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October 2008 volume 18 no. 2

2008 Courage Awards

To purchase tickets to the *Courage in Journalism Awards* on October 16 in Los Angeles or on October 21 in New York, please visit: www.iwmf.org/courage.

To attend a *Courage* panel discussion and reception on October 9 in Washington, D.C., please RSVP by visiting the Web site listed above or e-mail courage@iwmf.org. This event is free of charge.

For information about a panel discussion on October 22 at the Paley Center for Media in New York, visit www.mtr.org/ny-fall-series-2008-courage-in-journalism-honorees-2008.

For profiles of the 2008 *Courage* and *Lifetime* winners, see:

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Visit the IWMF's New Web Site

The IWMF has launched a new Web site, designed for you to learn about and interact with our vibrant global network of women journalists. Please visit:

www.iwmf.org

Journalists Persist Amid Threats, Violence

THIS YEAR'S COURAGE WINNERS ARE CHAMPIONS OF A FREE PRESS.

An Afghan journalist who strives for a free press, an investigative reporter in Cyprus who faces threats but continues to report and a correspondent from Myanmar who works under constant scrutiny from her country's government are recipients of 2008 IWMF *Courage in Journalism Awards*.

Farida Nekzad, 31, is the managing editor and deputy director of Pajhwok Afghan News. Nekzad faces constant death threats and narrowly escaped a kidnapping attempt because her reporting angered her country's warlords. Despite working under tremendous pressure at a time when women journalists in particular are being threatened for their reporting in Afghanistan, Nekzad is committed to working toward a free press and greater equality for women journalists.

Sevgul Uludag, 49, is an investigative reporter for Yeniduzen newspaper in Cyprus. Uludag, who has reported for both Greek and Cypriot media outlets, has devoted herself to uncovering the fates of thousands of people who disappeared during Greek-Turkish clashes in the 1960s and 1970s. Her reporting started a public

debate about the issue of missing people and mass graves. But she has faced many obstacles for her work, including death threats and violent attacks.

Aye Aye Win, 54, is a correspondent for the Associated Press in Myanmar. One of the only women journalists in Myanmar, Win works under the repressive military junta. She is under constant scrutiny and threat, yet she dares to report on people and events that other journalists shy away from and that her government would prefer to keep hidden.

Edith Lederer, 65, is the chief correspondent at the United Nations for the Associated Press. She began her journalism career in 1966 and has worked on every continent except Antarctica covering wars, famines and political upheavals. She was the first female resident correspondent in Vietnam in 1972, the first woman to head an AP foreign bureau in Peru and the first journalist to file the bulletin announcing the start of the first Gulf War.

The IWMF created the *Courage in Journalism Awards* in 1990 to honor women journalists who have shown extraordinary strength of character and integrity while reporting the news under dangerous or difficult circumstances. ■

Afghan Journalist Speaks Out for Women, Press Freedom

By Peggy Simpson

Early on, as a teenager, Farida Nekzad wanted to be a reporter so she could be “a window for other women” in Afghanistan. She’s been that, and more.



Farida Nekzad

In high school in Kabul, before the Taliban came to power, she worked on school papers and volunteered for different publications. She knew only one reporter, a neighbor, who encouraged the teenage Nekzad to try her hand at reporting.

It wasn't that easy. When the Taliban took over, Nekzad had to withdraw from studying journalism at Kabul University when her family took refuge in Pakistan in 1996. She was 20. She taught in private Pakistani schools, supervised basic education programs for Afghan refugees and helped with Afghan Culture groups in Peshawar. She continued to study journalism at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication Institute in New Delhi and began writing poetry and freelance articles for both Afghan and Pakistani publications.

Nekzad soaked up articles about women struggling for their rights. Under the Taliban, women had been squeezed out of nearly all visible roles in society. When they were out of their houses, they were cloaked in burkas. When Nekzad returned to Afghanistan with her family in late 2001, she saw with some disbelief that women once again were working and walking in public without burkas. She also saw women going into journalism.

“It was a great strength for me,” she said, referring both to the ability of women to wear what they wanted and to be active again in public life. She took advantage of that freedom to report, edit and do media training with other Afghans.

At first, Nekzad freelanced for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting. She then worked for a year at AINA radio, part of the AINA cultural center, as a talk show presenter, reporter and editor on issues ranging from sports to women's issues and politics. She also began freelancing for the *Effat* monthly magazine, which was aimed at women. By April 2003, she had moved to reporting about politics, women's rights and the reconstruction of Afghanistan. She also began freelancing for *The New York Times*, BBC and Voice of America. By the fall of 2003, she began working part time for IWPR as an editor and trainer. At the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society, she put on workshops in Kabul and the provinces especially for women. The radio programs she produced included several on how women would live in the new Afghan society.

In the decade she has worked as a journalist after returning to Afghanistan, Nekzad has never veered from her goal of encouraging Afghan women to write and “to encourage them [to push] for their rights.”

Her work for IWPR led to the creation of Pajhwok Afghan News. With a half dozen colleagues, she looked at the many good feature stories written by IWPR participants, especially the women, and began to look for outlets that would publish them. They decided to do it themselves. “There was no independent news agency,

and we thought we should start one and then could publish all these materials from workshops, from Kabul and from the provinces,” she said.

It was 2004, and Nekzad was 29. The Kabul-based Pajhwok Afghan News is published in Dari, Pashto and English. Pajhwok translates into “Echo” in English. The agency has 35 reporters and photographers, including eight women.

The news agency has roiled the political waters with the stories they have carried. This is especially true when the stories concern Afghan warlords or provincial power brokers – or when the stories deal with new restrictions on women and a resurgence of violence against women. One controversial story was about a warlord exchanging his dog for a young girl. “When one of our regional reporters wrote this news, [the warlord and his aides] warned him ‘to write that [the story] was not correct. Apologize, otherwise we will kill you.’”

“For the last year, the situation is worse for women, especially outside of Kabul,” said Nekzad. “There are no rights for women. There are many instances of violence.” She added that powerful people back up their threats with guns. “And they don't like women to be journalists. It's a big problem.”

In June 2007, a gang murdered independent radio journalist Zakia Zaki, breaking into her house and gunning her down in front of her children. She had started Sada-e-Salh (Peace Radio) in 2001 and was a charismatic media figure in the country. After Nekzad went to her funeral, she received telephone and

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Cypriot Journalist Hopes Reporting Brings Peace, Truth

By Peggy Simpson

Sevgul Uludag acts almost as a one-woman truth and reconciliation commission in Cyprus in her pursuit of ugly realities about thousands of sectarian murders nearly half a century ago.

Uludag, 49, winner of a 2008 *Courage in Journalism Award* from the International Women's Media Foundation, says she builds “bridges of hope and understanding” between Turkish and Greek Cypriots. She encourages them to share what they know about the past, to shatter the shell of silence that keeps secret the fate of people still labeled “missing” due to political pressure. In many cases, this information leads to locating individual burial sites; in some cases, it helps locate mass graves.



Sevgul Uludag

Uludag's first stories about the missing were published in 2002, in *Yeniduzen* and *Alithia* newspapers, based on accounts of the first five people who had agreed to talk to her. This enraged the Turkish Cypriot government.

“Politicians were upset with me. They went on radio and TV and criticized me for opening old wounds. I got a lot of death threats from the killers who didn't want the graves to be opened. ...They feared there might be some prosecutions against them.” In April 2003, the daily newspaper *Volkan*, the mouthpiece of the Turkish nationalist movement, called upon gangs of goons to silence her – “to cut out her tongue.”

Uludag not only refused to back off, she set up a hot line to take tips about

gravesites and about the killers. She got hundreds of calls. And she expanded her search for the missing, especially after a checkpoint was opened in 2003 which allowed travel, with permission, between the Turkish and Greek parts of Cyprus, breaking a barrier of nearly four decades. Soon after, she did stories about the missing from both sides and published them together.

About 500 Turkish Cypriots went missing from 1963 to 1974, and about 1,500 Greek Cypriots were missing after 1974. “It was a big shock for the Greek Cypriots to find out that Turkish Cypriots were missing. They had thought that only Greek Cypriots were missing...For Turkish Cypriots, it was a big shock, too, to find out that so many Greek Cypriots suffered and that the violence came from Turkish Cypriots as well,” she said. The secrecy had fueled paranoia and mistruths.

The truth was hard to take. But once her stories began to reveal the unpleasant truths, and more people began speaking out, “it was like an earthquake. Everybody started talking about the missing.” Uludag's articles continue to prompt more people to come forward. For the last two years, she has published this information in a series in *Yeniduzen* newspaper called “Cyprus: the Untold Stories.”

