



S A M I R
K A S S I R
A W A R D

FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

GRANTED AWARDS:

♦ Best opinion article ♦ Best investigative article ♦ Best audiovisual news report

REGISTER AT: WWW.SAMIRKASSIRAWARD.ORG BY 1 APRIL 2021

Rules, conditions and eligibility criteria are published on the website.



AWARDED
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE SAMIR KASSIR FOUNDATION

16TH
EDITION
2021

STANDING FOR PRESS FREEDOM IN CHALLENGING TIME

I am pleased to launch the 16th edition of the Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press. This is an award the European Union continues to be very proud of and one of the best expressions of the values we stand for.

Every year I am touched and inspired as I go through the finalists' opinion pieces, investigative reporting articles and audiovisual reports. Often they have one thing in common: they tell stories that are hard to hear. They challenge us. They unveil facts that are hard to accept. They give voice to the voiceless.

The message and symbolism of the Samir Kassir Award remain relevant today for the times we live in, from global to local level. A free press is an essential cornerstone of any country and society, no matter the region of the world, the culture and political system.

We look forward to receiving an ever greater number of submissions by the brave women and men who exercise one of the most important and challenging professions of our times. Challenging because of the rigorous and professional standards journalists are called to uphold at all times. Challenging because of the influence of the fast growing disinformation "industry" of fabricated news. Challenging because of the threats, harassment, intimidation and attacks some journalists and media actors become targets of, especially in this region.

The European Union believes in the independence of the media. We stand for the protection of freedom of expression, including press freedom and pluralism and are committed to combat all targeted forms of violence and persecution perpetrated against journalists and other media actors.

This year the award will go to some of the best journalists in the region who deserve it.

Stay tuned, follow the campaign and join us in some of the exciting on-line events happening this year. Most importantly, add your voice for #PressFreedom!

RALPH TARRAF / AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO LEBANON

REGULATIONS

- Candidates must submit an opinion article, an investigative article, or an audiovisual news report centered around one or more of the following topics: rule of law, human rights, good governance, fight against corruption, freedom of expression, democratic development, or citizen participation.
- The contest is open to journalists nationals of the following countries: **Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.**
- The submitted article must have been published in a print or online media outlet in one of the countries listed above or in one of the European Union Member States (**Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.**).
- The audiovisual news report must have been aired on a local or satellite television network or released on an online television network in one of the countries listed above or in one of the European Union Member States.
- The article must not exceed 25,000 characters and must have been published between March 16, 2020, and March 15, 2021.
- The report must not exceed seven minutes and must have been released between March 16, 2020, and March 15, 2021.
- The winner in each of the three categories will be awarded €10,000.
- The selection will be done by a jury composed of journalists and media professionals coming from the EU Member States and the participating countries listed above.
- Members of the jury, the staff of the European Union, and staff and members of the Samir Kassir Foundation are excluded from the contest.