

## 2025 World Press Photo Jury Report

### World Press Photo of the Year

*Mahmoud Ajjour, Aged Nine*

**Samar Abu Elouf**, Palestine, for *The New York Times*

The photograph of a young Gazan boy, Mahmoud, speaks to the long-term costs of war, the silences that perpetuate violence, and the role of journalism in exposing these realities. Without shying away from the corporeal impacts of war, the photo approaches conflict and statelessness from a human angle, shedding light on the physical and psychological traumas civilians have been forced to, and will continue to endure through industrial scale killing and warfare. The Jury found this portrait, with its strong composition and attention to light, to be contemplative, sparking questions about the experiences yet to come for the young wounded boy, about the dehumanization of a region, and about the relentless targeting of journalists in Gaza alongside the continued denial of access to international reporters seeking to expose the realities of this war.

### World Press Photo of the Year Finalists

*Night Crossing*

**John Moore**, United States, Getty Images

This image powerfully connects distant regions through a complex story of migration – portraying migrants from China navigating South and Central America on their journey to North America. The frame's otherworldly quality, paired with the tenderness between parent and child, invites deep reflection and questions about the challenging journey in light of the uncertainty that lies ahead. In a single picture, the photographer conveys both immense vulnerability and resilience.

*Droughts in the Amazon*

**Musuk Nolte**, Peru/Mexico, Bertha Foundation

The jury felt this story approached the climate crisis through a reflective and thought-provoking lens. The perplexing photograph raises important questions and invites the viewer to seek a deeper understanding. Rather than focusing solely on misery, it thoughtfully addresses Brazil's historic droughts and their impact on local and indigenous communities, offering a space to contemplate the broader implications of the crisis.

Winners

## AFRICA

### Singles

*Life Won't Stop*

**Mosab Abushama**, Sudan

This image stood out to the jury for its intriguing composition, where the presence of a gun in an otherwise quiet scene sparks curiosity and draws the viewer deeper into the scene. The somber mood highlights the tension between celebration and war, capturing a fatalistic acceptance of the continuation of life amid conflict. Taken at a wedding, the portrait subverts expectations and challenges assumptions, offering a thought-provoking glimpse into cultural practices shaped by a backdrop of war.

*Mother Moves, House Approves*

**Temiloluwa Johnson**, Nigeria

In a country where LGBTQ+ peoples have no legal protection and face up to fourteen years in prison, this image portrays a moment to breathe for the queer community. The striking composition seamlessly ties together a busy scene, conveying joy, love, and celebration. Due to the sensitive legal context, this story is often overlooked in the region, but by focusing on body language, gestures, and shapes, the photographer captures the essence of the moment while protecting the identities of those involved.

*Tamale Safalu*

**Marijn Fidder**, The Netherlands

This image powerfully captures the strength and determination of an athlete, encouraging us to look beyond the disability and see the person's true power. The strong red backdrop in front of his home makes the figure stand out, evoking a sense of triumph. The environmental portrait reflects the spirit of youth in Kampala, showcasing the athlete's grit and determination to compete alongside able-bodied competitors, creating a positive, uplifting image.

### Stories

*The Lake Has Fallen Silent*

**Aubin Mukoni**, Democratic Republic of the Congo

This project offers a window into the economic and cultural significance of Lake Kivu amid heightened tensions between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The jury

appreciated the photographer's approach to capturing daily life and the lake's role in both sustenance and economic survival—serving as a vital fishery, a food source, and one of the most significant methane gas reserves. By highlighting different angles of the geopolitical and environmental tensions the photographer adds depth to the broader narrative, reminding viewers of the persistent and far-reaching impacts of regional instability and environmental degradation.

*The Elephant Whisperers of Livingstone*

**Tommy Trenchard**, United Kingdom, Panos Pictures, for NPR

This project offers a compelling exploration of human-wildlife conflict, prompting viewers to reconsider their understanding of these encounters. The jury was impressed by the clear link between the photographer's intentions and the resulting images, which powerfully challenge the notion of territory — questioning whether it's animals who are encroaching on human environments or the other way around. Each image is an essential addition that reinforces the overall story, encouraging broader reflection on the complexities of coexistence in a rapidly changing world.

*Kenya's Youth Uprising*

**Luis Tato**, Spain, Agence France-Presse

This project offers strong photojournalistic coverage of a key news event from the year, with each shot and the overall edit effectively capturing the unfolding events while also addressing larger issues of generational divides across Kenya, particularly the disillusionment between older and younger generations. The photographer's ability to capture the story from both sides, while being so close to the friction—moments of explosion when fatalities occurred—adds significant depth. The high-level photography aligns perfectly with what the jury was looking for.

