

***„If the Society for Threatened Peoples did not exist, it would have to be founded immediately.“***

Christian Schwarz-Schilling, CDU member of the Bundestag, retired Federal minister

**Quotations of the famous on the human rights work of the  
Society for Threatened Peoples**



**Lew Kopelew**  
*Wolfgang Thierse*  
**Edmund Stoiber**  
*Günter Grass*  
**Martin Walser**  
*Joschka Fischer*  
**Bärbel Bohley**  
*Simon Wiesenthal*  
**José Ramos-Horta**  
*Sabine Christiansen*  
**Hans Adam II., Fürst von Liechtenstein**  
*Dalai Lama*  
**Golo Mann**  
*and many others*

**Willy Brandt**  
*Rigoberta Menchú*  
**Heide Simonis**  
*Marek Edelman*  
**Roy Gutman**  
*Rita Süßmuth*  
**Johannes Rau**  
*Daniel Cohn-Bendit*  
**Yehudi Menuhin**  
*Pastor J. Ziegenrucker*

**FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WORRLDWISE**



**Society for Threatened Peoples International**

A: Vienna – BiH: Sarajevo – CH: Bern – D: Göttingen – GB: London – I: Bozen - L: Luxemburg –  
RCH: Temuco (Chile) - USA: New York

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION in consultative status with the Economic and  
Social Council of the UNITED NATIONS and in participatory status with the COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

## PREFACE BY GOLO MANN

On the genocide in Biafra and the founders of the Biafra Campaign ('Aktion Biafra-Hilfe'), which turned into the Society for Threatened Peoples.

In his lecture 'The Art of Prognosis' ('Die Kunst der Prognose'), recently published by Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, he expresses the view that the famines to be expected in Asia and Africa in the coming decades would also be an extremely destabilising factor in the wealthy countries. 'It is by no means clear to me how we are to maintain peace and order in our countries when this is all happening somewhere else.' But I am afraid that it will soon become clear. If the famine in Biafra continues to its natural end, then it will be repeated, with or without war, and will not disturb the 'peace of our life'. Dull as the stones or lesser creatures we shall let the pictures on the TV pass us by until somehow we suffer the deserved fate of being crushed by it. For a civilised human race, which could take all this 'calmly', would surely end up by ruining itself.

One might point out that famines have always occurred throughout history. True, but in the old days there were not the endless superabundance, not the technical possibilities for aid, not the immediate information available today; not the responsibility of the whole of humanity for the whole of humanity, which is the case today and will be the case tomorrow. There have in the past few months been signs of an awareness of this new duty in many countries, also and precisely in Germany. The readiness to help is there. What was missing was the political means, the political will.

What was missing was the political fantasy in the face of dusty irrelevant concepts of law imported from another continent to Africa. Why has the richest, most powerful nation, the one with the best technical resources at its disposal done practically nothing for the starving Ibo children while it does so much for the bloody phantom of democracy in Vietnam? Because it would have been against 'international law', the 'interference' in the 'internal affairs' of a 'sovereign state'. But Nigeria is not a state like the North-American Union, the starvation of a people is not an internal affair. A few dozen American transport planes defended by fighters, a few hundred American lorries under the escort of a tank brigade would have banned the ghost of 'Nigerian' resistance, would have saved those condemned to death, would have met with applause and the tumultuous gratitude of humanity, would have begun a new and better epoch of world history. There should be no 'calm' before something of this kind happens.

Thanks are due to the young Germans who founded the Help Biafra Campaign and assembled the documents before us now. I imagine that it was no easy job for them, especially amongst their fellow students. Those who only think of 'revolution' have no thought for 'humanitarian aid'. A war in which English 'imperialists' and Russian 'Communists' are involved in the same crime, in which a former colony is fighting for the asserted unity of its state against a tribe which is not even 'socialist' – this is uninteresting, there is nothing to be found about it in the works of Lenin. But there are situations in which one finds no help in theory, where theory only hampers action. In such cases one must throw all twisted artificial thinking to the wind. Even if the origin were completely different from what it is, if the Ibo leaders were more guilty than they are (and there are no completely guiltless sides in any war) – where millions of human beings are facing death by starvation, there is only one thing called for – help. If it comes this time it will be repeated later elsewhere. If it doesn't come this time it will never come. And then nobody will help us.

*Introduction to 'Biafra – Todesurteil für ein Volk' (Biafra – Death Sentence for a People) by Tilman Zülch and Klaus Guerke, Berlin 1968*





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Awards and Honours for Tilman Zülch and the Society for Threatened Peoples



Kurt Beck

"As founder members of the Help Biafra Campaign you laid the foundation stone 30 years ago for the present Society for Threatened Peoples. You are its Chairperson in the Federal Republic, your competence and the high esteem in which you are held internationally are shown not only in the chair of the International Society for Threatened Peoples, your merit has been emphasised by the Prize of Lower Saxony for 1995.

As the author of many books and editor of the magazine 'pogrom' you have not only provided knowledge about threatened peoples and groups of peoples, but also drawn the attention of many people to the subject of human rights and encouraged them to stand up for these rights in many ways.

In your most recent concern for the plight of the refugees and those driven out in regions and countries of former Yugoslavia you give a new example of a tireless battle for justice and peace."

**Kurt Beck, Prime Minister of the Province of Rheinland-Pfalz\***

"In matters concerning threatened peoples Tilman Zülch is certainly one of the outstanding figures. Whether the people were Southern Sudanese, Sinti and Roma, Kurds, East Timorese, whether Assyrian Christians, Afghans, Volga Germans or Bosnians and Kosovars, it was always you and the Society for Threatened Peoples who gave these people a voice if they could not make themselves be heard. With a voice which was sometimes soft, sometimes loud, provocative and full of energy, without compromise, when it was a question of people and minorities, you have spoken now for 30 years. This has not always gone down well with politicians, the military or entrepreneurs, but you have never faltered in your purpose. It is a voice which speaks out uncomfortable truths, which warns us all not to hesitate in the battle for human rights and the rights of minorities and which will hopefully remain with us for a very long time."

**Marieluise Beck, Member of the Federal Parliament, Commissioner of the Federal Government for Foreigners**

"and I wish you as ombudsman of the Society for Threatened Peoples many more decades of your work, which is going to be the problem of the coming century."

**Dr. Alfons Benedikter, Deputy Chief of local government, retired\*, South Tyrol**

"The importance and value of the work of the Society for Threatened Peoples can be seen in its constant activity. Beginning with the Biafra aid programme some 30 years ago up to the most recent campaigning for those persecuted in the civil war in ex-Yugoslavia, it has always stepped in resolutely for people in need. [...] I want to encourage you to continue this important work. The example which you have for decades given by your activity has made it clear that we in Germany and Europe cannot look aside when human rights in other parts of the world are disregarded and set aside by wars and ethnic persecutions. The fact that this is now internationally recognized is also due to the Society for Threatened Peoples."

**Prof. Kurt Biedenkopf, Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony\***

"For you human rights are not a decoration for the world, but its human foundation. You have raised your voice, regardless of whether it met with applause or rejection."

