



“My designation as one of the winners of the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence filled me with an overwhelming feeling of joy and pride. Indeed, this distinction from

UNESCO makes me even more aware of my duty and responsibility as a social innovator, not only in relation to the emancipation of the populations of slave descent, but also more broadly in relation to the construction of a new peaceful Mali with greater social justice, equality, and sharing”

Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat

**Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat (Mali)**, founder and President of two non-governmental organizations - GARI (Groupement des artisans ruraux de Intadeyné – Group of Rural Artisans of Intadeyné) and TEMEDT (“Placenta”), has worked for years for the settlement of conflicts between sedentary and nomadic populations through negotiation and dialogue, enabling a peaceful solution to a deadly conflict in 1992 between the Imajoren and the Daoussahak communities of the Circle of Ménaka region in eastern Mali. He has fought tirelessly for social development in Mali, promoting the provision of access to basic social services and education for the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups of society, including women, children, and people of slave descent.

After interrupting his studies in 1980 in order to become a teacher for deprived Tuareg children in his native town of Ménaka, in 1986 Mr Ag Idbaltanat constructed with his own hands a primary school for children from the poorest families in the region of Intadeyné and spared no efforts to convince local communities that school education is the best way for children to break the cycle of poverty, exclusion and deprivation. In 1987, he founded the grassroots organization GARI, which establishes schools throughout the region as a way to open the horizons of marginalized Tuareg children. He has campaigned against stigma and discrimination linked to the slave caste identity and has helped communities to reconsider and redefine what it means to be Tuareg.

In 2006, he created TEMEDT, which developed multiple activities under his leadership to raise awareness of the inequalities among communities affected by slavery. These actions have reached large numbers and have directly helped to liberate and support dozens of people through the provision of legal advice to victims of slavery practices, training on anti-slavery legislation for magistrates and working for legal reform to criminalize slavery practices.

Mr Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat is awarded the 2014 UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize in recognition of his outstanding commitment to dialogue and non-violence as a way to resolve conflicts in society.



“The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize is a great distinction. I feel honored to share it with Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat. I admire his work, and I have a great interest in inviting him to Chile to share with us his experience of defending the rights of the Tuareg people. Also, I have proposed to the Metropolitan University of Educational Sciences in Chile, to open a chair

named after Madanjeet Singh. It should be aimed at students who are being trained as school teachers to incorporate into their curricula the values promoted by this UNESCO Prize”.

Francisco Javier Estévez Valencia

**Francisco Javier Estévez Valencia (Chile)** is an eminent civil society activist, historian and Professor at the University of Chile, who started his non-violent struggle for human rights and democracy during the years of the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet and became one of the well-known leaders of the democratic resistance of young Chileans.

After the return of democracy in Chile, he made a significant contribution to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as Vice-President of a major citizen campaign “Para Creer en Chile”. For years he investigated and denounced human rights violations and worked for the preparation of the constitutional accusation of General Pinochet, which was rejected by the Parliament but taken into consideration during the legal proceedings in London.

In 1994, he founded the non-profit making civil society organization Fundación Ideas (the Chilean Ideas Foundation). As its Executive Director since that time, he has made a significant contribution to building a culture of human rights, democracy and peace at the national, regional and international levels through education and awareness-raising activities, as well as public campaigns which empower those who are not heard in their struggle for dignity and justice. As coordinator of the Cinta Amarilla citizen campaign he contributed to the abolition of the death penalty in Chile in 2001; and to the removal from public space of monuments symbolizing the military regime.

Mr Estévez Valencia is awarded the 2014 UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize in recognition of his longstanding commitment and tireless work to promote respect for human rights, based on the principles of tolerance and nonviolence, in order to build a more harmonious and inclusive society, with peace and prosperity, and a world with equal opportunities for all.

## 2014 UNESCO-MADANJEET SINGH Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence



“More than words, tolerance is behaviour that is also learnt in the classroom. It takes the form of openness to the diversity of cultures and beliefs and respect for freedom of expression and opinion, rooted in attachment to human rights. This is the spirit of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), for which UNESCO is lead agency in the United Nations system. It is also the objective of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, awarded this year to two human rights activists – Mr Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat (Mali) and M. Francisco Javier Estévez Valencia (Chile).”

