



Press Release

Stockholm, 13 November 2018

2018 Right Livelihood Awards to be Presented in Stockholm 23 November

The Laureates of this year's Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize', will receive their prizes in Stockholm on Friday, 23 November and will be celebrated during a week-long programme in Sweden, Germany and Switzerland. The imprisoned Saudi human rights defenders **Abdullah al-Hamid**, **Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani** and **Waleed Abu al-Khair** will be represented by family members of al-Qahtani and the Saudi human rights advocate **Yahia Assiri**.

The Laureates are:

- **Thelma Aldana** (Guatemala) & **Iván Velásquez** (Colombia), who receive the 2018 Honorary Award

The three cash awards worth SEK 1 Million (EUR 97,000) each to be used for the Laureates' successful work go to:

- The civil and human rights defenders **Abdullah al-Hamid**, **Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani** and **Waleed Abu al-Khair** (Saudi Arabia).
- The farmer **Yacouba Sawadogo** (Burkina Faso), widely known as 'the man who stopped the desert'.
- The agronomist **Tony Rinaudo** (Australia), known as 'the forest maker'.

Ole von Uexkull, Executive Director of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation, said:

"The Laureates' trailblazing work for accountability, democracy and the regeneration of degraded land gives tremendous hope and deserves the world's highest attention. We look forward to celebrating them not only in Stockholm but also in Geneva, Zurich and Berlin."

The Award Presentation will take place 19.30-20.00 (CET) at the [Vasa Museum](#), which is home to the world's only preserved 17th century ship and is the most visited museum in Scandinavia. The entire presentation, which involves a wide range of performances, will be livestreamed on rightlivelihoodaward.org. Members of the media interested in receiving a live broadcast are encouraged to contact the Right Livelihood Award Foundation. The celebration will continue throughout the evening with a dinner and acceptance speeches.

The programme in Sweden will include several public lectures and a meeting between the Laureates and the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström. Following the Award Presentation, the Laureates will visit Geneva 26-27 November for high level meetings at the UN and a celebration at Maison de la Paix.



Thelma Aldana and Iván Velásquez will visit Berlin 27-28 November, where they are invited to the German Bundestag and a round table meeting organised by the Right Livelihood Awards' German parliamentary support group. The Swedish Embassy in Berlin is also hosting a large event for invited guests at 'Felleshuset'.

Tony Rinaudo will continue to Zurich on 28 November where he will be speaking at the 11th Right Livelihood Award Lecture hosted by the University of Zurich.

Please find more information about the upcoming Award week below.

Contact

For further information and to arrange interviews with the Laureates, please contact:

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Further details on the 2018 Laureates, alongside high-resolution photographs and videos, are available at: rightlivelihoodaward.org/2018

About the Right Livelihood Award Foundation

Established in 1980, the Right Livelihood Award Foundation honours and supports courageous people and organisations offering visionary and exemplary solutions to the root causes of global problems. The Swedish Foundation sees its role as being the megaphone and shield for the Laureates, and provides them with long-term [support](#). It seeks to help [protect](#) those award recipients whose life and liberty are in danger. The Foundation has Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

The Right Livelihood Award is annually presented to four Laureates. Unlike most other international prizes, it has no categories. The award recognises that, in striving to meet the human challenges of today's world, the most inspiring and remarkable work often defies any standard classification. In total there are now [174 Laureates from 70 countries](#).

About the selection process

Anyone can [propose candidates](#) to be considered for the Right Livelihood Award. After careful investigation by the Foundation's research team, reports on the current proposals are submitted to the Foundation's board and [international Jury](#). The Jury meets annually in September to select the



recipients. The Foundation celebrates 40 years in 2019 and nominations for the 2019 Right Livelihood Award are open.

The Award Week

The 2018 Right Livelihood Award programme covers a full week of events and high-level meetings in Sweden, Switzerland and Germany. Some of them are listed below, more information can be found in the [event section](#) on our website.

Stockholm

- 22 Nov Meeting with the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström.
- 23 Nov 19.30-20.10 (CET) Award presentation at the Vasa Museum. The event is livestreamed on the Foundation's website, live signal is provided to interested media. The Award presentation is followed by a dinner and Laureates' acceptance speeches.

Geneva

- 26 Nov Meeting with the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Kate Gilmore.
- 26 Nov 18.30-20.00 (CET) Celebration of the 2018 Right Livelihood Award Laureates at Maison de la Paix, organised in partnership with The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Open to the public, register [here](#).

Berlin

- 27 Nov Round table meeting in the German Bundestag organised by the Right Livelihood Awards' German parliamentary support group.
- 28 Nov The Swedish Embassy in Berlin is hosting a large event for invited guests at 'Felleshuset'.

Zurich

- 11 Nov 11th Right Livelihood Award Lecture with Tony Rinaudo, University of Zurich. Open to the public, [register online](#).

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