

## The Lettre Ulysses Award for The Art of Reportage

### First Global Prize for Literary Reportage Awarded

For the first time, a jury of internationally recognized authors awarded a prize for the best literary reportage in the world on October 4, 2003 in Berlin. The project, initiated by the cultural magazine Lettre International in connection with the Aventis Foundation and in partnership with the Goethe Institute includes prize money amounting to a total of €100.000. The prize will be awarded annually as of 2003.

### The prizes for 2003 were received by the following authors:

- Anna Politkovskaja  
*for Tchétchénie – le déshonneur russe, Buchet/ Castel, Paris 2003, Russian/French.*  
(Prize: 50.000 Euro)
- Nuruddin Farah  
*for Yesterday Tomorrow - Voices from the Somali Diaspora, Continuum International, London/ New York 2000, English and Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt 2003, German.*  
(Prize: 30.000 Euro)
- Jiang Hao  
*for Revealing the Secrets of Poachers, Qunzhong chubanshe, Beijing 2000, Chinese.*  
(Price: 20.000 Euro)

The winners of the awards were announced in a ceremony on Saturday, October 4, in the presence of 450 guests from the worlds of literature, culture and politics in the Berlin Tipi Tent. Guest speaker at the awards gala was the Polish reportage author Ryszard Kapuscinski; the South African author Breyten Breytenbach acted as master of ceremonies for the evening.

The winner of the first prize, Anna Politkovskaja, received the Lettre Ulysses Award for the Art of Reportage designed by the Berlin artist Jakob Mattner. The evening was rounded off with a musical high point, a concert by the Portuguese Fado singer Mísia

### Among the finalists were also:

- Adrian Nicole LeBlanc  
*for Random Family - Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx, Scribner, New York, 2003, English.*
- Ian Buruma  
*für Bad Elements – Chinese Rebels from Los Angeles to Beijing, Random House, New York 2001, Englisch.*
- Linda Polman  
*for We Did Nothing, Viking, London, 2003, Dutch.*
- Marc Tully und Gillian Wright  
*for India in Slow Motion, Viking, London, 2002, English.*

They received grants in the form of scholarships at German cultural institutions.

The seven reportages nominated tackle controversial subjects from various cultural areas of the world. The texts originate from the USA, Africa, China, India, Europe and Russia. They deal with the situation of the Chinese dissidents, the Somali diaspora, the life of poachers and party functionaries in China, the social reality of the New York Bronx, the war in Chechnia, United Nations crisis management and the development of the Indian subcontinent.

Extracts of the finalists' texts are published in the current edition of Lettre International No.62.

### The jury - polyglot, experienced, independent

The multilingual jury 2003 was made up entirely of writers at home in the genre of reportage. Overcoming language and cultural barriers, they selected the literary reportage writing to which they want to draw international attention in an intensive process of discussion and translation. The members of the jury are native speakers representing eleven of the largest linguistic regions, thereby guaranteeing as broad a spectrum of linguistic and cultural perception as possible.

### The members of the jury 2003 were:

Svetlana Alexievitch  
(Belorussia, Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding 1998) Russian  
Hans Christoph Buch  
(Germany): German  
Jorge Edwards  
(Chile, Premio Cervantes 1999): Spanish  
Isabel Hilton  
(Great Britain): English  
Philip Gourevitch  
(U.S., National Book Critics Circle Award 1998): English  
Nedim Gürsel  
(Turkey, Prize of the Turkish Language Academy 1976): Turkish  
Natsuki Ikezawa  
(Japan, Akutagawa Prize 1989): Japanese  
Pedro Rosa Mendes  
(Portugal, Bordoalo Orize of the Lisbon Press Club 2000): Portuguese  
Nirmal Verma  
(India, Jnanpith's Murtidevi Award 2000): Hindi  
Abdourahman Waberi  
(Djibouti/ France, Grand prix de la Nouvelle francophone 1994): French  
Yang Xiaobin  
(China): Chinese (Mandarin)

### International committee

An international advisory committee actively accompanied this pioneer project. Members of the committee included the German writer and Nobel prizewinner for literature Günter Grass, the Polish reportage author Ryszard Kapuscinski, the French anthropologist Jean Malaurie and the recently deceased Danish war reporter Jan Stage.

The goal of the Lettre Ulysses Award is to contribute to a better understanding of societal developments worldwide. Writers, who combine the curiosity and courage of good journalism with the art of writing, can decisively contribute to the understanding of local

and global developments. In this respect, the Lettre Ulysses Award promotes the development of world consciousness, responsibility, and international understanding. The prize shall become the forum for a forward-looking, profound, and creative way of artistically examining a world undergoing globalization.