

# The Gwangju Prize for Human Rights 2015



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Every year since 2000, the May 18 Memorial Foundation (Gwangju, Republic of Korea) has announced its annual “Call for nominations for the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights”. This Prize promotes the spirit of the May 18 Democratization Movement in which the people of Gwangju resisted against brutal military forces for the sake of Democracy and Human Rights in 1980. Historically the May 18 Democratization Movement brought democracy to Korea.

The May 18 Memorial Foundation was founded in 1994 with the aim of spreading and commemorating the democratic spirit shown by the people of Gwangju. In the course of restoring the meaning of the May 18 Democratization Movement through fact finding, and bringing the perpetrators to justice, even though Gwangju was isolated by the military junta many overseas countries supported the City and wanted to see the restoration of justice and human rights. Therefore, through this prize the May 18 Memorial Foundation would like to share and empathize with people in similar situations to that which the people of Gwangju faced in 1980.

The prize goes to one individual or an organization that has struggled for or contributed to the improvement and advancement of human rights, democracy and peace in their community and country.

Nominations will be collected from December 29, 2014 to February 27, 2015. Preliminary and final reviews of nominees will take place through February to March. The winner of the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights will be announced on the first week of April. The official prize ceremony will be held at the May 18 Memorial Culture Center, Gwangju, on May 18, 2015.

## The Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award

In 2011, the May 18 Memorial Foundation newly established the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award. Since the time that the Foundation began awarding the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights, we have received many requests to establish a special prize for those who work for the improvement of human rights by the means of journalism, culture, literature, and many other fields. The special prize is provided every 2 years. The prize winner will also receive prize money (10,000 USD) and a certificate at the same Awards ceremony. Nominators can use the same nomination form as that of the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights. Please select one of options (Gwangju Prize for Human Rights/Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award) on the application form.

### **Eligibility for the Prize**

- 1) A person or group eligible for the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights nominated by another individual or organization. An individual cannot nominate him/herself and cannot be nominated by his/her own organization.
- 2) A person or group who has been struggling for justice and democracy for their community and country.
- 3) A person or group who has contributed towards democracy and human rights movements through their work in their organization.

### **Policy of the Prize Committee**

- 1) Co-winners may only be selected by the Prize Committee, not by nominators; a nominator can only submit 1 nominee.
- 2) Nominators cannot interfere with or participate in the Prize Committee's selection process.
- 3) The Prize Committee may only disclose the amount of nominees, not the names of them.

### **Nomination Deadline**

From December 29, 2014 until February 27, 2015

### **The Prize**

The prize winner will receive the prize money, 50,000 USD, medal and certificate.

The prize winner of the special award will receive prize money, 10,000 USD, medal and certificate.

The Prize will be awarded at the Prize Ceremony to be held at the May 18 Memorial Culture Center, on May 18, 2015 and the winner should attend the Ceremony.

The prize winner is expected to attend a press conference and a Special Celebration Concert.

### **How to nominate the Prize Nominee**

Please download the official nomination form, fill it out completely, and send it to the May 18 Memorial Foundation with supporting documents by email or post.

Email address: [gwangjuprize@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjuprize@gmail.com)

Postal address: 520-260 Naebangro 152 5.18 Memorial Culture Center Seo-gu Gwangju, Republic of Korea

### **Contact Information**

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Please visit our website for the latest announcements at <http://eng.518.org>

## **Laureates of the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights**

2000 Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão (National Council of Timorese Resistance, East Timor)

2001 W.P.J. Basil Fernando (Asian Human Rights Commission, Sri Lanka)

2002 Korea Association of Bereaved Families for Democracy (KABFD)

2003 Dandeniya Jayanthi (Monument for the Disappeared, Sri Lanka)

2004 Aung San Suu Kyi (National League for Democracy, Burma)

2005 Wardah Hafiz (Urban Poor Consortium, Indonesia)

2006 Malalai Joya (Co-laureate, National Assembly, Afghanistan)

Angkhana Neelapajit (Co-laureate, Human Rights Activist, Thailand)

2007 Lenin Raghuvanshi (Co-laureate, People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights, India)

Irom Sharmila Chanu (Co-laureate, Human Rights Activist, Manipur, India)

