



# Civil Courage News

Journal of the Civil Courage Prize

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For Steadfast Resistance to Evil at Great Personal Risk

Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, to Deliver Keynote Speech at Prize Ceremony



Michelle Bachelet, the first Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, will give the keynote address at the Civil Courage Prize Ceremony this October 19th in New York City. Ms. Bachelet, the first woman to become President of Chile has long been a champion of women's rights. A doctor by profession, specialized in pediatrics and public health, Ms. Bachelet had long been involved in politics as well as government, both as Chile's Minister of Health and later Minister of Defense, again a first for a woman, before becoming President in 2006. As President of Chile, *continued on page 2*

Lydia Cacho Ribeiro and Triveni Acharya Win 2011 Civil Courage Prize for Leadership Roles in Preventing Sex Trafficking and Child Pornography

Lydia Cacho Ribeiro of Mexico and Triveni Acharya of India will receive this year's Civil Courage Prize. Each of these extraordinary women has fought tirelessly against the abuse of both women and children in her own country. Ms. Cacho and Ms. Acharya face similar challenges and struggles in their work although in such different parts of the world, and have taken brave and influential stands at great personal risk.

Ms. Cacho is an award-winning journalist, author and women's rights activist; she is the Founder and Director of the Refuge Center for Abused Women of Cancun, Mexico, and the President of the Center for Women's Assistance. Following the 2005 publication of her book, *The Demons of Eden*, in which she implicated a number of influential businessmen and politicians in child abuse networks, she was illegally arrested, detained and ill treated before being subjected to a yearlong criminal defamation lawsuit. She was cleared of all charges but continues to be a target of harassment and threats to her life due to her continued work in the field of sex trafficking, domestic violence and child pornography. A Sorbonne gradu-



Lydia Cacho Ribeiro (above right)

ate and linguist, it has often been suggested to Ms. Cacho that she leave Mexico as a safety precaution, to which she has replied: "I am not going away. I am not going anywhere other than forward, to shed light on everything...Those, the corrupt, the evil are in reality very few. We men and women, on the other hand, keep being the majority, and so I do not lose the hope that Mexico can change." Ms. Cacho has published a total of seven books and is currently a columnist on *El Universal*, the main national newspaper in Mexico.



Triveni Acharya

Our other prizewinner, Ms. Acharya, is the President of the Rescue Foundation in Mumbai, India and devotes herself to the rescue, rehabilitation, and repatriation of women and children who have been victims of kidnapping and trafficking. The victims, who come from India, Nepal and Bangladesh, are sold into forced sex *continued on page 2*

The selection process of the Civil Courage Prize awards begins with the nominations, often by international non-profit organizations, which are then studied by our staff to establish that they fully meet the prize criteria.

These depend to some extent on definitions: What is “evil”? What is the meaning of “great personal risk” and “steadfast”? In our thinking “evil” will probably be monstrous. Ours is not a human rights award or a peace prize. “Great personal risk” is for us at the level of imprisonment, personal harm or credible death threats. Anna Politkovskaya, who was honored in 2005, told us that she expected to be assassinated by Russian state organs, which, alas, she was. “Steadfast” we take to mean that the acts being acknowledged should extend over many years up to the present, not be single events in the past. The Prize is in part to encourage the recipient—and others—to continue his or her valuable work and help in their objectives going forward.

We feel that the Prize should only be given to someone who can come in person and receive it, not someone, however deserving, who is imprisoned and unavailable to attend. For such candidates, we renew their candidacy when they are released.

We also favor candidates who have not recently won a major award and those in a different geographical area from that of recent winners. The credibility of the nominator is obviously of vital importance.

Once the incoming nominations have been checked against our criteria, we conduct an internal triage, including outside fact checking, and send the winnowed-down nominations to our Advisors for their selections and ratings. We find that the Advisors’ opinions are a very valuable guide. After the Advisors’ opinions are returned, the Trustees make the final choice and inform the honoree or, as in this year, honorees. Earlier years’ nominees who did not win the Prize, but could have, are carried forward for reconsideration, and indeed have sometimes won the Prize in a later year.

In addition to giving the prize, we arrange a program for our winners. While the honorees are here, they are taken around to speak to journalists, academics, government offices, the U.N., foreign embassies, and leading NGOs.

Obviously, though the awardees are our focus, the nominators are of the utmost importance to the operation and we take this opportunity to recognize them with our warm thanks.



## Ribeiro and Acharya Win 2011 Civil Courage Prize

*continued from page 1* work in India. In rescuing these women and children, Ms. Acharya, who takes both a personal and an active role in this work, delivers considerable losses to the organized perpetrators of these crimes and so faces continuous danger and threats. The Rescue Foundation, founded originally by Ms. Acharya’s husband, liberates approximately 300 women and girls annually, who are rehabilitated in three protective homes run by the foundation, and has been responsible for the arrest and prosecution of many involved in these sex trafficking crime rings. When asked about the danger she faces, Ms Acharya states: “Somebody from the educated, civilized society must do justice to the unfortunate victims. I believe that in case I am killed by the anti-social elements, that will be God’s wish”.

