

**THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
FOUR FREEDOMS AWARDS
2010**



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS WITH THE 2010 FOUR FREEDOMS AWARDS LAUREATES

From left to right: Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland Karla M.H. Peijs, Gareth Evans, His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, Jean-Paul Costa, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Maurice Strong, Asma Jahangir, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Jan Peter Balkenende, Dmitry Muratov, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. (Photo: Lex de Meester)

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FOUR FREEDOMS AWARDS

2010



Roosevelt Study Center

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FOREWORD

by *Cornelis A. van Minnen*
Director of the Roosevelt Study Center

On May 29, 2010, the Nieuwe Kerk in Middelburg was filled to capacity as hundreds of guests from all over the world assembled to attend the presentation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards. Among the distinguished guests were Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands. The 2010 laureates whose commitment to FDR's Four Freedoms was honored were: the Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, represented by its editor-in-chief Dmitry Muratov, who received the Freedom of Speech Medal; Asma Jahangir from Pakistan, who was awarded the Freedom of Worship Medal; Maurice Strong from Canada received the Freedom from Want Medal; Gareth Evans from Australia was awarded the Freedom from Fear Medal; and finally the European Court of Human Rights, represented by its president, Jean-Paul Costa, who received the overall Four Freedoms Medal on behalf of this remarkable organization that has done so much to preserve and promote the Four Freedoms in Europe.

In his speech, Dmitry Muratov emphasized the wide-spread corruption in his country which in his view has led to the selling out of Russia's gas, oil and timber industries into the hands of the few. The battle of the free press against this entrenched corruption had already cost the lives of six of his colleagues. Muratov pleaded for the establishment of a European organization, an Interpol of Information, set up by the media and European leaders, in order to fight corruption and help "return the future to the people."

Asma Jahangir saw Eleanor Roosevelt as a great role model and observed that "dependency and an all-pervasive male environment force [many women] to accept ill-treatment as their fate. This must change." She warned that "religious intolerance knows no borders. It is contagious and rears its head in almost all regions of the world" and therefore she emphasized the importance of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, all of which are closely interlinked.

In his speech, Maurice Strong observed, "We, who live in the most wasteful and indulgent economies are now challenged to bring our 'wants' more into line with our 'needs.'" To deal effectively with this challenge, according to Strong, required "an unprecedented degree of international cooperation" and a "re-inventing and strengthening" of the system of the United Nations and multilateral organizations.

Gareth Evans in his acceptance speech showed himself to be “an optimist about our capacity to learn something from the past and not repeat its most awful mistakes.” Due to “the huge upsurge of commitment [...] to conflict prevention, to negotiated conflict resolution, to transitional peacekeeping, and to effective post-conflict peace building,” he thought that there were many things now going right in the world as was shown by the decline in the number of wars in the last two decades.

Jean-Paul Costa, president of the European Court of Human Rights, argued that “Europe’s observance of human rights defines who we are today and will continue to define us in the future” and confirmed his belief “that the European Convention of Human Rights will remain a strong pillar of European construction” and that “the formal integration of the European Union into the Convention system will [...] ensure that human rights safeguards extend to all areas of public life.”

First enunciated in 1941, FDR’s Four Freedoms are still very relevant today and a constant and necessary reminder to us all. The achievements of the 2010 laureates serve as a source of inspiration to help contribute to the better world that President Franklin D. Roosevelt envisioned. I would hope that this publication of the speeches delivered at the impressive ceremony in Middelburg’s Abbey helps to spread the message of the laureates and serves as a renewed challenge to rededicate ourselves to FDR’s ideals.

WELCOMING REMARKS

*by Karla M.H. Peijs
Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland*

As chair of the Roosevelt Stichting and as Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland, it is my privilege to welcome you all in this Abbey church to celebrate the enduring power of the ideals President Franklin Roosevelt formulated as the Four Freedoms.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, we deeply appreciate your presence here. Your interest not only continues the long-standing historical ties between the Roosevelt family and your own, but is also a strong endorsement of the importance of an explicit promotion of human rights. The number of supporters of Roosevelt's Human Rights agenda is increasing each year. We are pleased to see so many advocates of freedom in this building and we are especially proud to meet so many corporations who support this endeavor. This is further testimony to the broad support for these ideals.

This time Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, chair of the Roosevelt Institute and granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, is not attending today's ceremony, because of a happy event in her family. She asked me to let you know that her thoughts are with us today and, of course, to congratulate the laureates.

An especially warm welcome to today's laureates. A long line of seventy-three world citizens preceded you. The ever growing variety of their backgrounds has shown us that the Four Freedoms are widely recognized as beacons of hope and appeals for action in every region of the world. We are grateful for your sacrifices, successes, and examples of hope.

President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms Speech had gone through seven drafts before he delivered this now famous State of the Union Address on January 6, 1941. In each new version he strengthened the universal appeal of its proposals. More than ever did he realize that the fate of his own country was tied to global developments: repression in one part of the world endangered the safety of all. The situation we face today is not much different. As the laureates will explain we need international cooperation to preserve this planet. Sustainability in the fight against a looming environmental disaster and nuclear threats require broad and bold agreements. Simultaneously, codification of fundamental rights and upholding these to sustain the rights of individuals are invaluable investments to secure future freedom. Courts and brave men and women have done much to create this shield of protection. These two features, sustainability and legal protection, unite today's awards.

Words, freely spoken and printed unfiltered, are indispensable to secure these goals and brilliant images inspire us to continue. These Four Freedoms preserve the moral basis of our insecure world. The medals we present today are at once tokens of recognition for you who advanced freedom and signs of our common commitment to defend them.

RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE

by William J. vanden Heuvel, Chair-Emeritus

We come again to Zeeland, as we have joyfully since 1982, to recall the meaning of freedom and the strength of democracy. We come in the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the thirty-second president of the United States.

