

Press kit

The 2011 Reporters Without Borders *Le Monde* Prize

REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS
FOR PRESS FREEDOM

Le Monde

With the support of
TV5MONDE



REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS - *LE MONDE* PRIZE FOR PRESS FREEDOM

Reporters Without Borders created the Reporters Without Borders Prize for Press Freedom in 1992 in order to encourage and above all draw attention to journalists and news media all over the world that wage a daily struggle to defend press freedom.

News and information are fundamental rights that are still flouted by many governments. The imposition of silence permits appalling atrocities and the oppression of entire peoples. Courageous men and women strive every day to make the truth known, but too many of them die, or are imprisoned or, together with their families, are subjected to terrible forms of harassment.

Wherever disasters of natural or human origin occur, wherever human rights are violated, the media are there, playing a key role by their ability to bear witness and to galvanize governments, international bodies and public opinion. Their presence supports the development of democracy.

Nearly 40 men, women, news media and NGOs have received this prize since 1992. Some, after being prevented from working, have resumed their activities. Others have gone into exile after being released from prison. But all have a common desire to pursue their commitment to a society that is freer, a society with ever more independent media.

Le Monde decided to become a partner in the prize this year. The newspaper's publisher, Erik Izraelewicz, explains : "From Sidi Bouzid to Sanaa, from Rangoon to Benghazi, from Damascus to Cairo, there has been no shortage of major developments in 2011. The international media have covered them without forgetting that local journalists, often at risk to their lives, have for years been combating the constant violations of media freedom in these places. For 20 years, the Reporters Without Borders Prize for Press Freedom has been reminding the public that their struggle is also our struggle. *Le Monde* is pleased to join Reporters Without Borders in this undertaking."

TV5MONDE, partner in the 2011 Reporters Without Borders Prize

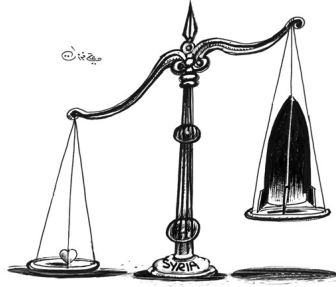
"This prestigious prize which Reporters Without Borders is awarding for the 20th year running, pays tribute to the work and commitment of journalists who are the architects of freedom. *TV5MONDE* has decided to participate in this prize and thereby join with those who constantly strive to bear witness, often at the cost of their freedom or their lives, to this world in rebellion, to this world at war. This is a logical involvement for *TV5MONDE*, a French-language TV station whose universal values are transmitted every day in the 200 countries where we are present."

Marie-Christine SARAGOSSE, *TV5MONDE* director general

2011 JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A journalist who has demonstrated a commitment to press freedom in his work, actions or publicly-expressed views.

Ali Ferzat - Syria



Born in Hama in 1951, Ali Ferzat took a keen interest in drawing in his youth and was 14 when he began working as a cartoonist for the daily *Al-Ayyam*. He joined the government daily *Al-Thawra* as a cartoonist in 1969 and the following year began attending the Damascus faculty of fine arts, where he studied until 1973.

During the second half of the 1970s, he worked for the pro-government daily *Tishreen*, where his cartoons about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict made him famous throughout the Arab world and brought him international stature. He won first prize at the Berlin International Intergraphic Festival in 1979 and his work has appeared in international newspapers including *Le Monde* since 1980.

Original and rebellious, his non-conformist views and creative sarcasm won him leading enemies. An exhibition of hundreds of his cartoons at the Arab World Institute in Paris in 1989 elicited a death threat from Saddam Hussein. For years he was banned from visiting countries such as Jordan, Iraq and Libya. One of his most controversial cartoons

showed a high-ranking army officer handing out military decorations instead of food to hungry citizens.

Taking advantage of a slightly more permissive atmosphere after Bashar Al-Assad became president, Ferzat began publishing *Al-Doumari* in 2000. The first independent publication since the Baath Party took over Syria, it was a satirical review that reflected his provocative character and the authorities forced it to close 3 years later. In the course of his career, Ferzat has published more than 15,000 cartoons, which have won many prizes and have been exhibited many times in Europe.

