

KURT SCHORK AWARDS – 2003

Winners:

Local reporter category – Asha Krishnakumar (India)

Freelance category – Elizabeth Rubin (USA)

Ceremony held at Columbia Journalism School, USA, on 28th October.

Asha Krishnakumar



Asha Krishnakumar (Chennai, India) is recognized for her thorough, compassionate and determined reporting for Frontline, the socio-political bi-weekly magazine published in India, revealing the shameful abuses suffered by the most vulnerable people in society, children, and bringing their voices to life. Her coverage of the large-scale prevalence of child bondage in the silk-weaving industry, the distress among handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and the constructive ways in which they can be helped, and the medical malpractice evidenced in kidney commerce led to reforms by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Since joining Frontline in 1991, Asha Krishnakumar has written more than 400 articles covering human rights, deprivation, women, health, medicine, the environment and education. Her approach to journalism has been marked by seriousness and precision, attempting to go beneath the surface and, above all, remaining sensitive to the condition, needs and aspiration of the marginalized and vulnerable people. Krishnakumar received her bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Stella Maris Madras University and a doctorate in economics from M.I.D.S. Madras University. Married with two children, she lives in Chennai, India.

Elizabeth Rubin



Elizabeth Rubin possesses the ability to tell a compelling and moving story while enlightening readers about the larger issues. Her impressive body of work for The New York Times Magazine, The Atlantic Monthly and The New Republic is distinguished by the courage and depth of her reporting in some of the world's most dangerous and misunderstood regions and the ability to explain a completely different mindset in a non-judgmental and insightful manner, whether it is following the career of a Hamas activist and bombmaker or the origins of the Islamic groups in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq. Ms. Rubin, who is currently working in Baghdad, has filed stories from many of the world's hot spots, including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the West Bank, Chechnya and Russia, Kosovo and Bosnia. In addition to the aforementioned publications, her articles have appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's, The Christian Science Monitor, The Wall Street Journal Europe, U.S. News & World Report and The Forward. A resident of New York City, Rubin has a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and also holds a M.Phil in Renaissance Literature and History from Oxford University.

The 2004 Judges Panel also awarded honourable mentions to:

Andrew Meldrum, British freelance, The Guardian, for coverage in Zimbabwe

Massoud Ansari, local journalist, Newline Magazine, Pakistan, for articles on the kidnapping of Daniel Pearl

Sabrina Tavernise, USA, freelance, The New York Times, for coverage in Russia

and

Adrian Liviu Avram, Romania, for reports on government corruption.