Winston Churchill described Franklin Roosevelt as the greatest man he had ever known. President Roosevelt's life, Churchill said, "must be regarded as one of the commanding events in human destiny." Franklin Roosevelt was the voice of the people of the United States during the most difficult crises of the twentieth century. He led America out of the despair of the Great Depression. He led us to victory in the Great War. Four times he was elected president of the United States. He was a man of incomparable personal courage. At the age of thirty-nine, he was stricken with infantile paralysis. He would never walk or stand again unassisted. We sense the pain of his struggle—learning to move again, to rely upon the physical support of others—never giving into despair, to self-pity, to discouragement. Just twelve years after he was stricken, he was elected president of a country itself paralyzed by the most fearful economic depression of its history. He lifted America from its knees and led us to our fateful rendezvous with destiny.

Franklin Roosevelt transformed our government into an active instrument of social justice. He made America the arsenal of democracy. He was commander-in-chief of the greatest military force ever assembled. He crafted the victorious alliance that won the most terrible war in human history. He was the father of the nuclear age. The United Nations, the commitment to collective security, the determination to end colonialism, the opportunity of peace and prosperity for all people—that was the blueprint for the world he intended for us.

On January 6, 1941, President Roosevelt spoke for a country and a world that had had enough of war and hate and oppression. He asked all nations to do their part to create a world of peace where the weak are safe and the strong are just. We are not helpless before that task or hopeless of its success.

Together we must say again and again, with the strength of our nations and the voice of peoples everywhere, that the Four Freedoms and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the basis of a world attainable in our own time and generation.

It is not worldly power and grandeur that cause us to remember Franklin Roosevelt on this day. It is the cause of human freedom and social justice to which he gave so much of his life. It is with that memory that we gather to honor distinguished citizens of the world whose lives and achievements have sustained our hope that our cherished freedoms will endure.

**PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S
"FOUR FREEDOMS SPEECH"
OF JANUARY 6, 1941**

To the Congress of the United States:

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression, everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peace time life for its inhabitants, everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear, which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor, anywhere in the world.

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. That kind of world is the very antithesis of the so-called new order of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb. To that new order we oppose the greater conception, the moral order. A good society is able to face schemes of world domination and foreign revolutions alike without fear.

Since the beginning of our American history we have been engaged in change, in a perpetual peaceful revolution, a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions, without the concentration camp or the quick-lime in the ditch. The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society.

This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is in our unity of purpose. To that high concept there can be no end save victory.

**AWARD OF THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
FREEDOM OF SPEECH MEDAL TO
NOVAYA GAZETA**

Freedom of Speech and Expression—everywhere in the world.” With these words, Franklin Roosevelt described the essential freedom required to assure democracy and a just society.

On this, the twenty-ninth day of May 2010, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom of Speech and Expression Medal is awarded to *Novaya Gazeta* and Dmitry Muratov, one newspaper and one man, who so believe in the pursuit of the truth that he and his colleagues have risked their lives in the pursuit of that Freedom which stands as the foundation of democracy.

It was in 1993, just two years after the end of the Soviet Union that you founded *Novaya Gazeta*. Your goal was to establish an “honest and independent publication”; a paper that would publish hard-hitting reporting; that would not shy away from great controversy; a place where courageous and independent journalists would be free to hone their craft. It was your hope that such a paper would be the flagship of a newly emerging free press; a paper that would help give birth to and sustain Russian democracy after centuries of autocratic rule.

And so with two computers, one printer, a couple of rooms and no money you and fifty colleagues began your work. True to your convictions *Novaya Gazeta* took on the great issues of the day: the need to expose and root out corruption; defending human rights; the necessity of establishing an independent judiciary and political parties accountable to the people; the fight for financial reform; documenting historical truth. The work was hard—but the chance to help shape the future of your beloved Russia sustained you. Thanks in part to the financial support of Mikhail Gorbachev, who donated a substantial portion of his 1990 Nobel Peace Prize Award to *Novaya Gazeta*, the paper struggled on and by 1996 its circulation had expanded to more than seventy thousand. Today it is close to three hundred thousand.

You knew that editing an independent newspaper in post-Soviet Russia demanded courage and commitment, and you refused to be intimidated by the growing forces of greed, corruption and violence. Your insistence on exposing such forces emboldened those arrayed against *Novaya Gazeta*. In July 2000 the paper’s special projects editor, Igor Domnikov, was beaten to death by mer-

The Freedom of Speech Medal was presented to Novaya Gazeta, represented by Dmitry Muratov, editor-in-chief, by Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor and publisher of The Nation, and Jelle Brandt Corstius, journalist, columnist, and documentary maker.

cenary killers for investigating fraud. Three years later Yuri Shchekochikhin, your deputy editor and a member of the Russian State Duma, was mysteriously poisoned as he investigated high-level state corruption.

Then came the tragedy of Anna Politkovskaya, who was gunned down outside in the lobby of her Moscow apartment in October 2006 for her indefatigable and brave reporting exposing human rights abuses in Chechnya; and finally, Anastasia Barburowa, only twenty-five, who was killed while trying to assist the mortally wounded Stanislav Markelov, the human rights lawyer slain on a Moscow street in January 2009.

You have called these deaths “battle casualties” in the war for truth. In the depths of your loss you thought for a time about giving up the struggle. But in the end, inspired by the determination of your fellow reporters, you decided you had no choice but to carry on the work of Domnikov, Shchekochikhin, Politkovskaya, and Barburowa—no matter what the price. “We will not be silent,” you said.

Today, we honor your fallen colleagues by honoring you and the newspaper you founded. Your ceaseless efforts—in spite of grave danger—to publish the uncensored truth and to defend press freedom in Russia, are an inspiration to journalists the world over. No one would admire your courage in the cause of freedom more than Franklin D. Roosevelt, and for this, and in his name, we thank and honor you today.

**DMITRY MURATOV'S SPEECH
ON BEHALF OF
NOVAYA GAZETA
IN ACCEPTANCE OF
THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH MEDAL**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is very relevant today. I quote: “Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.” Again I quote Roosevelt: “We must always be wary of those who with sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal preach the ism of appeasement.” Here is another quote: “Principles of morality will never permit us to acquiesce in a peace dictated by aggressors” [read—dictators]. This is highly important today.

