

2025



1985-2025

«FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY - THIRTIETH PRIZE»



XXXth Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize

Prix International des droits de l'homme Ludovic-Trarieux
Premio Internacional de Derechos Humanos Ludovic Trarieux
Premio Internazionale per i Diritti Umani Ludovic Trarieux
Internationalen Ludovic-Trarieux-Menschenrechtspreis
Prêmio Internacional de Direitos Humanos Ludovic Trarieux
Ludovic Trarieux Internationale Menschenrechtenprijs
Международная премия Людовика-Трарье за права человека

Depuis/Since/Desde/Dal/Seit/Sinds 1984

Depuis/Since/Desde/Dal/Seit/Sinds 1984
“L'hommage des avocats à un avocat”
“The award given by lawyers to a lawyer”
“El homenaje de abogados a un abogado”
“L'omaggio degli avvocati ad un avvocato”
“Die Hommage von Anwälten zu einem Anwalt”
“Юристы отдают дань уважения юристу”



**« CE N'ETAIT
 PAS SEULEMENT D'AILLEURS LA CAUSE ISOLEE
 D'UN HOMME QUI ETAIT A DEFENDRE,
 C'ETAIT, DERRIERE CETTE CAUSE, LE DROIT, LA
 JUSTICE, L'HUMANITE »**

1985-2025

*They presented the
Ludovic Trarieux
Prize...*



Bruxelles 2011 – Viviane Reding



Bordeaux 1998 – Robert Badinter

Paris 2013 – Christiane Féral-Schuhl



Florence 2014 – Stephen L. Dreyfuss,
Président de l'UIA



Paris 2002- Guy Canivet



Bordeaux 2006 – Dean Spielmann

Berlin 2014 – Sabine Leutheusser-
Schnarrenberger,
Ministre de la Justice d'Allemagne



Rome 2008 – Franco Biondi



Luxembourg 2019 – Le bâtonnier Issouf
Baadgio, Président de l'UIA



La Brède2010 - Alain Rousset

2025

PARIS
Senate
Luxembourg Palace
November 13, 2025

On November 13, 2025, in Paris, at the French Senate, the Ludovic Trarieux International Prize was awarded to Russian lawyer Dmitry Talantov. Established in 1984 and first awarded to Nelson Mandela in 1985, this prize is presented annually by a jury of European lawyers to a lawyer who has distinguished themselves in the defense of human rights.

Dmitry Talantov was arrested in June 2022 for denouncing atrocities committed by Russian troops in Ukraine on social media, under the new law that punishes any public speech that does not conform to the official version of the war. In September 2022, he faced a new charge of inciting hatred against the Russian authorities by using his official position. In November 2024, he was sentenced to seven years in prison for "knowingly disseminating false information" about the Russian military.

The prize was presented to Dmitry Talantov's wife, Olga Talantova, who traveled from Udmurtia to represent her husband at the ceremony.

Yves Oschinsky, President of the Brussels Bar's Human Rights Institute, Anton Giulio Lana, President of the European Lawyers' Human Rights Institute (IDHAE), and Bertrand Favreau, President of the Trarieux Prize jury, conveyed the Jury's and the prize-giving members' tribute to Dmitry Talantov.

During the ceremony, Dominique Attias delivered a speech to the Istanbul Bar Association, which received the Jury's Special Mention for "Bar of the Year" for 2025.



Prix International des droits de l'homme Ludovic-Trarieux 2025

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Internationalen Ludovic-Trarieux-Menschenrechtspreis 2025

Prêmio Internacional de Direitos Humanos Ludovic Trarieux 2025

Premio Internazionale per i Diritti Umani Ludovic Trarieux 2025

Ludovic Trarieux Internationale Menschenrechtenprijs 2025

“The award given by lawyers to a lawyer”



Dmitry TALANTOV
RUSSIA

The 30th Ludovic Trarieux International Human Rights Prize 2025 was awarded on Friday, March 21, 2025, at the Berlin Rechtsanwaltskammer, in the first round of voting, to Russian lawyer Dmitry Talantov, former President of the Bar Association of the Udmurt Republic.

The jury*(see below) was composed of 25 European lawyers from the bars of Bordeaux, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, Luxembourg, and Geneva, as well as the International Union of Lawyers (UIA), the Unione forense per la tutela dei diritti dell'uomo (Rome), the Federation of Bars of Europe (FBE), and the Institute for Human Rights of European Lawyers (IDHAE).



1985-2025

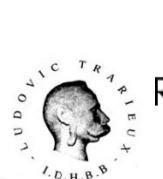
Each year, a tribute is paid to a lawyer from around the world.

In 1984, President Bertrand Favreau decided to award a prize to "a lawyer, regardless of nationality or bar association, who has exemplified, through their work, activity, or suffering, the defense of respect for human rights, the rights of the defense, the rule of law, and the fight against racism and intolerance in all their forms," under the name "International Human Rights Prize - Ludovic Trarieux."

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 Brussels, l'Unione Forense per la Tutela dei Diritti Umani (Roma), the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), Rechtsanwaltskammer Berlin, the Bar of Luxemburg, the Bar of Amsterdam, the European Bars Federation (FBE) and the European Bar Human Rights Institute (IDHAE).



RAK
Rechtsanwaltskammer
Berlin



Barreau
de Luxembourg



AMSTERDAMSE ORDE
VAN ADVOCATEN



Ordre des Avocats
Genève



**Presentation
of XXXth Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize
2025**

**Speech by Yves Oschinsky,
President of the Brussels Bar Human
Rights Institute.**

Conscience, courage, struggle.



Conscience, courage, struggle. These are the qualities of a lawyer that you magnificently embody, dear Dmitry Talantov, my very dear colleague.

Indeed, it took your conscience, your courage, and your struggle to express your opinion in several Facebook posts in 2022.

You posted a photo of a man standing in Red Square with a sign reading, "Ukraine - peace. Russia - reason, horror, shame, repentance. Putin - hell."

