

PRESS RELEASE

PII-ICRC Best Humanitarian Reporting and Photograph Awards announced

New Delhi, 26 November 2014

Journalists from *Open Magazine*, *The Week*, *The Telegraph*, *The Hindu* and Sahara Times win prizes

Journalists from the *Open Magazine*, *The Week*, *The Telegraph* and Sahara Times Magazine bagged the top spots for the PII-ICRC Awards for the Best Print Media Article focused on humanitarian issues. A freelancer photojournalist and a photographer from *The Hindu* won awards in the Best Photograph category.

In the print category, Sohini Chattopadhyay of *Open Magazine* won the first prize, while Lakshmi Subramanian of *The Week* was awarded the second prize. Pervez Majeed Lone of Sahara Times and Sumir Karmakar from *The Telegraph* jointly shared the third prize.

In the Best Photograph category, photojournalist Pattabi Raman won the second prize while the third prize went to Manob Chowdhury of *The Hindu*. The first prize in the Best Photograph category was not awarded this year.

“The aim of this award, when instituted back in 2008, was to motivate members of the media community to walk that extra mile to narrate untold stories. Many congratulations to all the winners who have travelled from different parts of the country to be here with us tonight. It’s as much a moment of pleasure and pride for ICRC, as it is for all the winners,” said Ms Mary Werntz, head of the ICRC Delegation for India, Bhutan and the Maldives.

All the prizes were given at a function held today in New Delhi after a panel discussion on the theme ‘Reporting on the Fate of Victims of Armed Violence’. The session was moderated by journalist and author Prem Shankar Jha, who was the guest of honour on the occasion. The panelists, comprising the jury members, were columnists and senior journalists Pamela Philipose, Shreekumar Varma and Ranjona Banerji.

Sashi Nair, director and editor, Press Institute of India, said that at a time when the credibility of the media was being repeatedly questioned, it was heartening to know that there were committed young journalists devoted to the larger social cause, many of who also had the desire to excel. The awards, he added, should motivate journalists to sustain high standards and report the truth every time, no matter what it took.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Press Institute of India (PII) established the annual awards competition in 2008 in an effort to recognize the work of Indian journalists in the field of humanitarian reporting. The thrust has been to throw the spotlight on the human suffering caused by armed violence and the extraordinary resilience shown by people in such situations.

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusive humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and

other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The PII is a non-profit body, run by a board of trustees comprising some of India's top media houses, whose objective is to sustain high and responsible standards of journalism in India, backed by research, training and publications.

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