

**Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
E-Bulletin April 2009**

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CJFE COMMEMORATES WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

In previous years, CJFE has acknowledged World Press Freedom Day with campaigns and events. Last year CJFE presented a discussion with BBC reporter Alan Johnston, who was kidnapped in Gaza in 2007. In 2006 CFJE hosted a discussion on the Danish cartoon controversy.

This year, CJFE honours World Press Freedom Day 2009 with three special events:

❖ **Reporting in Afghanistan: World Press Freedom Day 2009**

Presented by CJFE and CBC News

Date: Wednesday, April 29 12:30pm

Location: Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. West, Toronto

Who: Panelists:

Graeme Smith, *The Globe and Mail* journalist

Louie Palu, photojournalist

Susan Ormiston, CBC News journalist

Hosted by Evan Solomon, CBC News Journalist

What: Join us to commemorate World Press Freedom Day

We'll explore the challenges facing foreign and local reporters, the pros and cons of embedded reporting, and the role of reporting in shaping Canadian policy and public opinion.

Reception to follow at 2pm

To reserve your seat for this event, send an email to events@cbc.ca by April 27

[To view the event poster click here](#)

- ❖ CJFE will co-present with Hot Docs the Canadian Premiere of "Fixer: The taking of Ajmal Naqshbandi," directed by Ian Olds. The film is about an Afghan translator and fixer who is kidnapped by Taliban forces, abandoned by his government and shockingly murdered.

When: Wednesday, May 6 at 7:15 pm at the ROM Theater (100 Queen's Park)
Thursday, May 7 at 4:00 pm at Innis Town Hall (2 Sussex Avenue)

CJFE is co-presenting this film with Hot Docs

[For more information on this film, click here](#)

Ticket Info: Prices are \$12 for screenings

[Tickets can be purchased online here](#) or by phone 416-637-5150,

or in person at The Documentary Box Office, Hazelton Lanes - Lower Level, 55 Avenue Road.

- ❖ Atom Egoyan and Arsinee Khanjian in Conversation with Anna Maria Tremonti: In keeping with the 2009 theme of World Press Freedom Day – the potential of the media to foster dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation – Atom Egoyan and Arsinée Khanjian will describe the unexpected challenges they confronted in the telling of the story of the Armenian Genocide in the making of “Ararat”. Read more

Date: Thursday May 21, 2009

Time: 6:30pm, Dinner & Program at 7:00pm

Venue: grano Restaurant, 2035 Yonge St., Toronto

Tickets: \$250* (limited seating)

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY: MAY 3

While the number of journalist deaths were down in 2008, the first quarter of 2009 has been grim for journalists. On March 10, Javed Yazamy, an Afghan journalist and fixer was murdered in Kandahar city. His connections throughout his native country have been invaluable to multiple Canadian media organizations by putting Canadian media in touch with local experts and sources of information. In addition, CJFE is still waiting for news of safety for Iranian-Canadian blogger Hossein Derakhshan and Canadian journalists Khadija Abdul Qahaar and Amanda Lindhout, amongst others.

[Click here](#) to read more about World Press Freedom Day.

CJFE CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2009 INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS



Figure 1 2008 Award winners Shakeman Mugari and Jim Poling with Al Jazeera Senior Correspondent, Mohammed Alami and journalist Innocent Madawo

In dozens of countries around the world, journalists regularly face obstacles in order to deliver the news. Whether the threats be judicial, physical or otherwise, these dedicated and principled individuals continue to work tirelessly — often risking their lives — so that news media remain free.

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE)

bestows **two International Press Freedom Awards** each year to recognize those journalists who demonstrate extraordinary courage in pursuing their profession under difficult or dangerous circumstances. Such as in 2008, CJFE honoured journalists from Sudan and Zimbabwe.

To be eligible for the awards, applicants must be nominated by an organization or individual. **Self-nominations are not accepted.** To download a nomination form please visit <http://cjfe.org/releases/2009/11032009award.html>

The deadline for nominations is 30 April 2009.

The award and cash prize of CDN \$3,000 will be presented to the winners at a ceremony in Toronto, Canada in November. The event is attended by 550 people from the media, business and legal communities.