### **Long-Term Project**

*Women's Bodies as Battlefields*

**Cinzia Cannari**, Italy, Association Camille Lepage

This project amplifies the voices of the women affected by the war in the border region of Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan, with remarkable depth and care. The jury was impressed by the photographer's commitment to the story and the trust she fostered with the Tigrinya women she photographed, shedding light on their underreported experiences. Despite working within a challenging media landscape marked by misinformation and difficulty in gaining access, the work offers a rare, intimate perspective, balancing the weight of the subject matter with moments of beauty and tenderness. Furthermore, the photographer's self-reflective approach—evident in the strong captions, thoughtful sequencing, and acknowledgment of her positionality as an Italian woman in a region shaped by Italy's colonial history—adds further

depth to this powerful work, balancing the weight of the subject matter with moments of beauty and tenderness.

## ASIA-PACIFIC AND OCEANIA

### Singles

*The Impact of Nickel Mining on Halmahera Island*

**Mas Agung Wilis Yudha Baskoro**, Indonesia, for China Global South Project

This image captures the impact of foreign industry and mining operations on the local community, pulling together complex issues like the exploitation of raw materials, pollution of the environment, and the influence of corporate power, into a single frame. The strong foreground emphasizes the intertwined social and environmental cycle and trap of industrialization, whereby local communities become dependent on industrial jobs that are simultaneously leading to the ruination of the environment. Direct eye contact from the workers in the frame further draws the viewer into the story, underscoring the human toll of these issues.

*Korea Adoption Fraud*

**Jae C. Hong**, South Korea, Associated Press

The photographer captures the precise moment of reunion for a father and daughter, conveying a powerful mix of emotions; regret, shame, and relief. The quiet photo speaks volumes, allowing a viewer to witness this personal moment without the photographer's presence overshadowing it. The image draws the viewer into the moment, as if they were standing there with the two, bearing witness, which is especially significant given how the story of fraudulent international adoptions remains so underreported.

*Gabriel Medina During the Paris 2024 Olympic Games*

**Jerome Brouillet**, French Polynesia, Agence France-Presse

This striking sports photo captures a perfect moment, with all elements— the gesture of Gabriel Medina, the positioning of his surfboard and the angle of his feet— aligning seamlessly. The vibrant colors contrast sharply with the cloudy sky, capturing a rare combination of skill and luck that makes this surfing image stand out.

### Stories

*Four Storms, 12 Days*

**Noel Celis**, Philippines, Associated Press

This selection highlights the increasing frequency of natural disasters in Southeast Asia, illustrating how people are becoming increasingly accustomed to such events. The classic edit includes photographs that juxtapose intimate moments with the broader scale of these storms,

capturing both their personal impact and the wider consequences at the local and national scale. The combination of day- and night-time shots emphasize the relentless nature of these extreme weather events, maintaining a consistent aesthetic throughout.

*A Nation in Conflict*

**Ye Aung Thu**, Myanmar

The jury was moved by the photographer's continued commitment to reporting on the Myanmar civil war since the 2021 junta launched a military coup. The strong selection effectively captures the different elements of people's experiences within the People's Defence Force. The great lengths the photographer took to document and bring visibility to this ongoing conflict is a powerful testament to their dedication to the subject.

*No More Monkey Mania in Thai Town*

**Chaline Thirasupa**, Thailand, Reuters

A jury favorite, these images provoke a strong reaction with its compelling portrayal of human-animal interaction. Rather than depicting animals being displaced, monkeys are shown as they have been emboldened to challenge humans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The strong selection highlights this role reversal, sparking reflection about the evolving boundaries between humans and wildlife.

## Long-Term Project

*Te Urewera – The Living Ancestor of Tūhoe People*

**Tatsiana Chypsanava**, Belarus, Pulitzer Center, New Zealand Geographic

The jury felt this project stood out as a powerful, detailed look at the Ngāi Tūhoe people's fight for the return of their ancestral lands and indigenous rights. It captures the ongoing governance struggles between Te Urewera's ways of being and Western knowledge, along with tensions from far-right political movements. Through a variety of thoughtful frames, the work provides a compelling visual dialogue about relationships to land and cultural preservation, shedding light on an often underrepresented community.

