
WORLD PRESS PHOTO 2025
HATJE CANTZ

AHMED ABU SHARIA*
Palestine

AHMED ABU SKHEIL*
Palestine

AHMED AL-LOUH*
Palestine

AHMED BDEIR
Palestine

AMJAD JUHJOUH
Palestine

AMR ABU ODEH*
Palestine

ANAS ALKHARBOUTLI*
Syria

ANGAM AHMAD EDWAN
Palestine

BAHAADDINE YASSINE
Palestine

BILAL RAJAB
Palestine

FADI HASSOUNA*
Palestine

FAISAL ABU AL QUMSAN
Palestine

HANAN ADAM
Sudan

HANEEN BAROUD
Palestine

HASAN MEHEDI
Bangladesh

HEBA AL-ABADLA
Palestine

IBRAHIM AL-GHARBAWI*
Palestine

IBRAHIM MUHAREB
Palestine

IMAN AL SHANTI
Palestine

ISMAIL AL GHOUL
Palestine

KHALIL JIBRAN
Pakistan

KOLAWOLE OMONIYI
Nigeria

MAHMOUD JUHJOUH*
Palestine

MAISARA AHMED SALAH*
Palestine

MOHAMED EL-REEFI*
Palestine

MOHAMED JAMAL SOBHI AL-THALATHINI
Palestine

MOHAMED MANHAL ABU ARMANA*
Palestine

MOHAMED MESHMESH
Palestine

MOHAMED YAGHI*
Palestine

MOHAMMED ABED RABBO
Palestine

MOHAMMED ABU DAQQA*
Palestine

MOHAMMED ABU JASSER
Palestine

MOHAMMED AL-TANANI*
Palestine

MOHAMMED ATALLAH
Palestine

MOHAMMED BALOUSHA
Palestine

MOHAMMED BASSAM AL JAMAL*
Palestine

MUSTAFA AL-SARUT*
Syria

MUSTAFA AYYAD*
Palestine

MUSTAFA BAHR
Palestine

MUSTAFA THURAYA
Palestine

NAZIM DASHDAN*
Syria

NOUR ABU OWEIMER
Palestine

OLA AL DAHDOUH
Palestine

RAMI AL REFEE*
Palestine

SAHER AKRAM RAYAN
Palestine

SHAREEF OKASHA*
Palestine

TAMIM ABU MUAMMAR
Palestine

TAREK EL SAYED ABU SKHEIL
Palestine

WAFAA ABU DABAAN
Palestine

WIN HTUT OO
Myanmar

WISSAM KASSEM
Lebanon

YASSER MAMDOUH EL-FADY
Palestine

Journalists face an increasingly hostile environment worldwide. At least 103 journalists were killed while carrying out their work across 14 countries in 2024 – the most lethal year the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has documented since it started keeping records in 1992. Hundreds more were imprisoned, and scores kidnapped and held hostage. Gaza stands out as the most dangerous place in the world for journalists: 76 of the 103 journalists killed in 2024 were killed in the region, threatening free reporting almost

MOHAMMED ABU SHARIA
Palestine

MOHAMMED AL QRINAWI
Palestine

MOHAMMED AL-LADAA
Palestine

MOHAMMED AL-SHARAFI
Palestine

MOHAMMED ISSA ABU SAADA*
Palestine

MUAWIYA ABDEL RAZEK
Sudan

MUHAMMAD SALAMA
Palestine

MURAD MIRZA
Iraq

MYAT THU TAN
Myanmar

NADIA EMAD AL SAYED
Palestine

NAFEZ ABDEL JAWAD
Palestine

NASRULLAH GADANI
Pakistan

RASHEED ALBABLY
Palestine

RIZQ AL-GHARABLI
Palestine

SAADI MADOUKH
Palestine

SAED RADWAN
Palestine

TAREQ ALSALHI*
Palestine

TARIQ AL-MAIDNA*
Palestine

VIKTORIA ROSHCHINA
Russia

WAFA AL-UDAINI
Palestine

YAZAN AL-ZUWEIDI
Palestine

ZAHRAA ABU SKHEIL
Palestine

ZAYD ABU ZAYED
Palestine

to extinction. Such attacks on people working to supply reliable information – carried out both by oppressive regimes and individual armed groups – place a stranglehold on press freedom and democracy.

