



Finalists Announced for Rory Peck Awards 2018

Outstanding films and footage from across the globe shows freelancers are at the forefront of news and current affairs, despite increased threats

London, 12.00hrs, Wednesday 12 September 2018: The Rory Peck Trust today announced the finalists for the Rory Peck Awards 2018 - the only awards dedicated to freelancers working behind the camera in news and current affairs worldwide.

With films and footage from Bangladesh, the USA, Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Venezuela and the Mediterranean Sea, this year's finalists explore poverty, race, conflict and exodus through nine very human - and some deeply personal - stories. Their outstanding work shows that freelancers are at the forefront of news and current affairs across the globe, despite increased threats.

In the **Rory Peck Award for News, sponsored by Google**, veteran Bangladeshi freelancer **AL-EMRUN GARJON** receives a second Rory Peck nomination for his Associated Press footage capturing the long and dangerous exodus of thousands of Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution and violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Syrian cameraman **HUMAM HUSARI** is shortlisted for a series of ITV News reports from inside Eastern Ghouta which document the devastating toll on ordinary citizens caught in the fighting between rebels and government forces in February and March 2018. Spanish videojournalist **MIKEL KONATE** is a finalist for his self-funded coverage of a complicated ten-hour rescue mission in the Mediterranean Sea in July 2017. Distributed by Reuters it reveals a harrowing migrant journey from the Libyan coast which resulted in the deaths of 15 men and women.

In the **Rory Peck Award for News Features** Filipino **ORLANDO DE GUZMAN** and American **ZACH CALDWELL** are finalists for *Charlottesville: Race and Terror*, broadcast by VICE News Tonight on HBO. Shot over 48 hours, the film goes behind the scenes with white nationalist leaders, alt-righters, and neo-Nazis attending the "Unite the Right" rally in August 2017, which left three people dead and many more injured. American freelancer **ROOPA GOGINENI** is shortlisted for her unique New York Times film, *The Rebel Puppeteers of Sudan*, which tells the story of Sudan's popular and darkly satirical puppet show, Bisha TV, created in response to the country's civil war and the government's crackdown on independent media. Mexican photographer and filmmaker **JAVIER MANZANO** is a finalist for *After Isis*. Shot in Mosul in July 2017, his film follows several Iraqi Army units during their slow, hard battle to liberate the city from the group, often fighting for days on end and suffering horrendous casualties. Reported by Ben Anderson, the film was commissioned and broadcast by VICE on HBO.

In the **Sony Impact Award for Current Affairs** Yemeni cameraman **MOHAMMED AL-MEKHLAFI** is a finalist for *Conflict and Cholera: Yemen's Catastrophe*, commissioned by BBC Arabic and BBC Our World. Mohammed travelled with reporter Nawal Al Maghafi from the country's government-controlled west coast region to the Houthi-held north-west to report on what the UN has described as the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. British/Peruvian freelance filmmaker **ALEXANDER HOUGHTON** is shortlisted for his Al Jazeera film *Surviving Venezuela: Smuggling Dreams* which tells the story of Jhan, a local Venezuelan fisherman trapped in a state of limbo and poverty in a small town along the Gulf of Paria, who sees an opportunity to provide for his daughter and diabetic father by joining the contraband trade. And **DEEYAH KHAN** and **DARIN PRINDLE** are finalists for their ITV Exposure documentary *White Right: Meeting the Enemy* which sees filmmaker Deeyah sitting face-to-face with fascists, racists and the proponents of the American "alt-right" in an attempt to get behind their violent ideology and extreme views.

The winners will be announced on **Thursday 1st November** at the **Rory Peck Awards 2018** ceremony at London's BFI Southbank, hosted by Sky News' Special Correspondent **Alex Crawford** and BBC Middle East Editor **Jeremy Bowen**.. [Tickets are on sale now](#) with all proceeds supporting the work of the Rory Peck Trust.

For further information about the Rory Peck Awards and this year's finalists, including access to high-res images, video clips and requests for interviews, please contact Molly Clarke, Head of Communications at molly@rorypecktrust.org; tel: +44 (0) 203 219 7861/7860.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About the Rory Peck Awards

The Rory Peck Awards are the only awards dedicated to the work of freelancers working behind the camera in news and current affairs worldwide. Established in 1995 and named after freelance cameraman Rory Peck who was killed in Moscow in 1993, the event has become internationally renowned, attracting entries from many of the world's most talented journalists, videojournalists and filmmakers. The ceremony, held annually in London, is a major industry event highlighting the important contribution that freelancers make to the news and media industries, and demonstrating why they deserve support and recognition. It is the main fundraiser for the Rory Peck Trust, a London-based charity that supports freelance journalists and their families worldwide. www.rorypeckawards.org. Follow the Rory Peck Awards on Twitter: **@rorypecktrust** or **#RoryPeckAwards**.

About The Rory Peck Trust

The Rory Peck Trust is uniquely dedicated to the support, safety and welfare of freelance newsgatherers and their families around the world. Working with local and international partners, the Trust provides financial assistance to freelancers and their families in crisis and is a source of information, advice and resources on issues including risk assessment, safety, insurance, trauma counselling and professional development. The Trust also provides safety training bursaries for freelancers planning to work in hostile environments, and collaborates on special initiatives tailored to the needs of freelancers working in specific regions and situations. The Rory Peck Trust is based in London and relies on charitable donations and sponsorship to carry out its work. www.rorypecktrust.org. Follow RPT on Twitter: **@rorypecktrust**.