

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Secretary-General Christophe Deloire was awarded the international Dan David Prize on behalf of the organization, sharing a purse of \$1 million for its contribution in the field of Defending Democracy.

Tel Aviv May 19th The Dan David Prize annually awards three prizes of USD 1 million each to outstanding figures and organizations whose efforts have made unparalleled humanistic, scientific or technological accomplishments in selected fields within the three dimensions of time - Past, Present and Future. This year's fields are Macro History, Defending Democracy, and Combatting Climate Change.

At the gala Tel Aviv event to present the prizes, held tonight in the presence of Israel President Reuven Rivlin, prominent French journalist Christophe Deloire was awarded half the "Present" category prize in the field of Defending Democracy on behalf of Reporters Without Borders (RSF). One of the leading voices defending journalistic freedom, independence and pluralism, especially by defending those who embody these ideals, RSF monitors government media policies and helps sustain journalists and newspapers under attack. Since its founding in 1985, it has assisted hundreds of journalists, and more recently instituted the International Initiative on Information and Democracy. RSF is sharing the one million-dollar prize with Canadian historian Michael Ignatieff, president and rector of the Central European University in Budapest.

In his address at the ceremony President Rivlin said: "Let me congratulate the Dan David Foundation for eighteen years of realizing its founder's vision of advancing knowledge, and recognizing contributions

to humanity. The legacy of Dan David, who escaped Communist Romania for Israel and the West, is not only in supporting the advancement of knowledge, but also in supporting the freedom to pursue knowledge, push boundaries, imagine new and daring possibilities, and strive to turn imagination into reality.”

Christophe Deloire said: “I would like to pay tribute to the memory of Dan David and to his family for their wonderful commitment. I would also like to thank the jury for its courage to defend journalism through Reporters Without Borders (RSF), in a period when journalism is under attack. With the Information and Democracy Initiative we launched last fall, which is already supported by 12 heads of government and states, the UN Secretary General and the UNESCO Director General, our organization has the huge ambition to establish democratic safeguards in the global information and communication space. The Dan David Prize undoubtedly will be a very powerful symbolic and concrete support of our action.”

The Dan David Prize is named after the late Dan David, an international businessman and philanthropist whose vision is the driving force behind the international [Dan David Prize](#). His twofold aim was to reward those who have made a lasting impact on society, and to help young students and entrepreneurs become the scholars and leaders of the future.

The Dan David Prize’s unique approach utilizes a “roving” formula that rewards achievements in all fields of human endeavor rather than in a fixed set of categories. Each year a new theme is selected for each of the three time dimensions, acknowledging accomplishments that expand

knowledge of the past, enrich society in the present, and promise to improve the future of our world. Along with the Defending Democracy award, the 2019 Dan David Prize also recognized the remarkable work of Prof. Kenneth Pomeranz and Prof. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, both of the US, in the field of Macro History; and of Ms. Christiana Figueres, of Costa Rica, in the field of Combatting Climate Change.

The total purse of USD 3 million makes the Dan David Prize not only one of the most prestigious, but also one of the highest-value prizes internationally. Previous Dan David Prize laureates include cellist Yo-Yo Ma (2006), co-discoverer of the AIDS virus Prof. Robert Gallo (2009), novelist Margaret Atwood (2010), filmmaker brothers Ethan and Joel Coen (2011), and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales (2015).

[The laureates donate 10% of their award money to scholarships for graduate or post-graduate researchers in their respective fields.](#)

Ariel David, a member of the Dan David Prize's Board of Directors and son of the Prize founder, said of Reporters Without Borders: "Today, more than ever, we need the courage and steadfastness of Reporters Without Borders to protect and shore up a free media in this time of crisis for democracy. It is no coincidence that, in this day and age, reporters find themselves constantly under attack by those who wish to undermine the very fabric of democracy."

We invite you to report on this unique award, to use the photos in the link below, and to interview the 2019 laureates. We are also happy to

connect you with the people behind the Prize for a firsthand glimpse at the process of developing and awarding the Dan David Prize each year. Photos are available for your use at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tmWNvAj-k36fzOHlg8OvtJMsRM7tLppf>

Photo Credit – Israel Hadari

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