



OCTOBER 6 TO 12, 2025

PRESS KIT

BAYEUX AWARD CALVADOS NORMANDY

FOR WAR CORRESPONDENTS

MEETINGS
DEBATES
PROJECTIONS
EXHIBITIONS
BOOK FAIR

A TRIBUTE
TO FREEDOM
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PRESS CONTACTS : prixbayeux@2e-bureau.com - info@prixbayeux.org

OCTOBER 6 TO 12, 2025

BAYEUX CALVADOS-NORMANDY AWARD

FOR WAR CORRESPONDENTS

From 6 to 12 October 2025, Bayeux is welcoming the 32nd Bayeux Award for war correspondents. It represents a tribute to the work carried out all year long by leading reporters and an opportunity to meet and interact with the general public, especially school students.

» JON LEE ANDERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE JURY OF THE 32ND EDITION

American Jon Lee Anderson, 68, an internationally-renowned war correspondent and author of the best-selling *Che Guevara*, will chair the jury in October. He has worked for *The New Yorker* since 1998.

» JOURNALISTS: YOU HAVE FROM NOW UNTIL 5TH JUNE TO SEND US YOUR WORK

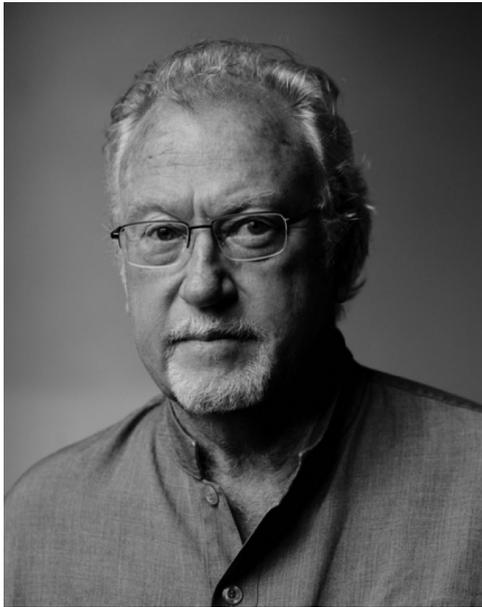
Photo, radio, television and written press reports on a conflict or news event relating to the fight for freedom and democracy can be submitted until the 5th June to be considered for the 2025 selection. They must have been made between the 1st June 2024 and the 31st May 2025. There is a €7,000 grant to be won in each category.

» A WEEK OF MEETINGS ON INTERNATIONAL NEWS

During the week, international news will be the focus of a wide range of events in Bayeux: unusual exhibitions, discussion evenings, film projections, book fair, events for schools, etc., giving the public a chance to meet journalists and foreign correspondents whose daily task is to report on the world's troubles.

» JON LEE ANDERSON, A WITNESS OF THE HISTORY OF HIS TIME

American Jon Lee Anderson, 68, has accepted the invitation from the Prix Bayeux Calvados-Normandie for War Correspondents: this coming October the celebrated war reporter for *The New Yorker* - and author of the best-selling *Che Guevara* - will serve as President of the jury. A new experience for a lifelong adventurer...



© Valenty Kuzan

Born into a family that he describes as 'multicultural', Jon Lee Anderson's childhood was atypical. *"I grew up in many countries: my father worked for the American foreign services and my mother wrote children's books. My parents had three children of their own and adopted two more."* It was a cosmopolitan upbringing and an environment that enabled him to become aware of the world around him at an early age.

A world not at peace

His first encounters with war date from his early childhood. *"I remember being with my father, aged three, at the DMZ (the boundary line between South and North Korea) and looking across to a North Korean soldier who was on guard. He stood there, staring back at us expressionlessly and without speaking, from a short distance away."* Although he didn't grasp the idea of conflict, he nonetheless realised that another world existed. *"A world that was not at peace."*

At about the same time, at his mother's side, he glimpsed the effects of war on civilian populations. *"She had a book about Picasso with a great many photos of the artist. One of them in particular bothered me: the painter was looking at photographs of victims of the Spanish Civil War. His face showed great sadness. I asked her again and again to try to understand: Why? Why was this man so sad? Why were these people dead? And how could anyone even imagine committing these horrors? This was when I came to understand that there was something called war, in which men would take up arms and kill."* A few years later, when the family had come back to live in the United States for the first time, the young Jon Lee marched with his parents against Nixon and the Vietnam war. It was 1968 and the year was also marked by the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Francis Kennedy. *"So my political awakening comes from this sense of injustice in my own country."* As did his thirst to understand. To understand war, understand its origins and its workings. *"It was the beginning, I suppose, of a kind of moral quest."*

