Keynote Speaker Ambassador William J. Burns Reflects On The State of Civil Courage

The keynote speech at the Civil Courage Prize Ceremony was given by Ambassador William J. Burns, whose foreign service career included several tours in Russia. He called it "a particular honor to help celebrate the bravery and remarkable example of this year’s Civil Courage Prize recipient.” He said that he could think of "no one more deserving, and no one who better embodies the prize's ideal of “steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk.”

He went on to say that, “There has never been a moment when civil courage, so brilliantly exemplified by Vladimir Kara-Murza, mattered more in our world than it does today...when democracies – including my own – are adrift and losing their way.” He feels that civil courage is needed more than ever and "institutions which guard freedom and dignity are being hollowed out in too many ways in too many societies.”

He also feels that we can not afford to give up on the Russia after Putin, one that is "intent upon realizing their full human potential and dignity.” In the many years that he has represented the United States abroad, he has learned "that it is the power of our example,

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A Conversation Between Vladimir Kara-Murza and David Remnick

On October 16th, a discussion entitled Beyond the Kremlin: The Pro-Democracy Movement and What The Russian People are Really Thinking, was sponsored by the Train Foundation, The New School and PEN America. The event, held at The New School, paired Civil Courage Prize-winner Vladimir Kara-Murza with David Remnick, Pulitzer-prize-winning author (Lenin’s Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire) and current Editor of The New Yorker. Dr. Nina Khrushcheva, Professor of International Affairs at The New School, provided opening remarks and then joined in a lively discourse that included Putin, politics, the state of the Russian dissident movement, and the effects of social media and the internet in Russia today. Kara-Murza expressed how heartening it is that young people, who have grown up only knowing Putin’s government, are speaking out and protesting against it. The discussion brought up their concerns that Putin’s strongman rule has not entirely closed the system, with Khrushcheva commenting on the idea that a partially open system is more dangerous, since it gives the illusion of freedom. At the end of the discussion, Kara-Murza and Remnick disagreed as to whether or not different American presidents handled Putin and Russian leaders in the same manner (with Remnick seeing a difference and Kara-Murza seeing that the substance is the same).

In a wry aside, Kara-Murza pointed out that at least here, they could disagree.

Recent News on Past Winners

Congratulations to Dr. Denis Mukwege, the 2013 Civil Courage Prize winner from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who, along with Nadia Murad, a Yazidi woman from Iraq, has been awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. Both have tirelessly worked to eliminate the use of sexual violence and mass rape as a weapon of war.

Dr. Mukwege, a gynecologist, practices medicine in eastern Congo, which U.N. officials have called the "rape capital of the world." In 1999, he founded the Panzi Hospital, where he developed a model of treatment that emphasizes both physical care and justice, allowing survivors to process the physical, emotional and spiritual trauma of their experience. He has treated tens of thousands of women for rape and torture since opening the Hospital, campaigning relentlessly to bring attention to their plight.

Mukwege has received multiple threats on his life because of his continuing commitment to his work, and in 2012, he and his family survived an assassination attempt. According to the Nobel Committee, "His basic principle is that justice is everyone's business." He spoke about that years ago in Democracy Now! "We are here because we have hope, and we have hope that the world can listen."

Keynote Speech by Ambassador Burns continued from page 2

more than the power of our preaching, which can amplify all our other sources of military, economic, and political influence." Despite that, "we are rapidly corroding that image, the idea of America that has so often proven, despite all our imperfections and failings, to be one of our most potent sources of power."

His speech is on the Train Foundation website: www.civilcourageprize.org.

In Memoriam: Trustee Enid Schoettle

It is with great sadness that we report that long-time former Train Foundation Trustee Dr. Enid Curtis Bok Schoettle died last October.

During her distinguished career, she taught political science at Swarthmore College and the University of Minnesota and later became a well-known international leader in the area of nuclear disarmament. She worked with governments and non-profits, including the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Government’s National Intelligence Council and the United Nations. She was the recipient of the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and served as a member of the Advisory Board of Women in International Security, the American Society of International Law and the Council on Foreign Relations.

She will be profoundly missed.

For further information and updates on current and previous prizewinners, please go to:
www.civilcourageprize.org
Twitter: @TrainFoundation
Facebook: Civil Courage Prize
2018 Civil Courage Prize Ceremony and Reception

1. Vladimir Kara-Murza and Amb. Sir Jeremy Greenstock
2. George Biddle
3. Nina Train and Bowdy Train
4. HRH Prince Zeid Ra’ad Zeid Al Hussein, Princess Sarah Zeid, Ariadne Calvo-Platero
5. Musa Klebnikov
7. Amb. Nicholas Platt, Peter B. de Neufville
8. Joseph J. Borgatti
9. Louis Bickford
10. Amb. Paul Wolfowitz, Ann Brownell Sloane
11. Laurie and Christopher Gerard
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“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
—Edmund Burke

Civil Courage News

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Past Honorees

2018 Vladimir Kara-Murza
Heroic Russian Opposition Leader

2017 Pierre Claver
Mbonimpa
Campaigner for social justice in Burundi

2016 RBSS
(Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently)
Journalists revealing ISIS atrocities from inside Syria

Thuli Madonsela
(Honorable Mention)
Anti-corruption crusader, South Africa

2015 Claudia Paz y Paz
Prosecutor of human rights abuses, Guatemala

Yassmin Barrios
Presiding judge in Rios Montt genocide trial, Guatemala

2014 Nicola Gratteri
Relentless prosecutor of the Italian Mafia

2013 Dr. Denis Mukwege
Physician and advocate for victims of violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Lydia Cacho Ribeiro
Champion of abused women and children in Mexico

2010 Andrew White
Steadfast advocate for peace in the Middle East

2009 Aminatou Haidar
Champion of the non-violent campaign for self-determination in Western Sahara

2008 Ali Salem
Egyptian author and journalist. Voice for peace and reason in the Middle East

2007 Phillip Buck
Imprisoned in China for guiding North Korean refugees in their escape to freedom

2006 Rafael Marques de Morais
Journalist who exposed the slaughter of Angolans and the plundering of national assets

2005 Min Ko Naing
Long-imprisoned campaigner for democracy in Burma

Anna Politkovskaya
Fearless reporter on atrocities in Chechnya, assassinated 2006

Munir Said Thalib†
Exposed disappearances and corruption in Indonesia, assassinated

2004 Emadeddin Baghi
Imprisoned for exposing assassinations of Iranian intellectuals

Lovemore Madhuku
Lawyer persecuted for demanding constitutional reform in Zimbabwe

Abdul al-Latif al-Mayah†
Iraqi political scientist and human rights advocate, assassinated

2003 Shahnaz Bukhari
Battler against the burning and other abuse of Pakistani women

Vladimiro Roca
Antunez
Champion of freedom, Cuba

Gustavo Arcos
Bergnes
(Honorable Mention)
Early democracy activist, Cuba

2001 Paul Kamara
Editor and journalist fighting tyranny in Sierra Leone

2000 Natasa Kandic
Persecuted journalist and activist, Belgrade

Sergei Khodorovich
(Honorable Mention)
Solzhenitsyn collaborator exiled to hard labor in Siberia

Past Honorees

† = 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.civilcourageprize.org.