**Dr. Norbert Blüm, Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, retired\***

"The work of the Society is for me at a time of growing egotism as the result of fear among the nations a true work of love and therefore work for the future. How we are to overcome fear is something we can learn from precisely the small, marginalized threatened peoples."

**Bärbel Bohley, Human rights activist**

\* From the eulogies on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Tilman Zülch, Founder and General Secretary of the Society for Threatened Peoples

Marieluise  
Beck

Dr. Alfons  
Benedikter

Prof. Kurt  
Biedenkopf

Dr. Norbert  
Blüm

Bärbel Bohley



Willy Brandt

"The question of human rights deserves the place of a high political task. Occasional protests against unjust systems are not enough. It is for example of great importance that organisations like 'Amnesty International' or the 'Society for Threatened Peoples' are listened to; that purposeful citizens stand up in public without fear of intimidation or disadvantage – right here in the Federal Republic."

**Willy Brandt (A), former Federal Chancellor**

Asgar Can

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has been standing up for the Uigurs since 1996 and does its best to give publicity both at government level and in the West generally to their problems. We Uigurs are very grateful for its support and value it very highly."

**Asgar Can, Chairperson of the 'East Turkestan Union in Europe'**

Sabine  
Christiansen

"50 years ago the General Assembly of the United Nations passed the 'Convention on the Prevention of genocide'. Unfortunately hardly any of the resolutions passed by the UN has been abused as badly as this one. Between 1945 and 1980 alone 32 million people according to the estimates of various international organisations are, notwithstanding this convention, reported to have died through war, war crimes and genocide. A horrifyingly large number, which would undoubtedly have been very much larger if the Society for Threatened Peoples had not repeatedly drawn attention to those who have to fight silently for their right to life and so could prevent murder and expulsion.

Even today, half a century after the governments of the leading countries in the world have agreed at this convention, people are being persecuted, mishandled and killed – as recently in Kosovo or in East Timor.

The Society for Threatened Peoples has set itself the task of pointing to these infringements of human rights and to expose those who infringe these human rights. Supporting this is a duty for all of us: for more tolerance and solidarity and so for more peace."

**Sabine Christiansen, Moderator for the TV programme 'Tagesthemen' and German ambassador to UNICEF**

Wolfgang  
Clement

"Tilman Zülch has for three decades been standing up for ethnic and religious minorities. Since the Help Biafra Campaign his name has been linked with an untiring relentless concern for threatened peoples and human rights and against ethnic discrimination and racism."

**Wolfgang Clement, Prime Minister of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia\***

Dr. h.c. Daniel  
Cohn-Bendit

"The untiring work of the Society for Threatened Peoples throughout the world for upholding human rights, particularly for endangered and persecuted and cultural minorities, is of priceless importance.

It is precisely the research and the gathering of material conducted by the Society on the situation of these groups which has always contributed to the fact that those politically responsible and public opinion were informed."

**Dr. h.c. Daniel Cohn-Bendit, member of the European Parliament and journalist**

Dalai Lama

"The key to creating a better and more peaceful world lies in the ability to feel love and sympathy for others. This means that we must take care of our brothers and sisters who are not as favoured as we are. The organisations which are independent of government have here a key role. It is not just that they point out how important it is to respect the rights of all human beings, but that they give all victims of the infringements of human rights hope of a better future."

**Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize 1989**

Eberhard  
Diepgen

"We want to pay honour today to someone who fights for human rights, a personality who always steps in with verve where others are in danger or threatened. From the days of the Help Biafra Campaign you were one of the founders of the Society for Threatened



Peoples, of which you are today the Chairperson in the Federal Republic. You are at the same time the President of the International Society for Threatened Peoples and have thus made a considerable contribution to the fact that more and more people and organisations throughout the world are taking up the cause of justice and peace. Particularly Berlin and the Berliners, who had suffered for decades under the division of their city, know the value of such purpose of mind, know how much courage is required for such work."

**Eberhard Diepgen, Mayor of Berlin\***

"The political history of mankind is a history of the persecution and extermination of minorities. The fact that in Europe today minorities and their rights are being talked about and fought for instead of being cynically analysed is certainly more to the credit of the magazine 'pogrom' and the Society for Threatened Peoples than to any other publication. Its merciless neutrality, its radical rejection of all 'political' covering up of injustice makes it indispensable for the damaged political culture of the Federal Republic."

**Freimut Duve, Member of the Federal Parliament, Hamburg**

Freimut Duve

"It began a quarter of a century ago with Biafra in today's Nigeria. Wars have turned into the terror of expulsion. I have since that time admired the work of the Society. A lighthouse in the storm."

**Freimut Duve, former member of the Bundestag, Commissioner for the Media of the OSZE, adviser to the GfbV**

Freimut Duve

"The right to belong to a minority or to leave it is a human right, is a civil right. This is why we need the Society for Threatened Peoples. It is a seismograph for what the UN genocide convention of 1948 defined and what is also part of the German penal code (§220a). Because genocide always happens time and again, the protection of minorities must remain a civil right, even if the GfbV should by so doing undermine the political rationale of the day."

**Freimut Duve, former member of the Bundestag, Commissioner for the Media of the OSZE, adviser to the GfbV**

Freimut Duve

"I consider the Society for Threatened Peoples very important. At the end of the 20th century, when thousands of people are threatened by nationalism and chauvinism, when death and hunger kill thousands, its activities force the general public to become active and to combat injustice. For this reason I consider that everyone has the responsibility of supporting its activities morally and also financially."

**Marek Edelman, last surviving commander of the Jewish resistance in the Warsaw ghetto, Lodz**

Marek Edelman

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has earned in the thirty years of its existence an important and recognized place among the human rights organisations. I attach great importance to the work of the non-governmental organisations for the cause of human rights. I wish you all the very best for your future work!"

**Joschka Fischer, German Foreign Minister**

Joschka Fischer

"Your work for the victims of conflicts and persecution on all continents is impressively documented in a number of publications. The Society for Threatened Peoples has found a central place among the German human rights organisations. Your appeals and warnings may sometimes be uncomfortable, but essential. We cannot do without them when it is often a matter of the survival of peoples and groups of peoples who have no one else to speak for them."

**Joschka Fischer, German Foreign Minister**

Joschka Fischer



Dr. John  
Garang

What I personally like about the Society for Threatened Peoples and about 'pogrom' is the fact that they work there free from dogma and without thinking along ideological lines. With the Society and 'pogrom' the threatened people and the human being stand in the centre. So I appeal to the Germans to continue to support the Society for Threatened Peoples, to give it even more support, so that 'pogrom' can continue to appear. For 'pogrom' is the voice of those without a voice and a mirror of the Germans with the threatened peoples."

**Dr. John Garang, Chairperson of the SPLA/SPLM, South Sudan**

Dr. Heiner  
Geißler

"Even if the western democracies finally refused to accept deportation, genocide and torture in Yugoslavia without saying a word or doing anything, the number of countries in which human rights are trampled on and minorities are persecuted is still so great that we cannot let up in our support for these people and peoples. You are an example for all who have dedicated themselves to this task, and have also become for the statesmen of the western democracies a voice of warning that human rights must not be sacrificed to diplomacy and commerce. For this you have earned our thanks and our respect."

