



# Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

## Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait to Deliver Keynote Speech at the Ceremony

John Micklethwait, Bloomberg's Editor-in-Chief, oversees editorial content across all platforms, including news, newsletters, magazines, opinion, television, radio and digital properties, as well as research services such as Bloomberg Intelligence.



Prior to joining Bloomberg in February 2015, Micklethwait was Editor-in-Chief of *The Economist*, where he led the publication into the digital age, while expanding readership and enhancing its reputation.

He joined *The Economist* in 1987, as a finance correspondent and served as Business Editor and United States Editor before being named Editor-in-Chief in 2006. He began his career in banking at Chase Manhattan in London after studying history at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Micklethwait has covered business and politics from the United States, Latin America, Continental Europe, Southern Africa and most of Asia.

A frequent broadcaster, Micklethwait has appeared on CNN, ABC News, BBC, C-SPAN, PBS and NPR.

He is a trustee of the British Museum and the co-author of six books, most recently *The Fourth Revolution: The Global Race to Reinvent the State*.

In 2010, Micklethwait was named "Editors' Editor" by the British Society of Magazine Editors.

## Guatemalans Claudia Paz y Paz and Yassmin Barrios Win 2015 Civil Courage Prize for Their Pursuit of Justice and Human Rights

This year's recipients of the Civil Courage Prize, Dr. Claudia Paz y Paz and Judge Yassmin Barrios, are extraordinary women who have taken great risks to stand up to corruption and injustice in their native Guatemala.

For over 18 years, Dr. Paz y Paz has been dedicated to improving her country's human rights policies. She was the national consultant to the UN mission in Guatemala and served as a legal advisor to the Human Rights Office of the Archbishop. In 1994, she founded the Institute for Comparative Criminal Studies of Guatemala, a human rights organization that promotes restorative justice, and protects the rights of victims during criminal proceedings.

In 2010, Dr. Paz y Paz became Guatemala's first female Attorney General. She successfully prosecuted human rights abusers, violent criminals, drug cartels, organized crime, and corrupt politicians in a country where impunity was a way of life. She purged the public prosecutor's office and implemented performance evaluations, which led to a dramatic reduction in unsolved cases. By encouraging the use of DNA



*Claudia Paz y Paz*

testing, wiretaps and other technology, she achieved unprecedented results in sentences for homicide, rape, violence against women, extortion and kidnapping.

In a country where witnesses, prosecutors, and judges were threatened and killed, she courageously sought justice for the victims of the atrocities committed by people in power during Guatemala's 36-



*Yassmin Barrios*

year political and civil conflict. She prosecuted former President Efraín Ríos Montt for his role in the genocide of indigenous Mayans in the early 80s. Found guilty in 2013, his conviction was overturned on a technicality, but it was an important message to those who felt they were above the law.

Bringing cases against the corrupt and politically powerful involved great personal and professional risks. During her

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## The Story of The Civil Courage Prize

Many years ago, John Train became concerned with the situation of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the great Russian hero and author whose works helped destroy the prestige of Stalinism. After being exiled, he had moved to rural Vermont, but was living in poverty. Train was able to obtain substantial private support for him, and accompanied him to London, where Prince Philip handed him the check in a Buckingham Palace ceremony.

Train, who delivered the English-language response at the ceremony, realized that there was no word in English for the virtue that Solzhenitsyn so nobly exemplified, but that there should be, perhaps “civil courage,” as distinct from valor in war. He resolved to create a prize for this virtue, and asked if Solzhenitsyn would like to receive it, have it named after him, or be a judge. He chose the last, and acted in that role for the rest of his life. His son has followed him.

The prize, \$50,000 and a medal, is “for steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk.” It was first awarded, in London, to Natasa Kandic, sometimes called the Serbian Schindler. Subsequent laureates have come from most parts of the world except, so far, our own. One, Anna Politkovskaya, reporting on atrocities in Chechnya, was assassinated in the course of the very work for which she was honored, as were several others who were recognized posthumously, notably Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Giovanni Falcone and Raoul Wallenberg.

Civil courage is essential for a good society. Some few must step forward to challenge large-scale iniquity. “If everyone says, the devil take the hindmost, the devil soon works his way to the head of the line.” Our hope is that by introducing the expression “civil courage” into the English language, and by holding up for general admiration heroes of conscience who exemplify it, we can encourage the good side of human nature.

