



EJDM Europäische Vereinigung von Juristinnen und Juristen für Demokratie und Menschenrechte in der Welt e.V.

EALDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights

AEJDH Asociacion Europea de los Juristas por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos en el Mundo

AEJDH Association Européenne des Juristes pour la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme dans le Monde

AEGDU Associazione Europea delle Giuriste e dei Giuristi per la Democrazia e i Diritti dell'Uomo nel Mondo

Prof. Monique CHEMILLIER- GENDREAU, Présidente d'honneur (Paris)
Rudolf SCHALLER, avocat, Président (Genève)
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Press Release (not to be published before 4 February 2005)

German Lawyers Association awards HANS-LITTEN-PRICE to Lea Tsemel and Mohammad Na'amneh - 5 February 2005 in Berlin

The HANS-LITTEN-PRICE 2004 of the German Association of Democratic Lawyers (VDJ) is awarded to the Israeli advocate Lea Tsemel (Jerusalem) and to the Palestinian advocate Mohammad Na'amneh (Araba). The two lawyers receive the price for their life long courageous and self-sacrificing struggle for Human Rights and for a peaceful and just settlement of the conflict between Israel and Palestine in particular in their work before Israeli courts and before the Israeli administration. Both are also an example for another Israel than that which is represented for many years by the Israeli Government.

Lea Tsemel was born in 1945 in Haifa. Since 1972 she is defending Palestinians, and their individual as well as their national rights before the Israeli courts. In 1996 she already received the Human Rights Award from the French Republic.

Mohammad Na'amneh was born in 1945 in Araba. 1980 he joined the efforts of defending Palestinian prisoners before military courts and other tribunals.

The VDJ awards the HANS-LITTEN-PRICE every two years to lawyers for their enduring, courageous and self-sacrificing work in particular with respect to Human Rights and democracy.

Hans Litten was a Jewish lawyer from Berlin, who worked till 1933 in the "Red Help" and who represented victims before the court as a plaintiff often against prominent nazis. In the famous "Eden Palace trial" in 1931 he succeeded to have Hitler ordered before the court to testify and to swear an oath on the constitution but also to reveal the real intentions of the SA. He was therefore extremely hated by the NSDAP and was hence arrested by the Nazis a few hours after the arson attack on the German Reichstag. After many years of torture in the concentrations camps Esterwegen and Buchenwald he was finally brought to death in Dachau.

Many years ago the Government of the GDR had already named a street in the centre of Berlin after Hans Litten. In this street - the name had not been changed after 1989 - the Federation of German Bar Associations has now its head quarter, who also keeps alive the memorial to Hans Litten.

In the past the HANS-LITTEN-PRICE was awarded (among others) to Felicia Langer (another lawyer from Israel and winner of the alternative Nobel-Price), the German lawyers Barbara Huesing and Barbara Degen, the Kurdish lawyer from Turkey Eren Keskin and the former German Judge at the High-Court in Lower Saxony Helmut Kramer.

The HANS-LITTEN-PRICE 2004 will be awarded at the 5 February 2005 – the 67th anniversary of the death of Hans Litten – in Berlin. At this event there will also reports be given by the two price winners about the legal conflicts which result out of the conflict between Israel and Palestine and how the access to justice is guaranteed under these conditions. Other speakers will be Felicia Langer (barrister from Israel who lives now in Germany, winner of the Alternative Nobel Price and of the first HANS-LITTEN-PRICE) and Prof. Norman Paech from Hamburg (specialist in international law). The European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights supports the awarding of the HANS-LITTEN-PRICE to Lea Tsemel and to Mohammad Na'amneh.

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