Today I receive the Freedom of Speech Award from you; therefore, I assume you share Franklin D. Roosevelt’s values which he first expressed on January 6, 1941. However, often politicians in Europe and America are ready to trade liberty for oil and gas, and preach the “ism” of appeasement. The assassination of Anna Politkovskaya remains unresolved. Dozens of journalists are fired from their jobs by local authorities. A real battle for democracy is taking place in Russia. Which path will the country choose? Will it become a modern European state or a depopulated country with only gas and oil at the core of its existence?

In less than a decade we lost six of our colleagues: Igor Domnikov (the case is unresolved), Yury Shchekochikhin (the case is closed), Anna Politkovskaya (the people who ordered the murder and the killers are still at large), Anastasia Baburova, Stanislav Markelov, and Natalya Estemirova, who were carrying out their professional duties—informing the citizenry. However, a free press is deadly for corrupt officials. Corruption. Corruption. Corruption. Corruption and dictatorship are similar, in the sense that they have the same enemies: a free press and a free people. There is corruption in the trade of timber, gas, and oil. They are selling off the future of my country.

The Russian elite takes full advantage of democratic freedoms, but only for themselves: the right to free enterprise, participation in the stock market, and the acquisition of soccer clubs. Chelsea is, of course, the pride of Russia.... It is indeed a result of corruption that Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev are kept behind bars, it is because of corruption that the lawyer Sergei Magnitsky died horribly in his prison cell, and corruption in the government is responsible for sending dozens of scientists to detention camps on false charges of espionage. What is the solution?

I would like to use this opportunity of the presence of the highly respected leaders of the Netherlands to make a suggestion. We should and we must set up a European organization to fight corruption in the name of the values of liberty, to confiscate hush money from the political mafias and to strip them of their power.

The state and the press should jointly set up this organization: an Interpol of Information. The best people from the media supported by the political will of European leaders should monitor corruption, take opinion polls of reputations, and collect accounts, passwords, addresses, as Putin likes to say. By stopping corruption, we will return the future to the people. Corruption is the new form of apartheid. Help us! We are ready.

As Roosevelt said: “We are soft-hearted; but we cannot afford to be soft-headed.”

AWARD OF THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT FREEDOM OF WORSHIP MEDAL TO ASMA JAHANGIR

The freedom of every person to worship God in his or her own way— everywhere in the world.” On this twenty-ninth day of May 2010, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom of Worship Medal is awarded to Asma Jahangir. Her unwavering belief that the principles of equal justice and the Rule of Law apply to all people in all places, without regard to differences in faith and religion, has given courage and hope to all those whose lives she has touched.

Born in Lahore, the cultural and intellectual capital of Pakistan, you learned at a very young age the requirements of—and the real sacrifices associated with—a commitment to basic human rights. It was a lesson passed on to you by your father—a man who gave up his government position in protest of the military’s seizure of power in 1958. You learned that for democracy to flourish in Pakistan, the institutions of civil society must be nurtured and made free. It was a conviction that inspired your public career, and despite the intimidation of arrest, imprisonment, and threats to your life, you never compromised your commitment.

Having seen injustice first-hand, you decided that you would take up law—a profession that you acquired largely through self-study as it was not deemed suitable for women to attend law lectures in 1970s Pakistan. You co-founded the first all-female law practice and the first free legal-aid center in Pakistan. You challenged the ultra-conservative ordinances which made blasphemy a capital offense. At that point, the mere accusation of something said or written deemed insulting to the Prophet Muhammad or the Koran was enough to bring about arrest.

The new ordinances legalized severe discrimination against women in Pakistan; they rendered extramarital sexual relations a crime punishable by flogging or even death by stoning, and they made it far more likely that the victims of rape would be charged with adultery rather than their perpetrators with a terrible crime.

These decrees produced brutal travesties of justice, including the case of Safia Bibi, a thirteen-year-old blind girl, who was raped by her employer and then sentenced to three years’ imprisonment for unlawful sex because she could

The Freedom of Worship Medal was presented to Asma Jahangir by Scott M. Roosevelt, great-grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and Luuc Smit, programmer Jewish Radio, precentor Synagogue Middelburg.

not identify her attacker or produce the required witnesses; and the case of Salamat Masih, a fourteen-year-old Christian boy who had been sentenced to death for allegedly scribbling blasphemous words on the wall of a mosque.

You overturned these convictions. Your work resulted in the founding of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Since its creation in 1986, the Commission has defended the rights of women accused of adultery and has sought to bring an end to the barbaric practice of so-called “honor killings” that often follow such a charge. The Commission has worked to protect the rights of Pakistani Christians, Hindus and heterodox Muslims alike.

With patience and courage, you have endured isolation and mistreatment, surviving each struggle with greater strength. Your tenacious leadership and fearless advocacy has gained you the international recognition of being appointed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief.

You are among the most respected international leaders on issues of faith and religion, and you remain a devoted advocate for freedom of religion in Pakistan. In a lifetime of effort, you have championed the values and vision that inspired the Four Freedoms. In honoring you today in the name of Franklin D. Roosevelt, we salute your fearless leadership. You have given hope where there was despair, and reminded us that the grace of God is reflected in human compassion.

ASMA JAHANGIR'S SPEECH IN ACCEPTANCE OF THE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP MEDAL

I am truly humbled as well as honored to receive today the Freedom of Worship Medal. I would like to sincerely thank you for your support and encouragement.

This day has a special significance because it pays homage to both—Eleanor and President Franklin Roosevelt. As a team, they put a human face to the politics of power. While their personal lives may have taken separate paths, yet their achievements were significant because of the partnership they enjoyed. They had a common vision and followed it. The message of universality of human rights was the cornerstone of the Four Freedoms Speech of January 6, 1941 by President Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt incorporated these values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that she so tirelessly helped draft.

