INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF THE WINNER OF THE VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE 2014

HUMAN RIGHTS
25 YEARS AFTER

Prague, October 1, 2014 Prague Crossroads

Organizers: Vaclav Havel Library and Charta 77 Foundation
The Prize is awarded in memory of Václav Havel, playwright, opponent of totalitarianism, architect of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic and an enduring symbol of opposition to despotism. Nominations of any individual, non-governmental organisation or institution working to defend human rights are taken into consideration. The Prize consists of a sum of €60 000, a trophy and a diploma.

On 25 March 2013, the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize was launched at a ceremony in Prague with the signature of the Co-operation Agreement by the President of the Assembly, Jean-Claude Mignon, the Director of the Václav Havel Library, Marta Smolíková, and the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Charta 77 Foundation, František Janouch, in the presence of Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg.

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize replaces the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize, which was created in 2007 and awarded every two years, 1st in 2009 to the NGO British Irish Human Rights Watch and then, in 2011, to the Russian NGO Committee against Torture.
ANNAR MAMMADLI (AZERBAIJAN)

THE HISTORIC SECOND LAUREATE
OF THE VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

Annar Mammadli is a prominent Azerbaijani human rights defender who has made an extensive contribution towards defending the right to free elections. He is the founder and chairperson of an influential and experienced organisation in Azerbaijan dedicated to observing elections. Since 2001, his Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre (EMDS) has been carrying out independent election monitoring in Azerbaijan. Anar Mammadli contributed to programmes and events on monitoring of elections, voter participation and voter education, as well as design of materials and reports during 13 elections in Azerbaijan. He was arrested in December 2013 accused of "abuse of power" and other matters, and sentenced to 5,5 years in prison in May 2014.
VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE FINALISTS

A total of 56 individuals and organizations were nominated for the award. At a meeting in Prague on 26 August 2014, a selection committee headed by Anne Brasseur, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, selected a short-list of three finalists: B’Tselem (Israel), The Jesuit Refugee Service (Malta), Anar Mammadli (Azerbaijan).

B’TSELEM (ISRAEL)

B’Tselem is the leading Israeli organisation with Israeli and Palestinian members promoting human rights in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. It has endeavoured to document and educate the public and policymakers about all human rights violations, irrespective of who has committed them. B’Tselem sends hundreds of cases to the military and civil authorities demanding criminal investigations, monitoring all stages of the investigation and submitting legal appeals where possible. Each year it takes testimonies from victims and eye-witnesses of human rights violations. Recently it has pioneered an innovative video strategy, distributing video cameras in high conflict areas and training volunteers to use these to document incidents of violence.

THE JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (MALTA)

The Jesuit Refugee Service Malta is the Maltese branch of the global Jesuit Refugee Service, a non governmental organisation working to protect the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, through legal advice, psychosocial support and humanitarian assistance and through strategic litigation and advocacy. Much of its work is focused on detention centres, where staff and volunteers identify individual protection needs of detainees, provides them with information about asylum and immigration procedures, assess social, psychosocial and medical needs, and obtain the release of children, pregnant women and vulnerable persons.
Ales Bialiatski is a Belarusian political activist known for his work with the Viasna Human Rights Centre, of which he is currently the head, and the founding of the BPF Party. He is the vice president of the International Federation for Human Rights. Mr. Bialiatski has received the Homo Homini Award, the Per Anger Prize and the inaugural Václav Havel Human Rights Prize for his efforts in promoting human rights and democracy. He was arrested by Belarusian authorities on tax evasion charges in 2011.

Mr. Bialiatski was born in Vyartsilya, in today’s Karelia, Russia, to Belarusian parents. A scholar of Belarusian literature, he graduated from the Francishak Skaryna Homiel State University. He also received a PhD from the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the Belarusian Writers Union, and helped to found the Tutejshyja Association of Young Writers, serving as the group’s chairman from 1986–1989.

In the 1980s, he became actively involved in anti-Soviet protests. One notable event he helped to organize was a memorial ceremony at Kurapaty, the site of thousands of killings by the NKVD in the late 1930s. He was also one of the founding members of the Belarusian Popular Front.

Mr. Bialiatski founded the Viasna Human Rights Centre in 1996. The Minsk-based organization provides financial and legal assistance to political prisoners and their families.

According to the International Federation for Human Rights, in February 2011, Mr. Bialiatski was summoned to the public prosecutor’s office and warned that as Viasna was an unregistered organization the government would seek criminal proceedings against it if the group continued to operate.

