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## **Imprisoned Venezuelan lawyer Rocío San Miguel receives the Forum 2000 International Award for Courage and Responsibility**

**Rocío San Miguel Sosa** is a lawyer and human rights activist specializing in military issues. She is the president of Control Ciudadano, an NGO which monitors national security, defense, and the armed forces, as well as Venezuela's commitments to the Rome Statute and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. On February 9, 2024, San Miguel Sosa was detained by Venezuelan security officials. After being held incommunicado for 10 days, it was revealed that she was in Caracas's infamous El Helicoide prison. Human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Provea, and Frente Amplio de Mujeres, condemned her detention as an enforced disappearance and demanded her immediate release, highlighting her protection under a precautionary measure granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

In recognition of her unwavering commitment to truth and justice, San Miguel Sosa was awarded the fourth Forum 2000 International Award for Courage and Responsibility during the opening of this year's Forum 2000 conference.

*"Rocío San Miguel Sosa is one of Venezuela's most experienced security and military experts. She did extremely important work with her nongovernmental organization and was also active in international organizations that draw attention to the current situation in Venezuela. That's why the repressive regime of Nicolás Maduro imprisoned her and is trying to silence her,"* says Forum 2000 Foundation director **Jakub Klepal**.

**Tamara Sujú**, founder of the Nueva Conciencia Nacional Foundation and the Damas de Blanco civil movement, which are organizations focused on training, promoting, and reporting on human rights and democratic values in Venezuela, accepted the award on Rocío San Miguel Sosa's behalf from Czech Senate President **Miloš Vystrčil**.

Also speaking during the evening was **Vladimir Kara-Murza**, a leading Russian opposition figure, who received last year's International Forum 2000 Award for Courage and Responsibility while he was imprisoned by President Vladimir Putin's regime. *"It is thanks to all of you that I am standing here in this beautiful city, surrounded by friends, instead of still sitting in that 2x3 meter cell. The only way to a Europe that would finally be whole, free, and in peace lies through a democratic Russia. I have no doubt that that day will come,"* says Vladimir Kara-Murza.

The award ceremony at the annual Forum 2000 annual conference also featured Vladimir Kara-Murza's wife **Evgenia Kara-Murza**, former Taiwanese President **Tsai Ing-wen**, American historian and publicist **Walter Russell Mead**, former Slovak Prime Minister **Iveta Radičová**, and more than 400 guests from all over the world.

For more information, visit the Forum 2000 Foundation website, where video recordings of selected sessions will also be available.

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