

**“CELEBRATION WELCOME  
TO THE EMILIO F. MIGNONE  
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE  
AWARDED TO KONTRAS  
BY THE EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA”**

Wednesday, 14 November 2012, KontraS held slight celebration to welcome the Ambassador of Argentina in Indonesia, Mr. Javier A. Sanz de Urquiza who will share the information regarding the 2012 Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights Prize that this year has been given to KontraS because of its works and commitment to the issue of human rights. Slight celebration was presented by group of victims, members of KontraS' association as well as journalists. The award will be delivered formally to KontraS on December 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

On the sidelines of his short speech related award information, Mr. Javier A. Sanz de Urquiza explained the "Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights Prize. " The "Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights Prize recognizes the work of Mr. Mignone, an Argentine activist. Mr. Mignone founded the Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), which specialized in documenting kidnappings, murders and torture by the military and trying to file legal actions to establish accountability.



*The Ambassador of the Argentine Republic in Indonesia, Mr. Javier A. Sanz de Urquiza deliver his speech regarding the 2012 Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights*

The prize was established in 2007 by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship to grant recognition to foreign institutions and/or individuals residing abroad that are making or have made an outstanding contribution towards the promotion and/or protection of human rights in their own countries in the fight against impunity in cases involving systematic violations of human rights, discrimination and social, economic and cultural rights, among other areas. Although other countries award human rights distinctions, the Mignone prize is the first one to be awarded by a developing country that has been conspicuous in this field because of its own historical and political context.

Year	Past Recipients
2007	ASOFAMD--Asociacion de Familiares de Detenidos, Desaparecidos y Martires por la Liberacion Nacional de Bolivia
2008	CCJ--Comision Colombiana de Juristas
2009	WOLA--Washington Office on Latin America
2010	ZLHR--Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
2011	IRCT--Association International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims



*Haris Azhar (Coord of KontraS) send his gratitude to the government of Argentina regarding the 2012 Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights Prize*

During the celebration, Coordinator KontraS, Mr. Haris Azhar expresses its gratitude to the nation of Argentina, represented by the Ambassador of Argentina in Indonesia, Mr. Javier A. Sanz de Urquiza, and Argentine Embassy official Mr. Martin Via, for the honor of being selected the recipient of the 2012 Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights Prize.

In his commentary, Haris affirmed, firstly, this award is recognition of and encouragement for our work in the fight

for the value of humanity in the midst of “noisy and crowded” democratization politics in Indonesia. Secondly, KontraS notes that this recognition is not only for KontraS, but it is in appreciation for the victims and their families who have fought for truth and justice over the last 15 years. Thirdly, we appreciate this recognition in particular because it comes from Argentina, a country that has struggled long and hard over the last thirty years, searching for victims of enforced disappearances and struggling to adjudicate the perpetrators of these crimes.

Responses and congratulation have been delivered too by representative of victim families, Mr Paian Siahaan (the father of Ucok Munandar Siahaan who was disappeared in 1997-1998) and Mrs Yusni (the daughter of the late Mrs Koto who his son was disappeared at the same period). They expressed its gratitude once to remind that the fight of KontraS together with Victim groups is still long road. While, the representative of member association, Mr Usman Hamid and Mugiyanto also congratulate to KontraS on what it has been achieved. Along the speech, they described shortly KontraS’ fighting during assisting victims groups of past abuse.



*Mr Paian Siahaan (father of Ucok M. Siahaan, victim of the disappeared) receives letter from Ambassador of the Argentine Republic*



*The Ambassador of Argentina receives picture from KontraS describing of mother plaza de Mayo together with the late Tuti Koto*

At the end of the celebration, KontraS provide souvenirs to Ambassador of Argentina in Indonesia, Mr. Javier A. Sanz de Urquiza. It is a picture which describes a mother of Madras Plaza de Mayo together with the late Mrs Koto. It was taken when the mother of Madras Plaza de Mayo visited to Indonesia in year 2009.

Letter from the Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to KontraS



*Ambassador of the Argentine Republic*

Jakarta, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Dear Mr. Haris Azhar,

It is with great satisfaction that - in the name of the Argentine Government - I let you know that KONTRAS has been awarded the prize "Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights Prize".

This prestigious prize was established in 2007 by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, to grant recognition to foreign institutions or individuals residing abroad that are making, or have made, an outstanding contribution towards the promotion and protection of human rights in their own countries in the fight against impunity in cases involving systematic violations.

KONTRAS was chosen among fifty other nominations from around the world. The evaluation was made by an ad-hoc Committee integrated by a representative of the Human Rights Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice, Security and Human Rights; a representative of Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) and the Director General of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Subsequently, the ad-hoc committee agreed on a list of three candidates that were submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for a final decision.

I reiterate my personal congratulation to KONTRAS and its staff for such a deserved prize that bears witness to a long and persistent struggle in the field of Human Rights in Indonesia.

Sincerely yours,



Javier A. SANZ de URQUIZA  
Ambassador

Mr. Haris Azhar  
Coordinator, Commission for the Disappeared  
and Victims of Violence (KONTRAS)  
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