



1914 – 2014 - 100 Jahre Einsatz für Menschenrechte

Berlin, October 13th 2014

**The International League for Human Rights awards the
Carl von Ossietzky Medal 2014
to
whistleblower Edward Snowden
filmmaker Laura Poitras and journalist Glenn Greenwald**

**The medal giving ceremony will take place
at the ceremonial “Kleist Hall” of the renowned Urania Berlin
at 11 am on Sunday the 14th of December, 2014**

On the 100th anniversary of the International League of Human Rights, the Board of Trustees of the German section of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (AEDH), will award the League's Carl von Ossietzky Medal for moral courage and outstanding dedication to human rights to:

Edward Snowden - former NSA contractor and whistleblower (currently in Russia)

Laura Poitras - documentary filmmaker (currently in Germany), and

Glenn Greenwald - Journalist and lawyer (currently in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

Edward Snowden's historic revelations exposed the world's most widespread surveillance system, which was implemented without raising any initial suspicions. Snowden shares the medal with *Laura Poitras* and *Glenn Greenwald*, whom he entrusted with publishing his discoveries. Thanks to their highly professional, considerate, and responsible-minded commitment, Snowden's revelations were brought to the knowledge of the world-wide public. Global awareness of the full extent of human rights violations connected with international mass surveillance by secret services came about thanks to the whistleblower Snowden, as well as to Poitras and Greenwald, who transmitted his information to the wider public.

The three award-winners have shown great courage with this groundbreaking work. Despite resistance and predictable threats to their physical integrity and individual freedom, they chose to inform the public about the practices of United States secret services and other countries, that are breaching international law and violating fundamental and human rights. Like Carl von Ossietzky, they helped democratic transparency triumph. In taking a stand, they have done a great service for democracy and human rights in this digital era. For this reason, the International League for Human Rights is awarding them this medal in the name of Carl von Ossietzky, the committed and courageous journalist who worked during the years of the Weimar Republic.

At the same time, the League demands wide-ranging protection against political and criminal proceedings for whistleblowers as established by human rights and international law. It demands that Snowden be granted asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany, and that he be given free and safe passage to testify as an expert witness before the Federal Parliament Commission of Inquiry into NSA, and as a prosecution witness in proceedings that the League and other parties have been trying to file against the federal government and secret service agencies for months.

Since 1962, the League has awarded the Carl von Ossietzky Medal to people or groups who stand out for their exceptional moral courage and commitment to the implementation, defence and extension of fundamental and human rights. From 2010 onwards, the medal is awarded once every two years. The League's Carl-von-Ossietzky-Medal attracts high attention in Germany (attached please find a short text concerning Carl von Ossietzky as well as a list of selected laureates so far). It is the highest honour for the League itself to have as this year's recipients these three outstanding individuals.