

# 2023 WORLD PRESS PHOTO CONTEST JURY REPORT

## GLOBAL WINNERS

### **World Press Photo of the Year**

*Mariupol Maternity Hospital Airstrike*

**Evgeniy Maloletka**, Ukraine, Associated Press

The first image from Europe's winning story was awarded the World Press Photo of the Year.

The jury felt that this image captures the absurdity and horror of war. It is an accurate representation of the year's events and evidence of the war crimes being committed against Ukrainian civilians by Russian forces. The image rises as a deeply painful historical fact and highlights the murder of future generations of Ukrainians. By giving the image a platform, the jury hopes that the world will stop and acknowledge the intolerable realities of this war and consider the future of Ukraine.

### **World Press Photo Story of the Year**

*The Price of Peace in Afghanistan*

**Mads Nissen**, Denmark, Politiken/Panos Pictures

A concise edit reflecting on the aftermath of the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Each photo provides new information, culminating in a comprehensive selection of nine powerful images. The project demonstrates an airtight, traditional approach that elucidates the failures of the American adventure in Afghanistan to give us a well rounded look at how these failures have impacted the people. The jury remarked that this is truly extraordinary work especially as it covers so many different layers of life under Taliban rule.

### **World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award**

*Battered Waters*

**Anush Babajanyan**, Armenia, VII/National Geographic Society

This was a strong visual project that delved into a complex, multilayered story about the varied impacts of climate change in Central Asia. The photographer stayed clear of regional clichés and instead, thoughtfully represents water struggles/scarcity by depicting people's diverse relationships to and uses of water in its various forms. There is a smooth connection of images across countries that are all united by the same struggles. The project is visually beautiful, dynamic and demonstrates a thoughtful edit that starts and ends strong.

## World Press Photo Open Format Award

*Here, The Doors Don't Know Me*

**Mohamed Mahdy**, Egypt

This web-based photo project stood out for taking advantage of the range of available tools to tell a unique story about a community of fisher folk in Alexandria. The project's seamless package of images, audio, handwritten text, maps, and drawings elevated the already excellent selection of photographs. The jury was impressed by the photographer's thorough research and engagement with the images, which resulted in a holistic story and gave the audience the opportunity to visualize and interact with the issue at hand.

## REGIONAL WINNERS

### AFRICA

#### Singles

*The Big Forget*

**Lee-Ann Olwage**, South Africa, Bob & Diane Fund, for *Der Spiegel*

The photographer tackles a global public health issue that is usually hidden across Africa. The jury identified the photo's high visual quality and use of symbols to reflect on people's experiences of dementia and other age-related illnesses. The image captures an experience that mostly takes place in the unseen world of people's minds, in a clever, figurative way. The image successfully represents both memory loss and the tournstyle of people who pass through the camp while also centering the role of the female leader. The photographer achieves this while also avoiding the reinforcement of harmful stereotypes.

#### Stories

*New Capital*

**Nick Hannes**, Belgium, Panos Pictures

The photographer enlisted an impressive intersectional approach to document the construction of Egypt's New Administrative Capital. The story addresses the many layers of cross-cutting issues relating to labor, migration, development, and inequality that resonate across the continent. The jury felt that the style of clean, straight lines is aesthetically beautiful and contrasts with typical depictions of the region. Ironically, the images are *too clean* in a way which alerts the viewer to the range of issues emerging from a changing landscape and subsequently changing identities. The selected images are legible and organized in a way that places them in dialogue with each other, bringing to light the colossal scale of this urban project in the context of the reigning autocracy.

## Long-Term Projects

*Before It's Gone*

**M'hammed Kilito**, Morocco

This is a slow burning climate story that portrays the varied impacts of the climate crisis on oasis communities in Morocco. The edit of subtle imagery is executed beautifully and captures the encroachment of the desert on dwellings. At the same time, the photographer manages to emphasize the finite nature of oasis environments which in the near future could disappear forever.

