WINNER OF THE 2018 VÁCLAV HAVEL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

8 October, 2018; Strasbourg, Prague

Today, on Monday 8 October, 2018, Oyub Titiev was ceremonially announced as laureate of the 2018 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The award is presented by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Václav Havel Library and the Charter 77 Foundation.

Oyub Titiev (Russian Federation),
in detention since January 2018, is a prominent human rights defender and head of the Grozny representative office of the Memorial Human Rights Center in Chechyna. Mr Titiev succeeded Natalia Estemirova, murdered in 2009, as head of the Memorial Human Rights Centre in Chechnya, and has made a widely recognised contribution to the defence of human rights in the region by reporting on abuses by the local authorities.

The two other shortlisted nominees – Rosa Maria Paya, a young Cuban democracy and human rights activist, and, Nabeel Rajab from Bahrain, the co-founder and President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights – also received diplomas during the ceremony.

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize draws attention to extraordinary actions in the field of human rights in Europe and elsewhere. It is presented annually by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation. It comes with a monetary award of EUR 60,000.

The Prize is awarded in memory of Václav Havel, playwright, opponent of totalitarianism, architect of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, and an enduring symbol of opposition to despotism.

The first Václav Havel Prize was awarded in 2013 to Belarusian human rights activist Ales Bialiatski. The Azerbaijani human rights defender Anar Mammadli won the Prize in 2014, and veteran Russian human rights defender Ludmilla Alexeeva was the winner in 2015. In 2016 the Prize was awarded to Yazidi human rights activist Nadia Murad. Last year's winner was Turkish lawyer and judge Murat Arslan.

Unbearable Lightness of Evil
The Václav Havel Library has organised an international conference in honour of the laureate; The Unbearable Lightness of Evil will take place at the Prague Crossroads on 10 October, 2018.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Francesc Ferrer, tel. +33 3 88 41 31 93
Václav Havel Library: Michael Žantovský, tel. +420 602 214 464
Charta 77 Foundation: Sandra Štefaniková, tel. +420 775 170 188