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The ICJ is pleased to announce that the 2011 winner of the Martin Ennals award is Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera.

Kasha Jacqueline is a co-founder and Executive Director of Freedom and Roam Uganda, an LGBT rights organization in Uganda. Kasha is a bold and courageous human rights defender. She regularly appears on television and radio programs in Uganda and is outspoken in her defense of human rights. Kasha has been at the forefront of the civil society campaign against the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which would impose the death penalty for certain acts of "aggravated homosexuality" and also criminalizes freedom of expression and association concerning promotion of homosexuality. Kasha was one of the three petitioners in the case against *Rolling Stone*, a Ugandan newspaper that had published photographs and addresses of "Uganda's Top Homos" and urged readers to "hang them." In January 2011, the High Court of Uganda at Kampala found that the newspaper had violated the petitioners' rights to respect for human dignity and privacy and issued an injunction.

The ICJ has tremendous respect for Kasha and her colleagues and will continue to work with and support them in their efforts against injustice.

The Chairman of the Jury of the MEA, Hans Thoolen, describes the laureate as "*an exceptional woman of a rare courage, fighting under death threat for human dignity and the rights of homosexuals and marginalised people in Africa.*"

The Ceremony of the Martin Ennals Award will take place in the Victoria Hall of Geneva later this year.

The main award of the human rights movement. The Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders (MEA) is a unique collaboration among ten of the world's leading human rights organizations to give **protection** to human rights defenders worldwide. The **Jury** is composed of the following NGOs: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, International Federation for Human Rights, World Organisation Against Torture, Front Line, International Commission of Jurists, German Diakonie, International Service for Human Rights and HURIDOCS.

Previous laureates : Muhannad Al-Hassani, Syria (2010), Emad Baghi, Iran; Mutabar Tadjibaeva, Uzbekistan; Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, Burundi and Rajan Hoole-Kopalasingham Sritharan, Sri Lanka; Akbar Ganji, Iran and Arnold Tsunga, Zimbabwe; Aktham Naisse, Syria; Lida Yusupova, Russia; Alirio Uribe Muñoz, Colombia; Jacqueline Moudeina, Chad; Peace Brigades International; Immaculée Birhaheka, DR Congo; Natasha Kandic, Yugoslavia; Eyad El Sarraj, Palestine; Samuel Ruiz, Mexico; Clement Nwankwo, Nigeria; Asma Jahangir, Pakistan; Harry Wu, China.

For downloadable **film images** on the Laureate of 2011, please go to <http://vimeo.com/23160035> - the Vimeo account of True Heroes with a password: **MEA_KASHA_2011**.

Patrons of the Martin Ennals Award: Asma Jahangir, Barbara Hendricks, José Ramos-Horta, Adama Dieng, Leandro Despouy, Louise Arbour, Robert Fulghum, Irene Khan, Theo van Boven and Werner Lottje†.