His cartoons have portrayed many aspects of Syria's reality, ranging from nepotism to torture. Since the spring of 2011, Syria's anti-government protests and the ensuing crackdown have been at the centre of his work. This resulted in his being attacked and beaten on 25 August by members of the security forces, who broke both of his hands. He fled from Damascus in October and is currently living in Kuwait.

www.ali-ferzat.com



Syria : 173rd out of 178 countries

in the latest press freedom index

Syrians have been daring to express their desire for democracy since March 2011. The response from President Bashar Al-Assad's government has been violent. More than 15,000 people have been arrested including many journalists and bloggers. Torture is used systematically. The government has tightened its control of the communications media, rationed visas for the foreign media and given its cyber-army an increasingly central role in monitoring the Internet, circulating pro-regime propaganda and lies, and hacking into email and social network accounts. The authorities are waging an all-out disinformation war. Read the Arab Revolutions report on rsf.org

THE 2011 NOMINEES IN THE JOURNALIST CATEGORY

Mary Luz Avendaño - Colombia

Brought up in the suburbs of Medellín, Colombia's second-biggest city, Mary Luz Avendaño, 37, has been committed to the defence of human rights since the start of her career as a journalist. After working for several broadcast media such as *Caracol Radio* and the regional TV station *Teleantioquia*, she was kidnapped by the FARC guerrilla group while covering the presidential campaign in 1998. Miraculously, she was freed within a week after being forced to record a FARC communiqué for various radio stations. She went on to become the Medellín correspondent of the daily *El Espectador*, for which she recently dared to cover the war between the drug cartels in the department of Antioquia. This gave rise to death threats, which intensified in June 2011 after she wrote about collusion between organized crime, the paramilitaries and certain sectors of the police.

Various organizations including Reporters Without Borders provided her with logistic support when she finally decided she had to flee the country because of the mounting danger. She has been living in Peru since August 2011.

Manolis Kypraios - Greece

Aged 43, Manolis Kypraios has been a journalist for more than 20 years. The holder of a masters degree in Strategic Sciences and Ethnic Studies, he has been the editor of the daily *Hora* and several weeklies specialized in geostrategy, including *Strategy Magazine* and *War and History*. He is also one of the leading Greek press photographers, covering fighting in Iraq, Iran, Israel, Georgia, Abkhazia and Nigeria. He has worked for newspapers such as *Eleftheros Typos* and *Express* and the radio stations *Flash* and *Skai*. Until recently, he was international affairs analyst for the news website Newscode.gr.

Although he showed his press card, riot police fired a stun grenade at him at close range while he was covering an anti-austerity demonstration in Athens on 15 June 2011. It caused permanent loss of much of his hearing and left him unable to walk without a stick. He has undergone a first operation to prepare for an implant that may improve his hearing. Despite being handicapped, he continues to work and to denounce violence against journalists during demonstrations and he is the first journalist to bring a lawsuit against the Greek state in an attempt to get it to recognize its responsibility for the attack and pay him compensation. Although he did not seek this status, he has come to symbolize the heavy price paid by news photographers in Greece in recent months.

He was nominated for the Reporters Without Borders Prize in the journalist category on behalf of all of Greece's press photographers and cameramen.

Chang Ping - China

Aged 42, Chang Ping (长平) is a journalist with an uncompromising attitude to censorship who has never stopped fighting for his dream of complete press freedom. His libertarian views and his firm stance on a number of very sensitive political issues, including democratic freedoms and China's policy towards Tibet, have resulted in constant government harassment. He was fired as editor of the daily *Nanfang Dushi Bao* in May 2008 after publishing editorials on the unrest in Tibet.

