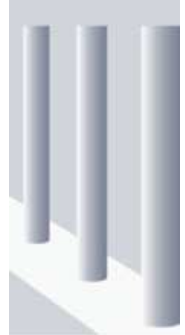


Mr. Abdolfattah Soltani
will be awarded the
2009 Nuremberg International Human Rights Award



On Tuesday, 9 December, 2008, the jury of the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award, chaired by the Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg, Dr. Ulrich Maly, met in Nuremberg's City Hall, and reached the following decision for the eighth presentation of this award:

The Award Winner
is
Mr Abdolfattah Soltani
from Iran

The award will be presented on Sunday, 4 October 2009, in Nuremberg Opera House.

The jury gave the following reasons for its decision:

Abdolfattah Soltani has been fighting for the recognition of human rights in the „Islamic Republic of Iran“, with admirable courage and at high personal risk. As a lawyer and member of the „Defenders of Human Rights Centre“ founded by Peace Nobel laureate, Shirin Ebadi, he has represented non-violent political prisoners in court, in extremely difficult conditions, and has undauntedly made every effort to uncover and publicly denounce serious human rights violations by Iranian authorities. Neither threats nor harassment by state authorities, nor arbitrary arrests, several prison sentences and temporary bans from his profession, succeeded in preventing him from continuing with his commitment to the struggle for the recognition of human rights in his home country. The Iranian state's measures against Abdolfattah Soltani are obviously politically motivated and aimed at rendering his work as a lawyer impossible and at intimidating other defenders of human rights.

By awarding the 2009 Nuremberg International Human Rights Award to Abdolfattah Soltani, the jury wishes to honour his exemplary work for the recognition of those rights. At the same time the jury also wishes to honour the commitment of numerous people throughout the world who, courageously and in spite of considerable personal risk, have stood up for human rights as a universal and indivisible principle. Furthermore, the jury decision is an emphatic appeal to those in political power in the „Islamic Republic of Iran“ to fulfil the country's international obligations and to

respect human rights. The jury also wishes to appeal to the government authorities of Iran to safeguard the existence of the „Defenders of Human Rights Centre“ and to enable its members to continue with their work. However, the jury decision should also be seen as an appeal to all those in responsibility and to all people of goodwill, particularly in times when conflict, violence and terror are increasing world-wide, to promote human rights as an indispensable basis for peace, justice and security. Furthermore it is intended to encourage people to contribute to the support and protection of defenders of those rights.

Nuremberg, March 2009