Videos at the Ceremony Highlight the Importance of the Laureate's Work

At this year’s Civil Courage Prize ceremony, highlights included videos about the human rights work done by Gonzalo Himiob Santomé and Foro Penal in Venezuela.

Because she was not able to attend, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power, who nominated Himiob for the prize, sent a video.

At the U.N., Power became familiar with Himiob’s work; both his personal involvement in individual cases and his coordination of the efforts of Foro Penal’s lawyers and volunteers who help people "subjected to politically motivated arrests." She also saw their work with families of those killed by security forces while they protested the corruption and failure of the Maduro regime.

Power commended Himiob for challenging the violent and authoritarian Maduro government and his "unwavering force for justice and accountability." One of the "most vocal advocates of the rule of law," he is the public face of Foro Penal. Despite threats and intimidation, he continues his work with political prisoners and thousands of protestors, who are "beaten, held incommunicado, and tortured." The end result is that he and his colleagues have made it "impossible for the Maduro Regime to operate with the impunity it so desires."

Her hope is that the award may give Himiob "a greater degree of protection contined on Page 2

The 2019 Civil Courage Prize Winner Gonzalo Himiob Santomé Speaks of Venezuela's Struggles

On October 21, 2019, the Train Foundation awarded the Civil Courage Prize to Venezuelan lawyer, writer, musician, poet, and human rights activist Gonzalo Himiob Santomé. He, and Alfredo Romero, with whom he "shares the honor," co-founded Foro Penal, an organization that helps to free prisoners arbitrarily detained by his government, and also documents detainees, political prisoners, abuses, and assassinations.

Foundation co-chair George Biddle spoke of the history of the Prize and how in creating it, John Train was inspired by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, a "sole warrior fighting for what he thinks was right."

Himiob, the 2019 "warrior," spoke eloquently about the violation of human rights and why the award is so important to him, his country, and his colleagues, "who share with me each day the sorrows and joys that [come with] fighting for human rights."

He feels the award highlights and celebrates "those of us who do not carry guns, uniforms, or badges;" who fight for "dreams" using the Rule of Law. He has learned that "there is nothing more powerful than a common person, a normal citizen," who is willing to fight "in order to get peace, justice, and freedom back when it has been wrongfully taken away." The Prize "reminds us that anyone who truly wishes to...can make a difference."

He noted how "the evil, violence, persecution, and death, has invaded almost each aspect of our lives," making people believe "the lines between what is correct and incorrect, what is right and wrong, are vague and even nonexistent."

"Evil in my country has shown many sides." Himiob sees it in the police, judges, and prosecutors who, "aware of the innocence of those brought before them," keep them in jail; in those who use other people's tragedy to make a profit or for political benefits; and in the inmates at hearings, who are tortured to keep silent "because silence is one of the worst, terrible weapons of evil when it becomes power."

However, he says, "seeing and knowing the evil has also allowed me to meet goodness and realize that the line between correct and incorrect, between right and wrong, is not vague or nonexistent," that evil's victories "are only temporary."

He also sees goodness in the "tired eyes of our lawyers and vol-

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**Prize-Winner's Work Spotlighted**

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from potential retribution for his advocacy.”

Power praised Himiob as a “shining example; a major and desperately needed bright spot during an exceedingly dark period; an inspiration and a reminder of what can be achieved when one person is willing to stand up to injustice in their community.”

Another video highlighted the Foro Penal team for their work as "an active watchdog" for local crimes against humanity, showing how they are raising awareness about the "humanitarian crisis suffered by millions." Their database of people arbitrarily arrested for political reasons in Venezuela goes back to 2005, and they continuously report "cases of politically motivated torture and assassination." Their records have been "validated as effective and credible references" by the U.N., the European Parliament, the O.A.S., and organizations dedicated to the global defense of human rights.

The work brings great risk to Foro Penal’s members. Himiob has received death threats and has been "deemed as a traitor, terrorist, and criminal" by the government. He continues because, for him, there is "no worse punishment for political prisoners than oblivion."

In the end, Foro Penal’s only reward "in all cases is what they call a prisoner’s ‘embrace of freedom’ once he is free. They ask for no more than that."

**Recent News of a Past Winner**

Crusading journalist and human rights defender, Rafael Marques de Morais, winner of the 2006 Civil Courage Prize, has received some well-deserved recognition in his native Angola.

During the summer of 2019, he was acquitted of charges of "insulting the Angolan state" for an article he wrote and published on his anti-corruption website, Maka Angola, alleging that the then attorney general engaged in corruption. Marques was also charged with "offending an organ of sovereignty," namely ex-president Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

It wasn’t the first time that Marques has stood trial but it was the first time he was acquitted, which is considered a milestone for Angola’s freedom of the press.