In 2005, Mr. Bialiatski and Viasna won the Homo Homini Award of the Czech NGO People in Need, which recognizes “an individual who is deserving of significant recognition due to their promotion of human rights, democracy and non-violent solutions to political conflicts”. In 2006, he won the Per Anger Prize, named for Swedish diplomat Per Anger and awarded to an individual who “promotes democracy and humanitarian efforts, is characterized by active measures and initiative, works for no personal gain, takes great personal risks, displays great courage and is a role model for others”.

Mr. Bialiatski has been the vice president of the International Federation for Human Rights since 2007.

Mr. Bialiatski, together with Uganda’s Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law, won the 2011 Human Rights Defenders Award, which is presented by the US Department of State. He was awarded the prize in absentia and it was presented to his wife Natallia Pinchuk in the US Embassy in Warsaw, Poland in September 2012.

Mr. Bialiatski also won the 2012 Lech Wałęsa Award for the “democratisation of the Republic of Belarus, his active promotion of human rights and aid provided for persons currently persecuted by Belarusian authorities”. The presentation ceremony was held at the Artus Manor in Gdansk and the award was received by Natallia Pinchuk.

In 2012, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2013, Mr. Bialiatski was re-elected as one of 15 vice presidents of the FIDH. That same year, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Václav Havel Library and the Charter 77 Foundation awarded him the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize for his work as a human rights defender “so that the citizens of Belarus may one day aspire to our European standards”.

Ales Bialiatski with Mrs. Marta Smolíková, the executive director of the Václav Havel Library, in Prague, August 2014. © Amnesty International Czech Republic
8:30 - 9:00
REGISTRATION

9:00 – 9:15
WELCOME SPEECH
MARTA SMOLÍKOVÁ, Václav Havel Library
FRANTIŠEK JANOUCH, Charta 77 Foundation

9:15 – 10:00
PANEL I.
INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER OF THE VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE 2014
The only lost cause is one we give up on before we enter the struggle.
Václav Havel, Summer Meditations, 1991

MODERATOR:
MAREK A. NOWICKI, Václav Havel Human Rights Prize Jury, Poland

10:00 – 11:15
PANEL II.
REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD
There is a value which ranks higher than the State. This value is humanity. (...) Human rights rank above the rights of states. Human liberties constitute a higher value than State sovereignty. In terms of international law, the provisions that protect the unique human being should take precedence over the provisions that protect the State.
Václav Havel, Senate and House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada, Ottawa, April 29, 1999

What is the state of human rights globally, 25 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain? Are we doing any better? Who is scoring better and who is losing? How has the concept of basic human rights developed in 25 years? What are the new innovative concepts to define human rights? And what are the proper tools and incentives to improve the situation?

MODERATOR:
MARTIN PALOUŠ, Václav Havel Library, Czech Republic
SHIN DONG-HYUK, NGO Inside NK, North Korean defector
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE MALTA, the finalist of the Václav Havel Human Prize 2014, represented by KATRINE CAMILLERI

11:15–11:45
COFFEE BREAK

11:45–1:15
PANEL III.
THE ORIGIN AND ROLE OF LEADERS IN THE FREE AND UNFREE WORLDS
The role of the intellectual is, among other things, to foresee, like Cassandra, various threats, horrors, and catastrophes. The role of the politician is to listen to all the warning voices, take stock of the dangers, and at the same time think intensively about ways to confront or avert them.
Václav Havel, Jackson H. Ralston Prize, Stanford University, September 29, 1994

What should be done to foster really democratic, charismatic leaders in undemocratic, unfree conditions? How can authority be gained in undemocratic conditions? How are leaders and role models born?
MODERATOR: 
JIŘÍ PEHE, New York University Prague, Czech Republic
ALEX BIALIATSKI, 2013 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize laureate, Belarus
ŠIMON PÁNEK, People in Need, Czech Republic
PETRŮŠKA ŠUSTROVÁ, journalist, Czech Republic
ASAF MAMMADOV, father of ANAR MAMMADLI, the winner of the 2014 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, Azerbaijan

1:15–2:00
LUNCH

2:00–3:30

Panel IV.
THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

It is as if Russia doesn’t exactly know where it starts and ends, and as if that uncertainty constantly makes it anxious. It uses terms like “the near abroad” and has the sense that if something belonged to it once then it kind of belongs to it forever.

