

Kurt Schork Memorial Awards in International Journalism

2012 award winners



Freelance category – Sarah Topol

Sarah Topol is an American journalist based in Cairo. Her winning entry is her coverage for GQ magazine of the realities for both sides in Libya during the struggle to overthrow Qaddafi. In the statement accompanying the story she says:

“I have worked in the Middle East for four years and feel strongly that despite all the years of Western-intervention and interest in the region, Americans still don’t understand this part of the world. It’s hard to blame them, on the surface, I admit, these worlds look quite different. That’s

why over the course of my work in the Middle East, I have tried to tell the human side of the story—in ways that convey just how much we have in common—about people just as normal as those reading my work whose stories are as inspiring as they are ordinary—so readers can relate and think about how they would act in these situations to find we are not as different as people initially think.”

Winning article: [This is how you start a war](#) (pdf)

Accompanying statement (pdf)

Local reporter category – Humberto Padgett

Humberto Padgett from Mexico won for a series of articles published by Emeequis magazine about the complexities, misconceptions and consequences of drugs trafficking in his country. Article 1 was co-authored by Dalia Martinez who receives an honourable mention for her contribution.



Article 1: [The Marijuanera Republic](#) (pdf)

Article 1 statement: “We came into La Tierra Caliente, one of the most violent places taken by the drugs organizations to know the reality of farmers and common people related with this illegal business and describe the social, economical and politicians conditions about the marijuana enterprise. We knew also policemen and public functionaries involved in the traffic of marijuana and one big drug dealer who show us how is the life in a land taken by the organized crime.”

Article 2: [The DEA Cartel](#) (pdf)

Article 2 statement: “I’ve been collecting confidential documents along three years as a part of longer work about narcotics webs. The paper that serves as base of this report was obtained in a jail of Mexico City. The idea to public this information is to show the semi-illegal practices of the DEA.”

Article 3 - [Nazario, the apostle of drug trafficking](#) (pdf)

Article 3 statement: “I obtained several papers related with Templar Knights from Michoacan, one of the most brutal and violent cartels in Mexico. But there is another peculiarity about them: they are strongly religious and think about themselves that they murder because the divine justice. The report presented documents, for first time, how is the thinking and which are the influences of his founder, named by himself The Craziest One.”