

The AIBs 2025



The Trusted Voice of Taiwan



RADIO
TAIWAN INTL





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RADIO MITRE - ALWAYS IN YOUR LIFE

SILENCED SIGNALS - HOW 2025
RESHAPED THE WORLD OF
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

WELCOME

We come together in November 2025 for the 21st edition of the AIB International Media Excellence Awards – the *AIBs* – to celebrate the best in journalism and factual storytelling from around the world.

In a year marked by global challenges and uncertainty, the power of truthful, courageous reporting has never been clearer. Around us, events unfold with an immediacy that connects us all — sometimes overwhelmingly so. Yet it is precisely this connected world that reminds us how vital responsible journalism remains.

During the shortlisting and judging of this year's entries, we witnessed work that was brave, meticulous, and deeply human. Journalists shone a light on conflict and corruption, on the struggles for equality and survival, on the resilience of people in the face of injustice and disaster. Their persistence — often over years and at great personal risk — continues to inspire awe and gratitude.

The winners and highly commended of the *AIBs* 2025 represent the pinnacle of a remarkable field of entries. Every production submitted this year demonstrated skill, commitment, and integrity. Each one enriches our collective understanding of the world.

The *AIBs* could not exist without the support of the global media community. My thanks go to the 58 professionals who served on the international **judging panel** and gave their time and expertise so generously; to our broadcast partner **Radio Taiwan International (Rti)** for its steadfast support of media freedom; and to our host **Ayanda Charlie**, who embodies the spirit of fearless journalism we celebrate tonight.

The 2026 *AIBs* season opens in April next year — and we look forward to seeing how the world's storytellers will continue to illuminate, challenge, and inspire.

Simon Spanswick
Chief Executive, AIB



The Association for International Broadcasting
remembers and honours all the journalists that have
lost their lives over the past year.

I am a journalist,

I take photos, I write a piece, I speak to you,

I am a journalist,

I find that story, I follow it, I report on it,

I was a journalist,

I didn't ask to be a sacrifice, my life was taken,

I was a journalist,

*I led my life believing that press freedom
should be for all.*



HOST

Ayanda Charlie is a freelance multimedia producer and presenter best known for her work with BBC Africa Eye, most notably Fear and Loathing in South Africa – a documentary on the South African xenophobic group Operation Dudula.

She is the winner of the AIB Emerging Talent award for 2024 and a 2022 Open Society Foundations Investigative Journalism Fellow.



JUDGES

Victoria Ajayi, Managing Director/CEO, TVC Communications | **Félix Alvarez-Garmon**, Board Advisor, Media, Sports and Entertainment | **Salim Amin**, Chairman, Camerapix | **Anna Averkiou**, International Media Consultant | **Steve Bailey**, Broadcaster/Producer/Founder of Plan A Productions | **Ratan Bhardwaj**, Chief Editor, NDTV | **Barnie Choudhury**, Journalist, Academic and Communications Consultant | **Eugen Cojocariu**, Director, Radio Romania International | **Juan Pablo Córdoba**, Producción Artística, Radio Mitre | **Fiona Crack**, Deputy Global Director, BBC News and Head of Global Journalism, BBC World Service | **Claire Cunningham**, Irish Independent Radio Producer | **Craig Dale**, Chief Editor, CNA TV International | **Allya Davidson**, Executive Producer, The Fifth Estate CBC News | **Jamie Doran**, Co-founder & Director, Clover Films | **Adam Dudding**, Podcast Producer, Journalist and Author | **Lyndsay Duthie**, Pro Vice Chancellor for Partnerships and Industry Engagement, University for the Creative Arts | **Mouhssine Ennaimi**, Director/Producer, Off The Grid, TRT World | **Doaa Farid**, Podcast Lead, Editor, Executive Producer, The National News | **Walter Fernandez**, Editor-in-Chief & Sustainability Officer, Mediacorp | **Rajen Garabadu**, Chief Executive Producer, Network18 Media & Investments | **Reshma Ghosh**, Filmmaker & Founder, Blue Petal Films | **Mihai Gîdea**, CEO, Antena 3 CNN Romania | **Leo Gizzi**, Creative Director, MAKE Waves | **Ching-Ching Hai**, Chief, International News Section, Radio Taiwan International | **Jan Harling**, CEO, Virtus Asia Consulting | **Antonia Howard**, Producer & Host, Honestly Speaking | **Carlson Huang Chia-shan**, Rti Academy Director, Radio Taiwan International | **Mustafa Isaid**, Founder, Media Advisor, Berlin Centre for Media | **Peter James**, Vice President Global Business Development, Shure | **Georgy Jamieson**, Producer & Host, Radio Academy | **K Rashi Kumar**, Broadcaster, Faculty for Radio Journalism & Professional Ethics, University of Allahabad | **Asumpta Lattus**, Head of Department, English for Africa, Deutsche Welle | **Fiona Lloyd-Davies**, Founder, Studio 9 Films | **Diane Macpherson**, On-Demand Content Head, Kagiso Media Radio | **Diana Magnay**, International Correspondent, Sky News | **Natacha Mercure**, Executive Director Audio and Radio, Radio-Canada | **Lorenzo Morales**, Journalist, Writer, Professor, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá | **Greg Moyer**, Founder/CEO, Blue Chalk Media | **Paul Myles**, Documentary Filmmaker and Director, On Our Radar | **Sebastian Ottenstein**, Freelance Documentary Filmmaker, Danish Broadcasting Corporation | **Alexandra Pauliat**, Executive Producer, People and Power, Al Jazeera Media Network | **Henry Peirse**, Founder and CEO, Paydesk | **Kristine Pommert**, Freelance Producer | **Nina-Maria Potts**, COO, Feature Story News | **David Prest**, Founder and Managing Director, Whistledown | **Alan Rook**, Managing Director, BlackRook Media | **Anna Rowe**, Executive Producer, Smartypants Pictures | **Ian Rumsey**, Managing Director of Content, ITN | **Cherry Salazar**, Multimedia Reporter | **Pascal Seynhaeve**, Editor-in-Chief PANO, VRT | **Helen Shaw**, Managing Director, Athena Media | **Peter Shevlin**, Founder – Pod60 | **Amitabh Srivastava**, Head, Media International | **Gary Stevens**, Honorary Senior Fellow, School of Education and Communication, University of Lincoln | **Umesh Vohra**, Head of Planning, TRT World | **Josella Waldron**, Senior Audio Producer, BFBS | **William Warren**, Senior Creative Producer, The Economist | **Xiaoying Zhang**, Senior Officer International Relations, Deutsche Welle |



ARTS and CULTURE



Witness – Please Enjoy Our Tragedies

Please Enjoy Productions for Al Jazeera English

When Myanmar's fledgling democracy was destroyed, Sai's life was turned upside down and his father was imprisoned. Sai and his wife K went into hiding. As Myanmar faded from international headlines, they knew they had to act and created a series of unique artworks. Armed with this work, they fled to Europe, on a mission to use it as a form of activism. They are haunted by the abuses in Myanmar, visa issues and the ever-present risk to those back home. Sai becomes increasingly fraught, questioning his mission and whether he can bring about meaningful change. The judges were captivated by the original treatment, blending documentary with artistic approaches in a narrative that is both political and poetic. Powerful, moving, disturbing, holding the tension from the outset, great use of mobile phone and secret filming, visually exciting, respectful without abandoning the need for intimacy – these were some of their comments on this winning entry.



