

Enes Kanter Freedom Honored as a Human Rights Champion at Lantos Human Rights Prize Ceremony

The Lantos Foundation awarded its 14th annual Lantos Human Rights Prize to professional basketball player turned human rights activist Enes Kanter Freedom.

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, December 9, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice awarded its 14th annual Lantos Human Rights Prize to professional basketball player turned human rights activist Enes Kanter Freedom at a ceremony held this week in Washington, DC. Mr. Kanter Freedom received the Prize in recognition of his courageous and outspoken advocacy in defense of fundamental human rights and his pointed criticism of dictators, such as Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and others. This advocacy has come at great personal cost: Turkey revoked Mr. Kanter Freedom's citizenship and forced his family to sever all ties with him;

“

Forget about the contracts, the shoe deals and jersey sales. While we are playing basketball in this country, on the other side of the world people are losing their loved ones and their lives.”

Enes Kanter Freedom

the NBA bowed to pressure from China and effectively shut him out from the league; and he has had close calls with extradition and unjust imprisonment.

In accepting the award, Mr. Kanter Freedom called for more athletes to join him and take up the cause of human rights, saying, “Forget about the contracts, forget about the shoe deals and jersey sales. Who cares? While we are playing basketball in this country, on the other side of the world people are losing their loved ones, losing their lives and losing their homes...Put yourselves in their shoes. If your mother, sister or daughter was in concentration camps [in Xinjiang, China] getting tortured and raped every day, would you still pick money and business over your morals, values and principles?”

The Lantos Human Rights Prize is awarded each year, named in memory of the late Congressman Tom Lantos who co-founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which was reconstituted as the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission upon his passing. The Lantos Prize honors and elevates heroes of the human rights movement and high-profile public figures that use their platform to advocate for human rights. Mr. Freedom joins a distinguished group of

laureates including His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Professor Elie Wiesel, Israeli President Shimon Peres, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Iraqi Parliamentarian Vian Dakhil and Bill Browder, founder of the global Magnitsky campaign, among others.

Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, President of the Lantos Foundation, said at the ceremony, "There are things in life that are bigger than our own pursuits, our pleasure and our success, but it is the rare person who is actually willing to put themselves on the line to defend those greater causes. That is what Enes has done. He has paid a heavy price, but he deserves to be very proud, indeed, that he has the guts to step into the crosshairs of brutal regimes and cowardly sports franchises, alike. I am confident that long after people have forgotten the names of basketball stars, past and present, they will remember and honor the name of Enes Kanter Freedom, as we do tonight."



Enes Kanter Freedom accepts the 2022 Lantos Human Rights Prize

In addition to honoring Mr. Kanter Freedom, the ceremony recognized three prisoners of conscience for whom the Lantos Foundation advocates: Russian opposition politician Vladimir Kara-Murza, imprisoned since April 2022; the real-life hero of the film Hotel Rwanda and 2011 Lantos Prize laureate Paul Rusesabagina, imprisoned since August 2020; and Hong Kong democracy activist and 2018 Lantos Prize laureate Joshua Wong, imprisoned since November 2020. The family members and close associates of these brave human rights heroes spoke at the ceremony, giving voice to the prisoners who have been silenced and urging the attendees to keep advocating relentlessly for their freedom.

Chelsea Hedquist
Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice
+1 603-226-3636
chelsea@lantosfoundation.org
Visit us on social media:
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Other](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/605382375>
EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors

try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2022 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.