

PACEM IN TERRIS
PEACE
AND FREEDOM
AWARD

Sunday, October 22, 2017



DAVENPORT, IOWA



Widad Akreyi, PhD

Dr. Widad Akreyi is a health expert, author and human rights activist of Kurdish ancestry who co-founded the human rights organization Defend International.

Born in Akre, Kurdistan region, Iraq, in 1969, she fled with her family to Mosul five years later to avoid the Iraq government’s offensive against Kurds. Violations of human rights that occurred during that, and other offensives, are believed to have shaped her life. She is said to be the first young woman of Middle Eastern descent to engage in advocacy efforts related to illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, gender-based violence, disarmament and international security.

Because of her peace activism and political affiliations, she was forced to leave her homeland in 1991. She sought political asylum in Denmark, where she enrolled in language studies and eventually earned a master’s degree in genetics and genomics and a PhD in global health and cancer epidemiology.

She has served as a clinical geneticist at the Royal Hospital in Copenhagen, researching inherited diseases.

Dr. Akreyi has created partner agreements with like-minded, social justice organizations. She launched campaigns to defend the rights of writers, civil society activists, children, women’s rights defenders, and prisoners on death row and on hunger strikes. She also has years of experience in intercultural communication and peace and international conventions. She is a recipient of the Fellowship of Reconciliation Peace Award and received a Special Prize from the National Organization for Future Generations for bridging the gap between cultures.

“Peace may be hard to achieve, but is possible with small, yet essential steps that are guided by courage and sufficient commitment.”

Widad Akreyi, PhD

2017 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

PROGRAM

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Christopher Clow

WELCOME

Sister Joan Lescinski, CSJ, PhD
President, St. Ambrose University

OPENING PRAYER

Alan Ross
Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities

ONE AMONG US JUSTICE AWARD

Introduction

Loxi Hopkins

Presentation

Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula
Bishop, Diocese of Davenport

Acceptance

Nora Dvorak

HISTORY OF PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD

Dan Ebener, DBA
Professor, Organizational Leadership
St. Ambrose University

LITANY HONORING PAST RECIPIENTS

St. Ambrose University students

BIOGRAPHY OF THE RECIPIENT

Barb Arland-Frye
Editor, The Catholic Messenger

AWARD PRESENTATION

Bishop Thomas Zinkula

REMARKS

Widad Akreyi, PhD

CLOSING PRAYER

Sister Kathleen Holland, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton

Please join us for a public reception immediately after the ceremony.

2017 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

is presented to

Widad Akreyi, PhD

by Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula on behalf of the
Quad City Pacem in Terris Coalition in light of your lifelong
commitment to peace and justice.

You have worked tirelessly for Peace and Justice and advocate
for human dignity for all in the Middle East.

Your mission has been to save lives, alleviate suffering and
promote peace, equal rights and opportunities for all.

You have fearlessly documented torture and other human rights
violations and have pursued justice through advocacy efforts
on behalf of vulnerable people and the monitoring of peace
initiatives. Your findings regarding crimes against humanity and
ethnic cleansing have brought to light horrific acts that require
the world to pay attention.

You embody the words of Pope John XXIII in his encyclical
Pacem in Terris as a “spark of light, a center of love, a vivifying
heaven” to your sisters and brothers around the world.

Given on this 22th day of October 2017 in Davenport, Iowa.

The Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award
was created in 1964 by the Davenport Catholic Interracial
Council. Since 1978, the award has been presented by
the Quad City Pacem in Terris Coalition. The award
honors Pope John XXIII and commemorates his 1963
encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, which
called on all people to secure peace among all nations.

THE 2017 PACEM IN TERRIS

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTORS

Diocese of Davenport
St. Ambrose University
Augustana College
Churches United of the Quad City Area
Islamic Center of Quad Cities
The Catholic Messenger
Quad Cities Interfaith
Muslim Community of the Quad Cities
Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities
Congregation of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of St. Benedict, Rock Island, Illinois
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Iowa

PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

John F. Kennedy awakened in us a hope that no problem
was too great to conquer—race relations, violence or
poverty—when citizens work together. (1964, posthumous
presentation)

John Howard Griffin’s powerful book, *Black Like Me*,
showed us how we are too often judged not by the content
of our character but by the color of our skin. (1964)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged us to dream of
a world transformed through nonviolent civil rights
activism. (1965)

R. Sargent Shriver, first director of the Peace Corps, taught
us that one person can indeed make a difference. (1966)

A. Philip Randolph’s efforts to organize railway employees
convinced us that the dignity of work must be rewarded
with a just wage. (1967)

Reverend James Groppi awoke people to the injustice of
unfair housing and racial prejudice in Milwaukee. (1968)

Saul Alinsky taught people how to organize and to act
together in promoting justice in society. (1969)

Dorothy Day founded the Catholic Worker Movement
and reminded us to look for Christ in the faces of the
poor. (1972)