Highly commended

Mozart's Sister – Media Stockade

For the first 16 years of her life, Mozart's older sister shared equal billing with her brother. Musical partners and collaborators, Wolfgang Mozart and Maria-Anna Mozart played together before kings and queens and were the talk of Europe. Young composer Alma Deutscher tries to piece together why Maria-Anna withdrew from public life and what happened to her music. The judges thought this was a wonderful and delightful quest, executed with depth, high production values and use of clever resources.

BREAKING NEWS



First on the Ground in Syria During Rebel Takeover

CNN

When Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's regime collapsed within two weeks of a lightning-fast uprising, CNN journalists Jomana Karadsheh, Gul Tuysuz and Brice Lainé were the only western journalists inside Syria during the offensive. Using their deep contacts in the region they were able to secure an interview described as one of the biggest scoops of the year. It required the CNN team to travel first to the recently liberated city of Aleppo to film an on-the-ground dispatch amidst high risk of airstrikes, and then to a secret location to conduct a major exclusive interview with the then rebel leader Abu Mohammad al-Jolani. After the fall of the regime, the team's reporting continued to show the world what the situation on the ground was like during this extremely volatile time for the country and the region. A deserving winner, said the judges: courageous, impactful, excellent analysis, great camera work in challenging circumstances – in short, exactly what breaking news should be.



Highly commended

Yogita Limaye – Undercover in Myanmar's Earthquake – BBC News

Even before the disaster, Myanmar was in turmoil – locked in a civil war that has displaced an estimated 3.5 million people. Its military continues operations against armed insurgent groups and when the earthquake struck was too stretched to offer effective relief and rescue operations. In this oppressive environment people were fearful of speaking to journalists but Yogita and her team gained undercover access. The judges were impressed by the powerful on-the-ground reporting on the site, victims, and families left behind.

Highly commended

Donald Trump's 'Liberation Day' Tariffs – Bloomberg Television

No story roiled financial markets and preoccupied political leaders around the world as much as President Trump's trade policy. Bloomberg's coverage on 'Liberation Day' kept viewers fully abreast with live pictures from the White House and interviews with big players at the centre of the story. After markets closed in the US, coverage continued from Hong Kong, Sydney, Dubai and London. "Journalistic skill and expert analysis based on deep understanding converging to serve the public interest", sums up the judges' comments.



CONTINUING NEWS COVERAGE



Syria after Assad

Al Jazeera English

Al Jazeera has covered Syria ceaselessly, long after international attention shifted elsewhere. Reporting continued through every stage – the frozen frontlines, the regime's territorial gains in 2018, and its gradual reintegration into regional politics. AJE journalists were among the first to enter the presidential palace after Bashar al-Assad's regime fell, documenting abandoned military positions and empty government buildings, and rebel fighters on the streets rejoicing with celebratory gunfire. Coverage extended from Damascus to Idlib, from areas under opposition control to those still held by remnants of the old government. Beyond military shifts, the focus remained on the human impact: reports from the notorious Sednaya prison and on the plight of Syria's Yazidi community. A clear winner for our judges – they said it was a superb example of continuing news coverage, with stunning visuals, spectacular access and excellent storytelling, sharing both the human and political perspective in a way that was sensitive, engaging and added real depth.



Highly commended

Myanmar Earthquake: Natural Disaster or Human-made Catastrophe – Phoenix Satellite Television

When a powerful earthquake struck Myanmar in March 2025, Phoenix TV's reporter travelled to the earthquake's epicentre in Sagaing and surrounding areas, witnessing the plight of survivors struggling to stay alive; and asking the questions: Could the effects of this natural disaster have been mitigated if the government had been more prepared? Was internal conflict a contributing factor? The judges praised the production values, clear delivery and intelligent selection of interviews in this very moving account.

Highly commended

Killer Floods – Antena 3 CNN

In September 2024 storm Boris triggered torrential rain and floods in Romania's southeastern Galati area, causing death and widespread destruction and disruption. The judges were impressed by Antena 3 CNN's sustained coverage in challenging circumstances and commented on the extremely powerful visuals.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS



The Atom Araullo Specials: Pogoland

Public Affairs, GMA Network, Inc.

Pogoland explores the world of POGO (Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators) hubs across the country. These were formerly legitimate online casinos, but after losing their licences have become hubs for scams and fraud, where illicit activities thrive. Over 800 victims were rescued in March from a centre in Tarlac province, where they had been forced to participate in frauds and been abused. Further investigations found more trafficked individuals in Pampanga province, with some victims being abused and held captive. The documentary is a wake-up call for authorities to increase their efforts to dismantle these criminal networks and bring justice to the victims. The judges declared this entry the winner. They were captivated by the high-quality storytelling which was accessible and audience-focused, calling it a compelling watch with incredible access to all relevant parties, convincing, original and striking.



Highly commended

Tabloids on Trial – ITV News/ITN for ITV

Bubbling on for many years, the phone hacking scandal has spiralled to embroil the UK's biggest newspaper groups and tied them up in long, complex and very costly litigation. The film sought to unpick the story and explore accusations of other illegal tactics such as burglary, tracking devices planted on cars, bugging homes and blagging medical records. "Slick thorough reporting with on-camera cooperation of high-profile victims which made for a powerful viewing experience", commented the judges.

Highly commended

The Real Unforgotten – Brinkworth Productions

This two-part series follows the cold case murder investigation of a gruesome unsolved 1981 murder – the lead detective didn't believe the initial police hypothesis that this was a robbery gone wrong. The case was eventually resolved six years later, with the production team following events with the detectives over the whole period. High praise from the judges for this riveting and 'disturbingly real' production with high production values and outstanding storytelling.