**Dr. Heiner Geißler, Federal Minister for Youth, Family and Health, retired\***

Ralph  
Giordano

"When, Europe, will you finally make an end to your shame, which is called 'former Yugoslavia' – when? Help for Srebrenica – at once! Bread, medicine, consolation! And absolutely clear signs for the aggressors that their time is up if they continue. An end to the encirclement before winter breaks, an end to the starvation, the killing, and end to the madness – peace at last! Tilman Zülch writes: 'The fact that precisely the central European Bosnian Muslims, hundreds of thousands of innocent children, women and men in Srebrenica, Gorazde, Zepa, Bihac and Sarajevo are being left to their fate by the western world will one day rebound on us all.'"

**Ralph Giordano, Jewish poet and writer**

Gerhard  
Glogowski

"For decades you have stood in the centre of the public eye as founder and leader of the Society for Threatened Peoples. With your tireless struggle and your unselfish purpose of mind you have made this 'society for human rights' one of the biggest and most important organisations caring for ethnic and religious minorities throughout the world and ensuring that topics are brought up in public, which people would be glad to close their eyes to. The range and importance of the Society for Threatened Peoples reaches now far beyond the boundaries of Germany."

**Gerhard Glogowski, Prime Minister of the Federal State of Lower Saxony**

Günter Grass

"On the occasion of your 60th birthday, dear Tilman Zülch, I should like to thank you for your work on behalf of the threatened peoples which has been an example to me because it is so persistent."

**Günter Grass, writer\***

Abadio Green

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has existed for 30 years and our own most recent process of organisation for the defence of our life has lasted almost as long. At a time when globalisation and neo-liberal politics are threatening our cultures – almost more than the invasion over 500 years ago – we need your support more than ever. We congratulate you on the persistence in your work and we hope that you will continue to contribute to the defence of the rights of indigenous peoples for many years."

**Abadio Green, President of the national umbrella organisation of the Indians of Columbia (ONIC)**

Monika  
Griefahn

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has with its work been ensuring for 30 years in Germany and abroad that human rights violations are made known, that the victims are protected and that the guilty are punished. It is to the credit of this human rights



organisation that the persecution and destruction of minorities have been widely reported in the national and international media.

Human rights work, as understood by the Society for Threatened Peoples, plays a very important part in stopping the destruction of nature –in many places the habitat of indigenous peoples – and making possible lasting development for marginalized groups.'

**Monika Griefahn, Member of Parliament, former Minister of the Environment in Lower Saxony**

"The Society for Threatened Peoples tries to wake people up. Especially with its magazine 'pogrom'. What it has to say makes many people uncomfortable.

Among other things because one is quite happy to hear about the outrages perpetrated by one's enemies, but doesn't like groups which speak about all outrages. Or at all events want to do so: unfortunately there is a great deal to say and there is a lot of work for the Society for Threatened Peoples to do. About peoples threatened from outside. About peoples who are mercilessly maimed by their masters. Precisely because there is a lot to do everyone should support the Society. And first of all encourage 'pogrom'."

**Prof. Alfred Grosser, Paris**

Prof. Alfred Grosser

"Right on the second page of the first chapter of my book Crime and Recollection stands the sentence: 'Every number of the magazine 'pogrom' published in Göttingen by the Society for Threatened Peoples proves from the first to the last page a continuity in the crimes against the Indians of South, Central and North America to the Kurds and the gypsies.' For me the Society realises the basic demand of 'coming to terms with the past': recollection must be creative, i.e. must ensure that the battle is taken up against the crimes of the present day. There are not very many who are prepared to do this. It is also easier to put the blame on previous generations for averting their gaze, for not wanting to know, than to turn one's eye to the great sufferings of other peoples. If one is prepared to do so one should read 'pogrom' regularly. Not that the magazine always knows everything or that one must always agree with all their analyses – but how can you find out about all the terrible things which the media have not discovered or do not want to discover?"

**Alfred Grosser, retired professor at the Paris Institute for Political Science, winner of the Peace Prize of the German Book Fair**

Alfred Grosser, Prof. em.

Dear Tilman Zülch,

You know it, but it is my pleasure to say it again on the occasion of your 60th birthday: for decades I have been using and quoting 'pogrom'. I cannot count the number of times and in how many books and articles I have cited with praise the magazine and the work of the Society itself. On account of the broad spectrum of information. On account of the exemplary will to do the right thing by all those persecuted and tortured, which is unfortunately something which does not happen often. From time to time I have also worked with the magazine and the Society. ...May you remain creative for a long time. ...

With best wishes from Paris,

**Alfred Grosser**

Alfred Grosser, Prof. em.

"Tilman Zuelch, through his devotion to humanitarianism, to the rule of law, to easing the suffering of victims of genocide and crimes against humanity, has made an immense difference not only for the sufferers, but also for the state of public awareness in Germany, in German-speaking Europe, and far beyond. GfbV is for me the model NGO that is non-governmental organization, for it does the essential things that no government wants to do but all should. It continually raises the vital questions of state-sponsored terror against civilians that no government wants to touch, has consistently campaigned for the essential principles of human rights and humanitarian Law, has informed the public of the basic facts, and devised the most imaginative ways possible of publicizing the issues. In the series of wars over the break-up of Yugoslavia, I think there is no other organization that has done more to promote restoration of the rule of law through a judicial reckoning for the

Roy Gutman



genocide and the restoration of stolen property. GfbV has an outstanding record of publications as well. One personal note, Tilman Zuelch's interest in my reporting - he cross-examined me for hours on nearly every story out of Bosnia in late 1992, far longer than my editors or anyone else, before deciding to reprint them - encouraged me in my research, but also broadened the audience for it in a way I could never have done. In my humble view, the Western states' decision to intervene in Kosovo to prevent another genocide would not have been possible without the enormous efforts to prepare public opinion that GfbV and other organizations have undertaken. I think, or at least hope, that this is a sign that the time has come when humanitarian law in war and human rights in peacetime will not be confined to paper promises, but will begin to be implemented. If that time comes, GfbV and Tilman Zuelch can well claim a good measure of the credit. And if that time has not yet come, then Tilman and colleagues: you still have some work cut out for you."

**Roy Gutman, Pulitzer prize winner\*, USA**

Dr. Reinhard Höppner

"Your concern to point out persecution and genocide throughout the world and to stand up for the preservation of human rights is more important today than ever. So I was very pleased when your exhibition on human rights was also opened in Magdeburg."

**Dr. Reinhard Höppner, Prime Minister of the Federal State of Sachsen-Anhalt**

Dr. Friedrich Hübner

"I have known some of the people working in this sphere in North Germany since the very beginning of your self-sacrificing attempts to achieve justice in Biafra. In the meantime you have made a name for yourself through your magazine 'pogrom' and have built up your work in international organizations carrying out intensive education of awareness in the sense of the human rights movement. What has particularly interested me in this group from the outset has been the incorruptible concern for facts which can be verified, with no regard for the prejudices of politics and party. You are really concerned to stir consciences for all peoples who are fighting for their lives, regardless of the political circumstances and threats under which this is taking place. ... I am always amazed at the idealism of this group of people who in their spare time have spoken and encouraged large numbers and stirred them to sacrifices and campaigns."