Václav Havel, Lidové noviny 19 March 2008, interview with Petra Procházková

What has been the path of post-Soviet countries in the last 25 years? What has the impact of Russian-Ukrainian conflict been on other countries in the region? What are the prognoses for Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus? How real are threats to minorities (ethnic Tartars, Jews, etc.)?

MODERATOR:
JAN MACHÁČEK, Václav Havel Library, Czech Republic
MUSTAFA DZHEMILEV, Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Ukraine
YEVEN HLIOBYTSKY, pro.mova, Ukraine
IVLIAN HAINDRAVA, National Security Council, Georgia
PETR KOLÁŘ, lawyer, former diplomat, Czech Republic

3:30–5:00

Panel V.
THE THREAT OF A NEW DIVISION OF EUROPE AND THE WORLD

Unless democrats proceed in a timely manner to build the internal structure of Europe as a single political entity, others will start building it their way, and the democrats could be left with only their eyes to cry with. The demons that so fatally affected European history – most disastrously in the twentieth century! – are biding their time.

Václav Havel, “Europe as Task”, Charlemagne Plenary, Aachen, May 15, 1996

How real is the threat of a new division of Europe? How real is the threat of a new Cold War? How prepared are we for such an alternative? What should be the divisions in a globally interconnected world? Are we willing to defend freedom and democracy? Are we ready to sacrifice anything?

MODERATOR:
MAGDALÉNA VÁŠÁRYOVÁ, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic
MAREK A. NOWICKI, Human Rights Lawyer, Poland
ONDŘĚJ SOUKUP, Hospodářské noviny, Czech Republic
B’TSELEM (ISRAEL), the finalist of the Václav Havel Human Prize 2014, represented by HAGAI EL-AD and MUHAMMAD SABAH
KAREL SCHWARZENBERG, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, founder of the Václav Havel Library

5:00–5:15
CLOSING REMARKS

KAREL SCHWARZENBERG, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, founder of the Václav Havel Library

5:30
GLASS OF WINE

More information about the Prize: www.vaclavhavel-library.org/en/vh-prize
e-mail: konference@vaclavhavel-library.org.
PARTICIPANTS BIOS

KATRINE CAMILLERI
Lawyer Katrine Camilleri is assistant director of the Jesuit Refugee Service Malta. She holds the 2007 Nansen Refugee Award (United Nations Refugee Award) in recognition of her work for the rights of boat people fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea.

Born in Malta in 1970, Dr. Camilleri undertook research during her law studies into access to rights and protection for refugees. After graduation from the University of Malta in 1994 she began working in a small law firm, where she came into contact with refugees.

In 2002, the number of asylum seekers and economic migrants arriving in Malta by boat increased sharply, a situation also faced by several other European countries around the Mediterranean. After helping to prevent the deportation of a Libyan asylum seeker who risked persecution if he returned home, Dr. Camilleri’s interest in refugee protection grew. In 1996, she started to work with the Malta office of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), first as a volunteer, then part-time and eventually full-time. The JRS became the first organization to offer professional legal services on a regular basis to detainees in Malta.

Since 1997, Dr. Camilleri has provided legal advice to hundreds of persons kept in administrative detention centres in Malta, focusing her efforts on the most vulnerable.

MUSTAFA DZHEMILEV
Mustafa Abdulzhemil Dzhemilev is a former chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People and has been a member of the Ukrainian Parliament since 1998. He is a recognized leader of the Crimean Tatar National Movement and a former Soviet dissident.

Mr. Dzhemilev was born in 1943 in Ay-Serez, Crimea, then Russian SFSR, though at the time under Nazi German occupation. He was only six months old when his family, with the rest of the Crimean Tatar population, was deported by the Soviet authorities in May 1944, soon after Soviet forces retook the peninsula. He grew up in exile, in Uzbekistan.

At the age of 18, Mr. Dzhemilev and several of his activist friends established the Union of Young Crimean Tatars. Between 1966 and 1986, he was arrested six times for anti-Soviet activities and served time in Soviet prisons and labour camps and also lived under surveillance. Mr. Dzhemilev undertook the longest hunger strike in the history of human rights movements; it lasted for 303 days, with his survival only due to forced feeding. In May 1989, he was elected to head the newly founded Crimean Tatar National Movement.

