



PRESS RELEASE

ANAR MAMMADLI WINS 2014 VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

29 September, 2014; Prague, Strasbourg

Today, on Monday 29 September, 2014, Azerbaijani human rights defender Anar Mammadli was ceremonially announced as laureate of the 2014 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The award is presented by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Václav Havel Library and the Charter 77 Foundation.

Anar Mammadli

Anar Mammadli is a renowned Azerbaijani human rights defender who has made a marked contribution to the respect of human rights and free elections in his region. He is founder and chairman of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre (EMDS), which since 2001 has monitored votes in Azerbaijan. In December 2013, Anar Mammadli was charged with “abuse of office” and this May was sentenced to five and a half years in prison.

Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize draws attention to extraordinary actions in the field of human rights in Europe and elsewhere. It is presented annually by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charter 77 Foundation. It comes with a monetary award of EUR 60,000.

Human Rights 25 Years After

The Václav Havel Library has organised an international conference in honour of the laureate; Human Rights 25 Years Later will take place at the Prague Crossroads on **1 October, 2014**. Alongside this year's three finalists, last year's winner, Ales Bialiatski, will also attend. Mr. Bialiatski was unjustly imprisoned at the time his prize was presented but was released this summer under a presidential amnesty.

A word from the Amnesty International

The international human rights organisation Amnesty International regards Anar Mammadli as a prisoner of conscience who is being punished for merely exercising his right to free expression and assembly. Amnesty describes the court hearing against Anar as disproportionate and in breach of the rules of fair trial; it calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Francesc Ferrer, tel. +33 388 413 193

Václav Havel Library: Marta Smolíková, tel. 603 897682

Charta 77 Foundation: Božena Jirků, tel. 224 214 452