

Press Release

January 13, 2006

For Immediate Release

Contact: Laurie Ahern

Tel: 202.296.6573

e-mail: Lahern@mdri.org

Mental Disability Rights International Executive Director Named 2006 Humanitarian Award Recipient

WASHINGTON, DC – Attorney Eric Rosenthal, Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) and an expert in international human rights law, has been named the 2006 recipient of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRC New York) Humanitarian Award.

MDRI, founded by Rosenthal 13 years ago, is the world's leading international human rights group dedicated to the protection of people with mental disabilities. MDRI promotes the human rights and full participation in society of children and adults with mental disabilities worldwide. Rosenthal has worked in 23 countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

AHRC New York, whose mission is to promote inclusion of people with developmental disabilities into the community, was instrumental in bringing the lawsuit that closed the infamous New York Willowbrook State School and was a leader in creating community-based services. In a letter announcing the award AHRC stated, "...we at AHRC have applauded the efforts of Mental Disability Rights International, your achievements and valiant efforts to do on a global level what AHRC has, for the last almost six decades, tried to do in New York City."

Previous Humanitarian Award recipients have included Senator Jacob Javits, Barbara Walters, Governor Nelson Rockefeller, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Clarence Sundrum, the first Commissioner of the New York State Commission on the Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled and current MDRI Board President.

The 2006 AHRC Humanitarian Award Dinner will be held on May 20th, 2006 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City.