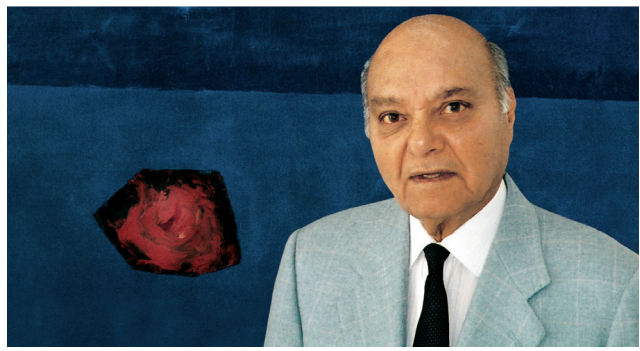
*Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, from her Message on the occasion of International Day of Tolerance, 16 November 2014*

“It is always possible to resolve conflicts without violence, and no situation can justify the recourse to violence, for the recourse to violence is weakness”.

*Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat, Bamako, Mali, November 2014*

“I see the award of this Prize as a great support to me and all the people in my region who are committed to the struggle for tolerance and non-violence, in order to continue this work with even greater conviction”.

*Francisco Javier Estévez Valencia, Santiago de Chile, Chile, November 2014*



**The UNESCO-MADANJEET SINGH PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND NON-VIOLENCE** was created in 1995 to mark the United Nations Year for Tolerance, proclaimed at the initiative of UNESCO, and the 125th anniversary of the birth of the Mahatma Gandhi.

In recognition of a lifelong devotion to communal harmony and peace, the Prize bears the name of its benefactor Madanjeet Singh, who was a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Indian artist, writer and diplomat.

#### **Objective**

The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence is aimed at advancing the spirit of tolerance in the arts, culture, education, science and communication.

#### **Who can win the Prize?**

The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence is awarded to persons, institutions or organizations that have distinguished themselves through particularly remarkable initiatives extending over several years to promote the understanding and resolution of international or national problems in a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

#### **Who can submit Nominations?**

Nominations can be presented by governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as by non-governmental organizations and foundations maintaining official relations with UNESCO and active in a field covered by the Prize. Former Laureates of the Prize, qualified eminent personalities, as well as any suitable person or civil society organization working for the advancement of a culture of peace, human rights, non-violence and tolerance in the world also may nominate candidates worthy of receiving this outstanding international distinction.

#### **How are nominations submitted?**

Nominations for the Prize should be submitted no later than 1 March of the year of the award of the Prize, by filling out the nomination form in either English or French, by post (the original form) and, if possible, by e-mail (advanced copy).

Each candidate's nomination must be established on the relevant form and must include an explanation of the choice on the basis of the goals and objectives clearly defined in the Statutes of the Prize. A standard form - available in English and French - is prepared by the Secretariat of the Prize, for each biennial award.

Additional materials (publications, video, audio and other teaching materials, etc.) may be attached to the nomination form.

#### **Who designates Laureates?**

The prize-winners are chosen by the Director-General of UNESCO, following the proposal of an International Jury composed of three independent experts, of different nationalities and gender, having an internationally recognized reputation in the field of peace, human rights, tolerance and non-violence.

The recommendation of the International Jury is based on its appreciation of the relevant initiatives and contributions, according to the criteria laid down in Article 3 of the Statutes.

#### **How the Prize is awarded?**

The Prize is awarded every two years in an even year of UNESCO's programme cycle. The Prize is awarded during an official ceremony held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the occasion of International Day for Tolerance, 16 November. The prizewinner is presented with a check for the amount of the Prize and a Diploma. The US \$100,000 Prize may be divided equally between two laureates whose actions are considered to be of equal merit.

#### **Contact :**

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#### **LAUREATES**

##### **1996**

Association of 32 non-governmental women's organizations "Pro-femmes Twese Hamwe" of Rwanda

##### **1998**

Narayan Desai, educator and peace activist of India and Joint Action Committee for Peoples Rights of Pakistan

##### **2000**

Pope Shenouda III (1923-2012), the head of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church

##### **2002**

Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar

##### **2004**

Taslina Nasreen, writer from Bangladesh

##### **2006**

Veerasingham Anandasangaree from Sri Lanka

##### **2009**

François Houtart (Belgium) and Abdul Sattar Edhi (Pakistan)

##### **2011**

Anarkali Honaryar (Afghanistan) and Khaled Abu Awwad (Palestine)

##### **2014**

Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat (Mali) and Francisco Javier Estévez Valencia (Chile)

"It is essential for international harmony that individuals, communities and nations accept and respect the multicultural character of the human family. Without tolerance there can be no peace, and without peace there can be no development or democracy."

"In order to generate public awareness, emphasize the dangers of intolerance and react with renewed commitment and action in support of tolerance promotion and education, we solemnly proclaim 16 November the annual International Day for Tolerance."

**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON TOLERANCE,  
adopted on 16 November 1985 at the twenty-eighth  
session of the UNESCO General Conference**