You wrote, as a caption: "And how can it be any different after the photos and videos from Kharkiv, Mariupol, Irpen, and Butcha? This is no longer fascism; these are extreme Nazi practices!" If, after this, the majority of my compatriots support the murderer Pou and his gang, I personally refuse to recognize them as human beings. People have the capacity for compassion. And these people are nothing but stupid and diabolical scum.

There is nothing here but the expression of an opinion. It is nothing more than freedom of expression. We ourselves, citizens of democracies supporting Ukraine, share your indignation. At home, we can say it and write it.

But you, in this Russian Federation trampling on fundamental rights, were arrested on June 28, 2022, at your home, in Yevsk, in the Republic of Udmurtia, of which you are the President.

You were already bothering, because there are countries where the Powers-keepers who do not support the government are annoying, especially if, like you, you were the lawyer of the journalist Ivan Safranov, whose previous lawyers had been harassed and suspended from their status as lawyers because they were campaigning for human rights.

Your client, deprived of your defense following your arrest, was sentenced on September 5, 2022 to 22 years in prison for high treason, in a trial held behind closed doors and without evidence against him.

You are placed in solitary confinement, which you will describe during your trial: « I have been in prison now for two and a half years. I have been in an isolation cell for two years, in a pitiful medieval cell, where the only amenities of civilization are toilets and a sink with water that flows non-stop. »

There is nothing here but the expression of an opinion. It is nothing more than freedom of expression.

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« I have been in prison now for two and a half years. I have been in an isolation cell for two years, in a pitiful medieval cell, where the only amenities of civilization are toilets and a sink with water that flows non-stop. »

You have health problems but the medical assistance you are seeking is denied.

You are the first convicted under Article 207.3, introduced in 2022 into the Criminal Law, punishing the public dissemination of knowingly false information about the use of the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

At the hearing, however, you stated:

« How could I knowingly make false and discredited statements that do not match the information of the Ministry of Defense, if the positions of the Ministry of Defense have not yet been published? »

Article 207.3 of the Russian Penal Code provides for very heavy penalties, punishing a non-violent offense with a penalty comparable to that of offenses such as murder. This article is criticized in the light of the Russian Constitution and the international obligations of the Russian Federation, as well as the fundamental principles of law.

The prosecutor asked for a 12-year prison sentence, and in your last word, you said:
« As for the 12-year prison sentence, it would be simpler to speak of 'life imprisonment' or 'death penalty'. It is according to the taste of each. »

I'm not trying to frighten you, I sometimes think that today it's not so scary to die, what is really scary is to live. But you have to live, I'm sure, you have to live. »

And you speak about what you are accused of:

« What can I say about this? Ultimately, it is also a matter of moral choice. I am told that I wrote these few words (my messages on social networks) out of hatred. What great feeling of hatred must this be to push a man not to kill, but to go to prison out of compassion for the dying? Of course, I could not ignore that all this could end for me as it ended. »

And on November 28, 2024, you are sentenced to 7 years of general prison colony, as well as a 4-year ban on running websites or Internet channels.

And then, through what must have been a sham of procedure, the Court of Appeal, by a judgment of October 31, 2025, reduced your sentence by 2 months.

We think of you and it is said that you face your conditions of detention with strength and courage. And here again, you force our admiration.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation had called for your acquittal and she cites you, in her recent report of 15 September 2025, as an example of the intensification of the persecution of lawyers in Russia.

You are a victim of the denial of the rule of law and your situation must be strongly denounced by the international community in order to obtain your release.

This is the whole meaning of your Ludovic Trarieux Award.

Yves Oschinsky

Speech by President Anton LANA,

Chairman UFTDU and IDHAE

“Freedom is like air: you only realise its value when it starts to disappear.”



These are the words of Piero Calamandrei, one of the most important Italian jurists of the last century, professor at the University of Florence, and mentor of my father, Mario Lana.

It is an honour and, at the same time, a profound responsibility for me to be here today, on behalf of the Unione Forense per la Tutela dei Diritti Umani (Italian Lawyers' Union for the Protection of Human Rights) and the Institut des Droits de l'Homme des Avocats Européens (Institute for Human Rights of European Lawyers), to pay tribute to lawyer Dmitry Talantov, winner of the 2025 Ludovic Trarieux Prize.

This award is a tribute that the international legal community reserves for those who, at

all times and in all places, have chosen to defend human dignity even at the cost of their own freedom.

Today, we honour a lawyer who decided not to remain silent in the face of injustice. Talantov has practised law as an instrument of freedom in a context where freedom has become a personal risk.

Talantov was, for a long time, president of the Bar Association of the Republic of Udmurtia (in Russia) and a prominent figure in the regional legal profession. He has always been very critical of the Russian government's persecution of lawyers and has also challenged his colleagues who have remained neutral in the face of this intimidating behaviour.

Talantov came to public attention when he joined the defence team of Ivan Safronov, a former journalist who worked for Russian newspapers and covered military and space issues. Safronov was sentenced in September 2022 to 22 years for high treason, in a trial that many international observers believe was motivated by his journalistic work and publications concerning the Russian military.

Talantov, meanwhile, took a stand against the invasion of Ukraine, expressing his views in several posts on social media, and was arrested on 28 June 2022 on the following charges: spreading “false information about the actions of the Russian armed forces abroad” (Article 207.3 of the Russian Criminal Code) and “incitement to hatred” (Article 282). In particular, Talantov, in contesting the invasion of Ukraine, denounced the atrocities committed by the Russians in places such as Bucha, Irpin and Mariupol.

The trial had characteristics that various international observers described as lacking transparency: prolonged pre-trial detention, the declared exclusion of the public in some parts, and the defendant's profession as a lawyer as justification for imprisonment.

On 28 November 2024, a Russian court sentenced Talantov to 7 years in a general penal colony and banned him from practising law for 4 years.

