

## The IDEAS Foundation values, for another year, those people who are fighting for a better world

Eduardo Madina, who defending from his parliamentary seat political dignity and public liberties, was the first to open the floor of the Sala Natura at the Hotel Mercure of Madrid where, on December 15, the presentation ceremony of the Second IDEAS Awards, took place. He came forward firmly with the satisfaction of those who receive a prize knowing that through him, there is recognition of the work of many others who fight for the same cause: freedom. Behind his serious facade, one could feel he was happy, serene and surely with the incentive of having to collect a prize for a battle at which he has beaten those who one day saw their lives change just like that of the innocent victims.

After him, the other award winners got seated following the instructions of the journalist from Cadena SER radio station, Raquel García who was very professional in conducting the gala during which the emotions and the smiles of the prizewinners and the attendants were also protagonists.

All eyes were on Eduardo Madina, María Blasco Marhuenda and José Antonio Bastos who was representing Médicos Sin Fronteras, and Vandana Shiva. The room was full of wisdom that was portrayed in the photograph the IDEAS Foundation will keep in the photo library for the special days.

The nominators of the awards and the sponsors of the prizewinners also sat near the stage. Ángel Gabilondo like a good Basque citizen, wanted to accompany during such a special evening, his fellow countryman, Eduardo Madina, IDEAS- CARMEN GARCÍA BLOISE 2011 AWARD TO THE DEFENSE OF PUBLIC LIBERTIES; he showed his good speaking capacity, which was masterly as usual, reviewing the current news with a sibylline irony making the audience smile. He praised Madina's figure but also entrusted him with the responsibility to continue to work like he has done so far, from a less privileged position, that of the opposition, but stronger if possible.

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Pedro Zerolo did not want to miss the opportunity to express his gratefulness to Médicos Sin Fronteras for their solidarity and their good practice in extreme situations where equality and social justice are above all. Zerolo was able to put into words the thoughts of many citizens who appreciate the work of non governmental organizations which are lucky to work with people who, on many occasions, set their lives aside to help the neediest. The President of Médicos Sin Fronteras, José Antonio Bastos, IDEAS- CARMEN GARCÍA BLOISE 2011 AWARD FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE WEAKEST, started his speech by recognizing how small he felt among so many intellectuals, and expressed his desire to witness the disappearance of Médicos Sin Fronteras because it would mean the beginning of a better world. José Antonio Bastos dedicated the gala to all those doctors who, at that very hour, at different places in the world, were helping those who needed it most.

Cristina Narbona praised Vandana Shiva, who is committed to ecology and women. The face of the former Minister of Environment, showed how she was proud to present another woman who has thought us how the world should be designed through ecology, with this prize. The winner of the IDEAS AWARD TO SUSTAINABILITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, in her speech, Vandana was very critical with the steps taken worldwide to fight climate change and ended her speech on an optimistic note.

María Blasco Marhuenda was presented the IDEAS Award 2011 for Innovation and Social Change by the President of the Autonomous University of Madrid where she studied. A former student, now a renowned researcher whom the President felt proud of while highlighting the advances of her work. At the end of his speech, María made us feel hopeful by announcing that in a very near future we can predict the diseases a person is going to suffer in his life.

The General director of the IDEAS Foundation, Carlos Mulas and the Executive Vice President, Jesús Caldera, respectively opened and closed the event and were also exceptional witnesses once again, of a prize presentation held last December 15 valuing those people or institutions who work to build a better world.

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The Ramon Rubial Foundation started awarding these transcendental prizes in 1995, to honor its former president, Carmen García Bloise. They were meant to honor those who had a career path in defending public liberties and supporting the weakest and those who in the past or the present had excelled in helping or supporting refugees or those who migrate due to wars, unfavorable economic situations or other extreme situations.

During all these years, many renowned personalities and institutions have been awarded the Carmen García Bloise Award: Felipe González, Médicos del Mundo, Javier Solana, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Asociación Afectados 11M, Rosa María Calaf, Patxi López and Fundación Vicente Ferrer, among others.

In 2011, with the merger of the socialist foundations, the IDEAS foundation continued with the tradition of respecting the two existing categories while adding two new ones, one to highlight the values referring to sustainability and the fight against the climate change and the other, related to innovation and social change.

the first IDEAS Awards posthumously valuing the fight of Marcelino Camacho, the solidarity, the courage and efficiency of Military emergency Unit and the research and professionalism of Juan Antonio Cirac and the mastery of Nicholas Stern.

The attendants to this year's event left the Sala Natura after the reception offered by the IDEAS Foundation, with the feeling of having been to the presentation of the IDEAS Award that was worthwhile.

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