

Press release

**A PEACE AWARD FOR A BOOK ON VLADIMIR PUTIN**

Journalist **Gianfranco Vestuto**, author of the book “**From Putin to Putin**” and director of the newspaper, **Russia News**, has been awarded the Special Award “Books for Peace 2024”. The award ceremony will take place on **Saturday 7 September 2024** at the Taborra Auditorium in Bagnoregio (Viterbo - Lazio - Italy) at 6:30 pm. **Antonio Imeneo** / President of the International BOOKS for PEACE Prize will have the privilege of awarding the **BOOKS for PEACE 2024 Award** for Culture and Investigative Journalism **Javier Valdez**, dedicated to the Mexican journalist killed for his investigations on drugs/politics, to three authoritative figures.

On his book “**From Putin to Putin**” (published in Italian and English), **Vestuto**, former director of **Nasha Gazeta** for 3 years and of **Russia News** and **Eurasia News** for 11 years, says: “*The contribution I wanted to develop is not a cold biography that traces the existence of an ordinary individual. In fact, the path that we take in this journey highlights the most relevant aspects of the Russian president’s personal and professional life. I am particularly keen to show the ambitions, the ability to analyse the future and the vision of the future that have led Vladimir Putin to be a political leader capable of significantly impacting the world balance. There is another way of interpreting the world - Vestuto continues - based on the understanding of diversity and solidarity between peoples. Sovereignty and identity do not mean the cancellation of traditions at all. If anything, it is Western philosophy that cancels specificities because it wants to make everyone conform to the thought that represents a single part. The Eurasian vision is inclusive, it tends to valorize peoples without disregarding their territorial, cultural, political and administrative ambitions*”.

“*I will be present at this ceremony – says Prof. Antonio Imeneo, President of BOOKS for PEACE – as a double testimony and appreciation from the Federation of UNESCO Clubs of Brazil / BFUCA, which I have the honor of representing in Europe, and from BOOKS for PEACE, to thank the illustrious awarded journalists for their valuable work: Paola Donnini (Host and author Sky, Rai, raipay\_official), Pierfrancesco Pensosi (Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Rainews24), Gianfranco Vestuto (Director of Russia News and Eurasia News).*”

The Commission of the International Award “Books for Peace 2024” chaired by Prof. *Antonio Imeneo*, has decided to award the recognition to the journalist *Gianfranco Vestuto*, in consideration of his strong professional competence and high human qualities, for his precious work in favor of Peace, Human Rights, for the important work of cultural promotion for journalistic information and investigative activity. The International Award BOOKS for PEACE ([www.booksforpeace.org](http://www.booksforpeace.org)) is an award now consolidated at international level, present in 5 continents and 61 countries, an award aimed at the themes of Peace in the round, not only between peoples, but of peoples: such as gender violence, bullying, racial and religious discrimination, social and cultural integration. **Among the winners, we remember** the Nobel Peace Award winner Dr. *Denise Mukwege*, the Vice-President of the European Parliament, the Hon. *Pina Picerno*, the daughter of *Nelson Mandela*, *Maki Mandela-Amuah*, the Soprano *Katia Ricciarelli*, *Paolo Bonolis*, *Fioretta Mari*, *Davide Desario*, *Domenico Iannaccone*, *Franco Di Mare*, the world-famous Ukrainian poet writer Ms. *Oksana Stefanivna Zabužko*, the Ambassador Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna H.E. *Stefano Baldi*, the Library of the Island of Capraia, the Archaeological Park of the Excavations of Pompeii.

#### References:

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