

Fondazione Med awards Al-Malik, Al-Babtain, Admiral Basile

For promoting peace and dialogue

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(ANSAMed) - NAPLES, OCTOBER 21 - The director of the Saudi newspaper Al-Jazira, Khalid Bin Hamid Al-Malik, the poet Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain and Admiral Antonio Basile on Wednesday received the 2015 Mediterranean Award.

The awards ceremony was chaired by Fondazione Mediterraneo chief Michele Capasso in Naples. Malik was given the prize for culture for "his commitment to peaceful coexistence between populations" over the course of a career in which he "contributed to rejuvenating journalism and the Arab culture". The judges also cited his role in training "a generation of Arab intellectuals and writers that were his students". In his acceptance speech, the journalist underscored his sense of satisfaction at "seeing my work over the course of 50 years in journalism in my country recognized". He dedicated the award to "all journalists and intellectuals in Saudi Arabia. I hope that this award will give me the energy to continue my work with the same zeal and enthusiasm as always." The award for poetry and innovation instead went to Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain, head of the Al-Babtain Center for Dialogue among Civilizations. In his speech, he stressed that "our efforts to give voice to the culture of peace begins to be seen by international institutions. This award is recognition for all the supporters of dialogue among populations at a time when we know that the international political situation is very difficult due to conflicts that inflame many regions of the world, and especially the Middle East. The responsibility of promoting peace has become a human duty, obligatory for everyone." The 2015 'Silver Dolphin' was given to Naples port authority commissioner Admiral Antonio Basile, who "spared no effort to protect human dignity and sea resources". "Thanks to his passion and his rare gifts of rigor, diplomacy and humanity," said Capasso, "he managed to establish a climate of cooperation and efficiency among all the men and women of the port authorities corps and Coast Guard, achieving results on the ground, especially at a tragic time in which human trafficking and continuing deaths in the Mediterranean require unrelenting efforts from the entire Coast Guard and lasting commitment." (ANSAMed).

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