WINNERS OF 2021 HUMAN RIGHTS PRESS AWARDS ANNOUNCED

HONG KONG, May 6, 2021 — In a year of a pandemic lockdowns, political upheaval in Hong Kong, and protests across the region, the winning entries in the Human Rights Press Awards (HRPA) showcase courage and originality of journalistic storytelling about human rights in Asia.

Radio Television Hong Kong won the Chinese-language documentary award for its investigation into the Yuen Long attack of July 2019, which saw an armed mob beat commuters and protesters inside a subway station. “Chasing the smallest clues, interrogating the powerful without fear or favor. An investigative reporting classic,” the judging panel said of the video entry by freelance producer Bao Choy and 5 other colleagues.

A deep dive by the BBC on “China’s ‘Tainted’ Cotton” won the English-language Multimedia award. The work illustrated the potential scale of forced labor involving hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang’s cotton industry. The judges said the entry, by journalists John Sudworth, Kathy Long, Wang Xiqing, Kathryn Westcott and James Percy adds to the BBC’s “brave, comprehensive and groundbreaking body of work on a subject that is of continuing, and crucial, international relevance.”

View the full list of winners and runners-up here

Now in the 25th year, the HRPA is Asia’s most prestigious celebration of journalism that raises awareness of human rights issues and shines a light on threats to freedom.

There were a record 549 submissions in all formats, up by 12.5% compared to last year.

The winning entries included the “Fruits of Labor” by the Associated Press, which won the English-language Investigative Feature Writing award for “illustrating a clear link between the harrowing stories in the plantations to decisions by financiers and consumers, who can make a change.”

An account of the early days of the coronavirus outbreak in China, titled ‘‘End of the World:’ A Pandemic Begins in Wuhan” by Agence France-Presse won the English-language Breaking News Writing award. “The
story of 2020, the public health story of a generation, told at great literal risk, global consequences,” the panel of judges said of the story.

Reports on the Indian government’s targeting of its sizeable Muslim minority won awards in the Explanatory Feature Writing and Short Video categories. Reports on how India’s caste system exacerbates the socioeconomic effects of pandemic lockdowns, Afghanistan’s female police officers, China’s growing intolerance, and Hong Kong’s “invisible red lines” were among other award-winning entries.

The Chinese-language winners also chronicled Beijing’s crackdown on Hong Kong following the 2019 protests, including the imposition of a new national security law.

A report by Deutsche Welle on two protesters who were shot by the police took the Short Video prize, while a comprehensive report by Initium Media on the thousands of people arrested and charged in connection with the Hong Kong protests took the Multimedia prize.

An investigation by Apple Daily, which used flight-tracking data to question the Hong Kong government’s account that it was unaware of a group of activists seeking to flee to Taiwan by speedboat, took the Investigative Feature Writing award. A report by Mirror Media, drawing on what judges praised as deep and probing interviews with Hong Kong protesters on their reactions to the crackdown, won the Explanatory Feature writing award.

The People’s Choice Award received 21,723 online votes, with the public choosing their favorite photo from a selection of six outstanding images. The winning shot, “Little Brother and Little Sister” by Fung Hoi Kin of Ming Pao, showed two underage siblings being detained by riot police during a protest.

HRPA is organised by the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Hong Kong, Amnesty International Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Journalists Association.

There will not be a 2021 awards ceremony as a result of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. All the prize-winning photographs, including runners-up, will be displayed at the Hong Kong FCC and are open to public viewing.

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2021 HUMAN RIGHTS PRESS AWARDS WINNERS

Breaking News Writing (English)

Winner

'End of the World': A Pandemic Begins in Wuhan
Sebastien Ricci and Hector Retamal of Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Merit

Deadly Divide: Communal Riots in India
Abhaya Srivastava, Bhuvan Bagga, Jalees Andrabi, Maude Brulard and Archana Thiyagarajan
of Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Last Words of Hospital ‘EJK’ Victim: ‘The Police are About to Kill Me’
Rambo Talabong of Rappler

Investigative Feature Writing (English)

Winner

Fruits of Labor
Margie Mason and Robin McDowell of Associated Press

Merit

The Takeover of Hong Kong
Greg Torode, James Pomfret, David Lague and team of Reuters

Desperation, Greed, Violence: The Rohingya Trafficking Network
Sam Jahan, Haeril Halim, Peter Brieger and Sam Reeves of Agence France-Presse (AFP)
Explanatory Feature Writing (English)

Winner

Inside India’s Muslim Pogrom
Fahad Shah of The Nation and Vice News

Merit

Xi Jinping’s “China Solution”
Chun Han Wong, Eva Xiao, Jonathan Cheng, Chao Deng and Liza Lin of The Wall Street Journal

