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Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize 2012

Since 1984

“The award given by lawyers to a lawyer”

The Ludovic-Trarieux Award 2012

to



Muharrem ERBEY

Muharrem Erbey, aged 40, is a lawyer who has since the late 1990s worked on human rights issues, for which he has gained international respect. He has represented a number of individuals whose cases have come to the European Court on Human Rights. In 2008 he became Vice President of the IHD, one of Turkey's most reputable human rights associations. On 24 December 2009, human rights lawyer and writer, Muharrem Erbey was arrested in Diyarbakir, south eastern Turkey. Commentators have referred to recent visits by Erbey to various European parliaments, including in Sweden, Belgium and the UK, where he spoke on Kurdish rights. He had also participated in a Kurdish film festival staged in Italy in late 2009.

Muharrem Erbey is since December 2009 placed currently in pre-trial detention in the notorious prison of Diyarbakir.

Created in 1984, the "International Human Rights Prize Ludovic -Trarieux" is awarded 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 ".

It is the oldest and most prestigious award given to a lawyer in the world. Often imitated or counterfeited, it remains the only European award in the scope of human rights whose funding is reserved for a lawyer. It commemorates the memory of the French lawyer, Ludovic Trarieux (1840-1904), who in the midst of the Dreyfus Affair, in France, in 1898, founded the " League for the Defence of Human Rights and the Citizen ", because, he said: " It was not only the single cause of a man which was to be defended, but behind this cause, law, justice, humanity ".

The first Prize was awarded on March 29th, 1985 to Nelson Mandela then in jail. It was officially presented to his daughter, Zenani Mandela Dlamini, on April 27th 1985, in front of forty presidents of Bars and Law Societies from Europe and Africa. It was the first award given to Mandela in France and the first around the world given by lawyers. On February 11th 1990, Nelson Mandela was released. Since then, it was decided that the Prize would be awarded again.

Since 2003, the Prize is 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, l'Unione forense per la tutela dei diritti dell'uomo (Roma), the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), Rechtsanwaltskammer Berlin, the Bar of Luxemburg and the European Bar Human Rights Institute (IDHAE) whose members are the biggest european law societies fighting for human rights. It is presented every year in a city that is home to one of the member Institutes.