



**EDELSTAM  
FOUNDATION**

THE EDELSTAM PRIZE

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Chile's President hands over a Statue of the diplomat hero Harald Edelstam to the Swedish Parliament**

**During a ceremony in the Swedish Parliament today, Chile's President Michelle Bachelet, handed over a bust of the Swedish diplomat, Harald Edelstam, thanking for his humanitarian deeds during the coup in Chile in 1973, where he saved more than 1.500 lives.**

During her State visit in Sweden, President Bachelet uncovered a bust of Harald Edelstam during a ceremony hosted by the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Mr. Urban Ahlin. President Bachelet and Ambassador Edelstam's granddaughter and President of the Edelstam Foundation spoke in attendance of Their Majesties, the King and the Queen of Sweden, together with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Stefan Löfven. The bust is made by the Chilean artist, Mr. Luciano Escanilla and was uncovered in a room in the Parliament called "The good deed."

"There are a number of notable people whose untiring works and values have stood the test of time and whose memory continues to live on in present-day society. As a Chilean and President of our Republic, I can say without a doubt that Harald Edelstam is one of these people. He risked his own life to save the lives of many Latin Americans and Swedes in Chile during the military dictatorship. For this he has earned a place in our hearts. He continues to be an example to us when it comes to respect for the truth and the values of solidarity, and the defence and protection of the persecuted. Folke Bernadotte, Raoul Wallenberg and Dag Hammarskjöld have also earned a place in history for the friendship they have shown to other nations. Together with Harald Edelstam, they have all contributed to the efforts Sweden has made in the world for human rights and peace," says Chile's President, Michelle Bachelet.

The diplomat and the Ambassador Harald Edelstam (1913-1989) is best known for having saved the lives of a large number of people during and after General Augusto Pinochet's military coup in Chile in 1973. Edelstam is known for during the latter part of World War II having saved the lives of hundreds of Norwegian resistance fighters and Jews in Nazi-occupied Norway. He distinguished himself as diplomat by his professional competence, his bravery and his civic courage in the fight for Human Rights. He was an early proponent and symbol of what is today known as the "Responsibility to Protect" and his memorable acts contributed to save more than a thousand lives.

"It feels important that my grandfather is honored for all the persons that have my grandfather to thank for their lives and for those who have him as a role model. Further, it contributes to inspire people to show civic courage in difficult, exposed situations, and also to take leadership within the defence of human rights. Moreover, it feels important that the Swedish government accepts this gift," says Caroline Edelstam, granddaughter to Harald Edelstam and co-founder of the Edelstam Foundation.

Chile has previously honored Harald Edelstam posthumously in 1993 with the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins, the highest civilian honor awarded to non-Chilean citizens. Former President of Chile, Mr. Patricio Aylwin, awarded the order to Harald Edelstam's granddaughter during a ceremony in the Concert Hall of Stockholm.

Further, in 2009, the Parliament in Chile held a ceremony in the Chamber of Deputies in plenary to honor Harald Edelstam and all parties attended together with a delegation including Caroline Edelstam from the Edelstam Foundation. In connection with this, President Michelle Bachelet signed an appeal to support the Edelstam Prize.

## **The Edelstam Foundation**

The Edelstam Foundation administrates the Edelstam Prize awarded for outstanding contributions and exceptional courage in standing up for one's beliefs in the Defence of Human Rights. Further, the Edelstam Foundation encourages civic courage in Ambassador Harald Edelstam's spirit, works with formation of opinion and advocacy, education and information, research, and observation within the Defence of Human Rights.

The Edelstam Foundation stands for a humanistic view, based on the values and principles that mainly are expressed in the United Nations' Declaration on Human Rights from 1948, along with the conventions that followed and internationally accepted public law. The Foundation is a politically and religiously independent organization.

## **The Edelstam Prize**

The Edelstam Prize is a Sweden-based international monetary award, administrated by the Harald Edelstam Foundation. The Edelstam Prize is awarded for outstanding contributions and exceptional courage in standing up for one's beliefs in the Defence of Human Rights.

The Edelstam Prize is named after, and awarded in the memory of, the Swedish diplomat and Ambassador, Harald Edelstam (1913-1989). Harald Edelstam distinguished himself as diplomat by his professional competence, his bravery and his civic courage in the fight for Human Rights. He was an early proponent and symbol of what is today known as the "Responsibility to Protect" and his memorable acts contributed to save more than a thousand lives.

The winner of the Edelstam Prize can be a private person or a person who serves in Government, international or national organisations. The winner shall be an individual who has acted in Ambassador Harald Edelstam's spirit in a country/countries where Human Rights, according to international law, have been violated. The laureate must have shown outstanding capabilities in analysing and handling complex situations and in finding ways, even unconventional and creative ones, to defend Human Rights. The candidate has, presumably in a complex situation, been able to take a decisive role in helping threatened people or directly saving human lives. Civic courage is a central parameter in the selection of the successful candidate.

## **The Jury**

The international jury is chaired by **Caroline Edelstam**, Harald Edelstam's granddaughter and co-founder of the Edelstam Foundation. Other members of the Jury are **Justice Louise Arbour**, former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights represents the North Americas, **Judge Shirin Ebadi**, Nobel Peace Prize Winner in 2003 represents Asia; Africa is represented by **Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi**, former Prime Minister of Mozambique (1994-2004). Professor **Philip Alston**, UN's Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions represents Oceania. Latin America is represented by former first Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), **Dr. Luis Moreno Ocampo**. Europe is represented by **former Judge Baltasar Garzón**, who served on Spain's Criminal Chamber of the National Court of Spain who is consistently fighting for Human Rights. Baltasar Garzón is most famous for indicting the Chilean dictator, General Augusto Pinochet for the deaths and torture of thousands of victims from Chile and other countries.

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