

THEODORE JACQUENEY

When Theodore Jacqueney died on October 31, *Worldview* lost an active, highly dedicated editor, and the other editors lost a most valued colleague and friend. Ted had a combination of commitment to human rights and democracy and the energy to work for their support that is very rare. He will be sorely missed.

Over the years *Worldview* has published so many articles devoted to human rights and their violation in countries around the world that we have grown used to hearing it described as a journal of human rights. During the last five years Ted Jacqueney was responsible for many of the best of those articles and interviews. The range of Ted's interest is indicated by the range of people with whom he worked and the homelands from which they came. Because of Ted we were able to publish both personal testimony and incisive analyses of human rights violations in countries from Vietnam to South Africa, from Cuba to Indonesia, from Nepal to Haiti.

These names, these countries, suggest the breadth but not the depth of Ted's commitment. For what allowed him to engage the problems of different people with different cultures and various histories was his devotion to democracy and the freedom of the individual. The principles of democracy provided standards against which he tested not only the ideologies and theories of various governments and regimes but their actual practices. What distinguished Ted from a number of people who work on issues of human rights is that he applied those standards across the board—to governments of the Left and the Right, to democracies and dictatorships. This did not always endear him to those whose indignation was more selective, sometime apologists for countries whose social systems they admired or sympathized with.

There were, however, many people who understood and appreciated what Ted was doing and what long-term goals he was pursuing. This was evident in the immediate stunned reaction to the news of his death, in the expressions of appreciation for the work he had accomplished, and the acknowledgment of the gap that his death left. A few of the many responses will indicate the impact that Ted had on those who came to know him and his work.

Tran Thi Dam Phuong (writing in *Hanh Dong*, a Vietnamese-language paper published in Washington, D.C.): Before 1975, Ted was appalled by what he saw in Vietnam; after 1975...he was the first American to reveal to the public in this country the truth behind the so-called reeducation camps in Communist Vietnam. Among those Ted tried to save was my father, Tran Van Tuyen. [Lawyer Tuyen, chairman of the opposition bloc in the pre-1975 National Assembly, Vietnamese representative of the International League for Human Rights, died in detention in November, 1976. He had also been imprisoned by the Diem government.]...

Ted spent much time with my father in Saigon, in February, 1975. Their friendship was deep and immediate. They spoke the same ideological language, shared the same dreams for this world, and the same vision for the human race: freedom and justice, everywhere.

Raul Manglapus: I met Ted only two years ago in my fifth year of exile [from the Philippines]. I think he was in

the act of compressing his life, that is, all his life stood for: rallying all who believed in the universality of freedom and thought it should be defended on all sides and not just on one. In Vietnam, it was this message he sought to impress on fellow Americans: freedom is indigenous to every human heart; it is indigenous to Asia and it is indigenous to Vietnam....He knew someone had to stand up and proclaim freedom as a value natural to all races, cultures and faiths and denounce repression from whatever direction it is waged.

Pavel Litvinov: In the fall of 1976, I read an article in the *New York Times* about political prisoners in Vietnam, after the "liberation" of South Vietnam. Right away, I thought: Here is someone who thinks like me. His message was very dear to me: Oppressive regimes put people in prison not for the content of their ideas, but for the act of daring to *have* ideas. Therefore, people oppressed by dictatorships of different ideological colors have much more in common than most of them can suspect.

...Now that Ted is not with us anymore, I believe more than ever that we must continue to build The Democracy International—a project we started together, but which could not have moved forward without the energy and dedication of Ted Jacqueney.

Dr. Elena Mederos Gonzalez: I was privileged to work with Ted Jacqueney over the past years and drew inspiration from his commitment.

In times of selective sensibility, when institutions and individuals have tended to focus on violations of the freedoms and rights of only certain groups, Ted Jacqueney rejected double standards and courageously called attention to the plight of those who were being forgotten.

His work was not in vain. He has left a living legacy in those, like me, who were encouraged by his example, as well as a record of activities that were at once personal achievements and credits to the organizations with which he was associated.

Additional testimonials would strengthen but not substantially modify the impression of these comments. The Democracy International, which was referred to in the fuller statements made by most of these people, is still a fledgling organization, and the immediate burden for coordinating its ongoing activities has been accepted by Victoria Jacqueney, Ted's wife and co-worker. Those who wish to know more about this aspect of Theodore Jacqueney's work can inquire of

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The full text of the charter of The Democracy International is too long to quote, but one brief paragraph might serve as a memorial to Theodore Jacqueney:

"We seek to build a movement to promote pluralist democracy—to strengthen democracy where it exists; to revive democracy where it has been destroyed; and to inspire democracy where it has been too long a distant dream."

— The Editors