In August 2010, Chang was banned from being published in *Southern Weekend* and in January 2011 he was suspended from his post at the Guangzhou-based *Southern Metropolis Daily*. He continues to write in his blog, changp.com, but is constantly harassed by the Propaganda Department. All online references to Chang were recently censored and his name was blocked on one of the main Chinese search engines, Sina.com. In March, he was offered a job with Hong Kong-based *Sun TV* but is still waiting to learn whether he will be granted a work visa, a procedure that usually takes no more than 4 weeks.

Jean-Claude Kavumbagu - Burundi

The editor of the online newspaper *Net Press*, Jean-Claude Kavumbagu recently spent 10 months in Bujumbura's Mpimba prison. Arrested on 17 July 2010, he was freed on 16 May 2011 after a major campaign for his release in Burundi and abroad. Accused of treason, he came close to being sentenced to life imprisonment, the punishment requested by the public prosecutor's office. In the end, he was convicted for a lesser media offence. The reason for Kavumbagu's arrest was an article published immediately after a double bombing in the Ugandan capital of Kampala that left 76 dead and was claimed by the Somali Islamist group Al-Shabaab. His column wondered whether Burundi might be the next target of Al-Shabaab's terrorism and, if so, whether the Burundian armed forces would be able to deal with it. A well-known government critic, Kavumbagu has long been harassed by the authorities and has been jailed 5 times in the course of his 14 years as a journalist.

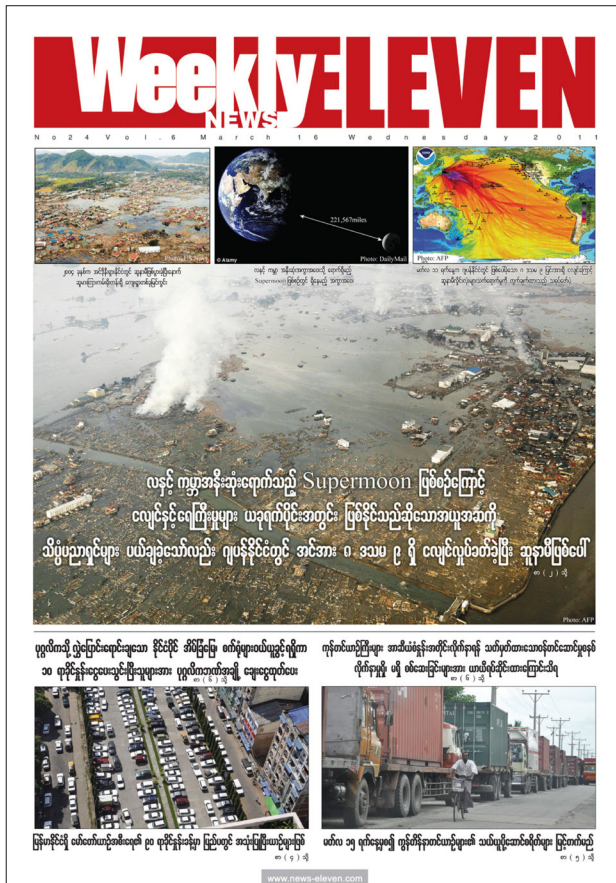
Bahman Ahmadi Amouee - Iran

Aged 43, Bahman Ahmadi Amouee has been a journalist since 1996, writing articles on Iranian economic policy for both government publications such as *Mihan* and the daily *Hamshahri* and for reformist newspapers that are now banned such as *Jame'e*, *Tous*, *Sobhe Emrooz*, *Khordad*, *Norooz*, *Shargh*, *Vaghaye Etefaghieh* and *Sarmayeh*. He was the editor of the business pages of *Sarmayeh*, a daily, until the latter part of 2008. Amouee has also written two books - *Iran's Economic Policies* and *How the Islamic Republic of Iran's Men Became Technocrats* - and has written a great deal about human rights and women's rights in online publications. He was arrested on 20 June 2009, a week after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed reelection, and was sentenced to 5 years in prison for articles critical of the government that had been published in government newspapers and on various websites.

