

SEAN MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE 2014

Awarded to the People and Government of the Marshall Islands

It is known as a tropical paradise..



But the Marshall Islands have also suffered from the nuclear testing inflicted on their country by the USA from 1946 to 1958



For decades they have resisted the abuse of their islands and protested the serious effects on their health



Now the islanders have decided to take the nuclear states to court...

On April 24, 2014, The Marshall Islands filed unprecedented lawsuits in the International Court of Justice and U.S. Federal Court to hold the nine nuclear-armed nations accountable for flagrant violations of international law with respect to their nuclear disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and customary international law. Some 73 civil society leaders from 22 countries around the world have lent their support to the people and government of the Marshall Islands and the Nuclear Zero Lawsuits.

For this courageous decision the International Peace Bureau will award them the 2014 Sean MacBride Peace Prize, given every year to a person or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to peace, disarmament and/or human rights.

SEAN MACBRIDE

These were the principal concerns of [Sean MacBride](#), the distinguished Irish statesman who was Chairman of IPB from 1968-74 and President from 1974-1985. MacBride began his career as a fighter against British colonial rule, studied law and rose to high office in the independent Irish Republic. He was a winner of the Lenin Peace Prize, and also the [Nobel Peace Prize \(1974\)](#) – awarded for his wide-ranging work, which included roles such as co-founder of Amnesty International, Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists, and UN Commissioner for Namibia. While at IPB he launched the Bradford Proposals on World Disarmament, which laid the ground for the first UN Special Session on Disarmament, held in 1978. He also launched the MacBride Appeal against Nuclear Weapons, which gathered the names of over 11,000 international lawyers from all parts of the world, many of them at the very highest level. This effort paved the way for the World Court Project on nuclear weapons, in which IPB played a major role. This resulted in the historic 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Use and Threat of Nuclear Weapons. MacBride died in 1988, and the Prize was established in 1992, IPB's centenary year.

THE AWARD

The award is decided by the IPB Steering Committee. IPB members are welcome to make suggestions and provide background documentation on potential candidates. The Prize is a non-monetary one, consisting of a medal cast by the California-based company [From War to Peace](#): "We recycle copper from disarmed nuclear missile systems to create [Peace Bronze](#), the most precious metal in our world".

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

The IPB is a global network dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. We are a Nobel Peace Laureate (1910), and over the years 13 of our officers have also been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Our 300 member organisations in 70 countries, and individual members, form a worldwide community bringing together expertise and campaigning experience in a common cause. IPB has UN Consultative Status since 1977 and is the Secretariat of the NGO Committee for Disarmament (Geneva). Our main programme centres on **Disarmament for Sustainable Development**, of which the [Global Day of Action on Military Spending](#) is a key part.

Programme: MacBride Award Ceremony

Friday, 5 December 2014, 19.00 to 21.00

Ballroom, Vienna University of Technology, Karlsplatz 13, 1040 Vienna

*Event will be conducted in English without interpretation. Sections in German language possible.
All are welcome*

Facilitator: Ingeborg Breines (IPB Co-President)

Welcome

- Prof.Dr.Helga Kromp-Kolp, Science & Environment Forum, Vienna Boku University
- Amb. Dr Erwin Kubesch, Austrian Foreign Ministry

Film: *Nuclear Savage: The Islands of Secret Project 4.1* -- Directed by Adam Jonas Horowitz (2011)

Award of the 2014 Sean MacBride Peace Prize to the people and government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Special tributes:

- Judge Christopher Weeramantry, former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice
- Alexander Göbel, performer
- Reiner Braun, IPB Co-President

Presentation of the medal to the representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

- Acceptance speech: Tony de Brum, Foreign Minister

Conclusion

- Reiner Braun / Ingeborg Breines

Buffet



IPB, 41 rue de Zurich
1201 Geneva
Switzerland.
Tel: +41-22-731-6429
mailbox@ipb.org
<http://www.ipb.org>



PREVIOUS MACBRIDE PRIZE WINNERS

2013: [Private Chelsea \(Bradley\) MANNING](#), US whistleblower jailed for 35 years for revealing information about US war crimes.

2012: [Lina BEN MHENNI](#), Tunisian blogger and activist; and [Nawal EL-SAADAWI](#), Egyptian feminist writer, activist, physician and psychiatrist.

2011 [Hanaa EDWAR](#), human rights activist, Iraq, and [Peter BECKER](#), anti-nuclear lawyer, Germany.

2010 [Binalakshmi NEPRAM](#), founder of Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Secretary-General of Control Arms Foundation of India.

2009 [Betty REARDON](#), peace educator, USA.

2008 [Jackie CABASSO](#), has been involved in (US) nuclear disarmament, peace and environmental advocacy on local, national and international level for over 25 years.

2007 [Jayantha DHANAPALA](#), Sri Lankan Diplomat, former Head of the UN's Dept. for Disarmament Affairs.

2006 **Mayors for Peace**. Awarded to [Tadatoshi AKIBA](#), Mayor of Hiroshima; and in Nagasaki to [Iccho ITOH](#), Mayor Nagasaki (who, sadly, was subsequently murdered).

2005 No award made

2004 Leaders of the [Geneva Initiative on the Middle East](#).

2003 [Nihon HIDANKYO](#), the Japanese hibakusha or survivors of the A bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. They have devoted the rest of their lives to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

2002 [Barbara LEE](#), only member of US Congress to vote against the war on Afghanistan.

2001 [Rosalie BERTELL](#), Canada-based public health advocate, scientist, author – who put her professional skills at the service of victims of nuclear and other disasters. (Chernobyl, Bhopal etc).

2000 [Praful BIDWAI](#) and [Achin VANAIK](#), Indian journalists who have been at the forefront of the international campaign against the nuclearisation of South Asia.

1999 [Barbara GLADYSCH](#), Mothers for Peace, Germany, as a tribute to her outstanding and long-lasting commitment, both to disarmament and to practical solidarity with victims of war and disaster.

1998 [John HUME](#), a member of the European Parliament for consistently advocating non-violent solutions in Northern Ireland. (Subsequently awarded Nobel Peace Prize).

1997 The [Seeds of Hope Group](#), UK for disarming a Hawk aircraft bound for Indonesia.

1996 [Selim BESLAGIC](#), Mayor of Tuzla, Bosnia, a key proponent of a multi-ethnic solution to the Bosnian crisis.

1995 [The Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia](#), foremost among Russian citizens' groups opposing the war in Chechnya.

1994 [Mordechai VANUNU](#), Israel, a former nuclear technician, sentenced to 18 years solitary confinement for revealing details of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

1993 [Hilda LINI](#), Vanuatu, a former health minister who played a key role in the WHO's decision to approve a request to the World Court on the legal status of nuclear weapons.

1992 [Michael D. HIGGINS](#), Ireland, human rights lawyer, President of Ireland since 11 November 2011.