

Civil Courage

Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

The Newsletter of The Train Foundation

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Rev. Phillip Buck, 2007 Civil Courage Prize-Winner, Pledges Lifetime Efforts to Aid Fleeing North Koreans

Sees Help to Escapees as Repaying Debts to His Early Benefactors

In his speech accepting the Civil Courage Prize for 2007 at a ceremony held in New York on October 16, 2007, **the Rev. Phillip Buck** recalled aid he had received in South Korea from an elderly lady benefactor when he was a young North Korean refugee and said that his own “work with refugees is an attempt to pass on the kindness provided to me.”

“I would like,” he said, to receive this award on behalf of all North Korean refugees who have been killed or died only because they have acted with an instinct to survive. I will use it to continue feeding refugees and to bring them to freedom in a third country. I would also like to help...stateless North Korean orphans lost in China and North Korean refugee women who have become victims in human trafficking. More than \$70,000 is spent every year for this.”

Buck recalled also that in May 2005 he was arrested by the Chinese authorities at a moment when he was in the process of sending 14 refugees north to

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L to R: Three of Rev. Buck's children: Maria Yoon Kim, Grace Yoon Yi and Jamin Yoon; Rev. Buck; Melanie Kirkpatrick of the Wall Street Journal (nominator of Rev. Buck for the Civil Courage Prize); The Hon. John Train, Chairman of The Train Foundation; Keynote Speaker Lord Howe; Steve Kim (US businessman recently released after 4 years in Chinese prisons for helping North Korean refugees); Suzanne Scholte of the Defense Forum Foundation (also a nominator of Rev. Buck for the Civil Courage Prize); and Helen Kim, wife of Steve Kim.

In Keynote, Lord Howe Outlines Complexities in Overcoming Issues Resulting in Dissidence

In a wide-ranging keynote speech addressing the problems facing dissidents, their supporters and governments in eliminating the root causes of the need for “steadfast sustained resistance to evil over time,” **Lord Howe** provided an analysis of the elements necessary to achieve viable solutions to festering conflicts.

A former UK Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Howe, who traveled from Britain especially to give the keynote address at the Civil Courage Prize award ceremony, drew on extensive personal experience in conflict resolution, and cited in his remarks situations in which a variety of vectors were engaged in eliminating the causes of dissidence.

Recalling Nelson Mandela in South Africa (“one of your patron saints”), and former Prize winners Paul Kamara in Sierra Leone, Rosemary Nelson in Northern Ireland, and several Russian dissidents, Howe reminded listeners that the essential common element among almost a decade of winners of the Prize has been the remarkable personal courage they have shown in every case.

Turning to another aspect, Howe asked, “what and who were the institutions or individuals that may have helped to secure headway in

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L to R: The Rev. Phillip Jun Buck, The Hon. John Train, Lord Howe

Howe Draws Lessons from Past Confrontations that Might Help to Overcome New Challenges

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some of the favorably transformed societies and what, if any, lessons can be learned from their experience, which may help us to tackle some of the continuing ‘conflicts’ from which...other Award winners have been drawn?”

The most important lesson, he suggested, is that it “had been possible (generally, only after prolonged conflict) to construct a framework — most usefully, a multinational one — for continuing contact between the combatants. And then to make good use of that framework.”

Recalling that George Shultz took the lead in moving us away from “megaphone diplomacy,” Howe continued, “We were able to make use of the transatlantic structure established by the Final Act of 1975, the Conference on Security and Confidence in Europe, which gave us the right...to raise with the Soviet Union questions about their disregard for human rights.”

Noting the profound shift in Soviet policy that followed the emergence of Gorbachev, Howe drew the second fundamental lesson: “the crucial importance of personality and leadership.” For negotiation “to lead to success...” he said, “it requires the inspiration and input of personalities who are determined to make it succeed.” In this vein, Howe recalled the importance of de Klerk in South Africa and the persistence of leaders of Britain and Ireland in the resolution of the stalemate in Northern Ireland. About the Northern Irish confrontation he said that John Hume, a Catholic Irish Nationalist and life-long leader of the SDLP Party there, had consistently deplored violence, going so far as to condemn the action of several IRA activists in starving themselves to death in prison, calling the hunger strike “violence directed at the self.”

Howe concluded that settlement of conflict is likely to call for “tenacity and courage as well as insight.” He quoted John Kennedy’s observation that some showed “courage through unyielding devotion to absolute principle, others...through the acceptance of compromise, through advocacy of conciliation, through replacing conflict with cooperation...” manifesting “courage of equal quality though of different caliber.”

Chinese Held Buck in Prison for 15 Months

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Mongolia. He spent 15 months in prison, until he was released with the aid of interventions by U.S. authorities. He was sentenced to pay a fine and deported. Buck said that of the 10 arrested with him, seven were returned to North Korea and either executed or thrown into a concentration camp “where they will most likely die.” He estimates that at least two million have been killed in North Korea in recent decades. While improvements,” he said, “were made in other countries, communist North Korea is continuing to kill its own people...During the food crisis that struck North Korea for three years, one million North Koreans each year starved to death.”

In ten years, Buck said, “I have fed more than 1,000 North Korean refugees.” He recalled that he had started in China with the concept of assisting refugees in obtaining food and other necessities. The Chinese do not want the refugees, he said, so they could not find work as citizens of China could.