MEDIA OF THE YEAR

A news media that embodies the struggle for the right to inform and be informed.

Weekly Eleven News - Burma



One of 5 publications owned by the Eleven Media Group and edited by Wai Phyo, *Weekly Eleven News* often publishes stories on subjects that are regarded as sensitive by other media and likely to be censored by the government. Its journalists risk prison for publishing this kind of report. The most recent example was its decision to cover the flooding in the northern city of Mandalay in August 2011 despite government orders to the privately-owned press to ignore the story. The price of this determination was high : several of its journalists were arrested and the weekly was forbidden to publish for several weeks.

During the parliamentary elections in November 2010, the newspaper tried to publish articles about polling irregularities but the government censors banned them. Instead, *Weekly Eleven Journal* posted the articles on its website, thereby violating the Electronics Act and exposing itself to grave consequences. Several of its journalists were again arrested, some received threats and the website was blocked.

www.weeklyeleven.com
www.news-eleven.com



Burma - 174th out of 178 countries
in the latest press freedom index

Burma is one of the world's most repressive countries for the media. More than 25 journalists are currently jailed. The main sources of independent news and information are exile media such as *Democratic Voice of Burma*, *Irrawaddy* and *Mizzima News* which use networks of local correspondents working with the utmost secrecy. The government has made a few conciliatory gestures towards the opposition since April 2011, but has so far balked at any significant concessions on media freedom.

THE 2011 NOMINEES IN THE MEDIA CATEGORY

Uznews - Uzbekistan

In a country where censorship is ubiquitous, the *Uznews* website has been fighting a courageous and vital battle to cover Uzbekistan's social realities and massive human rights violations since 2005. Regarded as an authoritative source of news and information, it employs virtual all of the country's few independent journalists. Access to *Uznews* has been blocked within Uzbekistan since the bloody crackdown on peaceful demonstrations in the eastern city of Andijan in May 2005. But the quality of its reporting has earned it the confidence of Internet users who manage to circumvent censorship by using proxies or certain mobile phone operators. As it posts its reports in 3 languages (Uzbek, Russian and English), the website has also established itself as a reliable news outlet for foreign readers and gets 5,000 to 6,000 visitors a day. All sorts of stories are covered, including business news, social issues, cultural events and sports, and every kind of content is used including a weekly radio programme in which human rights activists, journalists, political analysts and public figures are interviewed.

www.uznews.net

Al-Wasat - Bahrain

Founded in 2002, the daily *Al-Wasat* ("The Centre") is currently the Kingdom of Bahrain's only opposition newspaper. Its criticism of the authorities increased after the start of the pro-democracy protests in January 2011 and it was banned on 3 April 2011 for "disseminating false information that undermined the country's international image and reputation." The Information Affairs Authority (IAA) lifted the ban the next day but 3 of its most senior journalists, including Mansour Al-Jamri, its editor, were forced to resign and were summoned for questioning by the IAA, while 2 Iraqi journalists employed by the newspaper were deported. Karim Fakhrawi, a member of its board, died in detention on 12 April 2011. The government media meanwhile waged an all-out hate campaign against the newspaper and its journalists. What these journalists have suffered in terms of physical attacks, arrests, dismissals and a death in detention is indicative of the scale of the crackdown unleashed by the authorities in response to the protests.

www.alwasatnews.com

Emeequis - Mexico

A weekly magazine with a print run of 37,500 copies and a website that has all the content from the print version, *Emeequis* started out in January 2004 as a project by journalist Ignacio Rodríguez Reyna, who appealed to colleagues of various generations from leading news outlets such as *La Jornada*, *Reforma.com*, *Milenio*, *Proceso* and *W Radio*. The goal was a publication that would provide thorough and completely independent coverage of the crucial issues confronting Mexican society, with the aim of challenging conventional thinking. Regarded as the definitive source of investigative reporting on organized crime and on the political and human cost of the fight against the drug cartels, *Emeequis* was originally called *La Revista* (“The Magazine”) and was attached to the daily *El Universal*. Political pressure forced its editors to change the way it was structured in 2005 and to raise capital from a readers’ association. A “citizen” publication that is entirely autonomous, *Emeequis* refuses to identify itself with any political agenda or commercial interests. Its presence offers hope for the future of the press in one of the world’s most dangerous countries for both journalists. More than 40,000 people have been killed in the federal offensive against drug-trafficking that was launched in December 2006.

