

Press Release

December 10, 2021

## 2021 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) today (12/10) released a series of videos to congratulate the 2021 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award recipient Ms. Humaira Rasuli. The videos included pre-recorded speeches by President Tsai Ing-wen, Ms. Humaira Rasuli, and TFD Chairman You Si-kun.

H.E. President Tsai Ing-wen in the video congratulates Ms. Humaira Rasuli for being awarded the 2021 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award, saying “Ms. Rasuli’s bravery and persistence have earned her widespread respect.”

“I hope that her recognition with this award will give hope to those suffering repression, and that it will inspire further efforts to eliminate sexism, end gender-based violence, and address other women’s rights issues in Asia,” says President Tsai.

President Tsai says the path to democracy and safeguarding human rights “has never been an easy one.”

“Having endured authoritarian rule, we in Taiwan understand profoundly how important it is to constantly strengthen our hard-earned democracy,” says President Tsai.

“Taiwan is both able and determined to play a more active role in advancing democracy and human rights globally,” says President Tsai. “We will continue to share experiences with our friends around the world and spread our values of freedom and democracy to enrich the lives of people everywhere.”

TFD Chairman You says that Ms. Humaira Rasuli’s contributions and endeavors to promote Afghan women’s rights “have deeply moved us, and we truly feel that upholding and pursuing democratic values are universal ideals, regardless of region and race.”



“Respecting and protecting women’s rights is fundamental in human rights advocacy, and eliminating violence against women is moreover an essential but challenging task in the course of advancing human rights,” says TFD Chairman You.

TFD Chairman You points out the Taliban regained power in Afghanistan this August, posing as a great challenge to the progress women’s rights has seen in the last 20 years.

“Humaira Rasuli and her colleagues have had to put their work on hold and restructure their strategies,” says TFD Chairman You. “I hope this year’s award to Humaira Rasuli will further inspire the world to pay closer attention to women’s rights and human rights in Afghanistan, and the hard-earned progress made by human rights advocates like Humaira Rasuli can be prolonged, even under volatile situations.”

Ms. Humaira Rasuli in her pre-recorded acceptance speech says that human rights defenders at the frontline of the struggle for the rights of the Afghan people are at grave risk. “Those who work at the frontlines of the Afghan future are intimidated, threatened, and persecuted by violent extremists,” she says.

However, Ms. Humaira Rasuli emphasizes that they “choose peace over violence, unity over division, and inclusiveness over exclusion” and “put our hands together to ensure that we will all, together, participate in shaping the future of our beloved country.”

“We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us as we renew our commitments in these dark times,” says Ms. Humaira Rasuli. “We thank you for giving us the strength to continue our work and with more passion and persistence. And thank you especially for acknowledging our struggle and letting us know that we do matter to the world.”

Due to COVID-19, the TFD is not hosting a physical award ceremony this year. Pre-recorded videos instead have been published on the TFD official

website and social media platforms.

Media Contact:

Olivia Yang

Tel: +886-2-2708-0100 #607

Email: [olivia@tfd.org.tw](mailto:olivia@tfd.org.tw)

