

## 2010 Daniel Pearl Awards winners announced

WASHINGTON, DC: The winners in the 2010 Daniel Pearl Awards were announced on Saturday 24 April 2010 at the sixth Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. A collaborative series by four European news outlets about toxic waste dumping in Africa and an exposé by a freelancer on payoffs by US military contractors to the Taliban were awarded the Outstanding International Investigative Reporting award.

### 2010 winners:

Kjersti Knudsson and Synnove Bakke, Norwegian Broadcasting Corp.; David Leigh, *The Guardian*; Meirion Jones and Liz MacKean, BBC Newsnight; Jeroen Trommelen, *de Volkskrant* (Western Europe), for “Trafigura's Toxic Waste Dump,” which exposed how a powerful offshore oil trader tried to cover up the poisoning of 30,000 West Africans.

Aram Roston, *The Nation* (United States), for “How the US funds the Taliban,” on how Pentagon military contractors in Afghanistan routinely pay millions of dollars in protection money to the Taliban to move supplies to US troops. The project was sponsored by The Investigative Fund of The Nation Institute.

In addition to the two winners, the judges awarded a special Certificate of Recognition to T. Christian Miller, *ProPublica*; Doug Smith and Francine Orr, *Los Angeles Times*; and Pratap Chatterjee, freelance (United States), for their series “Disposable Army,” on how injured civilian contractors working for the US military have been abandoned by Washington.

The Daniel Pearl Awards were created specifically to honour cross-border investigative reporting. This year's biennial competition attracted an 85 entries from 40 countries. An international panel of five judges selected seven finalists, from which they chose one US winner and one international winner.

Each set of winners will receive US\$5,000. Each set of finalists and the certificate honoree will receive US\$1,000.

### An extraordinary set of stories

The judges were impressed by the scope and depth of the various entries, which showcased stories from Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Asia, as well as from North America and Western Europe. “The quality of reporting shows that investigative journalism is alive and well around the world,” said ICIJ director David Kaplan. “This was an extraordinary set of stories, done by an extraordinary array of journalists,” added Centre for Public Integrity executive director Bill Buzenberg.

### Four other finalists were named by the judges:

Hugo Alconada Mon, *La Nación* (Argentina), for his series “The Suitcase Scandal,” on the secret funding of Venezuela's Chavez government of the presidential campaign of Argentina's Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner.

Per Hermanrud, TV4 Sweden (Sweden), for his documentary “Down at any Cost,” an undercover look at h

many of the world's down feathers are painfully plucked from living birds and sold to unsuspecting consumers.

Syed Nazakat Hussain, *The Week* magazine (India), for his powerful series “India's Secret Torture Chambers” and “Top Secret,” on India's secret chain of Guantanamo-like prisons and rendition program for kidnapping terrorism suspects.

Roman Shleykov, Stanimir Vaglenov, Aleksandar Bozinovski, Dumitru Lazur, Vlad Lavrov, and Stevan Dojcinovic of the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (Eastern Europe) for their series “Document Dilemma,” a six-country investigation into the black market for visas and passports.

## **The judges**

Formerly the ICIJ Award, the Pearl prize was renamed in 2008 after Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was slain by Pakistani militants in 2002. Selections this year were made by an international panel of judges:

- Sheila Coronel, director, Stable Centre for Investigative Journalism, Columbia University;
- David Kaplan, director, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists;
- Ron Nixon, reporter, *The New York Times*, Washington bureau;
- Gerardo Reyes, Miami-based correspondent and columnist, *El Nuevo Herald*;
- Margo Smit, director, Dutch-Flemish Association of Investigative Journalists (VVOJ), University of Groningen journalism teacher, and TV news producer.

The Pearl Awards are presented by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, a project of the Centre for Public Integrity in Washington, DC.

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