HAGAI EL-AD
Executive director of B’tselem since 2014, Hagai El-Ad, has a wealth of experience in human rights advocacy. He previously served for six years as director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, an organization that spearheaded opposition to a wave of anti-democratic legislation and attacks on civil society in Israel. Prior to that position, he served as the first director of the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance. Mr. El-Ad holds an M.Sc. in physics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and was a pre-doctoral fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics from 1997 to 2000.

IVLIAN HAINDRAVA
Ivlian Haindrava is one of the most high-profile politicians and political analysts in Georgia. He has been a member of the National Committee of the Republican Party of Georgia since 1992 and chaired the party from 1996–2000. From 1992 to 1995, he was a member of the Georgian Parliament, where he was actively involved in its committee on Abkhazian affairs. At the same time he was one of the key figures on the State Constitutional Commission of Georgia, helping to draft a new constitution introduced in 1995.

After the Rose Revolution of 2003, Mr. Haindrava was re-elected to Parliament in 2004, serving until 2008. Mr. Haindrava is a recognised expert on the politics of Georgia and the South Caucasus. He headed the South Caucasus Studies Program at the Center for Development and Cooperation – Center for Pluralism from 1996 until 2008, and today leads the same program at the Republican Institute. He was a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy (Washington, DC, USA) in 2002.

YEVHEN HLIBOVTSKY
Yevhen Hlibovtsyk is a member of the Nestor Group, a multidisciplinary expert group working on a long-term vision for Ukraine. He is also a founder of pro.mova, a think tank/consultancy that researches values and the social, political and business implications of cultural changes.

In his previous career Mr. Hlibovtsyk was a journalist, covering key political events in Ukraine and the region, and was active in a group of journalists combating censorship. In 2003 he was one of the founders of Ukraine’s Channel 5, which became the voice of the Orange Revolution. He repeated this experience before the Euromaidan of 2013, becoming co-founder of hromadske.tv, an online broadcaster that played a crucial role during the winter events in Kyiv. Mr. Hlibovtsyk had quit his media career in 2005, warning that a lack of reforms in the media sector would lead to censorship simply being replaced by corruption. Since then he has worked at his think tank and provided training and expertise for the OSCE in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldova. Mr. Hlibovtsyk graduated in political science graduate from the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and studied law at Lviv State University and philosophy at Bluffton University in Ohio, USA. He is based in Kyiv and Lviv, Ukraine.
FRANTIŠEK JANOUCH
Founder and the Chairman of the Charta 77 Foundation, after the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 he lost his job and later was driven into exile in Sweden, where he founded the Charta 77 Foundation. The Foundation played a huge role in helping dissidents back home in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Janouch represented the European Union in Kyiv as Dep- uty Director of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (1996–2000). In the 1970s and 1980s, he was a Visiting Pro- fessor in Nuclear Physics at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. He studied at the Faculty of Physics, University of Leningrad and received a gradu- ate degree from Lomonosov University in Moscow.

PETR KOLÁŘ
Petr Kolář has held a number of positions at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Head of Department and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Bilateral Relations. He served as an advisor to President Václav Havel on European integration and the Balkans and was Czech ambassador to Sweden (1996–1998), Ireland (1999–2003), the United States (2005–2010) and the Russian Federation (2010–2012).
In 2013, Mr. Kolář served as director of foreign affairs for the PPF Group, where he primarily focused on Asia. At present he works at the international law firm Squire Sanders, where his practi- ce is focused on commercial diplomacy and global government relations. He provides clients with analytic and diplomatic expertise, representing them before the legislative and executive branches of government.