## Open Format

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## Honorable Mention

*The Nomad's Final Journey*

**Jonathan Fontaine**, France, Hans Lucas

The jury chose to award an honorable mention to this image to recognize its powerful storytelling and the subversion of harmful tropes that have traditionally depicted the impacts of drought in Africa. The jury was impressed by the striking composition and color which guides the viewer's eyes through a haunting story about the politics of identity in a disappearing landscape— from the striking red silhouette to the multi-tonal pattern of tents in the distance. The image allows for dignity and self representation and marks a positive evolution in the kinds of visuals that represent the region.

## ASIA

### Singles

*Shireen Abu Akleh's Funeral*

**Maya Levin**, United States, Associated Press

This image represents multiple aspects of the ongoing occupation of Palestine– the lack of press freedom and the inability for Palestinians to lay their dead to rest and mourn. In this image, one can hear and feel a chaos frozen in time, while the composition helps to convey the brutal hardline of security forces disrupting Abu Akleh's funeral procession. For the jury, the image serves as an emotional reminder of the continued fight for press freedom and a world where journalists are noncombatants who should be able to depict truth.

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## Open Format

*Woman, Life, Freedom*

**Hossein Fatemi**, Iran

The jury was interested in this unique angle of widespread protests in Iran. The successful combination of photography, narrative audio, and video provides thorough information from the perspective of a nurse. The photographer successfully collected the visuals in a highly authoritarian context where gaining access to these stories is increasingly difficult. The project managed to connect with the jury on both a micro and macro level by recording the personal thoughts and emotions of the nurse while also communicating the bigger picture of the fight for women's freedoms in Iran.

## Honorable Mentions Asia

The jury awarded two honorable mentions in Asia due to the vastness of pressing issues in the region. These are two powerful projects that could not get lost and leaving either topic out of the selection would do a disservice to photography, to press, and to the world.

### Honorable Mention

*Untitled*

**Ahmad Halabisaz**, Iran

The jury awarded this image with an honorable mention to highlight the power of one person's protest. Iranian women standing against the morality police was one of the largest news stories of 2022, and women maintaining their right to make decisions about their bodies is a subject that resonates globally. The woman's protest is juxtaposed with the veiled women walking in the middle ground, and the presence of the mosque in the background. This is a quiet yet extremely powerful portrait of defiance that involves many symbolic layers that are brought together by the woman's haunting expression.

### Honorable Mention

*Faint Light in the Unfinished Building*

**Weimin Chu**, China

The jury awarded this story with an honorable mention to show solidarity to protestors in China and shed light on the complex outcomes of rapid development that resonate across the broader region. The jury felt that the photographer made strong deliberate choices with light and negative space to contrast the microscale of the people and the emptiness of the colossal buildings. The story helps to expose the lived realities caused by failed real estate policies contributing to an economic crisis in China.

## EUROPE

### Singles

*Yana and Victor*

**Alkis Konstantinidis**, Greece, Reuters

This is a visually simple photo that highlights the reality of daily life in Ukraine and the thin line between life and death that civilians walk everyday. Taken in a sensitive moment, the image is loaded with grief and heartbreak, and boldly accomplishes the directness that the jury was looking for in a single image. The soft quality of colors creates a sense of quiet amidst the very

loud pain. It is an image that forces the viewer to reckon with the spontaneity of violent Russian attacks and the psychological impacts and terror they cause on those who survive.

## **Stories**

*The Siege of Mariupol*

**Evgeniy Maloletka**, Ukraine, Associated Press

This story depicts the reality of Russian attacks on Mariupol in a direct way, without indulging in tragedy and other visual possibilities. The story is full of rare and historic images from different angles at a ground level, packaged and edited flawlessly to communicate the civilian toll of war. Each image left a mark on the jury. They were struck by how the Ukrainian photographer risked his life to access visuals of Russian combatants and make these images available to the world. This story will rise as a collection of haunting iconic images of the ongoing war.

## **Long-Term Projects**

*Net-Zero Transition*

**Simone Tramonte**, Italy

This project is an impressive example of solutions based journalism wherein the photographer's commitment to gaining access and incredible research offers a unique perspective into European efforts to secure a sustainable future. The project boasted beautiful aesthetics and its clinical scientific approach gives the audience space to visualize and conceptualize each solution without leading with emotion. The project is thought provoking and demonstrates the relationship between the scale of the crisis and the scale of solutions.