Names marked with an asterisk (*) were photojournalists.
The country listed is where the journalist was killed, with a confirmed motive.
See disclaimer in the colophon.

WORLD PRESS PHOTO 2025

World Press Photo connects the world to the stories that matter by presenting outstanding work by photojournalists and documentary photographers from around the globe. In 2025, an independent international jury gave awards to 42 entries based on their visual quality, storytelling approach, and commitment to diverse representation.

For 70 years now, World Press Photo has showcased images that resonate and stories that reverberate. In this anniversary edition, the Yearbook presents not only the winners of the 2025 contest, but intersperses them with highlights from our archive, focusing on themes that recur in the contest and influence how we see the world.

REGIONAL WINNERS

AFRICA

012 Singles
018 Stories
030 Long-Term Project
034 Winners and Jury

NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

090 Singles
096 Stories
108 Long-Term Project
112 Winners and Jury

REGIONAL WINNERS

ASIA-PACIFIC AND OCEANIA

038 Singles
044 Stories
056 Long-Term Project
060 Winners and Jury

SOUTH AMERICA

116 Singles
122 Stories
134 Long-Term Project
138 Winners and Jury

REGIONAL WINNERS

EUROPE

064 Singles
070 Stories
082 Long-Term Project
086 Winners and Jury

WEST, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH ASIA

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REFLECTING ON THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF PHOTOJOURNALISM

JOUMANA EL ZEIN KHOURY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORLD PRESS PHOTO FOUNDATION

As 2025 marks the 70th anniversary of World Press Photo, it's a moment for reflection on the journey that began in 1955. What started as a small initiative by a group of Dutch photographers seeking to showcase their work on an international stage has grown into an organization that now stands at the forefront of photojournalism and documentary photography. Since its inception, the World Press Photo Contest has grown exponentially, receiving almost 60,000 entries from photographers in 141 countries. As one of the most respected and influential institutions in the field, the responsibility that comes with this legacy is immense, and one that we strive to honor every day.

The anniversary year of 2025 provides us with the opportunity not only to look back at the remarkable history of World Press Photo, but also to examine how the winners of the past 70 years have shaped the public's understanding of the world. These photographs and their accompanying stories have been powerful vehicles for change, helping to raise awareness of critical global issues. Yet, as we delve deeper into the archive, we also have to confront the unintended consequences of our choices – such as the stereotypes that may have been perpetuated or the voices that may have been underrepresented.

At World Press Photo, we believe in the power of storytelling to spark dialogue, raise awareness, and inspire change. But we also understand the weight of responsibility that comes with curating and sharing these narratives. The selection process is not just about showcasing powerful, impactful images – it's about ensuring that the stories we amplify are representative of the diversity and complexity of the world we live in. This anniversary year gives us a chance to reflect on what these stories have taught us, how they've shaped global discourse, and where we can improve.

To mark this significant milestone, this year's edition of the yearbook features a collection of images that offer fresh perspectives on our archive, along with two essays by Lauren Walsh and Gem Fletcher that reflect on the past and look to the future of photojournalism. These pieces reflect on how the stories we've presented have evolved over time, and provide a glimpse into our upcoming exhibition *What Have We Done?*, curated by Cristina de Middel. This exhibition is a thought-provoking reflection on the legacy of World Press Photo and a critical look at the complex relationship between photojournalism, power, and representation.

Revisiting the Regional Model and Making Space for Hopeful Narratives

One of the key themes for World Press Photo in recent years has been a commitment to placing the "world" at the center of everything we do. As we continue to grow as an international organization, we remain dedicated to ensuring that our work reflects a global perspective. The regional model, introduced in 2021, has been a critical element of this strategy. It ensures that the contest receives diverse entries from around the world, showcasing a wide range of voices and narratives that are often left out of mainstream media.

