

Sushil Pyakurel of Nepal awarded 2010 Gwanju Prize for Human Rights

Sushil Pyakurel:

For more than 2 decades Mr. Sushil Pyakurel has been involved in a movement of promotion and protection of democratic values based upon human dignity, security and human rights. He is considered to be the most active Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He himself campaigned for the establishment of the NHRC. While serving as a Commissioner he assumed the responsibility regarding protection and promotion of human rights as well as to ensure independence of the Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles. He has boldly campaigned for ending impunity of human rights violators and ongoing disappearances by state and non-state entities. In eighties, he campaigned for multi party democracy and was arrested and subjected to state arbitrary actions.

He is the founder of various human rights bodies and organizations, including the human rights organization INSEC and the Forum for the Protection of Human Rights, the first human rights organization in the country. In the course of his long and impressive career in this field he has played a crucial role in encouraging international pressure against the royal regime and in the establishment of the Office of High Commissioner in Nepal. In addition he has represented his country at several international events in Japan, India and the USA. Mr. Pyakurel is the current President of the Accountability Watch Committee (AWC), Nepal, and a member of the Dialogue Group for the Constituent Assembly.

The Gwangju Prize for Human Rights:

On May 18, 2010 the award will be conferred on a ceremony to commemorate the May 18 Gwangju Democratic Uprising. The prize award includes a medal, a certificate of achievement and 50,000,000 Korean Won. [Mr. Henri Tiphagne, the Executive Director of People's Watch \(India\)](#) will also be there for the function.

The Gwangju Prize for Human Rights is an award given to individuals, groups or institutions in Korea and abroad that have contributed in promoting and advancing human rights, democracy and peace in their work. The award is given by the Gwangju people in the spirit of solidarity and gratitude from those whom they have received help in their struggle for democratization and search for truth.

The Gwangju Prize is administered by The May 18 Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization established on August 30, 1994. It was organized by surviving victims of the 1980 Gwangju Democratic Uprising, the victims' families, and the citizens of Gwangju. The Foundation aims to commemorate and continue the spirit of struggle and solidarity of the May 18 Uprising, contribute to the peaceful reunification of Korea, and work towards peace and human rights throughout the world. Since its establishment, the Foundation has carried out numerous projects in varying fields, including organizing memorial events, establishing scholarships, fostering research, disseminating public information, publishing relevant materials, dispensing charity and welfare benefits, building international solidarity, and awarding the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights.