

Europeān
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JURY REPORT

2025



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Our Judging Procedure

Our elaborate judging procedure consists of four separate rounds of judging – three rounds for our Preparatory Committee (which this year consisted of 21 members who read 26 languages), and a final round for our Panel of Judges (five members from five countries). During each round, our judging bodies take our category criteria into consideration while engaging in in-depth conversations to make sure to level the playing field as much as possible for all submissions.

1 Longlist Meetings

In the first round of judging, PrepCom members read submissions in their original project language, providing national and regional contexts on work from their respective countries/regions. Any submissions in languages that PrepCom members cannot read are translated into English. After this first round of assessment, the PrepCom decides on a first Longlist in a series of meetings. This Longlist is made up of ~150 projects.

2 Category Meetings

Projects on the Longlist that do not have an English translation available yet are translated into English so that the entire PrepCom can read them. In the second phase of assessing, PrepCom members are divided into groups per Award Category and all members in a category-group read the same articles within that category. The division is made based on areas of expertise of PrepCom members, and personal preferences. In their second rounds of meetings in February, the Preparatory Committee selects a Shortlist of around 10 projects per Award Category to form a preliminary Shortlist.

3 The Shortlist Meeting

A third round of assessing then takes place: during an in-person meeting, the PrepCom decides on the Shortlist. In this meeting, the PrepCom narrows the contenders in all categories down to five projects per category. Additionally, the Preparatory Committee may suggest recipients of the Special Award to the Judges.

4 Judges' Meeting

Finally, the work of the PrepCom is over and the Shortlist is communicated to the Panel of Judges. The Panel of Judges makes the final selection and decides on Winners and Runners-up in all five categories. The Panel of Judges also chooses the recipient of the Special Award, after consideration of potential suggestions from the Preparatory Committee's side. The Winners and Runners-up are announced during the annual Award Ceremony.



The 2025 Preparatory Committee

"This was a difficult year for judging, with many journalists under threat in increasingly authoritarian regimes across the world, and more than 150 killed in Gaza since the start of the war. These challenges were always present in our minds as the Preparatory Committee made its choices."

— **Christian Lupşa**

Chair of the European Press Prize 2025 Preparatory Committee



This year's European Press Prize Preparatory Committee consisted of Cristian Lupşa, Agnieszka Wądołowska, Daniele Grasso, Daria Bador, Denis Džidić, Dimitris Theodoropoulos, Ewa Wołkanowska-Kołodziej, Gaby Khazalová, Hendrik Lehmann, Jacopo Ottaviani, Juliette Garside, Just Vervaart, Lucila Rodríguez-Alarcón, Mathias Friis, Oleg Khomenok, Şebnem Arsu, Sérgio B. Gomes, Tanja Stelzer, Veronika Munk, and Winny de Jong.

"The Committee is an incredible group of colleagues and peers from across Europe—diverse, passionate, and deeply committed to identifying the most exemplary and impactful journalism. We've read hundreds of stories, had many conversations and debates, and we believe the finalists we chose reflect the urgency and importance of journalism today—standing for truth, justice, and a better world"

— **Christian Lupşa**

The 2025 Panel of Judges

"Such bravery, such imagination, such flair, such integrity! Here are writers and photographers; editors and data journalists; coders and videographers tackling the most important issues of the day and doing it in ways that are compelling and vital. The European Press Prize is the best antidote to gloom. There is – understandably – so much anxiety about the state of the news business today that it's easy to forget that extraordinary work is still being done by committed journalists all over Europe, and beyond."

— **Alan Rusbridger**

Chair of the European Press Prize 2025 Panel of Judges

This year's European Press Prize Panel of Judges consisted of Alan Rusbridger, Can Dündar, Clara Jiménez Cruz, Natalia Antelava, and Paul Radu.



The 2025 Distinguished Reporting Award

WINNER

Did Something Happen to Mom When She Was Young?

Jessica Bateman

POLITICO MAGAZINE, United States

Preparatory Committee

“A moving and overwhelming story which was sensitively told.”

“Bateman’s writing transports us right there to the family reunions, to the inner thoughts and feelings of those affected by this scandal. The personal and political are skillfully intertwined to give these individual stories a wider resonance. This is a forgotten but important and illuminating part of postwar European history, brilliantly brought to life.”

