

Four Freedoms Awards 2018

Freedom of Worship Award

To Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban

By Per Nordmark

In Middelburg, Seeland in The Netherlands The Four Freedoms Awards for 2018 was given to the 5 Laureates in a high-profile ceremony in Nieuwe Kerk, attended by the Royal Highnesses King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, Princess Beatrix, and the approximately 500 honorable guests, friends and supporters of the Laureates.



The Laureates 2018 is:

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| Four Freedoms Award: | Christina Figueres Olsen – for her work as Executive Secretary for UN in negotiating the Paris Climate Agreement |
| Freedom of speech and expression: | Eral Önderoglu, Turkish journalist – for his dedication to defend the freedom of speech and expression. |
| Freedom of Worship: | Paride Taban, Bishop Emeritus – for his lifelong and selfless dedication to bring freedom and peace in South Sudan. |
| Freedom from want: | Emmanuel de Merode, Belgium – Virunga Alliance for protecting the environment in Virunga National Park in D.R. of Congo. |
| Freedom from fear: | Urmila Chaudhary, Former child slave for her efforts to put an end to the Kamlari system of child slavery in Nepal. |



Bishop Paride Taban have received the award and the medal, and give his speech of thanks to The Royal Family, the guests and the press team.

President Lincoln D. Roosevelt held his famous speech to the Congress of United States on 6th January 1941. In this speech he described the 4 freedoms as fundamental for democracy and world peace. These 4 freedoms have for the last 7 decades been an important foundation for democracy around the world.

Bishop Paride Taban expressed his gratefulness for being awarded, an award he said he shared with all the Peace Village family and those supporting the work for peace in South Sudan.

He also thanked the Government of The Netherlands for supporting the people of South Sudan for 40 years. And he strongly urged the King and the Government to continue the support in this dark period for South Sudan, the youngest nation in the world.

He concluded his speech by asking God's blessing of the Royal family and the Dutch nation.

Eleanor Roosevelt, the granddaughter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the last speaker. She had attended the Four Freedoms Awards for 30 years. She stated that this year was different from all the years before. As an individual she wanted to apologize on behalf of her own nation, that it did not live up to the ideals of the Four Freedoms. Still she expressed her strong belief that there is hope that this situation will change!



Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt apologizing for USA not living up to the four freedoms.

Kings Commissioner of Seeland M.M. Polman, Chair of the Roosevelt Foundation closed the ceremony, stating that the stories told by the laureates was strong, and a great inspiration.

Meeting with the Council of Churches in Middelburg

In the evening of the 16th May a gathering of inspiration was arranged in Koorkerk, Middelburg, to give the opportunity for local churches to meet with Bishop Paride Taban. The Bishop and his work was presented with a film, showing him at Peace Village, and presenting his vision and way of working. After this an interview was made with Bishop Paride Taban, Bishop Edwardo Hiiboro, H.E Margaret Itto and Mrs Theody Achilo.

The arrangement was ended with a Vesper, and then a small reception.



Roosevelt in The Hague



On 17th May the Roosevelt Foundation and Asser Institute arranged an event in Nieuwspoor The Hague. The Laureates were also here presented, and then addressed the audience, consisting mainly of young people.

The Laureates answering questions from the young people at the event at Nieuwspoor

Bishop Paride Taban stated that to be a leader was to guide others. He told the audience that he always has his eyes on the people, and believed every person is good, and that every person wants love. He himself had no enemies, he said.

The gathering at Nieuwspoor also included a round table discussion separately with each of the laureates.

When the event was ended Bishop Paride Taban asked for attention. He said he wanted to pray for God's blessing for all attending. However first he asked if there were any from other religions who wanted to pray together with him. Representatives for two other religions came forward. The Bishop then prayed God's blessing with words that were acceptable for all religions for.

Guests of the Laureates

The Laureates could invite a limited number of guests to the ceremony. Bishop Paride Taban had invited some of his many friends and supporters around the world. For all of them it was a great honor and a wonderful experience. Many had never met before, and to meet was also an inspiration which resulted in an agreement to meet and coordinate. Soon a meeting will be arranged for all the



main European supporters to discuss and coordinate the support to Peace Village in Kuron.

The guests of Bishop Paride Taban meet at Westduin Hotel in Seeland on 15th May 2018