Why The Philippines Has So Many Teen Moms
Aurora Almendral of NPR News

Commentary Writing (English)

Winner

Coronavirus Lockdown: If India Treats Its Migrant Workers Like Dirt, Blame It on Caste
Debasish Roy Chowdhury of South China Morning Post

Merit

People in Parts of Myanmar Are Living Under the World's Longest Internet Shutdown. It's Putting Lives in Danger
Kyaw Hsan Hlaing and Emily Fishbein of TIME

With National Security Law, Hong Kong has Fallen Victim to the Tyranny of the Rule of Law; Beijing’s Call for Judicial Reform Spells the End of the Hong Kong System; Time for Hongkongers Eligible for BN(O) Visa Scheme to Choose Where Their Loyalties Lie
Phil C.W. Chan of South China Morning Post
Short Video (English)

Winner
Modi Denies India is Targeting Muslims. We Found a Different Reality.

Merit
One Year on, Families Torn Apart by Protests
Joanne Wong of Radio Television Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Satire Under Siege
Clément Bürge and Crystal Tai of The Wall Street Journal

Documentary Video (English)

Winner
Lady Cops of Afghanistan
Natalya Karachkova, Lyudmila Shamanova, Kirill Murev, Andrey Vasyutkin, Sergey Dyachkov,
Musa Pateeva, Stepan Burnatov and Roman Kondarev of RT Doc

Merit
Locked up in Malaysia's Lockdown
Drew Ambrose, Jenni Henderson, Nick Olle, Craig Hansen, Badrul Hisham and Sharon Roobol
of 101 East, Al Jazeera English

The Dissident's Wife
Mathias Boelinger of Deutsche Welle

Audio (English)

Winner
China's Growing Intolerance
Emily Feng of National Public Radio

Merit
Tokhang sa Tokhang: Inside the Communities Hit by Duterte’s War on Drugs
Jose Roberto Alampay, Patricia Aquino, Marcelo Casillan IV, Maria Katrina Ventura and Carljoe Javier
of PumaPodcast
Multimedia (English)

Winner

China's ‘Tainted' Cotton
John Sudworth, Kathy Long, Wang Xiqing, Kathryn Westcott and James Percy of BBC Online

Merit

Land Defenders are Killed in the Philippines for Protesting Canadian Mining
Natashya Gutierrez, Natasha Grzincic, Anya Zoledziowski and Laurent Laughlin of VICE World News

Black Gold: How Global Demand for Hair Products is Linked to Forced Labor in Xinjiang
Rebecca Wright, Ivan Watson, Isaac Yee, Steve George, Victoria Eastwood, Dinara Saliyeva, Ashley Killough, Arslan Khakiyev, Jake Kwon, Samarjan Saidi, Ben Westcott, Philip Wang, Jason Kwok and Marco Chacon of CNN International

Tertiary Student Writing (English)

Winner

Invisible Red Lines Threaten Publications
Kelly Yu, Emilie Lui and Howard Li of Varsity, CUHK

Merit

The Dark Side: Sexual Violence on Hong Kong’s Mass Transit Railway (MTR)
Lin Zhihuai, Kwok Hiu Ching, Wong Ting Yan and Mereen Santirad of Data Story, HKBU

Reporting on Thin Ice
Reus Lok and Charlie Yip of Varsity, CUHK
Breaking News Writing (Chinese)

Winner
From Silence to Panics: The Scenes in Wuhan before the Coronavirus Pandemic
Lee Tsz-Yu of Apple Daily

Merit
Prisoner of the State: Chinese Human Rights Lawyer Wang Quanzhang and the July 9th Crackdown
Hung-Chin Chen, Mei-Jing Chen, Wei-Shao Wu, Wen-Han Tsou and Jeun-Hao Chao of Mirror Media

Series: The Silence after National Security Law Enacted for Three Months
She Kam Hung and Sae-wong Angkamol of Apple Daily

Investigative Feature Writing (Chinese)

Winner
Reveal how the Hong Kong Government Conspired to Send 12 people to the Mainland China
The Police to Monitor the Smuggling Boat in Fixed-wing Plane
Apple Daily

Merit
The Outlaw Vessel: A Fisherman's Death on FOC Ship
Yin Yu-Huan, Tsou Po-Hsiang, Lin Wei-Yen, Chaing I-Ting, Chen Yu-Chieh and Hsu Chia-Hui
of Mirror Media

Eight Years After The Lamma Tragedy
Chan Shun Hei, Leung Man Ki, Yip Oi Yiu and Chan Kit San of Stand News
Explanatory Feature Writing (Chinese)

Winner
From Faceless to Voiceless: A Documentary Report of Hong Kong Citizens in Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill Movement and National Security Law