The Four Freedoms Speech highlighted that a threat to democratic norms in one part of the world will inevitably be a peril to their sustainability elsewhere. It cautioned against giving up essential liberties to purchase temporary safety. Roosevelt was prophetic in his words when he asserted, “enduring peace cannot be bought at the cost of other people’s freedom.” Alas, even many of his successors did not heed these words.

My early memories of state oppression were when I was eleven or twelve. Sadly, I witnessed a political assassination, the arrest of political dissidents, including of my own father, and police brutality on peaceful rallies of students. In later years, we were to see even worse. It was the tyranny of politicization of religion.

In the eighties, the so-called holy war in Afghanistan changed our lives forever. Liberal politics was buried on the pretext that it was contrary to Islamic values. Fear ruled our lives, speech was stifled, and religious persecution was carried out in the most self-righteous manner. In an attempt to liberate Afghanistan, the few liberties enjoyed by Pakistanis were taken away. All this was done in the name of religion.

During the Zia rule, women were expected to stay within the “domestic domain.” Eleanor Roosevelt was a pioneer in insisting that women be brought into mainstream in policymaking and in building public opinion on broader issues. She comprehended, very well, that the barriers of domestic household have to give way for women to step out. In South Asia, feminists say: “flee the kitchen and run for the kitchen cabinet.”

At the same time, Eleanor Roosevelt rightly emphasized that unpaid labor of homemakers too must be recognized. She was particularly sensitive to the

recognition of this important task women perform. This is what made her unique. She knew the compulsions of women and experienced some of the dilemmas most women go through. Like so many of us, her marriage too was one of “love and hurt.”

As a lawyer who has defended a large number of women in the last three decades, I firmly believe that women across the world, regardless of their positions in life or cultural backgrounds, have much in common. My clients often express Eleanor’s admission to a friend that she could “forgive but not forget.” However, several women can do neither. Dependency and an all-pervasive male environment force them to accept ill-treatment as their fate. This must change.

The worst threats and attacks made on me were during two cases that I defended. One of a fourteen-year-old child, Salamat Masih, who was accused of blasphemy which carries a mandatory death penalty in our country, and the second of a twenty-two-year-old woman who had defied her family and married a man of her choice. Fortunately, both cases were won but at a huge price. The litigants could no longer live in the country, the presiding judge who acquitted Salamat was killed, and I escaped two assassination attempts. Such challenges are instructive. I have never regretted defending the vulnerable. They often put us to shame. Their courage and patience is exemplary.

Religious intolerance knows no borders. It is contagious and rears its head in almost all regions of the world. Rights of religious minorities are compromised, even in a system where democratic norms are otherwise respected. However, dictatorial and autocratic systems provide a fertile ground for intolerance to entrench itself deeper into society. It is therefore important for us to recognize that democracy, rule of law and human rights are closely interlinked. They flourish together or perish one by one.

In my early years of activism, I was dubbed as a controversial person. This, I found, is the initial step of marginalizing an activist for human rights. Next, people like myself are considered dangerous and a threat to moral, and traditional values. Vilification is followed by harassment, arrests, and eventually physical attacks. A number of human rights defenders go through these hurdles. My life was no different. Pakistan has seen both—tyranny and a full-scale resistance to it. I, therefore, accept this honor on behalf of the fearless civil society of my country.

The words of Franklin Roosevelt, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself” are so true and particularly pertinent when fear is the weapon of the adversary.

I thank you once again.

**AWARD OF THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
FREEDOM FROM WANT MEDAL TO
MAURICE STRONG**

Freedom from Want—everywhere in the world.” With these words, Franklin Roosevelt challenged humanity to create a global community, a community careful of its resources, prepared to confront poverty and disease, and understanding its responsibility to protect the Earth and its environment as the legacy to generations yet unborn.

On this twenty-ninth day of May 2010, in recognition of his pioneering leadership in compelling all nations to recognize the perils of environmental degradation and the rewards of environmental sustainability, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal for Freedom from Want is awarded to Maurice Strong. A son of the Canadian prairies, the poverty of the Great Depression taught you a number of very important lessons: the value of hard work and discipline; the critical importance of a good education; compassion for your fellow man; and a deep and abiding respect for the natural world. The Atlantic Charter was declared in 1941 after the first meeting of Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. It committed their nations to a vision of the postwar world based on the Four Freedoms. You understood their message and determined that you would be part of that great effort.

Your brilliance quickly won you powerful positions in Canada’s corporate structure. Nations were just beginning to understand the rising expectations of the developing world. Your experience had prepared you to begin the international commitment that has marked your life. Lester Pearson, Canada’s universal citizen and its prime minister, invited you to help create the Canadian International Development Agency, an effort that reflected your country’s traditional humanity and generosity and gave expression to your personal goals and ideals.

The United Nations took note of your work. It decided to convene its first major conference on environmental issues in Stockholm in 1972. The secretary-general of the UN asked you to organize and lead that conference. You did, and it was a brilliant success. For the first time the world’s agenda listed the environment as a priority. The General Assembly then established the United Nations Environment Program and elected you to lead it. Having successfully launched UNEP, you returned to Canada to important responsibilities in both the private and public sectors. You were already recognized as “the father” of

The Freedom from Want Medal was presented to Maurice Strong by Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, Chair-Emeritus Roosevelt Institute, and Sybilla Dekker, former Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment.

the environmental movement and as such, you were the natural choice to become secretary-general of the Rio de Janeiro UN Conference on Environment and Development. That conference stands today as the landmark of the international environmental movement.

You had defined sustainable development, and the Rio Conference adopted its principles—that it is possible to meet human resources needs on a global scale while preserving the environment for future generations. A program of action was approved. Agreements on climate change and biodiversity were negotiated.

Your continued leadership in both the public and private sectors has carried forward the international agenda. You are recognized as a consummate diplomat. Secretary-generals of the UN have sought your service and wise counsel in critical situations. You revitalized the University for Peace established by the General Assembly. The leaders of all nations—great and small—respect your accomplishments and the integrity of your global vision. In business and government, in the cause of the environment and humanity itself, in peace and war, you have transcended nationality to be recognized as truly a Citizen of the World.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt would have seen you as an executor of his legacy—and in his name we honor and thank you today for your courage, dedication, and fidelity to the cause of the Four Freedoms.