Uludag grew up in Turkish Cyprus, very near the border of Greek Cyprus. Her parents lived there before the island was divided and had friends from both ethnic groups. After the civil war, her father resisted pressure to join Turkish Cypriot nationalist organizations, knowing they opposed not just Greek Cypriots but

those on the Turkish Cypriot side who disagreed with them.

“My father refused to belong to them. [He thought] tomorrow you might say ‘I have to kill my brother’...He was like a conscientious objector. He was put in prison, was persecuted when he got out and never could find a job. If he found a job during the day, at night the owner would come and say ‘sorry, they would burn my place down if I hired you.’ ...So he died very young of a heart attack, unemployed.”

The militants continued to haunt her mother, following her when she left home to shop or work – and making sure she knew it. Friends and relatives stayed away. “People were afraid to come to our house,” she said.

As a result, Uludag grew up as somewhat of a loner. She says her parents are her role models. She saw them live up to their ideals, despite brutal pressure to do otherwise. This helped shape her into a formidable force, a pioneering journalist who bucked the politicians in power and took the consequences that resulted, including government intimidation and retaliation.

Uludag said she didn't set out to rock the boat. But from her first job in 1980, she sought to write about the “undercurrents” that underlay “the official agenda” of the government. She wrote about young people in the military – and their problems with drugs. The regime was not pleased. Military officials began showing up at her office, saying they would get her fired if she didn't stop writing such incendiary stories.

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Aye Aye Win Stands for the Truth as a Reporter in Myanmar

By Peggy Simpson

To Aye Aye Win, courage means “to stand for the truth.” That may not sound like a tall order. But Win works in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, “where telling the truth could be deemed as a crime and you may be making the regime unhappy with the truth you expose.”

Win has been named a *Courage in Journalism Award* winner for 2008 by the International Women’s Media



Aye Aye Win

Foundation for her work for the Associated Press in Myanmar, where foreign correspondents rely on her on-the-ground reporting about events they often are barred from seeing.

Win is following in the footsteps of her father, Sein Win. He worked in Burmese newspapers after World War II and in 1958 became publisher and editor of an English-language paper, the *Guardian*, which was nationalized by the socialist government. He was jailed three times, including in 1965-68. He lost his job after being freed from jail, but the AP snapped him up in 1969.

Win took over for her father in December 1989. She had grown up watching him work around the clock to get the news out and watching as the military demanded unsuccessfully that he reveal his sources. She always wanted to be a reporter. Her dad told her it was not a woman’s job. “He was worried I might also be sent to jail. He was very, very cautious. He kept discouraging me. But he knows he can’t control me.”

With no journalism courses available in Myanmar, Win got a master’s in English at the University of Rangoon and tutored in its English department from 1979-87. She also apprenticed herself to her father in his AP office. After a decade of that, she worked briefly as translator for the government but realized that was not a good fit. “Right from graduation, I wanted nothing but to be a journalist.”

Finally, her father agreed she was ready. Looking back, she regrets “wasting so much time” but she also understands what her father was doing. “Earlier, I would have been much more hot-headed. In college, I would join any anti-government regime...I have a little rebellion inside of me. ...By having me wait, he had me more sober.”

Win internalized the lectures her father gave her about being an AP reporter: “He would say you have to set your emotions aside...When I write and report it has to be very straight and unbiased.” In Myanmar, however, military and government officials have wanted to control the news, not have unbiased reporting.

Win knows the risks but doesn’t dwell on them. She strategizes on ways to minimize her visibility while reporting. She recruits sources, including from her own family. Her mother is a physician but housebound after a stroke. An avid news-hound, she monitors the TV and radio. Win’s daughter also is a physician, working in a remote area where there are many protests. She often is the first person to know about bloody clashes between protestors and the military, when casualties show up at the hospital.

Covering protests always is dangerous, but as an AP reporter, also necessary. Win and her husband, also a reporter, cover protests in a team, “with at least one or two of our close friends...We don’t stay alone. If anything happens, no one would notice that you’ve been beaten or taken away.”

Covering the country’s pro-democracy leader and Nobel Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, is another challenge. In 1997, Win and her husband were part of the crowd around Suu Kyi when the riot police spotted her. At first, she pretended not to hear their orders to leave but says “you have to know when you finally have to give up.” The road already was blocked and the police moved a bus toward Win and her husband and told them to get on. The police batons were out, ready for use if they refused. They boarded the bus.

But after being driven far from the scene, she says she told the police officer she had to stop to buy water. At a small store, Win not only bought water, she let the locals know what was happening. “People saw us being taken away. They can still lock us up but we have to have people see us.”

