



STIFTELSEN
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HARALD EDELSTAM

The Edelstam Prize Nomination Committee

Chair of the Nomination Committee

Ambassador Jan Axel Nordlander, Sweden's former Ambassador for Human Rights



Mr. Jan Axel Nordlander, Swedish Ambassador for Human Rights (2005-10), has a background in the Foreign Office, from 1974 to 2010. Mr. Jan Axel Nordlander has also served in the Ministry of Education, of Engineering Sciences and the Swedish Institute. Mr. Jan Axel Nordlander served in Tunis, New York and Amman, was the acting consul general in Jerusalem, a minister in New Delhi, Ambassador in Damascus and Beirut, the head of MFA's Middle East Unit, ambassador to Bangkok, Phnom Penh, Yangon and Vientiane.

Mr. Jan Axel Nordlander has also been deputy head of Sweden's delegation to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and the EU's chief negotiator in the dialogues, including China and Russia on human rights during the Swedish presidency in 2009. In spring of 2010 Mr. Jan Axel Nordlander retired and now works as a consultant in business intelligence, specializing in missions including Page and Hammar skjöld Foundation.

Professor Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm, a prominent philosopher of Syrian origin striving for intellectual freedom and freedom of speech



Mr. Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm is a Professor Emeritus of Modern European Philosophy at the University of Damascus in Syria. Mr. Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm has been a visiting professor in the department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University until 2007. Mr. Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm area of specialization was the philosophy of Immanuel Kant with a more current emphasis upon the Islamic world and its relationship to the West, and Mr. Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm has contributed to the discourse of "Orientalism" Mr. Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm is also known as a human rights advocate and a champion of intellectual freedom and free speech. Mr. Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm grew up in the well-known Damascene Sunni land-owning family of al-Azm. During the Ottoman Empire when Greater Syria which had been acquired in 1516, was ruled by the cosmopolitan Turkish Empire, the Al-Azm family had risen to prominence by the eighteenth century. Al-Azm was schooled in Beirut, Lebanon earning the B.A. in Philosophy from the American University of Beirut (1957). Al-Azm earned the M.A. (1959) and Ph.D.(1961) from Yale University majoring in Modern European Philosophy. Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm was born in Damascus, Syria, in 1934.

Ms Silvia Escobar, Human Rights Ambassador, Spain



Ms Silvia Escobar founded the Spanish Section of Amnesty International. Ms Silvia Escobar set up the Human Rights Office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Madrid. Ms Silvia Escobar organized the social services of the Spanish Red Cross. Ms Silvia Escobar has actively sought to understand and resolve drug-related problems. Ms Silvia Escobar will not rest until there are no causes left. Ms Silvia Escobar was born on September 13th, 1943 in Madrid.

Professor Yashi Ghai, scholar in constitutional law and former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Cambodia



Mr. Yashi Ghai is a scholar in constitutional law. As of 2007 Mr. Yashi Ghai is the head of the Constitution Advisory Support Unit of the United Nations Development Programme in Nepal. Until 2008, Mr. Yashi Ghai was a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Cambodia on human rights. In September 2008, Mr. Yashi Ghai resigned his post, following bitter arguments with the Government of Cambodia. Mr. Yashi Ghai has been a Fellow of the British Academy since 2005. Mr. Yashi Ghai was the Sir YK Pao Professor of Public Law at the University of Hong Kong starting in 1989. Mr. Yashi Ghai has been an Honorary Professor there since his retirement in 1995. Prior to that, Mr. Yashi Ghai taught and did research in law at the University of Warwick, Uppsala University in Sweden, the International Legal Center in New York, and Yale Law School. Mr. Yashi Ghai has also taught courses at the University of Wisconsin Law School, as part of an exchange program. Mr. Yashi Ghai was the Chairman of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (which attempted to write a modern constitution for Kenya) from 2000 to 2004. Mr. Yashi Ghai has also advised and assisted NGOs on human rights law-related work. Mr. Yashi Ghai drafted the Asian Human Rights Charter—A People's Charter a project of the Asian Human Rights Commission. Mr. Yashi Ghai grandparents came from North India, and were part of the waves of migration sponsored by the British Empire. Mr. Yashi Ghai's father sent Mr. Yashi Ghai to Oxford to study. Mr. Yashi Ghai has written several books on law in Africa, the Pacific islands, and elsewhere. Mr. Yashi Ghai was born 1938 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Deputy Tucapel Jiménez, member of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies' Commission for Human Rights



Mr. Tucapel Jiménez is an electrical engineer running the Chilean political ties to the Party for Democracy (PPD). Tucapel Jiménez has been member of parliament since 2005. Mr. Tucapel Jiménez currently serves as deputy (Independent pro-PPD) in the period between the years 2006-2010 parliamentary and electoral district No. 27 for the El Bosque, La Cisterna and San Ramon. The first year he was Chairman of the Committee DD.HH. Mr. Tucapel Jimenez is the son of a union leader murdered by the Pinochet dictatorship. Mr. Tucapel Jimenez Alfaro is a famous defender of human rights in Chile, through the trial in court for the murder of his father and active contributor to other causes. Mr. Tucapel Jimenez Alfaro is a sponsor for the Patio 29 general cemetery which was declared a national monument; there they found remains of the disappeared bodies. In 1997 Mr. Tucapel Jiménez formed (in honor of deceased father) Tucapel Jiménez Alfaro Foundation, which provides training to union leaders in Chile. Mr. Tucapel Jiménez was born on September 1st, 1962.

Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, United Nations former Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Democratic People's Republic of Korea



Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn is a professor at the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn is the former executive director of Child Rights ASIANET, a regional network for the protection of children, established by UNICEF, the International Law Association of Thailand, and the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University. Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn has taught at a variety of institutions, including the Faculty of Law at Reading University in the United Kingdom, and at the Canadian Human Rights Foundation. Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn established child/youth legal literacy projects to educate children about their basic rights, and produced a variety of educational materials, such as cartoons and games on child prostitution, child labor and consumer rights. In 1992 Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn was the spokesman for the Campaign for Popular Democracy, Thailand. From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn also served as United Nations special rapporteur under the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Geneva, with a global mandate on the sale of children. Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn was a faculty member for Salzburg Seminar Session 320 on Beyond Child Survival: Promoting the Well-being of Young Children. Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn is a graduate of Oxford University and the Free University of Brussels, and is a barrister at the Middle Temple in London. Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography from 1990-1994. In 2004 he was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.