



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

Beirut, 22 January 2015

PRESS RELEASE

The European Union launches the 10th edition of the "*Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press*"

During a press conference held today at the Delegation of the European Union, Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the Delegation, launched the 10th edition of the "*Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press*" in the presence of Ms Gisèle Khoury-Kassir, President of the Samir Kassir Foundation and representatives from the EU Member States.

The "*Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press*", which has been awarded by the European Union since 2006, honors the Lebanese journalist and writer Samir Kassir who was assassinated in 2005. Since its creation, the Award has attracted more than 1,300 candidates from the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf.

Ambassador Eichhorst said: "We say it again and again: for the world to prosper, we need the brilliance of informed and professional journalism in all its forms, whether expressed through written words, photographs or videos. The freedom of speech is intrinsically linked to our own freedom as individuals and as citizens, as responsible members of society." She added: "Without freedom there is no press, there is only propaganda. As Albert Camus puts it: "A free press can undoubtedly be either good or bad, but, without freedom, the press will certainly never be anything but bad."

For her part, Ms. Khoury said: "Following the attack on Charlie Hebdo, France and many leaders from our region marched together to denounce the crime. A superb image. Will we ever see it on the streets of Beirut, Damascus, Jerusalem, Amman, Riyadh or Baghdad... where political and religious authorities repressed liberties in the most violent way? Freedom is our case, and the rule of law our goal."

The contest is open to candidates from the Middle East, North Arica and the Gulf. The deadline for sending in contributions is **10 April 2015**. Three awards will be granted for the best:

- **Opinion Article**
- **Investigative Article**
- **Audiovisual Reporting**

The contributions must be centered on one or more of the following topics: rule of law, human rights, good governance, fight against corruption, freedom of expression, democratic development or citizen participation. The winner of each of the three categories will receive a prize of €10,000.

The jury will be composed of seven voting members from Arab and European media and one observer representing the European Union. The names of the jury members shall be communicated during the prize-awarding ceremony which will take place on 2 June 2015 in Beirut, exactly ten years after Samir Kassir's assassination.

The contest regulations, application forms and details of the candidature file are available on the following website: www.samirkassiraward.org

Information for candidates

Completed applications with all submission materials **must be sent by 10 April 2015** at the latest:

- By email (in Word format for articles or WMV or MP4 format for videos) to the following address: coordination@prixsamirkassir.org; or
- By postal mail (in hard copy or CD-ROM or DVD) in an envelope addressed as follows: **“Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press”** followed by “Opinion Article Category,” “Investigative Reporting Category,” or “Audiovisual Category” to the following address:
Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon
490 Harbor Drive Building, Charles Helou Avenue
Saifi - Beirut
P.O.Box 11-4008, Riad el Solh - Lebanon

Incomplete or unsigned files will not be accepted.
Submissions in the wrong category will be disqualified.

Rules

The contest is open to all journalists working in or for (daily, weekly, monthly print or online) press or audiovisual media (TV stations, production houses, and online TV networks), nationals of the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Candidates must submit an opinion article, an investigative article, or an audiovisual report centered around one or more of the following topics: rule of law, human rights, good governance, fight against corruption, freedom of expression, democratic development, or citizen participation.

The article must have been published in a print or online media outlet in one of the countries listed above or in one of the European Union Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, and United Kingdom). **The article must not exceed 25,000 characters and must have been published between 15 March 2014 and 15 March 2015.**

The audiovisual report must have been aired on a local or satellite television network or released on an online television network in one of the countries listed above or in one of the European Union Member States. **The report must not exceed 20 minutes and must have been released between 15 March 2014 and 15 March 2015.**

Candidates can only compete in one category. Candidates for the "Opinion Article" and "Investigative Article" categories can only apply on an individual basis. Candidates for the "Audiovisual Report" category must either be the report's director or the producer and may apply on an individual basis or jointly (director and producer).

The winner in each of the three categories will be awarded €10,000.

All rules and conditions of the contest are available on the website: www.samirkassiraward.org

Registration closes on April 10, 2015.

For more information:

coordination@prixsamirkassir.org

+962 7 95 82 43 90