Until recently, Win was the only female journalist from Myanmar working for the foreign media. Now there are five. That made it difficult to blend into a crowd. In 2001, for instance, when Aung San Suu Kyi was travelling, the military blocked reporters from the Rangoon rail station. Her male colleagues posed as travelers. “I walked 10 feet behind and thought I was smart enough to escape the military-intelligence police but then someone shouted ‘That’s her! That’s her.’

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Lifetime Winner Edith Lederer's Career Spans Globe

By Lindsey Wray

In 1971, Edith Lederer, an Associated Press reporter based in San Francisco, bought an around-the-world plane ticket, using her saved-up vacation days to visit countries such as India and Thailand. But there was one place on her itinerary that she dared not tell her parents about: Vietnam.

Lederer, now the chief correspondent for the Associated Press at the United Nations, hadn't seriously considered working abroad until her visit to Saigon. Unfortunately, the AP foreign editor at the time didn't support this idea.

"He believed that women did not have what it took to cover wars and disasters and be foreign correspondents," said Lederer. That's why she was astounded in the summer of 1972 to receive a call from the president of the AP asking if she wanted to go to Vietnam.

"I could not pass up the opportunity to cover the biggest story of the day," she said.

What began as a lucky break morphed into a career-defining moment for Lederer, the recipient of the 2008 *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the International Women's Media Foundation.

"It was the start of a lifelong learning process that still goes on," Lederer, 65, said of her experience covering the war in Vietnam. She was the first woman assigned full-time to the AP staff reporting the Vietnam War.

Lederer's nine-month stint in Vietnam was a bit of baptism by fire, but the lessons she learned were invaluable. "Vietnam really proved to me that I could cover these real-



Edith Lederer

ly big breaking stories," she said. Lederer wrote about covering the Vietnam War in *War Torn: Stories of War from the Women Who Covered Vietnam*, which was published in 2002.

Lederer's experiences in Vietnam also laid the groundwork for her future work as a foreign correspondent. Struck by the impact of war on innocent civilians, Lederer said she has always tried to write stories about all people affected by war, not just those in positions of power.

Writing and telling stories is something Lederer has always enjoyed. She grew up on Long Island and was the editor of her high school newspaper and a student newspaper at Cornell University, where she received her B.S. degree in 1963. After graduating from Stanford University in 1964 with an M.A. degree in communications, Lederer landed her first job in journalism: working for Science Service, a Scripps-Howard syndicate in Washington, D.C.

She quit after about a year and used a plane ticket she'd gotten as a graduation gift to leave the U.S. for the first time and travel to Europe for three months. "I fell in love with travel and the world," she said of the trip. Lederer's excursion also ignited an urge to travel more, which helped fuel her trip to Vietnam years later. "I still remember coming back from that trip being so exhilarated and not being able to read anything mundane or boring," she said.

Upon returning, Lederer re-applied to several media outlets from which she'd previously been rejected, including the AP. In March of 1966, she was hired by

the AP at a time when there were very few women covering hard news.

"I was lucky to be job hunting in the early years of the women's liberation movement when there was a greater openness to hiring women," she said.

Lederer started working in New York, where she covered assignments ranging from student riots at Columbia University to Robert Kennedy's U.S. Senate campaign. In her more than four decades with the AP, she has worked on every continent except Antarctica covering wars, famines and political upheavals.

Shortly after she left Vietnam in 1973, Lederer went to Israel during the Yom Kippur War. In 1974, she was assigned to Mexico City, and the following year she was named bureau chief in Peru, becoming the first woman to head a foreign bureau for the AP.

Lederer later moved to a post as chief of Caribbean services based in Puerto Rico. In 1978, she transferred to Hong Kong to help cover China's move toward a Western-style economy. She also made a rare visit to North Korea and went to Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion in December 1979, masquerading as a rug buyer. "They didn't really expect women to be reporters," she said, explaining her disguise.

At one point in 1980, however, it didn't matter who she was pretending to be. On her way to a wildlife preserve in Afghanistan during a break from work, military officials at a checkpoint demanded her passport, holding a gun to Lederer's head until a supervisor was called.

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Colombian Journalist Named 2008-09 Neuffer Fellow

Jenny Manrique, a Colombian freelance journalist, has received the IWMF Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year. The annual fellowship gives a woman journalist working in print, broadcast or online media the opportunity to focus exclusively on human rights journalism and social justice issues.



