

# 2024 World Press Photo Jury Report

## **AFRICA**

### **Singles**

*Returning Home From War*

**Vincent Haiges**, Germany, Real 21

This photographer approaches the Tigray conflict from a sensitive family perspective, engaging viewers to form a deeper understanding of the complex ramifications of a hidden war. The image portrays the disabilities caused by war and is grounded in the love between a mother and child rather than the dominant tropes commonly used to represent amputees.

### **WORLD PRESS PHOTO STORY OF THE YEAR**

*Valim-babena*

**Lee-Ann Olwage**, South Africa, for *GEO*

This story tackles a universal health issue through the lens of family and care. The selection of images are composed with warmth and tenderness reminding viewers of the love and closeness necessary in a time of war and aggression worldwide. The story of Valim-babena brings to light a crucial sociological perspective that challenges the cross-cultural isolation of the elderly, instead portraying them with dignity and care.

### **Long-Term Projects**

*The Escape*

**Zied Ben Romdhane**, Tunisia, Magnum Photos, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, AIM LAB

The jury was impressed by how this photographer told the story of the multigenerational impacts of the Arab Spring. The personal perspective is conveyed through poetic aesthetics that evoke an emotional response from viewers. The images are edited beautifully to center African youth at the heart of the story meeting the mark of what the judges sought in a long term project.

### **Open Format**

*Adrift*

**Felipe Dana and Renata Brito**, Brazil, Associated Press

The jury awarded this project for its intimate approach to a shocking transatlantic migration story. They were moved by the extensive data collection and effective web-presentation. The meaningful collaboration enables a multimedia narrative to drive the story forward. Furthermore, it sets a new standard for international journalism— moving beyond parachute journalism to engage comprehensively with the story— that the photojournalism community ought to aspire to.

### **Honorable Mention**

## Survivors

**Arlette Bashizi**, Democratic Republic of the Congo, for *The Washington Post*

The jury commends this photographer for their professionalism. The body of work includes respectfully executed images that visualize the sensitive topic of a community healing from conflict, from many nuanced angles. The jury hopes that this project inspires the next generation of emerging African photographers.

## ASIA

### WORLD PRESS PHOTO OF THE YEAR

*A Palestinian Woman Embraces the Body of Her Niece*

**Mohammed Salem**, Palestine, Reuters

The jury was deeply moved by how this image evokes an emotional reflection in every viewer. Composed with care and respect, it offers at once a metaphorical and literal glimpse into unimaginable loss. Set in a geographically distant medical setting, it resonates globally, urging us to confront our desensitization of the consequences of human conflict. The image is multi-layered, representing the loss of a child, the struggle of the Palestinian people, and the 31,000 deaths in Palestine. Symbolic of the toll of conflict, the image makes a statement on the futility of all wars. The jury recognized that this photographer was awarded for the same subject nearly a decade ago, underscoring the continued struggle for recognition of such a pressing issue.

## Stories

*Afghanistan on the Edge*

**Ebrahim Noroozi**, Iran, Associated Press

This is a powerful human-centered story portraying the aftermath of neglect and societal collapse since the Taliban gained control in Afghanistan. The project's deliberate edit reminds viewers of the urgency of the realities faced by the Afghan people. Frame one particularly stunned every jury member, evoking a deeper understanding of insecurity beyond stereotypes. The selection of images speaks to conflict and displacement on a universal level, prompting empathy and self reflection.

## Long-Term Projects

*I Am Still With You*

**Wang Naigong**, China

The jury was moved by this emotional project, which portrays a mother's courageous decision to share her daily life with the photographer, leaving a lasting memory for her family. Through collaboration, it challenges stereotypes and highlights the enduring nature of intimate human connections, offering a rare glimpse into the life of a Chinese family. The intimate, humanizing portraits convey messages of love, pride and closure in facing mortality.

## Open Format

*Heartstrings*

**Kazuhiko Matsumura**, Japan, for *The Kyoto Shimbun*

The jury was impressed by the photographer's thoughtful choices in presenting a unique perspective on dementia in Japan. The dignified portrayal and incorporation of a cultural perspective contribute to a consistent style throughout the project. Each conceptual decision goes beyond aesthetics, effectively narrating the story with a visual vernacular, mood, and symbols rooted in Japanese culture and photographic tradition.

### **Honorable Mention**

*The Edge*

**Zishaan A Latif**, India

The jury awards an honorable mention to this project for its poetic exploration of climate and citizenship. Through powerful, high-contrast imagery, the photographer effectively communicates the liminal position of the people photographed, highlighting the persistent challenges faced by migrants in terms of physical displacement and uncertain futures.

