

Nuremberg International Human Rights Award

**Award Ceremony
September 14, 2003 in Nuremberg Opera House**

**Words of Welcome by the by Dr. Ulrich Maly,
Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

on behalf of Mayor Horst Förther, of the members of the City Council and on behalf of all the citizens of this city, I would like to welcome you very warmly to the fifth presentation of the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award. It is a great joy and an honour to us that you have come here today to our opera house.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to this year's awardees, Teesta Setalvad and Ibn Abdur Rehman, to whom we convey our highest admiration, our respect and our thanks. Likewise, I would like to welcome the former president of the Republic of Portugal, Dr Mario Soáres, and I would like to thank him for kindly agreeing to speak in praise of the awardees.

I am also very happy to see our awardees of 1997 and 1999 in our midst today, Khémaïs Chammari and Fatimata M'Baye. I would like to welcome you and thank you for this sign of closeness to our city.

A particularly warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Bavaria, Dr Edmund Stoiber, and his wife, as well as Federal Minister Heidemarie Wiecezorek-Zeul as a representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. Both of them will be addressing us later on. Furthermore, I would like to welcome Federal Ministers Otto Schily and Renate Schmidt.

A warm welcome also to the members of our jury: Dr Asma Jahangir, UN Special Rapporteur, with her daughter, as well as Professor Dr Theo van Boven, also UN Special Rapporteur, Professor Dr Rajmohan Gandhi and Professor Dr Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo with their wives, as well as Maître Daniel Jacoby and Dani Karavan, the creator of the „Way of Human Rights“, who will, together with me, be presenting the award sculpture created by him to this year's awardees.

A warm welcome to Hina Jilani, Kofi Annan's special commissioner on Human Rights Defenders, Shulamit Aloni, former minister of culture of the State of Israel, and Vladimir Volodin, representing UNESCO here. You are all honouring us with your presence here today and we are very happy to see you.

A warm welcome also to his Excellency Asif Ezdi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as to all other representatives of the consular corps.

I am also happy to welcome members of the European Parliament, of the Federal Parliament and of the State Parliament, the chairman of the Regional Council, Karl Inhofer, as well as Regional and City Councillors, former Lord Mayors Dr Peter Schönlein and Ludwig Scholz as well as our honoured citizens, former Federal Minister Dr Oscar Schneider and former Mayor Willy Pröhl as well as all citizens honoured with the Citizens' Medal who are present here today.

A warm welcome also to the Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Romani Rose, as well as representatives of the churches and religious communities, representatives of industry, the trade unions and the media.

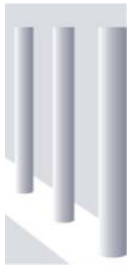
Almost exactly two years ago, the horrible terror attacks in New York shocked the world. This 11th of September led to deep political change and presented new challenges to human rights activities all over the world.



NÜRNBERG
STADT DES FRIEDENS
UND DER
MENSCHENRECHTE

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CITY OF PEACE
AND HUMAN RIGHTS





On this 11th of September, if not before, dreams were shattered, dreams of all those, who at the beginning of the 1990s after the breaking up of the blocks had believed in lasting world peace or like all of us at least hoped for it.

New conflicts, new wars, new ethnical, cultural and religious struggles, in addition to the old ones, and in addition to international terrorism all these conjure up a scenario of threat which is more difficult to assess than the situation of the Cold War.

In the wake of this development, human rights were undermined in quite a few countries all over the world. Sometimes this was also legitimised under the pretext of fighting terrorism. What answers do we have to give to these new questions? I cannot of course, like all of us, give a comprehensive answer to this very general question.

But one thing is clear: There is no doubt that terrorism which is contemptuous of human life has to be fought with all determination. But this alone cannot be a sufficient answer to this threat. Military and police measures alone will not succeed in achieving peace and security. We must first and foremost solve the political, economical and social conflicts and problems which are the breeding ground for terrorism.

