



KHALED ALKHATEB  
INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL AWARDS



## **BEST JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE**

Khaled Alkhateb International Memorial Awards recognize the brave media professionals working in conflict zones. The Awards welcome contributions from freelance journalists, those working for alternative media or who are part of global news platforms alike.





# KHALED ALKHATEB

Khaled Alkhateb was reporting for RT Arabic when he was killed in a shelling outside of Homs, Syria on July 30, 2017. He was 25 years old. Since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War in 2011, more than 100 journalists, including Khaled, have died in the conflict.

RT's Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan established the awards in honor of Khaled's sacrifice — and as a tribute to all the courageous war correspondents who shed light on the horrors that war brings to a land.





## AWARD CATEGORIES:

1

### BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE

Any news report, news feature, or continuing news coverage up to 5 pieces on one theme/ conflict.

Submissions are expected to put the spotlight on the complexities and ramifications of continuous war and armed conflict.

2

### BEST WRITTEN JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE

Any news report, news feature, or continuing news coverage (maximum 5 articles on one theme/ conflict) totaling 10,000 words or less published in print or online media, including independent journalism platforms.

Submissions are expected to put the spotlight on the complexities and ramifications of continuous war and armed conflict.

3

NEW

### BEST HUMANITARIAN JOURNALISM: AFTER WAR

A documentary or a special report focusing on the post-war recovery of communities, whether immediately following the conflict or dealing with multi-year trauma, and tell the stories of people who were affected.

Submissions are accepted in video or written format.

## JURY

Judging is conducted by an international jury of news media professionals and experts on the subject of war and armed conflicts.





**EVGENY PODDUBNY**  
War Correspondent



**IRADA ZEYNALOVA**  
Journalist and TV Host



**AHMED GOMAA**  
Journalist



**EVA GOLINGER**  
Lawyer/Writer/Journalist



**SALAM MOSAFIR**  
Journalist



**PHILIP ITTNER**  
Journalist



**GIAN MICALESSIN**  
War journalist



**PAULA SLIER**  
RT Middle East Bureau Chief



**MURAD GAZDIEV**  
News correspondent



**VIJAY PRASHAD**  
Historian and Journalist



**TOM WRAGG**  
Business Development Director AIB



**MARIA FINOSHINA**  
War Correspondent



**KONSTANTINOS ANTONOPOULOS**  
War Journalist



# 2018 WINNERS

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE COMPETITION SAW SUBMISSIONS FROM MORE THAN 20 COUNTRIES IN 10 LANGUAGES. THE WINNING WORKS SHED LIGHT ON CONFLICTS IN SYRIA, IRAQ, AND THE PHILIPPINES.



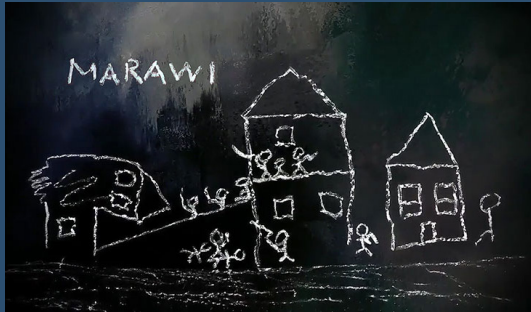
## THE JURY OF THIS YEAR:

EVGENNY PODDUBNY  
IRADA ZEYNALOVA

EVA GOLINGER  
TOM WRAGG

PHILIP ITTNER  
VIJAY PRASHAD

PAYLA SLIER



**ANNA KARENINA TOLENTINO, Singapore**

**BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: LONG FORM**

### Get Real: Escape from Marawi

On May 23, 2017, ISIS affiliated terrorists wrestled control of Marawi, the biggest Islamic city in the Southern Philippines. "Get Real: Escape from Marawi" gives a comprehensive account of why the city fell and the fallout that ensued. Through mobile phone videos, taken by the Philippine Military, the Suicide Squad (team of civilian volunteers), and the residents themselves, this program highlights the threat of terrorism that has become too real to ignore, as well as the scars that will stay for generations to come.

**JASON O'BRIEN, Ireland**

**BEST WRITTEN JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE**

### Special Dispatch from Inside Syria

After seven years of bloodshed, the ongoing civil war in Syria is this century's deadliest. The defeat of the Islamic State didn't end it but, along with the lifting of the siege in Aleppo, it marked a significant turning point. In this piece, Jason travels to Aleppo to talk to people, mainly women, who have somehow maintained a semblance of normal life for their besieged families during almost non-stop bombing. Elsewhere, he examines the reality of communities trying to rebuild amid the horrific divisions inflicted under IS.

