



Civil Courage News

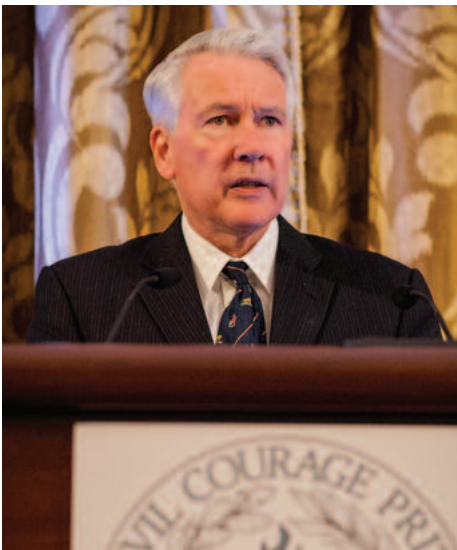
Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

Bobbitt Foresees Yu's Future Role in Leading China Toward Democracy

In his address to the 2012 Civil Courage Prize ceremony, keynote speaker Professor Philip Bobbitt described prizewinner Yu Jie as “one of China’s most prominent essayists” and a “defiant, devoted and brave young man.” Professor Bobbitt commented, “Most of us are glad simply that we are not called upon to suffer for our convictions” but noted that “for some, the call to witness is a sharp, insistent tinnitus that can’t finally be ignored.” Quoting Albert Einstein’s statement that all one can do is to “have the courage to stand up for ethical values in the company of cynics,” Professor Bobbitt emphasized that “Mr. Yu has not kept silent.” While he commended Mr. Yu for his courageous past, Professor Bobbitt noted that his most important contributions may lie ahead of him as he participates in the *continued on page 2*



Professor Philip Bobbitt

Prize-winner Yu Jie Declares Freedom the Aspiration of all Humankind and Predicts the Fall of Communist China



Prize-winner Yu Jie and his wife, Maggie, and son, Justin

The 2012 Civil Courage Prize Medal was awarded to Chinese writer Yu Jie at Harold Pratt House in New York on October 17, 2012. Mr. Yu opened his remarks by describing his arrest and brutal treatment at the hands of the Chinese authorities in response to his biography of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo. He said that he was able to survive this experience in part because of his faith that as “an author committed to speaking the truth, even if I died, my writings would live on.”

Mr. Yu spoke of the inspiration he received from Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, even entitling his speech *The Oak and the Calf* after Solzhenitsyn’s seminal memoir, and declared that, like the great Russian writer, he too believes that the tyrannical regime he is protesting will collapse.

Mr. Yu urged the audience to look beyond the short-term benefits of inexpensive goods coming out of China and, instead, “to understand the real price of these products: the trampling of human rights, the pollution of the environment, and the careless waste of resources.” He stated that “the rush to separate trade relations from human rights and other concerns can bring nothing but lasting harm to the fundamental values of a free market, the rule of law, and democracy upon which this civilization was founded.”

Mr. Yu described his shock on arriving in the United States, where he has recently received asylum, and finding that Communist Chinese propaganda followed him even here. He commented on the favorable reviews offered both in industry and academia for ‘The China Model’ and also on the regular publication of the *continued on page 2*

Letter from the Chairman

Our Prize awarded last October to the eminent Chinese pro-democracy activist and writer Yu Jie raised a paradox: the distinction between U.S.-China relations on the one hand, and on the other, the internal abuses that Yu Jie has suffered from and protested, and which earned him the Prize. In my opinion, we and China should be friends. As former Ambassador Winston Lord observed in a recent meeting with some of their leaders, China is both the most complicated and the most important of our international relationships.

China is the only large country that has never had an aggressive foreign policy. Our relations with China have been generally friendly, except during the Maoist period when they were bent on stirring up trouble in Africa and elsewhere. Before that, however, we were allied with China in resisting Japan. At the moment, China is joining the great-power club and is, in most matters, acting responsibly. (When we complain about some Chinese trading practices, they usually respond, although not immediately.) Also, we must recognize its prodigious growth, and accept that its military strength should correspond to its new position.

Above all, China, although a very large country in population, is also a poor one, with per capita GDP only a fifth of our own. They are in the middle of a vast transfer of population from the country into cities, which creates instability. As does the unrepresentative and corrupt nature of village

government and of the legal system, periodically prompting huge demonstrations. They could not afford a major fight.

In addition, China gets much of its oil from the Middle East, using sea lanes that are dominated by our navy. So if China got extremely difficult, we could turn off their energy spigot by degrees. And for the time being, they cannot effectively attack the U.S., while they would be essentially defenseless against our strategic air power.

With regard to the confrontation in the South China Sea, let us hope they come to the table in a reasonable way quite soon. They are of course aware that we would come to the aid of Japan if the worst came to the worst.

* * *

At the same time, in its evolution from a revolutionary environment, including the nightmarish Cultural Revolution, toward a stable one, there are signs that the Chinese government has made moves toward attenuating the very abuses and lack of freedom from which Yu Jie, and very many of his countrymen, have suffered. These abuses have aroused concern at the highest levels, and although extremely harsh now, we must hope that they are and will continue to be changing for the better, partially thanks to the struggles of Yu Jie himself and his fellow heroes of conscience.



John Train

Yu Committed to Speaking Truth



Prize-winner Yu Jie with Train Foundation Trustees

continued from page 1 advertising supplement 'China Watch' in major newspapers, with its official and glossed-over reports of events in Tibet and elsewhere.