Panel of Judges

“A really well researched story which is amazing in its depth and gives great context.”

“A mystery story – a fascinating piece of family detective work combined with academic research and a skilful narrative.”



The 2025 Distinguished Reporting Award

RUNNER-UP

René Damgaard Is Saying a Final Goodbye to Life and to His Niece

Line Vaaben

Politiken, Denmark

Preparatory Committee

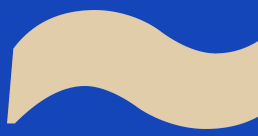
“This story portrays the end of life in its raw, unvarnished, not sugar-coated reality, using genuine human stories and exceptional photographs.”

“This extraordinary piece demonstrates that it is possible to report on the heavy daily life of a palliative care service with enormous sensitivity and respect for the fragility of others, while not hiding the complexity of the situations and the toughest details.”

Panel of Judges

“Death is one of the issues that is never touched upon. This project offers a sensitive way of exposing what is lived in a palliative care unit. It helps understand what people are going through when you’re in a care unit like that.”

“This was rather beautifully done and I actually changed my mind about palliative care. It was sensibly reported and stayed with me.”



The 2025 Distinguished Reporting Award

Journalist or Russian Spy? The Strange Case of Pablo González

Shaun Walker

The Guardian, United Kingdom

Preparatory Committee

“A really exclusive and profoundly investigated story about a presumed Russian sleeper agent. You can’t stop reading. Very well written.”

“A tough story to report, this story feels like watching a crime thriller on TV. The author’s personal connection makes the story all the more gripping.”

Panel of Judges

“It’s not very often that you see this depth of an article in your own industry. To inform the public about what is going on inside journalism and how information can be manipulated raises a very interesting question towards the public.”

“A gripping and very fair minded story which was done very skillfully.”



The 2025 Distinguished Reporting Award

Marwan Barghouti, the World's Most Important Prisoner

Nicolas Pelham

The Economist's 1843 magazine, United Kingdom

Preparatory Committee

"I enjoyed it even more on a second reading. The points highlighted through Barghouti's profile prove more relevant in the ongoing conflict as his profile embodies a culmination of events that not only led to today's conflict but also build resistance against its resolution. I like the way the history is infused into current affairs."

"Despite the lack of direct access to Barghouti, the piece effectively explores his potential role in advancing peace between Israel and Palestine. The reporting is thorough, with strong writing that maintains reader engagement."

Panel of Judges

"An excellent piece which was very well reported and gives you an insight into the situation."

"An extremely thorough piece of reporting on [Barghouti], who cannot speak for himself."



The 2025 Distinguished Reporting Award

The Poet's Army

Guillaume Pajot

Revue XXI, France

Preparatory Committee


“A truly outstanding piece of storytelling. The narrative stays very close to the main protagonist, who is both a hero and not—these shades of grey make the text exceptionally powerful. The language is also remarkable, poetically fitting to the subject.”

“It reads like a poem itself. The reporter almost picked up the pace and tone of the poet himself, dragging us along the battle with flashbacks.”

Panel of Judges

“Incredible access and strong reporting, with well-paced and compelling writing.”

“A rare glimpse of a faction of the resistance to the ruling Burmese junta army. It's a very well done profile, with details that help you understand why a sarcastic poet gave up words as a weapon to take up real weapons and become one of the youngest leaders of the Burmese guerrillas. Precise and captivating writing without overdoing it with superfluous descriptions.”



The 2025 Innovation Award

WINNER

Under Surveillance. How Location Data Jeopardizes German Security

Katharina Brunner, Rebecca Ciesielski, Ingo Dachwitz,
Sebastian Meineck, Maximilian Zierer

Bayerischer Rundfunk/BR24, netzpolitik.org, tagesschau/ARD, Germany

Preparatory Committee

“An investigation powered with great use of data and super effective visualisations. It tackles an important and not super-sexy topic with great and catchy narrative, and with a few important discoveries.”

“Amazing investigation, great visual storytelling. It’s real investigative journalism, but with an innovative twist.”

Panel of Judges

“A very good combination of journalism and AI technology. It was so impressive to see how easy it is to track someone. They were really careful and ethical, not giving the names but only the places.”

“A clever idea to use these techniques against the people who are doing it to us. They completely nailed it, in a responsible way. The scale of what is there for sale was just shocking.”