## **Open Format**

*Passengers*

**Cesar Dezfuli**, Spain/Iran, for *De Volkskrant*

This project could have stopped at its strong portraits, but instead the photographer followed the participants across borders to tell a thorough and dignified story about their migration journey. The project was focused and made excellent choices about what parts of the story to follow in order to bring humanity to a group of people who are often othered across Europe and in mainstream media. The jury was impressed by the phenomenal web presentation and strong photography that spans from the men's arrival in Italy to their settlement in different countries.

## **Honorable Mention**

*War Wounds*

**Emilio Morenatti**, Spain, Associated Press

The jury awarded this story with an honorable mention to highlight the long lasting consequences of war. The photographer tells a story about people who have undergone

amputations in Ukraine, with a great deal of care and empathy. The edit of images evokes consideration of the innocence of children and how their lives will forever be impacted by violence and decision making that is far removed from them. While wounds continue to be inflicted on Ukraine, the jury wanted to give space to discuss the civilian toll of war and the ripple effects that people will face for the rest of their lives.

## NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

### Singles

*The Dying River*

**Jonas Kakó**, Germany, Panos Pictures

This portrait of beekeepers is visually clean and sparks interest and curiosity to understand the issue at hand. The image is subtle and understated, and the jury was impressed by the composition of bees across all thirds. While the topic resonates at a global level, the image itself encourages us to sit with these particular people and consider how they might be impacted by the ongoing environmental crisis.

### Stories

*Maria's Journey*

**Carlos Barria**, Argentina, Reuters

This project answers many questions about the outcome of one's journey of displacement. It offers a clear and complete narrative on the chronology of Maria's story, portraying how migration is not a solution, but rather a trigger to a whole new set of challenges. The story offers a unique, emotional perspective on migration that is different from mainstreamed stories. The jury was impressed by the photographer's selection of images which demonstrated their commitment to accurately narrating Maria's story over time, across countries. The story stood out as a subversion of the typical displacement story coming from Central America.

### Long-Term Projects

*Beautiful Poison*

**Cristopher Rogel Blanquet**, Mexico, W. Eugene Smith Grant/National System of Art Creators FONCA/Getty Images

This project is a compelling, insider perspective on the impacts of the global flower industry and the use of agrochemicals. The jury was impressed by the work's compelling storytelling which brings a shocking, and intimate experience to the world and portrays the ripple effects of global supply and demand. The images are subtle, nuanced and edited beautifully in a way which maintains the dignity of the community photographed and creates an emotional reading of their

story. This is an underreported story that the jury hopes it will make an impact in exposing the corrupt government structures that promote such harmful agrochemicals use.

**Open Format**

*The Voice of New York Is Drill*

**Ashley Peña**, United States, for *New York Magazine*

The collection of beautifully framed images pays homage to the history of hip hop while also situating us in the current reality of Drill artists in New York. The photographer presented an intersectional story that highlights how art imitates the lives of the drill artists, and elucidates how their music is used against them to criminalize and incarcerate their community. The diversity of images play off of music and sound and the atmospheric portraits enable one to see and hear how these people live and see the world. It is an extraordinary example of portraiture work.

**SOUTH AMERICA****Singles**

*Oil Spill in Lima*

**Musuk Nolte**, Peru/Mexico, Bertha Foundation

This image resonates globally and is a synecdoche of corporate malfeasance, government neglect, and the environmental disaster which ensues. The jury felt that it was a powerful, beautifully captured visual from one of this year's breaking news stories. It communicates the devastating ecological impacts of oil extraction in this area with both subtlety and clarity.

**Stories**

*Alpaqueros*

**Alessandro Cinque**, Italy, Pulitzer Center/*National Geographic*

This story is a great example of solutions-based journalism, telling a story about the climate crisis from a fresh angle. The photographer captures a multilayered story and balances narratives about loss and preservation. The jury was impressed by how the story narrates the relationship between people, culture and identity and demonstrates how they are deeply tied to all aspects of the changing environment and the animals living in it. The project is beautifully photographed, full of humor, and provides the perfect amount of information. Moreover, it is a perfect edit from start to finish as each frame is relevant and meaningful to the story, allowing the viewer to become invested.