In choosing these two exemplars of civil courage to receive this year’s prize, the Trustees of the Train Foundation denounce the evil of human trafficking, and honor the work of these and all individuals who combat this world-wide problem in their own communities.

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## Bachelet to Deliver Keynote Speech at Civil Courage Prize Ceremony

*continued from page 1* she garnered the highest approval ratings in the country’s history and focused, amongst other policy issues, on social protection programs for women and children. She is presently the head of UN Women which was established by the UN General Assembly in July 2010 and is committed to lead, support and coordinate the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women at global, regional and country levels. One of the five main areas of focus for UN Women is ‘ending violence against women’. Ms. Bachelet has spoken often of the need to combat sex trafficking among women and children and in a speech to the UN in June 2011 noted the call for a strong “UN Women leadership and UN system action to end violence against women, in all of its forms”. In the 1970s, Ms. Bachelet herself, experienced the trauma of abduction and incarceration and so is no stranger to some of the worst experiences of this year’s awardees.

The Train Foundation is both privileged and grateful for her participation in this year’s award ceremony.

# Recent News of Past Winners



## Aminatou Haidar, 2009

*Non-violent campaigner for self-determination in Western Sahara*

Aminatou Haidar, 2009 Civil Courage Prize winner, continues her peaceful but vocal struggle for the right of self-determination for the Sahrawi people of the Western Sahara. In late 2010, in conjunction with the RFK Center for Justice & Human Rights, Ms. Haidar denounced the violence and called for an immediate investigation into the clashes between Moroccan military forces and thousands of Saharawi living in the Gadaym Izik camps in Western Sahara and in El Aaiun. Initial reports indicated significant numbers of dead, wounded and missing, accounts that were later disputed by the Moroccan government. Between 12,000 and 25,000 people were protesting economic and social conditions in Western Sahara when the violence erupted. Ms. Haidar lamented the absence of reliable information on the incident and called again for an independent human rights monitoring mechanism within the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, MINURSO. This human rights mandate would promote protection of human rights in the region. Ms. Haidar requested an immediate investigation by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights into the attacks.



## Emadeddin Baghi, 2004

*Iranian journalist and rights activist*

Emadeddin Baghi, the winner of the 2004 Civil Courage Prize and a leading human rights activist in Iran, was recently released from the country's notorious Evin Prison on June 21. Mr. Baghi has spent over five years in prison since 2000, including 5 months in solitary confinement. According to Amnesty International, Mr. Baghi was released after serving two concurrent one-year jail sentences for "propaganda against the state": One related to his founding of the Association to Defend Prisoners' Rights and the other to an interview broadcast by the BBC. He was also banned from any political activity for five years. When freed, Baghi said he told the other prisoners, "although I am going, half my existence is still imprisoned with you". Mr. Baghi's health has suffered considerably while in jail, including a slipped disc, three seizures, a heart attack, kidney, bladder and dental problems. Mr. Baghi says he is not currently facing any new charges, but added that the Iranian judiciary still has old cases pending against him.



## Rafael Marques de Morais, 2006

*Angolan journalist and human rights activist*

Rafael Marques de Morais, winner of the 2006 Civil Courage Prize, was awarded this year a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship by the National Endowment for Democracy and the International Forum for Democratic Studies in Washington DC. The Fellows Program enables democratic practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change. The fellowship will support Mr. Marques in continuing with his research on Angola's political economy, while informing US audiences about the realpolitik of that country. During his fellowship, Mr. Marques produced and presented a paper, *Corruption as an Impediment to Democracy in Angola*. He also has a book on human rights abuses in Angola's diamond region coming out in September 2011, in Portugal.



## Anna Politkovskaya, 2005

*Fearless reporter on atrocities in Chechnya, assassinated*

A new collection of articles written by the late Anna Politkovskaya for the Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, was published in the US in March, 2011. Assassinated by unknown assailants in October 2006, just a year after receiving the Civil Courage Prize, Ms. Politkovskaya had unpublished dispatches from the war in Chechnya at the time of her death that are thought by many to be one reason why she was killed. These are now included in this collection along with her reportage of domestic Russian issues. *Is Journalism Worth Dying For?: Final Dispatches* was widely and favorably reviewed. *The New York Times* describes it as "a book of sustained moral witness... a plangent document of journalistic heroism." It goes on to say, "Ms. Politkovskaya was devoted to facts, to the notion that exacting truth can set human beings or a country free"; *The Barnes and Noble Review* states, "Her enduring importance derives from her refusal to capitulate despite seemingly unbearable pressure"; and *The San Francisco Chronicle* reviewer writes, "Of all the investigative reporters I've been acquainted with, Politkovskaya might have embodied the most remarkable combination of courage (some might call it foolhardiness) and talent. *Is Journalism Worth Dying For?* is a marvelous testament to her courage and skill."

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## Past Honorees

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