**Dr. Friedrich Hübner (A), Bishop of Holstein**

Rainer Hunold

"The overworked concepts of human rights, conscience, morality – often used by the political parties as carefully prepared advertising packages – become in the work of the Society for Threatened Peoples the real thing filled with uncompromising life. Our dazed gulping between the horrifying news pictures and the weather for tomorrow may be an indication of our ability to show solidarity and to feel the readiness to help. Nevertheless only few manage to transfer the short spark of their feelings into concrete action. I am not one of these few either. But perhaps my estimation and deep respect for the Society for Threatened Peoples is a first small step."

**Rainer Hunold, actor**

Wei Jinsheng

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has in recent years stepped in very energetically for a cooperation between the democracy movement and the nationalities. It is not always a simple cooperation because there are many prejudices as a result of the painful history. I have a very high opinion of the work of the Society for Threatened Peoples in reducing these prejudices. We need mutual respect. We must respect the rights of minorities."

**Wei Jinsheng, prominent critic of the regime, at a hearing organized in part by the GfbV in front of the European Parliament in Brussels on 01.10.1999 (on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China)**

Prof. Robert Jungk

"It is high time that we recognize the continued existence of threatened peoples not only as an act of pity, but above all as an act of self-preservation. For everything which the utilitarian industrial age has taken from us has been preserved at least in traces. If we want



to become human beings again then we need the development of those we call in our hubris 'underdeveloped'."

**Prof. Robert Jungk (A), futurologist, Austria**

"Whoever like yourself has for 30 years stood up unerringly for human rights and against genocide, ethnocide and racism has no choice but to come into conflict with the rulers, not only those who themselves commit the crimes, but also with those in one's own country or in neighbouring countries. ...

Even if the plight of oppressed minorities in Europe and in Germany is dismal, your life work has nevertheless gathered weight, your voice is increasingly being heard. If the Society for Threatened Peoples was in our town formerly looked on with some suspicion, today we are proud that Göttingen is the home of the Society.'

**Dr. Rainer Kallmann, Mayor of the town of Göttingen**

"I particularly remember your efforts in helping the German Sinti organisation to get on its feet and in the arrangements for the World Romany Congress in Göttingen."

**Dr. Donald Kenrick, Linguist und Human rights expert\*, Great Britain**

"We pay our high respect to your impressive and powerful stand for the condition of the persecuted and oppressed and for the rights of ethnic and religious minorities. ... We should also on this occasion like to express our deeply felt thanks to you and your colleagues for your unswerving interest and the work of the Society for Threatened Peoples in the light of the situation of the members of the Bahá'í religion in Iran. With numerous individual campaigns you have drawn attention in Germany to the situation of the Bahá'í in the land of origin of their religion. This was in the form of contributions in the magazine 'pogrom', the campaign 'Protect religious minorities!' in the summer of 1997, the postcard campaign of the Near-East department at the end of 1988 in view of the latest wave of persecutions of the Bahá'í in Iran and the denial of the right to education. We are convinced that these measures, which were made possible by your continuous involvement for the preservation of human rights, together with protests from all over the world have made an essential contribution to the fact that the persecution of the Bahá'í, which has still not come to an end, has not further escalated in Iran and the number of executions has been reduced."

**Saba Khabirpour, General Secretary of the Spiritual Council of the Bahá'í in Germany\***

"I acknowledge with thanks that the Society for Threatened Peoples has for many years never allowed itself to be used by an ideology. In this way it sets standards for credible human rights work."

**Freya Klier, director and journalist**

"The Society for Threatened Peoples is today one of the largest human rights organizations in Central Europe. In your work for the poor, the threatened and those deprived of their rights you have set standards among German citizens for sympathy and readiness to help. Campaigns for Biafrans and other ethnic or religious groups have provided information on the suffering and woken people up. We thank you for the support you have organized for the helpless and the victims. [...] Your non-violent weapons were good sense, courage and the power of conviction in the battle against violations of human rights. Your unusual thinking has become for many a model."

**Roland Koch, Prime Minister of the Federal State of Hessen**

"The Society for Threatened Peoples is one of the promising germ cells of the new global humanity, since understanding, tolerance, solidarity and the preparedness to help other peoples are necessary to secure life on our planet."

**Lev Kopelev (A), writer and critic of the Russian regime**

Dr. Rainer  
Kallmann

Dr. Donald  
Kenrick

Saba  
Khabirpour

Freya Klier

Roland Koch

Lew Kopelev



Hartmut  
Koschyk

"You deserve especial thanks for the fact that in your tireless struggle for the priceless human rights you have always kept an eye open for the human rights situation of the Germans driven out of their homeland and those who have had to leave, but also of people of German origin in the countries of east-central, south-east and eastern Europe and in the successor states of the Soviet Union."

**Hartmut Koschyk, Member of the Bundestag**

Friedrich  
Küppersbusch

"Journalist egotism alone forces me to support the Society for Threatened Peoples, as very often they are the only source of quickly available independent information and background material. For myself as a private person the work of the GfbV keeps me from sinking into comfortable feelings of helplessness in the face of violations of human rights."

**Friedrich Küppersbusch, TV moderator**

Ruhama Jay  
Lakra

"Your tireless and honest approach with first-class factual knowledge has had a decisive influence in informing people on the precarious and dangerous situation of the peoples in Europe and throughout the world. It deserves the highest praise and respect. It is no exaggeration to say that the statements of your opinion and your writings carry great weight and have a decisive effect on all levels of boards and courts up to the UNO. Many threatened peoples consider that no one has drawn the attention of public opinion throughout the world to their needs more than yourself. Like many threatened peoples we should also like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

**Ruhama Jay Lakra, World Adivasi Council\*, India**

Hans Adam II.,  
Fürst von  
Liechtenstein

"I should not like to miss expressing to you in a few personal words my appreciation for all you and your colleagues have done – to help the minorities driven out of the Kosovo, the Ashkali, the Kosovo Egyptians and Roma, either by giving out aid packets, with the schooling of their children or the inclusion of the villages in the reconstruction programmes."

**Hans-Adam II, Prince of Liechtenstein**

Martin Lüttge

"What is the use of struggling for human rights if they are not loudly and energetically proclaimed, fought for, defended, pushed through and secured throughout the world? The Society for Threatened Peoples is in my eyes the most important German export article because it is a matter of making sure that the dignity of man is viable all over the world."

**Martin Lüttge, actor**

José  
Lutzenberger

"The GfbV should continue with its campaigns for the Yanomami Indians. They are an effective way of applying pressure on the Brazilian government. They help the inhabitants of the Amazon rain forests in their struggle for survival and for the preservation of their sensitive ecological system."

**José Lutzenberger, former Brazilian Minister for the Environment, Alternative Nobel Prize 1988, Brazil**

Hans Meiser

"The large peoples and countries are getting bigger all the time. And the small ones are as a result falling into a dependance, which is more and more threatening. The Society for Threatened Peoples makes sure that they do not get wiped out."

