

Press Release

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Award of the 10th Council of Europe North-South Prize

Strasbourg, 22.10.2004 – The Speaker of the Portuguese Assembly, Joao Mota Amaral, will award the 10th Council of Europe North-South Prize (*) to Egyptian writer Nawal El Saadawi and French diplomat Stéphane Hessel at a ceremony in the **Senate room of the Portuguese parliament at 11 am on Monday 25 October**. The ceremony will take place in the presence of Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the Council's Deputy Secretary General, and Claude Frey, Chairman of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre.

Nawal El Saadawi, who trained as a psychiatrist, is the author of numerous works which have been translated into many different languages. The award recognises her tireless work in defence of women's rights, for which she has spent time in prison and in exile.

French ambassador Stéphane Hessel has also written a number of books and is a fervent defender of peace and the cause of the least well-off. Among other things, he is well known for his work in support of unofficial residents in his country.

At 5 pm on the same day, the dignitaries present at the ceremony will be joined by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the inauguration of the new premises of the Council of Europe's North-South Centre (15, avenida de la Republica), which have been kindly made available to the Centre by the Portuguese government.

The award ceremony and the inauguration of the new premises will be open to the press.

(*) The Council of Europe's annual North-South Prize was created in 1995, and is awarded to those who have distinguished themselves through their efforts and achievements in the protection of human rights, the defence of democracy and promoting partnership and solidarity between the North and the South. For more information please see www.nscentre.org

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