Merit
Female Protester Li Qiaochu: "I have a Hero Complex, but the Hero I Imagined is Myself."
Sophia Huang Xueqin of Initium Media and NGOCN

Forensic Architecture: An Investigation of How Tear Gas Canisters End up in Household
Wing Yan Ng of Ming Pao Weekly

Commentary Writing (Chinese)

Winner
The Truth Isn’t Dead, You Just Don’t Believe It Anymore
Jieping Zhang of Wainao | WhyNot

Merit
For an Unfinished Revolution
Rwei-Ren Wu of The Reporter
Short Video (Chinese)

Winner
One Year after Hong Kong Protesters were Shot: Scars have not Healed, No One is Held Accountable
Phoebe Kong Wing Yi of Deutsche Welle

Merit
The (Un)seen Red Line of Publishing
Chan Chi Wing of i-Cable News

Awakened, amid the Epidemic?
Lui Lok, Nabela Qoser, Dan Tsang, Jimmy Wong Chi Ming, Roy Tsai, Cheung Leung Wah and Gillian Yau of This Week, Radio Television Hong Kong

Documentary Video (Chinese)

Winner
7.21 Who Owns the Truth
Paul Lee, Bao Choy, Sze-Sze Cheng, Flora Yeung, Judy Chan and Yiu-ling Wong of Radio Television Hong Kong

Merit
In the Name of Justice
Lui Lok, Nabela Qoser, Cheung Kit Yan Gloria, Pang Tak Cheung, Wong Nga Man, Gillian Yau, Dan Tsang, Kwong Ko Lok Jack and Jimmy Wong Chi Ming of This Week, Radio Television Hong Kong

One Year into the Covid-19 Pandemic
Tsang Hoi Kee Stella, Yung Wai Hoi Rex and Wong Wai Yu Jovy of i-Cable News
### Audio (Chinese)

**Winner**

Vatican to Renew Deal with China Series  
Loi Hei Amelia of Radio Free Asia

**Merit**

The Voice of the Unreunited 709 Families  
Chan Miu Ling Emily of Radio Television Hong Kong

Controversy over Chinese Language Education in Inner Mongolia  
Chau Chi Wing of Radio Television Hong Kong

### Multimedia (Chinese)

**Winner**

The Large-scale Arrests, Prosecutions and Trials that Hong Kong People have been Going Through  
Gemini Cheng Pui Shan, Irene Chan, Lin Kexin, Lam Chun Tung, Victoria Jin and Tseng Lee-Yu of Initium Media

**Merit**

City in Fear: Hong Kong under National Security Law  
Cheng Tsz Yu and Peter Wong of Stand News

Lennon Wall Collection: Heartbeat of Hong Kong  
Hsin Chieh Ho, Lee Yu Tseng, Chin Yeh Kuo, Li Ya Chen, Tsung Yu Chiang, Elk Liang, Yao Tai Li and Felix of Initium Media
Tertiary Student Writing (Chinese)

Winner

Innocent Defendants were Sent to Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre, which Caused an Unquenchable Shadow on Detainees
Cheng Tsz Fung and Fung Tsz Yan of U-Beat Magazine, CUHK

Merit

Purple Edge of the Rainbow after Storm - Interview Yuli Riswati
Cheung Hiu Ching and Hongshi Raissa Sarah of U-Beat Magazine, CUHK

"I am not Hon Po Sang" the Aftermath of 831 Incident
Wu Gin of DB Channel

Tertiary Student Video & Audio (Chinese)

Winner

Reporters were Treated Like Executions When They Conduct Interview in Mong Kok
Alex Chan Tsz Yuk of DB Channel and Nihon Bunka Channeru Sakura

Merit

Missing Father
Tang Tsz Him Thomas and Yanni Chow Yat of Broadcast News Network, HKBU

Stand Together, Rain or Shine
Ng Uen Man Florence of Broadcast News Network, HKBU
Photography (Single Image)

Winner

Struggle
Chan Tsz Yuk Alex of CityDog.by

Merit

A Mob out for Blood
Danish Siddiqui of Reuters

Little Brother and Little Sister
Fung Hoi Kin of Ming Pao

Photography (Series)

Winner

Citizenship Law Protests
Danish Siddiqui of Reuters

Merit

Pro-Democracy Protests in Thailand
Lillian Suwanrumpha, Mladen Antonov and Jack Taylor of Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Plight of the Poor in India's Lockdown
Jewel Samad, Arun Sankar, Money Sharma, Bhuvan Bagga, Sajjad Hussain, Indranil Mukherjee and Himanshu Sharma of Agence France-Presse (AFP)

People’s Choice Photo Award

Winner

Little Brother and Little Sister
Fung Hoi Kin of Ming Pao