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### Special dispatch from inside Life after Islamic State



**ASAAD AL-ZALZALEE, Iraq**

**BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: SHORT FORM**

### ISIS Children

This piece examines the fate of the children and families of ISIS militants following the expulsion of the terrorist organization by Iraqi forces. The family members who have remained in the country are detained in camps where they are denied access to the outside world, and children are denied access to education, health and nutrition.





**JASON O'BRIEN**, Winner  
BEST WRITTEN JOURNALISM



**ASAAD AL-ZALZALEE**, Winner  
BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM: SHORT FORM



**ANNA KARENINA TOLENTINO**, Winner  
BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM: LONG FORM



2018 WINNERS AT THE RT STUDIOS



As journalists we make a lot of sacrifices: for me - it is time with my family, for Khalid - it cost him his life. I sincerely hope that this awards will be an inspiration for more people in the years to come.

**ANNA KARENINA TOLENTINO**



The ability of journalists to do their work in conflict zones has been eroded to a worrying degree. No one should go to work and not come home. It is the only hope we have if we are to stop this thing that happening over and over again.

**JASON O`BRIEN**



Reporters keep putting their lives on the line every day in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, just like Khaled, and they do so for the sake of life there against the will of those who wish to crush it. Without awards like this, reporting as a profession might die, because just like any other craft it needs support and encouragement.

**ASAAD AL-ZALZALEE**

# 2019 WINNERS

THE SECOND YEAR OF THE COMPETITION SAW SUBMISSIONS FROM 25 COUNTRIES IN 8 LANGUAGES. THE WINNING WORKS FOCUSED ON CONFLICTS IN SYRIA, LIBYA AND IRAQ. TWO WINNERS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN IN CATEGORY BEST VIDEO: LONG FORM



## THE JURY OF THIS YEAR:

EVGENNY PODDUBNY  
IRADA ZEYNALOVA

EVA GOLINGER  
TOM WRAGG

MARIA FINOSHINA  
SALAM MOSAFIR



AMITABH P REVI, India

BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: LONG FORM

**Palmyra Ravaged By Daesh. A Bid to Rise Like The Phoenix**

The Temple of Baalshamin, the Victory Arch and The Temple of Bel were all destroyed with reportedly 10,000 tons of explosives. Palmyra is now a ghost town. Meet Ahmed Shalil, who hopes the 150,000 tourists that used to come to Palmyra every year will return soon.



ANTON STEPANENKO, Russia

BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: LONG FORM

**Raqqa. Life after war**

After a massive bombardment of Raqqa, considered to be the capital of the Islamic State, the once-thriving city evokes Stalingrad in 1943. According to the different estimates, bombardments of the US-led coalition resulted in the death of 2000 civilians and destruction of 80% buildings of the city. How to survive in a ghost city?



KENNETH R. ROSEN, USA

BEST WRITTEN JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE

**After ISIS**

In a series of stories from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, writer Kenneth R. Rosen journeys across the divide of both countries to learn what will come after the fall of the Islamic State's caliphate.



FAUSTO BILOSLAVO, Italy

BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: SHORT FORM

**The battle of Tripoli**

The battle of Tripoli is raging among the government forces and the troops of General Haftar. Despite the fierce fighting the situation is stalling. The Libyan civil war is increasingly similar to the Syrian scenario, but on Europe doorstep. The shadow of foreign military interference stands out against the conflict. And the flow of migrants to Europe, by sea, is ready to restart.











To mark the Khaled Alkhateb International Memorial Awards, RT was hosting a special event honouring the war correspondents in conflict zones. Bringing together leading journalism and media professionals, as well as this year's Awards winners, we pay tribute to Khaled's life and work, recognizing excellence in reporting on conflict the world over. Four different sessions explore topics such as the changing nature of war reporting, bias and objectivity in media coverage of conflicts, the potential use of artificial intelligence as a tool against fake news, and other media issues related to covering conflicts.

# 2020 WINNERS

THE THIRD YEAR OF THE COMPETITION SAW SUBMISSIONS FROM 16 COUNTRIES IN 7 LANGUAGES. THE WINNING WORKS FOCUSED ON CONFLICTS IN IRAN AND SYRIA.