JAN MACHÁČEK
Jan Macháček is a journalist and musician currently working as a commentator for both the daily newspaper Hospodářské noviny and the weekly Respekt, to which he contributes opin- ions, analysis and interviews. Mr. Macháček also has a daily blog, Audit Jana Macháčka, and provides analysis for Czech public radio and television. Previously, he lectured on Politics and the Economics of Transformation at the Anglo American University in Prague. During communism in the 1980s, he was involved in underground culture and samizdat publishing. He was a member of the famous underground band The Plastic People of the Uni- verse as a guitar player and later joined the group Garage, with whom he still plays. In the 1980s, he signed Charter 77 and was involved in various dissident activities. He studied at the Prague School of Economics in the first half of the 1980s, but could not complete the degree for political reasons. After the revolu- tion in 1989, he joined peo- ple from the underground publishing world to create the first in- dependent media outlet in the coun- try, Respekt (originally titled Information Service). His work for Respekt has frequently earned him awards for both his investi- gative and analytical writing. In 2000, he effectively became Respekt’s deputy editor-in-chief. In addition, Mr. Macháček has been a fellow of the National Fo- rum Foundation in Washington (1994) and the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan (1998); the same year he was also a Michigan journalism fellow. He is a member of the board of Transparency International Czech Republic, serves as chairman of the board of trustees of the Václav Havel Library and in 2010 again received an award for best journalist in the country (the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize). Mr. Macháček teaches journal- ism at NYU Prague. In 2009, he pub- lished the book “Mistři sváta amoleta”, primarily analyzing Czech attitudes towards the global financial crisis. He teaches a course on new developments in Eu- ropean integration at Palacký Univer- sity in Olomouc. He orga- nizes many conferences for the Václav Havel Library, mainly on European issues. He frequently lectures at conferences (such as the Krynica Economic Forum) and deliv- ered a talk on Europe- an federalism and the institutional crises of the EU at Columbia University in October 2011. He has delivered a similar lecture in Tokyo, Brussels and several other places.

ASAF MAMMADOV
Asaf Mammadov is the father of Anar Mammadli, the winner of the 2014 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize.

MAREK (ANTONI) NOWICKI
Marek A. Nowicki (born 1953) is a human rights lawyer. He has been a member of the UN Human Rights Advisory Panel in Koso- vo since January 2007 and became its president a year later. From July 2000 to December 2005, he was UN-appointed Inter- national Ombudsperson in Kosovo. Mr. Nowicki was a member of the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg from March 1993 until November 1999. From December 1997 to November 1998, he served as vice-president of the Commissi- on’s Second Chamber.
From 1982, during the period of martial law in Poland, Mr. Nowicki was a columnist for the underground press and a di- ssident active in the Solidarity movement. At the same time, he cofounded and was an activist with the Helsinki Committee in Poland. From 1989 to 1991, he was the Committee’s spokesman. He also co-authored all of its reports on the human ri- ghts situation in the country, including a report on Poland under martial law published in 1983. Due to his activities in the human rights movement, he was prohibited from practising as a lawyer during this time.
From 1990 to 1993, he was a member of the Executive Commi- ttee of the International Helsinki Federation of Human Rights (IHF) in Vienna. From 1992 to 1993, he served as its acting pre- sident. During this period he participated in IHF fact-finding mis- sions to Romania, Bulgaria and Albania. At the same time, he was the founder and president of the Hu- man Rights Commission of the Polish Bar (until 2000). He has been a member of the Polish Bar since 1987. From 1995 to 1998, he was also a member of the National Council of the Polish Bar. Mr. Nowicki was a founding member of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw and became its president in November 2003 (until January 2008). Since 2011, he has been chairman of the Foundation’s council.
Mr. Nowicki is a member of the Selection Panel of the Václav Ha- vel Human Rights Prize for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
He is the author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles on human rights, in particular on the ECHR, published in Poland and internationally.

**MARTIN PALOUŠ**


**ŠIMON PÁNEK**

Šimon Pánek (born 1967) was a student activist during Czechoslovakia’s Velvet Revolution in 1989 and is today executive director of the humanitarian organization People in Need (Člověk v tísni), which he co-founded in 1992. People in Need (PIN) has become the biggest non-governmental organisation in Central and Eastern Europe and works worldwide to mitigate the suffering of people in times of crisis. For its international and national effort, PIN has become highly respected in the Czech Republic and abroad.

In 1988, Mr. Pánek and Jaromír Štětina were the main organizers of humanitarian assistance in Armenia, collecting materials to help people affected by an earthquake. One year later, in 1989, Mr. Pánek became a student leader during the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia; he organised anti-regime occupation strikes and became co-chairman of the Central Students Strike Committee.

In 1992, he founded the news agency Epicentrum, specialised in global conflict reporting. The same year he co-founded Nadace Lidových novin (The Lidové noviny Foundation), now known as People in Need (PIN). He was also a foreign policy specialist on the Balkan region and human rights issues abroad in the presidential administration of Václav Havel.

Since 2004, Mr. Pánek has chaired the Czech NGO development platform FoRS. He received the Czech State Medal of Merit in 2002 and the European of the Year Award in 2003. He has also chaired the board of the Open Society Fund Prague, is a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and is on the boards of the European Partnership for Democracy and Eurostep.