HEALTH and SOCIAL



The Midwife's Confession

BBC World Service

Shot, produced and directed over two years, the film uses never before seen archive footage to explore the disturbing history of female infanticide in rural India and tells the unknown story of one woman's remarkable campaign to save girls' lives. 30 years ago, in the villages of Bihar, a young journalist uncovered that midwives were forced to murder newborn baby girls at the orders of families who saw daughters as burdens. Their testimonies are the foundation of the film. We hear from a surviving midwife about the coercion they faced to do the unthinkable, a young woman rescued as a baby, and from Anila Kumari, whose life's work was convincing midwives to stop the killings and bring her the babies instead. For our judges this was the winner: an enthralling and cinematic narrative with multiple perspectives and in-depth investigation, excellent production values, incredible archive, deeply moving and leaving a big impact on the viewer.



Highly commended

Spotlight: I Am Not Okay – BBC Northern Ireland

The film gives an extraordinary glimpse into the daily lives of four families struggling to care for adolescent boys who have both autism and severe learning disabilities. Those conditions can lead to them lashing out in distress, often unintentionally harming themselves and their mothers severely. "Raw, devastating and urgent", commented the judges who were impressed by the uncompromising and intimate camera work which still managed to portray the trauma in a sensitive way.

INNOVATIVE FACTUAL



Under the Same Sky/Gaza 360°

Frontline in Focus xr

Shot in 360-degree virtual reality, Under the Same Sky allows audiences to experience the war's devastating impact from the inside. Through the eyes of Sami Sultan, a journalist who was forced to leave his city, we navigate the shattered streets of Gaza, witness the resilience of its people, and confront the unfiltered truth of life under siege as a lived experience. But the film is also about resistance, survival, and the fight to document the truth. And it reveals the immense challenges journalists face in bringing the world a story that many forces would rather keep hidden. For our judges this entry emerged as the winner: they felt this film truly benefitted from the use of VR/360 by skirting journalistic limitations in covering the perils in Gaza, and proving that simplicity and efficiency in production need not compromise depth. The brave and immersive reporting gets the audience emotionally invested in the people in the story.



Highly commended

Deutsche Welle JaafarTalk – Step by Step: turning controversy into shared solutions – Deutsche Welle (DW)

This journalism-led multimedia video series was created specifically for digital audiences across the Arab world. Designed from the ground up for web platforms, it redefines how civic journalism is delivered – through interactivity, gamification, and compelling storytelling. The show challenges participants to collaborate towards solutions, turning confrontation into conversation. The judges were impressed by the format that invites people to step out of their silos and connect with one another – engaging, provoking, making you think.

The AIBs 2025



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



From Ghent to Damascus

VRT NWS

After the fall of the Assad regime in 2024 VRT's Inge Vrancken travels back to Syria with Salah Jaradeh and Turkieh Allour, a young couple who fled the country ten years ago and have since built a new life in Ghent, Belgium. Salah returns to Harasta, his hometown, now reduced to rubble. Turkieh, who was only 16 when she fled, is able to reunite with her mother but her search for her beloved uncle Bassem, who was arrested in 2013 for participating in protests against the Assad regime, leads her to one of the darkest places in Syria: the notorious Sednaya prison. It's the last confirmed location where Bassem was seen. Salah and Turkieh's journey home echoes the emotions, questions, and fragile hopes of thousands of Syrians worldwide. "A must-see", said our judges – and a clear winner. They called it an immensely powerful, moving and beautifully observed film, letting the viewer share intimate moments without being intrusive.



Highly commended

Haiti: The Iron Grip of The Gangs – France 24

Romeo Langlois and Catherine Norris Trent, working with Haitian journalist Jean Mendel, ventured into some of the most dangerous zones of Port-au-Prince in May 2024. With the airport closed and few other international journalists on the ground, they did the filming themselves, on a motorbike, with two cameras and cellphones, exploring the origins and mechanics of the crisis. The judges were impressed by this underreported story with its strong actuality and excellent production standards, achieved under extreme conditions.

Highly commended

El Salvador: Gangland to Safe Haven – Dateline, Special Broadcasting Service

Gang-related violence is an issue of global significance and El Salvador's approach to curbing the problem has been studied by other Central and Latin American countries, and more recently the Trump administration. The SBS team investigated how, and at what cost, El Salvador turned from 'murder capital of the world' to tourist hotspot in five years. The judges commented on the diversity of perspectives shown, fascinating prison access and thought-provoking approach.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS – CONFLICT



Life and Death in Gaza

BBC Eye

From October 7, 2023, four Palestinians use their phones to document life in Gaza as they endure bombings, evacuations, family separations, deaths, and the birth of a new life during the first year of the war. Physiotherapist Khalid defies Israeli orders to evacuate south and struggles to keep his family safe. Aya, just graduated from law school, sees her future derailed when her family is forced to evacuate their home in central Gaza. NGO youth worker Adam takes responsibility for his younger sisters when his father dies in the early days of the war. Pregnant Aseel is married to Ibrahim who becomes a press photographer who records the daily carnage as the family constantly relocates, looking for safety. The judges called the film a "significant testament to lived experience amid war", "utterly gripping", and chose it as the winner. The self-shot material and personal archives create authenticity and emotional depth rarely seen in conflict reporting.



Highly commended

VIKTOR-IA – Voice of America

Filmed over just ten days in active conflict zones in Ukraine, the film captures stories of civilians forced to make life-defining choices in the face of constant danger. It also shows their resilience and hope as generations of ordinary people find extraordinary strength in moments of crisis and reclaim dignity. The judges commented that the production's strength lies in its intimacy and quiet observation rather than spectacle.

Highly commended

Fault Lines - Kids Under Fire – Al Jazeera English

Thousands of children have been killed in Gaza, mostly dying under the crush of indiscriminate bombings. American doctors in Gaza also report children arriving at trauma centres with gunshot wounds to the head or heart nearly every day. Their accounts, corroborated across hospitals and over time, point to a horrifying reality: children are being killed with impunity, or worse, as deliberate policy. "A powerful exposé", commented the judges, "meticulous in its sourcing and pushing the viewer to confront uncomfortable truths".



INVESTIGATIVE



Street of Death: RFE/RL Unmasks Russian Soldiers Behind Bucha Killings

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

In this third part of Radio Liberty journalist Dmytro Dzhulay's investigation into the massacres in Bucha, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reconstructed three days in March 2022 on Yablunska Street in Bucha, minute by minute. This was a period of some of the most intense shootings of civilians during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Using surveillance video, previously unseen footage of the killings, secret Russian documents, eyewitness accounts and testimonies of the victims' relatives, Radio Liberty is able to name the Russian military personnel who are likely to have been involved in the massacres at Yablunska and to provide evidence of the involvement of the highest Russian command. The judges decided this entry was the winner, saying it was a chilling watch from start to end, powerful and crucially important as a painstaking forensic piece of journalism – a truly exceptional and unforgettable work.



