

Fra pressemeldingen 1987

1987: Jiri Hajek, The Czech Republic

In 1987, the first time the prize was awarded, it went to the former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Czechoslovakia, Mr Jiri Hajek. He had been chosen as one of the three leading spokesmen of Charta 77, the civil rights movement, thus becoming the target of police interrogations and threats. He was a strong defender of the uncompromising document of Charta 77, that voiced the principles of universal human rights. As president of Charta 77, Jiri Hajek had enjoyed the cooperation of Thorolf Rafto, whose convictions and ideals had won him the respect and friendship of Mr Hajek. The ideas of the Charta 77 are congenial with the principles of the Rafto Foundation. It seemed most appropriate that the front figure of Charta 77 was awarded the prize as torch bearer for the tradition within which the fight has to be carried on.