

Journalist of the Year

The jury was impressed by the calibre of entries this year for the Journalist of the Year Award—there were some excellent stories.

Dan McDougall, Live magazine – Mail on Sunday

Dan McDougall's work featured three very strong stories. He looked at the growing importance of lithium deposits in Bolivia and the effects on the local Bolivian Indians. Lithium is an increasingly valuable resource used extensively in mobile phones and electric cars. He travelled to Madagascar where the world's largest nickel mine causes major environmental destruction and is known to supply the Royal Mint with base metal for pound coins - showing that coins are one of the least ethical things we own. Dan and his photographer Robin Hammond posed as illegal diamond dealers to get to the Marang diamond fields in Eastern Zimbabwe where he found brutal enslavement of the people to mine stones for the profit of the government. These three stories represented a consistently strong body of work which demonstrated investigative and journalistic skills of the highest level; clearly communicated how the actions of the world's rich impact upon the lives of the world's poor and vice versa; and appealed to a UK audience through its innovation and flair. It was for these reasons that we made Dan McDougall our winner in 2010.

Aidan Hartley, Channel 4

Aidan brings a passion and urgency to the screen and his stories are outstanding. For Dispatches he investigated how Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party still have a hold on power, looking at the businessmen who benefit from or support Mugabe's campaign of political violence. In India: Children of the Inferno, Aidan looked at North East India where half a million people are being moved out of their ancestral villages to make way for coal mines fuelling India's growth. There was a particularly memorable scene where a small boy is painstakingly rolling large lumps of coal along the ground. In Malaysia: Refugees for Sale Aidan reveals evidence that Burmese refugees fleeing the country's brutal military regime are being detained and then allegedly sold by Malaysian immigration officials to Thai human traffickers.

Jonathan Rugman, Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Channel 4 News

Jonathan Rugman's work represented good investigative stories with impact. The story in Somalia shed light on the diversion of the UN World Food Programme aid, which prompted a UN investigation. The story on Paedophilia in Kenya revealed the shocking extent of the abuse of children for sex, some as young as 3 years old, by white men. The story gave a voice to the children. Jonathan's reports on Haiti in January this year exposed the failure of the outside world to meet the desperate needs of the Haitian people.

The jury wanted to make special mention of last year's winner, Jonathan Miller (Channel 4 News/ITN) for his outstanding coverage of Sri Lanka.

Members of the Jury

CHAIR: Flora Gregory, Editor Witness, Al Jazeera English
Jonathan Freedland, Guardian columnist
Sarah Molloy, Head of Communications, Concern Worldwide (UK)
Lucy Hetherington, Executive Producer, Current Affairs TV, BBC
Nick Perkins, Head of Communications, IDS

