

M.A. Thomas National Human Rights Award - 2010

Nominations to the M.A. Thomas National Human Rights Award 2010 are open, and we would invite you to nominate an individual or organisation for the Award.

The Award honours individuals/organizations in India who have made significant contributions for the protection and promotion of human rights in India in the preceding years and continues to be working on issues directly relating to human rights. The Award instituted by the Vigil India Movement in 1993, in memory of its Founder President Rev. Dr. M.A. Thomas, carries a cash prize of Rupees One lakh and a citation.

Procedure for Nomination:

Nominations are to be submitted on the prescribed form available with the National Office of the Vigil India Movement. You can also download the nomination form from our website www.vigilindia.org. The letter of nomination should clearly mention why the individual or organization is being nominated for the Award. The nomination should contain nominee's contribution towards the protection and promotion of human rights in India, highlighting the activities, achievements and its impact on society and / or on the state policy. A brief resume of the nominee should also be included. Wherever possible, supporting materials like newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. may be submitted.

Nomination form must be sent in a sealed envelope inscribed with the words **Nomination for M.A. Thomas National Human Rights Award 2010** to Vigil India Movement, 61, Charles Campbell Road, Cox Town, Bangalore- 560 005, so as to reach us **on or before April 30, 2010**.

The nominations will be scrutinized by a three-member jury of distinguished personalities, constituted by the Board of Trustees of Vigil India Movement. The Jury will select awardee and recommend to the Board, who will announce it on June 25, 2010, the death anniversary of Rev. Dr. M.A. Thomas. This Award will be presented at a special function on August 10, which is the birth anniversary of Rev. Dr. Thomas.

The following were the recipients of the award in the previous years:

2008: Ms. Daya Bai, Madhya Pradesh
2006 : Swami Agnivesh, New Delhi
2004 : Ms. Teesta Setalvad, Mumbai
2002 : Mr. Harsh Mander, New Delhi
2001 : Dr. H. Sudarshan, Bangalore
2000 : Justice Mr. V.M. Tarkunde, Noida
1999 : Ms. Medha Patkar, Mumbai
1998 : Justice Mr. V.R. Krishna Iyer, Kochi
1997 : Mr. Ravi Nair, New Delhi
1996 : Mrs. Malladi Subbamma, Hyderabad
1995 : Mr. Balraj Puri, Jammu &
Dr. C.T. Kurien, Chennai (shared)
1994 : People.s Union for Civil Liberties

The following persons served as members of the Jury in the previous years:

Justice Mr. R. Jaisimha Babu, Ambassador Mr. N. Krishnan, Justice Mr. K.T. Thomas, Mr. Akber Mirza Khalili, Justice Mr. P.P. Bopanna, Dr. M. S. Thimmappa, Justice Mr. N.D. Venkatesh, Dr. M. J. Joseph, Justice Mr. V.S. Malimath, Justice Mr. Nittoor Srinivasa Rau, Mr. T.J.S George, Justice Mr. Jagannatha Shetty, Mr. V.N. Narayanan, Adv. K. Pratap Reddy, Mr. Kuldip Nayar, Dr. K.C. Abraham, Justice Mr. M. Rama Jois, Mrs. Mohini Giri, Justice Mr. D.M. Chandrasekhar, Prof. U.R. Ananta Murthy, Dr. Mathews George Chunakara, Justice Mr. Alladi Kuppuswamy, Mr. A.G. Noorani, Mr. B.R.P. Bhaskar, Justice Mr. H. Suresh, Dr. K.N. Raj, Prof. M. Basheer Hussain, Justice Mr. M.N. Venkatachaliah, Mr. N. Ram, Justice Mr. E.S. Venkataramaiah, Justice Mr. A. Sambasiva Rau, Mr. C.G.K. Reddy.

We welcome your participation in encouraging human rights activists and supporting their activities and request you to send the nominations on or before the due date.

With warm regards.

Dr. M. Mani Chacko	Mr. John VM Juliana
Secretary, Board of Trustees	Programme Manager

January 2010

VIGIL INDIA MOVEMENT

Vigil India Movement is a grassroots level NGO committed to the Protection & Promotion of Human Rights in India since 1977. It endeavours to promote human rights education and advocacy and monitors human rights situation in India. This is a people's movement that strives for the furtherance of a truly democratic, secular and just society in India and to promote human rights. It endeavours to create awareness in the minds of the people, especially at the lowest level, about their rights and encourages them to struggle for securing them.

Vigil India (Newsletter), Human Rights Diary and Human Rights Annual are the periodic publications of Vigil India Movement. The institute of Human Rights is a programme of Vigil India Movement to impart training on human rights.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Rev. Dr. M.A. Thomas

The Rev. Dr. M.A. Thomas was born on August 10, 1913 in Kerala. He graduated from Maharaja's College, Thiruvananthapuram. As a student, he came under the influence of national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Jayaprakash Narayan and identified himself fully with the freedom movement. Soon after graduation, he entered public life as Secretary of the Inter Religious Student Fellowship of which the late Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was the all-India President.

He founded the Ecumenical Christian Centre, Bangalore in 1963, and developed it into a meeting place of people of all religious and political views. He was the president of the Indian Section of Amnesty International and Association of Christian Institutes of Social Concern in Asia. It was the emergency of 1975 that galvanized him into action, which led to the formation of Vigil India Movement.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas has authored many books in English and Malayalam. Some of his works have been translated into German and Welsh. The Rev. Dr. Thomas passed away on June 25, 1993 after an eventful life, fully dedicated to fighting social injustice and promoting human rights.

M.A. THOMAS NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD 2010



VIGIL INDIA MOVEMENT

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