

# LORENZO NATALI

JOURNALISM PRIZE

# Newsletter

The European Union Journalism Prize  
for Development, Democracy and Human Rights

MAY 2011



## Foreword

World Press Freedom Day marks the launch of the competition for this year's Lorenzo Natali Journalism Prize, the European Commission's award for excellence in journalism on the theme of development, democracy and human rights across the world.

I can think of no better day on which to launch the competition. Just as importantly, however, the launch is also an opportunity for us to reflect on the role of journalists and the importance their work plays, particularly in developing countries.

No country can expect to deliver social and economic development to its people unless it has a good governance structure in place, respects human rights and allows its media to operate freely. Journalists report human stories and real situations. In doing so, they help promote development and democracy throughout the world.

They also act as a channel between citizens and their leaders, conveying information and voicing opinions. Press freedom is a cornerstone of the freedom of expression enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And yet, while many of us take global communication and

information-sharing as a given, in too many parts of the world today press freedom is still undermined or violated.

So the importance of press freedom and the role that journalists play in society are at the forefront of our minds as we launch this year's competition. We look forward to receiving more thought-provoking and inspiring articles from across the world which will compete for the 2011 Lorenzo Natali Journalism Prize.

**Andris Piebalgs,**  
European Commissioner  
for Development

## The 2011 Lorenzo Natali Journalism Prize is now open!

Great stories have the power to change the world. They reveal truths, provoke ideas, stir debate, inspire new ways of thinking and encourage reflection.

Launched today, 3 May 2011, this year's Lorenzo Natali Journalism Prize is organised by DG EuropeAid. The Prize recognises outstanding journalists who report on human rights, democracy and development – some of whom take great risks to expose injustice and suffering.

Established in 1992 by the European Commission, the Lorenzo Natali Prize is given in memory of Lorenzo Natali, a former European Commissioner who sought to further the European Union's development and aid programmes.

The Prize is partnered with Reporters Without Borders and is open to print, online and broadcast journalists based in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Arab World, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific.

Print/online winners will receive cash prizes of EUR 5 000 (first prize), EUR 2 500 (second prize) and EUR 1 500 (third prize). The winners of the television and radio categories will be awarded EUR 5 000 each. The Grand Prize winner will receive an additional EUR 5 000.

Submissions should be made electronically through the Prize website at [www.lorenzonaliprize.eu](http://www.lorenzonaliprize.eu). Applicants are required to submit a 2 000 character

summary of their article, which will be important for pre-selection.

Entries will be judged on their relevance to human rights, democracy or development issues, as well as the originality of the piece, its quality, the depth of investigation carried out and any political impact it may have had.

Please refer to our website for more information, including the contest rules.

**SIGN UP  
NOW!**

## Yader Francisco Luna García (Nicaragua), 2010 Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize winner



Yader Francisco Luna García was awarded the 2010 Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize for his inside look at Nicaragua's 'Messenger Witch', a wizened 86-year-old old woman who has launched a personal war over the airwaves against the perpetrators of domestic violence.

In a small radio station in a jungle shantytown in Bocana de Paiwas, central Nicaragua, this radio character descends from her hill each morning to rail against violent men. A burst of harsh laughter and the noise of a breaking window announce her arrival on air. This rheumatic and sickly sorceress has acquired through her stories the title of Defender of Women.

The 'Messenger Witch' is the most listened-to programme on the radio station. The sorceress speaks freely about any man who strikes a woman. She names them, talks

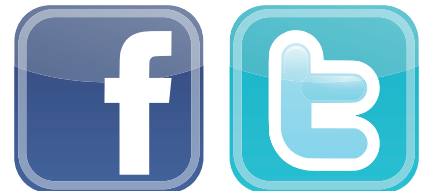
about their lives and doesn't hesitate to warn them and give advice. 'Good journalism is a tool to force change,' Yader said on his Revista La Brújula Semana blog, adding that his job has given him 'the freedom to write stories and begin one of the most passionate chapters of my life.'

As Chairman of the Jury of the Lorenzo Natali Prize 2010, Kai Niklasch, a senior foreign affairs correspondent at the ZDF, asserted in his post-award profile of Yader that journalism in all its forms can be incredibly powerful:

'Journalism is not more than talking in the corridor. But if *many* people are talking in the corridor, maybe on the basis of an article, a word can become a stream, a stream can become a river and a river can become an ocean.'

**'To receive the Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize at international level and at Latin American level is a great honor and a great responsibility.'**

**Share your views, ideas  
or leave feedback:  
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Facebook and Twitter!**



*Deadline for submission of entries 31 August 2011*