

Geneva: Exceptional Uzbek Woman honored on 20 November

Contributed by DI Media Committee
 Wednesday, 19 November 2008
 Last Updated Wednesday, 19 November 2008

Mutabar TADJIBAEVA, released from prison on the 2nd of June and for the first time allowed to travel abroad, will receive the 2008 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders (MEA) on Thursday 20th November, 18h00, during an international ceremony in Geneva at the prestigious Musee Ariana

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 E L E A S E Exceptional Uzbek Woman Honored in Geneva on 20 November Mutabar TADJIBAEVA, released from
 prison on the 2nd
 of June and for the first time allowed to travel abroad, will receive
 the 2008 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders (MEA) on Thursday 20th
 November, 18h00, during an international ceremony in Geneva at the
 prestigious Musee Ariana. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights will
 present the award and opera star Barbara Hendricks will perform. This year's
 event is covered by Swiss Television for the EBU (European
 Broadcasting Union) which will broadcast a news flash on Euronews. The program includes exclusive film images and
 a roundtable with experts on Uzbekistan. The event is co-organised with
 the Municipality of Geneva which wants to commemorate in this way the 60th
 anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mutabar Tadjibaeva is a very courageous woman
 who has long helped ordinary people to find justice, monitored trials and
 made findings public. She was sentenced to 8 years in prison for her
 outspoken criticism of the Government over the 2005 massacre of Andijan,
 where hundreds unarmed civilians were killed and wounded. She was
 released on strict conditions but refuses to be silenced. Uzbekistan will be under examination under the UPR
 (Universal Periodic Review) of the UN Human Rights Council next month. In this
 context, the Chairman of the Jury of the MEA, Hans Thoolen, draws the attention
 of the international community to her dramatic past and present situation, and
 encourages Uzbekistan to continue its reforms and to release all human rights
 defenders still in prison. A unique collaboration among 10 of the world's leading
 human rights organizations makes the MEA the prize of the whole human
 rights movement... Patrons of the Martin Ennals Award: Louise Arbour, Asma
 Jahangir, Jose Ramos-Horta, Theo van Boven, Adama Dieng, Leandro Despouy,
 Barbara Hendricks, Robert Fulghum, and Werner Lottje. The previous laureates: Rajan
 Hoole-Kopalasingham Sriharan, Sri Lanka and Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, Burundi
 (2007); Akbar Ganji, Iran and Arnold Tsunga, Zimbabwe; Aktham Naisse, Syria;
 Lida Yusupova, Russia; Alirio Uribe Munoz, Colombia; Jacqueline Moudeina, Chad;
 Peace Brigades International; Immaculee Birhaheka, DR Congo; Natasa Kandic,
 Yugoslavia; Eyad El Sarraj, Palestine; Samuel Ruiz Garcia, Mexico; Clement
 Nwankwo, Nigeria; Asma Jahangir, Pakistan; Harry Wu, China (1994). For further information and to arrange interviews
 with
 the Laureate, please contact :Luis Marreiros, Coordinator Tel. +41 22 809 4925 marreiros@martinennalsaward.org