

## Young war veteran and activist Mykhailo Amrosiev, to receive the 2023 Ion Ratiu Democracy Fellowship

**London, September 2023** The Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars announce that Mr Mykhailo Amrosiev, young war veteran and activist, will receive the 2023 Ion Ratiu Democracy Fellowship (IRDF). Mr Amrosiev is the founder of the public organisation [Young Veterans Ukraine](#), which provides practical assistance to soldiers and members of their families.

Born in Kyiv in a family of entrepreneurs on the 4th of January 1994, Mr Mykhailo Amrosiev was nominated for his contribution to the social and political life of modern Ukraine, his dedication and courage. On 21 November, 2013 he was one of the organisers of a group of students who went to the Independence Square at the beginning of the Euromaidan wave of demonstrations.

After the Russian invasion of eastern Ukraine, Mr Mykhailo Amrosiev took up arms and, as part of a volunteer battalion, went to defend the country. Having received an injury in frontline, he became a disabled at the age of 25 and left the battlefield. Together with his brothers, he founded and headed the public organisation Young Veterans Ukraine, where he independently supervises the rehabilitation of the wounded abroad.

Mr Amrosiev currently defends Ukraine as part of the 93rd Separate Mechanized Brigade "Kholodny Yar", holding the position of a chief sergeant and commanding a platoon of military material support. From Bakhmut he establishes connections with Ukrainian and foreign volunteer organisations, securing charitable funds to meet the needs of fellow citizens. In addition, he helps local residents and abandoned animals in the war zone.

*"Mr Mykhailo Amrosiev is the personification of a large category of young Ukrainians who are aware of the importance of the development and establishment of democracy in Ukraine. They promote democratic ideas and implement them in the everyday life of the modern Ukrainian society",* states Mr Nicolae Ratiu, Chairman of the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation.

The IRDF aims to support individuals around the world who are working on behalf of democracy as activists or intellectuals. Recipients have the opportunity to engage with the Washington policy, media and scholarly communities, but also to find time for reflection and writing on democratic activism often not possible in the day-to-day struggle in their home or exile country. In this sense the IRDF seeks to replicate the type of life-changing experience that Ion Ratiu encountered as a Romanian democracy activist in Washington in the 1970s and 1980s. Awardees are thus provided with a stipend to spend from one to three months at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. for the duration of their stay.

### Former IRDF awardees

Roman Protasevich, journalist and activist, Belarus

Suraya Pakzad, women's rights activist, Afghanistan

Camelia Bogdan, judge, Romania

Ai Weiwei, artist and activist, China

Manuel Cuesta Morua, scholar and political activist, Cuba  
Jamil Hasanli, historian and democracy activist, Azerbaijan  
Mustafa Nayyem, journalist and blogger, Ukraine  
Angela Kocze, Roma rights activist and scholar, Hungary  
Aung San Suu Kyi, politician, diplomat, author, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Myanmar  
Nabeel Rajab, human rights activist, Bahrain  
Oleg Kozlovsky, democracy and human rights activist, Russia  
Adam Michnik, historian, essayist, former dissident, public intellectual, Poland  
Eleonora Cercavski, human rights and democracy activist, Republic of Moldova  
Anatoli Mikhailov, expert of German philosophy, Belarus  
Saad Eddin Ibrahim, democracy and human rights activist, Egypt  
Sergio Aguayo, academic and human rights activist, Mexico

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[The Ion Ratiu Democracy Award](#) expresses the deep commitment to democracy of the late Ion Ratiu (1917-2000) through his contributions as a Romanian politician and intellectual as well as his interest in democratic change worldwide.

Building on the accomplishments of the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award (2005-2016), the [Ion Ratiu Democracy Fellowship](#) supports individuals around the world who are working on behalf of democracy as activists or intellectuals, whether they are in exile from repressive regimes or operating within emerging democracies.

[The Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation](#) was established in London in 1979 by Ion and Elisabeth Ratiu to promote and support projects which further education and research in the culture and history of Romania, both in Romania and the UK.

The Foundation offers up to 100 annual grants, principally for projects, postgraduate courses, conference participations, travel grants, and other short term courses including academic research. It also offers annual seed funding for innovative projects, principally in Romania, which foster Romanian arts and civilisation, heritage, civil society, democracy, and environmental protection.