For more details, please contact Julie Payne, CJFE Manager, at 416 515 9622 ext. 226 or [jpayne AT cjfe.org](mailto:jpayne@cjfe.org) or visit <http://www.cjfe.org/releases/2009/11032009award.html>

CANADIAN FREE EXPRESSION NEWS

CJFE is dismayed by the Federal Court decision on an application brought by Ottawa professor Amir Attaran. Attaran had applied to the court to review DFAIT's redacting of annual human rights reports on Afghanistan. The Honourable Justice Kelen concluded that in just two cases, where information had already been made public, should DFAIT now disclose this information. To learn more [click here](#).

On April 8, 2009, we condemned the seizure of a photojournalist's camera by Vancouver police which we consider to be an infringement of the journalist's free expression rights. To learn more [click here](#).

PROGRAM UPDATE: JOURNALISM IN DISTRESS FUND

CJFE's Journalist in Distress Fund has been active in coming to the aid of several journalists and their families. Since its creation in 1999, this fund has distributed more than \$150,000 to journalists from some of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists to work in, including Zimbabwe, Burma, Russia, Somalia, Mongolia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This year, the fund has already provided financial assistance to the following journalists:

- ❖ A Colombian journalist and single father of 10 who was kidnapped in February 2008. He was released four months later. During the time of his abduction, he was not able to provide for his family and has still not fully recovered to return to work. Our grant has helped him to cover some of his living expenses.
- ❖ A journalist who had to flee his home country, Uzbekistan, in June 2004, in the face of serious threats to his safety. In 2008 he was attacked at gunpoint. Our grant helped him to cover medical expenses.
- ❖ A freelance cameraman who was forced to flee Chechnya several years ago with his family. Our grant has helped him to start a new life with his family away from his native country.

- ❖ A freelance journalist from Central Africa who has been receiving threats following the assassination of his brother, a fellow journalist. He fears for his life and has been advised to go in hiding. Our grant helped him to cover some of his living expenses.

2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



We would like to thank all those who have renewed their membership. But there are still plenty of you who have yet to renew. We will be sending out another reminder soon but in the meantime members can also renew by printing the online form from the CJFE web site at <http://cjfe.org/printjoineng.html>

The membership fee is \$75.00. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for the full amount.

If you haven't already done so, please send in your renewal today!

Membership is open to journalists and all who believe in the right to free expression. **CJFE greatly values your contribution to our fight against freedom of expression abuses in Canada and around the world.**

OTHER EVENTS

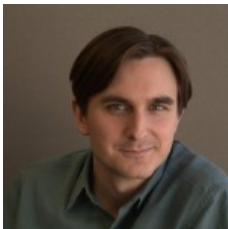
- ❖ Canadian Forum for Justice and Peace in Sri Lanka presents "Sri Lanka: Where Is Heading? Are There Any Prospects for Justice and Peace?"

When: Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 3:30 pm

Where: O.I.S.E. main auditorium – 252 Bloor St. West

For more information contact: Jim Davis at jdavis@kairoscanada.org or Loganathan Sellathurai at justice5@sympatico.ca

- ❖ World Press Freedom Committee invites you to join them for



the 2009 World Press Freedom Day Luncheon

When: Tuesday, May 5th, 12 noon

Where: the National Arts Centre

The Globe & Mail's [Graeme Smith](#) discusses "**The dangerous and confusing search for truth in Afghanistan**"

For more information [click here](#).

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS: ALICE KLEIN

Alice Klein, editor and CEO of NOW magazine, joined the board in 2007. As a writer and publisher of NOW, she has a proven record for creative success and business acumen.

Since joining the board, Klein has focused on the structural imperatives of the organization. She has contributed to the organization with her diverse background and experience wherever possible. “I



am happy to participate in a forward-looking plan for the organization. My hope for the future would be to see CJFE continue its important work in advocating for Freedom of Expression, both here and on the international front.”

Klein says that in order to achieve this goal, CJFE requires a larger more diverse membership base. “CJFE needs more resources to carry out its multi-faceted goals. This, in turn, should lead to the development of a strong communication strategy and a higher profile in the community.”

In Klein’s view, CJFE could benefit from plunging into “the 2.0 world of social networking.”

From great expectations to the more terrestrial pursuits: Klein prefers the subtle taste of a fine Merlot — a necessary accompaniment to her “inexplicable weakness for 24 and Keifer Sutherland”.

This article was written by journalist and former Board member, Marlene Benmergui

If you know of any upcoming press-freedom events in Canada, email jpayne@cjfe.org

If you do not wish to receive the CJFE E-Bulletin, please contact us to have your name removed from our list.