To select the prizewinner, we invite nominations from an international list of distinguished organizations and persons. The nominations ordinarily arrive with first-hand descriptions that are invaluable.

Our administrative office then checks to see if the nominee fills our qualifications, which have evolved from experience. For instance, the nominee should have many years of heroic resistance to evil, not just one episode. And it must indeed be evil, not an abuse of civil rights. We do not define evil, but we think we know it when we see it.

Once the nominations have been researched, they are reviewed by the Trustees and a short list is created. Those on the list are then sent on to our Advisors for ranking. Their choices are in turn considered by the Trustees, after which the final decision is made.

This is a laborious process, but it insures impartiality, and we learn much from the different viewpoints.

When the laureate has come to New York to receive the medal and the stipend, we introduce him to the press here and to other U.S. non-profits with similar objectives, such as Human Rights Watch, the Ford Foundation, and the Robert F. Kennedy Center, several appropriate universities, U.N. staff and the Bar Association. Then to Washington to see the State Department, appropriate embassies, Senate and House Committees, and “think tanks.” He will probably make contact with twenty or thirty organizations and hundreds of individuals. These encounters will fortify his resolve to continue on his difficult course and will help develop useful allies. It adds prestige to a good person pursuing a difficult goal to be able to invoke such connections. We have found that winning the prize confers a measure of protection to a laureate’s life at home.

The hero of conscience is usually solitary: his companions are found in history books. He battles for a cause that even his friends may not understand or believe in, or dare to espouse. Indeed, the noblest causes may be those that seem hopeless at the time. Civil courage empowers us to face the world alone.

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

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

[twitter.com/TrainFoundation](https://twitter.com/TrainFoundation)

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# Guatemalans Paz y Paz and Barrios Win 2015 Civil Courage Prize

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tenure, groups affiliated with military interests and powerful right-wing conservatives forced her to step down seven months short of her four-year term.

Dr. Paz y Paz has won international accolades and in 2013, she was a finalist for the Nobel Peace Prize. That same year, she received the prestigious Dean's Award from Georgetown University, where she is currently a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security.

For nearly two decades, Judge Yassmin Barrios has sought to strengthen Guatemala's justice system. Early in her career, she practiced advocacy law and then served as a judge in the First Court of Judgment, High Risk, and as an alternate judge of the Supreme Court of Justice. She is an expert in criminal and constitutional law, and experienced in public administration. She was the legal consultant to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Legal Advisor of the Guatemalan Ministry of Education.

Her belief that "peace will not be achieved if there is no justice" was evident as the crimes of the 36-year civil war passed through her courtroom. Grenades exploded in the courtyard of her house as she prepared to sentence three defendants to 30-year prison terms during their trial for the murder of Archbishop Monsignor Juan Gerardi. Three National Police patrol officers were stationed permanently outside of her front gate. Because of death threats, she spent years going to work in a bulletproof vest escorted by the National Civil Police.

She served as the presiding judge of the three-member court at the genocide trial of former dictator Montt, during which the Guatemalan President made public statements opposing the proceedings on the grounds that it was "betraying the peace and dividing Guatemala." In the face of overwhelming political pressure, the judges sentenced Montt to an 80-year prison term.

Although the verdict demonstrated that there could be an independent judiciary, Judge Barrios faced retaliation. A case was brought before the Ethics Tribunal of the Bar Association that resulted in her illegal suspension from practicing law for a year. Although an administrative oversight body rejected the penalty, a stain remained on her record. She continues to fight for justice "without weapons," in order to create a system where independent judges and prosecutors can act without fear of interference, constraint or sanction.

Judge Barrios has received recognition for her work, most notably the International Women of Courage Award from the U.S. government, presented by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2014. In April 2015, she received the Goler T. Butcher Medal for her contribution to the international law of human rights.

Both Dr. Claudia Paz y Paz and Judge Yassmin Barrios embody the spirit of civil courage. In the face of extraordinary political and social pressure, they have shown integrity, courage and commitment.

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## With Special Thanks to the 2015 Civil Courage Prize Nominators

Fredo Arias-King  
CASLA Institute o.p.s.

