country’s Gross Domestic Product. He cited annual revenues equal to three percent of the stated that the ‘Ndrangheta is believed to be coordinated with those of 17 other people in New York. On February 11th last year, cable links between the Italian ‘Ndrangheta since 2010, began by explaining the inextri-
example anywhere in the world of unbridled
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2013
Dr. Denis Mukwege
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2011
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Defender of victims of human trafficking in India
Lydia Cacho Robles
Champion of abused women and children in Mexico
2010
Andrew White
Student activist for peace in the Middle East
2009
Aminatu Hardir
Champion of the woman-centric campaign for self-determination in Western Sahara
2008
Ali Salem
Egyptian author and journalist. Vice for peace and reason in the Middle East
2007
Phillip Buck
Imprisoned in China for supporting North Korean refugees in their escape to freedom
2006
Rafael Marques de Morais
Journalist who exposed the slaughter of Angolan’s and the plundering of national assets
2003
Min Ko Naing
Long imprisoned campaigner for democracy in Burma
Anna Politioukova
Fables report on atrocities in Chechnya, assassinated
Mamir Said Talibzai
Espied disinformation and arrestment in Afghanistan, assassinated
2004
Enamuddin Bighi
Imprisoned for exposing assassination of former Irrawaddy
Lawrence MalSMS
Lawyer persecuted for demanding constitutional reform in Zimbabwe
Adbul al-Malih al-Yaybah
Iraqi political scientist and human rights advocate, assassinated
2003
Shahnam Bokhari
Battler against the burning and other abuses of Pakistani women
2002
Vladmirros Roca Amusme
Champion of freedom, Cuba
Gustavo Arezzo
Borgnine (Honorable Mention)
Early career lawyer, activist, Cuba

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
—Edward Burke

For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

Civil Courage News
For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

O n October 15, the 2014 Civil Courage Prize was awarded to Nicola Gratteri, Italian magistrate and Special Prosecutor for Reggio Calabria at the Harold Pratt House in New York. Gratteri has had a crucial role in fighting the Italian Mafia group ‘Ndrangheta and has been a protagonist in the arrest of more than 120 criminals, personally leading investigations that have eradicated some of the most important branches of the group. In his speech, Gratteri spoke of the fact that his life has been in constant danger ever since he started fighting the ‘Ndrangheta over two decades ago. He spoke of his first investigations as a magistrate which resulted in shots being fired at his fiancée’s house, followed by a phone call telling her: ‘You are marrying a dead man.’ Ever since, he said, he has lived with ‘constant death threats,’ which have forced him to make significant sacrifices in his private life, ‘For the last 20 years, I have never been to the movies or been able to watch a soccer game at the stadium, or even to take a leisurely walk.’ Nevertheless, he declared that he had not lost his nerve.

Gratteri spoke of how his roots in the south of Italy are crucial to his work, both in terms of his understanding of the mafia families and their ways, and in terms of his own values and grounding. He dedicated his prize to his parents who he described as simple values and grounding. He dedicated his prize to his parents who he described as simple

Civil Courage News
Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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Vance Honors Gratteri Vocation to Fight Evil, Fatalism and Futility

In his address to the 2014 Civil Courage Prize ceremony, keynote speaker Cyrus Vance Jr. announced that the Train Foundation “could not have found a more stirring example anywhere in the world of sustained courage, or of dedication to the rule of law” than Nicola Gratteri.

Vance, New York County District Attorney since 2010, began by explaining the inextricable links between the Italian ‘Ndrangheta and New York. On February 11th last year, the FBI announced the arrest of seven New Yorkers on charges of heroin trafficking and money laundering. These arrests were coordinated with those of 17 other people in Italy, all linked to the ‘Ndrangheta. Vance stated that the ‘Ndrangheta is believed to be the richest crime organization in the Middle East, with annual revenues equal to three percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product. He cited a journalist who claimed...
The Civil Courage Prize is for “steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk.” Sometimes we’re asked, what do you mean by evil? We don’t try to define it, just as the common law doesn’t define fraud. All we can say is that we only deal in extreme cases, which we have no trouble recognizing. Genocide is evil, the Mafia is evil. There are those who say that everything is relative: “to know all is to understand all.” Maybe, if you’re God. But for the rest of us, for civilization, the enemies of civilization are evil. We can be guided by St. Augustine’s dictum, Securus judicat orbis terrarum—of the whole world judges, it judges rightly.

Vance attributes the tenacity of the group to its structure: “‘Ndrangheta is not a hierarchy, but a sprawling organization, at each point run as a complex of family relations.” He expounded on the consequences of this, asserting that, with precious few cooperating defendants, it has made the group “notoriously resilient to attack by law enforcement.” Vance quoted the words of an Italian prosecutor stating that “the ‘Ndrangheta cannot be hoodwinked” stressing that those who have tried have all too often paid with their lives, which is what makes Gratteri so remarkable. Vance explained how the Italian prosecutor “has spoken out boldly against organized crime, and has built painstaking cases that deliver telling blows against ‘Ndrangheta.”

Vance praised Gratteri’s approach to diverse generations and demographics in his pursuit of justice, “He has gone into schools to teach children that there is another way, and gone into prisons to work for reform.”

He went on to cite the legal scholar Hans Kelsen when he claimed “a single person can never achieve happiness by himself because the only possible happiness is being happy together. Social happiness is called justice, which does not come to us as a gift, but is something you have to build day by day. This yearning for justice is true of all human life. Without this idea of justice, there can be no liberty, no happiness, no progress.”

Gratteri mentioned his happiness in receiving the prize “in America, a country I love, which has brought a happier future to so many of my honest hard-working compatriots,” and, during his work here in the U.S., he met with many officials of the Italian community in New York and Washington, including the UN and Washington ambassadors and New York Consul General. The Train Foundation also facilitated meetings with representatives at the United Nations, with the FBI, the New York District Attorney’s office, the Departments of Justice and the Treasury, and on Capitol Hill.

Vance Details Gratteri’s Courage and Determination to Restore ‘Common Good’

Gratteri Cites Importance of Southern Roots
continued from page 1... subtle signals. In dealing with the ‘Ndrangheta, he knows that there is “a message in everything. Everything has a meaning. Sometimes silence is the equivalent of a thousand words. Nothing is without significance.”

Despite the limits on his personal life, there are two things Gratteri described as important to him and that he has never given up, “first, cultivating my piece of land, and second, going to schools to explain to children why it is a very bad idea to become a follower of the ‘Ndrangheta.” When asked by a friend what his first and last thoughts were each day, he answered, “hoping to see myself in the mirror without self-reproach” and “going to sleep with my conscience clear.” One way of doing this, he explained, is through speaking to young people, which he finds “deeply gratifying because it is like cultivating the earth: cultivating youth in the hope that it will bear fruit.” In the face of this life under constant threat, he insisted that, through this work with future generations, “I do have my moments of freedom.”

Reception and Ceremony for 2014 Civil Courage Prize

1 Harry Tower, Amb. Edward Streator
2 Dr. Emma Gilmour, Lucy O’Donnell, Pietro Cicognani
3 Francky Train, Valerie Gimbel
4 Priscilla Streater, Prof. Philip Bobbitt
5 Gratteri and Vance with CCP Trustees and Advisors
6 Rosin McGuire, Danny Rios
7 Peter Rothschild, Lisa Train, Ann Rothschild
8 Elizabeth Cabot, Peri Clark
9 Giampaolo Pioli, Senator Vittorio Pessina
10 Massimo Gaggi
11 Jeff Schlegner, Toby Thacher
12 Joan Davidson, Tom O’Connor, Charles Berry