MAURICE STRONG'S SPEECH IN ACCEPTANCE OF THE FREEDOM FROM WANT MEDAL

I am very moved and deeply honored to be receiving this award in the company of such distinguished laureates, so many of whom have inspired me in my own career. It is especially meaningful in that I receive it in the Netherlands, the leading example of how a vigorous democracy combined with an enlightened monarchy led now by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, can make such a disproportionate and distinguished contribution to advancing the Four Freedoms which President Franklin Roosevelt so memorably called for.

I grew up in Canada during the Great Depression followed by World War II and its aftermath in which Franklin Roosevelt's vision and leadership moved the world into a new era of progress and peace. When I was still in my late teens in 1947 at the United Nations I had the privilege of meeting Eleanor Roosevelt herself a great champion of human rights. The leadership of President Roosevelt in the dismantling of colonial empires, giving developing countries their independence and the prospect of freedom for their people, profoundly changed the nature of our global community and the United Nations in which the developing countries became a majority.

In many ways there has been important progress towards the universal extension of the freedoms to which President Roosevelt was devoted. Yet many are still denied these freedoms and indeed subjected to repression for their attempts to exercise them. It is in relieving freedom from want that we have progressed most. China's continuing progress in freeing its people from want as well as in the freedom of expression and freedom of religion, is not sufficiently recognized or appreciated in the West.

The poor of other developing countries have also experienced benefits and enlarged opportunities as the result of the growth of the global economy. Despite this in both developing and more developed countries, the gap between rich and poor has been growing, giving rise to the ominous prospect of social unrest.

Another aspect of freedom from want is directly relevant to the economic crisis the world is now experiencing—that "wants" are not the same as "needs." Many people want more than they need. We, who live in the most wasteful and indulgent economies are now challenged to bring our "wants" more into line with our "needs."

Our unprecedented wealth and power give us the capacity to resolve these issues. Our failure to do so is an affront to the moral basis of our civilization.

It constitutes a threat to our very survival. This is fundamentally a moral and ethical issue. An encouraging and growing response to this is the worldwide movement for commitment to the Earth Charter, a statement of moral and ethical principles designed to guide our conduct towards each other and to the Earth. Launched and strongly supported by the Netherlands and the leadership of its esteemed statesman, Ruud Lubbers, it provides the basis for realization by the entire human family of the Four Freedoms called for by President Roosevelt.

To deal effectively and decisively with these challenges will require an unprecedented degree of international cooperation. The United Nations and other multilateral organizations which President Roosevelt was so instrumental in establishing, are not sufficiently equipped or mandated to deal with them. There is an urgent and compelling need to give high priority to re-inventing and strengthening this system. Yet a successor to the kind of leadership President Roosevelt gave the world has not yet emerged. Indeed in his promotion of the Four Freedoms he has left us the responsibility for this unfinished business and the best example ever of the leadership we celebrate here today.

AWARD OF THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT FREEDOM FROM FEAR MEDAL TO GARETH EVANS

When President Roosevelt described the Four Freedoms in January 1941, he sought a world where disarmament was the priority of governments, and prevention of war was the responsibility of every person—everywhere in the world.

On this twenty-ninth day of May 2010, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to international governance to assure peace and social justice, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom from Fear Medal is awarded to Gareth Evans, who has won for both Australia and himself the respect and gratitude of the family of nations for his commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Having graduated with a first-class honors degree in Law from the University of Melbourne, and receiving an advanced degree from Oxford, you returned to Melbourne to teach and practice law, but you also had a strong interest in politics, and in 1977 won a seat in the Australian Senate as a member of the Labor Party.

You remained in Parliament for the next twenty-one years—as a senator, a member of the House of Representatives, and as a cabinet minister serving as attorney general, minister for Resources and Energy, minister for Transport and Communication and, finally, as one of the longest serving foreign ministers in your country's history.

In those crucial years—1988 to 1996—your service as foreign minister won international acclaim for leadership in the development of the United Nations Peace Plan for Cambodia, a nation forever scarred by its Killing Fields. The Chemical Weapons Convention is also a significant international agreement that bears the hallmark of your considerable work.

In 1999, you left Parliament but your career as a statesman had just begun. You were appointed co-chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. Inspired by the tragedies of Cambodia, Rwanda and Srebrenica, the Commission grappled with the complex question of when the international community has a right to intervene in the affairs of a sovereign nation to prevent genocide and other atrocities. In a world dominated by nation-states, this question has perplexed statesmen for generations. Thanks to your

The Freedom from Fear Medal was presented to Gareth Evans by Maxime Verhagen, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Scott M. Roosevelt, great-grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

guiding hand and leadership, the Commission came up with a simple yet novel solution—The Responsibility to Protect. Rather than focus on the question of whether a given state has the right to intervene, you argued for the principle that it is the responsibility of all states to protect their own people. Therefore, the primary responsibility to prevent genocide rests with every state, and failure to do so would trigger action by the international community—the obligation to intervene.

The Right to Protect was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2005. It establishes the principle that state sovereignty implies responsibility, responsibility not to kill, but to protect, and that failure to meet that responsibility will have international consequences. This achievement is a landmark in human history. The Netherlands has strongly supported the concept of Responsibility to Protect, working with you and others to turn it into a reality for the world's citizens.

Your public service continued as president of the International Crisis Group in Brussels, working to prevent and resolve deadly conflict between nations. And today, you are deeply involved in the world's most critical challenge—nuclear non-proliferation—which is being confronted in both the United Nations and in negotiations with North Korea and Iran in the months ahead. Your leadership is acknowledged by your appointment as co-chair of the International Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Commission. The Netherlands, too, supports a world free of nuclear weapons, and we will do our utmost to work towards this noble objective, including by assisting you in your important task.