Harold Hughes brought the message of the Gospel to the
cause of equal education, civil rights and opposition to
capital punishment. (1974)

Dom Hélder Câmara, gentle shepherd of the poor of
northwestern Brazil, embraced the impoverished and gave
sharp prophecy to the wealthy. (1975)

Saint Teresa of Calcutta gave hope to the desperate and
offered light to those living in abject poverty. (1976)

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton challenged church leadership to
embrace nonviolence instead of the just war theory. (1979)

Crystal Lee Sutton organized labor in the South and
reminded us that equal work demands equal pay. (1980)

Bishop Ernest Unterkoefler advocated for the rights of
workers and helped to buoy the labor movement among
the poor in Appalachia. (1980)

George Kennan, statesman and diplomat, realized that
the only hope for solving the world’s problems lies in
abandoning violence. (1982)

Helen M. Caldicott, Australian physician and peace
advocate, spoke on behalf of the world’s children in the
face of possible nuclear holocaust. (1983)

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin through his notion of the “consistent ethic of life” and the “seamless garment” taught us that all life is God-given and therefore precious. (1985)

Bishop Maurice Dingman through his love for the land worked for peace and justice and reminded all of us of our roots in the soil. (1986)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has helped free South Africa from the yoke of apartheid, teaching the entire world that racial injustice is sacrilege. (1987)

Eileen Egan through her work with Pax Christi and Catholic Relief Services addressed the world’s problems through missionary zeal and creative nonviolence. (1989)

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, peace advocate in Ireland, has become a global force against violence in the name of religion. (1990)

María Julia Hernández directed the Human Rights Committee and spoke for the victims of the long civil war in El Salvador. (1991)

Cesar Chávez led the United Farm Workers to become a passionate voice for workers who have long been disenfranchised. (1992)

Daniel Berrigan, SJ, American poet, peace activist and Catholic priest, has offered powerful witness on behalf of peace and justice. (1993)

Jim Wallis, founder of the Sojourners Christian Community, has brought people of faith to espouse radical social engagement. (1995)

Bishop Samuel Ruiz has lent great courage to his fight against violence and injustice inflicted against the poor and oppressed of Chiapas, Mexico. (1996)

Jim and Shelley Douglass—the only married couple to receive the award—have been steadfast in their efforts to build a world of peace based on justice. (1997)

Helen Prejean, CSJ, through her loving presence on death row has fostered reconciliation and spiritual healing. (1998)

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel has inspired the world with his Gospel-rooted work on behalf of Argentina’s “disappeared ones.” (1999)

Monsignor George Higgins wove together communities of faith and organized labor to support economic justice. (2000)

Lech Walesa, defender of the rights of workers in the face of Communist repression in Poland, has become a global leader for freedom and democracy. (2001)

Dorothy Marie and Gwen Hennessey, OSF, sibling sisters and Dubuque Franciscans, have devoted their lives and ministry to local activism on global issues of peace and justice. (2002)

Arthur Simon, founder of Bread for the World, has shown how one person can make a difference alleviating world hunger. (2004)

Don Mosley of Jubilee Partners has served others by offering hospitality to refugees, housing for the homeless and mediation to situations of war. (2005)

Bishop Salim Ghazal has worked with Muslims and Christians to promote reconciliation, peace and hope for young people and others displaced by Lebanon’s civil war. (2007)

Monsignor Marvin Mottet has devoted his life to walking the two feet of social action: direct service and social justice. (2008)

Hildegard Goss-Mayr is one of the world’s leading experts on nonviolence, a teacher, visionary and pioneer who helped forge a new path toward peace on earth for all humanity. (2009)

Reverend John Dear, SJ, a Jesuit priest, has delivered the message of the nonviolent Jesus in word and deed in confronting nuclear arms manufacturing and use. (2010)

Bishop Álvaro Leonel Ramazzini has drawn the world’s attention to the exploitation of natural resources by multinational companies adversely affecting the poor and indigenous people of Guatemala. (2011)

Kim Bobo, Executive Director and founder of Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ), has educated a nation about the prevalence of wage theft and injustice that disproportionately affects the poor amongst us. (2012)

Jean Vanier, religious and moral leader, philosopher and writer, is best known as the founder of L’Arche and strives to build caring relationships which foster the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities so they have a sense of belonging in the world. (2013)

Simone Campbell, SSS, raised awareness about social and economic transformation through the advocacy of NETWORK, a social justice lobby. (2014)

Venerable Thích Nhất Hạnh, a Vietnamese Zen Buddhist Master, teacher, author and peace activist, honored for his lifelong commitment to peace and for his inspired, dedicated work to bridge Eastern and Western spiritual traditions. (2016)

Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez Merino, OP, a theologian and Dominican priest. He is recognized as a prominent figure in Latin American Catholicism. His 1971 book “A theology of Liberation” led many to view him as the founder of liberation theology. (2016)