**JIŘÍ PEHE**

Jiří Pehe is a political analyst and author of several books. He has written hundreds of articles and analytical studies on developments in Eastern Europe for American, Czech, and German periodicals and academic journals. He regularly comments on political developments for Czech and international media.

His book of political essays Vytunelovaná demokracie (Defrauded Democracy) was published in 2002. He co-authored and edited a book titled The Prague Spring: A Mixed Legacy, which was published by Freedom House in 1988. Mr. Pehe has also contributed essays and chapters to various other books.

He has published three novels, Na okraji zmizelého (On the Edge of the Vanished, 2006), Tři tváře anděla (The Three Faces of an Angel, 2009) and Mimořádná událost (The Extraordinary Event, 2013).

In 2010, he published the book Demokracie bez demokrátů (Democracy without Democrats) and a political biography titled Klaus: Portrét politika ve dvaceti obrazech (Klaus: A Portrait of a Politician).

Mr. Pehe is currently Director of New York University in Prague and the head of NYU’s Prague Institute for Democracy, Economy, and Culture (PIDEC). He teaches at Charles University and New York University in Prague. He also frequently gives public lectures.

From September 1997 to May 1999, Mr. Pehe was Director of the Political Department of Czech President Václav Havel and later served as President Havel’s adviser. He was a member of the Program Committee of the Forum 2000 Foundation, which organizes annual international conferences and was co-founded by Václav Havel.

From 2002 to 2009, Mr. Pehe was a member of the Board of the Michael Kocáb Foundation, an organisation supporting civic initiatives. Since 2007, he has been a board member of the Central European Trust for Civil Society. He is also a member of the board of directors of Transitions-on-Line and a member of the board of directors of the Deník Referendum Foundation. In 2011 he cofounded the think tank CESTA: Center for a Social-Market Economy and Open Democracy.

From 1995 to 1997, Mr. Pehe was Director of Analysis and Research Department at the Open Media Research Institute in Prague. Between 1988 and 1995, he first worked as an analyst of Central European affairs and later as Director of Central European Research at the Research Institute of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany. From 1985 to 1988, he was Director of East European Studies at Freedom House in New York.

Mr. Pehe studied law, philosophy and political science at universities in Prague (Charles University) and the United States (Columbia University). He fled Czechoslovakia in 1981, subsequently settled in the U.S.A, and before returning to Prague in 1994 lived in Munich, Germany from 1988.
MUHAMMAD SABAH
Muhammad Sabah is a member of the Field Research Department at B'Tselem, operating in the Gaza Strip.

SHIN DONG-HYUK
Shin Dong-hyuk, born 19 November 1982 as Shin In-geun, is a North Korean defector living in South Korea. He is currently the only known prisoner to have successfully escaped alive from a “total-control zone” grade internment camp in North Korea. Mr. Shin is the subject of a biography, Escape from Camp 14: One Man’s Remarkable Odyssey From North Korea to Freedom in the West, by former Washington Post journalist Blaine Harden. Sometimes accompanied by Mr. Harden, he has given talks to audiences around the world about his life in the Kaechon internment camp (Kwalliso No. 14) and about the North Korean totalitarian regime to raise awareness of the situation in North Korean internment and concentration camps. He is currently active in InsideNK, a US NGO based in Washington, DC that organises events to inform the public about the reality of North Korea.

KAREL SCHWARZENBERG
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the TOP 09 party. He has already served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007–2009) and was a member of the Senate of the Czech Parliament (2004–2010). During the first half of 2009, he also served as the President of the Council of the European Union. He was President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (1984–1991) and former Chancellor to President Václav Havel. Founder of Václav Havel Library. In 1991, he was awarded, together with Lech Walesa, the Council of Europe’s Human Rights Award.

ONDŘEJ SOUKUP
Ondřej Soukup is a Czech journalist whose special area of expertise is Russia and the former states of the Soviet Union. He served as the newspaper Hospodářské noviny’s correspondent in Moscow and is now based in Prague where he is on the respected business daily’s foreign desk.

MARTA SMOLÍKOVÁ
Marta Smolíková started her career as a freelance curator and art critic. From 1993 to 1997 she worked at the Soros Center for Contemporary Art Prague. During 1997 – 2003 she was employed at the Open Society Fund Prague, where she headed the Arts and Culture Program, supporting the performing arts, cultural magazines, the publication of academic titles, and the international Cultural Link program fostering cultural cooperation between the Soros Foundations Network in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In 2003, she established ProCulture, an arts and culture research, education and information center; 2011, it was transformed into an independent civic association focused on cultural policy. She teaches grant-creation at the Theatre Academy of Arts and Culture Policy at Masaryk University in Brno. She also has experience of evaluating art and cultural projects for bodies such as the European Commission, Visegrad Fund, Czech Ministry of Culture or the Prague City Council. She is Chairwoman of the Czech State Culture Fund. She became the Executive Director of the Václav Havel Library in 2012.