## EUROPE

### Singles

*Mika*

**Prins de Vos**, The Netherlands, Queer Gallery

The jury was struck by the beauty and strength of this portrait – direct, yet quiet and meditative. The photographer's commitment to documenting the long and uncertain experiences of waiting for gender reassignment surgery brings both dignity and visibility to the subject. In a global

political landscape that increasingly dehumanizes and vilifies transgender people, highlighting these experiences felt especially important. The jury hopes this image will spark broader conversations about respect and recognition for trans communities.

*Underground Field Hospital* - revised

**Nanna Heitmann**, Germany, Magnum Photos, for *The New York Times*

The jury recognized this as a compositionally very powerful image that carries complex symbolic weight – raising thought-provoking questions about nationality and political divides. The setting of an underground winery repurposed as a field hospital adds another visual layer for the viewer trying to understand the image. While the injury and eventual amputation of both the left arm and leg speaks to the physical cost of war.

*Beyond the Trenches* - revised

**Florian Bachmeier**, Germany

This image contrasts with the visceral war imagery we have seen in the past year.

The six year old child named Anhelina, at rest offers contrasting impressions – quiet, suspended, and distanced from direct violence, yet still profoundly shaped by the war and its psychological scars. The image reminds the viewer of the long lasting impact of this war, particularly on children, and that not all wounds are visible or easily healed.

The jury was impressed by how the photographer was able to capture such a silent image that nonetheless makes the viewer stop and consider an aspect of Russia's war on Ukraine that is perhaps not focused on enough.

## Stories

*MARIA*

**Maria Abranches**, Portugal

The jury found this project touching and profoundly layered. The photographer was able to connect with her subject respectfully, recording different moments of her daily life. Through these intimate frames, the photographer highlights telling details—symbolic reminders of the lingering consequences of Portugal's colonial past. The work sparks reflection about how this history continues to shape social structures today.

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

**Rafael Heygster**, Germany, for *Der Spiegel*

The jury felt this story was particularly significant in capturing the rise of populism in Germany and the broader shifts in politics that claim to uphold democracy while undermining it. The photographer achieves a rarity in political photography— subtly unmasking the carefully crafted image of politicians attempting to conceal their motives. Each image contains an off-kilter element, disrupting the surface and exposing the performative nature of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. Judging just days before the German general elections, with the AfD positioned as the second runner-up, the jury felt this work was both timely and essential.

*Protests in Georgia*

**Mikhail Tereshchenko**, Russia, TASS Agency

The jury felt this was an important global story documenting mass anti-government protests in Georgia set against the backdrop of contested elections, escalating tensions between pro-Russian and pro-EU politicians, and the reintroduction of the 'foreign agents' draft bill. The nighttime images highlight the use of fireworks as a new urban weapon and capture the dynamics of mass protests, raising questions about how democratic movements worldwide respond to increasingly militarized police forces.

### **Long-Term Project**

*It Smells of Smoke at Home*

**Aliona Kardash**, Russia/Germany, DOCKS Collective, for *Stern Magazine*

The jury found this long-term project to be a deeply personal insight into the fractures within Russian society since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, revealing complexities often overlooked when viewing Russia as a monolith. The photographer visually conveys her melancholy regarding her connection to her family as they are influenced by state propaganda, grappling with the universal dilemma of how to hold to loved ones subsumed by state control. As conflict increasingly draws journalists into their own stories, this project reflects the nuance of their narratives, capturing a personal experience with global resonance.

**NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA****Singles***Night Crossing***John Moore**, United States, Getty Images

This image powerfully connects distant regions through a complex story of migration—portraying migrants from Asia navigating South and Central America on their journey to North America. The frame's otherworldly quality, paired with the tenderness between parent and child, invites reflection and evokes questions about the uncertainty that lies ahead. In a single picture, the photographer conveys both immense vulnerability and resilience.

*Constance Wynn II, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, 2025***Philip Montgomery**, United States, for *The New York Times Magazine*

The jury felt that this image successfully bridges different timescales, connecting past events to an uncertain future, and powerfully conveys the tension of the present. The expression and body language of the woman photographed, Constance Wynn, reflect a mix of anxiety, dread, and determination to hold her ground despite a looming uncertainty. The image speaks to broader themes of societal restructuring in America, grounding them in a deeply personal and symbolic scene.

*Attempted Assassination of Donald Trump***Jabin Botsford**, United States, for *The Washington Post*

This image highlights the photographer's quick reflexes and decisive choices in capturing a pivotal moment. The photograph presents the main figure in a different light, providing a parallel narrative to the more performative moment which dominated press coverage. Focusing on the fragility of life, it speaks volumes in its subtlety. Situated within the broader history of U.S. assassinations, this image holds significance—especially in an election year—and offers a glimpse into a moment that may have shaped the political landscape.

