



Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

Vol. 8, No. 1 • January 2012

For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

Bachelet Condemns Effects of Violence Against Women

In the keynote address at the Civil Courage Prize award ceremony, Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, spoke glowingly of this year's prize-winners referring to them as "two very strong and powerful women." She described them as being exceptional, "because they break the silence on gender-based violence, a human rights violation that has long been neglected and viewed as inevitable and even acceptable. They stand out because they acted on their profound belief in human rights and equal rights for all... they bring to light what is kept in the dark, and shine a light of justice."

CCP Trustee Ambassador John Menzies thanked Ms. Bachelet for her presence and introduced her as "the ideal person to give our keynote address" in light of both the themes highlighted with this year's awards and her recent appointment to head UN Women. He also described Ms. Bachelet, formerly President of Chile, as herself no stranger to persecution and abuse. *continued on page 2*



Prize-winners Speak Out on Global Fight Against Human Trafficking and Sex Abuse

The 2011 Civil Courage Prize was awarded on October 19th at Harold Pratt House in New York, to two extraordinary women, both of whom are risking their lives and safety to fight the evils of human trafficking, sex abuse and child pornography. In their acceptance speeches, both Lydia Cacho Ribeiro from Mexico and Triveni Acharya from India spoke movingly of their work and of the many victims that they have been able to help through their courageous efforts.

Ms. Cacho, an award-winning journalist and author and the Founder of the Refuge Center for Abused Women of Cancun, described the plight of a young boy, a victim of abuse, who after years in their care is now being trained to help others escape from violence and exploitation. Of his rescue and transformation, she stated, "That day, I knew that what I was doing was worth the fight and was worth the risk because we're not only rescuing women to help and develop their own tools, to change their own world, but to change the entire world. Every time a woman, a girl, a boy changes their view of how the exercise of violence hurts them and hurts others, they become their own heroes." She spoke of often being asked why she risks so much for this work, including kidnapping and torture, and stated, "Every time we help a victim to be rescued, we're being rescued ourselves;



Prize-winners Lydia Cacho Ribeiro and Triveni Acharya

every time we accompany a woman to change her life, our life changes, and that is what gives us power: The knowledge that we are one in humanity." She finished her acceptance speech with a caution that the social media website, Facebook, is a new location where predators of children look for pornography and opportunities for sex abuse. She issued a plea to all present at the award ceremony to bring their influence to bear to put a stop to this.

Ms. Acharya, President of the Rescue Foundation in Mumbai which rescues, rehabilitates and repatriates women and children who have been sold into sex trafficking rings, described her work, from the "heated arguments *continued on page 2*

Letter from the Chairman

We like to hear from past winners of the Civil Courage Prize and try to stay in touch when we are particularly concerned about them. Here is part of a recent letter from 2008 prize winner Ali Salem of Cairo, who was honored for his bravery in working for reconciliation in the middle east, in particular between Egypt and Israel. Things have become very difficult in that part of the world, as we all know.

He writes: "As to my views about the revolution, in short, I have been writing about it since it erupted, trying to do my best to be an optimist without being a fool. I think I have succeeded so far only in being an optimist.

Thank you very much for remembering me. Again and again, I thank you for the prize you gave me. Honestly, though, I am afraid. If you create a new prize for the people who are afraid about the present and the future, please let me know, I will be the first to be nominated."

We wish Ali Salem and those who seek peace and justice in that troubled region a safe and happier New Year.



John Train

Prize-winners urge continued fight against sex abuse

continued from page 1 with brothel keepers" to the "continuous threats and attacks by national and international anti-social elements." She spoke of both the "physical and mental torture" of the victims she rescues leading them to "lose faith in mankind," and the



Executive Director of UN Women Michelle Bachelet with CCP Prize-winners

necessary "protective home, psycho-social counseling, training, education and health and legal assistance" that is part of the rehabilitation process. Ms. Acharya spoke of "regular personal threats," including death threats and of having been attacked by mobs on several occasions, but she says, "I could not help continuing my humanitarian task." Ms. Acharya described the complexity of an India, which is both a country of humanity and peace as well as a home to inhuman actions and cruelty and stated, "All my work demonstrates the re-establishment of humanity, justice and the rule of law." She

summed up by saying that "those who are at risk need to be protected and those who have suffered need support to reshape their lives. Each girl child deserves a better tomorrow."

As part of the Civil Courage Prize, the Train Foundation arranged for Ms. Cacho and Ms. Acharya to attend a series of meetings with journalists, bloggers, academics, NGOs, policy-makers and activists both in New York and Washington. At these events, both award winners found sources of further support for their work and stated that these contacts will be of invaluable use to them as they continue their crusades.

UN Women Makes Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Top Priority

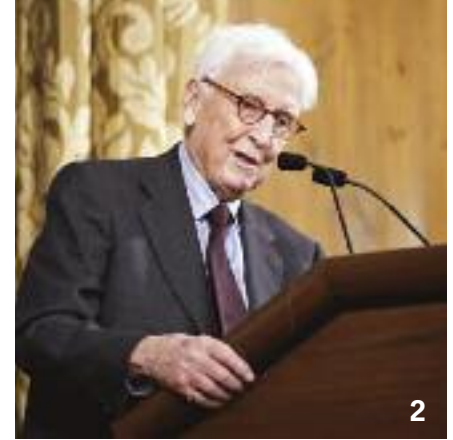
continued from page 1 Ms. Bachelet then spoke of Ms. Cacho and Ms. Acharya's courage in the face of threats and torture and stated, "Because they speak the truth and stand up for the rights of others, their own lives are in constant danger."

Ms. Bachelet declared that ending violence against women and girls is one of the top priorities for UN Women, pointing to UN estimates that two million women and girls are sexually exploited and trafficked each year. She detailed some of its pervasive and corrosive effects, both in terms of financial costs to communities in direct loss of productivity and in terms of the ricochet effect of the multi-generational damage it causes. The outlook for the victims of abuse and for the children of those victims, with regard to both their own

likelihood to become perpetrators or victims themselves and their inability to reach their educational or earning potential, is extremely troubling. Ms. Bachelet described the depth and breadth of the work that is ahead in her new appointment as Executive Director of UN Women and stated how important this work is for global peace and development. She spoke of being encouraged by great strides in developing laws to protect against these abuses but lamented the inadequacies of some countries regarding their ability and determination to enforce these laws.

Stating that we are now at "a critical juncture" in this work, she declared that in honoring this year's Civil Courage Prize award-winners, we "honor the spirit of solidarity and the universal values that unite us."

Reception and Ceremony for 2011 Civil Courage Prize



1 The Award Ceremony in the David Rockefeller Room at Harold Pratt House
2 John Train
3 Emma Torres Becker and Nancy Prager Kamel
4 Peter Rothschild and John Menzies

5 Kim Martin and Ed Epstein
6 CCP Trustees, Keynote Speaker and Prize-winners
7 Francie Train and Robert and Ann Rothschild
8 Amy Hunter and Galen Guengerich
9 John Allison, John Menzies and Edward Streator

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Past Honorees

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