Buck has testified, he said, before a United Nations Committee on issues related to North Korean refugees and on the need to stop their repatriation to North Korea.

After the award ceremony, Buck traveled to Washington for meetings with members of Congress and representatives of the State Department, the UN High Commission for Refugees and the press. Among those he met were Senator Brownback and Representative McDermott, as well as members of the China Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Past Civil Courage Prize Winners Continue Struggle for Human Rights *Some Report Progress, Though Most Still Face Brutal Battles in Efforts to Register Gains*

Min Ko Naing: Campaigner for Democracy in Burma



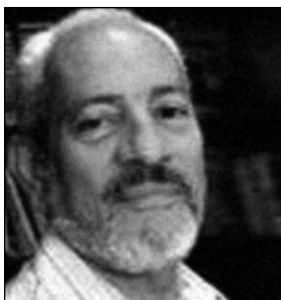
Recent protests and crack-downs in Burma have received worldwide attention, as the death toll among dissident priests and others involved in public demonstrations reportedly has mounted. **Min Ko Naing**, winner of the Civil Courage Prize in 2005, has been the principal leader of the 88 Generation Students and a force behind the White Expression campaign. He was arrested August 21, 2007, shortly after the wave of anti-regime demonstrations began in the wake of a steep hike in fuel prices. He remains in Insein Prison's Annex. Family members allowed to visit him recently report that his health is fine. Aung Din, Policy Director of the US Campaign for Burma, has advised that the Burmese military junta is now preparing to impose new, long prison sentences on the 88 Generation Students.

Emadeddin Baghi: Iranian Jailed Again for “Disclosing Secret Information”



Baghi was re-arrested on October 14, 2007 for allegedly disclosing secret information through the Organization for the Defense of Prisoners' Rights in Tehran. The Organization is a NGO headed by Baghi that released its first report on the state of prisons in Iran in June 2006. The latest arrest appears to be a continuation of the state's 2004 trial in which he was accused of acts contrary to national security and sabotage against the system. According to Baghi's son-in-law, Mohammad Ghochani, Baghi's attorney saw no hope for Baghi's release and said he was under severe interrogation. He also said that the authorities want to isolate Baghi without any contact with his family or access to newspapers or radio broadcasts. The current imprisonment was decided by a court in which no defense representation was permitted and sentence was handed down in 15 minutes.

Vladimiro Roca Antúñez: Cuban Champion of Freedom



Since his release from prison in 2002, **Roca**, who won the Civil Courage Prize in 2002, has continued to work for democracy and freedom in Cuba. In 2004, Roca and a coalition of banned dissident groups released a 15-page plan, *Proposal to Resolve Cuban Society's Grave Problems*, that was based on interviews with 30,000 Cubans. In September of 2007, Roca joined a number of dissidents to hold a rare news conference in Havana in an effort to unite around a platform for a gradual and peaceful transition from communism to democracy in the event of the death of Fidel Castro. Meanwhile, Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, called the “Dean of the Opposition” in Cuba, who received an Honorable Mention at the Civil Courage Prize ceremony of 2002, died at the age of 79 in early August 2006.

Shahnaz Bukhari: Battler Against Abuses of Pakistani Women



Winner of the 2003 Civil Courage Prize, **Shahnaz Bukhari** was selected as one of the 21 leaders of the 21st century by Women's E-News. She continues her work with the Progressive Women's Organization, which provides shelter, medical care, legal advocacy and support to 120-150 victims of abuse each year. It includes a physical shelter and safe-haven that Bukhari started in her ancestral residence in Islamabad. She has been the object of legal action resulting from accusations of abetting criminal acts and the police continue to raid her facility from time to time. Numerous threats against her life have been made, but she has continued to work steadily to improve the lot of women in Pakistan.

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The Trustees
acknowledge with gratitude
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Civil Courage Prize.

Reverend Buck Honored: Prize Ceremony Marked by Standing Ovation



Lord Howe, Civil Courage Prize keynote speaker, meets with Rev. Buck before the ceremony. Jamin Joon serves as his father's translator.



Rev. Buck meets Baroness Howe, wife of Lord Howe. Like her husband, Baroness Howe is a member of Britain's House of Lords.



The Hon. John Train presents Rev. Buck with a check for the \$50,000 cash award included as part of the Civil Courage Prize.



Rev. Buck delivers his acceptance speech. Daughter Grace Yoon Yi listens, while translating her father's words into English for the audience attending the Ceremony.



Rev. Buck receives a standing ovation from the guests assembled at the Harold Pratt House for the Civil Courage Prize ceremony.



Rev. Buck celebrates with Steve Kim, the NY-based U.S. businessman released in Sept. 2007 after 4 years' imprisonment in China, also for helping North Korean refugees.

2008 Prize Ceremony to be Held November 19 in London

The Trustees of The Train Foundation are pleased to announce that the 2008 Civil Courage Prize Ceremony will take place on November 19 in London at Chatham House, in cooperation with the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

The Civil Courage Prize, established in 2000, honors extraordinary individuals whose acts, undertaken deliberately over time, have demonstrated "steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk." Nominations for the 2008 Prize of \$50,000 must be received by March 1, 2008.

Additional information about The Train Foundation and the Prize may be found at www.civildCourageprize.org