

10 December 2009

Announcement
Human Rights Awards 2009

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the UN Country Team herewith announces awards for leading initiatives in the field of human rights in 2009.

First Prizes are awarded to non-governmental organizations for their work during the recent period on various human rights issues, as follows, in no particular order:

- Moldovan Institute for Human Rights (IDOM), for bravery under duress in promoting and protecting human rights defenders in the context of the April events, for the range of thematic areas of their human rights activities, and in particular for their actions in seeking and securing international forensics expertise in the matter of the death of Mr. Valeriu Boboc.
- Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (Memoria), for bravery under duress in responding to the needs of victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in custody, in particular via the provision of rehabilitative support services, as well as through their public advocacy to end torture in Moldova.
- NGO “CCF-Moldova -- Copil, Comunitate, Familie”, for promoting an innovative model of non-governmental assistance in the process of the de-institutionalization of children, including via support to families.
- NGO "Centrul de Informare si Documentare in domeniul Drepturilor Copilului", for an inclusive model of children’s rights advocacy, involving children and youth monitoring and reporting regularly on children’s rights issues in Moldova.

A First Prize is also awarded to the weekly journal Ziarul de Garda, with particular mention of the work of journalists Svetlana Panta, Victor Mosneaga, and Anastasia Nani. The award is presented for work – including interview documentation – on a range of human rights issues, including as concerns the fundamental rights of women and human rights in the context of the events of April 2009.

First Prizes were awarded to the following journalists for their work on various human rights issues during the recent period:

- Anastasia Nani for her high quality journalistic work on themes including the educational rights of children and youth in Transnistria, as well as for her work in calling attention to the problem of human rights abuse by police officers.
- Viorica Zaharia, for her wide-ranging journalistic work on a range of human rights issues, including as concerns the fundamental rights of persons living in Transnistria.
- Marina Pinzaru for her high quality journalism on human rights themes, including in the areas of children's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities.

The award to Anastasia Nani is in addition to her recognition as part of the team at the journal Ziarul de Garda.

Unlike in previous years, no single "Grand Prize" for journalists, media organs or non-governmental organizations is awarded this year.

Runner-Up Prizes are awarded to the following non-governmental organizations, listed in no particular order, for their work on various human rights issues during the recent period:

- NGO "Asociatia de sprijin a copiilor cu handicap Persecina", for providing a grassroots community initiative model of mutual assistance in the process of the de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities, as well as by providing support to persons and families assisting this process.
- NGO "DEMOS" for their work in assisting excluded and vulnerable persons in gaining access to identification cards and other personal documents crucial for access to goods and services key for the realization of fundamental rights in Moldova.
- NGO "ECO-RAZENI" for their work in fostering the inclusion of children and youth in the democratic process.

Runner-Up Prizes are also awarded to the following journalists as recognition for their work as human rights journalists:

- Ana Botnariuc for articles on issues of concern in the town of Balti, including suppressions of the right to freedom of assembly, ill-treatment of children and youth, labour rights in relation to a food processing plant, as well as on a number of other human rights themes.
- Valeria Vitu for her work on a wide range of human rights and social justice issues, as well as for the originality of her themes, including on matters concerning family rights, children's rights, the right to vote for persons living in Transnistria, and the fundamental rights of Roma in Moldova.

In addition, a Special Award is provided to the Public Library for Children in the village of Molovata, Dubasari district, for their work in facilitating access by children

and youth to information about fundamental human rights, and thereby fostering a culture of education about fundamental rights.

A Special Women's Rights Award is provided to Svetlana Panta for a series of articles on women's rights and related themes, published in the journal Ziarul de Garda.

Special Awards for Defending Human Rights are provided to:

- Piotr Dovgali for his efforts to call attention to human rights issues in Transnistria in media in Transnistria.
- Grigore Matasaru for a series of radio interviews with experts, aiming to present the content of human rights law to a general audience.

A Special Investigative Journalism Award is presented to Natalia Silitcaia and Oleg Banaru for their article on the health rights impact and related public concerns arising as a result of the Tintareni rubbish tip.

Special Mention for Originality is made of the work of the NGO "Centrul de Resurse Tineri si Liberi", for their creative approaches in using media and prominent personalities to raise awareness to key issues in the public interest.

Honourable mention is made of the work of the local newspaper Plaiul Orheian, elucidating a number of human rights and other public concerns in Orhei.

Particular notice is made of the actions of the court in Anenii Noi in issuing, apparently for the first time in Moldovan history, a protection order in a case of domestic violence against women.

The Human Rights Awards 2009 have been decided upon as follows:

Following a public call for nominations, a Technical Committee comprising experts in the field of human rights in Moldova has examined submitted proposals, evaluated their merit, and provided recommendations as to the scope and content of awards.

On the basis of the recommendations of the Technical Committee, a Children's Rights Advisory Panel comprising Mr. Dorin Frasinianu and Ms. Felicia Luchianenco has provided reasoned views as to meritorious awards.

On the basis of the material made available to it, an Awards Board has decided on the awards. The Board comprises:

Mr. Claude Cahn, Human Rights Adviser to the UN Resident Coordinator

Ambassador of the Czech Republic His Excellency Mr. Petr Kypr

Ombudsperson for Children's Rights Ms. Tamara Plamadeala

Ms. Rita Tamm, Senior Rule of Adviser, Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)

Ms. Angelina Zaporozjan-Pirgari, Legal Consultant

The awards have been presented at a ceremony in Chisinau on the evening of 10 December 2009.

For further information, please contact:

- Ludmila Tiganu, Communications Specialist, UNDP:
ludmila.tiganu@undp.org, 069 16 77 10
- Angela Munteanu, Communications Officer, UNICEF,
amunteanu@unicef.org, 069 12 36 30
- Iana Pustovaia, Communications Consultant, UNIFEM Moldova,
yanaarhipova@mail.ru, 069 14 83 33