

**EUROPEAN PRESS PRIZE 2014**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT**

**News for immediate release, 17 March 2014, London:** Journalists from Russia, Croatia, Turkey, Norway and Britain are honoured for outstanding achievements in the new European Press Prizes (EPP), announced today.

In addition to awards for reporting, investigation, innovation and commentary, the judges this year made two special awards for valor and professionalism in defending the values of a free press. They go to:

**ALAN RUSBRIDGER** - editor of *The Guardian*. He endured many months of official threats and denunciations to publish the basic facts of Edward Snowden files with cool precision and much eloquence in argument.

**YAVUZ BAYDAR** - sacked as ombudsman of the Istanbul daily *Sabah* for his outspoken - and censored - criticism of the paper’s Gezi Park riot.

In making the award to Alan Rusbridger, the judges commended also the fine performance of **Wolfgang Buchner** of *Der Spiegel* and of other European editors who brought “scrupulous standards of factual scrutiny and calm judgment to contentious revelations with courage and determination in resisting suppression."

The regular European Press Prizes are awarded as follows:

**THE DISTINGUISHED WRITING AWARD**

**Sergey Khazov** from *The New Times* in Moscow for his series of articles revealing how hundreds of thousands of immigrants, from Muslims to Vietnamese, live almost unnoticed in Russia’s capital.

Mr Khazov came straight from reporting inside the Ukraine to attend the prize ceremony at Reuter’s British headquarters in Canary Wharf.

**THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING AWARD**

**Steve Stecklow, Babak Dehghanpisheh and Yeganeh Torbati** of *Reuters* for their revelations about “the assets of the Ayatollah”, a ground-breaking account of how Iran’s Supreme Leader has also become supremely rich.

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**THE COMMENTATOR AWARD**

**Boris Dezulovic**, a prolific Croatian columnist, for his description of Vukovar, “a life-size monument in a dead city”.

**THE INNOVATION AWARD**

**Espen Sandli and Linn Kongsli Hillestad**, reporters for *Dagbladet* in Oslo, for ground-breaking data journalism exposing huge holes in Norway’s systems of digital security. The judges called it “a master class in investigation and explanation”.

**COMMENDATIONS**

Other entries this year singled out for particular praise include those from **Wolfgang Bauer** of *Die* *Zeit* for his graphic account of ad hoc justice inside war-torn Aleppo and a comprehensive data analysis of Italy’s flood and landslide danger areas by **Paolo Bernocco,** **Lidia Catalano,** **Maria Isabella** **Reggio, Erika Vicaretti** for *Team Limpido* in Turin.

The EPP judges are Sir Harold Evans, chairman, Juan Luis Cebrian, founding editor of *El Pais* in Madrid, Joergen Ejboel, former editor of *Jyllands-Posten*, Copenhagen, Sylvie Kauffman, editorial director of *Le Monde* in Paris and Yevgenia Albats, editor-in-chief of *The New Times*, Moscow.

**Sir Harold, editor at large for Reuters (and formerly editor of *The Sunday Times* and *The* *Times*) said:** “We were dazzled by the quality of entries this year. By exploring issues of public concern with diligence, honesty, independence, editorial skill, and courage - yes all those adjectives - they exemplified why the free press is at the essence of a civilised society."

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[**www.europeanpressprize.com**](http://www.europeanpressprize.com)

**The European Press Prize**

The EPP is in its second year. The founders of the prize are the Stichting for Democracy in Media and the Vernoica Foundation, in Amsterdam; the Jyllands-Posten and Politiken foundations in Copenhagen; the Guardian Foundation and Reuters Foundation in London; and the Media Development Loan Fund, based in Prague and New York. Their aim, with regular prizes of 10,000 euros each as their first project, is to encourage and reward quality journalism across the length and breadth of Europe.