The 2025 Innovation Award

RUNNER-UP

Road to Redemption: How Israel's War Against Hamas Turned Into a Springboard for Jewish Settlement in Gaza

Yarden Michaeli, Avi Scharf, Idit Frenkel, Asi Oren, Uri Talshir
Haaretz, Israel

Preparatory Committee

“Great way of scrolling through a story that summarises how, nine months into the war in Gaza, Israeli soldiers were also pushing for settlement. It uses found video, satellite imagery, but the power comes from an acknowledgement of lack of access, and doing the best one can with what’s available to still produce a compelling narrative.”

“Very good storytelling, and very tough and factual reporting on a harsh topic, told from Israeli journalists themselves, not by others.”

Panel of Judges

“It’s gripping—another way to look at the situation in Palestine. The divide that’s provided by this corridor. It was brilliantly executed and the innovation comes from that. The narrative comes first, the innovation supports the narrative in a way that makes it so strong.”

“Brilliant reporting, the way they mapped the issue was truly helpful to understand the conflict.”



The 2025 Innovation Award

Norway in Red, White, and Grey

Mads Nyborg Støstad, Ruben Solvang, Su Thet Mon, Anne Linn Kumano-Ensby, Patrick da Silva Sæther, Kari Anne Gisetstad Andersen, Sjur Seibt
NRK, Norway

Preparatory Committee


“This is a great piece, very impressive and indeed innovative. The usage of AI is well explained and justified, and also verified, providing details necessary for the full understanding of the situation.”

“Fabulous use of technology to enhance the story. The use of AI, satellite imagery, the collaboration with researchers, all in favour of telling an important story of how Norway decides to build in nature, chipping at its environment two football fields at a time. Amazing.”

Panel of Judges

“I think it’s one of the most impressive things I’ve ever seen in innovative journalism. We talk a lot about the use of AI and we tend to use it only to go through data, but the way they’ve done it in satellite images is very impressive.”

“I loved the impact here, and the storytelling was amazing, with great use of AI – it felt really fresh.”



The 2025 Innovation Award

Segregated by the Wheel of Inequality in Spain: How Impoverished Neighbourhoods Become Hotspots for the Lower Educated

Raúl Sánchez, Victòria Oliveres, Ainhoa Díez
elDiario.es, Spain

Preparatory Committee

“Amazing story on the wheels of inequality at work in Spain – it shows, step by step, while the game is rigged against people from poor backgrounds. Sensational data work, and illustrations that are easy to understand and exist to lift the story.”

“Great work of digging really deep into educational and socio-spatial data. It’s one of the most decisive topics of our societies and still not that extensively covered by data journalism.”

Panel of Judges

“It addresses the systemic injustice and inequality in a separate field: education. It uses programming for visualisation and still remains human-based in its storytelling.”

“I really liked the way they combine information; they mix data, visualisation and personal stories very well.”



The 2025 Innovation Award

This Yellow Glyphosate Map Reveals Where Farmers in the Netherlands Spray the Controversial Herbicide

Jan Daalder, Collin van Rooij

Follow the Money, RTV Drenthe, NH Nieuws, De Gelderlander, RTV Rijnmond, Omroep Zeeland, De Limburger, De Onderzoeksredactie Brabant (BN DeStem, Brabant Dagblad, Eindhovens Dagblad), The Netherlands

Preparatory Committee

“This is an innovative piece with visible impact. I really learned something new reading this story.”

“The articles make very good use of maps, satellite imagery and algorithm training.”

Panel of Judges

“A nice idea, executed with good technical skills. This project provides a well-reported account of a very important topic.”

“I really liked this story – it was very well done! What also stood out is the cooperation between Follow the Money and a big number of regional media partners.”



The 2025 Investigative Reporting Award

WINNER

Serving Moscow

Măriuța Nistor, Natalia Zaharescu
Ziarul de Gardă, Moldova

Preparatory Committee

“A mind-blowing undercover investigation showing how Russian money and networks of influence operated in Moldova — paying off people in cash to show up at rallies and vote against pro-EU candidate Maia Sandu.”

“Glorious and in its core what investigative journalism is about. Really important and a story the world should read.”

Panel of Judges

“I truly applaud the infinite bravery of the journalists.”