For this reason, his case concerns not only Russia, but all of us.

It concerns the very meaning of the role of a lawyer: to be, anywhere, the first bulwark between power and the individual, between arbitrariness and the law.

At a time when lawyers are called upon not only to interpret the law but also to safeguard its spirit, Talantov reminds us that the law is never neutral in the face of human rights violations.

He embodied the universal conscience that binds every lawyer in the world to the same oath: to defend dignity, unconditionally.

Today, while Dmitry Talantov cannot be here with us, his name resonates as a symbol of civil and moral resistance that transcends borders.

His voice, silenced in Russian courtrooms, echoes in this chamber, within the walls that preserve the memory of European freedoms.

We cannot ignore what is happening today in Russia, where numerous lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders are subjected to pressure, intimidation and unfair trials.

Like Talantov, they are paying the highest price for believing in the power of words, the law and the truth.

But this is precisely why the international legal community must be more united and vigilant than ever.

Every lawyer imprisoned for practising their profession is a blow to the universal rule of law.

Every time a human rights defender is silenced, silence envelops us all.

The Ludovic Trarieux Prize is not just a medal, nor is it an act of remembrance: it is an act of testimony.

Each year, with this award, the legal community reaffirms a simple but vital principle: that justice is not only an institution, but a moral vocation; that a lawyer is not a legal technician, but a guardian of freedom.

In Talantov, we find the strength of those who, even knowing they risk everything, have not given up defending others.

His example asks us not to look away, not to become accustomed to fear, never to accept that the law should become an accomplice of power.

Finally, allow me to express my gratitude and affection to Dmitry Talantov's wife, who is here today and whose presence bears witness to the continuity of a hope that no prison can extinguish.

Through her, may Dmitry receive our respect, our solidarity and the certainty that he is not alone.

His battle is ours; his strength belongs to us.

Today, in the name of Ludovic Trarieux, we remember that freedom is not defended once and for all, but every day, in every courtroom, in every word spoken for justice. And that the legal profession, when it remains faithful to its principles, is a supreme form of civil courage.

May this award be, for Dmitry Talantov, not only a recognition, but a message to the world: justice can be imprisoned, but it cannot be defeated.

**Speech by
Mr Bertrand FAVREAU
on behalf of the Jury**



Isn't celebrating a birthday always about bringing back memories? For some, they have the force of signs or symbols. For others, they are never just coincidences or coincidences. For the poet, they are only appointments. After all, everyone will choose their party.

Yet, as we hand over this 30th prize, could we refrain from redoing a journey that is still initiatory, yet retrospective and as moving as it is sad, the one that will have led us, at the end of 40 years, into a landscape that has always been revisited with destinies devastated by the suffering of others. We

had obviously left South Africa and we went to China twice. Coming from Zimbabwe we had to, twice again, go to Burma.

And even when we had to go as far as the times, to places considered lush but not very benevolent for real lawyers, whether in Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia or Cuba, we were confronted with the same distressing observation. We have also shared the servitudes and injustices that befall lawyers in Kazakhstan and Belarus, as well as in Syria, Libya, Egypt and Afghanistan, but also in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. And it is this same forced journey at the whim of so many rights despised, ignored, martyred that brings us back to Russia today, 15 years after Mrs. Karina Moskalenko, who came especially today among us and whom I like to greet on your behalf with as much gravity as respect at this moment.

But, are we in Russia to tell the truth? The Russia we know and love? Tonight, we must go further, further, further to the east, 1000 km east of Moscow, in Udmurtia, to the borders of the Urals, land of the borders by nature and par excellence. For us, seen from our elemental West but only in appearance, the Urals is the limes, it is the end of Europe, already another continent. In truth, most of us knew nothing about it until tonight, except the very present memory of Boris Pasternak's writings. Not the Boris Pasternak of Jivago, of course, not the Pasternak of the 1958 Nobel Prize, because all this was 30 years later... But of the young Boris Pasternak, the one of 1917, the one who knew how to bequeath to us at the whim of tetrameters in dactylic rhymes, his first emotion, as strange as brutal, during his discovery of the lands of the Urals, called « the Urals for the first time ». Unfortunately, illiterate of the Slavic languages that we are, we can only read it in French, to hope to find the fleeting shadow of the « great bronze massifs », the « ghosts of spruces, « fuliginous water », « the veil embroidered with gold and stones, snow and frost »... Pasternak too,

would experience persecution, prison, then exile. But all this is, one might say, a matter of poets.

The capital of Udmurtia is Izhevsk. The world does not know it either, except for its gun and shotgun factories. But she is also famous for one of her children whose name has become so famous, that it is today a common name that everyone pronounces with fear or dread. Because, the most famous citizen of Ijevsk because he died there in 2013, is called Mikhail Kalashnikov. Yet Izhevsk, for us, is and will remain more the city of Dmitry and Olga Talantov. Because that's where they both practiced their fine profession as lawyers.

In a very short time, Dmitry Talantov had tried, it is true, the profession of judge, but he had then understood that one can engage in the practice of law only in a free exercise. The law needs freedom. His reputation as a lawyer and his spirit of independence had soon crossed the borders of Udmurtia. He had become the president of the bar. This is probably why in 2021, in a crucial phase of the trial, he was appointed as a lawyer by the journalist of the independent daily *Kommersant*, Ivan Ivanovitch Safronov, accused since 2020 of « state treason ». He appeared to be criticized for allegedly passing on allegedly secret – albeit publicly accessible – information to Czech intelligence agencies. Dmitry Talantov thus became the defender of the last hope and certainly, it took a great courage to accept the cause that would change his life.

Last hope certainly. For, to tell the truth, since his arrest, Safronov had seen all the bad luck – unless it was the FSB's special attention – fall on him and his previous lawyers. His first advice had never had the right to access the documents in the file. Moreover, both the substance of the charges and the charges had to remain secret and the first condition for being admitted as a lawyer by the Federal Security Service was to give a solemn undertaking not of confidentiality but in reality of secret procedure and those who had agreed to defend him were hunted down, prosecuted and persecuted.