**Hans Meiser, TV moderator**

Rigoberta  
Menchú

"We need lobbying in Germany. The GfbV can apply pressure on governments which are responsible for the oppression and persecution of minorities and indigenous communities. Informing the general public on infringements of human rights is important and can contribute to the survival of threatened peoples."

**Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Peace Prize 1992, Ambassador of the International Decade of the world's Indigenous People 1994-2004, Guatemala**



Yehudi  
Menuhin

"I am not convinced that I have done very much myself, but then I can produce examples from the circle of my friends and associates. Amnesty International, of whose unselfish work you all know, the Society for Threatened Peoples, with its leader, Tilman Zülch, Green Peace, that admirable organization which arrests whale pirates on the high seas and prosecutes them, or Gary Davis' World Service Authority, which provides refugees with passports – for they are the strong arm of the world conscience, the first elements of a worldwide working justice, of which no government by terms of its own definition is capable."

**Yehudi Menuhin (A), Violin virtuoso, in his speech of thanks on the occasion of receiving the Peace Prize of the German Book Fair 1979**

Edith Müller

"For 30 years the Society for Threatened Peoples has made a name for itself as an authentic partner in the struggle for human rights. I should like here to express my sincere thanks to all its contributors for their work, my congratulations on what has been achieved so far and my very best wishes for the future. It would be a beautiful utopia if the GfbV were one day to make itself superfluous; however it will unfortunately remain a sad fact that all over the world, where people live together, human rights violations will occur. For this reason I wish the GfbV the will to keep going."

**Edith Müller, Member of the European Parliament**

Rupert  
Neudeck

"And I wish him,  
who is much younger,  
all the very best and  
a hefty bite into the thighs  
of those couch potatoes and  
hesitators who are always  
interrupting us (the younger ZÜLCH  
and the older Neudeck), distracting us  
and stopping us from working. We  
should put a stop to that right away;  
you too, old 60 year-old!"

**Rupert Neudeck, Cap Anamur Committee, German Emergency Doctors e.V.**

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has grown into a large organization, carries political weight and the possibilities of providing information on the situation of the original inhabitants and of linking Indian organizations with other important groups. For us it is important to be able to count on this support above all in political demands and in urgent cases of infringements of human rights."

**Evaristo Nugkuag Ikanan (Peru), Alternative Nobel Prize 1986 representative of the Amazon Indians in the Climate 1984 – 1992**

Evaristo  
Nugkuag  
Ikanan

"Thank you for your tireless endeavours for ethnic and religious minorities not only in our society, but in our world, in the ONE world of God. With your restless activity and your authority you have succeeded – often with a great deal of fantasy and also creativity – to give a place in this world to – people who had been forgotten and written off, so that they became seen as creatures of God. If you had not a few decades ago founded the GfbV we would have missed something important and we would have been poorer. Thanks to your vision, that we in our society and in our world need an institution of this kind – unfortunately, I must of course add! – many, many people in our world have been sensibilized through you, as the 'Crier in the Wilderness', for the people who have been discriminated and overseen and whose human rights have been trampled on. For this process of sensibilization we cannot thank you enough!"

**The Rev. Horst Oberkamp, Solidarity Group Tur Abdin**

Pfarrer Horst  
Oberkamp



Thomas  
Oppermann

"The Declaration of Human rights as the basis and goal of the community was a big step on the road to a more human and democratic cooperation of all men in our world. The course of history has shown however that it is not enough to establish human rights and basic rights in the constitutions. In order to be effective they must guide the thoughts and actions of people, of citizens and governments of all countries.

One of the most important preconditions to turn the maxim into social reality is therefore the permanent involvement of people who think in a humanist way. Such work is not always easy – both in large things and in small - it calls for the courage of one's convictions, tenacity and simple guts, to the point of accepting ill-will and disadvantages in one's personal life. – Tilman Zülch is one of these honest people.

His commitment was born in the personal experience of the genocide in Biafra in 1969. He has since then been working for the achievement of human rights all over the world. In 1970 he was one of the founders of the Society for Threatened Peoples. He has since that time as the chairperson of the Federal German society played a major part both nationally and internationally in the formulation of policy. The work of the Society for Threatened Peoples for the persecuted and oppressed has been of decisive importance in bringing to public notice in Germany many infringements of human rights and international law and all the results of the inhuman actions of governments and rulers. By way of example I should to mention here only the human rights campaigns for the South Sudanese and the people of East Timor, but also the atrocities in Bosnia and Croatia.

I know also that Tilman Zülch has also undergone personal disadvantages in his work against wars of aggression and genocide, like, for example, the campaign against the poison gas deliveries of German firms to Irak. All this can by no means be taken for granted."

**Thomas Oppermann, Minister for Science and Culture of the Lower Saxon**

Mirco  
Pejanovic

"The contribution of the Society for Threatened Peoples in defence of the idea of a multi-ethnic Bosnia-Herzegovina, for the protection of human rights and the exposure of war crimes is very important. We democratic Serbs too have raised our voices against Radovan Karadzic, the genocide of Bosnians and Croats, against ethnic hatred and the division of Bosnia. We are now pressing for the return of all the refugees in the spirit of Dayton and democratization."

**Mirko Pejanovic for the Serbian People's Council of Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Alternative Nobel Prize 1995**

Gerd Poppe

"For three decades now you have been working for the rights of ethnic and religious minorities. You were always on the side of those who suffered under persecution and oppression. With your tireless work for the victims you have often contributed to bringing their plight into the public eye so that the attention of those in political power has been drawn to them. [...] So it was at a very early stage that you pointed to the oppression of East Timor. In the past weeks and months we have seen how the course is now – in spite of all dangers to it – hopefully being laid for the successful process of self-determination of the people of East Timor. If this development is now actively being supported by the general public and by the Federal Government, then this is to the credit of the Society for Threatened Peoples."

**Gerd Poppe, Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid at the Foreign Office**

Gerd Poppe

"... Warning voices like yours – and there have been several of these – have unfortunately only late, very late been heard and taken seriously by many politicians."

**Gerd Poppe, Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid at the Foreign Office**

José  
Ramos-Horta

"More than one third of the people of East Timor have died as a direct result of the Indonesian occupation. The heads of countries and governments throughout the world tended to look the other way for fear of losing the lucrative deals with President Suharto if they paid attention to the victims or went so far as giving them aid. Nevertheless our



country was given support by committed people. The Society for Threatened Peoples has never relented in its struggle for our cause and its support of peace."

**José Ramos-Horta, Nobel Prize for Peace 1996, today Foreign Minister of East Timor**

"Fifty years General Declaration of Human Rights, thirty years Society for Threatened Peoples. In spite of many successes of work lasting decades no cause for self-congratulation. The fact that minorities, peoples and religious communities are threatened and persecuted is still part of everyday life in the world like genocide, expulsion and the suppression of languages and cultures.

It is not enough for official acts to be passed against the infringement of human rights on the level of international politics. We need the permanent readiness of many who are prepared to work for the rights of their neighbours in our 'one world'. The Society for Threatened Peoples needs and deserves your help."

**Dr. h.c. Johannes Rau, Federal President**

"In spite of all the difficulties we may have in this country we Germans cannot afford to forget just how important is the joint foundation of our European house – human rights. We must work for universal and indivisible human rights throughout the whole world. The work of the Society for Threatened Peoples is here of immeasurable value. Recent events in the Balkans show the importance of the exhortations and warnings and the fact that they are not sufficiently heeded."