Edith Lederer

Manrique will spend the fellowship as a research associate in residence at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for International Studies. She will also have access to the *Boston Globe* and *New York Times*.

Manrique, 27, writes for *Comunicaciones Aliadas*, an independent online magazine based in Peru that focuses on Latin American news, particularly human rights. A reporter for seven years, Manrique has covered subjects such as kidnapping, drug trafficking and refugees. She has also interviewed victims of violence in Colombia, including people who have been injured by landmines, combatants who have returned to socie-

ty, children in armed groups and indigenous people defending their land.

Manrique's reporting experiences have led to her interest in investigating Colombian paramilitaries and their ties with multinational corporations during her IWMF Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship. She hopes to use the results of her studies to deepen her coverage of people who have been displaced by violence in Colombia. ■

For further information about the fellowship, visit www.iwmf.org/neuffer.

Journalists Strengthen Skills and Network in Chicago

Eighteen women journalists from across the United States attended the IWMF's 2008 U.S. Leadership Institute for Women Journalists, held in July in Chicago. Sessions were presented on topics such as leadership styles, negotiating salaries and navigating "new" media.

Attendees also participated in an IWMF networking breakfast at the UNITY '08 conference in Chicago on July 25. Panelists included **Liza Gross**, managing editor/presentation and operations at *The Miami Herald*; **Marcy McGinnis**,



Soledad O'Brien of CNN spoke at the IWMF networking breakfast at the UNITY '08 conference about balancing her journalism career with being a mother.

associate dean and director of the broadcast journalism program, Stony Brook

University School of Journalism and former senior vice president for news coverage at CBS News; and **Soledad O'Brien**, anchor and special correspondent for *CNN: Special Investigations Unit*.

- Read an article from the 2008 U.S. Leadership Institute for Women Journalists on making good hiring decisions in the newsroom: www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=703&c=larticles.
- Learn more about the IWMF U.S. Leadership Institute: www.iwmf.org/leadership. ■

Journalists Learn About and Cover HIV/AIDS Policy

Six women journalists from India, Kenya and Mexico visited the U.S. in June to participate in an initiative to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women through policymaking.

The journalists received training on covering global HIV/AIDS policy issues, met with policy leaders in Washington, D.C. and covered the United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York.

The project, supported by the Ford Foundation, was a collaborative effort among the IWMF, the Centre for Development and Population



Ranjita Biswas (foreground), editor of *Trans World Features* in India, and Teresa Rehman, principal correspondent for *Tehelka Magazine* in India, participate in a training session on HIV/AIDS policy issues.

Activities and the Center for Women Policy Studies. ■

IWMF Launches Global Research Project on Women in the News Media

The IWMF has launched a research project to examine the news media industry structure worldwide from a gender perspective. The project, called the Global Report on the Status of Women in the News Media, will document the levels of involvement by women in the news media at professional, decision-making and governance levels.

The research project will build on and update an UNESCO-funded report, *An Unfinished Story: Gender Patterns in Media Employment*, written by

Margaret Gallagher in 1995. Research for the IWMF's Global Report on the Status of Women in the News Media will be conducted through December 2009, and the project report will be published in June 2010.

Overseeing the global investigation is Carolyn M. Byerly, Ph.D., an associate professor of journalism at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Byerly conducts international research on women and media, media policy and other media issues related to gender, race and culture. ■

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e-mail death threats promising she would suffer the same fate if she persisted in her reporting. The expression that anonymous callers used was the accusation that Nekzad was a “daughter of America.”

Nekzad said this “accusation” had little to do with the U.S. government’s support of women’s rights in Afghanistan or her own promotion of women’s equality. It is more insidious. The warlords “think that you are working for America because you are getting a salary (working outside the home). They are making that linkage.”

She said the central government didn’t take the threats against her seriously until she showed the e-mails to international journalists, who then reported on the threats. “There is no security for women here,” she said. But she said when she alerted foreign correspondents about the threats against her, and they asked questions about this to the government, it put the government on notice that outsiders were watching. “The international com-

munity can bring pressure on the government of Afghanistan, especially on security issues facing women.”

She hasn’t let the threats stop her. Although she doesn’t have guards to protect her, on occasion she and her driver use a different car, take different routes at different times, while someone else drives her normal route with her usual car. After Zaki was murdered, Nekzad said she realized that the government was weak, the warlords “have the power and can do anything” and one of the few sources of leverage is the international community.