Just one month after Safronov's arrest in August 2020, the Ministry of Justice sent the St. Petersburg Bar Association a request—there will be others—for the disbarment of one of its previous lawyers, Ivan Petrovich Pavlov—which should not be confused in any way, even by reflex, with another Ivan Pavlov, who was his doctor. This Pavlov there led a well-known defense collective in Russia, "Komanda 29" - or Team 29 - a free partnership of lawyers, journalists and activists who also defended the foundations of Alexei Navalny, prosecuted for "extremism". Ivan Pavlov had refused to sign a so-called modestly non-disclosure declaration. In a word, he refused to be silenced and used as an alibi or hostage in a covert prosecution.

From then on, Ivan Pavlov could only be arrested at every moment and in fact he was arrested in April 2021, in Moscow where he had been forced to go to try to defend his client. Faced with the silence that was opposed to him, he had considered in the interest of his client, to have to at least make public the litany of arbitrary accusations articulated against the prisoner of state. First released, then prosecuted, relentlessly hunted down and under threat of radiation, Ivan Pavlov had no other way out in the fall of 2021 than to flee Russia to take refuge in Georgia. Safronov's other lawyer, Yevgeny Smirnov, also had to leave Russia for Georgia a few weeks later after a « disciplinary » investigation was opened against him. It was, in fact, a professional investigation of a special nature for a lawyer: it was conducted by the Federal Security Service with the aim of feeding the disciplinary file of the bar. Pavlov and Smirnov had in fact lasted only a few months. They had lost their careers

and their homeland there.

Certainly, from his first steps on the file, Dmitry Talantov was in no way unaware of what awaited him. As soon as the threats began, he knew that he would, like his predecessors, enter an uninterrupted maze of pitfalls, suffering and advances, especially since the fate of his two colleagues already announced the worst.

Against the lawyers, the hunt follows more subtle meanderings. It is permanent, nagging, obsessive as if too direct, too brutal measures could be too gentle. Monitored, tracked, the lawyer, the journalist and the activist are exposed every day more to be placed on the list of « foreign agents ». Admittedly, the measure introduced in its current regime in 2012 had initially only affected human rights organizations collectively. Most often, it was a question of stifling them, preventing them from acting and denouncing them, but also obviously of eradicating them slowly but inevitably. But from 2020, it is a weapon of individual destruction that has been pointed directly at the heads of lawyers. To be registered, to be on the list of « foreign agents », is to be subjected on a daily basis to the full range of measures of prevention and discrimination of the law. It is to be marked, designated, denigrated, to suffer a withering, as it was claimed, in France, to inflict them on slaves in the eighteenth century.

« Foreign agent » is supreme disqualification, red iron, stigmatization and a professional death warrant. The lawyer on the list must now, in all his professional acts, follow his name and title with an additional line: « foreign agent ». Everyone therefore understands that this lawyer does not have long to maintain the trust of his clients and the consideration of his judges. The greatest jurist can't resist it. Especially since the measure of opprobrium, the lawyer also ends up most often being condemned and finally disbarred by his peers, even if sometimes we have seen some aspirations for independence which are only a facade resistance. During exile, persecution continues. Ivan Pavlov was declared a foreign agent and disbarred long after he left for Georgia.

Safronov's new lawyer accepted to be eventually threatened. Because he was a lawyer. Not only did he stay, but he continued to defend. However, he did not have time to know the fate of his predecessors. He experienced worse and faster: prison. The destiny of men is inseparable from history in which events that escape them are projected inexorably. And one day for Talantov, the moral duty of every human being came to prevail over the legal obligations of the lawyer. Unless, in reality, they're always one.

We know that all too well. On the morning of February 24, 2022, the Russian armed forces invaded Ukraine. This is the beginning of the « special military operation ». Special – the word far from sweetening makes you shudder – especially since special, it turns out to be. One day, Dmitry Talantov finds himself faced with the brutal revelation prompted by photos, reports and testimonies demonstrating at will the procession of abuses of the soldiers of the Russian army in Bucha, Mariupol, Kharkiv or Irpen, he understands that this army resulting from the glorious patriotic army of 1812 and the Great Patriotic Army of 1944, is indubitably engaged in crimes, at least war and can be even worse, under the guise of a « special operation » and that it perpetrates certain acts than those committed in certain circumstances of which the Second World War has transmitted to us so many examples as unbearable as inexcusable.

And, as the slow investigation of the Sofronov case continues and the noose has already tightened against Dmitry Talantov, here he is, confronted with a terrible case of conscience. For him, it is no longer a question of censorship or prohibition, of freedom to say or not to say, it is a revolt that deafens the depths of himself and that transforms and transports his being.

But he was faced with a prohibition of the law while everything in him urged him to speak, or even to shout. Eternal dilemma of the lawyer as of the human being. He wanted to talk, but there was a law. The terrible new law of paragraph two of article 270.3 of the Criminal Code, the law adopted just a few months earlier, a week after the start of the total war in Ukraine, which specifically forbade talking about it.

In advance, the law criminalized any publication of false information about the use of Russian armed forces abroad and executions by Russian government bodies, committed on grounds of enmity or hatred. However, any information not validated by the Kremlin is deemed “false” and disseminated “for reasons of enmity or hatred”.

But Talantov was willing to expose himself to the law. But it would probably be too simple, too elementary, to reduce one's choice to a demand for freedom of expression. Talantov's assumed torment was of an otherwise more essential quintessence. At the heart of this ontological conflict for a jurist, yet a law-abiding servant by definition, between his will for freedom and the laws promulgated. Talantov was finally alone as in this hermeneutic dialog that everyone knows between the priest and the famous K. in the no less famous chapter « at the cathedral », of the trial of Kafka.

