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Medical Humanitarian Receives UD Award

04.18.2007 | Culture and Society, Campus and Community  The University of Dayton presented Bernard Kouchner, co-founder of Doctors Without Borders (url: http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/) , with its international award that honors humanitarians Wednesday. Kouchner was in town to deliver the keynote address at UD's Stander Symposium (url: http://stander.udayton.edu/) , an end-of-year display of student research and scholarship.

"Kouchner once remarked that the suffering of mankind belongs to all of mankind," said Mark Ensalaco, UD's Roesch Chair in the Social Sciences and founder of UD's human rights program (url: http://www.udayton.edu/artssciences/) . "The University recognized him with the Romero Award because we share that belief at the University of Dayton."

The Oscar Romero Award for Leadership (url: http://homepages.udayton.edu/~ensalama/oscar_romero_award.htm) in Service to Human Rights at UD is named for the Salvadoran archbishop slain 25 years ago while officiating Mass because of his outspoken opposition to his country's war and U.S. support for it. The award is presented to "an individual or organization that has earned distinction for the promotion of the dignity of all human beings and alleviation of the suffering of the human community."

Past winners of UD's Romero Award include: Juan Méndez, former director of America's Watch and president of the International Center for Transitional Justice and United Nations special representative on the prevention of genocide; Casa Alianza, which operates programs to help homeless and abandoned children in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua; Radhika Coomaraswamy, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women; and Juan Guzman, the Chilean judge responsible for indicting former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

The University of Dayton is one of the country's top 10 Catholic universities and home to the nation's first undergraduate program in human rights.

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