

## KURT SCHORK AWARDS – 2008

### Winners:

**Local reporter category** – **Anas Aremeyaw Anas** (Ghana)

**Freelance category** – **Nicholas Schmidle** (USA)

Ceremony held at the Frontline Club, London on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Anas Aremeyaw Anas**

The judges found Anas's expose of a complex cross-border human trafficking syndicate, "fearless and compelling" and a rich example of "journalism that has brought about real change for the better". As a result of his undercover investigation, and his collaboration with law enforcement agencies, NGOs and other journalists, 17 Nigerian trafficking victims were rescued. Anas said, "This award is not about the money; it is about the prestige and more importantly how it has rejuvenated me to aspire higher and higher to serve humanity. The fact that somebody somewhere respects what we produce in our little corners here is enough motivation for me." Anas won the award in the local journalist category.

#### **Nicholas Schmidle**

Nicholas Schmidle picked up first place in the freelance journalist category for work ranging from tribal insurgency in a Pakistan province to the depth and breadth of Iranian influence in Western Afghanistan. The publication of his piece Next-Gen Taliban in the New York Times led the government to deport him and his wife from the country. The judges "particularly appreciated the way in which he disaggregated Muslim fundamentalism. His mix of detailed information with historical context gives you a wonderful sense of being there".