

Prix Henry Dunant



pour le rayonnement des idées d'Henry Dunant



Invitation

Alabama Room, Geneva, Monday 11 may, 17:00

2015 Henry Dunant Prize award ceremony

Mrs Yolvi Lena Padilla Sepúlveda

Colombian psychologist, international humanitarian law advocate

Geneva, 11 May 2015: The Henry Dunant Prize Foundation will award the 2015 Henry Dunant – Field Prize to Mrs Yolvi Lena Padilla Sepúlveda, in recognition of her courageous work to protect civilians in the context of the Colombian armed conflict. Her engagement reflects the fundamental principles carried forward by Henry Dunant:

- Dissemination of international humanitarian law and human rights.
- Protection of vulnerable populations, women and children.

The ceremony will take place in the Alabama Room, Geneva Town Hall (Hôtel de Ville), at 17:00:

- Henry Dunant Prize Foundation: Mr Roger Durand, president
- Presentation of the laureate:
 - Mrs Elisabeth Decrey Warner,
Executive president of Geneva Call
 - Mr Marc Bonnet,
Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining
- Prize awarded by Mr Pierre-André Mourgue d'Algue, treasurer
- Speech by Mrs Yolvi Lena Padilla Sepúlveda

We wish to thank the Council of State of Geneva for having made the Alabama Room available for this event.

The Henry Dunant Prize is intended to reward individuals or organizations having made significant contributions to the study, spread, and renewal of the ideas and achievements of Henry Dunant.

The Foundation awards the Prize in two forms: the Henry Dunant – Field Prize, and the Henry Dunant – Research Prize. In both cases, the Prize consists of a certificate and a sum of money.

In 2015, the Henry Dunant – Field Prize amounts to 7,000 Swiss francs. The previous laureates were Gabriel Mützenberg, Rony Brauman, Gjyltekin Shehu, Tim Aline Rebeaud, the Fondation Hironnelle, and Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa. The Foundation's aim in awarding the prize is to bring due attention and credit to the efforts of those who embody a spiritual commitment in fighting for human dignity with their research, their ideas, and their gift for communication.

Every year, the Henry Dunant Prize Foundation also awards the Henry Dunant – Research Prize, in partnership with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, to the author of an exceptional academic thesis that contributes to the humanitarian ideals of Henry Dunant.

Mrs Yolvi Lena Padilla Sepúlveda

Colombian psychologist trained at the National University in Bogotá, Mrs Yolvi Lena Padilla Sepúlveda coordinates Geneva Call's projects in Colombia since 2008. She is active in the fields of international humanitarian law (IHL), human rights, and the protection of communities. She has also worked with several Colombian NGOs focusing on the protection of children and women who were victims of violence.

The laureate has recently played a crucial role in promoting humanitarian demining in the regions of Colombia most affected by the armed conflict. She focused her efforts on those areas most contaminated by landmines and other explosive remnants of war, notably in the departments of Cauca, Narino, Putumayo, Arauca and Norte Santander. She also managed training projects to help civilians recognize dangerous items and take the necessary measures to prevent accidents.

Throughout her career, the laureate dedicated herself to disseminating international humanitarian law to the most vulnerable people, which often involved traveling to her country's most remote and dangerous regions. Thanks to her work, the Nasa, Pastos, Awa, Sionas and Ingas indigenous peoples greatly reinforced their knowledge of IHL and became better equipped to protect themselves from the abuses perpetrated in the conflict zones.

Discreet and tenacious, Mrs Yolvi Lena Padilla Sepúlveda is respected by her colleagues for her courage. She recently coordinated with success a training programme to raise awareness of IHL among imprisoned guerilla fighters. As a psychologist, she supported hundreds of victims of violence in the Cauca region, located in the midst of fighting between armed groups, paramilitary forces, and the regular army.