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Saudi Arabian Eman al Nafjan, Vietnamese Pham Doan Trang, and Maltese Caroline Muscat, winners of the 2019 RSF/TV5MONDE Prize for press freedom

On September 12, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), of which TV5MONDE is a long-time partner, awarded the 2019 Press Freedom Prize to Saudi journalist Eman al Nafjan, Vietnamese

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On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the German section of the organization, Nidhya Paliakara, journalist from TV5MONDE presented the 2019 Press Freedom Prize this Thursday, September 12 in Germany, at the Deutsches Theater in Berlin. The ceremony, presented by Pinar Atalay, journalist and television presenter, brought together many prestigious guests, including Michael Müller, Mayor-Governor of Berlin, Alan Rusbridger, former editor of *The Guardian newspaper*, Susanne Koelbl, journalist to *Der Spiegel*, Nidhya Paliakara, journalist at TV5Monde, former winners of the RSF Prize (Swati Chaturvedi, Can Dündar, Grigory Pasko)...

The Courage Award, which recognizes a journalist, media or organization for having shown courage in the exercise, defense or promotion of journalism, was awarded to Saudi journalist **Eman al Nafjan**. Founder of the website [SaudiWoman.me](#), and author of numerous articles in the international press, including the *Guardian* and the *New York Times*, Eman al-Nafjan has been at the forefront of the campaign for Saudi women's right to drive and to end Saudi Arabia's repressive male guardianship system. In May 2018, she was arrested along with other feminist activists, before being released on parole on March 28. According to the Saudi media, he would be accused of harming "national security" and having had "suspicious contacts with foreign entities". Considered a "traitor", she risks up to 20 years in prison.

The Impact Award, which rewards a journalist whose work has led to a concrete improvement in the freedom, independence and pluralism of journalism or an awareness on this subject, was presented to **Pham Doan Trang**. Journalist and blogger, she notably founded the online legal magazine *Luât Khoa*, and leads the editorial staff of [thevietnamese](#) - two publications that allow their readers to seize the laws of the country to defend their rights and fight the arbitrariness of the Party. She is also the author of numerous books, one of which has helped advance the rights of LGBT communities in the country. Her work resulted in her being beaten twice and held by the police for several days in arbitrary detention during 2018.

The **Independence Prize**, which rewards a journalist for his resistance to financial, political, economic or religious pressure, was awarded to

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rewarded by the European Commission.

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"Every year, winners of the prize are absent because they are prevented from doing so by the leaders of their countries, declared Christophe Deloire, secretary general of RSF. Two of the three winners of this ceremony in Berlin could not receive their prize directly, as the Berlin journalist Carl von Ossietzky had been prevented from collecting his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in 1936, or as happened also to the Chinese defender of freedoms Liu Xiaobo in 2010, he who already had not been able to receive the Reporters Without Borders Prize for press freedom six years earlier. These journalists who should be the honor of their country are deprived of their freedom to travel, and often of their freedom at all, but their commitment crosses borders without the dictators being able to do anything to prevent it" .

Created in 1992, the Reporters Without Borders Prize has already rewarded the future Nobel Peace Prize Liu **Xiaobo** , the imprisoned Saudi blogger Raif **Badawi** , the Turkish newspaper **Cumhuriyet** ... The Prize contributes each year to the defense of journalism. In addition to their honorary dimensions, the prizes awarded to the winners are accompanied by an endowment worth 2,500 euros.

The 2019 edition of the Prize is also supported by the messaging provider Posteo and the media group Intan.

About TV5MONDE

TV5MONDE, the global French-speaking cultural channel, aims to promote French-speaking creation and the French language throughout the world. Present in 198 countries and with 364 million households, TV5MONDE, which subtitles its programs in 14 languages, is one of the largest global television networks with 9 regional general-interest channels and 2 thematic channels (Tivi5MONDE and TV5MONDE Style) . The channel broadcasts the programs of its partner channels, its own programs and broadcasts French-language works such as cinema, fiction, documentaries or live shows.

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