Vor dem Gezetz. Under the law, we must choose and therefore not wait. Choose before a door closes. Because Kafka tells us that this is a personal door that will only open once.

Beyond the indescribable courage, there was certainly strength and panache on the part of this president in his messages against the horrors of the war thus launched to his contemporaries from the city of Kalashnikov. Previously, it is true, an administrative procedure had been opened against Talantov for one of these articles in which he dared to write that the partisans of the war had no place in a judicial profession but in truth is of such banality that it had almost gone unnoticed. But this time, his colleagues were watching and denounced him so that he could be prosecuted. For not keeping quiet despite the prohibition of the law when a mass violation of human life was at stake.

And on June 28, 2022, as the trial of his client Safronov will open in a few weeks, Dmitry Talantov was arrested.

June 28. Terrible echo. From date to date. 50 years later. Suddenly, what we call in French a flashback comes up, and we, a reminiscence. Here is a curious coincidence – or sad anniversary that returns this 28th of June of sinister memory. A memory that projects us 50 years back, day to day. It was June 28, 1972. That day, another lawyer was confronted with a law that defended, against a law that wanted to silence, against the law that also punishes violating it. Oh, it was only a procedural law, certainly, and he was not in prison for it. But that lawyer, too, had little time to choose. And after a long debate, he had chosen to break the law, in this case the law

that could allow to kill the one who, he had not killed. On that day, He had chosen to break the law in the light of the necessity that was imposed on him, in the name of another law of higher essence, to try to respect a higher human principle: the requirements of truth and the right of every being to life.

This lawyer was, of course, Robert Badinter, on the day he argued before the Assize Court of the Aube department in the trial of Roger Bontemps. The prosecution was about to ask the jury for the death penalty. The law, the code of criminal procedure, prohibited the lawyer, on pain of being prosecuted, from referring to an annulled expert report that established that his client was not a murderer. Faced with the reversal of an expert shedding his previous conclusions and facing an announced death sentence, Robert Badinter did not waver. He chose to expose himself. For a lawyer must also know how to violate the internal norm when a law of higher essence comes to impose itself on him, that of humanity. His act led to a suspension of the trial, the suppression of the truth but also against himself a judgment of the Court sending him back to face disciplinary proceedings.

We know what comes next. The final report, the report that could exempt an accused person from death, is not part of the proceedings. And the next day, - everyone knows the story - June 29 - Roger Bontemps whose expert had said he had not killed was sentenced to death. On that day, contrary to the verse of Guillaume Apollinaire, only the Aube department was defeated by twilight. For from then on, another story began that would lead from the Execution to the Repeal. Robert Badinter would win the fight begun. A man's fate would defeat the forces of darkness.

For Dimtry Talentov, all other things unequal, it was obviously the life and death of the men who were in question and who determined his choice, but the stake for him was obviously not only disciplinary. On 28 June, he was immediately transferred from Ijevsk to Moscow before being remanded in custody by the Cheryomushki District Court. Temporary? – at least one could think so – since at least until Safronov's trial, before his transfer, he had undergone searches in four premises linked to him, including his home and the office of the President of the Udmurtia Bar Association, and he had been able to see the documents, notes and other documents relating to Safronov's defense, carefully scrutinized before being confiscated and piled into the luggage of the police officers before disappearing forever.

For the FSB, the five messages of April were a godsend without rivals. Now he was definitely at their mercy, both the lawyer and the client. Safronov was now defenseless two months before his trial and Talantov caught in their net.

Two months later, on September 5, 2022, in Moscow, Ivan Safronov, deprived of a lawyer, was sentenced to 22 years in prison for "high treason", the heaviest sentence that Russian courts have come to hand down and in general only in cases of murder. Until the investigation is complete, the Federal Security Service will have kept the charges completely secret: it will have only had to remove the lawyers from the case. Locked up, Talantov had to endure the daily life of the prison regime within the penal colony. The slow and inexorable prison torture he has been subjected to for more than three years. He described it himself. A few months after his arrest, he was placed in an isolation cell, a « pitiful medieval cell », where the only « amenities of civilization » were toilets and a washbasin with water that ran constantly. In addition, there are holes in the wall above the door, a loudspeaker is mounted there to broadcast the instructions for using a gas mask that are read in a loop by an actor with a voice as enthusiastic as sound. Every evening at bedtime, the national anthem

is played in powerful loudspeakers before the continuous night stream of state radio sets in. He is not allowed to sleep because of the torture of patriotic decibels. Sleeping remains a hope that is always in vain because, although it does have a space for this purpose, generously described as a « berth », it is in reality only a vulgar board on which it is possible to lie down for no more than two to three hours. The description will be stopped here. A French citizen, however, will force himself to be restrained at the moment to evoke medieval cells worthy of Ivan's era, says the terrible, since he knows only too well that his own country shares with Russia, in number as in diagnosis, the overwhelming and redundant condemnations of the European Court of Human Rights because of the state of its prisons.

So, trying to get away (is it possible in this case?), one would easily be tempted to find refuge with detachment in Dostoevsky. It is true that in France one cannot help but mention his name when it comes to confinement. But no, unfortunately, Fedor Dostoyevsky, if he has certainly taught us that « the justice of humans can only lead to injustices », - this could provide here as elsewhere a relevant subject of reflection and close the debate - Dostoyevsky has never written – as one tries to repeat tirelessly but not without ending up tiring, in an agreed but unusable maxim on the occasion of any special criminal law colloquium in France and the United Kingdom - that one « can only judge the degree of civilization of a nation by visiting its prisons », formulates also declined according to other variants. He didn't write it, even about the Tobolsk prison or the Omsk prison. Neither in the Memories of the House of the Dead, nor in Crime and Punishment, or even in the Idiot. After all, anyone can continue the search.

