



# Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

## Columbia University Professor Philip Bobbitt to Deliver Keynote Address at Ceremony



Philip Bobbitt, the Herbert Wechsler Professor of Jurisprudence at Columbia University and the Director of the Center on National Security at the Columbia Law School, will give the keynote address at the Civil Courage Prize Ceremony this October 17th in New York City. Professor Bobbitt, whose scholarly interests include constitutional law and interpretation, international security and the history of strategy, also serves as a Senior Fellow at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas.

Professor Bobbitt has served the U.S. government during six administrations, both Democratic and Republican, including acting as Associate Counsel to the President of the United States, for which he received the Presidential Certificate of Merit, as the Counselor on International Law at the U.S. State Department and Senior Director for Strategic Planning at the National Security Council. He presently serves on the Advisory Committee on International Law to *continued on page 2*

## Chinese Author Yu Jie Wins 2012 Civil Courage Prize for Leading Freedom and Pro-democracy Efforts in China

Yu Jie, of Chengdu, China, will receive this year's Civil Courage Prize Medal and a prize of \$50,000 granted by The Train Foundation. Mr. Yu, an award-winning writer, is a notable figure in Chinese pro-democracy and freedom efforts and a co-author of Charter 08, a manifesto calling on the Communist Party of China to adopt an independent legal system, eliminate one-party rule, respect human rights and enact other reforms.

Yu Jie is well known as a close associate and biographer of the 2010 Nobel Peace Laureate, Liu Xiaobo. Though long a target of negative attention from the Chinese authorities, Mr. Yu has suffered from a lengthy period of constant harassment, a year of house arrest and eventually life-threatening torture, beginning shortly after the announcement of Mr. Liu's Nobel Prize. Mr. Yu's abuse included brutal physical beatings and burns, and death threats which eventually led, on his release, to his move earlier this year to the United States, where he has applied for asylum and now continues to write. Mr. Yu speculates that he was allowed to leave the country because the authorities believed he would be less of a threat living abroad during this year of leadership change in China. He has



promised to use his new-found freedom to "put forth my voice on the broader international platform on behalf of the struggle for democracy and freedom in China". He has stated that he plans to continue his influence in China through the use of the Internet and his Twitter account, which has over 38,000 followers.

Mr. Yu's multiple writings are censored in China, he having been put on a blacklist of banned authors, but continue to be published abroad. Mr. Yu has been described as 'very blunt about the shortcomings of Chinese politics and society', with one of his essays comparing China to the story of the Emperor Who Had No Clothes with the Chinese people 'so cowed by political intimidation that they dare not speak simple truths'. His first book, *Fire and Ice*, was reviewed as a 'scathing work of social and political criticism' and he was subjected to many interrogations and *continued on page 2*

When the Civil Courage Prize began, inspired and encouraged by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, our great national strategic concern was the threat presented by the Soviet Union, which had gobbled up much of Europe, and was applying tremendous pressure to many if not most other countries. We helped Solzhenitsyn get the Templeton Prize, worth as much as the Nobel, and accompanied him to Buckingham Palace to receive it. Solzhenitsyn's writings did a lot to destroy the reputation of communism.

Times have changed, and according to this year's Civil Courage Prize winner, with the Soviet Union gone, China is the next threat.

Here is what he writes:

"I arrived in the United States a month ago, thinking that I had escaped the reach of Beijing, only to realize that the Chinese government's shadow continues to be omnipresent. Several U.S. universities that I have contacted dare not invite me for a lecture, as they cooperate with China on many projects. If you are a scholar of Chinese studies who has criticized the Communist Party, it would be impossible for you to be involved in research projects with the Chinese-funded Confucius Institute, and you may even be denied a Chinese visa. Conversely, if you praise the Communist Party, not only would you receive ample research funding but you might also be invited to visit China and even be received by high-level officials. Western academic freedom has been distorted by invisible hands.

I believe that China is a far greater threat than the former Soviet Union ever was: unfortunately, the West lacks visionary politicians, such as Ronald Reagan, to stand up to this threat.

The Chinese Communist Party remains a tiger that will bite. For working on human rights with Liu Xiaobo, after he was awarded the Nobel Prize, I was tortured by the country's secret police and nearly lost my life. Since then, dozens of lawyers and writers have been subjected to brutal torture; some contracted severe pneumonia after being held in front of fans blowing cold air and then being baked by an electric furnace. The secret police threatened me, saying that they had a list of 200 anti-Communist Party intellectuals whom they were ready to arrest and bury alive. Over the past year, the number of political prisoners in China has increased, and the jail sentences have become longer, yet Western voices of protest have become weaker.

Harsh internal repression and unrestrained external expansion are two sides of the same coin. The Chinese Communist Party recently vetoed the U.N. Security Council's resolution on Syria because killings, not unlike those committed by Damascus, continue in Tibet."

My own view is that China, like Russia formerly, has much to fear from internal unrest, but that the U.S. and China are not natural enemies, and should be friends.



## Chinese Author Yu Jie Wins 2012 Civil Courage Prize

*continued from page 1* threats from the authorities for his critical biography of China's Premier, entitled China's Best Actor: Wen Jiabo. Another thorn for the authorities has been his latest book, a biography of Mr. Liu, now serving an 11-year prison sentence, which was recently published in Hong Kong. Mr. Yu is currently working on a critique of Hu Jintao, the President of China, which he expects to publish in Hong Kong this year.