Mr. Yu described his original reason for becoming a writer as his conviction, at the time of the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989, that he had to "break completely with a government that was willing to kill its own people in order to protect its power." Describing others as having been much braver, Mr. Yu played down his own courage but said that he would carry on his mission of speaking out because "there are far too many truths waiting to be revealed, and too many of my fellow countrymen and women continue to suffer persecution, waiting eagerly to hear even a single voice of support".

Mr. Yu's speech was extremely moving and powerful and he ended by stating that the audience "reminded me that, in the fight for freedom, there are no nationalities or races. Freedom is the aspiration of all humankind." He also added that, "Once the bells of freedom begin to chime in China, I can only hope that we will all have a chance to meet again one day in Beijing".

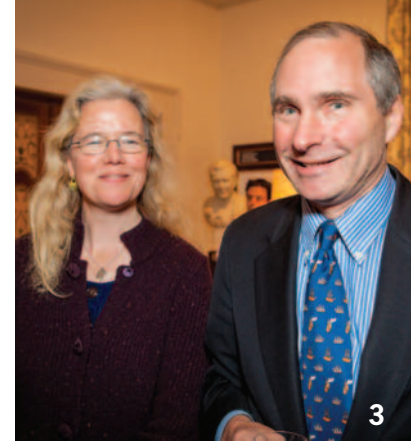
Bobbitt Lauds Concept of Civil Courage

continued from page 1 task of leading China toward democracy and the rule of law.

Ambassador John Menzies, in introducing Professor Bobbitt, declared that "there is no person more fitting for this role," and went on to detail Professor Bobbitt's multiple academic, literary, governmental and other positions and attributes as well as his being one of the pre-eminent political philosophers of our time.

Before calling Mr. Yu to the podium to collect the Civil Courage Prize Medal, Professor Bobbitt also described the concept of civil courage as a magnificent idea and lauded both the creation of the prize and its founder The Hon. John Train.

Reception and Ceremony for 2012 Civil Courage Prize



1 Prize-winner Yu Jie with ceremony guests
2 Richard Bernstein and Emily Gerard
3 Harriet and Henry Clark
4 Bowdoin and Georgina Train
5 John Clay

6 Musa Klebnikov, Suzy Wahba, Carole Artigiani, Louise Carroll, Elizabeth Cabot
7 Ken Lubbock and Andrew Rodger
8 Professor Philip Bobbitt, Prize-winner Yu Jie, Hon John Train, Ariadne Calvo-Platero, Ambassador John Menzies
9 Hon John Train addressing the audience at Harold Pratt House

The Train Foundation

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- | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| 2011 | Triveni Acharya
<i>Defender of Victims of Human Trafficking in India</i> | 2003 | Shahnaz Bukhari
<i>Battler against the burning and other abuse of Pakistani women</i> |
| | Lydia Cacho Ribeiro
<i>Champion of Abused Women and Children in Mexico</i> | 2002 | Vladimiro Roca Antunez
<i>Champion of freedom, Cuba</i> |
| 2010 | Andrew White
<i>Steadfast advocate for peace in the Middle East</i> | | Gustavo Arcos Bergnes
(Honorable Mention)
<i>Early democracy activist, Cuba</i> |
| 2009 | Aminatou Haidar
<i>Champion of the non-violent campaign for self-determination in Western Sahara</i> | 2001 | Paul Kamara
<i>Editor and journalist fighting tyranny in Sierra Leone</i> |
| 2008 | Ali Salem
<i>Egyptian author and journalist. Voice for peace and reason in the Middle East</i> | 2000 | Natasa Kandic
<i>Persecuted journalist and activist, Belgrade</i> |
| 2007 | Phillip Buck
<i>Imprisoned in China for guiding North Korean refugees in their escape to freedom</i> | | Sergei Khodorovich
(Honorable Mention)
<i>Solzhenitsyn collaborator exiled to hard labor in Siberia</i> |
| 2006 | Rafael Marques de Morais
<i>Journalist who exposed the slaughter of Angolans and the plundering of national assets</i> | | Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer†
<i>Anti-Nazi martyr</i> |
| 2005 | Min Ko Naing
<i>Imprisoned campaigner for democracy in Burma</i> | | Judge Giovanni Falcone†
<i>Assassinated while prosecuting the Sicilian Mafia</i> |
| | Anna Politkovskaya
<i>Fearless reporter on atrocities in Chechnya, assassinated</i> | | Rosemary Nelson†
<i>Civil rights lawyer, assassinated while defending accused persons in Northern Ireland</i> |
| | Munir Said Thalib†
<i>Exposed disappearances and corruption in Indonesia, assassinated</i> | | Neelan Tiruchelvam†
<i>Lawyer and educator, killed by a suicide bomber while working for solutions to Tamil-Sri Lankan conflict</i> |
| 2004 | Emadeddin Baghi
<i>Imprisoned for exposing assassinations of Iranian intellectuals</i> | | Raoul Wallenberg†
<i>Saved thousands of Jews from extermination</i> |
| | Lovemore Madhuku
<i>Lawyer persecuted for demanding constitutional reform in Zimbabwe</i> | | |
| | Abdul al-Latif al-Mayah†
<i>Iraqi political scientist and human rights advocate, assassinated</i> | | |

† = 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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