## Long-Term Projects

*I Can't Hear the Birds*

**Fabiola Ferrero**, Venezuela

This conceptual project engages the viewer in a story about the evolution of the economic and political crisis of Venezuela. It presents a multilayered issue of regional relevance with subtlety, sparking curiosity and evoking a comparison between the photographer's memory and the broader reality. Each image is intentional and touches on different longstanding issues faced by Venezuelans. The images are beautifully framed and while some are quick and easy to read others build a stronger understanding of the topic in indirect ways.

## Open Format

*Shifting*

**Johanna Alarcón**, Ecuador, Magnum Foundation/Panos Pictures

A beautifully executed project that approaches the impacts of incarceration on women and their children in Ecuador from a rarely seen, dignified angle. The jury was impressed by the photographer's respectful collaboration with 11-year-old Valentina to narrate an intersectional issue from her perspective while centering her past experiences and aspirations for the future. The project takes full advantage of available multimedia tools to portray Valentina's inner world— elements of the story that couldn't otherwise be captured through photography.

## Honorable Mention

*World Champions*

**Tomás Francisco Cuesta**, Argentina, Agence France-Presse

The jury awarded this project with an honorable mention, for its strong storytelling and complete documentation of the mania that Buenos Aires descended into after Argentina won the World Cup. This was a news story that resonated with millions across the region and the photographer successfully captured the sights and sounds of ecstatic fans from different angles. In addition, the story develops various layers of social commentary and visualizes the high energy celebration experienced in the country, regardless of the social and economic crisis they have endured.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OCEANIA

### Singles

*Retrieving the Dead*

**Mauk Kham Wah**, Myanmar

This image captures the solemnity of defeat. One can hear the quiet of the men and their boots crunching in the grass as they carry a fallen soldier home. The jury was impressed by the insider lens documented by the local photographer, how they show care, deference, and respect towards the dead despite the brutal view of the mutilated soldier. All of the colors play off of each other in a way that brings greater attention to the silhouette at the center of the frame. The image is a universal reminder of the state of the world wherein people are forced to put their lives on the line to fight for something they believe in.

### **Stories**

*Home for the Golden Gays*

**Hannah Reyes Morales**, The Philippines, for *The New York Times*

This project enlists an intersectional approach to portray the multilayered experiences of LGBTQI+ identifying people in the Philippines. The photographer holds the people in such high regard and has them shining at the highest capacity. The images are stunning frames of love, joy, and celebration and the community the people surround themselves with. The project is well executed, beautifully photographed, and successfully centers the community's demonstrations of trust and resilience, instead of indulging in despair.

### **Long-Term Projects**

*Death of a Nation*

**Kimberly dela Cruz**, The Philippines, W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund

The drug war in the Philippines is a topic that the jury has seen tackled numerous times, however this project resonated as a slow, subtle, underreported perspective. The images show survivors of the detritus as well as their profound grief— apparent on the many faces of the people pictured. The photographer made intentional intimate choices and centered the experiences of families. She successfully highlights the consequences of the country's last regime, and demonstrates how the social fabric of the Philippines is forever altered.

### **Open Format**

*Australian Floods in Infrared*

**Chad Ajamian**, Australia

This project appropriates infrared imaging, a technology popularized for its military uses, and uses it to tackle a very different, very important event relating to the climate crisis. The work is visually interesting and ripe with beautiful colors that kept the jury's attention. Each frame enticed them to seek more information. The work presented important insights in a clever way and gave space for one to consider the global intensification of flooding and its complex impacts.

**Honorable Mention**

*Part of Me*

**Nadia Shira Cohen**, United States, for *The New York Times*

The jury awarded an honorable mention to recognize this important, well executed work that tells an interesting story about surrogate mothers raising children in an unexpected situation. Visually the work is soft and tender and gives a sense of the love that mothers and the community feel towards the children despite living in challenging conditions. The jury was impressed by how the project describes the geopolitics between China and Cambodia from a unique viewpoint that is rarely discussed on a global level.