

# BAYEUX AWARD

## CALVADOS NORMANDY

FOR WAR CORRESPONDENTS

**PRESS KIT**



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ENTRANCE**

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OCTOBER 5 TO 11, 2026

# BAYEUX CALVADOS-NORMANDY AWARD

FOR WAR CORRESPONDENTS

**From 5 to 11 October 2026, Bayeux is welcoming the 33<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

## » LYSE DOUCET, PRESIDENT OF THE JURY OF THE 33<sup>RD</sup> EDITION

She is one of the BBC's most famous faces and voices: Lyse Doucet, 67, has accepted an invitation from the Bayeux Award to chair the jury this coming October. It is "*a great responsibility*" that the journalist, herself a winner of the 2014 Bayeux Award, fully appreciates.

## » JOURNALISTS: YOU HAVE FROM NOW UNTIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> June to be considered for the 2026 selection. They must have been made between the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 and the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026. 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.

## ► LYSE DOUCET, CHAIR OF THE JURY

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© Lee Durant

Originally from Bathurst New Brunswick, the Canadian Lyse Doucet proudly celebrates her Acadian roots through her interest in the French language and culture. However, it is in London that the journalist has been based since 1999, when she joined the BBC's team of presenters. Her career at the British broadcaster began in 1983: aged 25, having just graduated in international relations, the young Lyse took advantage of the *Canadian Crossroads International* scheme to undertake a voluntary assignment that took her to West Africa. At the same time, the BBC was opening its first bureau there; she became a freelancer. "*I had no experience except a few articles, no money, no contacts, no British*

*accent. Nothing was right! But I took a risk and it worked. We used to say - "right place, right time." Now we say - we need to make our own luck.*" For Lyse, there was no key moment, no "lightbulb moment" that made her decide to become a journalist. However, a book borrowed from the local library—for which she still has the late slip—reveals an ambition that emerged very early on. The title of the book: "How to Become a Journalist?" ...

### A thirst to tell stories

From freelance work, Lyse became a correspondent for the BBC. Her job - "*the best in the world!*" - took her to Afghanistan, Islamabad, and Iran, then to Amman and Jerusalem. Years of travel and discovery during which she learnt that "to tell a society's story better, you have to understand it and immerse yourself in it". Telling a society's story, reporting the news - Lyse has made this her guiding principle. More than an ambition, it is a true way of life that she has embraced. "*Being a journalist is a way of approaching life and living life.*" By living in places, she builds relationships, weaves the network of contacts she lacked upon her arrival, and ultimately forges very strong bonds. "*Through covering these regions, they are no longer simply news stories: they are part of our lives. Going to place again and again, spending time with people, changes places into second homes. We live their history, what we often call our hinterland on the story.*" »

### Understanding, not ignoring

So deeply attached to what have become war-torn regions, Lyse naturally focuses on the plight of civilians. Her report "Yarmouk", produced in 2013 in the besieged Syrian city, earned her a Prix Bayeux. It shows a young boy collapsing in tears amidst the ruins, starving and without hope. "*I wanted to show listeners and viewers how the most savage tactics of war, like the medieval "surrender or starve" affects people living through it. I also wanted them to understand that, despite the distance, these wars were and are also ours. That a world gone wrong is not the world we all aspire to.*" At the heart of these conflicts, Lyse has thus witnessed the worst, but has also sought out and seen the best in human beings. "*I think many correspondents of our time try to find glimmers of light and hope because I think all of us need that in order to survive. In times of war, we must show the glimpses of humanity to get through inhumanity.*"

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## A debut book

To show everyday life in times of war and because *"headlines and news reports provide a very small snapshot about people's lives"*, Lyse Doucet has recently explored a new way of storytelling; the seasoned journalist has published her very first book, **A Finest Hotel in Kabul**, in which she paints a portrait of the Afghan people through the personal stories of six employees at the Kabul Intercontinental Hotel. *"In this book, I tell the stories of Afghans, but it could have been the people of Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, people living through grievous wars. In times like this, people have to find ways to get up every day and face the day. In times of war, not only does life go on, but it must go on, because people hold on to whatever is left of their lives, if they can."* From this new experience as an author, which she describes as *"positive and gratifying"*, Lyse emerges *"all the more convinced that the work of journalism, of storytelling writ large, is ever so important in our time: not just the stories we tell, but how we tell them"*.

## Madam President

And how do we tell the story of what is happening in the world in the age of artificial intelligence and social media? She intends to put this question on the agenda of the next Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award for War Correspondents, where she will chair the jury. Eager to reunite with her colleagues and friends, to honour the memory of those whose names are engraved on the Reporters' Memorial, and to engage with the younger generation, Lyse Doucet is preparing very seriously for her role as President. *"Winning an award from your own tribe is very special. I know this because I've experienced it myself. So I am fully aware of this great responsibility."* The discussions promise to be rich this autumn in the small French town that foreigners awkwardly pronounce as "Bayou". Lyse Doucet finds this very amusing! *"Bayou, it's like a bijou, isn't it?! Bayou, our little bijou!"* Following Ed Vuliamy's "Oscars of Journalism", "Bayou, the little bijou of war correspondents" is preparing to welcome one of journalism's finest gem. A shared honour.