In January of 2010, you were appointed chancellor of the Australian National University. Your life, your extraordinary service to the ideals of democracy and the United Nations have won the admiration and appreciation of all those who share Franklin D. Roosevelt's commitment to the Four Freedoms. In his name we make this award and honor you this day.

GARETH EVANS'S SPEECH IN ACCEPTANCE OF THE FREEDOM FROM FEAR MEDAL

This is a great occasion, celebrating as it does the lasting contributions to human dignity and our common humanity of two of the greatest humanitarian internationalists who ever lived, and I am delighted, proud and grateful to be part of it.

The experiences of our youth sear us all and often determine the course we take in the rest of our lives. And two such experiences help explain why I am standing here today.

The first was in Cambodia, back in the late 1960s. I travelled for many months through Asia on my way to study in England. I met and became friends with scores of my contemporaries, a great many of whom I kept in touch with in later life. But in Cambodia, of all those young students with whom I drank beer or ate noodles or shared wild countryside bus rides, I never saw any of them again—or even anyone like them. The reason is harrowingly simple: none of them survived the Khmer Rouge genocide. They were executed outright as middle-class intellectuals, or worked or starved to death in the fields.

With the concept of “the responsibility to protect” to which I helped give birth I think we have now reached an international consensus—that never again do any of us want to look back at another mass atrocity catastrophe, like Cambodia, or Rwanda, or Bosnia or more recently Darfur or Sri Lanka, and have to say to ourselves, with a mixture of anger, incomprehension and shame, how could we have let this happen again.

But getting the United Nations to agree on broad principles is, of course, only a starting point. As such terrible cases arise in the future, as they surely will, we will have a huge job to fully implement the responsibility to protect in practice, with effective civil and military preparation, prevention and reaction. But do this we must, for—as both Roosevelts would have insisted—our common humanity demands no less.

My other really formative experience as a young man was visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the early 1960s, in my first ever trip outside Australia. I have felt passionately ever since about our common responsibility to ensure that the most indiscriminately inhumane weapons ever invented should never again be used on our fellow human beings. When Franklin Roosevelt defined “Freedom from Fear” in 1941, he focused squarely on global disarmament as the central issue, and we can be sure he would have made the point even more strongly had he known then what the nuclear weapons age would bring.

In recent times I have been trying to give that commitment substance as co-chair of the Australia and Japan-sponsored International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. This Commission's report, published last December, sets out a very practical agenda for global policymakers for the years and decades ahead—starting right now, in 2010, which I fear is going to be a make-or-break watershed year for the whole nuclear project.

Of course, for many vulnerable populations around the world the most immediate fear is not so much nuclear holocaust or genocide, but the horror of war and civil war more generally. Here I think we can be just a tiny bit optimistic, and I say this after years of intense work in various capacities on general conflict prevention and resolution. The good news, counter-intuitive as it may seem, is that for all the many things that continue to go wrong—not least in Africa and West Asia—there are many things now going right.

Since the end of the Cold War, there has in fact been close to an 80 percent decline in the number of wars and number of people dying violent deaths in such wars. And that is attributable, more than anything else, to the huge upsurge of commitment—through the United Nations and elsewhere—to conflict prevention, to negotiated conflict resolution, to transitional peacekeeping, and to effective post-conflict peacebuilding to ensure that the whole weary and ugly cycle of violence does not repeat itself.

To be an optimist about anything in international affairs is to run a strong risk of being branded ignorant, incorrigibly naïve or outright demented. But I am an optimist about our capacity to learn something from the past and not repeat its most awful mistakes in all the areas I have mentioned.

It is crucial in this respect that the world, and particularly the younger generation, have examples before it of people and institutions who remained optimists, naïve or otherwise, and have made a real difference. Very few of us—and I certainly put myself in that category—can claim to have achieved even a fraction of what Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt did to rid the world of fear and want. But I feel immeasurably proud to be linked with their names, and to those of my fellow awardees over the years, as one who has at least tried hard to implement their magnificent vision.

AWARD OF THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT FOUR FREEDOMS MEDAL TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Franklin Roosevelt once said that for democracy to flourish, “we must ... guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all our citizens.... We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization.” He spoke these words at the beginning of 1940.

Today, on May 29, 2010, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award goes to an institution whose work is a clear and constant tribute to the spirit of those words. An institution whose sole aim is to protect the fundamental human rights of the more than eight hundred million people who live in the continent of Europe. I am proud and honored to present this year’s Four Freedoms Award to the European Court of Human Rights.

Sixty years ago, in the wake of the most devastating war in human history, the nations of Europe came together in Rome to draft the European Convention on Human Rights. They were inspired by Franklin Roosevelt’s vision. In the dark days of 1941, he had called for a postwar world founded on four fundamental human freedoms: Freedom of Speech and Expression, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear. They also built on the pioneering work of Eleanor Roosevelt and René Cassin in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Above all, they understood that the European Convention on Human Rights would need a mechanism to enforce it and uphold its principles. And so, nine years later, the European Court of Human Rights was established.

Since that historic day, a little over fifty years ago, this unique body has played a central role in strengthening democracy and the rule of law. The Court guarantees all Europeans the right to life, to a fair hearing, to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, to the protection of their privacy and property, and to the free expression of ideas. Its binding judgments have led governments across Europe to change their laws and amend their constitutions. In this way the Court has set an example of international cooperation that is an inspiration to the world.

Over the last fifty years, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled on thousands of cases. It has ensured access to justice for every person in our vast

The Four Freedoms Medal was presented to Jean-Paul Costa, President of the European Court of Human Rights, by Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.

and ancient continent. It has brought security and stability to our society. It has fully earned the respect and support of the member states of the Council of Europe. And even more important, the people of Europe have found the Court to be a fair and powerful instrument of justice on their behalf. Today, we gather to celebrate this great achievement. Because, as Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, said at the Court's fiftieth anniversary celebration: "The story of the European Court of Human Rights is undoubtedly a success story."