A witness of the history of his time

As an avid reader of all kinds of biographies (and especially of contemporary explorers) Jon Lee became interested in adventure and exploration. Inspired and encouraged by his mother he soon developed an ambition to be a writer too. But not any kind of writer. *"I wanted to be a witness of the history of my time."* Brought up on travel from his early childhood, aware of human conditions and naturally audacious, the blithe teenager began his quest. At first he was accompanied by contacts of his parents - he spent a week in rural Taiwan at nine years of age, hunting and fishing with one of his father's employees, spent time in a ranch in Australia's outback at 11 and 12, and at 13, joined an uncle and aunt who were geologists, living in Liberia - but soon took off on his own, travelling in the bush there and in East Africa. The continent of Africa was still in the throes of anti-colonial struggles, and he read the work of war correspondents, became more and more interested in politics and got a feel for journalism. Writer or war reporter? *"The two had fused."* From Africa, Jon Lee soon went to South America, to Peru - where he got his first job reporting - and from there Central America and Nicaragua, where the Sandinistas were fighting against the Somoza dictatorship. As a young journalist he spent the next few years covering the various civil wars that were erupting in the region: Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Grenada, Surinam...

He got to know and spend time with the guerrillas and some of their insurgent leaders, and to see how they lived and operated. *"From that moment on, I began to understand war."* To understand but also to experience it. *"I was shot at, I saw my first dead people, I felt the injustice, I was ambushed... Everything that can happen when you're in the midst of a guerrilla war."*

A first book to understand the psychology of violence

Particularly interested in the condition of people who spend their lives at war and frustrated by not being able to dwell on this aspect of conflict in his articles, Jon Lee decided to write a book on the world of insurrection. *Guerrillas: journeys in the insurgent world* was published in 1992 after four years spent with insurgent groups in different parts of the world. *"I returned to El Salvador, Palestine - particularly to Gaza - and I went to Afghanistan, Western Sahara and Burma. I spent time with fighters who were difficult and sometimes hostile. A few were psychopaths. Not everyone was open to outsiders. But most of them were people just like us, who, for various reasons had chosen to live their lives in resistance to what they saw as unfair or corrupt systems of government. I was trying to document their motivations, the way they lived, the ways they were creating a new society. I wanted to find answers to my questions and understand the psychology of violence. It was really the culmination of my lifelong quest to understand war."* He went on from this book to write a biography, of Che Guevara, which was a best-seller. *"He was the incarnation, the personification of all these people I had been interested in."* The work was a kind of detective story. *"And it was an opportunity to do something new and different."* He spent five years on the book before beginning what he describes as the "second part of his career".

Understanding war

A second part that began on 11 September 2001. *"I felt I had to go back to Afghanistan because I knew the country."* Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Liberia, Mali, Lebanon... From one country to another, Jon Lee found answers to his questions. *"Instead of becoming a naturalist - which I'd hoped to be as a child - I became someone who understood war. That doesn't mean I approve of it, but I understand it. Going to war is the most terrible thing a man can do. And yet as terrible as it is, sometimes it becomes the only way for a society to survive. This is a reality of the story of humanity that has been going on for ever."* Jon Lee sometimes feels powerless in the face of events. *"I can see conflicts develop and I know when they have reached the point of no return: it's a terrible feeling to know that, at that moment, there is no other outcome but war."* Current events also mean the situation in his own country. As an American who has spent much of his life living outside of the United States, he has an outsider's view of the current political situation: *"I see the country as foreigners see it. But because of my nationality I feel I have to decode this "Trumpification" of American politics and try to help illuminate what's going on and what we need to be aware of."*

Jon Lee Anderson will be sharing his viewpoint on the United States and the world with his peers next October in Bayeux. A regular at the Prix who has already participated in the work of the jury, this time he will assume the mantle of President. In this he will succeed Clarissa Ward as well as two of his close colleagues and friends: Ed Vulliamy (2020) and Thomas Dworzak (2022). The curious child, the teenager who was afraid of nothing (except mobs), the man who wanted to be a witness of the history of his time will have to decode and dissect the best in conflict journalism. *"A tough task but a great honour."*

“How can you kill? How can you do that? As a boy I couldn't understand how this could be. What also interested me was how societies dress up their wars with legal and even moral justifications. War is the most horrifying thing man does, and yet we have our bloodlettings and then often go back to being peaceful "civilised nations" again. This contradiction, this moral contradiction was at the root of my interest in war.”

