Civil Courage Prize

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

-Edmund Burke

The Civil Courage Prize is awarded annually by the Trustees of the Train Foundation. It recognizes acts of civil courage – steadfast resistance to evil at great personal risk – rather than military valor. Such acts should have taken place deliberately, over time. The recipients are chosen by the Trustees on the basis of nominations solicited primarily from non-profit, non-governmental organizations worldwide. The prize holds an annual value of $25,000, and prize recipients are introduced to representatives of the media, academia, government, United Nations, foreign embassies and leading NGOs.

The award arose from founder John Train’s association with Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, of whom Train has written: “Through inflexible public resistance, in spite of imprisonment and exile, to the nightmare of Stalinist tyranny, Solzhenitsyn was central to its overthrow. English lacks a word for the heroic virtue that this great man exemplified: non-violent courage in cold blood and at extreme risk, in a civilian context, as distinct from valor in war.”

The prize draws attention individually to extraordinary heroes of conscience. Particularly, it seeks to establish the idea, and the words, of civil courage as a necessary bulwark of a good society.

Honorees to Date

2016 Raqqas is Being Slaughtered Silently of Syria
2015 Yassmin Barrios and Claudia Paz y Paz of Guatemala
2014 Nicola Gratteri of Italy
2013 Denis Mukwege of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
2012 Yu Jie of China
2011 Lydia Cacho Ribeiro of Mexico and Triveni Acharya of India
2010 Canon Andrew White of Iraq and the United Kingdom
2009 Aminatou Haidar of Western Sahara
2008 Ali Salem of Egypt
2007 Phillip Buck of North Korea
2006 Rafael Marques de Morais of Angola
2005 Min Ko Naing of Burma and Anna Politkovskaya of Russia
2004 Emadeddin Baghi of Iran and Lovemore Madhuku of Zimbabwe
2003 Shahnaz Bukhari of Pakistan
2002 Vladimiro Roca Antunez of Cuba
2001 Paul Kamara of Sierra Leone
2000 Natasa Kandic of the former Yugoslavia

Additional information: http://www.civilcourageprize.org/

Twitter: @TrainFoundation Facebook: facebook.com/CivilCourage

For press inquiries, please contact Barbara Becker Barbara@equalshot.com Phone: 917-727-1094