2008 Munir Malik (Human Rights Lawyer, Pakistan)

2009 Min Ko Naing (Democracy Movement Activist, Burma)

2010 Sushil Pyakurel (Accountability Watch Committee, Nepal)

2011 Binayak Sen (Human Rights Activist, India)

2012 Mun Jeong Hyun (Catholic Priest, Republic of Korea)

2013 Hijos e Hijas por la Identidad y la Justicia contra el Olvido y el Silencio (H.I.J.O.S., Argentina)

2014 Mothers of Khavaran (Co-laureate, Organization, Iran)

Adilur Rahman Khan (Co-laureate, Human Rights Activist, Bangladesh)

## **Laureate of the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award**

2011 Parents Circle Families Forum - Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Families for Peace (Israel and Palestine)

2013 Tempo Weekly Magazine (Indonesia)

## FAQ for the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights

### 1. What is the eligibility for nominator?

- An individual or an organization that was awarded Yun Sang-won Award\* and May 18 Citizen's Award\*;
- An individual or an organization that was awarded the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights or the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award;
- Domestic/international civil society organizations that were requested to nominate the Prize candidate by the May 18 Memorial Foundation;
- An individual or an organization that agrees to the purpose of the Prize\*

\* Yun Sang-won Award:

The Yun San-won Award, named after one of the leaders of the May 18 Democratization Movement, Yun Sang-won, who sacrificed himself on 27 May 1980 in the Gwangju Provincial Office, the last battle field, was established by those who engaged in Yun's commemoration event and by the bereaved family of Yun to award one individual or one organization who struggled for the resolution of the May 18 Democratization Movement from 1991 to 1998.

\* May 18 Citizen's Award:

The May 18 Citizen's Award was established in 1991 by Association of the Families of the May 18 Democratizatic Persons of Merit with the aim of nationalization of the May 18 spirit. The Prize went to one individual or one organization who was not directly linked to the Democratization Movement but who worked for revealing the truth of the Movement until 1998.

\*Purpose of the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights:

The Prize goes to one individual or an organization that has struggled for or contributed to the improvement and advancement of human rights, democracy and peace in their community and country. The Prize aims to promote the spirit of the May 18 Democratization Movement in which the people of Gwangju resisted against brutal military forces for the sake of democracy and human rights in 1980.

### 2. What is the referee?

The referee is someone who can endorse the Prize nomination submitted by a nominator. A nominator must designate one referee who knows well about the nominee and understand his/her/its main achievements.

When the May 18 Memorial Foundation needs further information or have any inquiry about the nominee it can contact both the nominator and the nominee.

### 3. The nominee is not from Asia. Is he/she/it still eligible for the Prize?

The Prize goes to one individual or an organization that has struggled for or contributed to the improvement and advancement of human rights, democracy and peace in their community and country, regardless of his/her/its nationality.

### 4. Can I nominate the chairperson of the organization I work presently?

An individual cannot be nominated by his/her own organization.

**5. What is the difference between the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights and the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award?**

Both the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights and the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award goes to one individual or an organization that has struggled for or contributed to the improvement and advancement of human rights, democracy and peace in their community and country. In particular, the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Special Award is aimed at awarding one individual or an organization that has worked in the field of culture, art, journalism and research.

**6. Is it possible to nominate 1 nominee for both the GPHR and the GPHR Special Award?**

A nominator can only choose 1 Prize and submit 1 nominee.

**7. I have integral information on the nominee. However, I do not fully understand what kind of reference I should submit for nomination. Is it the reference of nominator's organization or the reference of the nominee?**

If the nominee is an individual the reference must focus on his/her major achievements and important activities rather than his/her organizational activities. If an individual's work is deeply interlinked with his/her organization, nomination must describe his/her contribution to the organizational work in detail.

**8. I have integral information regarding the nominee. However, some supporting documents are not written in English. Can I submit those items?**

The nomination form and supporting documents must be submitted either Korean or English. It is highly appreciated if a nominator can provide supporting documents translated in English or Korean.

**9. When is the public announcement of the Prize winner?**

The Prize committee chooses a winner approximately after 60 days from the nomination deadline. The public announcement and press conference is usually held on April.

**10. Should all documents be sent by both e-mail and post?**

All documents should be sent either by email or post. If you send hard copies to the Foundation by post, please be sure you have included all requirements in one CD.