**Dr. Harald Ringstorff, Prime Minister of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**

"I consider the Society for Threatened Peoples an extremely important institution and hope that it exercises influence not only on public opinion but also on governments which stand, so often, like in the case of our government, on the side, not of those threatened, but on that of those threatening."

**Luise Rinser, actress, Italy**

"You can look back now on over three decades of tireless work for human rights. Often a grinding struggle against racism and violence. During this period you have succeeded in building the Society for Threatened Peoples into an international organization. This is an impressive record. These successes make it all too easy to forget what great personal sacrifices were made – and still are being made. For this reason too I should like to express to you today my appreciation and respect for the work you have done. You and your colleagues have proved what personal involvement can achieve in spite of all opposition and setbacks. Unfortunately the political development of the nineties has shown that genocide and expulsion are still a reality in Europe. It is true to say that your work for the victims in Bosnia and Croatia really deserves the highest respect.

Without the support of the Society for Threatened Peoples it would not have been possible to make clear to the post-war German society the holocaust committed on the Sinti and Roma, something which has been suppressed and denied for decades. Our joint memorial service in the former concentration camp Bergen-Belsen in the year 1979 was an important station for our civil rights movement.

For the first time in the presence of political representatives like Simone Veil our victims were remembered and a public discussion on the Nazi crimes against the Sinti and Roma was started, which contributed to the recognition by the Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in 1982 of the genocide. None of this would have been possible without your personal involvement and for this reason I should like in the name of our people to thank you from the bottom of my heart."

**Romani Rose, Chairperson of the Central Committee of the German Sinti and Roma\***

"For thirty years you have been working for human rights – a job which demands the energy to keep going and in which one must be happy with the smallest steps. But then a

Dr. h.c.  
Johannes Rau

Dr. Harald  
Ringstorff

Luise Rinser

Romani Rose

Ortwin Runde



small step forwards is often followed by a big one backwards. All the more reason why we should continue to count on your never-tiring hard work."

**Ortwin Runde, Mayor of the City of Hamburg**

Kurt Scharf

"As a Christian and theologian who looks to and is steeped in the biblical image and understanding of history I am certain that the Society for Threatened Peoples observes a very specific divine mandate. Even the smallest ethnic minority is under His will and protection. 'To the least of all of these' stands the promise of Him, who takes to Himself those who are threatened!"

**Kurt Scharf (A) , Bishop of the evangelicDiocese of Berlin-Brandenburg**

Dr. Herbert Schnoor

"[...] Work for minorities which are threatened on racist or religious grounds can only be successful if public opinion and people's consciences are shaken until they wake up. [...] I hope that the Society for Threatened Peoples will also contribute in coming years as well."

**Dr. Herbert Schnoor, for many years Minister of the Interior of the Federal State of Nordrhein-Westfalen**

Gerhard Schröder

"As one of the founders and for many years the chairperson of the Society for Threatened Peoples in the Federal Republic of Germany, as President of the International Society for Threatened Peoples and not last through your many publications on questions of human rights and your consistent work for the strengthening of human rights throughout the world you have won regard way beyond the confines of Germany. With more than thirty years work you have given an impressive example to show that effective work for human rights cannot be a matter of countries and governments alone, but demands at the same time private initiative and a strong working community.

The basis of your work was and still is concern for people, protecting them from infringement of their rights and basic freedoms and contributing towards the creation of the necessary preconditions for making sure that oppression, tyranny and exploitation have no more chance.

In the structuring and consolidation of our international relations my government sees itself committed to this basic understanding of human rights politics and the concern, in effective work for the respect and the extension of human rights, to make an important contribution to stability, peace and development throughout the world."

**Gerhard Schröder, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany\***

Peter Schwanewilms

"Tilman Zülch: That is the 'trade-mark' which is firmly entrenched in my mind, long before I had the privilege of meeting you personally, which stands out in public opinion as a moral and political institution for indivisible human rights."

**Peter Schwanewilms, Bündnis 90/The Greens, Hamburg\***

Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling

"If the Society for Threatened Peoples did not exist, then it would have to be founded immediately. Not only does genocide continue to take place in many parts of the world, it has become a reality in the middle of Europe. It is atrocious that this reality, after the two catastrophes of Nazism and of Communism, which shattered our continent in particular, is possible at all. For the establishment of a humane world order and the awareness of the responsibility of the free and democratic peoples the work of the Society for Threatened Peoples is essential.

Your objective and uncompromising attitude is from time to time by no means comforting for our governments in Europe or America. But that is precisely what we need: an independent institution which is not linked to any national or other interests, which listens only to the conscience of the world: the Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV)."

**Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling, Federal Minister retired**

"For 30 years the Society for Threatened Peoples has been shining the light of conscience at the dark places the world would not see, giving voice to those whom the world would



Sharon Silber

not hear. There is no nobler work than this: bringing hope to those in despair. As Rabbi Marshall Meyer has said, 'We cannot be silent in the face of injustice. Whenever human beings are persecuted, the sanctity of human life is threatened everywhere.' Congratulations on a distinguished history of working to heal the world!"

**Sharon Silber, Jews against Genocide, USA**

Heide Simonis

"A particular aspect in the development history of the Society for Threatened Peoples and your magazine 'pogrom' is that the Society could win many people to join in the work. The mixture of well-founded information, incalculable personal involvement and spectacular – sometimes extremely 'scandalous' – campaigns has evidently produced success. I wish Tilman Zülch and all his colleagues in the Society for Threatened Peoples great success in their actions. Work for people, groups and countries without any power and the defence and development of the 'humanitas' of our own society are indispensable for all."

**Heide Simonis, Prime Minister of the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein\***

Dr. Edmund Stoiber

"You have made a name for yourself as an advocate for human rights. When thirty years ago you founded with Klaus Guerke die Biafra campaign you began a struggle, which you have continued to the present day. Whenever injustice is committed against peoples and groups of people you and your society raise your voices. How Germany can contribute to preventing infringements of human rights is a difficult question. Military intervention in the Balkans can certainly not be taken as a pattern for crisis management all over the world, for we know very well the limits of the influence and power of the Federal Republic of Germany. For this reason each individual case must be discussed as to the way in which we can best pursue the goal of a more humane world. In this discussion you will also play an important role in the future."

**Dr. Edmund Stoiber, Prime Minister of the Free State of Bavaria\***

Dr. Manfred Stolpe

"The work of the Society for Threatened Peoples, which is aimed at helping ethnic and religious minorities, cannot be praised too highly. As the advocate for persecuted minorities no refusal of entry and no red card from a court of law could intimidate it. It looks back today on three decades, which are marked by devastating developments in many countries. You must often have had the feeling in your work of the battle between David and Goliath. Nevertheless there is always a shimmer of hope from you can draw the strength for new plans. For men and women living in Brandenburg Tilman Zülch as a democrat and world citizen is a convincing example."