“The impact this story had in Moldova is huge. The impact it has in how we regard disinformation and geopolitical strategy right now can be bigger in the coming years.”



The 2025 Investigative Reporting Award

RUNNER-UP

Bismarck's Hut in the Forest

Aiko Kempen, Laurenz Schreiner, Finn Starken
FragDenStaat, ZDF Magazin Royale, Germany

Preparatory Committee

"A clean, well explained, well told, humorous, flowing investigation – I love it. The fact that this is happening in the record-fixated Germany is shocking on its own."

"I love this! Investigative reporting doesn't always have to be so serious, and this piece proves it. It's absurd, but important, and undeniably great journalism. The reporting is both rigorous and wildly entertaining, using everything from tracking letters to setting up wildlife cameras and even peeking through windows to uncover out-of-date tea."

Panel of Judges

"A creative way of taking on a lead in a country – the impact is incredible. Really well told, solid and very good."

"A very good story about old money – you do not get these stories that often. Good old fashioned investigative reporting."



The 2025 Investigative Reporting Award

Deadly Prices - How Big Pharma Feeds Inequality in Europe

Christina Berndt, Eurydice Bersi, Lorenzo Buzzoni, Ingeborg Eliassen, Markus Grill, Maria Maggiore, Leila Minano, Maxence Peigné, Achim Pollmeier, Manuel Rico, Piret Reiljan, Leonard Scharfenberg, Nico Schmidt, Harald Schumann, Ralf Wiegand

Investigate Europe, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Il Fatto Quotidiano, infoLibre, EUobserver, arte journal, Gazeta Wyborcza, Investigace.cz, Partizán, Investigatívne centrum Jána Kuciaka, Ostro, Der Standard, Monitor/ARD/tagesschau, Deutschlandfunk, Reporters United, EfSyn, The Journal, openDemocracy, British Medical Journal, Trouw, Yle, Delfi, 15min, EestiEkspress, Klassenkampen, Tagesanzeiger, Europe

Preparatory Committee


“A great investigation – what I especially like is that the story really proves the power of cross-border investigations: You need a ‘big picture’ approach to reveal how the EU system has failed and how the member states are anything but united in solving this issue – a fact big pharma is exploiting. These reporters succeed in doing just that.”

“A chilling investigation which presents the issue, addresses all the relevant actors, and comes up with a resolution.”

Panel of Judges

“There is strong public interest here – it’s a really global story and it’s in the interest of millions of people.”

“The investigative work is excellent, and the collaboration between journalists and a medical research institute should be highlighted.”



The 2025 Investigative Reporting Award

From Child Labour in the Mines – To Your Electric Car
Staffan Lindberg, Magnus Wennman, Sofia Boström
Aftonbladet, Sweden

Preparatory Committee

“A good story, especially because they managed to map the chain from source to destination and thus show that it is child labour that makes the energy transition possible. It is also nicely written and the online version is richly illustrated with photos and maps.”

“A great story! It illustrates an important topic, with excellent research and storytelling.”

Panel of Judges

“Beautifully told with an interesting angle. It is a brilliant piece starting with data to on-the-ground reporting.”

“It’s a story I cannot stop thinking about. It sticks with you and is astonishing. It has all the data and goes from the smallest piece of the story to the biggest one. It really moved me and kept me thinking. It’s a super good story.”



The 2025 Investigative Reporting Award

The Silent Battle Between Putin and the West Over a Crucial Oil Pipeline

Carola Houtekamer, Karlijn Kuijpers
NRC, The Netherlands

Preparatory Committee

“The story is very well researched. A nice example of European cooperation on a major issue. The article shows how Russia took control of the CPC pipeline and how Dutch companies unintentionally contribute to Putin’s palace.”

“Valuable and diligent research with revealing facts!”

Panel of Judges

“A great investigation which was very well researched. It shows clear evidence and is an example of good collaboration with local researchers.”

“A very well researched story on a relevant topic. It influences all of Europe – the availability of oil.”



The 2025 Public Discourse Award

WINNER

Mothers at the End of the World

Katarzyna Boni

Książki, Poland

Preparatory Committee

“A striking piece that asks the big existential questions. There are no answers here to the problem of bringing more life into a planet in climate crisis, but the writer, Boni, gives comfort in celebrating motherhood.”

