

## KURT SCHORK AWARDS – 2007

### Winners:

**Local reporter category** – Sahar al-Haideri (Iraq)(awarded posthumously)

**Freelance category** – Mario Kaiser

Ceremony held at the Frontline Club in London on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

<b>Sahar al-Haideri</b>	<b>Mario Kaiser</b>
<p>Sahar al-Haideri, 44 – a mother of four and contributor to the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, IWPR, as well as Iraqi media – was gunned down in June in Mosul after receiving death threats for a series of campaigning stories highlighting the influence of religious extremists, especially in curtailing the rights of women. Al-Haideri has received the 2007 Schork award for local journalists.</p> <p>“Al-Haideri’s investigation of the ‘honour killing’ amongst Yazidis was exceptional,” said Lindsey Hilsum, international editor and China correspondent for the UK’s Channel 4 News and a member of the judges panel. “There is a passion to these stories, and I read them before the background notes, so did not realise she had been subsequently murdered. It is unbelievably upsetting.”</p>	<p>In the international category, Mario Kaiser, a contributor to Der Spiegel, won for his reporting on a young Mexican women’s journey as an illegal immigrant to New York. Kaiser researched the article by putting himself in the hands of a smuggler in order to understand the hardships of illegal migrants.</p> <p>“This is a perennial story, brilliantly retold and made new,” said the judges panel, which also included Raymond Bonner of The New York Times, writer and commentator Mona Eltahawy, Brian Groom of The Financial Times and Christina Lamb of The Sunday Times. “His resourcefulness and courage in committing himself to the hands of a coyote [smuggler] were exceptional.”</p>