## THE JURY OF THIS YEAR:

EVGENNY PODDUBNY  
MURAD GAZDIEV

EVA GOLINGER  
TOM WRAGG

GIAN MICALESSIN  
AHMED GOMAA

KONSTANTINOS ANTONOPOULOS

**MOHAMED ALI, Syria**  
BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: SHORT FORM

## Idlib frontline calm as ceasefire goes into effect

Calm prevails in Syria's Idlib province as a ceasefire deal between Russia and Turkey is largely holding. The ceasefire came after months of ferocious fighting between the Syrian army and Turkish-backed armed groups. This report takes you to the heart of the strategic town of Saraqeb and shows terrorists strongholds.



### DISPATCH: Why Iran Is Deporting Scores of Afghan Refugees

#### Why Iran Is Deporting Scores of Afghan Refugees

Washington Post Staff Writer, Afghanistan and Iran Correspondent

When I arrived in Tehran, Iran, last week, the city was in a state of high alert. The Iranian government had just announced that it was deporting thousands of Afghan refugees. The news was met with a mix of surprise and skepticism. Many people in the city were wondering why the government was doing this, especially since the refugees had been in Iran for years.

As I walked through the city, I saw many people who were part of the refugee community. They were mostly men, but there were also women and children. They were dressed in traditional Iranian clothing, but they had a look of uncertainty about them. They were talking to each other in small groups, and some were looking at their phones.

According to data from the International Organization for Migration, as of the end of 2019, there were about 400,000 Afghan refugees in Iran. The majority of them were living in the northwestern part of the country, near the border with Afghanistan. The Iranian government has been deporting refugees for years, but this time it was on a much larger scale.

It is not clear why the Iranian government is doing this. Some people think it is because of the coronavirus pandemic, but others think it is because of the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

Iranian media outlets have been reporting that the government is deporting refugees because they are a burden on the country. They say that the refugees are taking jobs from Iranian citizens and that they are not contributing to the economy.

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more

**RUCHI KUMAR, India**  
BEST WRITTEN JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE

## Why Iran Is Deporting Scores of Afghan Refugees

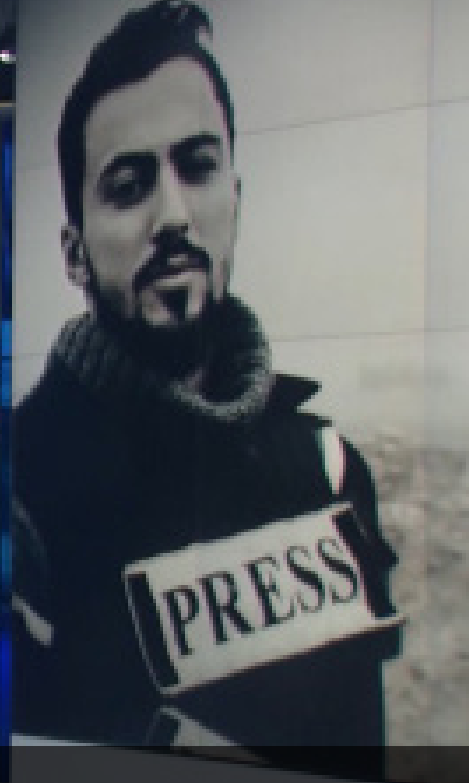
Last December, my colleague and I travelled to the border between Iran and Afghanistan— a designated neutral zone called Zero Point—used by Iran to deport thousands of refugees daily, many of whom have suffered abuse and violence. As one of the largest mass deportation it has already reached a critical stage. This story was published just ahead of Coronavirus crisis and was a point of discussion during debate in Afghanistan over closing the border with Iran, one of the worst hit countries.

**ALEXANDER KONEVICH, Russia**  
BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: LONG FORM

## Russian military in Syria

Syrian armed forces have set into operation an air base in the north-east of Syria, which had been previously illegally occupied by the US troops.





## THE 2020 WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Maya Manna, The head of RT Arabic



**RUCHI KUMAR**, winner  
BEST WRITTEN JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE



**ALEXANDER KONEVICH**, winner  
BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: LONG FORM

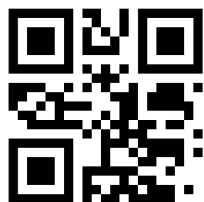


**MOHAMED ALI**, winner  
BEST VIDEO JOURNALISM FROM A CONFLICT ZONE: SHORT FORM

## **AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT**

In 2020 restrictions caused by the global pandemic canceled our plans for commemoration, but it couldn't stop the tradition of honoring brave journalists who continue to risk their life on the front line to tell us the truth.

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**AWARD.RT.COM**  
**f/KAIMAWARDS**

**HONORING TODAY'S  
FEARLESS WAR JOURNALISTS  
ALL OVER THE WORLD**