**Dr. Manfred Stolpe, Prime Minister of the Federal State of Brandenburg\***

Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth

"I am glad to be able today to take the opportunity of expressing my respect and admiration for your work in the 'Society for Threatened Peoples' and thus for the oppressed in our world. You enjoy for your work in the public eye esteem and prestige. This has been documented and honoured by many tokens of esteem which have been conferred upon you. The realization of human rights is a major concern with you and you have made a mark as an impulse giver and particularly in this sphere with your exemplary involvement. Certainly the distinctions which have been granted to you are not only the well deserved acknowledgement of your achievements, but also the expression of thanks for what you have done for countless people."

**Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth, President of the Bundestag retired\***

Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth

"The year 1994 also closes with a ghastly war record. All the greater is the value of your indomitable work in arousing attention."

**Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth, Member of the Bundestag and its President 1988-98**

Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth

"For 30 years the Society for Threatened Peoples has also belonged to the watchers of the world's conscience. Growing out of the Biafra Aid Campaign in 1968 in Hamburg and



renamed in 1970, it has derived from the German past the task of preventing genocide and expulsion at the present time. Today the GfbV is an international organization, whose word carries weight at the UNO and in the media throughout the world. I call on all members, supporters and colleagues of the GfbV: Never stop working! Let us fill the human rights with life!"

**Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth, Member of the Bundestag and its President 1988-98**

Erwin Teufel

"You have worked for human rights and for threatened peoples with great commitment. For this I should like to express to you my appreciation and thanks."

**Erwin Teufel, Prime Minister of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg\***

Wolfgang Thierse

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has since its foundation over 30 years ago become the embodiment of humanitarian work. It stands as a self-evident cornerstone of human rights in the whole world. Even if the steps of success have sometimes been small, in the end countless people profit from your work – people of whom nobody speaks, who had no mouthpiece. The Society has considerably sharpened public awareness for the cause of those concerned. The record of its work in the past 30 years speaks for itself. I look forward to hearing of the work of the Society for Threatened Peoples very frequently."

**Wolfgang Thierse, President of the Bundestag**

Jürgen Trittin

"In your work for human rights and minorities, there too where your opinions did not match the mainstream, you have shown a great deal of courage and persistence. You were always a difficult customer. I wish you for the future that you do not let yourself lose heart with the setbacks in this difficult terrain."

**Jürgen Trittin, Federal Minister for the Environment, Protection of Nature and Nuclear Safety**

Dr. Antje Vollmer

"In an age of global growing together and instant internet communication attention tends to fall on large political units like national states or multilateral organizations. In the process smaller countries and peoples often drop out of view. The work of the GfbV is geared to act against this trend. It is only through such spirited campaigns that the legal and political situation of under-privileged groups can be effectively improved. It is difficult, but vital."

**Dr. Antje Vollmer, Vice-President of the Bundestag**

Martin Walser

"This is the most important geography lesson: teaching where on the face of the earth human rights are still not being observed. Enlightenment AND aid: that is the aim of the Society for Threatened Peoples. For this it needs us. Because the threatened peoples need them."

**Martin Walser, author**

Martin Walser

"The Society for Threatened Peoples does what one should be doing oneself – and does not do! One is embarrassed and is glad that it exists. And one is thankful."

**Martin Walser, author\***

Dr. Wolf Weber

„If one wants to do honour to someone in a few words, then it must always be in the form of mere hints. And of course this is particularly true in the case of someone who works and lives with such richness of character and such intensity. But there are a few milestones. There is the bestowing of the Lower Saxon Prize for Publishing 1995, an exemplary recognition of the many successes in the work of the Society for Threatened Peoples, although they may not have gone far enough for your taste. For you good will alone is not enough, but action. All that in a world in which an indifferent silence, turning into the passivity of withdrawal, seems to be gradually taking over. You have never been indifferent and never passive. You have risked a lot, unbending indeed, time and again and under extreme conditions."

**Dr. Wolf Weber, Minister for Justice and European Affairs of the Federal State of Lower Saxony**



Maria von  
Welser

"We all urgently need an alert conscience – that is what the Society for Threatened Peoples is for us in our country. Let us hope that hearts can continue to be reached."

**Maria von Welser, former editor of ML Mona Lisa**

Inge Wettig-  
Danielmeyer

"The Society for Threatened Peoples has been working hard for three decades for the realisation of human rights. The weakest groups – ethnic, religious and national minorities and communities of original inhabitants like the Amazon Indians, the South Sudanese, the Assyrian Christians or Sinti and Roma – are often victims of discrimination, oppression and persecution and even genocide. In the Society for Threatened Peoples they have found a competent advocate. This human rights organisation has always maintained its independence.

The prerequisite for sustained development and consistent protection of the environment in third world countries is the stopping or prevention of the infringements of human rights. The Society for Threatened Peoples gives them a voice in Germany and helps their representatives to stand up for their rights by democratic and non-violent means."

**Inge Wettig –Danielmeyer, Member of the Federal Parliament and Treasurer of the SPD (the Social Democratic Party of Germany)**

Heidmarie  
Wieczorek-Zeul

"It is largely thanks to your hard work that the value of human rights and the rights of oppressed and disadvantaged minorities has increased in our otherwise so high-speed and often superficial time. I write this with a high degree of personal respect, for I have over the years felt a strong spiritual affinity to my political work. [...] War and expulsion in Kosovo were an incisive and terrible event for us Europeans. But this must not black out our view of other regions of the world, in which suffering and expulsion are a matter of course. Here one of the fundamental tasks for the future remains the easing and avoidance of crises and wars. I rely on your personal and influential effort and want to assure you that I shall always be anxious not to leave you alone in your work."

**Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development\***

Simon  
Wiesenthal

"In this year too – and perhaps particularly in this year – the Society for Threatened Peoples was and is a shaft of light and trace of hope at a time in which Europe and on the other continents peoples, minorities or refugees are threatened in their existence. Every day it is forced on us how many people are affected, and my thoughts turn then to the Society in Göttingen because this deserving association is always the first on the scene – thank God it does not remain alone in its efforts – when it is a matter of assistance and problem-solving for threatened people. Your work is unfortunately necessary over and over again in many parts of the world."

**Simon Wiesenthal, Documentation Centre of the Association of Jews Persecuted by the Nazi Regime, Austria**

Simon  
Wiesenthal

"Whenever the media report on injustice against people, threats against nations, the persecution of individuals or of groups in different continents and it is clear to me that something must be done to help those affected, I immediately think of your organisation, the Society for Threatened Peoples [...]. In the past two decades you have achieved great things, and all your friends – among whom I count myself – are glad that you are there. We are grateful for the energetic work for the oppressed, we value your work, which is not held back by problems and the clarity of your words, which are always the right ones. I beg you to carry on this tradition of working for the benefit of the oppressed and disadvantaged!"

**Simon Wiesenthal, Documentation Centre of the Association of Jews Persecuted by the Nazi Regime, Austria**



Simon  
Wiesenthal

"You have helped to found and build up an organisation which means a stepping-stone to help for people who feel threatened, whether it is a matter of a threat against individuals or groups. You have spoken out for the rights of so many people, always putting the people in the centre of your endeavours – with no regard for personal disadvantage or ill-will – and so by giving such an example you have achieved great things. I have always been glad of being able to count on your support."