Highly commended

101 East – Cambodia's Repressive Reach – Al Jazeera English

While investigating the brazen assassination of former Cambodian opposition MP Lim Kimya in Bangkok, Thailand, the Al Jazeera team revealed a terrifying global campaign to track down and silence critics of Cambodia's authoritarian government which also systematically dismantles independent media at home. The judges were impressed by how 101 East turns a national issue into a story with regional and global resonance, elevating Cambodia's repressive reach into a cross-border conversation about governance and our freedoms.

Highly commended

Groomed: A National Scandal – Candour Productions for Channel 4

This powerful film by Anna Hall on the explosive issue of gang grooming puts the experiences of women who have survived unimaginable abuse at the heart of the story and exposes failings by police and social services which span decades – while children are still being let down to this day. The judges praised the film's unflinching and emotional approach reflecting Anna's deep and long record of engagement with the topic, as well as the stunning cinematography.

JOURNALIST of the YEAR



Jomana Karadsheh

CNN International

As CNN International Correspondent, Jomana Karadsheh has for the past two decades reported extensively from countries across the Middle East and North Africa and been integral to the network's coverage of every major story out of this region. In 2024 she covered the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the Israel-Hezbollah war. At the end of 2024, Karadsheh and her colleagues were the only western team to make it into Syria and report from the country during the offensive and in the final days before the regime's fall. One of the biggest scoops of the year was her worldwide exclusive interview with Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, the then militant leader of the offensive. The judges felt Jomana was the deserving winner. This is what they said about her work: outstanding access and reporting, ability to capture the human angle and present new perspectives, credibility, expertise, great scripts written to powerful visuals, and sensitive editing.



POLITICS and BUSINESS



Blood Parliament

BBC Africa Eye

In June last year, blood was spilt on the grounds of Kenya's parliament. The government had proposed a new finance bill that would raise taxes to address growing national debt. But millions of young Kenyans didn't see it that way. On the day of the bill's final reading, June 25th, hundreds of thousands of them headed to parliament to stop it becoming law. En-route they met tear gas, truncheons, and even gunfire. Three of those protestors were killed – young men who were students, shopkeepers, and Sunday school teachers. Since then, no official investigation has been published, and no-one been held to account for their deaths. BBC Africa Eye exposes the men who spilt blood at Kenya's Parliament. One of our judges called this piece "a triumph of information gathering". A riveting account of the tragedy and subsequent painstaking investigation that made exemplary use of mobile phone archive and complementary graphics with perfectly paced narrative – a deserving winner, agreed the judges.



Highly commended

101 East – Bangladesh: The Mother & The Monster – Al Jazeera English

Once hailed as an icon of democracy, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ruled Bangladesh for 15 years with increasing repression and fear. Under her paranoid dictatorship, hundreds of people vanished. After a student-led movement overthrew the government in 2024, the true extent of the suffering is coming to light. How will Bangladesh rise from the rubble of a dictator's rule? Captivating and demonstrating rigorous research, commented the judges who were impressed by the depth of reporting.

Highly commended

James Vincent, Political Editor – BBC Yorkshire

Filming mostly on a mobile phone and editing his own pieces, including all of the package graphics, means regional political correspondent/editor James Vincent can expertly explain complex topics – such as health inequalities, devolution, or the assisted dying debate – in a more conversational style. He excels in trying to get people interested in politics. "The man is a TV phenomenon", said one judge – could this be a model for covering politics in an era of short attention spans?

PRESENTER of the YEAR



Vicky Morales

GMA Network, Inc.

For over three decades, Vicky Morales has been one of the most trusted broadcast journalists in the Philippines, known for her coverage both locally and abroad. She delivers the day's most important stories, breaking news, national emergencies, and historic developments as one of the anchors of GMA Network's flagship newscast "24 Oras". Vicky has also led some of the network's most high-stakes special coverage, including GMA's 32-hour marathon coverage for the 2025 Elections. Throughout her career, Vicky has conducted interviews with numerous world leaders and prominent figures. Outside news, she connects with audiences through public service programmes "Wish Ko Lang" and "Good News" which feature uplifting stories and stories of resilience. Our judges said of Vicky: "always true to herself but adapting to content and people perfectly", "a seasoned professional full of authority and charisma", "a TV natural whose experience, depth, and range across a wide variety of formats is impressive". For the judges Vicky was the clear winner.



SHORT FEATURE



24 Hours in Gaza

Al Jazeera Arabic Channel

A day in the Gaza strip, after twenty months of war. Al Jazeera documents what the people of Gaza are experiencing over a 24-hour period – their quest for the most basic necessities of life, their sacrifices, their oppression, their suffering. The judges had no hesitation in selecting this production as the winner. It was powerful, with incredible access, well-structured and succeeded in mixing stories without any need for pathos, excessive violence or graphic elements. Lighting, framing, pacing, and close-ups are masterfully handled, resulting in a deeply moving piece that highlights the courage and resilience of Gaza's civilians. One judge said: "It was a smart choice to put a format to it of just 24 hours."



Highly commended

Assisted Dying: What can the UK learn from one of its closest neighbours, the Netherlands? – 5 News, ITN

The Netherlands has the highest assisted death rate in the world and is wrestling with the argument around physical versus psychological conditions, shining a light on how the issue constantly evolves. The UK's 5 News spoke to affected individuals and medical professionals to show all sides of this divisive issue. The judges commented on the quality of the interviews, excellent research and editing of the piece that offers a valuable contribution to the debate.

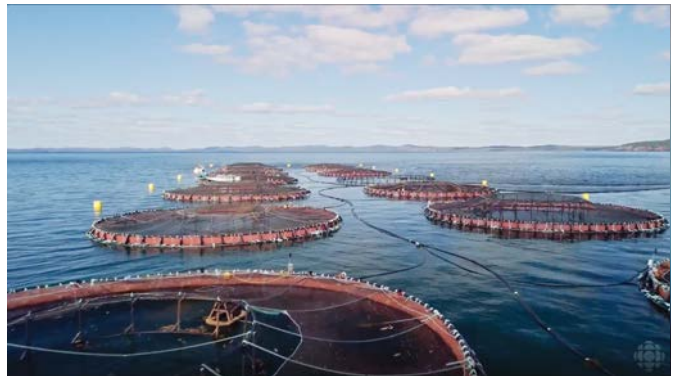
SUSTAINABILITY



Maritimes : L'élevage en mer des saumons menacé

Radio-Canada

Canada ranks fourth largest in the world in farmed salmon production. Now a conflict is brewing as the Canadian government has announced that open-net pen salmon farming on the West Coast will end by 2029. The next facilities will have to be built on land. Those involved in salmon farming highlight the creation of thousands of jobs and their environmentally sound practices. Critics argue it's time to stop these polluting farms, which they also view as harmful to the survival of wild salmon. What impact will the government decision have? This is the winner, declared the judges. They felt it was among the best documentaries they had seen in the past years and called it constructive journalism par excellence: technically brilliant, thought-provoking, keeping the viewer engaged through personal, professional, environmental, economic and food security perspectives on the issue, and solution-oriented.