In 2024, we took the time to reflect on the regional model and gather feedback from a variety of stakeholders – photographers, jury members, exhibition partners, and educators. This consultation allowed us to make critical decisions about how we could further improve the contest. One of the key changes this year is a shift in focus toward increasing the number of high-quality entries from underrepresented regions. As a small organization, we had to make a difficult choice between two priorities: either to continue encouraging diverse forms of storytelling through the open format or to deepen our commitment

to entries from underserved regions. Ultimately, we decided to pause the open format for now and focus our efforts on ensuring that the contest amplifies voices and stories from regions that have been historically underrepresented.

Another significant change this year is the decision to make space for more hopeful stories within the award-winning images. This was a deliberate decision to provide viewers with a more well-rounded understanding of the world. In recent years, much of the narrative around photojournalism has centered on the darker and more harrowing aspects of life – stories of conflict, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises. While these stories are crucial and necessary, we felt it was important to also spotlight stories of resilience, hope, and positive change. These narratives provide viewers with a sense of agency, showing that positive transformation is possible, even in the face of overwhelming adversity. Hopeful stories not only offer a moment of relief but also serve as a catalyst for continued engagement with more challenging issues like climate change and global conflict.

By making space for these types of stories, we aim to provide a more complete view of the world – one that not only acknowledges its problems but also celebrates its capacity for change. We hope that this will inspire viewers to engage more deeply with the difficult stories of our time, knowing that transformation and progress are within reach.

The 2025 Jury: A Thoughtful and Empathetic Selection Process

The 2025 World Press Photo awardees have been selected by a distinguished jury composed of experts with diverse backgrounds and experiences. This jury brought technical expertise as well as cultural sensitivity and empathy to the deliberation process. The role of the jury is to ensure that each story is carefully considered, that all entries are examined with respect, and that the final selection truly reflects the urgent topics of our time.

The jury's approach was one of thoroughness and thoughtfulness. Each story was scrutinized with a critical eye, but also with an open mind, to ensure that the chosen images not only met the high standards of photojournalism but also conveyed meaningful and impactful narratives. This year, as every year, the jury's work is a testament to the professionalism and commitment of all those involved in the selection process.

I urge readers to take their time as they explore the stories within this yearbook. Read the captions carefully, for they have been written to reflect the facts as they are. Think about the photographers behind these images, many of whom face significant personal and professional risks in order to capture moments of truth in some of the most challenging environments. Every photograph in this collection is the result of immense dedication, sacrifice, and courage.

In 2024, a record number of 103 journalists were killed in the course of their work, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). This tragic reality serves as a reminder of the dangers faced by photojournalists and documentary photographers around the world. As you flip through the pages of this yearbook, take a moment to think about the incredible sacrifices made by these photographers, who often put their own lives at risk in order to document the important stories of our time.

The Future of Photojournalism: Supporting the Next Generation of Storytellers

At World Press Photo we have been committed to supporting photojournalists and documentary photographers for 70 years. This anniversary is a

moment to reflect on that commitment, as well as to reaffirm it for the future. The challenges faced by these photographers are not going away. In fact, they are intensifying. From security threats to economic pressures, photojournalists continue to face an uphill battle in their efforts to tell the world's stories.

Our regional model has shown that there are different ways of telling stories, and that long-term, localized perspectives are invaluable. There is enormous talent in every part of the world, but significant gaps remain in terms of access to education, resources, and support. As an organization, we are committed to addressing these gaps, to make space for more voices, and to ensure that photojournalists everywhere have the tools and platforms they need to succeed.

As we look ahead to the next 70 years, World Press Photo remains dedicated to supporting the photographers who risk everything to bring us the truth. We will continue to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and, above all, remain steadfast in our mission to amplify diverse stories and perspectives from around the world. We hope you will join us in this ongoing journey, and that you will be inspired by the stories contained within this 2025 edition of the yearbook.

