



"The award given by Lawyers to a Lawyer"

**HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE OF THE BAR OF BORDEAUX
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE OF THE BAR OF PARIS
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE OF THE BAR OF BRUSSELS
EUROPEAN BAR HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE (IDHAE)**

1985-2005

**Twenty years Ludovic Trarieux
Prize Winners**

The "LUDOVIC-TRARIEUX INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE "

*Twenty years ago, on April 27th 1985 the first " LUDOVIC TRARIEUX
PRIZE " was awarded to Nelson MANDELA then in jail in South
Africa,*

*The
10th*

Prize will be designated on May 23rd 2005 in Paris.

On the 27th of February 1984, after the incitement of President Bertrand FAVREAU, it was created the **Human Rights Institute of the Bar of Bordeaux** according to a law of 1901 which among its purposes had to **award a Prize** every two years to "a lawyer, regardless of nationality or Bar, who throughout his career has illustrated, by his activity or his suffering, the defence of human rights, the promotion of defence rights, the supremacy of law, and the struggle against racism and intolerance in any form" under the name of "**LUDOVIC-TRARIEUX INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE**".

The **Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize** was awarded every two years in memory of the French lawyer, Ludovic Trarieux (1840-1904), a lawyer of the Bordeaux Bar and then Minister of Justice in Paris (1895), who in the midst of the Dreyfus Affair, in France, in 1898, founded and became the first president of the "French League for the Defence of Human

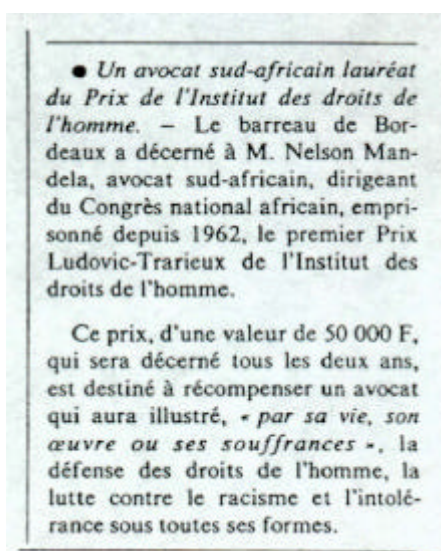
Rights and the Citizen ", which is the base of all leagues set up in the world and on the same model since then.

Evoking the reasons for his commitment to the Dreyfus cause, Ludovic Trarieux said:
" IT WAS NOT ONLY THE SINGLE CAUSE OF A MAN WHICH WAS TO BE DEFENDED,
BUT BEHIND THIS CAUSE, LAW, JUSTICE, HUMANITY ".

This quote is engraved on the reverse of the medal with the effigy of Trarieux, made by the " Paris Mint " and given to the prizewinners.

The Prize of **5000 euros** is awarded after consulting more than 40 non-governmental organisations, Bars or associations with humanitarian goals all around the world so as to choose the candidates who seems to fulfil the specific criteria required for nomination for the Prize.

Nelson Mandela: the first Prizewinner in 1985.



Le Monde April 5th 1985 – page 22

The first Prize was awarded on March 29th, 1985. "A South African lawyer wins the Human Rights Institute's Prize" titled the French newspaper "Le Monde" on 5 April 1985. In that time Nelson Mandela was not yet President of South Africa but a jailed and forgotten man even considered by many as a "terrorist". It was the first award given to Mandela in France and the first around the world given by lawyers.

The first Prize was officially presented to his daughter, Zenani Mandela, on April 27th 1985, in Bordeaux, in the presence of forty presidents of Law Societies coming from Europe and Africa.

Anniversary: 1985 The First Prize



April 27th, 1985 : Presentation of the first "Ludovic Trarieux Prize" to Zenani Mandela, on behalf of her jailed father.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to award the Prize from 1986 to 1990. On February 11th 1990, Nelson Mandela was released. Since then, IDHBB decided not to resign, and to award a new Prize every two years in joint venture with all European lawyers.

Since 1985, the following is the list of prizewinners:

- 1985 : Nelson MANDELA** (South Africa)
- 1992 : Augusto ZÚÑIGA PAZ** (Peru)
- 1994 : Jadranka CIGELJ** (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- 1996 awarded jointly to Nejib HOSNI** (Tunisia) and to **Dalila MEZIANE** (Algeria).
- 1998 : ZHOU Guoqiang** (China)
- 2000 : Esber YAGMURDERELI** (Turkey)
- 2002 : Mehrangiz KAR** (Iran)
- 2003 awarded jointly to Digna OCHOA #** and to **Bárbara ZAMORA** (Mexico).
post mortem
- 2004 : Aktham NAISSE** (Syria)

Augusto Zúñiga Paz, was working for many years for the COMISEDH (*Comision de Derechos Humanos*), which is occupied with the cases of human rights abuses. He and his family became refugees in Sweden and he also lost his left arm in an explosion but even after all these he did not give up his fight for the Human Rights, and against ‘the terrorists’. He was awarded with the ‘**Prize Ludovic Trarieux**’ in Bordeaux on the 8th of April 1992.