Nekzad turns down Western overtures to take a break abroad. “I’m thinking about myself but also I am thinking about the future of Afghanistan. There is no presence of women in journalism. This is [a man’s] country. And I want to defend [women’s] rights. I’m frightened but I continue in my job and my life.”

She is sobered by the knowledge that it is not just the warlords who hold restricted

views of what women can do. Some rank-and-file Afghans also are conflicted about the role of women in society today. “Some families don’t accept that women can make some plans for [themselves], can run the economy. This is a problem,” she said. People fear what women will do if they earn money and gain more independence from traditional family controls.

Nekzad is thrilled to receive the IWMF *Courage in Journalism Award*. She isn’t sure she should be called courageous, but admits she persists in “working under duress” in increasingly hazardous conditions. She also said that other Afghan women share her gratitude for the award. “The Afghan people, especially the women, become hopeful that at least some people [in international organizations] understand our work and how we are under threat ... and know how hard we are working in a very bad situation.” ■

Peggy Simpson is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

Edith Lederer *continued from page 5*

“That was a pretty harrowing hour,” she recalled, noting that she still picture the official’s face.

From Asia, Lederer moved to East Africa and then to London in 1982, where she was based as she reported on a wide variety of assignments for more than 16 years. She helped cover the downfall of communism and the break-up of the Soviet Union. She reported on the conflict in Bosnia and ran the AP operation in Saudi Arabia before and during the

first Gulf War. She was the first journalist to file the bulletin announcing the start of that war from a U.S. airbase in Saudi Arabia in 1991.

Sometimes, Lederer said, covering conflict was like watching a movie. Though she saw warfare close at hand, she was usually at a safe distance. There were, of course, exceptions. In Northern Ireland in 1988, Lederer was covering a funeral of three members of the Irish Republican Army who had been gunned down a week earlier by British

troops when hand grenades began exploding all around her. The culprit was Michael Stone, a supporter of the pro-British Protestant cause in Northern Ireland who killed three people and injured more than 50 at the funeral. Lederer immediately picked up her cell phone and started dictating a story to the AP.

Over the years, Lederer said she has noticed a difference in the way women and men journalists approach stories.

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Sergul Uludag continued from page 3

Fine, she said. They lived up to their threat, and she lost her job. As a result, Uludag began her career as a freelancer, writing for magazines and working as an off-premises researcher and editor for newspapers. It was difficult, she said. So was the government attempt to isolate her.

For Uludag, the worst years were when the government-controlled newspaper repeatedly put her photo in articles where elected officials were egging on radicals to assault her as unpatriotic, someone who was harming the country and should be silenced. The military also regularly parked a car in front of her house and harassed people who dared to go see her.

Uludag says that “it is the conditions that create courage.” She adds that “I don’t think courage is something you acquire by education – to go get a Ph.D. in courage.”

“At a certain time, you find your life being at risk but despite this, you

have to continue what you are doing,” she said.

While continuing to write and report, by 1991 Uludag had begun acquiring new skills as a conflict resolution specialist and became a trainer in the 1990s. The conflict-resolution insights probably underpinned her ability to be an honest broker in “the missing” saga, able to listen to both sides and to bring people together with disparate views.

By 2001, in addition to freelancing, conflict resolution training and work with women-and-peace groups, Uludag helped found a nonprofit called Hands Across the Divide to bring together Cypriot women from both northern and southern parts of the island. She also founded an internet magazine, *Hamamboculeri* (“Cockroaches” in Turkish) in 2001.

And she began to educate herself about “the missing.” By 2002, she had launched

her series of award-winning stories about missing people in newspapers published in both parts of the island.

“We’ve broken a lot of taboos,” she said. “The readers spoke up to say these things. [But] people are still very, very afraid. [The murderer] is maybe their neighbor or their relative. Sometimes sons spoke to me about their fathers, without their fathers knowing – and the father was guilty of rape and murder.”

Uludag sees the need for a real truth and reconciliation commission, but it would have to emerge from the grass roots in both parts of Cyprus, not from the politicians. “And if it is going to look at the truth, it is ugly,” she said. “It is unspeakable what they did to one another. This should come out. It is impossible to build a future by hiding this ugly truth.” ■

Peggy Simpson is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

Edith Lederer continued from page 8

“Women have proven that they can cover big breaking news combat stories,” she said, “but because we live in a world where there is still no gender equality, women have a different perspective of the world than men do, and I think that women bring that perspective to reporting.” This means the ability to look at events with a broader viewpoint, she said, particularly their impact on women, children and minority groups.