› SOME DATES

1986 › *Inside the League* (with Scott Anderson)

1988 › *War Zones: Voices from the World's Killing Grounds* (with Scott Anderson)

1992 › *Guerrillas: journeys in the insurgent world*, Times Books

1997 › *Che Guevara: a revolutionary life*, Grove Press, New York Times Notable book of the year

1998 › Began working for *The New Yorker*, covering Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Angola, Somalia, Sudan, Mali, Liberia and Latin America

2003 › *The Lion's Grave: dispatches from Afghanistan*, Grove Press

2004 › *The Fall of Baghdad*, Penguin Press

2018 › *Che: A Revolutionary Life* (graphic adaptation)

August 2025 › *To Lose a War: The Fall and Rise of the Taliban*, Penguin Press

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award for war correspondents rewards reports about a conflict situation or its impact on civilians, or news stories involving the defence of freedom and democracy. The report must have been made between **1st June 2024 and 31st May 2025 (except for the young reporter's award: between 1st June 2023 and 31st May 2025)**. A €7,000 prize is awarded in each category.

The reports can be submitted to the following address by June 5, 2025:

info@prixbayeux.org

A download link is preferred (wettransfer or other)

The categories of media represented are: radio - photography - television (short and long formats) - written press and the young reporter prize (written press this year).

Entry application now available:

+33 2 31 51 60 59 - info@prixbayeux.org - and prixbayeux.org

► TEN PRIZES ARE AWARDED :

Seven prizes awarded by the international jury:

- **Written Press Prize** sponsored by the Calvados Department - €7,000
- **Television Prize** sponsored by Amnesty International - €7,000
- **Radio Prize** sponsored by the D-Day Landing Committee - €7,000
- **Photo Prize** sponsored by Nikon - €7,000
- **Grand format Television Prize** sponsored by Caen Memorial museum - €7,000
- **Young reporter Prize** sponsored by Crédit Agricole Normandie - €3,000
- **Video image Prize** sponsored by Arte, France Médias Monde and France Télévisions - €3,000

Three special prizes:

- The Ouest-France - Jean Marin Prize (written press) - €4,000
- The Public Prize (photo) sponsored by Isigny Sainte Mère & Groupe Nutriset - €3,000
- The Normandy Region secondary School Students' Prize (television) - €3,000

► REGULATIONS:

Reports published or broadcast only on digital media can apply in the same way as others (regardless of whether the report has been published in photo category).

- **The Young Reporter's Award:** in 2025, the category is written press. Since there is a different category according to the years, the presented story must have been made between 1st June 2023 and 31st May 2025.
- **Written press category:** the application must be made up of an article or a series of **one to three articles on the same subject**.
- **Television category:** the length of the report must be between **1 minute 30 seconds and 7 minutes**. The report submitted must be identical to the broadcast piece.
- **Grand format television category:** the length of the report must be between **7 and 35 minutes**. The report submitted must be identical to the broadcast piece.
- **Radio category:** the length of the report must be between **1 minute and 6 minutes**. The report submitted must be identical to the broadcast piece.
- **Photo category:** the application comprises a report made up of **8 to 15 photos**.

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► VISUAL

The 2025 visual uses a photo from the 2024 winning report. This photograph taken by Mahmud Hams from AFP was part of his report shot between October 2023 and January 2024: Gaza, in the hell of war.



© Bayeux Award photo 2024 - Mahmud Hams / AFP

► CAPTION

Palestinian woman reacts as others rush to look for victims in the rubble of a building following an Israeli strike in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on October 17, 2023.

Mahmud Hams graduated from the Islamic University of Gaza with a degree in journalism and information. He joined AFP in 2003, covering daily news in the Gaza Strip and occasionally in Libya and Egypt. He has won numerous international awards.

