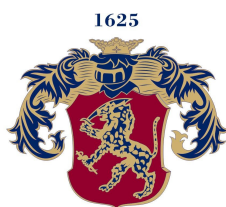


Special Ion Ratiu
Democracy Award
Issue

*Informing, applying, researching and learning
the values and behaviours associated with
democracy....*



Adam Michnik is the Recipient of the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award 2009



THE RATIU FAMILY FOUNDATION



Adam Michnik Awarded the Ion Rătiu Democracy Award, 2009

**The prize will be
awarded at the
Woodrow Wilson Center,
Washington DC, on
December 3rd 2009, on
the occasion of the Ion
Rătiu Democracy
Lecture (IRDL).**

The Woodrow Wilson Center (Washington DC), the Rătiu Family Charitable Foundation (London) and the Rătiu Center for Democracy (Turda) announce the designation of Adam Michnik as laureate of the Ion Rătiu Democracy Award, 2009.

Adam Michnik is a renowned political activist and member of the first democratically-elected Polish legislature, in 1989. Writer and political journalist, Michnik was one of the leaders of the democratic Polish opposition in Poland (1968-1989).

The prize will be awarded at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC, on December 3rd 2009, on the occasion of the Ion Rătiu Democracy Lecture (IRDL). The amount of the prize is \$10000. The purpose of the Ion Rătiu Democracy Lecture is to increase the visibility and international recognition of the causes of democracy activists worldwide. The organizers would like this year's Ion Rătiu Democracy Lecture to be an integral part of the debate and intellectual reflection on democracy, democratization and observance of human rights. The event is symbolic of the deep commitment of politician and journalist Ion Rătiu to the defence of democratic values and behaviours in Romania and around the world.



Adam Michnik became known for the dissident positions adopted in communist Poland, as a founding member of the Workers' Defence Committee, member of "Solidarity" and participant to the Round Table Talks that brought together members of the opposition and the ruling party in 1989.

In 2008 the Ion Ratiu Democracy Lecture was awarded to Eleonora Ceracvschi, director of the "Stefan cel Mare si Sfant" Highschool in Grigoriopol (The Republic of Moldova). The title of the lecture was "Democracy and Freedom as Fundamental Human Rights" and was also supported by the Moldova Foundation and the Vintu Foundation for Excellence in Education and Journalism (Bruxelles). Ms. Cercavschi thus joined Ion Ratiu awardees from previous years: Anatoli Mikhailov (2007-Belarus), Saad Eddin Ibrahim (2006-Egypt) and Sergio Aguayo (2005-Mexico).

Adam Michnik became known for the dissident positions adopted in communist Poland, as a founding member of the Workers' Defence Committee, member of "Solidarity" and participant to the Round Table Talks that brought together members of the opposition and the ruling party in 1989. In the 20 years since the collapse of communism, Adam Michnik distinguished himself through the positions adopted in the public space as editor-in-chief of the "Gazeta Wyborcza" or as author of "The History of Honour in Poland" or "Confessions of a Converted Dissident".

The choice of Adam Michnik as laureate of the Ion Ratiu 2009 Democracy Award may be interpreted on different levels: individually (as a dissident during the Polish communist regime), as Polish patriot (advocating the traditional values of courage and resistance against a totalitarian regime) and as a fighter for democracy, as a role model for those fighting for justice, freedom and democracy in Europe and the world.

**The introductory speech
of the Ion Rătiu Award
will be delivered by
well-known Polish
American author
Zbigniew Brzezinski,
Councillor for National
Security under president
Jimmy Carter.**

The introductory speech of the Ion Rătiu Lecture will be delivered by well-known Polish American author Zbigniew Brzezinski, author of "The Great Chess Table", "The Choice" as well as other books, studies and articles, Councillor for National Security under President Jimmy Carter between 1977 and 1981 and contributor to prestigious publications and American media organizations such as the Washington Post and National Public Radio. At present he is professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and researcher of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The Rătiu Center for Democracy is a non-governmental, apolitical and non-partisan organization, whose mission is to promote the values and behaviours associated with democracy. The Center works on activities and programs at the local, national and international level, including the Ion Rătiu Lecture for Democracy (Washington DC).

The Rătiu Family Charitable Foundation, founded by Ion and Elisabeth Rătiu in London in 1979, has as its mission "to support Romanian culture and civilization". The grants of the Foundation are awarded for the following fields: cultural, educational, social and humanitarian. The Rătiu Family Charitable Foundation has also established the Chair for Romanian Studies at Georgetown University in Washington DC, awards annually tens of grants for young Romanians studying at different UK universities, supports multiple foundations, associations and projects in Romania, among which the Rătiu Foundation Romania (Bucharest) and the Rătiu Foundation for Democracy ("Rătiu Center for Democracy") (Turda).



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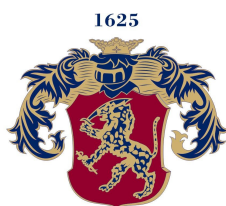
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