Thus Dostoevsky, as in France Saint-Exupéry, Clemenceau or Albert Camus seems condemned to endorse the paternity of a cohort of apophthecies and other orphan maxims that their lips have never spoken and that their pen has never written. But perhaps he could have said it so clearly that the judgment is exemplary or that « the sentence is magnificent », as Victor Hugo would have said—which one cannot help but quote when one evokes Robert Badinter. The sentence, even without an author, certainly expresses an irrebuttable truth.

Dmitry Talantov, meanwhile, chose to refer stoically to another, more contemporary Russian author, the poet Joseph Brodsky. He, too, had been imprisoned in the Arkhangelsk Oblast before being released and sentenced to exile in the United States where he died. He too had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1987, coincidentally? - 30 years after Boris Pasternak, before finding eternal rest today in the San Michele cemetery of Venice, somewhere between Diaghilev and Stravinsky. Talantov likes to quote him, repeating his striking definition of the prison in the form of a joke, halfway between Cioran and Óscar Wilde: « the prison is a lack of space compensated by an excess of time ». [...] Every minute kills, and every minute over there is an hour. »

After more than 30 months in detention, two years after Safronov's final conviction on 18 November 2024, Dmitry Talantov was in turn sent back to court. Before the court of Udmurtia, in Ichesk, his court, the one before which he had practiced his profession, with which he had exercised the functions of president. Neither to the court, nor to the prosecutor who was demanding 12 years in prison for the five messages, he did not want to express regret. Because he doesn't regret anything. Or rather, if he asked for forgiveness, it was only to his wife Olga. Before taking the time, from his glass cage, which wanted to gag him more and more, to exhale as a last cry barely muffled: « Olga, I love you! »

Ten days later, the judges before whom he had so often appeared sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment in a general-regime penal colony, depriving him for four years of the right to engage in the full range of activities related to electronic, information and telecommunications networks.

His appeal against this conviction was raised just a few days ago in a court on 28 October. No doubt to justify the principle of its existence and by virtue of what occult criteria are unknown, she meticulously calculated that the lost honor of the Russian armed forces could after all be sufficiently cleansed with 20 days less imprisonment for Dmitry Talantov. She hit him with six years and 10 months of penal colony. 82 months instead of 84 months...

Faced with the butchery of Butcha, the killing of Mariupol, the excesses of Kharkiv or the genius of Irpen, Dmitry Talantova thought that no law could be legitimate to chain the courage of a man—even a lawyer—to remain silent and agree to hide the truth. It is sometimes said, following the precept of a famous Geneva philosopher, that: « Consciousness is the voice of the soul ». Thus the voice of Dmitry Talantov will have been the consciousness of the eternal soul of the Russian people as we love them so much and that nothing will ever destroy.

Also, do not doubt it, Madame, beyond the trial of too long a time, the darkness of Joseph Brodsky's shrunken cell will cease and the rediscovered Urals of the young Pasternak of twenty years will give birth again to the light, the fuliginous dawn that he breathed will reappear and the ghosts of the spruces will become alive and free again. Other men then, will start again to stretch out crowns to the fir trees, to summon them to proclaim themselves kings. And Dmitry Talantov, you can be sure, will be remembered by the people of his country and by others.

That is why we are happy and proud to put back, now, in your hands, exactly 40 years after Nelson Mandela-Symbole? Or rather Rendez-vous, as Paul Éluard would have said, – this XXXth prize which bears the name of Ludovic-Trarieux.

Bertrand Favreau

Presentation of XXXth Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize 2025



2025

**Speech by
Dmitry Talantov,
Prize-winner of the Ludovic-Trarieux
International Human Rights Prize2025**

On November 13, 2025, the Ludovic Trarieux International Human Rights Prize was awarded to Olga Talantova, the lawyer and wife of Dmitry Talantov. The speech written by Dmitry Talantov, translated into French, was read at the award ceremony on November 13, 2025.



About the will to compassion

Dear colleagues, who have honored me with the Louis Trarier Award!

Of course, I would like to say these words personally, standing in front of you, but the Motherland holds me in a loving motherly embrace. For some time now, after a couple of things I've written about compassion and the war of words, I've become especially dear to her.

However, it would be ungrateful of me to complain about fate - it is a privilege and a tremendous responsibility that has fallen to my lot to address you, even epistolarily, and perhaps to be heard by many people, including my compatriots, granted to me by the strange merit of my imprisonment. And from this point of view, I should be grateful to my Homeland.

In my speech, I am unlikely to be able to formulate and express an independent thought or emotion that was not expressed before me. Only thoughts and feelings that live by combined human effort, eternally moving from person to person, are the only source of our existence.

I am talking about existence as such, I am talking about the existence of the human world, because we do not know of another world and another existence. And I'm talking about today's tragic time. A time of senseless wars.

Descartes said, «Cogito ergo sum». «I think, therefore I exist». But the time has come when I no longer just present my thinking as proof of my own existence, but also exist only insofar as I, personally, as a person and as a part of humanity, am able to feel, think and act righteously and courageously.

Today, this is no longer an abstract speculation, but a crushing and final reality, due to the yawning abyss. Because today, more than ever before, no one is an island. We can only be saved together. And to die, too, only together, numb with fear and the petrified insensibility and thoughtlessness it engendered. Thinking, feeling, acting - it's the same thing today, it doesn't work separately.

These are the realities of our new quantum world, connected as never before with each of our human particles, the physical existence of which depends entirely on me and on each of us individually.

That's why I'm going to talk about compassion and cowardice, indifference and courage.

We've let the mad dog of war loose, and he's going berserk. As I write this, rockets, bombs, and drones have killed and maimed several more children. Today, this has probably happened in Ukraine and Palestine. Tomorrow, if we don't come to our senses, the address of the tragedy is everywhere.

A few days ago, I finished writing an appeal against my sentence. Sometimes I felt like I was doing pointless work.