This past November, Marques was among 70 "institutions and personalities" who were awarded the medal of civil merit by President João Lourenço, for their "commitment to fight against corruption."

His reaction to the award? "I am very pleased," he said, "I’m a patriot now."

**Laureate Speaks About Civil Courage**

Continued from Page 1

In his acceptance speech, Himiob said, "I am very pleased." He thanked his family, friends, and colleagues for their support, and acknowledged the "determined struggle" of those who have come before him, including his colleague in Venezuela, Rafael Marques de Morais.

Himiob also spoke about the importance of freedom and justice, and the need for continued efforts to defend these values. He ended his speech with a call to action, urging everyone to "stand up for what is right and just."
2019 Civil Courage Prize Ceremony and Reception

1. Musa Klebnikov and Andrew Gilmour
2. Ann Brownell Sloane and Jennifer Clay
3. Ariadne Calvo-Platero and Nancy Prager-Kamel
4. Marco and Cristina Grassi
5. Train Trustees, Advisors, Prize-winner, and Moderator:
   (Bottom row l-r): Ariadne Calvo-Platero, Gonzalo Himiob Santomé, John Train and Kerry Kennedy; (Top row l-r): Nina Train, Ann Brownell Sloane, Louis Bickford, George Biddle, Bowdy Train and Musa Klebnikov.
6. Michael Klebnikov, Alexandra Ourusoff, George Davison
7. (l-r) John Micklethwait, Marcus Brauchli, Warren Hoge and Bill Keller
8. Sarah and Tom O’Connor
9. Wendy and Bill Luers
10. Gonzalo Himiob Santomé, Alfredo Romero, and George Biddle
11. Francie and John Train with Edward Friedman
12. Ariadne Calvo-Platero, George Biddle and Nina Train

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

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Alekandr Solzhenitsyn

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### Past Honorees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Honoree</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Gonzalo Himiob Santomé</td>
<td>Defender of Persecuted Venezuelans</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Vladimir Kara-Murza</td>
<td>Heroic Russian Opposition Leader</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Pierre Claver Mbonimpa</td>
<td>Campaigner for social justice in Burundi</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>RBSS (Raqa is Being Slaughtered Silently)</td>
<td>Journalists revealing ISIS atrocities from inside Syria</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Claudia Paz y Paz</td>
<td>Prosecutor of human rights abuses, Guatemala</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Nicola Gratteri</td>
<td>Relentless prosecutor of the Italian mafia</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Dr. Denis Mukwege</td>
<td>Physician and advocate for victims of violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Yu Je</td>
<td>Author and advocate for change in China</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Triveni Acharya</td>
<td>Defender of victims of human trafficking in India</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Andrew White</td>
<td>Steadfast advocate for peace in the Middle East</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Aminatou Haidar</td>
<td>Champion of the non-violent campaign for self-determination in Western Sahara</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Ali Salem</td>
<td>Egyptian author and journalist; voice for peace and reason in the Middle East</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Philip Buck</td>
<td>Imprisoned in China for guiding North Korean refugees in their escape to freedom</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Rafael Marques de Morais</td>
<td>Journalist who exposed the slaughter of Angolans and the plundering of national assets</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Min Ko Naing</td>
<td>Long-imprisoned campaigner for democracy in Burma</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Emadeddin Baghi</td>
<td>Imprisoned for exposing assassinations of Iranian intellectuals</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Shahnaz Bukhari</td>
<td>Battler against the burning and other abuse of Pakistani women</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Vladimir Roa Antunez</td>
<td>Champion of freedom, Cuba</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Paul Kamara</td>
<td>Editor and journalist fighting tyranny in Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Natasa Kandic</td>
<td>Persecuted journalist and activist, Belgrade</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Sergei Khodorovich (Honorable Mention)</td>
<td>Solzhenitsyn collaborator exiled to hard labor in Siberia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer†</td>
<td>Anti-Nazi martyr</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Judge Giovanni Falcone†</td>
<td>Assassinated while prosecuting the Sicilian mafia</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Rosemary Nelson†</td>
<td>Civil rights lawyer, assassinated while defending accused persons in Northern Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Neelan Tiruchelvam†</td>
<td>Lawyer and educator; killed by a suicide bomber while working for solutions to Tamil–Sri Lankan conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Raoul Wallenberg†</td>
<td>Saved thousands of Jews from extermination</td>
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† = 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.

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*“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”*  
—Edmund Burke

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Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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