

# Activists from Vietnam, Burkina Faso and Bahrain contend for the Martin Ennals Prize

19 January 2022 - 12:28

Geneva, Jan 19 (EFE) .- The Vietnamese journalist Pham Doan Trang, the human rights activist in Bahrain Abdul-Hadi Al-Khawaja and the doctor Dauda Diallo, from Burkina Faso, are the three finalists this year for the prestigious Martin Prize Ennals, as announced today by the organizers of the award.

The three nominees fight for fundamental freedoms in their respective countries and two of them (Trang and Al-Khawaja) are in prison because of their activism, reported the Martin Ennals Foundation, which has awarded these awards since 1994.

The award jury, made up of members of 10 well-known human rights organizations, highlighted the extraordinary legacy these people leave behind and their courage to inspire others.

Trang, 43 years old and detained since 2020, became one of the visible faces of the opposition to the authoritarian regime in Vietnam.

The journalist, through media such as the Luat Khoa and Liberal publishing houses, denounced various human rights violations that occur in her country and tried to make public opinion aware of their fundamental rights.

This led to a nine-year prison sentence for "propaganda against the state."

Al-Khawaja will spend his 61st birthday in prison and this year he will be eleven in prison for his activism.

Despite obtaining asylum in Denmark, he returned to Bahrain in 2001 with the aim of continuing to denounce the human rights violations committed by the Government of his country and to

He has been in prison since April 2011, after leading several peaceful revolts during the well-known "Arab springs" in defense of democratic reforms throughout the Middle East and Maghreb region.

Maryam Al-Khawaja, daughter of the activist, denounced today at the presentation of the nominees that her father suffers torture in prison and predicted that if one day he is released he will need a long time of psychological rehabilitation to rejoin society.

---

## To what extent is Switzerland neutral?

Being neutral is not easy. Swiss politics struggles to interpret its neutrality in the face of an increasingly one-sided world policy.

Diallo, dedicated for more than 20 years to the defense of fundamental rights, has become the voice of peace and justice in Burkina Faso, a country embroiled in a conflict between Islamist factions, local paramilitary groups and government forces.

For years he has dedicated himself to documenting all the human rights violations that occur in his country and launching a message of unity among the different ethnic and religious groups to try to restore peace in a territory that also faces extreme poverty.

The prize is usually awarded a few weeks after the announcement of the nominees, but due to the covid-19 pandemic, the award ceremony will be postponed until June 2, the organization reported. EFE

© EFE 2022. The redistribution and rebroadcasting of all or part of the contents of Efe's services is expressly prohibited, without the prior and express consent of Agencia EFE SA

Tags: [POLITICS](#)



[About us](#)

[SWI Annual Report 2020](#)  
[swissinfo.ch](#)

[Us](#)

[Data protection declaration](#)

[newsletters](#)

[Contact](#)

[Job vacancies](#)

follow us



SWI swissinfo.ch - business unit of the Swiss radio and television company SRG SSR



[RTS](#)

[SRF](#)

[RSI](#)

[RTR](#)