Lederer’s own extensive global coverage set her up for a smooth transition to her current post covering the U.N.

“One of the things that’s been fascinating about being at the U.N. for 10 years – having worked all over the world – is that I’ve been able to see for the first time how the major issues of the day play out on a global stage,” she said.

Lederer began working as the chief correspondent at the U.N. in 1998.

Despite her far-reaching travels, a long list of awards and her firsts as a woman journalist, she doesn’t necessarily see herself as someone who has forged paths for others. Still, she’s humbled when younger reporters call her a role model.

“I’m honored to have helped inspire some young women to try and live their dreams as I’ve been able to live mine.” ■

Lindsey Wray is the IWMF’s communications coordinator.

And they came to me and said I had to leave.”

The climate has eased since 2004, with a change in government. The country is in the midst of a seven-step roadmap aimed at a general election in 2010 that Win hopes will lead to a democratic government. Still, government briefings can be tense. At one in 2006, a military policeman was asked about protestors trying to derail the democratic process. “He said, ‘anyone who protests will be crushed.’ I stood up and asked, ‘When are you going to take action against the protestors you say are breaking the rules?’ And he replied, ‘if you are one of these people who try to jeopardize the political process, then you also will be annihilated. You will be crushed.’”

So far, she never has gotten that midnight knock at the door, from police wanting to arrest her, unlike her husband and her father. “I always have that fear. A common danger is you can be picked up

at any time for suspicions they have about you. We always worry that if what we write is too sensitive, they will call and ask where we got our sources. We won’t tell but they can pick us up.”

She steers away from analysis and sticks to facts. That was true when a deadly cyclone struck May 2-3, 2008. The death toll was about 130,000 dead and missing, higher than for any one country in the tsunami several years earlier. There was an international outcry when the government balked at letting in relief agencies immediately.

“I focused on covering what was happening on the ground,” she said, “not on criticism of the government.” That was “very, very hard,” because electricity was off, telephone lines were cut.

Win, tied to the AP desk to keep track of the crisis, enlisted friends with video cameras to document the destruction, despite local government opposition. Her

mother monitored the radio nonstop, letting her know when the government slipped in the latest casualty figures.

On May 14, Win was rushed to a hospital and treated for exhaustion. Doctors prescribed bed rest but, with her husband and colleagues helping, she was working the telephones from the hospital the next day and back in the AP office the following day. “When there’s news, I still want to do it,” she says. “I think this work is very addictive. But I don’t see this work as unhealthy. It makes me very active.”

She sees her reporting as “doing a service to the people and even to the country, I’m letting the people inside the country, as well as outside, know what is happening. It is a great job – to at least tell the truth, so the world can see what is happening inside the country.” ■

Peggy Simpson is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

Why I'm a Member



“I am a member of the IWMF because I respect the huge number of sacrifices that go into the kind of journalism that gets recognized by the IWMF every year.”

Christiane Amanpour

chief international correspondent, CNN

IMWF board member and 1994 *Courage in Journalism Award* winner

Join Our Global Network at www.iwmf.org

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**IWMF Courage Winner
Featured by Women's
eNews**

Sevgul Uludag, a Turkish Cypriot journalist and the recipient of a 2008 IWMF *Courage in Journalism Award*, was featured as the journalist of the month by Women's eNews, a Web site that covers issues of concern to women.

[www.womensenews.org/
article.cfm/dyn/aid/3689/
context/
journalistofthemoth](http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/3689/context/journalistofthemoth)

**RTNDA Research
Shows Increase in
Women, Minority
Journalists**

According to research by The Radio-TV News Directors Association, the percentages of women and minority journalists in local broadcast newsrooms increased in 2007. The percentage of minorities in newsrooms has yet to reach parity with minority population in the U.S.: 34 percent.

[www.rtnda.org/pages/media_](http://www.rtnda.org/pages/media_items/the-face-of-the-work-force1472.php)
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7456036.stm)
[news/7456036.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7456036.stm)

**Monument Honors Slain
Journalists**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced a memorial to journalists killed while reporting. The monument, which is atop the BBC Broadcasting House in London, is dedicated to all slain news journalists and those who have worked with them.

**WAN Releases Press
Freedom Review**

The World Association of Newspapers released its half-year press freedom review, which details the attacks, imprisonment and violence faced by journalists in many countries since November 2007.