PETRUŠKA ŠUSTROVÁ
Czech former dissident Petruška Šustrová (born 1947) is a journalist and translator. She was unable to complete her history and Czech studies at Prague’s Charles University for political reasons. In December 1969 she was arrested and subsequently sentenced to two years in prison for her involvement in the opposition group Movement of Revolutionary Youth. Ms. Šustrová, who was forced to take menial jobs after her release from jail, was one of the first signatories of Charter 77, a document calling on the Czechoslovak communist government to adhere to human rights. In 1979 she became a member of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Prosecuted. In 1985 she was one of three Charter 77 spokespeople and two years later began contributing to the samizdat publication Střední Evropa (Central Europe).

From 1990 to 1992 she served as deputy federal minister of the interior before leaving the state administration to work as a journalist. In 2008, she was elected by the Czech Senate to the Council of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes; since 2013 she has been its chairwoman. Ms. Šustrová was awarded the prestigious Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for Journalism in 2009.

MAGDALÉNA VÁŠÁRYOVÁ
Magdaléna Vášáryová is Slovak politician, diplomat and sociologist. Founder and the first director of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) in Bratislava. During her career she was an ambassador in Austria (1990 – 1993) and in Poland (2000 – 2005). Later on, she served as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

Mrs. Vášáryová is active also in non-governmental sector, as she founded several non-governmental organizations, such as already mentioned SFPA, “Citizen Eye” (NGO for election observation in Slovakia), “Via Cultura” – NGO that incorporates “Institute for Cultural Policies” (IKP) that is the first think-tank systematically dealing with cultural policies and critical thinking within the field of culture. She published several books as well as many articles in domestic and international press dealing with foreign and domestic policy, political situation in Central Europe, energy security and last but not least with culture.

Magdaléna Vášáryová is currently Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (non-party from December 2013).
CONFERENCE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

VERONIKA BAJGAROVÁ
director of the Department of Human Rights and Transition Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, worked with Václav Havel

IGOR BLAŽEVIĆ
head teacher at Burma Educational Initiatives, founder of the One World International Festival of Human Rights Documents and member of the steering committee of the World Movement for Democracy

MAREK HUDEMA
journalist focused on economics, European integration and the countries of Asia, occasional electoral monitor

VLADISLAV JANDJUK
member of the US-based Belarusian government in exile, spokesmen for the Cultural Association of Belarusians in the Czech Republic and the European Democratic Forum of Belarusians

MONIKA LADMANOVÁ
lawyer focused on public interest law, the protection of human rights, philanthropy and equal opportunities for women and men, chairwoman of the executive board of the Open Society Fund in Prague

JAN MACHÁČEK
chairman of the executive board of the Václav Havel Library, journalist, economic analyst, musician, Charter 77 signatory

LUCIE REITINGEROVÁ
manager for non-profit activities at the company BM Management, cooperates with the Václav Havel Library

MARTA SMOLÍKOVÁ
executive director of the Václav Havel Library

ONDŘEJ SOUKUP
journalist specialising in countries of the former Soviet Union

PETRUŠKA ŠUSTROVÁ
journalist and columnist focused on Poland and the countries of the former Soviet Union, Charter 77 signatory

MARTIN VIDLÁK
head of the Documentation Centre of the Václav Havel Library, worked with Václav Havel

PRIZE SELECTION PANEL

ANNE BRASSEUR
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

FRANTIŠEK JANOUCH
Chairman of the Board of the Charta 77 Foundation

THOMAS HAMMARBERG
Former Commissioner for Human Rights

NUALA MOLE
Senior Lawyer, Founder of the AIRE Centre

MAREK (ANTONI) NOWICKI
Human Rights Lawyer, President of the UN Human Rights Advisory Panel in Kosovo

MARTIN PALOUŠ
Former Ambassador of the Czech Republic, President of Vaclav Havel Library Foundation in New York and Board member of Vaclav Havel Library

CHRISTOS POURGOURIDES
Former Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus. Former Member of the Parliamentary Assembly