AFRICA



SINGLES

MOSAB ABUSHAMA

LIFE WON'T STOP

In January 2024, the photographer was asked by a friend to document his wedding in Omdurman, a city constantly targeted by airstrikes. *"Despite the clashes and random shelling in the city, the wedding was a simple but joyous occasion with*



family and friends. The war in Sudan, which began in April 2023, brought horrors and displacement, forcing me to leave my childhood home and move to another part of the city. It was a time none of us ever expected to live through. Yet, this wedding was a reminder of the joy of everyday life still possible amidst the tragedy and despair," explains Mosab.



The groom poses for a portrait at his wedding. In Sudan, announcing a wedding with celebratory gunfire is a tradition. Omdurman, Sudan, 12 January 2024. This photo was taken with a mobile phone camera. / Mosab Abushama

SINGLES

TEMILOLUWA JOHNSON

MOTHER MOVES, HOUSE APPROVES

Members of the LGBTQI+ community in Nigeria face legal prosecution, widespread social discrimination, and physical violence. Held in a secret location, “Heavenly Bodies: Notes on



Fola Francis'' was the third edition of the Pride celebration in Lagos ballroom, one of the largest drag ballroom experiences in Nigeria. The 2024 series was named after the late Fola Francis, a trans icon, activist, and first openly transgender person to walk the runway during Lagos Fashion Week. Despite all risks, the event was an electrifying experience, providing a vibrant space for celebration of love and free self-expression.



Participants at "Heavenly Bodies," an underground drag ballroom event during Lagos Pride, celebrate the "mother of the year" winner. Lagos, Nigeria, 21 June 2024 / Temiloluwa Johnson

SINGLES

MARIJN FIDDER

TAMALE SAFALU

Despite losing his leg after a terrible motorcycle accident in 2020, Tamale Safalu remained committed to competitive bodybuilding, becoming the first disabled athlete in Uganda to compete against able-bodied athletes. His strength and determination in the face



of adversity challenges stereotypes and serves as an inspiration to people from all walks of life. *"By competing as a bodybuilder on stage, I want to encourage other people with disabilities to recognize their own talents and never put their heads down*," says Tamale.



Bodybuilder Tamale Safalu trains in front of his home. Kampala, Uganda, 25 January 2024 / Marijn Fidder

STORIES

AUBIN MUKONI

THE LAKE HAS FALLEN SILENT

Many stories are woven together at Lake Kivu, a majestic lake at the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Beneath the placid beauty of the waters and the fishing communities that surround it lies turbulence and



uncertainty. Climate change brings more frequent storms, warming waters, and dwindling fish stocks. Pollution from plastic waste and the discovery of reserves of methane gas in the lake's sediment threatens the future of this delicate ecosystem. This project is a multifaceted document of the complex web of dependence, exploitation, and respect that links people to their natural environment.



Sambaza, a sardine local to the waters of Lake Kivu, are captured in a net. Several factors, including overfishing and the presence of gas extraction plants, threaten the sambaza population. Goma, DRC, 20 March 2024 / Aubin Mukoni

Fishermen returning to the shore. Goma, North Kivu, DRC, 20 March 2024





Canoes sit atop piles of plastic waste at the port of Kituku. Goma, DRC, 15 April 2024



Emanuel Chabala (33), watches over two of his five children while arranging his nets in front of his home. Goma, DRC, 17 April 2024

Women selling sambaza at Rond-Point Rutshuru, a busy street in the city of Goma, DRC. 13 April 2024





A fisherman sleeping on his nets at the fishery.
Goma, DRC, 20 March 2024



The Ruzizi Dam on the Ruzizi River, which forms a natural boundary between Rwanda and the DRC. Bukavu, South Kivu, DRC, 10 October 2024

STORIES

TOMMY TRENCHARD

THE ELEPHANT WHISPERERS OF LIVINGSTONE

In Livingstone, Zambia, a succession of failed rainy seasons and human encroachment onto land traditionally used by elephants have led to a rapid increase in human-wildlife conflict over the past few years. During the dry season, elephants enter Livingstone in search of food, raiding gardens,