Jadranka Cigelj, a Bosnian Catholic and a specialist in the labour law, was among the “group” of the intellectuals who were detained in the camp of Omarska and later in the one of Trnopolje. She had suffered cruelties tortures and sexual abuses in the ex-Yugoslavia. It was only after the intervention of the Red Cross that she was released. Her life during her imprisonment became a film. She especially dedicated her Award to the five women who were killed in the camp of Marsha.

The winners of the fourth Prize were both from North Africa. The Algerian lawyer *Dalila Meziane* was conjointly awarded with *Nejib Hosni* who was detained like Mandela, the day of the Prize Ceremony. He was released on December of the same year.

On the 25th of May 1998, the Prize was awarded to the Chinese lawyer *Zhou Guoqiang*. After Nelson Mandela and Nejib Hosni, Zhou Guoqiang was the third prizewinner not able to come to France in order to receive his Prize, because of the risk of not being able to return to his country, as many other Chinese who are forced into exile.

It is why Zhou Guoqiang asked to Liu Qing the Chairman of Human Rights in China to come from New York and received on his behalf in Bordeaux the award that was presented by Robert Badinter, on October 2nd, 1998.



The sixth “**Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize**” was awarded on March 2nd 2000, to the Turkish blind writer, lawyer, and human right activist, **Esber Yagmurdereli**, at that time also in jail in Turkey for having expressed his views on the Kurdish issue. The Jury asked for immediate release. The Prize was hand over to the Prize winner's son, Ugur, on September 29th . Esber Yagmurdereli was released, three months after, on January 18th, 2001.



The seventh Prize was awarded in 2002 to the **Mehrangiz Kar**, an Iranian human rights lawyer, writer, essayist, and the co-writer with Shahla Lahiji of the book ‘ The role of women in the prehistoric Iran’. The Prize was awarded to her in Paris in the 20th of October 2002, by Mr Guy Canivet, the First President of the French Court of Cassation.

In 2003 the Prize was awarded to **Digna Ochoa**. It was the first time since 1984 the Prize to be awarded post mortem. Digna Ochoa was a lawyer of the Human Rights in Mexico and had a lot of times defended persons accused by the Authorities because of their connection to the zapatistas. She had condemned the tortures and the abuses her clients had suffered during their detention. After she had received several threats concerning her life, she was killed, on October 19th 2001, at the age of 37, when she was in her office, in the centre of Mexico, by fire shots. In 2003 the Prize was also awarded, too, to Digna Ochoa’s closest collaborator **Bárbara Zamora** who was working too for the Human Rights in Mexico and she had also received threats for her life on March 2002.

The winner of the 2004 Award was **Aktham Naisse**, President of the Committee for the Defence of the Democratic Liberties, who has been arrested and detained several times for fighting for the protection of the Human Rights and the abolition of the martial laws and the State of Emergency in Syria and for the instauration of the Rule of Law. He was once again in jail when he should have been receiving his Prize but he was liberated, three months later, on August 16th, 2004. The Prize was presented by Mr Michel Lahousse, First President of the Court of Cassation of Belgium, on October 8th, 2004. Aktham Naisse is waiting, even now, for the hearing of his sentence.

Since 2003 Prize has been awarded every year in partnership by the Human Rights Institute of The Bar of Bordeaux, the Human Rights Institute of the Bar of Paris, the Human Rights Institute of The Bar of Brussels, and the European Bar Human Rights Institute (IDHAE). It is presented every year in a city that is home to one of the member Institutes.

Twenty years later, the Jury will meet on May 23rd 2005 in Maison du Barreau in Paris to award the 10th Prize. The 2005 Prize winner will be chosen among the following lawyers: Henri BURIN DES ROZIERES (Brazil), N'Sii LUANDA SHANDWE. (Democratic Republic of Congo), ZHENG Enchong (China), Juan Carlos GONZALEZ LEIVA (Cuba), Parvez IMROZ (India), Cak MUNIR (Indonesia), Nasser ZARAFSHAN (Iran), Jeetaman BASNET (Nepal), Gloria CANO (Peru), Saleh Mahmud OSMAN (Sudan), SOMCHAI Neelaphajit (Thailand), Gabriel SHUMBA (Zimbabwe).