

**Berlin, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Lettre Ulysses Award for the Art of Reportage 2005:**

**New jury agrees upon nominations for the longlist**

The jury of the *Lettre Ulysses Award for the Art of Reportage* met over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June to decide upon this year's nominations. Eighteen texts from Argentina, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Morocco, the People's Republic of China, Peru, Taiwan, and the USA were nominated for the longlist.

- The members of the polyglot jury are: **Svetlana Alexievitch** (Belarus): *journalist, filmmaker, playwright*, **Gamal Al-Ghitany** (Egypt): *novelist, essayist, journalist*, **Mark Danner** (USA): *war reporter, essayist, editor*, **Isabel Hilton** (Great Britain): *reporter, writer, radio broadcaster*, **Lung Yingtai** (Taiwan): *literary critic, essayist, literature professor*, **Pankaj Mishra** (India): *novelist, literary critic*, **Anne Nivat** (France): *reporter, writer*, **Sergio Ramírez** (Nicaragua): *writer, journalist*, **Pedro Rosa Mendes** (Portugal): *reporter, writer*, **Ilija Trojanow** (Germany): *writer, reporter, publisher*

The nominations for the longlist are, in alphabetical order (author, country of origin, title, publisher, first place and date of publication, translated title):

- **Yasser Abd Alhafez** (Egypt): *Kurdistan. The Paradise that Saddam Distorted Re-Opens its Gates*, Akhbar al-Adab Magazine, Cairo, 10/2004
- **Anonymous (Riverbend)** (Iraq): *Baghdad Burning. A Girl Blog from Iraq*, The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, New York, 2005
- **Jon Lee Anderson** (USA): *The Fall of Baghdad*, Penguin Press, New York, 2004
- **Geneviève Bédoucha** (France): *Éclipse de lune au Yémen. Émotions et désarrois d'une ethnologue*, Odile Jacob, Paris, 2004 [*Lunar Eclipse in the Yemen. Emotions and Confusions of an Ethnologist*]
- **Anne Brunswic** (France): *Bienvenue en Palestine. Chroniques d'une saison à Ramallah*, Actes Sud, Arles, 2005 [*Welcome to Palestine! Diary of a Stay in Ramallah*]
- **Wolfgang Büscher** (Germany): *Berlin-Moskau. Eine Reise zu Fuß*, Rowohlt, Reinbek bei Hamburg, 2003 [*Berlin-Moscow. A Journey on Foot*]
- **Chang Ping-I** (China): *Outside the World. Days at the Leseng Sanatorium*, The Wings of Hope Publishing House, Taipei, 2004
- **Carolin Emcke** (Germany): *Von den Kriegen. Briefe an Freunde*, S. Fischer, Frankfurt am Main, 2004 [*Of Wars. Letters to Friends*]
- **Alexandra Fuller** (Great Britain): *Scribbling the Cat. Travels with an African Soldier*, Penguin Press, New York, 2004

- **Abdellah Hammoudi** (Morocco): *Une saison à la Mecque. Récit de pèlerinage*, Seuil, Paris, 2004 [A Season in Mecca. Account of a Pilgrimage]
- **Svetlana Kalinkina & Pavel Sheremet** (Belarus): *Sluchainyi president*, Limbus Press, St. Petersburg, 2003 [The Accidental President]
- **Alaa Khaled** (Egypt): *Everything Happens Quietly With No Surprises*, Amkun Magazine, Cairo, 12/2004
- **William Langewiesche** (USA): *The Outlaw Sea. A World of Freedom, Chaos, and Crime*, North Point Press, New York, 2004. Published in the UK under the title *The Outlaw Sea. Chaos and Crime on the World's Oceans*, Granta Books, London, 2005.
- **Liu Haijun** (China): *The Shu Xingbei Files. The Fate of a Genius Physicist*, Writer's Publishing House, Peking, 2005
- **Suketu Mehta** (India): *Maximum City. Bombay Lost And Found*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2004
- **Ricardo Uceda** (Peru): *Muerte en el pentagonito. Los cementerios secretos del Ejército Peruano*, Editorial Planeta, Bogotá, 2004 [Death in the Little Pentagon. The Secret Killing Fields of the Peruvian Army]
- **Horacio Verbitsky** (Argentina): *El silencio. De Paulo VI a Bergoglio. Las relaciones de la Iglesia con la ESMA*, Editorial Sudamericana, Buenos Aires, 2005 [The Silence. From Paul VI to Bergoglio. The Relations of the Church with ESMA]
- **William T. Vollmann** (USA): *Rising Up and Rising Down. Some Thoughts on Violence, Freedom and Urgent Means*, Ecco, New York, 2004

### **The only international award for the art of reportage – journalism at its best**

The *Lettre Ulysses Award* is the only international award for the genre of literary reportage. The award was initiated in 2003, and is organized by the cultural journal *Lettre Internationale* in association with the *Aventis Foundation*, and in partnership with the *Goethe-Institut*. The prize has a total annual endowment of €100,000. In addition to the monetary prizes, there are four working grants for visits to Berlin, funded by the *Goethe-Institut*. The award is the only international literary prize that is based in the German capital. The intended aim of the award is to encourage the genre of literary reportage, to draw international attention to its extraordinary achievements, and to provide financial, moral and symbolic support to the reporters. The prize is awarded annually and has gained a worldwide reputation over the past two years.

### **Outlook 2005**

The winners will be announced on 15<sup>th</sup> October at an award ceremony at Berlin's *TIPI* venue, in the presence of the jurors, finalists and 500 guests from the worlds of literature, politics, media and business.

### **Previous award winners**

In 2003 the prize went to Russia's Anna Politkovskaya for *Tchéchénie, le déshonneur russe*, and in 2004 the Chinese couple Chen Guidi and Wu Chuntao were awarded the prize for their spectacular book *A Survey of Chinese Peasants*.

### **The jury: polyglot, professional, independent**

The distinguished jury attempts to track down the best texts published worldwide in the genre of literary reportage. The polyglot jury consists exclusively of writers who are familiar with the genre of literary reportage and this year represents nine of the largest linguistic areas in the world. The working language of the jury is English. Nominated texts must have been published for the first time within the last two years, and all languages are eligible. A gradual process of nomination, assessment, discussion and decision-making guarantees the competent evaluation of the texts. The composition of the jury varies annually.

### **International committee**

An advisory committee supports the *Lettre Ulysses Award*. Members of the committee include the German writer **Günter Grass**, the Polish reportage author **Ryszard Kapuscinski**, the French ethnologist **Jean Malaurie**, and the Indian writer **Nirmal Verma**.

### **Further information**

Information about the prize winners, nominated texts, media coverage, project concept, jury and working procedures can be found at [www.lettre-ulysses-award.org](http://www.lettre-ulysses-award.org). We would be happy to send a DVD of the 2004 award ceremony upon your request. The film contains numerous interviews with the writers, as well as the key-note speech of the evening by the Tunisian-French poet Abdelwahab Meddeb.

### **Contact**

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