**Simon Wiesenthal, Documentation Centre of the Association of Jews Persecuted by the Nazi Regime, Austria**

Owens Wiwa

"The work of the Society for Threatened Peoples is of great importance for the people of the Ogoni and for the Organisation for the Survival of the Ogoni (MOSOP). The visit of my murdered brother Ken Saro-Wiwa to the Federal office of the GfbV in the year 1991 sharpened our awareness of the support which democratic structures like the United Nations can provide for our non-violent struggle. The efforts which you undertook to save the life of our leader, the continuous support which you give the 19 Ogoni civil rights campaigners who are still in prison and the support for the Ogoni refugees at the UNHCR refugee camp in Benin cannot be praised too highly. We are most grateful to you for this."

**Owens Wiwa, brother of Ken Saro-Wiwa, Alternative Nobel Prizewinner 1994, Nigeria**

Dr. Frieder  
Wolf

"I wish you the health which will ensure that you can continue your so important and committed work in the cause of the threatened peoples in your own uncompromising way."

**Dr. Frieder Wolf, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Brussels office**

Pastor  
Joachim  
Ziegenrucker

"It is a long way from the days of your campaign for Biafra up to today. Allow me now to speak of respect and gratitude. I have observed the work carefully right from the beginning and helped wherever I could. It has always distressed me when the possibilities were less than I had hoped. When I write here of respect and gratitude I mean just that. Your clear view of concrete situations and necessities, your tenacity and loyalty to the task on hand, your personal attitude in the very hardest situations have always impressed me deeply. All of this is an expression of how much you took matters to heart. This attitude has also enabled you to motivate others for this service to humanity.

My respect and my gratitude go out also to your wife Ines and all the workers and friends of our Society for Threatened Peoples!"

**Pastor Joachim Ziegenrucker, Director of the Evangelical Academy, retired\***



## AWARDS AND HONOURS FOR TILMAN ZÜLCH AND THE SOCIETY FOR THREATENED PEOPLES

"In Tilman Zülch a man is being honoured by GEO, who has for many years unflinchingly and uncompromisingly campaigned against the persecution of minorities, whether of ethnic or religious origin or by reason of race.

Tilman Zülch has since then worked without being bound to any political system, never riding on principle. He has shown up atrocities without holding back, whether these have been committed in the East or in the West, in democracies or in dictatorships, in the Third World or in industrial nations."

**From the eulogy on the bestowal of the GEO Prize for the Environment on Tilman Zülch, held by Dr. Peter Mayer, GEO editor**

1982

"You, whom we are honouring here today, are the founder and manager of the 'Society for Threatened Peoples', the most important institution of all those concerned with minorities and persecuted groups throughout the world. You yourself have long become the 'public conscience' of a public opinion which has often no conscience at all, and always on the spot when it is a matter of standing out against persecution and terror. In other words: every day. You are the motor and leader of this society for human rights, whose campaigns have often been able to improve the position of the oppressed. Yes, indeed, there are now many people who are working with you."

**From the eulogy on the bestowal of the Prize of Lower Saxony on Tilman Zülch, held by Eike Christian Hirsch on 30.05.1996**

1995

"For its commitment concerning and for Bosnia-Herzegovina the 'Society for Threatened Peoples' receives the 1996 Prize for 'International Understanding and Cultural Work across the Frontiers'."

**Bukovina Institute Augsburg and Working Party South-East of the djo German Youth in Europe, Bavarian Division**

1996

"For exceptional commitment in collecting and publishing the facts on aggression and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the awakening of international public opinion for the defence of territorial integrity and the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina" **the Presidium of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina confers the Silver Order of the Bosnian Crest on Mr Tilman Zülch, the President of the renowned international organisation 'Society for Threatened Peoples – International' in April 1996**

1996

"Ever since the Alliance of Displaced Persons set things in motion for the establishment of a Centre against Expulsion in Berlin Tilman Zülch has belonged to the most emphatic supporters of this project. He considers it necessary for the fate of the Germans expelled from their homeland to be integrated into the whole of German history, in order, as he himself has expressed it, to work for the victims of today with the legacy of the victims of yesterday.

In recognition of his services for human rights, the right to a homeland and self-determination [...] (Tilman Zülch is honoured, ed.).

**Reasons given by the Presidium of the Alliance of Displaced Persons for the conferring of the Medal for Services to the German Order and the Right to Self-Determination on Tilman Zülch on 17.11.2001**

2001

"The CDU of Germany (the Christian-Democratic Party) has this year 2001 for the first time organised a large competition for the encouragement of voluntary work in our society under the motto 'Citizens Make the Nation Campaign'. The jury of this competition inside the CDU in Lower Saxony [...] has bestowed the third prize in the category 'International' on the Society for Threatened Peoples. The work of your society and the

2001



presentation of these activities has made a big impression on the jury, so that the choice among a large number of other excellent projects has fallen on this suggestion."

**Christian Wulff, CDU Chairperson and Hartwig Fischer, General Secretary of the CDU of Lower Saxony**

2002

"But we get on well with this uncomfortable wide-awake character, who shows up every injustice. We are glad to have this moral instance near by. We are proud of this deserving, honest citizen, proud that the internationally famed work of the Society for Threatened Peoples is constantly connected with the name of our city."

**From the eulogy on the conferring of the Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany on 19.04.2002 by the Mayor of Göttingen, Jürgen Danielowski**

2003

"After Emilie Schindler we pay honour today to a personality who has devoted his whole life to the struggle against genocide and expulsion. He (Tilman Zülch, ed.) has said that for human rights one can fight only with all one's energy or else leave it! And he has done this throughout the world, and he does this throughout the world in an unparalleled incorruptible way, sparing neither friend nor foe and calling violation of human rights violation of human rights, regardless of where it comes from.

He has never allowed himself to be pressed into any clichés, be they of politics, ideology or creed, but for him the individual human being stood always with his dignity in the forefront, for him stood always the persecuted, humiliated and oppressed peoples and national groups in the forefront. [...]

For this reason I believe that the fight against seeing thing with one eye is something which Tilman Zülch has always managed in exemplary fashion."

**From the eulogy on the occasion of the conferring of the Human Rights Prize of the Sudeten Germans on Tilman Zülch on 19.02.2003 by Bernd Posselt M.P.**

2003

"This deserving work is carried by an ethic of persistent solidarity for the weak and oppressed and those deprived of their rights on the basis of critical analyses of the misanthropic, quite inhuman conditions and in many areas ridden by crises. Through its incorruptible work for the general recognition of human rights and against massive infringements of human rights the Society for Threatened Peoples gives to the persecuted and displaced a voice which cannot be overheard and gives them back their dignity and self-esteem[...].

The fact that the Society for Threatened Peoples was able to develop such political power for peace with such effectiveness over so many years is not least the achievement of its founder and General Secretary, Tilman Zülch. His lifework has been recognized by the jury – in great respect for his outstanding achievement in working for so many years for peace and humanity, justice and solidarity – presenting him with the Peace Prize of Göttingen for 2003."

**From the text of the document conferring the Peace Prize of Göttingen of the Foundation Dr. Roland Röhl on the Society for Threatened Peoples**