

PRESS RELEASE

Ceremony on Saturday in Münster's town hall

Peace Prize winners greet the people at Prinzipalmarkt

Münster/Westphalia, October 23, 2014 Immediately after being honored, the new recipients of the Prize of the Peace of Westphalia will greet the people of Münster at Prinzipalmarkt on Saturday (October 25). At around 12.45 pm, the trio of astronauts Dr. Thomas Reiter (Germany), Michael Lopez-Alegria (USA) and Pavel Vinogradov (Russia) will appear on the Sentence Arch of the Stadtweinhaus together with the Youth Award winners, the laudators Tom Buhrow and Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Lord Mayor Markus Lewe. At the awards ceremonies in previous years, thousands of Münster residents had given the prizewinners such as Helmut Schmidt and Kofi Annan an enthusiastic reception.

The three space travelers accepted the prize on behalf of the crews of the International Space Station (ISS) from the hands of WDR Director General Tom Buhrow. Federal Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier lauded the youth work of the German War Graves Commission. He presents the award to three young people who are involved in the Volksbund's youth camps.

Interview with the German Gerst on the ISS

The Prime Minister of Saxony, Stanislaw Tillich, is also expected to attend the ceremony, as Saxony is considered to be one of the roots of German space travel. For technical reasons, a link to the International Space Station, which will be shown during the ceremony, has already been recorded in advance. Presenter Sabine Scholt spoke to the German Alexander Gerst, who is currently on board the ISS. The introductory film for the Youth Award winners was shot in the former Yugoslavia.

"Public Viewing" on the Stubengasse

As with previous award ceremonies, the live broadcast by WDR television can be followed from 11 a.m. at the "Public Viewing" on Stubengasse in Münster's city center. In addition, the completely renewed website of the Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe at www.westfaelischer-friedenspreis.de offers live coverage in text and images. The Peace Prize is also represented on Twitter (twitter.com/westf_friedensp) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfaelischerfriedenspreis).

Note for editors: Printable images of the award ceremony will be available on October 25 at www.friedenspreis-presse.de.