It is not an easy task to write from the depths of three and a half years of solitary confinement, from a stinking stone bag. To talk about obvious things yesterday, and now, as it seems, hopeless things in the dead language of law, to speak in front of the deaf and dumb, to talk while looking at the wall written by the prisoners who were here before changing. It feels more than a little strange, more like flagellancy than law.

I've often thought - maybe I should just drop everything to hell, maybe I should just clench my teeth and keep quiet? What feelings can I evoke with my complaint, if it is even possible to evoke any feelings? Except maybe dislike. People should not be reminded of their weakness, much less be expected to be almost heroic.

The law allowed to be used in my country has shrunk to the limits of the internal regulations of the detention facility. For a long time, people were told that they had no right to their own dignity, and people believed it. They believed it because people were scared. People are intimidated.

But the complaint was completed. It so happened that Romain Rolland's "Jean-Christophe" miraculously appeared in my cell. And I did a strange thing for a lawyer - I prefaced the complaint with an epigraph from the novel:

«It is possible and should be tolerant and humane, but it is unacceptable to doubt what you consider to be truth and goodness. Protect what you believe in. No matter how insignificant our forces are, we cannot retreat». Everything fell into place. It was a categorical imperative - love and fight. Because my case is not criminal or even political, my case is moral. So it's not my personal business. I signed it.

The Jerusalem verdict in the case of Nazi executioner Eichmann says that the degree of proximity of any of the criminals to the direct perpetrator of the murder does not mean anything. On the contrary, the degree of responsibility of the criminal increases as he moves away from the person who uses the instrument of death with his own hands. This is quite understandable already because any perpetrator, not to mention a soldier, risks his head, he is in plain sight, he is partly enslaved, and this already becomes, if not an excuse, then at least at least, an argument to mitigate his future responsibility.

This is not the case, for example, with the instigator of the cause of war, who is sometimes hypocritical, cowardly and sophisticated.

And in general, isn't cowardly indifference a disguised form of such incitement, even if not of a legal, but of a moral nature?

«Cowardice is undoubtedly one of the most terrible vices». That's what Bulgakov's Yeshua Ha-Nozri said.

«No, philosopher, I object to you, - replied the repentant Pilate, - this is the most terrible vice».

This is true, because the vice of cowardice is insinuating and childishly excusable in its apparent helplessness. That's why he's scary.

But I think that for the most part, the indifference generated by cowardice is also a hidden will to kill, with which a coward takes revenge on existence for his own insignificance. This becomes especially clear in dark times like ours.

But here is a great and salutary truth: «What people vaguely feel and what terrifies them is the coward's own guilt in being a coward. People would like to be born cowards and heroes.... But a coward makes himself a coward, and a hero makes himself a hero. There is always an opportunity for a coward to not be a coward, and for a hero to stop being a hero. But what counts is total determination». Jean-Paul Sartre.

Perhaps this is the whole essence of human dignity and freedom - you need to pull yourself together. Just pull yourself together and thereby find your true humanity. Because no one has gone so far down the path of sin that they don't at least try to return.

And then one of two things happens: either we stop being cowards and realize our will to compassion, or a general and final catastrophe awaits us.

I hope we can do this. Anyway, the dramatic existence of humanity has been going on for quite a long time, but strangely enough, there are still decent people among us. The problem is that today we are too close to the point of moral and technological bifurcation, when a further increase in callousness will end with «either an explosion or a sob».

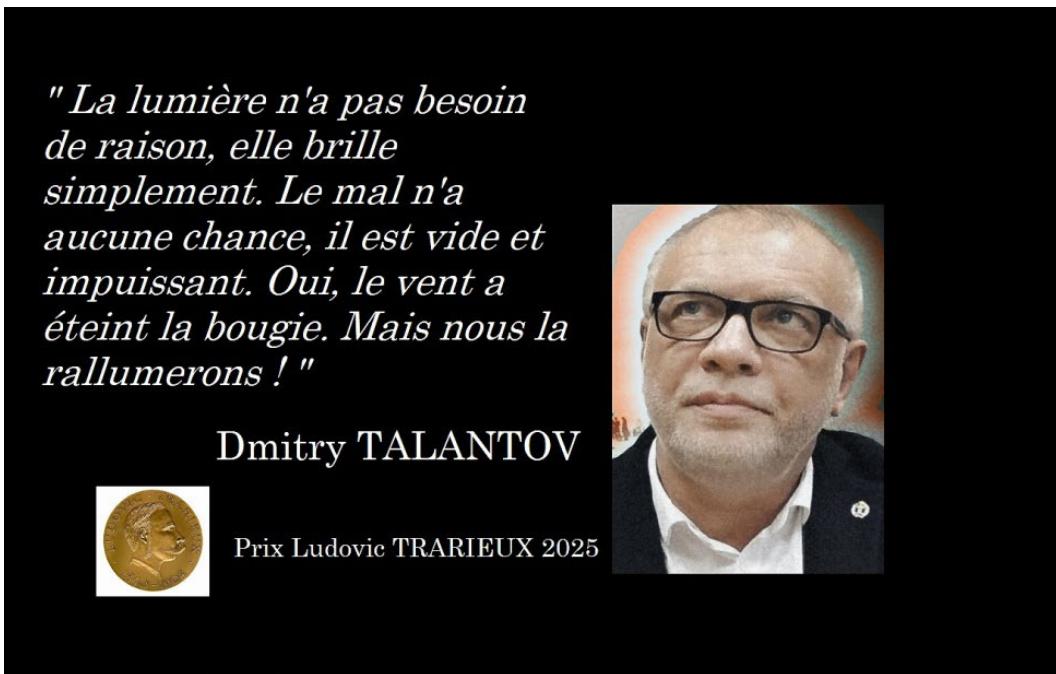
And if that's the case, why don't we remember Pascal's famous bet? Betting on eternal life against imminent death, throwing into the balance those few and disgusting benefits that were bought at the price of our criminal cowardice, received by us in return for human sacrifices, in return for the blood and future of our children - this is the only reasonable bet, even regardless of the possible outcome of the game.