### **EUROPE**

#### **Singles**

*A Father's Pain*

**Adem Altan**, Turkey, Agence France-Presse

The jury found this image to be deeply powerful, portraying the profound loss and tragedy of the earthquake in Turkey through the experience of one individual. It highlights the intersecting consequences of natural disaster and corruption. The image speaks specifically to the father's refusal to leave his daughter's side as she lies buried in the rubble and the photographer sensitively captures this moment, which is seared in the mind of anyone who sees it, evoking horror.

#### **Stories**

*Kakhovka Dam: Flood in a War Zone*

**Johanna Maria Fritz**, Germany, for *Die Zeit*

The jury was impressed by how these images highlight the environmental impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The project urges viewers to consider the weaponization of the landscape and man-made natural disasters. The photographer does an exceptional job of evoking empathy in her documentation of a breaking news event. This story calls attention to extreme and inhumane acts of war that occurred among many other events over the last 12-months in Ukraine.

#### **Long-Term Projects**

*No Man's Land*

**Daniel Chatard**, Germany

The jury appreciated the quiet visual style of this project, which amplifies a local perspective on extractive struggles that we see worldwide. The ironic narrative resonated with the Global Jury,

highlighting the parallel struggles of extraction and repression in Europe alongside regional government-led initiatives to lead climate adaptation. The story of the youth-led climate movement brings hope, while driving a clear message about corporate disregard for the environment, heritage and identity. Among many entries on this subject, this project stood out for its deep and committed reporting.

## WORLD PRESS PHOTO OPEN FORMAT AWARD

*War Is Personal*

**Julia Kochetova**, Ukraine

The jury felt this project was the most creative entries in the Open Format category. The emotive images make for a standout presentation amidst many entries about the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. Told by a Ukrainian photographer, the jury acknowledges this story's insider-perspective, which is especially evident in the thread of visual symbolism, strong use of color sequences, and collaborations with a Ukrainian illustrator and DJ. The engaging use of audio and illustration— particularly in the poetic diary and audio recordings— stood out, lending a film-like quality to the work.

## Honorable Mention

*Looking for Satyrus*

**Rena Effendi**, Azerbaijan, VII Photo, National Geographic Society

The jury commends the creative storytelling of this photographer, whose dreamlike aesthetics offer new insight on the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh. With a personal narrative as a throughline, the project inspires a new understanding of a pressing regional issue. Impressively, the photographer transcends contentious borders and avoids centering warfare in the images. The butterfly serves as a metaphor and plot, and the dedication and closeness to the identity and crisis are evident.

## NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

### Singles

*A Day in the Life of a Quebec Fire Crew*

**Charles-Frederick Ouellet**, Canada, for *The Globe and Mail*, CALQ

The jury viewed this Single as a potent symbol of the struggle against climate breakdown, serving as a metaphor for humanity's collective arrogance. The image's iconic composition— reminiscent of a monument— poetically embodies the grief and gravity of the environmental crisis.

### Stories

*Saving the Monarchs*

**Jaime Rojo**, Spain, for *National Geographic*

Taking a proactive, solutions oriented approach, the photographer portrays environmental change and conservation efforts in beautifully lit images. Each frame is a testament to the photographer's dedication, as he presents intimate moments that afford us with new

perspectives on the natural world. In a competition filled with diverse themes this story stood out as a significant once-in-a-lifetime achievement that left the jury smiling.

**WORLD PRESS PHOTO LONG-TERM PROJECT AWARD**

*The Two Walls*

**Alejandro Cegarra**, Venezuela, *The New York Times*/Bloomberg

This project is an example of dynamic, world-class storytelling. The images are at once **unsparing** and respectful, and convey the intimate emotions present in diverse migrant journeys. The concern of migration resonates across the region and the jury felt that this photographer's own positionality as a migrant afforded a sensitive human centered perspective that centers the agency and resilience of migrants.

**Open Format**

*The Gay Space Agency*

**Mackenzie Calle**, United States

The jury thoroughly enjoyed this creative and witty project, discovering new details and references each time they revisited the images. The photographer skillfully tackles an underrepresented story, using sci-fi elements to highlight the irony of homophobia within the realm of space exploration. Addressing a critical topic with a fresh approach and clear message.

