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The Russian political activist Vladimir Kara-Murza has won the International Forum 2000 Award for Courage and Responsibility

Vladimir Kara-Murza is a politician, author, and historian. A longtime colleague of opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, he was a candidate for the Russian Parliament and served as deputy leader of the People's Freedom Party. Kara-Murza notably contributed to the introduction of targeted Magnitsky sanctions against Russian human rights violators. In April 2023, he received a 25-year sentence for "spreading disinformation" about the Russian military and condemning Russia's actions in Ukraine. This marked the longest sentence for political activity since the fall of the Soviet Union. In recognition of his steadfast commitment to advocating for truth and justice, he has been awarded with the International Forum 2000 Award for Courage and Responsibility during this year's Forum 2000 Conference.

In the year 1986, Václav Havel wrote: *"We may all realize, that he or she - regardless of how insignificant or powerless they may feel – is in a position to change the world"*. With these words in mind, the **Forum 2000 International Award for Courage and Responsibility** was established in 2021. This year, the selection committee decided to award the prize to the Russian political activist and prisoner for his work in the defense of freedom and truth in an unfree environment.

"The award is intended to recognize the citizens, groups of citizens, or institutions who demonstrate extraordinary civic courage, or engage in actions that place responsibility on the wider community to defend democracy, and promote human rights and freedom above all. Vladimir Kara-Murza is an embodiment of the idea that to fight for freedom and human dignity is always important, regardless of how fruitless it may seem at the moment," says **Jakub Klepal**, Director of the Forum 2000 Foundation.

As Vladimir Kara-Murza is shamefully imprisoned in Vladimir Putin's jail, the award was presented by **Miloš Vystrčil**, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic to his wife **Yevgenia Kara-Murza**, Advocacy Director at the Free Russia Foundation. Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs **Jan Lipavský**, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) **Luis Almagro**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate **Oleksandra Matviichuk**, President and Editor-in-Chief of China Digital Times **Xiao Qiang**, and hundreds of other distinguished guests from around the world participated in the award ceremony, which took place during the annual Forum 2000 Conference.

The main conference program can be viewed on the Forum 2000 Foundation website [here](#)

Filip Šebek – Media Coordinator
media@forum2000.cz, +420 776 160 952