15 years, suffering torture and solitary confinement. He has been described as second in importance in the Burmese opposition movement to Nobel Prize-winner, Aung San Suu Kyi.

While he was a student at the University of Rangoon, Min Ko Naing secretly organized a nationwide student union to oppose military rule. In 1988, the union coordinated a nationwide non-violent uprising, and millions marched throughout Burma demanding democracy and an end to military rule. Participants reached beyond the students to monks, teachers, and even members of the military.

Released from prison in November 2004, he has declined the Civil



Min Ko Naing, November 2004

Courage Prize money. His share, \$25,000, will be donated in his name to a non-profit organization.



Anna Politkovskaya

**Anna Politkovskaya**, a leading Russian journalist, has faced death-threats, intimidation and poisoning

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## Former Asia Society Head, Nicholas Platt, Will Give Keynote at Award Ceremony

FORMER US AMBASSADOR to the Philippines and Pakistan, Nicholas Platt, who also served as President of the Asia Society, will be the featured speaker at the Civil Courage Prize Awards Ceremony to be held October 11, 2005 in New York.

Platt served also in Hong Kong, Beijing and Tokyo. Moreover, in his remarkable career, he also served as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for UN Affairs and Executive Secretary of the Department of State.

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## Posthumous Prize

# Munir Said Thalib is 2005 Honoree

UNTIL HE WAS POISONED in September 2004, **Munir Said Thalib** was Indonesia's foremost human rights activist. He emerged as a leader in the struggle for rights just prior to the ouster of Suharto in 1998, when he formed a group to investigate the disappearance of activists at the hands of security forces.



Munir Said Thalib

(Photo: Aljazeera.net)

He went on to become a major critic of the Indonesian military, and in particular of abuses perpetrated in the regions of East Timor, Aceh and Papua. Munir was killed at the age of 38, while en route to Amsterdam to pursue legal studies at Utrecht University. His alleged killer was identified in August 2005 in press reports which also allege the killer to have ties to the Indonesian security services.

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## Min Ko Naing and Anna Politkovskaya

for her coverage of the atrocities committed in Chechnya.

She made her name by writing vivid, accurate and detailed reports on the plight of civilians in Chechnya brutalized by Russian and internal troops since 1994. Standing up to the power of the state in 2000, she was arrested in Chechnya by the FSB (formerly the KGB) and imprisoned in a pit for three days without food or water. Having exposed the war crimes of a Russian officer, she was forced into hiding in 2001 when he threatened to kill her.

As well as her frank writing for newspapers, Anna Politkovskaya is the author of three books: *A Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya*; *Dispatches from Chechnya*; and *Putin's Russia*. Among her honors, she has received the Courage in Journalism award from the International Women's Media Foundation in 2002, and a special award of Amnesty International in 2001.

**THE CIVIL COURAGE PRIZE OF THE NORTHCOTE PARKINSON FUND** is awarded annually by the Trustees to honor civil courage — steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk — rather than military valor. The acts that the Prize recognizes should have taken place deliberately over time. It may be awarded posthumously. By increasing awareness of civil courage, the Fund's trustees hope to encourage that virtue. The value of the Prize is \$50,000 for a living recipient.

The Fund, which supports economic and political liberalism, has provided grants also for public television programs espousing free enterprise and played a significant role in the evolution toward democracy of Eastern European countries. The Fund was established in 1987 by John Train, Chairman.

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE CIVIL COURAGE PRIZE** are solicited primarily from non-profit, non-governmental organizations worldwide. An organization may only submit one nomination.

The office of the Northcote Parkinson Fund and The Civil Courage Prize may be reached by email via the Nominations page on our website: [www.civilcourageprize.org](http://www.civilcourageprize.org)