



For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

Ali Salem of Egypt Wins 2008 Civil Courage Prize For Advocacy of Middle East Peace and Democracy

Noted Author and Playwright Strongly Opposes Authoritarian Rule and Religious Extremism

The Trustees of the Train Foundation have announced the award of the 2008 Civil Courage Prize to the Egyptian author and playwright, Mr. Ali Salem. Author of 25 plays, 15 books, regular contributor to newspapers and participant in international fora, he is noted for his advocacy of democratic government and of the normalization of Arab-Israel relations. He also has been highly critical of religious extremism, incurring harsh condemnation from opponents of his views throughout the Middle East and criticism from the Egyptian authorities, who have called him “a threat to national security.” Yet he has not yielded to these pressures and has continued pressing through his writings for tolerance, civility and reasoned debate amid a persistent torrent of abuse.



Perhaps best known for his 1995 book, *A Drive into Israel*, Mr. Salem showed in that work his open-minded approach to a coun-

try many of his countrymen regarded as the enemy. Fellow writers attacked him as a “sell-out.” Commenting on their reaction, Mr. Salem said to those who accused him of working for Israel that really he was “working for Egypt and Egyptians’ sake.” “I’m sorry for the pain I caused them by my trip—I forced them into independent and responsible thinking.”

Reflecting the breadth of Mr. Salem’s vision is his statement to an interviewer:

“There is no first world, there is no second or third world; there is a village called this planet. And if someone is dangerous in a village close to Cairo, this person...will be very, very dangerous in Hamburg, in Paris...in New York.”

Ostracized by his colleagues, and unable to have his plays produced or his writings freely distributed, Mr. Salem in 2005 was denied a visa by the Egyptian Government to travel to Israel to accept an honorary degree at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. He previously had been expelled from the Union of Egyptian Writers.

Leading intellectual organizations in Egypt have blasted Mr. Salem for his stance on relations with Israel. For two years he was protected by bodyguards after another writer, Nobel Laureate Naguib Mafouz, was assaulted by radical thugs.

Chatham House to Join in Sponsorship of Civil Courage Prize Award Event



Chatham House — the Royal Institute of International Affairs — is collaborating with the Train Foundation in organizing in London the 2008 ceremony for the award of the Civil Courage Prize. We warmly welcome this co-sponsorship as a way of enhancing public understanding of the concept of civil courage.

Chatham House draws on its wide membership to promote open as well as confidential debates about significant developments in international affairs and about the context and content of policy responses. It produces independent and rigorous analysis of critical global, regional and country-specific challenges and offers new ideas to decision-makers and policy-shapers on how these can best be tackled from the near- to long-term.

Founded in 1920 and based in St. James’s Square in London, Chatham House celebrated the 80th anniversary of its Royal Charter in 2006.

American Ambassador Will Host 2008 Award Ceremony in London

The U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James’s and Mrs. Robert H. Tuttle kindly have agreed to host at their London Residence, Winfield House, the 2008 ceremony for the award of the Civil Courage Prize to Mr. Ali Salem on November 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.



For the second time since its inception, the Civil Courage Prize is this year being awarded in London. The first occasion was at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. This time the ceremony will be held at the American Ambassador's residence in Regent's Park. We are most grateful to Ambassador and Mrs. Tuttle for their hospitality; also to Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, which has joined us in sponsoring the occasion.

The Prize has two objectives. First, to honor notable heroes of conscience, who incidentally gain some protection from the international attention they receive. Second, to popularize the term civil courage, which describes a virtue essential to freedom. If everybody says the devil take the hindmost, he soon works his way to the head of the line. The United Kingdom, and Chatham House in particular, are as dedicated to this important conception as are America and our Foundation, so a London involvement is highly appropriate.

John Train

Patrons' Gifts Aid Activities Related to Award-Winners

The Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the generous support of:

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gilder
Mr. and Mrs. John Clay

Douglas Hurd Will Be Keynote Speaker at Prize Ceremony at U.S. Embassy London

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, CBE will be the keynote speaker at the ceremony for the presentation of the 2008 Civil Courage Prize to be held at the U.S. Embassy in London on November 19. Lord Hurd has held a number of senior posts in the Governments of Prime Ministers Thatcher and Major, including service as Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Lord Hurd is the son and grandson of Members of Parliament. He attended Eton College and Cambridge University, where he was President of the Cambridge Union Society. He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1952, and was posted to China, the United States and Italy. In 1966, he entered politics as a member of the Conservative Party. Thereafter, he served as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Heath and then was elected to Parliament in 1974.



After the 1979 general election he was named Minister of State in the Foreign Office, and then, after the election of 1983, he was appointed Home Secretary.

As Foreign Secretary, he oversaw Britain's diplomatic responses to the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Moreover, he played an active role in coordinating Britain's participation in the first Gulf War to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. He was notable for his conciliatory approach in dealing with other members of the E.U.

2008 Winner Ali Salem Uses Satire as His Weapon

The excerpt below from a recent short satire written by Ali Salem, the winner of the 2008 Civil Courage Prize, shows his deft hand as a modern Aesop.