President Costa, you recently said that human rights require a permanent battle, because they can never be taken for granted. "It is my belief," you said, "that the European human rights protection system, as it was first set up and has been enhanced by fifty years of case law, has all the necessary characteristics to guarantee it a promising future." We all share that belief. Therefore, I am presenting this award to you, not only to express our deep appreciation for the Court's service to democracy and freedom in the past, but also on behalf of future generations.

**JEAN-PAUL COSTA'S SPEECH
ON BEHALF OF
THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN ACCEPTANCE OF
THE FOUR FREEDOMS MEDAL**

It is only right that I begin my remarks today with words of gratitude for the Roosevelt Institute. In conferring the Four Freedoms Award for 2010 on the European Court of Human Rights, the Roosevelt Institute has bestowed a high honor on the Court. In its name I thank you most sincerely. It is a privilege indeed to be associated with the memory and legacy of the great Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as of Eleanor Roosevelt, a key actor in the elaboration of one of the foundational texts of the modern age—the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

The legacy of President Roosevelt to humanity is an enduring and invaluable one—a courageous and steadfast commitment to the true freedom of the human person, living in a peaceful society that is fair, decent and inclusive. These cardinal values, articulated in the great upheavals of his time, were carried forward by European men and women of like mind and like determination who set out to re-make their world in the postwar years.

In keeping with its open, outward-looking tradition, the Netherlands was at the forefront of this. The landmark Hague Congress of 1948 federated those who wished for a new and progressive European polity. The Congress translated their vision into audacious proposals. These included a court that was to act as a powerful guardian of the values upon which human civilisation rests. The first achievement of this movement was the Council of Europe, which came into being in 1949. And within this new body, the first major achievement was the European Convention on Human Rights, adopted sixty years ago. And so modern Europe's trust in the rule of law, and its faith in the judicial process became reality.

As any human institution, the European Court of Human Rights has grown and developed over the fifty-one years of its existence. Each decade brought some measure of reform to Convention, extending it and improving it. This process continues—it is part of the life of a living institution.

The European context is a dynamic one. Our societies evolve, advance and diversify, and in so doing face new possibilities and challenges, new risks and uncertainties. Being directly open to individuals and civil society, the European Court has been confronted with many of the human rights questions of the present day. What is the meaning of human dignity in the twenty-first century? How shall states balance national security and public safety against individual

liberty? What recognition and what protection is due to the vulnerable, to the marginalised? These questions are always with us, and the answers given define the character of the societies in which we live.

The award bestowed on the Court today recognizes all that has been achieved since its creation. It is a tribute to the very many women and men, from many walks of life and all corners of Europe who have contributed to its accomplishments. I will make special mention of the European Court's first President René Cassin, a great figure in the history of human rights, and firm ally of Eleanor Roosevelt. And, in the presence of Her Majesty and so many leading figures of Dutch society, it is appropriate to pay tribute to the consistently distinguished representation of the Netherlands on the European Court of Human Rights, and this country's unwavering support for the Strasbourg Court.

Europe's observance of human rights defines who we are today, and will continue to define us in the future. I believe, and am confirmed in my belief by the Four Freedoms Award, that the European Convention on Human Rights will remain a strong pillar of European construction. The formal integration of the European Union into the Convention system will be an important mark of maturity for the process of European legal construction, ensuring that human rights safeguards extend to all areas of public life. It is a development to be fully supported and swiftly realized.

Let me once again express my gratitude on receiving this award, let me congratulate the other distinguished laureates, and thank you for your attention today.

**REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE ROOSEVELT FAMILY
BY NICHOLAS ROOSEVELT,
GREAT-GRANDSON OF
FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**

I have to admit that I find it a little strange to be speaking on behalf of the Roosevelt family. For the most part, I say this because I am one of its youngest members. And perhaps because my age prohibited me from ever personally knowing my great-grandfather Franklin and great-grandmother Eleanor, I do not often think of my immediate family as being one that formally extends greetings.

Raised, like many, to cherish and respect the legacy of my ancestors, growing up, I was never led to believe that I was part of anything other than simply another American family. It is by my country's design that, despite all of my ancestors' accomplishments and the positions of power that they have held over the years, the Roosevelts gathered here today have no special titles, no pre-ordained position in today's world.

Instead, we have inherited what I believe all Americans have inherited. A common responsibility to celebrate and learn from our history and to uphold and carry on the principles of our democratic society. I certainly take pride in knowing that my great grandparents played such a significant role in the history of democracy, free society, and the modern world. I also feel responsible for carrying on their legacy. I do not, however, see myself as uniquely entitled to these feelings. It is my belief, instead, that these feelings of pride and responsibility belong to every American and to all those who cherish the principles of democracy and freedom that Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt fought for.

All this, I think, makes this event and the relationship between the Roosevelt family and the Dutch Royal family that much more special. We continue to gather and to treasure our ties, not for the sake of regal formality, but because we all understand the overarching importance of celebrating the freedoms that make our countries great and of acknowledging the work of all those who have fought and continue to fight to preserve, protect, or create those freedoms around the world.

And this year's gathering and the laureates we acknowledge today are no exception. It is a great honor for me to be a part of this ceremony and truly inspiring to have the chance to meet with so many who have had such a positive impact on the world. From different backgrounds, professions and from all over the world, you have all helped to uphold and carry on the Four Freedoms, as well as the legacy of my great grandparents. So on behalf of my family, I would like to thank you and express the deepest appreciation for all you do.

**THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
FOUR FREEDOMS AWARDS LAUREATES
IN MIDDELBURG 1982-2010**

1982

Four Freedoms Award:	H.R.H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands
Freedom of Speech Award:	Max van der Stoep
Freedom of Worship Award:	Willem A. Visser 't Hooft
Freedom from Want Award:	H. Johannes Witteveen
Freedom from Fear Award:	J. Herman van Roijen

1984

Four Freedoms Award:	Harold Macmillan
Freedom of Speech Award:	Amnesty International
Freedom of Worship Award:	Werner Leich & Christiaan F. Beyers Naudé
Freedom from Want Award:	Liv Ullmann
Freedom from Fear Award:	Brian Urquhart
Eleanor Roosevelt Centennial Award:	Simone Veil

1986

Four Freedoms Award:	Alessandro Pertini
Freedom of Speech Award:	<i>El País</i>
Freedom of Worship Award:	Bernardus Cardinal Alfrink
Freedom from Want Award:	Bradford Morse
Freedom from Fear Award:	Olof Palme (posthumously)

1988

Four Freedoms Award:	Helmut Schmidt
Freedom of Speech Award:	Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Freedom of Worship Award:	Teddy Kollek
Freedom from Want Award:	Halfdan T. Mahler
Freedom from Fear Award:	Armand Hammer

1990

Four Freedoms Award:	Václav Havel & Jacques Delors
Freedom of Worship Award:	László Tökés
Freedom from Want Award:	Jonkheer Emile van Lennep
Freedom from Fear Award:	Simon Wiesenthal

1992

Four Freedoms Award:	Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Freedom of Speech Award:	Mstislav Rostropovich
Freedom of Worship Award:	Terry Waite
Freedom from Want Award:	Jan Tinbergen
Freedom from Fear Award:	The Rt. Hon. The Lord Carrington

1994

Four Freedoms Award:	His Holiness The Dalai Lama
Freedom of Speech Award:	Marion Gräfin Dönhoff
Freedom of Worship Award:	Gerhart M. Riegner
Freedom from Want Award:	Sadako Ogata
Freedom from Fear Award:	Zdravko Grebo

1995

(in Utrecht)

Four Freedoms Award:	Ruud Lubbers
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1996

Four Freedoms Award:	His Majesty The King of Spain
Freedom of Speech Award:	John Hume
Freedom of Worship Award:	The Right Reverend Lord Runcie
Freedom from Want Award:	Artsen zonder Grenzen
Freedom from Fear Award:	Shimon Peres

1998

Four Freedoms Award:	Mary Robinson
Freedom of Speech Award:	CNN
Freedom of Worship Award:	The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu
Freedom from Want Award:	Stéphane Hessel
Freedom from Fear Award:	Free the Children

2000

Four Freedoms Award:	Martti Ahtisaari
Freedom of Speech Award:	Bronislaw Geremek
Freedom of Worship Award:	Dame Cicely Saunders
Freedom from Want Award:	Monkombu S. Swaminathan
Freedom from Fear Award:	Louise Arbour

2002

Four Freedoms Award:	Nelson Mandela
Freedom of Speech Award:	Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Freedom of Worship Award:	Nasr H. Abu Zayd
Freedom from Want Award:	Gro Harlem Brundtland
Freedom from Fear Award:	Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León

2004

Four Freedoms Award:	Kofi Annan
Freedom of Speech Award:	Lennart Meri
Freedom of Worship Award:	Sari Nusseibeh
Freedom from Want Award:	Magguie Barankitse
Freedom from Fear Award:	Max Kohnstamm

2006

Four Freedoms Award:	Mohamed ElBaradei
Freedom of Speech Award:	Carlos Fuentes
Freedom of Worship Award:	Taizé Community
Freedom from Want Award:	Muhammad Yunus
Freedom from Fear Award:	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

2008

Four Freedoms Award:	Richard von Weizsäcker
Freedom of Speech Award:	Lakhdar Brahimi
Freedom of Worship Award:	Karen Armstrong
Freedom from Want Award:	Jan Egeland
Freedom from Fear Award:	War Child

2010

Four Freedoms Award:	The European Court of Human Rights
Freedom of Speech Award:	<i>Novaya Gazeta</i>
Freedom of Worship Award:	Asma Jahangir
Freedom from Want Award:	Maurice Strong
Freedom from Fear Award:	Gareth Evans

**A WORD ABOUT
THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE
AND
THE ROOSEVELT STICHTING**

The Four Freedoms Medals are presented each year by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute at Hyde Park, New York, to men and women whose achievements have demonstrated a commitment to those principles which President Roosevelt proclaimed in his historic speech to Congress on January 6, 1941, as essential to democracy: Freedom of Speech and Expression, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear. The Roosevelt Institute has awarded the Freedoms Medals to some of the most distinguished Americans of our time, including Harry S. Truman, General George C. Marshall, John F. Kennedy, Adlai E. Stevenson, W. Averell Harriman, George F. Kennan, John Kenneth Galbraith, J. William Fulbright, Elie Wiesel, Arthur Miller, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and in 2009 Hillary Clinton.

The international award of the Four Freedoms Medals, which is made in Middelburg, the Netherlands, in even-numbered years, began in 1982, the centennial of President Roosevelt's birth and bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Netherlands. In odd-numbered years the awards are presented to Americans in Hyde Park, New York.

The work of the Roosevelt Institute represents a continuing dedication to the faith Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt so superbly embodied—faith in human freedom, in social purpose, in the inexhaustible strength of democracy, and in the abiding capacity of man to control the world he has created.

The Roosevelt Stichting is a private Dutch foundation established to organize the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony in Middelburg and for that purpose cooperates with the Roosevelt Institute and the Roosevelt Study Center.

A WORD ABOUT THE ROOSEVELT STUDY CENTER

The Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, was founded in 1984 and opened its doors to the public in 1986. It is dedicated to the memory of three famous Americans: President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945), and Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962), who trace their roots to the Dutch province of Zeeland from where their common ancestor left for the New World in the mid-seventeenth century. The Roosevelt Study Center is affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and supported by the Provincial Government of Zeeland.

The Roosevelt Study Center's mission is to advance academic research and engage in public debate on modern U.S. history and European-American relations. The Center achieves its objectives by providing:

- A research library with archival and online resources;
- Research grants to facilitate visits to the Center;
- Staff research projects and scholarly publications;
- Academic conferences, seminars, and film presentations;
- Public lectures and debates;
- Media expertise;
- Undergraduate/post-graduate education at several universities;
- Staff membership in national and international scholarly networks and communities;
- Administrative and organizational support to the Netherlands American Studies Association.

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