Highly commended

Spotlight: The Sewage Scandal – BBC Northern Ireland

State-owned Northern Ireland Water, responsible for supplying drinking water and disposing of waste for almost two million people, is routinely breaking the law by dumping millions of tonnes of raw sewage into Belfast Lough harbour. Spotlight investigated how the spills affect life in and around Belfast Lough – wild swimmers, boaters, and mussel farmers. This was an engaging and memorable narrative that delivered balanced journalism, remarked the judges, with strong production, soundtrack and graphics.

The AIBs 2025



ARTS and CULTURE



Archive on 4: Do You Speak English?

BBC News Long Form Audio

Britain's public broadcaster BBC has been producing English learning programmes for audiences around the world for more than half a century and this is the untold and neglected story of how it started – the ideas, the motivation, the people who listened and watched. Most of the BBC's 'English by Radio and Television' programmes have never been heard by a UK audience and took months to track down. They provide an intriguing insight into Britain's cultural heritage, from their beginnings in 1943 when English was taught to occupied Europe, to their role today reaching girls in Afghanistan banned from school. Archive clips unearthed by Josephine McDermott often seem 'surreal' – from jaunty songs about democracy to Morris dancing and a furry green alien monster who eats metal. This is the winner – decided the judges. They called it brilliantly engaging, and highlighted its smooth editing, perfect blend of music and dialogue, and great use of archive.



Highly commended

The Öland Massacre – Sveriges Radio

As archaeologists uncover ancient treasures in a long-forgotten ringfort on the Swedish island of Öland, they also discover that the ringfort's entire population was brutally massacred. By whom and why? In true crime narrative style, the listener is led seamlessly through time and space, like in a cultural time capsule. The judges were impressed by the immersive storytelling, the effective soundscape and scene setting in this gripping historical mystery. "Makes the listener see through his ears", said one.

HEALTH and SOCIAL



La mort libre : 10 ans d'aide médicale à mourir

Radio-Canada OHdio

Canada's Quebec province is a forerunner in the field of medical assistance in dying – it has become a world champion in this new form of end-of-life care. Journalist Alain Gravel takes us on an intimate exploration of this complex, delicate and polarizing practice. As in the case of 84-year-old Françoise Gillot who has been suffering from spinal collapse since her twenties. She is seeking medical assistance to die – which she sees as a release – and has agreed to have her final moments recorded. Through the testimonies of doctors, patients, politicians and families directly affected by medical assistance in dying, the film explores the human, ethical and societal aspects of this ultimate choice and it impressed our judges so deeply that they crowned it the winner in this category. They said it was an audio masterpiece, deeply researched and elegantly scripted, reflecting the special relationship established between reporter and subject.



Highly commended

Iraq's secret women's shelters – CTVC for BBC World Service

With virtually no state provision for victims of domestic abuse in Iraq, Iraqi women have to take it upon themselves to organise secret shelters for survivors and to assemble health and legal support for victims. Rebecca Kesby gained unprecedented access to some of the women running these clandestine refuges, and to some of the survivors. The judges commented that a great deal of long-term trust building had gone into this standout production – original both in concept and execution.



INVESTIGATIVE



Grenfell: Building a Disaster

BBC Long Form Audio

In June 2017 an electrical fault on the 4th floor of the 24-storey Grenfell Tower block of flats in London turned into one of the worst UK residential fires. Kate Lambell has been covering the Grenfell Tower fire for over seven years, and this ten-part series is the culmination of her team's work. Each episode examines a different level of protection that failed Grenfell's residents: the cladding and insulation manufacturers, the architects, the council, the fire brigade and the government. It's a story of corporate deceit, government deregulation, structural racism and a construction industry in a race to the bottom. A deserving winner, said the judges: outstanding investigative work that explored every angle and was respectful, compelling and deeply impactful. The high production quality and sensitive sound design supported the clear and gripping narrative. One judge said it felt like a "three dimensional archive of what happened, who it happened to and why it happened".



Highly commended

Kasinoläckan (The Casino Leaks) – Sveriges Radio

A data leak of more than 80,000 secret documents from within the gambling industries reveals the reality of hidden and illegal online casinos where Swedish betting addicts can gamble away millions while the hands of law enforcement and regulatory bodies are tied. The judges praised this as exemplary investigative journalism: deeply researched, expertly told, with a smart sound design, strong use of field recordings, and impactful on both a public and policy level.

NEWS COVERAGE

SPONSORED BY



Sitrep

BFBS

Sitrep is a weekly podcast with the mission statement 'Defence Explained' – its audience is primarily British military personnel and their families, as well as a wider military community including veterans. While the UK is not a direct participant in the war in Ukraine, the UK's future security and that of its NATO allies depends on the outcome, and lessons from the fighting in Ukraine are being closely followed. So Sitrep has provided reporting and analysis with depth and context for its very specific audience. Our judges chose this entry as the winner and found much to praise: outstanding access, delivery with calm and authority, strong production values that draw the listener in from the outset, 'mind-blowing' narrative. They said the podcast, though aimed at a specialist audience, spoke to them directly and had an urgency, demonstrating that the team are able to provide fascinating insights also for listeners less familiar with the discussion of military concerns.



Highly commended

The Global Jigsaw, The Kurdish Issue – BBC World Service

The podcast showcases the work of BBC Monitoring's journalists – true media detectives who track, translate and analyse open source news and narratives in over 100 languages. This three-part series looks at the Kurds, one of the largest ethnic groups in the world, scattered across Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran: their persecution, resistance, and attempts to form a state. Informative, educational, authoritative and always engaging, commented the judges, and a reminder that you can only understand today by looking at the past.

The AIBs 2025



RADIO or PODCAST PRESENTER



Weimin Tseng

Radio Taiwan International

Weimin Tseng is a senior journalist and multilingual storyteller at Radio Taiwan International (Rti). Through his work he attempts to bridge cultural divides, bring forward marginalized voices, and to reframe Taiwan's global narrative through the lenses of migration, language revitalisation, and postcolonial memory. As the producer and host of "Taiwan Yes", he has reported on the lives of new immigrants and second-generation youth and how they forge hybrid identities within Taiwan's evolving multicultural landscape. He has also documented Taiwan's transition from decades of linguistic suppression to a renaissance of native languages. For him journalism is a form of public service and historical reckoning, where language is not merely a tool of communication, but a vessel of belonging. By selecting him as the winner, the judges said his visionary approach and cultural stewardship deserved recognition, as his journalistic work does not merely chronicle underrepresented lives and languages but has a transformative effect on society today.



