

NEWS

September 12, 2019 - Updated on July 16, 2020

Journalists from Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Malta honoured at RSF's 2019 Press Freedom Awards

CONDEMNING ABUSES PROTECTING JOURNALISTS ONLINE FREEDOMS EVENTS

WOMEN RSF PRIZE



THE PRIZE FOR INDEPENDENCE

CAROLINE MUSCAT

MALTA



THE PRIZE FOR COURAGE

EMAN AL NAFJAN

SAUDI ARABIA



THE PRIZE FOR IMPACT

PHAM DOAN TRANG

VIETNAM



[#RSFAwards2019](#)

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) awarded its 2019 Press Freedom Prize today (12 September) to Saudi journalist Eman al Nafjan, Vietnamese journalist Pham Doan Trang and Maltese journalist Caroline Muscat, at a ceremony held for the first time in Berlin.

To mark the 25th anniversary of its German section, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) held its annual Press Freedom Awards at the Deutsches Theater in Berlin today (12 September). Hosted by TV presenter and journalist Pinar Atalay, the ceremony was attended by many

distinguished guests including Berlin governing mayor Michael Müller, former Editor in Chief of *The Guardian* Alan Rusbridger, *Der Spiegel* journalist Susanne Koelbl, *TV5Monde* journalist Nidhya Paliakara, former RSF Press Freedom Prize laureates Swati Chaturvedi, Can Dündar and Grigory Pasko...



The Prize for Courage, which is given to journalists, media or NGOs who demonstrate courage in the practice, defence or promotion of journalism, was awarded to Saudi journalist.

Eman al Nafjan. The founder of the *SaudiWoman.me* (<https://saudiwoman.me/>) website and author of many articles in the international media including the *Guardian* and *New York Times*, Eman al Nafjan spearheaded the Saudi women’s campaign for the right to drive and against Saudi Arabia’s oppressive male guardianship system. Arrested along with other women’s rights activists in May 2018, she was freed conditionally on 28 March 2019. According to the Saudi media, she is accused of endangering “national security,” maintaining “suspicious contacts with foreign entities” and of being a “traitor,” for which she could be jailed for up to 20 years.



The Prize for Impact, which is given to journalists whose work has led to concrete improvements in journalistic freedom, independence and pluralism, or to an increase in awareness of these matters, was awarded to Vietnamese journalist and blogger **Pham Doan Trang**. She is the founder of *Luât Khoa* (<https://www.luatkhoa.org/>), an online magazine that specializes in providing information about legal issues, and she edits another, *thevietnamese* (<https://www.thevietnamese.org/>), which also helps Vietnamese citizens to defend their rights and resist the Communist Party's arbitrary rule. The author of many books including one defending the rights of Vietnam's LGBT communities, she has been beaten by the police because of her work and was detained arbitrarily twice for several days in 2018.



The Prize for Independence, awarded to journalists for resisting financial, political, economic or religious pressure, went to Malta's **Caroline Muscat**. After fellow Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was murdered in October 2017, she helped to create *The Shift News* (<https://theshiftnews.com/>), an independent investigative news website committed to combatting corruption and defending press freedom in Malta. In this small island nation where most media outlets are subservient to the government, she has exposed many cases of corruption implicating local politicians. Although the repeated target of gag suits, *The Shift News* has refused to comply with content take-down demands from Henley & Partners, a British firm that advises governments on residence and citizenship-by-investment policy. She received an award from the European Commission in 2015 for her journalism,

“Every year, award-winners are unable to attend because the leaders of their countries prevent them,” RSF Secretary-General Christophe Deloire said. *“Two of this year’s three laureates have been unable to collect their awards personally, just as Berlin journalist Carl von Ossietzky was prevented from going to Oslo in 1936 to receive his Nobel Peace Prize, and Chinese freedom defender Liu Xiaobo was unable to go to Oslo in 2010, six years after being prevented from collecting his Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Prize. These journalists, who should be honoured in their countries, are denied the freedom to travel and often their freedom, period. But their commitment transcends borders without the dictators being able to do anything to prevent it.”*

Previous winners of RSF’s annual Press Freedom Prize, which was established in 1992 to help defend and promote journalism, include the renowned late Chinese dissident **Liu Xiaobo**, imprisoned Saudi blogger **Raif Badawi** and the embattled Turkish newspaper *Cumhuriyet*. Each award comes with 2,500 euros in prize money.

TV5MONDE is the RSF Press Freedom Prize’s historic partner. This year’s awards are also supported by the Berlin-based email service provider Posteo and Germany’s Intan Media group.

About TV5MONDE

The international French-language cultural TV channel, TV5MONDE aims to promote French-language creation and the French language throughout the world. With a presence in 198 countries and in 364 million homes, and subtitling its programmes in 14 languages, TV5MONDE is one of the biggest global TV networks, with 9 regional general content channels and two thematic channels (TiVi5MONDE and TV5MONDE Style). It distributes programmes to its partner channels, produces its own programmes and broadcasts French-language films, TV dramas, documentaries and live events.