[www.wan-press.org/arti-
cle17265.html](http://www.wan-press.org/article17265.html)

**IWMF Board Member
Honored by AWC-DC**

Eleanor Clift, a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and a member of the IWMF board of directors, was honored May 15 by the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Association for Women in Communications. Clift received the 2008 Matrix Award during a luncheon at the National Press Club.

[www.awcdc.net/
matrixawards_08.shtml](http://www.awcdc.net/matrixawards_08.shtml)

opportunities

**THE AMERICAN POLITICAL
SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM**

Description: The fellowship gives early- to mid-career journalists the opportunity to learn about the legislative and policy-making process through direct participation. Fellows work as full-time legislative aides in the House of Representatives and/or Senate.

Requirements: Applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree and be U.S. citizens or have permanent U.S. residency. Print journalists must have two to ten years of continuous, full-time professional experience in newspapers or magazines. Broadcast journalists must have two to ten years of continuous, full-time professional experience in radio or television.

Preference is given to candidates with background in political reporting but without extensive Washington experience.

Deadline: December 1

For more information: Contact the American Political Science Association, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20036-1206. Tel: (202) 483-2512; Fax: (202) 483-2657; E-Mail: apsa@apsanet.org.

Web site: [http://www.apsanet.org/
content_5046.cfm](http://www.apsanet.org/content_5046.cfm)

**TEMPLETON-CAMBRIDGE
JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIPS IN
SCIENCE & RELIGION**

Description: Print, broadcast or online journalists and editors are invited to apply for an opportunity to examine the connection between science and religion. Seminars at the University of Cambridge employ an innovative interdisciplinary approach to give fellows an overview of key issues in the field. Fellows also pursue a course of independent, private research into a specific area of interest within the larger topic.

Potential areas of study include comparison of the methods of science and religion, origins of life, genetic engineering, astrobiology, and spirituality and health. Fellows will be paid a \$15,000 stipend in addition to a book allowance and travel expenses.

Requirements: Priority will be given to mid-career and senior journalists, though early career journalists may apply. The fellowship has no minimum education requirement beyond a B.A., nor any minimum or maximum age for applicants.

Deadline: December 15

For more information: Contact the Templeton-Cambridge Journalism Fellowships in Science & Religion, 315 Bleecker Street, Suite 252, New York, NY 10014.

Web site: www.templeton-cambridge.org

**ARTHUR F. BURNS FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM**

Description: The Arthur F. Burns fellowship program offers 20 U.S. and German media professionals the opportunity to report from and travel in each other's countries. Named in honor of the late former U.S. ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and former Federal Reserve Board chairman, the program aims to foster greater understanding of German-U.S. relations among future news media leaders.

Requirements: The fellowship is open to U.S. and German journalists who are employed by a newspaper, news magazine, broadcast station or news agency. Freelancers are also eligible. German language proficiency is encouraged.

Deadline: German applicants: February 1; U.S. applicants: March 1

For more information: Contact the International Center for Journalists, 1616 H Street, N.W., Third Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006. Tel: (202) 737-3700; Fax: (202) 737-0530; E-mail: burns@icjf.org.

Website: www.icjf.org/burns.html

MIKE BERGER AWARD

Description: The \$1,000 award honors in-depth and enterprising reporting on individuals in the tradition of the late Meyer "Mike" Berger, a Pulitzer prize-winning reporter for The New York Times who died in 1959. His "About New York" column in the 1950s set the standard for thought-provoking human-interest reporting about the lives of ordinary people.

Requirements: All newspaper reporters in the U.S. are eligible to apply. Members of the ethnic press should submit copies of original stories with an English translation.

Deadline: March 6

For more information: Contact Lisa Sara Redd, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 2950 Broadway, MC 3800, New York, NY 10027-7004. E-mail: lsr21@columbia.edu.

Web site: [www.journalism.columbia.edu/cs/ContentSer-
ver?fm/1165270069786/page/1165270114708/
JRNSimplePage2.htm](http://www.journalism.columbia.edu/cs/ContentServer?fm/1165270069786/page/1165270114708/JRNSimplePage2.htm)

For more fellowship opportunities, visit the IWMF Web site:
www.iwmf.org/opportunities.aspx.

on the **record**

**“There can be no press freedom
when journalists exist in conditions
of corruption, poverty and fear.”**

— Aidan White, International Federation
of Journalists



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