**Honorable Mention**

*The First Climate Refugees of the United States*

**Sandra Mehl**, France

The jury gave this project an honorable mention because of how the photographer portrayed a marginalized community with such tenderness. The photographer stays clear of distorting people's humanity, instead giving a human face to the obscured environmental crisis facing North America. The project is edited beautifully and intentionally, and is a call to action that engages the viewer to seek a deeper understanding of the climate crisis.

**SOUTH AMERICA****Singles**

*Drought in the Amazon*

**Lalo de Almeida**, Brazil, for *Folha de São Paulo*

This image encapsulates the undeniable reality of the environmental crisis and drought in the Amazon. Organic and captured at the perfect moment, its composition powerfully conveys the gravity of the situation. Standing alone, it serves as a powerful representation of the challenges facing the Amazon and their global effects.

**Stories**

*Red Skies, Green Waters*

**Adriana Loureiro Fernandez**, Venezuela, for *The New York Times*

The jury found this project to be a well-narrated story about the harmful impacts of industry on both the natural environment and social fabric. The images show how a collapsed industry affects a community, shedding light on often overlooked aspects of the issue.

## Long-Term Projects

*Mapuche: The Return of the Ancient Voices*

**Pablo E. Piovano**, Argentina, Greenpeace Award, *GEO*, National Geographic Society

This project is a compelling portrayal of Indigenous struggles that challenges stereotypes and offers insight into the worldview of the Mapuche. The story resonates across the region, emphasizing the value of Indigenous knowledge systems in their battles against governments and extractive industries. This work underscores the need for broader representation and recognition in the press.

## Open Format

*Silenced Crimes*

**Marco Garro**, Peru, Pulitzer Center

The jury was impressed by the photographer's thorough presentation of research and evidence. The comprehensive treatment of data embodies an indisputable, hard facts journalism and public service akin to the forensic charting of crimes. The narrative is grounded in strong imagery conveying the magnitude of the subject.

## Honorable Mention

*Insurrection*

**Gabriela Biló**, Brazil, for *Folha de São Paulo*

The jury honors this photographer for her portrayal of a pivotal news event amidst challenging conditions. The blend of news-worthy photographs and artistic composition sets her work apart as one of the most compelling sequences of this story in Brazil.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OCEANIA

### Singles

*Fighting, Not Sinking*

**Eddie Jim**, Australia, *The Age/Sydney Morning Herald*

The jury was moved by this tender family portrait that conveys the relationship between two people and their relationship to the land in the context of rising concern for the climate crisis. In one frame, the photographer beautifully visualizes the alarming metrics of sea level rise while also highlighting the centrality of multigenerational care and affection to legacies of land stewardship and the protection of cultural and environmental heritage.

## Stories

*Battle for Sovereignty*

**Michael Varcas**, Philippines, for *The Philippine Star*

This project visualizes the continuous pursuit of defending sovereignty and rights to natural resources that are currently contained in South East Asia but rapidly spilling into other regions and looming on the global horizon. The photographer's commitment to the story is evident in their ability to overcome the significant barriers faced by regional journalists to access these scenes from non-military vessels. Furthermore, the strong composition of the images portray the ongoing Chinese aggression in the disputed islands which draw links to other acts of globalism ongoing globally.

### **Long-Term Projects**

*Revolution in Myanmar*

**Ta Mwe**, Myanmar, Sacca Photo, VII Foundation, Frontline Club, W. Eugene Smith Grant

The jury valued how local voices continue to provide visual evidence on the conflict in Myanmar, and serve as a reminder that the military coup and the persecution of civil-rights groups in the hinterlands persists. The photographer's courage and emotional investment is evident both in the intimacy of each image and the photographic style achieved in such precarious conditions. The project touches on different facets of the conflict and highlights the people's persistence in their pursuit for freedom and democracy.

### **Open Format**

*A Lost Place*

**Aletheia Casey**, Australia

*This project pays a striking homage to the photographer's home. The consistent edit and artistic method weaves an innovative narrative on the climate crisis from a deeply personal angle. The sequence of bold colors beautifully portrays different aspects of the landscape and ecosystem, and conveys the photographer's personal connection to the land.*

### **Honorable Mention**

*Pollution in the Cileungsi River*

**Arie Basuki**, Indonesia

The jury awarded this photo with an honorable mention for its vivid depiction of multiple, intersecting issues relating to environmental contamination. The single image evokes questions about food security, access to natural resources, and environmental pollution. The image is a reminder of how environmental contamination is a consequence of cheap labor and mass production.