SUSTAINABILITY



Pacific Scientific – One Atoll's Fight

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The people of Ulithi atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia have managed their unique reef atoll ecosystem for thousands of years using traditional knowledge. As the outside world has pushed in, these traditions have been disrupted. On the edge of the Mariana Trench, their community of ~1000 people has few tools to deal with increasingly complex problems – like invasive species, new technology, a leaking WW2 oil tanker, and climate change. Now Ulithians are fighting back in a unique collaboration with invited scientists: reawakening traditional practices, aided by science. Covering this story involved 18 months building relationships with a community sceptical of journalists, seeking permissions from Chiefs, and very challenging remote field reporting. The judges felt this exceptional piece of journalism set a benchmark for sustainability reporting with its investigative depth, narrative craft, and production excellence. Its sound-led storytelling was respectful and both urgent and solutions-focused. "I felt transported there", said one judge. A clear and deserving winner.

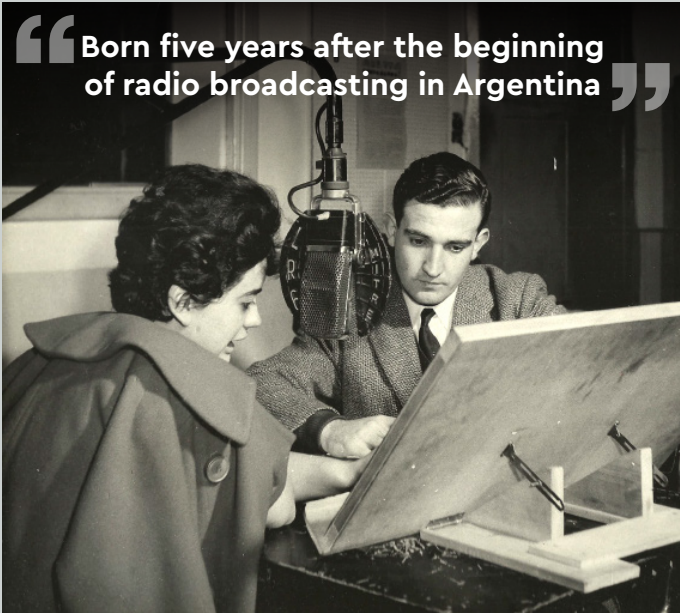


RADIO MITRE ALWAYS IN YOUR LIFE

Radio Mitre is not only the radio station with the biggest audience in Argentina but it is also the radio station with the longest history in the country – and this year it celebrates its 100th anniversary

Radio Mitre is a radio station in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, owned and operated by Clarín Group. It was created on August 16, 1925, under the name of The Nation Broadcasting LOZ. During the government of Juan Domingo Perón, it was nationalised and eventually re-privatised in October 1983.

“Born five years after the beginning of radio broadcasting in Argentina”



THE BIRTH OF RADIO

A century ago, in an old house in a suburb of Buenos Aires, Radio Mitre was born, just five years after the beginning of radio broadcasting in Argentina. And since then, it hasn't stopped growing as iconic voices from journalism and entertainment have reached the homes of millions of Argentines through Radio Mitre's microphones. These voices have reported on the most important events in the history of the country and the world: among them the rise of Juan Domingo Perón, the dark years of the military dictatorship, the great victories of Boca Juniors, River Plate, and the Argentine National Team, the Nobel Prizes and Oscars of great Argentine personalities from Science and Arts, as well as World War II, the Apolo 11 moon landing, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the attack on the Twin Towers, the wars in the Middle East, and more.

REBRANDING

Throughout 2025 Radio Mitre has been celebrating its 100th anniversary with events both on and off the air. Station Manager Jorge Porta, Head of Production Martín Aguirre, and Scriptwriter and Artistic Production Supervisor Juan Pablo Cordoba – who in 2025 is also a member of the international judging panel for the AIBs – have led the Mitre team to carry out the rebranding of the station with a new slogan, a new jingle, a new logo, and the creation of 100 promotional spots with historic audio clips. There have been a series of outdoor broadcasts in different parts of the country, a mega multi-platform campaign, and many other initiatives that culminated in the party held on Radio Mitre's birthday (August 16th) at the Teatro Coliseo, one of the most famous theatres in Buenos Aires.

FITTING TRIBUTE

The Teatro Coliseo is a site of great significance in the history of radio as it was on the terrace of that theatre that the first commercial radio broadcast in Argentina took place – one of the first in the world. There, Richard Wagner's opera 'Parsifal' was broadcast live to a dozen people who had radios in their homes at the time, in 1920. So it seemed fitting to gather in the same place to host a broadcast with similar historical significance: the celebration of the first Argentine radio station marking the milestone of being on air for 100 years. This celebration featured famous presenters from Radio Mitre's past and present, performances by top-level guest musicians, and a heartfelt tribute to long-lost radio personalities.



“Iconic voices offering companionship for listeners”

STILL IN YOUR LIFE

2025 will undoubtedly forever be remembered in Argentina as the year in which the radio dressed up to celebrate the first 100 years of Radio Mitre: 100 years of free journalism, professionalism, ethics, entertainment, and – above all – companionship for listeners. 100 years in which, as the station's new slogan says, Mitre was with them “always” – always in their life. And still is. ■

SILENCED SIGNALS

HOW 2025 RESHAPED THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

This has been one of the most dramatic years for the international media landscape since the Association for International Broadcasting was founded in 1993. In 2025, the landscape of international public broadcasting acquired a sharply discontinuous character, punctuated by a set of abrupt blows. The most visible: the effective closure of major U.S. international broadcasters. What does this mean for the future of international media?





COLLATERAL DAMAGE

As VoA fell silent, Radio Free Asia (RFA) and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) also faced existential threat. Kari Lake, the Trump administration appointee to lead the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), attempted to block Congressional appropriations from reaching the broadcasters. Although courts overturned the decision, the funding resumed at a lower and slower rate, forcing layoffs and programme reductions.

On 31 October, Radio Free Asia broadcast its final programmes after nearly three decades on air, cutting off audiences in North Korea, Cambodia, Tibet, and China from one of the few independent voices available to them. RFA provided the only external source of news for Uyghur-speaking audiences inside China – a community that faces constant persecution by the authorities.

CHEER AND OPPORTUNISM

For authoritarian leaders, Washington's retreat from international broadcasting was a welcome gift. Cambodia's former prime minister Hun Sen applauded the move, writing on Facebook: "We should highly appreciate President Donald Trump for having the courage to lead the world to combat fake news... This is a big contribution to eliminating the fake news, false news, colorized, slanderous, incitement, worldwide chaos coming from the head of the propaganda machine that President Trump stopped funding."