This is the bet on the existence of God.

Thank you.

/signature/ *Talantov Dmitrii Nikolaevich*

Dmitriy Talantov



A Tribute to Istanbul Barosu

BARREAU DE L'ANNEE 2025 – BAR OF THE YEAR 2025

The Jury's Special Mention: "BAR OF THE YEAR 2025," awarded annually to a bar association that has distinguished itself for its commitment to the independence of lawyers, its exemplary fight for the rule of law, and for the suffering endured in the service of human rights, is awarded to the ISTANBUL BAR ASSOCIATION - ISTANBUL BAROSU



Madame Dominique ATTIAS
Ancienne vice-bâtonnière du barreau de Paris,
Présidente de la Fondation des Avocats Européens

"The Istanbul Bar Association, legal conscience and torchbearer of freedom"

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear colleagues,

To speak of the Istanbul Bar today is to evoke much more than a professional institution. It is to pay tribute to a collective conscience, a centuries-old tradition of defending rights, and a courageous voice that has never been silenced in the face of injustice.

Founded in 1878, on April 5 to be precise (now celebrated as "Lawyers' Day") the Istanbul Bar Association is one of the oldest and most powerful bar associations in the world.

With more than 65,772 lawyers registered as of December 31, 2024, including 34,532 women and 31,240 men, it embodies the diversity, vitality, and complexity of contemporary Turkish society.

In a metropolis that is both a crossroads of civilizations and a mirror of the tensions of the modern world, the Istanbul Bar Association has always chosen its side: that of law, justice, and freedom.

Its history is one of courage and resistance.

Since its creation, the Istanbul Bar Association has distinguished itself through its unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

Even during the Ottoman Empire, its members advocated for independent justice and equality before the law.

During periods of crisis in the Turkish Republic, faced with coups, restrictions on freedoms, and political trials, the Istanbul Bar Association was often the last voice of legal reason.

It defended journalists, activists, judges, and ordinary citizens.

It dared to denounce violations of fundamental rights, even when this meant exposing itself to repression or marginalization.

And each time, it reiterated a simple but essential truth: "Without free lawyers, there is no free justice."

At the head of this iconic bar association today is Professor Lawyer Ibrahim Özden Kaboglu, elected in 2024.

An internationally renowned constitutionalist, former member of parliament, and respected academic,

he embodies both the rigor of a jurist and the vision of a thinker.

His career path is that of a man deeply committed to the Constitution, democracy, and human dignity.

Persecuted on several occasions for his positions, President Kaboglu has never given up defending the principle of the rule of law over power.

Under his presidency, the Istanbul Bar Association continues this tradition of independence, stepping up its efforts to protect threatened lawyers, support fair trials, and remind the authorities that the bar is not a regulatory body, but a countervailing power.

The Istanbul Bar Association is a compass in the eye of the storm. In recent years, there have been numerous attempts to weaken Istanbul Barosu legislative reforms undermining the unity of bar associations, legal proceedings against its leaders, political pressure, disinformation campaigns... have followed one another without relent.

But far from being intimidated, the Istanbul Bar Association has responded with the firmness of the law and moral strength.

Even today, the President of the Istanbul Bar Association and its Council are being prosecuted in criminal court for "terrorist propaganda" and

"disseminating misleading information."

The crime committed: a statement by the Bar Association calling for the application of international humanitarian law and the opening of an investigation into two Turkish journalists (Nazim Dastan and Cihan Bilgin) who were victims of a Turkish drone attack in Rojava (Syria on December 19, 2024) The next hearing will take place in Silivri in early January (starting on January 5).

We will undoubtedly be there in large numbers because the international community, from bar associations to lawyers, from the Council of Europe to Amnesty International, has reaffirmed and continues to reaffirm its support for the Istanbul Bar Association, an institution that is so essential to Turkish democracy.

A civil trial to remove the President of the Bar and 10 members of the Bar Council also took place, resulting in the removal of the President of the Bar and his Bar Council, fortunately without provisional enforcement.

Of course, an appeal is underway, and we will be there by their side. The Istanbul Bar Association is a school of collective courage:

It gives voice to thousands of lawyers who, every day, plead not only for their clients, but also for the very idea of justice.

By honoring the Istanbul Bar Association, we pay tribute to the noblest aspects of the legal profession:

the refusal to remain silent, loyalty to the truth, and the tireless defense of freedom.

Their struggle is not a local struggle, it is a universal struggle. It reminds us that justice is not given, but a constant conquest and that bar associations around the world are the guardians of that conquest.

My dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

May we, like the Istanbul Bar Association, stand tall when the law falters, speak out when silence is imposed, and always defend, whatever the cost, the foundations of our profession and our humanity: justice and the rule of law.

Thank you.

Dominique Attias



ANSWER

Mr Baskani Ibrahim KABOGLU,
Istanbul Barosu Baskani

İstanbul,
Sayı,



Monsieur le Bâtonnier, Monsieur le Président du Jury,

Au nom de l'Ordre des avocats d'Istanbul, je tiens à vous remercier très chaleureusement pour l'attribution de la « Mention Spéciale » du Jury – Barreau de l'Année 2025 – à notre Barreau.

Cette distinction, dont nous mesurons pleinement la valeur et la portée, constitue un encouragement précieux pour notre engagement constant en faveur de l'indépendance des avocats, de l'État de droit et de la défense des droits humains.

Nous sommes profondément honorés par cette reconnaissance et vous assurons de notre gratitude.

S'agissant de la cérémonie du 13 novembre prochain, nous espérons pouvoir vous donner réponse dans les meilleurs délais.

Veuillez croire, Monsieur le Bâtonnier, Monsieur le Président du Jury, à l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Av. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Ö. KABOĞLU
Bâtonnier d'Istanbul

Le 8 octobre 2025

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“The award given by lawyers to a lawyer”

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