Nancy Kamel  
Vital Voices

Brian Concannon  
Institute for Justice and  
Democracy in Haiti

Dan Kovalik  
General Counsel  
United Steelworkers

Claire Fallender  
Ashoka

Cat Lucas  
English PEN

James A. Goldston  
Open Society Justice Initiative

Aryeh Neier  
Open Society Foundations

Dr. Ikram-ul-Islam  
Vite-N-Hope organization

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## The Train Foundation Announces the Election of Two New Advisors

We are pleased to report the election of two new Civil Courage Prize Advisors:

**Sir Jeremy Greenstock** was the United Kingdom's Ambassador to the United Nations from 1998 to 2003. In September 2003, he was appointed the U.K. Special Representative for Iraq. He is currently the Chairman of the United Nations Association of the U.K.

**Count Aymar de Lastours** has spent his career in private industry all over the world, including Asia and Africa. In recent years, he has been active in IFRI, the French counterpart of our Council on Foreign Relations.

## The Train Foundation

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## Past Honorees

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 2014 Nicola Gratteri<br><i>Relentless Prosecutor<br/>of the Italian Mafia</i>   | 2005 Min Ko Naing<br><i>Long-imprisoned<br/>campaigner for<br/>democracy in Burma</i><br><br>Anna Politkovskaya<br><i>Fearless reporter on<br/>atrocities in Chechnya,<br/>assassinated</i><br><br>Munir Said Thalib†<br><i>Exposed disappearances<br/>and corruption in<br/>Indonesia, assassinated</i>                                  | 2000 Natasa Kandic<br><i>Persecuted journalist and<br/>activist, Belgrade</i><br><br>Sergei Khodorovich<br>(Honorable Mention)<br><i>Solzhenitsyn collaborator<br/>exiled to hard labor in<br/>Siberia</i><br><br>Pastor Dietrich<br>Bonhoeffer†<br><i>Anti-Nazi martyr</i><br><br>Judge Giovanni<br>Falcone†<br><i>Assassinated while<br/>prosecuting the Sicilian<br/>Mafia</i><br><br>Rosemary Nelson†<br><i>Civil rights lawyer,<br/>assassinated while<br/>defending accused persons<br/>in Northern Ireland</i><br><br>Neelan Tiruchelvam†<br><i>Lawyer and educator,<br/>killed by a suicide bomber<br/>while working for solutions<br/>to Tamil-Sri Lankan<br/>conflict</i> |
| 2013 Dr. Denis Mukwege<br><i>Physician and advocate for<br/>victims of violence in the<br/>Democratic Republic of<br/>the Congo</i>   | 2004 Emadeddin Baghi<br><i>Imprisoned for exposing<br/>assassinations of Iranian<br/>intellectuals</i><br><br>Lovemore Madhuku<br><i>Lawyer persecuted for<br/>demanding constitutional<br/>reform in Zimbabwe</i><br><br>Abdul al-Latif<br>al-Mayah†<br><i>Iraqi political scientist and<br/>human rights advocate,<br/>assassinated</i> | Raoul Wallenberg†<br><i>Saved thousands of Jews<br/>from extermination</i>  |
| 2012 Yu Jie<br><i>Author and advocate for<br/>reform in China</i>   | 2003 Shahnaz Bukhari<br><i>Battler against the burn-<br/>ing and other abuse of<br/>Pakistani women</i>   |   |
| 2011 Triveni Acharya<br><i>Defender of victims of<br/>human trafficking in India</i><br><br>Lydia Cacho Ribeiro<br><i>Champion of abused<br/>women and<br/>children in Mexico</i> | 2002 Vladimiro Roca<br><i>Antunez<br/>Champion of freedom,<br/>Cuba</i><br><br>Gustavo Arcos<br>Bergnes<br>(Honorable Mention)<br><i>Early democracy activist,<br/>Cuba</i>   |   |
| 2010 Andrew White<br><i>Steadfast advocate for peace<br/>in the Middle East</i>   | 2001 Paul Kamara<br><i>Editor and journalist<br/>fighting tyranny in Sierra<br/>Leone</i>   |   |
| 2009 Aminatou Haidar<br><i>Champion of the non-<br/>violent campaign for self-<br/>determination in Western<br/>Sabara</i>  |   |   |
| 2008 Ali Salem<br><i>Egyptian author and<br/>journalist. Voice for<br/>peace and reason in the<br/>Middle East</i>  |   |   |
| 2007 Phillip Buck<br><i>Imprisoned in China for<br/>guiding North Korean<br/>refugees in their escape to<br/>freedom</i>  |   |   |
| 2006 Rafael Marques<br>de Morais<br><i>Journalist who exposed<br/>the slaughter of Angolans<br/>and the plundering of<br/>national assets</i>                                     |   |   |

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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