“This is what this category exists for: a superb meditation on mothering in the future in a reality where melting glaciers — at speeds higher than initially believed — threaten us all. Great use of context, data and personal reflection. Beautiful writing.”

Panel of Judges

“A very interesting piece that deals with anguish – a good reflection that likely a lot of women are having nowadays.”

“An original piece that interweaves personal experience, climate change, parenting and the carbon footprint. Almost a piece of moral philosophy which was skilfully told.”



The 2025 Public Discourse Award

RUNNER-UP

Memory Machines

Jessica Traynor

The Dial, Ireland

Preparatory Committee

“When you find yourself highlighting sentence after sentence, you know an article is telling you something new, crucial and true. Beautiful prose, lucid, composed. This piece ranges from personal moments to historical events. It is descriptive, but also technical enough to get under the skin of the subject.”

“Superb. Really strong writing, covering a topic that is covered a lot - but not in this way. I really liked the effort that she does to make the reader connect with the importance of memories – both the memories of a nation and the personal ones.”

Panel of Judges

“This travels you to different places – and how to reflect upon this at this time. An intersection of how Irish history has been erased and re-written and how that plays within Ireland right now.”

“A rather absorbing essay about energy, destruction, record keeping, and environmental impact which also gives historical context.”



The 2025 Public Discourse Award

A Celebration of Selflessness

Hanno Rauterberg
DIE ZEIT, Germany

Preparatory Committee

“A timely piece in the context of the deterioration of German railways, and of Germany’s sense of itself as an industrial powerhouse with strong polemic.”

“A very original proposal that calls for a return to an attitude towards infrastructure as social, aesthetic and collectivist achievements, in the sense of enhancing social cohesion and a sense of belonging and guaranteeing individual freedom.”

Panel of Judges

“A really nice piece with clear insights and a warning to our future selves.”

“An informative, funny piece that was very interesting.”



The 2025 Public Discourse Award

Life and Death in Putin's Gulag

Arkady Ostrovsky

The Economist's I843 magazine, United Kingdom

Preparatory Committee

“Brilliant writing, intertwining past and present in an engaging storyline with well-known personalities.”

“Superbly written and documented, the story grabs you! A powerful piece of writing.”

Panel of Judges

“A fascinating piece of reporting!”

“An interesting story that is well written and gives a strong picture of what it is like in a gulag and what role the fear of the gulag plays in Russian society.”



The 2025 Public Discourse Award

The Immense Waste - UCLouvain and Women

Catherine Joie, Quentin Noirfalisse

Médor, Belgium

Preparatory Committee

“This article offers a critical commentary on gender dynamics within academic institutions. By drawing parallels to Virginia Woolf’s experiences, the article contextualises these issues within a broader historical narrative of female marginalisation in academia.”

“An important review of sexism and harassment at a major Belgian university. It has investigative elements as it’s based on internal records and explains their elements as it tracks the history of complaints from two professors. But it’s also told with a clear eye point of view sitting side-by-side with the victims in the face of overwhelming proof in their favour.”

Panel of Judges

“A punchy piece of writing that carries the reader along at a fast pace.”

“An important topic that is especially relevant and active in Belgium and in academia.”



The 2025 Migration Journalism Award

WINNER

Growing Up ‘Non-Western’ in Denmark’s Nanny State

Gabriela Galvin

New Lines Magazine, Unites States

Preparatory Committee

“A really complex, well-written migration story that is well reported and offers tons of context.”

“A carefully reported piece that I read with great interest. The trends the author writes about are noticeable in different countries across Europe. This is a topic worth discussing.”

Panel of Judges

“A brilliantly nuanced and detailed piece, which looked at all complexities of immigration and migration in Europe. It really makes you think.”

“There’s a public debate that is being held all over Europe and this project portrays that public debate very well.”



The 2025 Migration Journalism Award

RUNNER-UP

The Brutal Truth Behind Italy's Migrant Reduction: Beatings and Rape by EU-Funded Forces in Tunisia

Mark Townsend

The Guardian, United Kingdom

Preparatory Committee

"A brutal, eye-opening story about what's happening in Sfax, where a makeshift camp is swelling with tens of thousands of migrants. The reporting is gruesome — hard to report, but done well, with a strong synthesis of the situation."

"A very good, thrilling journalistic text."