The vacuum left behind has quickly been filled. China Radio International has moved into VoA and RFA's former shortwave frequencies across Asia, while rebroadcasting partners in Africa—once dependent on VoA content and revenue—have been forced to shut down local stations, eroding both livelihoods and democratic discourse.

THE FALL OF VOA

In March 2025, at a stroke, Voice of America (VoA) was silenced. Almost every staff member and freelancer at the 80-year-old broadcaster was laid off or had contracts terminated, depriving more than 300 million global listeners of independent news from Washington DC. The VoA website remains frozen, still displaying its final news update from 15 March 2025, and its 48 language services – including English – have gone dark.





“ In the studio at WCHG, Allegheny Mountain Radio, that's lost around 65% of its funding ”

SHRINKING MEDIA ECOSYSTEM

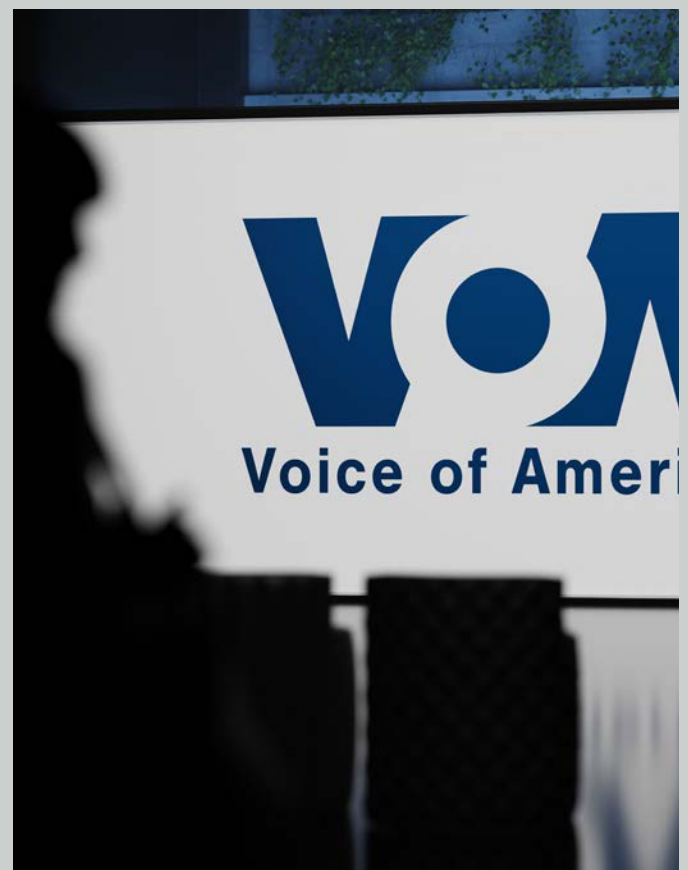
The collapse of the U.S. international broadcasting framework has encouraged China and Russia to expand their own media influence. The Russian-linked Viory News Agency, based in Abu Dhabi, seems to have taken over the entire video library of RT subsidiary Ruptly — the video news agency that was based in Germany but was shut down after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine — now positioning itself as a "Global South" news outlet. Meanwhile, Sputnik and RT have been actively negotiating new carriage agreements in Africa, Latin America, and Asia—reportedly offering generous payments for rebroadcasts.

The relationships that U.S. broadcasters built with global audiences have been severed, and those bonds are unlikely to be quickly rebuilt. International broadcasting depends on continuity and credibility, not sporadic engagement, to gain the trust of viewers and listeners in an increasingly fragmented media landscape.

DOMESTIC FALLOUT

There have been dramatic developments affecting domestic U.S. broadcasting too. U.S. federal funding for public broadcasting has been terminated, triggering a cascade of newsroom closures and cultural silence across the country. In its Executive Order, the Trump administration justified the decision by declaring: "Unlike in 1967, when the CPB [Corporation for Public Broadcasting] was established, today the media landscape is filled with abundant, diverse, and innovative news options. Government funding of news media in this environment is not only outdated and unnecessary but corrosive to the appearance of journalistic independence."

The result has been the dismantling of America's local public-service media network, one that had connected communities for decades through trusted journalism, arts, and education.



LOCAL VOICES LOST

Many small and rural public radio and TV stations relied on Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) grants for 40–60% of their operating budgets. Without this funding, dozens of local newsrooms have closed or laid off staff.

- Stations in the Midwest, Appalachia, and the Mountain West have ended local newscasts entirely.
- PBS member stations have closed documentary units and student training programmes.
- University-affiliated stations (e.g. in Kentucky, Idaho, and Alabama) have ceased operations, cutting off journalism education pipelines.

This leaves the next generation of journalists without training and employment opportunities — and communities without credible local news sources.

CULTURAL SILENCE

The cuts have not only affected journalism. Public stations have cancelled long-running arts and music programmes, including classical performances, folk traditions, and community theatre coverage. These were among the few platforms offering exposure to regional and minority artists. The loss is not only editorial but cultural, narrowing America's creative diversity and civic voice.

BEYOND THE U.S.