www.m-x.com.mx

8Sobh - Afghanistan

8Sobh (8 a.m.) is a Kabul-based daily that was founded in May 2007 by a number of well-known journalists and media freedom activists. Edited by Sanjar Sohail, who is also the owner, it publishes news reports and analyses on all the major topics that concern Afghans, including democracy, human rights and political developments. Its stories are covered objectively with the aim not only of providing balanced and independently reported information but also with the aim of promoting democratization and the development of a state that guarantees free speech and media freedom. It is the only Afghan newspaper that is distributed in 6 provinces – Kabul, the northern province of Balkh, the eastern province of Nangarhar, the western province of Herat, the central province of Bamyan and the southern province of Ghazni. As a result of being secularist and trying to provide neutral and objective coverage, it is harassed by both the Taliban and the authorities.

www.8am.af

Ajras Al-Hurriya - Sudan

The National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) often used to seize issues of the Arabic-language daily *Ajras Al-Hurriya* at the printer’s or prevent them from being printed. Now the newspaper has been banned outright. The National Press and Publication Council withdrew its licence on 8 July 2011, on the eve of South Sudan’s independence, on the grounds that it is partly owned by South Sudanese citizens. It was made to pay for its links to the south, including the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, and its criticism of the government in Khartoum. Sudan is ranked 172nd out of 178 countries in the Reporters Without Borders press freedom index and *Ajras Al-Hurriya* is emblematic of its independent and opposition press, which have to combat the prior censorship imposed by President Omar Al-Bashir and his government.

www.ajrasalhurriya.net

1992-2010 WINNERS OF THE REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS PRIZE

- 1992 Zlatko Dizdarevic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 1993 Wang Juntao (China)
- 1994 André Sibomana (Rwanda)
- 1995 Christina Anyanwu (Nigeria)
- 1996 Isik Yurtçu (Turkey)
- 1997 Raúl Rivero (Cuba)
- 1998 Nizar Nayyof (Syria)
- 1999 San San Nweh (Burma)
- 2000 Carmen Gurruchaga (Spain)
- 2001 Reza Alijani (Iran)
- 2002 Grigory Pasko (Russia)
- 2003 Ali Lmrabet (Morocco)
Media : *The Daily News* (Zimbabwe)
Press freedom defender : Michèle Montas (Haiti)
- 2004 Hafnaoui Ghouli (Algeria)
Media : *Zeta* (Mexico)
Press freedom defender : Liu Xiaobo (China)
- 2005 Zhao Yan (China)
Media : *Tolo TV* (Afghanistan)
Press freedom defender : National Union of Somali Journalists (Somalia)
Cyber-dissident : Massoud Hamid (Syria)
- 2006 Win Tin (Burma)
Media : *Novaya Gazeta* (Russia)
Press freedom defender : Journalist in Danger (DR of Congo)
Cyber-dissident : Guillermo Fariñas Hernández (Cuba)
- 2007 Seyoum Tsehaye (Eritrea)
Media : *Democratic Voice of Burma* (Burma)
Cyber-dissident : Kareem Amer (Egypt)
Special China Prize : Hu Jia, Zeng Jinyan (China)
- 2008 Ricardo Gonzales Alfonso (Cuba)
Media : *Radio Free NK* (North Korea)
Cyber-dissident : Zarganar (Burma)
Nay Phone Latt (Burma)
- 2009 Amira Hass (Israel)
Media : *Dosh* (Russia - Chechnya)
- 2010 Abdolreza Tajik (Iran)
Media : *Radio Shabelle* (Somalia)

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