Lyse Doucet is one of the founding members of the Marie Colvin Journalists' Network, charity working with Arab women journalists, established to remember Marie who was murdered by Syrian army fire Homs in 2012. She is also involved with numerous other charities, such as Friends of Aschiana UK, which supports working street children in Afghanistan, and the Linda Norgrove Foundation named for Linda who was kidnapped and killed by the Afghan Taliban in 2010. She is a senior fellow of Massey College of the University of Toronto, a fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, a member of the Order of Canada and was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Honour list in 2014.



“Winning an award from your own tribe is very special. I know this because I've experienced it myself”

## » SOME DATES

- 1983-1988** » Freelance journalist in West Africa for Canadian media and the BBC
- 1989-1993** » BBC correspondent in Islamabad and Kabul
- 1994** » Opened the BBC bureau in Amman, Jordan
- 1995-1999** » BBC Middle East Correspondent based in Jerusalem
- 1999** » Joined the BBC's presenting team
- 2002** » She was the only journalist to accompany Afghan President Hamid Karzai to his brother's wedding, during which an assassination attempt took place. She and her team were nominated for a Royal Television Society Award for their exclusive coverage of the assassination attempt
- 2007** » Named International Television Personality of the Year by the Association for International Broadcasting
- 2009** » Peabody award for report from Afghanistan on maternal mortality
- 2010** » Gold Sony Radio Academy Awards News Journalist of the Year
- » David Bloom award for reporting from Afghanistan
- 2014** » Documentary *Children of Syria* with filmmaker Robin Barnwell, nominated in the Best Single Documentary category at the 2015 BAFTA Awards
- » Prix Bayeux, television category, for her report from Syria, 'Yarmouk'
  - » Emmy Award and Peabody Award for her team's work in Syria
  - » Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Honours List for her contribution to journalism
- 2015** » *Children of the Gaza War* documentary with filmmaker James Jones
- 2016** » Receives a Columbia Journalism Award for her body of work
- 2017** » Receives the Outstanding Contribution to Broadcasting award at the International Media Awards. This award is given to journalists whose body of work has fostered a better understanding and, consequently, improved prospects for peace
- 2018** » *Syria: The World's War* for BBC Two and BBC World
- » First episode of *Her Story Made History*, a five-part series on BBC Radio 4 profiling five remarkable women. The theme is the relationship between women and democracy
  - » Appointed a Member of the Order of Canada
- 2021** » Reports extensively from Kabul airport following the Taliban offensive in the country
- » Broadcaster of the Year London Press Club
- 2022** » Alongside Clive Myrie, she contributes to the BBC's coverage of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, reporting from Kyiv
- » Hay Festival Medal of Journalism
  - » Shifa Gardi award honouring Rudaw journalist and news anchor Shifa Gardi
- 2024** » University of Arizona School of Journalism's John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award for Press Freedom.
- 2026** » Book *The Finest Hotel in Kabul* longlisted for the Baillie-Gifford Prize, shortlisted for the Nero Prize, and now shortlisted for the Women's Prize.

# 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 **1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026**. A €7,000 prize is awarded in each category.

*The reports must be submitted to the following address by **5 June, 2026** :*

*[info@prixbayeux.org](mailto:info@prixbayeux.org)*

*A download link is preferred (wetransfer or other)*

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

*Entry application now available:*

*+33 2 31 51 60 59 - [info@prixbayeux.org](mailto:info@prixbayeux.org) - and [prixbayeux.org](http://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 2026, the category is photo. Since there is a different category according to the years, the presented story must have been realized between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 and 31 May 2026.
- **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 design of the 2026 poster features a photo from the 2025 award-winning photo essay. The image was taken by Palestinian photographer Saher Alghorra, who works with Zuma Press and *The New York Times* on stories about Gaza.



© Bayeux Award photo 2025 - Saher Alghorra / Zuma Press

## » CAPTION

Palestinians gather to get food cooked in a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, November 29, 2024.

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Originally from Gaza City, **Saher Alghorra** is a Palestinian photojournalist whose lens captures the urgency and complexity of the situation on the ground. A graduate in public relations and media from the University of Gaza, he began his career in 2017 by capturing the beauty and everyday life of his hometown, before dedicating his work to documenting conflicts in order to raise international awareness. A regular contributor to *The New York Times*, his photographs have been seen around the world, appearing on the front pages of prestigious publications such as *Time Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Recognised by his peers for the power and ethics of his work, Saher Alghorra has amassed major international accolades in record time. Winner of the **Bayeux award for War Correspondents** (Young Reporter) in 2024, the International Freelance Photojournalism Award (IFPA) and ICRC Visa pour l'Image in 2025, and the **WorldPress Photo** award in 2026, he has established himself as an essential visual voice of his generation. His talent has also been recognised by UNICEF, the Istanbul Photo Awards and the Joop Swart Masterclass programme.

## » 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 Rencontres Nikon, a genuine opportunity for professionals and the public to meet and share ideas.

## » AN EXCEPTIONAL OCCASION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

For the 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 inclusion in France.

HCR experts will also be on hand to explain the importance of international protection for those fleeing 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.



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FOR WAR CORRESPONDENTS 2026

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

