

H.E. HENRIK OFSTAD

Dear friends,

Let me, first of all, express that I am thrilled to be here, honoured to have been invited to address you, and delighted to see so many of you present here today. I greet you all – good people from the whole region.

As I'm presently living in Zagreb, I'm especially happy to greet you who have come the whole way from Croatia.

-----PAUSA FOR TRANSLATION

In just a short time the Dusko Kondor Awards for Civil Courage will be received by the laureates. We don't know who the laureates are at this moment, but we know that this Award is not given to the usual celebs in the field of politics, international peace negotiations, or foreign

diplomats, even if some of them CAN show civil courage in certain situations. No, the Dusko Kondor Awards is given to people not unlike Dusko Kondor himself, an unsung hero, a brave man, a man of honour who followed his conscious. That is how he was, and that is how I will always remember him. I had the privilege to meet him several times during my posting in BiH.

----- PAUSA FOR TRANSLATION

Dear friends,

We need many living Dusko Kondors in our struggle for a brighter future. I believe that must be the reason why GARIWO – Dr. Svetlana Broz and dr. Uwe Kitzinger – founded this award. Not only to commemorate Dusko, not only to commend the laureates, It is also for us – who are present here today – and those who will read about this

event later on, or watch it on television – because also WE need to know the names and the stories of the men and women who have showed courage – and even risking their lives for it. These are our heroes; these are the good people who should be our role models. These are the people who have built bridges over troubled waters, showed us the road to a better future, and asked us to join together against the negative authorities.

-----PAUSA FOR TRANSLATION

I have a friend – a remarkable lady – who for a time was a refugee in Norway. When I met her in Sarajevo we became close, but she never told me the reason why she had to flee to Norway. She is, however, mentioned in Dr. Broz’s book “Good People in Evil Times”. She and her husband were helping good people who had to leave Sarajevo, hiding them in their own apartment in Grbavica. They had to leave

themselves when their actions were exposed. If not for books like Broz's book, stories like these would not have been publicly known.

-----PAUSA FOR TRANSLATION

I would like to end this short speech by quoting one of my favourite musicians from my childhood, a man who was killed in New York in 1980:

You may say

I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one

I hope some day you'll join us

And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions

I wonder if you can

No need for greed or hunger

A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people sharing all the world

----- PAUSA FOR TRANSLATION

Dear friends

If YOU join us - if we unite - we can change the world.