But how can we achieve freedom, justice and peace for all, if a large part of the world population doesn't even enjoy the basic human rights and if the most elementary freedoms of numerous people are treated with contempt every day?

- More than 1.2 billion people have to live on less than one dollar a day, and that means every fifth inhabitant of our planet earth.
- For about 800 Million people, hunger is an every-day experience.
- Each year, 10 million children die of malnutrition and of avoidable diseases that is 30,000 a day.
- At least 100 million people are living in slums. 115 million children have no access to a school, and every sixth grown-up is illiterate. In 34 countries of this world, life expectancy has gone down in the past ten years.

As long as we do not change this state of affairs in our world, we will fail to create peace and security. This is why we need a new understanding of security politics. The concept of "security" must be interpreted as "human security", that is as a synonym for the promotion of human rights and democracy, of justice and solidarity.

Precisely this, democracy, justice and solidarity, cannot thrive in conditions of hunger, polluted water and disease. Rather, this is the soil where despair, hatred and violence grow. Democracy, justice and solidarity, that is human rights, are inseparably linked with the economic and social conditions of people.

It must be said very clearly: The present course of globalisation is widening the gap between poor and rich. This process must be made more just, in political, economic as well as in social terms. This is the only way how we can overcome hopelessness and terror. It is easy to say this in abstract words. UN-Under Secretary General Shashi Tharoor last year summed it up in a very simple formula at a meeting in Nuremberg: human rights start with a breakfast for every person. We must understand human rights in those terms, both simple and comprehensive.

In times of growing globalisation and urbanization, municipalities play an increasingly important role. This becomes clear from the following figures: In 1950, 30 percent of the world population lived in cities. In the year 2000, this amounted to 47 percent, and in 2030, it will be 60 percent. In other words, the future of humankind is in the cities. This of course also means: The cities bear more responsibility for human rights as a prerequisite for peace, security and development in our world. They are therefore challenged to co-operate in shaping a more just international order and a system of global security.

The City of Nuremberg and its citizens are trying to live up to their responsibilities within their possibilities. To name but a few of the efforts: first of all, there is the International Human Rights Award, which we are presenting for the fifth time today, there is the foundation "Nuremberg



City of Peace and Human Rights” supporting the awardees' projects in their home countries, there is the co-operation in the network of municipalities called “European Cities for Human Rights”, there is the “Nuremberg Human Rights' Film Festival” and there are international congresses in co-operation with the United Nations, with UNESCO and many other partners.

But our understanding is wider. Human rights work done only in a dark suit and with the chain of office has no basis. This is why the manifold efforts to integrate those over 100,000 Nuremberg citizens who were not born in Germany are also put under the heading of human rights, as well as for example the round table “Fair Toys” with companies from the toy industry campaigning for improvement in the working conditions in south-east Asian toy factories, or also our programmes in the Documentation Centre Nazi Party Rally Grounds.

Coming back to the International Nuremberg Human Rights Award: With the award we are this year also directing attention to a geopolitical conflict which does not figure in our euro-centric perception of the world, at least it doesn't figure as much as is necessary. And we are honouring two persons who for decades have been committed in an exemplary way and often enough at considerable personal risk to work far beyond the borders of their home countries, committed to peace and the protection of human rights, to democratic development and to social justice, to inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding.

Your commitment, Ms Setalvad and Mr Rehman, to us in Nuremberg here is an encouragement, but also a challenge to continue our commitment with determination.

And to all those who think that “all this doesn't concern us here”, I would like to quote the poet Erich Fried:

What you don't do
Often enough
Falls
On fertile
Ground.

There is germinates,
Flourishes,
Grows,
And the fruit will be
Evil deeds.

What we all can and must do, in big politics and in our little everyday lives, is a central, core challenge of humanity. The struggle for human rights is, as Albert Einstein put it, an eternal struggle where there can't be a final victory, and if we let up in this struggle this will be the ruin of our community.