



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS TULIP

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2010



er 2009: Shadi Sadr



in Rights Defenders
Award



er 2008:
e Masika Bihamba



ceremony 2009



of the Dutch Government

Human Rights Defenders

Human rights defenders work to promote and protect human rights in a peaceful manner. Among other activities, they document and publicise violations and call governments to account. They provide legal assistance and other types of support to victims of human rights violations. They campaign to achieve improvements in legislation and in the policies and practices of governments.

The commitment shown by human rights defenders is of crucial importance to the defence of human rights. Their work, however, may jeopardise the interests of powerful actors. Human rights defenders are therefore often at risk: targets of threats, harassment, physical violence and arrest.

Human Rights Defenders Tulip

To underline the importance of the work of human rights defenders and to provide them with moral support and visibility, the Dutch Government established the Human Rights Defenders Tulip.

This prize, which is awarded annually, aims to recognise individuals who have shown exceptional moral courage in protecting and promoting the rights of their fellow human beings. The prize consists of a statuette, an individual cash award of € 10,000 and the opportunity to submit a project proposal (maximum € 100,000) which contributes to the human rights work of the winner or her/his organisation. In addition, the winner is given the opportunity to meet with relevant stakeholders in Europe.



Selection Process

An independent jury is charged with selecting three finalists for the prize. From among these finalists, the winner is selected by the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Call For Nominations 2010

The call for nominations for the 2010 Human Rights Defenders Tulip award is now open. Please visit the Tulip website at www.humanrightstulip.org for the announcement.



Winner 2009: Shadi Sadr



Human Rights Defenders
Tulip Award



Winner 2008:
Justine Masika Bihamba



Award ceremony 2009



Award of the Dutch Government

Human Rights Defenders Tulip Award 2009: Shadi Sadr

The winner of the Human Rights Defenders Tulip 2009 was the Iranian Shadi Sadr. Ms. Sadr defends the rights of women in Iran, where she worked as a lawyer, journalist and researcher. In 2004, she set up Raahi, an organisation that seeks to improve women's rights. Raahi provides free legal assistance, particularly in family law cases, to women in positions of acute difficulty. In addition, Ms. Sadr is campaigning to abolish the practice of stoning to death in Iran. To this end, she co-founded the campaign 'Stop Stoning Forever.'

As a journalist, Ms. Sadr writes for magazines, newspapers and websites. She combines her legal and journalistic activities by regularly contributing critical articles about legal cases she has handled and about the way in which women are treated. For many years, she has been addressing taboo subjects such as domestic violence and bringing them out into the open. Ms. Sadr's peaceful efforts on behalf of others have incurred a backlash of incidents. She has received personal threats and her phone has been tapped. In 2005, the authorities banned her from leaving the country for a year. In March 2007 she was arrested and imprisoned. During the unrest surrounding the presidential elections in Iran on 12 June 2009, she was arrested and jailed for 11 days.

Secretariat

Human Rights Defenders Tulip
Chris Collier
Cornelis de Wittlaan 69 B
2582 AD The Hague
The Netherlands
e-mail: secretariat@humanrightstulip.org
tel: +31(0)634936026
fax: +31(0)70 3585867
www.humanrightstulip.org