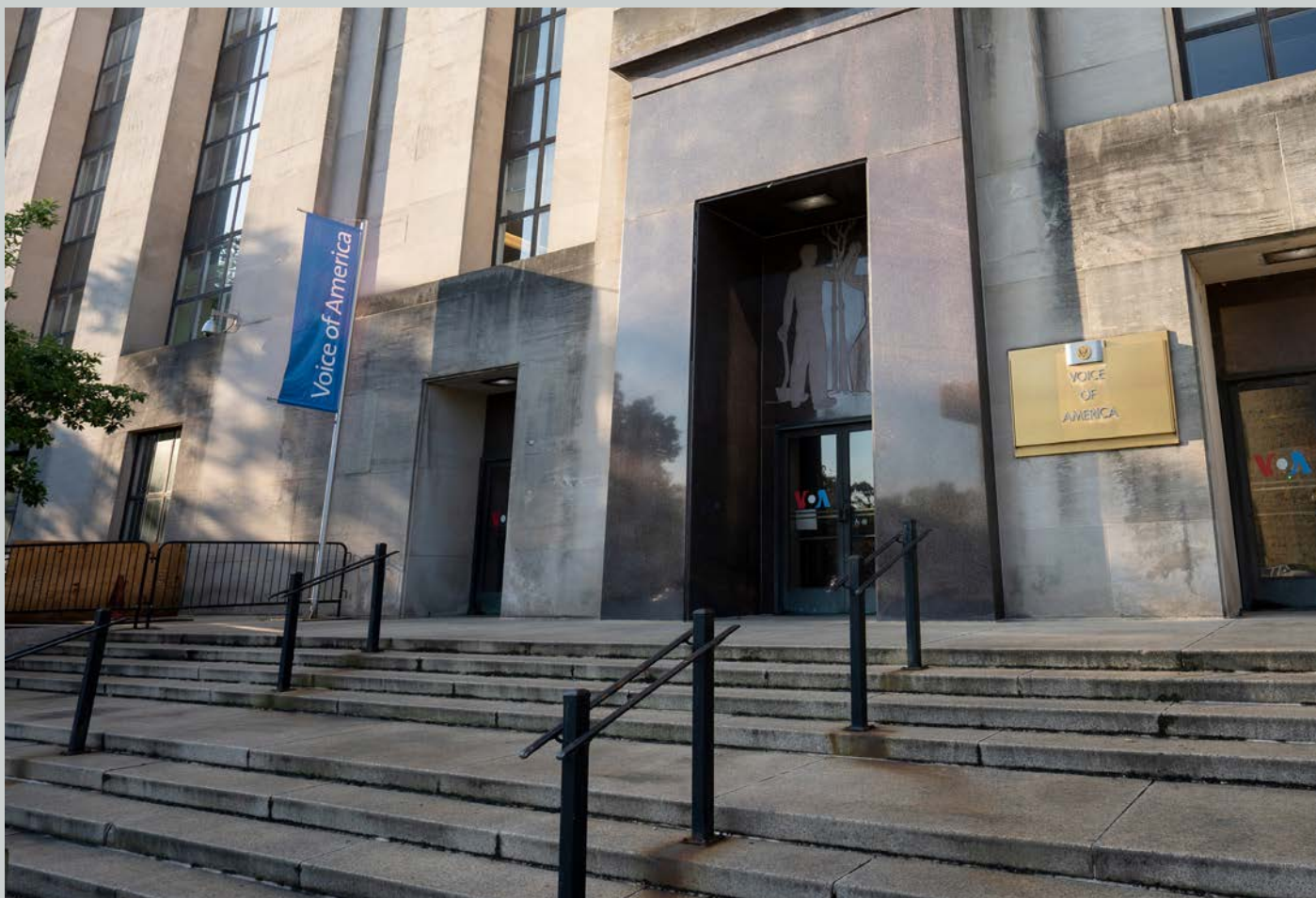
Beyond the U.S., other international broadcasters are navigating their own challenges and opportunities:

- BBC World Service, funded through the UK domestic TV licence fee, is seeking additional resources ahead of an uncertain funding basis from the 2026 financial year.

- NHK WORLD Radio Japan is ending its Russian-language shortwave output from transmitters in Japan but will retain digital distribution.
- Radio Exterior de España is expanding with new Chinese-language programming, in addition to its six other language services English, French, Russian, Portuguese, Arabic and Sephardic. Its English output has been reduced but remains available on digital platforms across the week.
- Voice of Nigeria is reactivating its long-silent shortwave transmitters, aiming to become a "pan-African and globally respected broadcaster." According to press reports, Voice of Nigeria is collaborating with media companies in China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Tanzania.

A WORLD IN FLUX

The international media environment mirrors the instability of the wider world itself — economic strain, technological shifts, and geopolitical realignment. At the AIB, we believe that international broadcasting — direct via satellite and shortwave, through rebroadcasting partnerships, and on digital platforms — is vital for citizens globally in understanding the world. We are privileged to see and hear the output of so many international media houses every year in the AIBs, and our judges reward the very best of these productions. It is our fervent hope that international broadcasting continues to inform and entertain viewers and listeners, alongside the remarkable work of domestic broadcasters and production houses. And the AIB pays tribute to all the journalists, editors, producers and executives who have worked at Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty over the broadcasters' long histories. Thank you. ■







Lifetime Achievement Award

Carlson Huang

The Association for International Broadcasting is proud to honour Carlson Huang with its Lifetime Achievement Award. This distinction, presented at the discretion of the AIB itself, recognises a remarkable career dedicated to international broadcasting, cross-cultural understanding, and the power of radio to connect people across borders.

For three decades, Carlson Huang has been a defining figure in global broadcasting through his work with Radio Taiwan International (Rti), where his leadership, vision, and unflinching commitment to international dialogue have left a lasting legacy. From his early days as an English-language host in the 1990s at the Broadcasting Corporation of China's Voice of Free China to his tenure as Manager of the International Language Division and now Director of the Rti Academy, Carlson's work has embodied the ideals of public service broadcasting—truth, connection, and curiosity about the wider world.

Throughout his career, Carlson has represented Taiwan on the international stage. His stewardship of multilingual programming at Rti ensured that Taiwan's voice was heard in 20 languages across the globe. As an advocate for technological and editorial innovation, he guided Rti through the transition from shortwave to digital and streaming platforms, while championing the enduring value of radio as a bridge between nations and cultures.

Carlson's contribution extends far beyond Taiwan's borders. As a long-standing member of the Association for International Broadcasting Executive Committee, and its Chair for the term from 2024 to 2026, he has helped shape the AIB's global agenda, supporting initiatives to promote media freedom, ethical journalism, and sustainability. His service on the international panel of judges for the AIBs over nearly two decades has also enriched the competition with his global perspective and encouragement for journalists from every continent.

Equally significant is his role as a teacher and mentor. Carlson has lectured at National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University, and other institutions, sharing his deep understanding of international media with new generations of communicators. His recent appointment to lead the Rti Academy reflects his enduring commitment to training and professional development for broadcasters at home and abroad.

His career has been marked by constant curiosity and engagement with broadcasters worldwide—from the BBC and Deutsche Welle to NHK, Radio Nederland, and Radio Free Europe. Through visits, collaborations, and dialogues with colleagues across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America, Carlson has built bridges of understanding that few in global broadcasting can match.

Behind all this achievement lies a quiet integrity and a belief in the role of media as a force for peace and empathy. Whether speaking to audiences in Taiwan or meeting listeners in India, Germany, Indonesia, or Argentina, Carlson Huang has exemplified the values that define international broadcasting at its best—curiosity, respect, and connection.

In presenting Carlson Huang with the 2025 AIB Lifetime Achievement Award, the Association for International Broadcasting celebrates a career devoted to bringing people together through words, ideas, and shared humanity. His influence continues to inspire colleagues and broadcasters around the world.

Thank you, Carlson.





The AIBs 2025 team

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The AIBs 2026

We're looking forward to our 22nd annual competition for factual television, radio and online productions.

Here are the key dates to note

6 April | The AIBs launch

4 July | Closing date

July-August | Shortlisting

Mid-September | Judging

20 November | Awards night

If you would like to support the *AIBs* 2026 or be one of our judges then please contact us to discuss further.

Full information will be available on the dedicated website theaibs.tv



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