

## **Major of Calabrian refugee village to receive Dresden Peace Prize**

**Domenico Lucano made Riace a place of welcome/ Martin Roth delivers laudatory speech/ "Sicily's Voice" Etta Scollo to sing in the Semperoper**

With the awarding of the 8th International Peace Prize "Dresden-Preis" on February 12th 2017 Domenico Lucano (Italy) will be honoured. By establishing the "Village of Welcome" the major of Riace created a unique project of togetherness between Italians and refugees. For eighteen years, huge figures of migrants have been taken in and integrated by means of accommodation, employment as well as language courses. 550 of the currently 1800 inhabitants of Riace came to the Calabrian village as refugees. In spring, "Fortune" magazine named Domenico Lucano one of the "50 greatest leaders of the world", alongside such personalities as the Pope and Angela Merkel. Upon request of Pope Francis, Lucano is going to take part in a meeting of European majors regarding the issue of refugees in the Pontifical Academy. In the meantime, visitors from all over the world come to Riace to take a look at this standard-setting model of dealing with refugees.

### **Reasons for awarding the Dresden Peace Prize to Domenico Lucano:**

„The major of a tiny village beyond the world's metropolises putting many strong nations to shame, is something that seldom happens. Domenico Lucano did so by making humanity the only measurement when dealing with refugees. While fences are being built elsewhere and admission quotes are being bargained for, Riace welcomes those who have fled war and poverty with open arms. By that, people save each other: the inhabitants of Riace save the migrants and the migrants save the little Calabrian village threatened by extinction. That way, Calabria embodies what Domenico Lucano calls "The Utopia of Normality". In a world where more and more people are forced to leave their home countries there is no need for more fear of all that is unknown, no need for more hatred, but rather Riace's courageous and human personalities like Domenico Lucano."

*Dr. Günter Blobel, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and co-initiator of the Dresden Peace Prize*

The Dresden Peace Prize is supported by the Klaus Tschira Foundation. The award is valued at 10 000 euros.

Prof. Dr. Martin Roth will deliver the laudatory speech for the award winner. He headed the Victoria & Albert Museum in London from 2011 to 2016. Previously, he was director general of the Dresden State Art Collections. Roth is, amongst other things, actively engaged in the initiative „Eine offene Gesellschaft“.

Singer Etta Scollo, celebrated by critics as „The Voice of Sicily“, will perform several own songs on the issue of refugees.

Former Federal Minister of the Interior Gerhart Baum will moderate the ceremony.

Throughout the awarding ceremony an excerpt from the film „Il volo“ by director Wim Wenders about Riace and the Calabrian model for dealing with refugees. After the shooting of the film, Wenders said in 2010: „The true utopia is not the fall of the Berlin Wall but rather what has been achieved in Calabria, in Riace.“

Dresden Peace Prize: The Dresden Peace Prize has been awarded annually since 2010 in the Semperoper. Previous laureates were Nobel Peace Prize laureate Michail Gorbachev, pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, war photographer James Nachtwey, former Soviet officer Stanislav Petrov, former child soldier and present-time peace activist and musician Emmanuel Jal, HRH the Duke of Kent as well as the forefather of all whistle-blowers Daniel Ellsberg.

The award ceremony is a joint event organized by Friends of Dresden Deutschland association and the Semperoper. It takes place Sunday, 12 February 12th 2017 at 1:00 a.m. in the Semperoper.

Tickets at a price of 10 Euro (pupils / students reduced 5 Euro) are available at the Visitors Service of the Semperoper. Schinkelwache, Theaterplatz 2, 01067 Dresden Phone: 0351 4911 705 E-Mail: [bestellung@semperoper.de](mailto:bestellung@semperoper.de)

### **Information for media representatives:**

**Photographs of the laureate** can be downloaded on the website [www.dresdner-friedenspreis.de](http://www.dresdner-friedenspreis.de) in the section "Press service", and are free to use provided that the photographer is acknowledged. Media representatives are cordially invited to the awards ceremony of the 8th Dresden Peace Prize on 12th February 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the Semperoper. If you would like to **request accreditation**, please contact: [info@dresdner-friedenspreis.de](mailto:info@dresdner-friedenspreis.de). Also, you can obtain accreditation at [www.dresdner-friedenspreis.de](http://www.dresdner-friedenspreis.de) under "Press".

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