Mr. Yu, who wrote his first book at age 13 and went on to receive a Master's in Literature from Peking University in 2000, portrays himself as a 'true patriot' and a 'truth-teller'. He describes his path to becoming a political dissident as a culmination of three different influences: his experience of hearing about Tiananmen Square on the BBC and Voice of America as a high school student in Chengdu; his meeting and subsequent collaboration with Liu Xiaobo in 1999; and his conversion to Christianity in 2003.

In addition to his writings, Mr. Yu has been involved in working with other Chinese writers to organize the Independent Chinese PEN Center, serving as its vice-president from 2005-7. He has also helped to organize Christian 'house churches', and worked to defend the rights of China's minorities, especially religious rights. In 2010, MSNBC named Mr. Yu as one of China's ten leading dissidents.

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## Bobitt to Deliver Keynote Speech at Civil Courage Prize Ceremony

*continued from page 1* the Secretary of State.

The author of many essays and articles and of seven published books, Professor Bobbitt's works include: *Constitutional Fate: Theory of the Constitution*; *The Shield of Achilles: War, Peace and the Course of History*; and, most recently, *Terror and Consent: the Wars for the Twenty-First Century*. His forthcoming book, *My Robes of State: Machiavelli and the World He Made*, will be published in 2013. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## Recent News of Past Winners



2005 CCP winner **Min Ko Naing** of Burma, who had been sentenced to 65 years in jail, was finally released from prison in January of this year. Min Ko Naing, a prominent leader of the 1988 student protest movement, was probably the most important dissident still in jail to be released by the extensive government amnesty of political prisoners. President Thein Sein said the newly freed prisoners could “play a constructive role in the political process”, and the move was hailed by many as a significant breakthrough for reform by Burma. Nevertheless, there was some concern as to how much freedom the released prisoners would have and opposition groups noted that there were still more than 1000 political prisoners in custody. Min Ko Naing, himself, was met by a crowd of well-wishers on his release and spent the next few days thanking supporters, but also urging that they continue to press for further, tangible reform.

2009 CCP winner **Aminatou Haidar** of the Western Sahara received further intimidation and shocking news when her teenage children were beaten by unidentified assailants in July of this year, while traveling by bus from Agadir in Morocco to El Aiun in the Western Sahara. The attack, not the first harassment they have suffered, is seen as part of a larger pattern of abuse against Sahrawi children, provoked by continued racist media coverage in Morocco. As yet, no official investigation into the incident has been reported.

2011 CCP winner **Lydia Cacho Ribeiro** of Mexico has reported receiving new death threats from, as yet, unknown sources, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, which called on the Mexican government to increase their efforts to ensure her security. Ms. Cacho has also reported the closing of her women’s shelter in Cancun due to a shortage of funds to maintain it. In more positive news, Ms. Cacho was a recipient of the 2011 Olaf Palme Prize for International Understanding and Common Security for her “tireless and often lonely efforts to expose criminal networks despite great personal risk”.

## With Special Thanks to Civil Courage Prize Nominators 2011-2012

**Andrew Apostolou**  
*of Freedom House*

**Alberta Arthurs**  
*of Arthurs.us*

**David Asman**  
*of Fox News*

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*of Education for All Campaign Network, The Gambia*

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*of Breslow & Walker, LLP*

**Patsy Davis**  
*of Baptist World Alliance Women's Dept*

**Atine Denish**  
*of Akalo Poverty Reduction Organisation*

**Bob Dietz**  
*of Committee to Protect Journalists*

**Estelle Disch**  
*of University of Massachusetts, Boston*

**Joyce Dubensky**  
*of Tannenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding*

**Mahmood Elahi**  
*of Pakistani Hoslamand Khawateen Network (PHKN)*

**Fernanda Katz Ellenberg**  
*of Robert F. Kennedy Center*

**Giovanni Ferrero**  
*Former Italian Ambassador*

**Karen Fitzgerald**  
*of Ashoka*

**Christian Fuller**  
**Vartan Gregorian**  
*of Carnegie Corporation of NY*

**Nouha Ghosn**  
*of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*

**Smitha Hanumantha**  
*of Ashoka*

**Jane Harmen**  
*of Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*

**Kyle Horner/  
Sharon Kelly**  
*of Connect Church/  
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**Imaad Al-Islam**  
*of Islam Channel*

**Musa Klebnykov**  
*of The Train Foundation*

**Perry Link**  
*of University of California, Riverside*

**Cat Lucas**  
*of English PEN*

**Jharana Mishra**  
*of Bharat Integrated Social Welfare Agency*

**Justice VS Malimath**  
*former Chief Justice of Karnataka and Kerala High Courts*

**Jay Nordlinger**  
*of National Review*

**Michael Posner**  
*of US Department of State*

**Nancy Prager Kamel**  
*of Strategic Expansion Partners*

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*of Mt. Sinai Methodist Church, Lapaz*

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**Carter Roberts**  
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**Willy Mushing Tamfu**  
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**Rev Robert and Mrs. Maurine Tobin**  
*of Episcopalian Diocese of MA*

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**Robert Varenik**  
*of Open Society Justice Initiative*

**Janet Walsh**  
*of Human Rights Watch*

**Elie Weisel**  
*of Boston University*

**Sarah Leah Whitson**  
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**Christoph Wilcke**  
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*of American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research*



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## Past Honorees

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