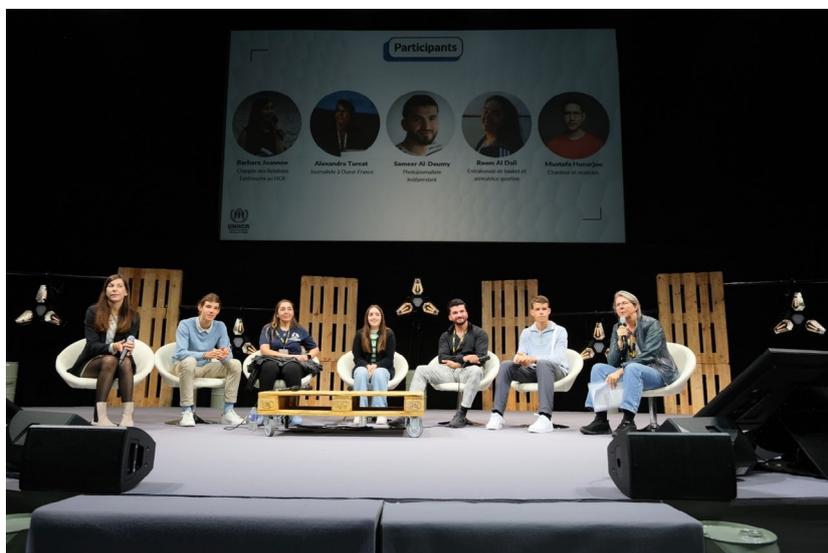
He has already been awarded the Bayeux Prize for War Correspondents twice: in 2007 for a photo of young Palestinians fleeing an Israeli army bombardment; then in 2018 for his work on the protest movement known as the 'Great March of Return', which mobilised thousands of Palestinians along the border.

► THE NIKON ENCOUNTERS

For several years now, Nikon has been committed to the Bayeux Award, demonstrating its fervent support for photojournalism and its lasting commitment to defending the values of truth and freedom of expression. Once again this year, this commitment is reflected in the renewal of its partnership with the Bayeux Award for War Correspondents, enabling it to continue to support and celebrate the work of photojournalists who capture poignant and crucial stories around the world. As well as sponsoring the Photo trophy, the brand will once again be supporting the outdoor exhibition in the streets of Bayeux, and will once again be hosting the Nikon Encounters, a genuine opportunity for professionals and the public to meet and share ideas.

» AN EXCEPTIONAL OCCASION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

For the Bayeux Award 32nd edition, the HCR - the United Nations Agency for refugees - and *Ouest-France* newspaper are offering an exceptional educational event for middle and high school students in Normandy: **“the HCR - Ouest-France Encounters”**. Partners of the Bayeux Award, the HCR and *Ouest-France* will be addressing school students and inviting them to meet refugees who will talk about their experiences of exile and the importance of international protection for those fleeing from war and persecution. In this age of instantaneous information, the HCR and *Ouest-France* aim to give young people a different understanding of the position of refugees in France and around the world.



© UNHCR / Clémence Enjelvin

» VOYAGEURS DU MONDE, NEW PARTNER

Founded 40 years ago and constantly evolving, Voyageurs du Monde designs journeys that respect people, cultures, and the environment. Convinced that tourism is one tool among others to promote peace, human rights, and the economic development of the world's most disadvantaged regions, Voyageurs du Monde is committed to:

- Organizing travel experiences based on genuine encounters, thoughtful exploration, sharing, and the promotion of strong universal values.
- Supporting specific initiatives such as the Satyagraha House in Johannesburg, South Africa – a guesthouse and museum dedicated to Gandhi, who lived there and developed his now-universal doctrine of nonviolent resistance.
- Providing ongoing support to various humanitarian aid and human rights organizations, including Unitaid, Human Rights Watch, and FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights).
- Carrying out social initiatives: through its Philippe Romero Insolite Bâtitteur Foundation, Voyageurs du Monde allocates nearly 2 million euros annually to humanitarian, environmental, and social projects (support for marginalized individuals, aid to migrants, and the fight against climate change), in partnership with organizations such as SOS Méditerranée and the Refettorio.

The involvement of Voyageurs du Monde alongside the Bayeux Award for War Correspondents is a natural extension of these commitments.



VOYAGEURS DU MONDE

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FOR WAR CORRESPONDENTS 2025

The CITY OF BAYEUX
The DEPARTMENT OF CALVADOS
The NORMANDY REGION
thank all their partners