Dynamite on Air

In one of the talk shows, moments before going on air, I got a pen and paper out of my pocket to write down my remarks. My rival, who was sitting in front of me with a very grim face, greeted me with an ugly smile. It was obvious that he hated me. Then he got out of his pocket a knife and put it on the table between us, and out of his small briefcase, he got a hand grenade, some gelignite fingers and a brick of T.N.T.

I stood up, went to the studio manager, and asked him, "How did you permit this man to come in with all these weapons?"

He answered, "These are the instruments of Dialogue."

"But I am armed only with a pen and a paper."

"Yes, but you are a fierce fighter, we are certain that you will beat him down. Because

you have positive thoughts. These are the most decisive weapons in the universe. In any case, we will not allow him to kill you here. We have a program on air exactly five minutes after this one. Therefore, we have no time to waste in cleaning the floor of the studio and removing the stains of blood from the décor and the setup."

Weird! Yet, I had to be calm. I said to him, "Before I entered the television building, I passed an electronic gate, which could detect metals, and explosives. How could he pass?"

He answered, "Because he was clean when he passed. These instruments of dialogue were delivered to him here in the studio. They are ours. After this program is aired, he will return them to be used by other guests."

I almost shouted, "What? You have supported him with these weapons?"

He answered, "Yes, to guarantee a successful, thrilling talk show. What excitement is there in two persons exchanging intelligent and elegant words?"

The full text may be found on our website: www.civildialogueprize.org

Past Civil Courage Prize Winners Continue Struggle

Some Report Progress, Though Most Still Face Brutal Battles in Efforts to Register Gains



Emadeddin Baghi
Iranian journalist returned
to jail under new sentence

The winner of the 2004 Prize recently was honored by the British Press Awards as Journalist of the Year. Amnesty International accepted the award on his behalf. Baghi had been arrested and imprisoned in October of 2007, after he was accused of disclosing secret information through the Organization for the Defense of Prisoners' Rights in Tehran, an NGO headed by Baghi. That arrest and detention was a continuation of the sentence passed down in 2004, when he was accused of acts against national security and sabotage against the system. Over the past year, Baghi and his family have endured harassment and threats. His wife and daughter have been given suspended sentences of three years in prison. Baghi has been shuttled between the general ward at Evin Prison and the notorious cell 209, where he has endured solitary confinement, physical abuse, and constant interrogation. In the spring he had two heart attacks and was released for a brief period on medical grounds. He recently endured another stint in solitary confinement, but is now back in the general ward. His physical condition at present is described as weak, but his will to resist remains strong.



Min Ko Naing
Campaigner for Democracy
in Burma remains in prison

As Cyclone Nargis ripped Burma it did not spare those in the notorious Insein Prison, including Min Ko Naing, the winner of the 2005 Civil Courage Prize. Hundreds of political prisoners were locked up with Min, and during the havoc created by the storm, it was reported that at least 36 inmates were shot by guards as the prisoners rioted for release. A few sympathetic guards were said to have unblocked exits from the jail and prisoners, including Min, were removed to the adjoining hospital. Bo Kyi, a former prisoner and leader of an exiled rights group, said that Min would have died from smoke inhalation had the guards not acted. He previously had been suffering from a severe eye ailment and lack of medical attention is threatening his sight.



Rafael Marques de Morais
Angolan journalist still
presses for workers' rights

In a recent message, Marques, winner of the 2006 Civil Courage Prize writes that in August he released a report, *Harvesting Hunger in Angola's Diamond Fields*, on the illegal spoliation of subsistence farms in the northeastern, diamond-rich town of Cuango, Lunda-Norte, by a diamond-mining company. Hunger, he says, is on the rise in the region, while mining interests expand operations and increase profits. The Business and Human Rights Resource Center, based in New York, recently carried on its website reports of Marques's investigation that have been picked up by the United Nations as well. Meanwhile, Marques told us he is struggling to raise the last funds needed to be able to accept an appointment as Reader for a Master of Science degree at Oxford University.



The Rev. Philip Buck
Guided refugees from North Korea
to freedom via China

Since he won the Civil Courage Prize in 2007, Buck has continued to solicit support for activities related to aiding North Koreans to escape to freedom. His work is a continuation of his efforts to ease the effects of the humanitarian disaster created by conditions in North Korea and Eastern China. Meanwhile, recent refugees report increased border security and demands from border guards for bigger bribes. China also has raised bounties on North Korean refugees by 1,600 percent and Christian churches in the border area are being shut down for any foreign association.

To face these additional challenges Buck and his colleagues have organized events around the globe to bring the plight of the refugees to public attention, including North Korean Freedom Week held this year in Washington.

Buck was also nominated in Seattle this year for the award of a Thomas Jefferson Medallion, sponsored by Seattle P-I and Microsoft.

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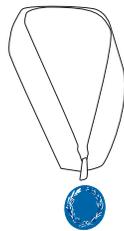
Mr. and Mrs. John Clay

† = deceased

Past Honorees

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



Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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