Panel of Judges

"A gripping, graphic read – by good reporting this story demonstrated how complex and brutal the consequences are of things that seem like easy solutions. That really helped understand this better."

"The impact it had is considerable. The EU stopped funding. It's amazing impact and a well told story,



The 2025 Migration Journalism Award

3,000 Nautical Miles of Hope

Marian Blasberg

Der Spiegel, Germany

Preparatory Committee

“A very strong report. Very well-written, combining quotes and narrative passages into a seamless montage. Close to the characters, with surprising twists and insights into the parallels between the colonial-era slave trade and modern-day practices. The author spared no effort, conducting research across two continents.”

“With excellent writing, in-depth interviews, and clear investment of resources, this is a standout piece.”

Panel of Judges

“I really loved this. I thought it was extraordinary – so good. A stunning piece of reporting with incredible depth. I loved the tone of it, how the reporting was so respectful – so beautifully done. The way it was handled in its storytelling was so good.”

“An absolutely brilliant narrative. It does such a good job not making [this issue] black and white and going into this grey zone.”



The 2025 Migration Journalism Award

“Because if I Die, No One Will Care.” Children’s Day at the Border

Agnieszka Rodowicz
Oko.press, Poland

Preparatory Committee

“A moving text – the writing is powerful and raw, bringing us close to Hila’s darkest thoughts and deepest suffering.”

“A devastating piece about migrant children seeking to cross the Belarusian-Polish border. The writing is urgent, impactful, unfussy. Powerful use of verbal imagery. It moved me to tears.”

Panel of Judges

“A close-up of the fate of a child on the Belarusian-Polish border. The fate of the main character is harrowing and it is very well told how children like her have to suffer in this place.”

“This work has the virtue of denouncing the tricks and randomness with which the Polish authorities treat unprotected children.”



The 2025 Migration Journalism Award

The Asylum King

Mark Wilding

Prospect Magazine, Liberty Investigates, United Kingdom

Preparatory Committee

“A hard hitting investigation with impact that has been widely followed and led to questions in the UK parliament.”

“A very well documented piece – you can tell how much time they invested here, they also made it fun.”

Panel of Judges

“A deep dive into how asylum seekers in the UK are housed in hotels and properties owned by private companies. Great documentation work, strong investigative reporting, and it really holds the state accountable for its own failures.”

“I really liked the effort – the idea of looking through reviews is smart. I loved it!”



The 2025 Special Award

WINNER

The Baku Connection

Annie Hylton, Bastian Obermayer, Corentin Bainier, Daniel Vallot, David Pegg, Edoardo Anziano, Edouard Perrin, Eloise Layan, Ershad Alijani, François Ruchti, Frederik Obermaier, Hannes Muzinger, Ilya Lozovsky, James Dowsett, Joël Matriche, Karina Chabour, Kelly Bloss, Kristof Clerix, Laurent Richard, Léa Peruchon, Leyla Mustafayeva, Louis Colart, Lorenzo Bagnoli, Lucas Brouwers, Maria Retter, Mariana Abreu, Miranda Patrucic, Olivier Zihlmann, Paciane Rouchon, Paul Lewis, Philippe Jacqué, Pierre Sorlut, Rachel Olroyd, Robert Denis, Roméo Langlois, Sandrine Rigaud, Sebastian Seibt, Sophia Stahl, Sofía Álvarez Jurado, Virginie Pironon, Wilmer Heck, Wubby Luyendijk, Youssef Youssef

Abzas Medi, Der Standard, d'Lëtzebuerger Land, Forbidden Stories, France 24, IRPI, Knack, Le Monde, Le Soir, NRC, OCCRP, Paper Trail Media, Radio France, RFI, RTS, Tamedia, The Guardian, ZDF

Preparatory Committee

“A powerful example of Forbidden Stories’ mission: by continuing the work of those whose lives have been interrupted, they send a clear message: killing or imprisoning journalists will not stop the truth from coming to light.”

“This powerful project shines a light on the actions of those in power and holds them to account.”

Panel of Judges

“Pure collaboration and solidarity in the profession. This project shows what journalism can do when borders and fear don’t stop the work.”

“It addresses an issue with journalists and activists in jail – journalists all over Europe keep investigating Azerbaijani corruption after journalists there were imprisoned for showing corruption.”



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