**Stories***Crisis in Haiti***Siffroy Clarens**, Haiti, Agence France-Presse

The jury felt this project powerfully documents critical news from Haiti through the lens of a local photographer. In a country with the highest level of impunity toward the killing of journalists, the photographer's commitment and work are deeply impactful. The edit balances extreme violence with human elements, telling a compelling story across ten frames.



## *A Place to Die*

**Oliver Farshi**, United Kingdom

The jury found this project to be a profound piece of work, captured with tenderness and care. By maintaining the anonymity of each individual, the project transforms into an extraordinary piece of visual poetry. The beautifully framed photography, with its attention to metaphor, textures, color and light, communicates a deep spirituality and compassion. The project depicts the possibility of dignity in dying, making it a moving and thought-provoking story.

## *A Town Derailed*

**Rebecca Kiger**, United States, Center for Contemporary Documentation, *TIME*

The jury felt that this story effectively tells a story of a town impacted by corporate negligence, putting in focus the persistence of its residents to seek justice. The selection of frames skillfully blends thoughtful, intimate visuals. The photographer's immersive reporting, captures both the human cost and systemic issues with striking sensitivity.

## **Long-Term Project**

### *Life and Death in a Country Without Constitutional Rights*

**Carlos Barrera**, El Salvador, El Faro, NPR

The jury felt that this project powerfully captures the personal toll of state violence, offering an intimate view into the lives of individuals who have been unfairly arrested and brutalized. The photographer's creative approach to protecting identities while maintaining visual impact heightens the sense of descending darkness and terror. The story resonates beyond its borders, reflecting the global implications of migration politics as many Salvadorians face the prospect of being deported back to the violence they once fled. The photographer's work, undertaken at enormous personal risk, brings viewers closer to the human cost of authoritarianism.

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

### **Singles**

#### *Aircraft on Flooded Tarmac*

**Anselmo Cunha**, Brazil, Agence France-Presse

The jury was struck by the eerie atmosphere of this image, which contributes to a powerful visual narrative of Brazil's surreal climate extremes— shifting between record droughts and devastating floods. The frame of the abandoned aircraft captures the unsettling impact of flooding in Rio Grande do Sul, provoking reflection about disasters in modern society and the fragility of man-made systems.

*Botafogo Fans: Pride and Glory***André Coelho**, Brazil, EFE

The jury loved this image for its vibrant portrayal of Botafogo fan's deep passion for football and their team. The photo captures the raw euphoria of the moment, with each person displaying their own unique reactions and emotions. An additional layer is added by the fact that these fans—projecting an away match on a large screen—are celebrating on the pitch where the players should be. The photograph conveys the energy and intensity of this collective experience, embodying a joyful connection with a sport loved in Brazil and across the world.

*The Last Hope***Gabriela Orúa**, Venezuela, Reuters

This striking, well-executed photo stood out to the jury. The vibrant colors and composition, with hands leading toward politician María Corina Machado, emphasize her embrace and gratitude toward her supporters. With rare access in Venezuela, this photo captures a significant political moment that no other photographer could have documented, highlighting Machado's connection with her supporters.

**Stories***Jaidè***Santiago Mesa**, Colombia

The jury was moved by this project's subtle and respectful approach to a sensitive issue. The photographer has a clear vision, preserving the anonymity of the subjects while conveying a strong sense of mood and intimacy. The work balances detailed and environmental frames in Bojayá, capturing both the personal and structural dimensions of the story and highlighting limited access to healthcare in remote communities. The selection also carries a life-affirming quality, inviting viewers to spend time and engage in deeper reflection.

*Brazil's Worst-Ever Floods***Amanda Maciel Perobelli**, Brazil, Reuters

The jury recognized this project for its powerful documentation of the largest climate disaster in Brazilian history. The work captures both the vast scale of destruction and the personal impact on those affected. Its strong sequencing moves from wide overviews to intimate moments, conveying the shock and devastation experienced by communities. The photographer's approach offers a compelling perspective on the human toll of climate catastrophe, making this an important and timely body of work.

*Droughts in the Amazon***Musuk Nolte**, Peru/Mexico, Bertha Foundation/Panos Pictures

The jury felt this project was critical to highlight, as it documents unprecedented drought in the Amazon and its profound impact on communities connected to natural cycles. This work powerfully illustrates the consequences of climate change— landscapes transformed, livelihoods disrupted, and the urgent need for adaptation. The striking contrast of dry, desert-like scenes in the world's largest rainforest makes the absence of water hauntingly visible. The photographer captures the scale of environmental change while centering the human experience, offering a compelling visual narrative of a rapidly shifting reality.

**Long-Term Project***Paths of Desperate Hope***Federico Ríos**, Colombia

The jury felt this project was exceptionally well done, offering a sincere and touching portrayal of migration through the Darien Gap, one of the most important yet dangerous migration routes in the Americas. The photographer follows families on this journey, giving faces to migrants in search of better lives, humanizing their stories. The selection of images captures both the personal and environmental challenges and hardships— dangerous terrain and threats from wildlife as well as human threats from organized crime— all while showing the hope and desperation that drive these families forward. Each image reflects the diverse range of people on this route and the harsh reality of their journey, making this a powerful and vital story of global migration.

**WEST, SOUTH, AND CENTRAL ASIA****Singles***Drone Attacks in Beirut***Murat Sengul**, Turkey, Anadolu Agency

This photo captures a paradoxical moment of people seeking safety while sheltering outdoors, highlighting the impact of drones and technological warfare. It brings attention to the psychological trauma endured by those living under constant threat, where safety is elusive, and terror can strike from the sky at any moment. It powerfully conveys the ongoing reality of living in fear.

*Mahmoud Ajjour, Aged Nine***Samar Abu Elouf**, Palestine, for *The New York Times*

The photograph of this Palestinian boy speaks to the long-term costs of war, the silences that perpetuate violence, and the role of journalism in exposing these realities. Without shying away from the corporeal impacts of war, the photo approaches conflict and statelessness from a human angle, shedding light on the physical and psychological traumas civilians have been forced to, and will continue to endure through industrial scale killing and warfare. The Jury found this portrait, with its strong composition and attention to light, to be contemplative, sparking questions about the experiences yet to come for the young wounded boy, about the dehumanization of a region, and about the relentless targeting of journalists in Gaza alongside the continued denial of access to international reporters seeking to expose the realities of this war.

*The Canvas of Power*

**Suvra Kanti Das**, Bangladesh, for *The Daily Prothom Alo*

This image of People vandalizing a statue of former President Sheikh Mujibur, captures a powerful moment of collective action, reminiscent of revolutionary scenes in other regions, now seen in Bangladesh. The composition cleverly highlights the scale of the effort, with symbols of revolution adding layers of meaning and underscoring the significance and impact of a moment that marks political change.

## **Stories**

*No Woman's Land*

**Kiana Hayeri**, Iran/Canada, Fondation Carmignac

This work offers a vital perspective on women's lives in Afghanistan, moving beyond familiar narratives to capture their daily realities with depth and care. The photographer's long-term commitment and close engagement result in an intimate portrayal, where the vibrant colors, textures, and details of their surroundings reflect the richness of each woman and her creativity. This interior vibrancy contrasts sharply with the growing restrictions on their freedoms— affecting education, movement, dress codes, and work. The work is both beautiful and deeply symbolic.

*Gaza Under Israeli Attack*

**Ali Jadallah**, Palestine, Anadolu Agency

The jury felt this work offers a critical representation of the industrial scale of violence experienced daily by Gazans. Despite the story's graphic imagery, the project serves as a powerful record of the immense human cost and destruction endured by civilians. Additionally, it underscores the vital role of Gazan photographers in bearing witness to these ongoing atrocities, ensuring that the world does not look away especially as international journalists are barred entry.

*The Shadows Already Have Names*

**Samuel Nacar**, Spain, for *Revista 5W*

This deeply personal and sensitive story— taken at the Sednaya Military Prison following the overthrow of the Al-Assad government in December 2024— stood out to the jury for each frame's gentle approach and striking composition. The photographer's clear vision is reflected in the powerful frames and exceptional sequencing, which seamlessly shift between scales— from intimate close-ups of a single person to expansive views of an entire prison. The project's softness sets it apart, allowing the story to resonate long after viewing, leaving a lingering and profound impact.

### **Long-Term Project**

*Bullets Have No Borders*

**Ebrahim Alipoor**, Iran

The jury felt that this project—shot in Western Iran—provides a rare and deeply nuanced perspective on the complex impacts of economic sanctions, offering a lens rarely seen in mainstream coverage. The photographer's long-term commitment and willingness to take significant personal risks to tell this story is evident in every frame. Each image stands on its own while also contributing to a broader, compelling narrative, inviting viewers to slow down, engage with each caption, and absorb the layered realities of life under sanctions.