



Prize for the Best Investigative Journalism Report on Corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean

DECLARATION OF THE JURY

The Jury of the 2002 Latin American Prize for the Best Investigative Journalism Report on Corruption met in Cartagena de Indias on 2 – 4 April 2003 to complete the evaluation of the 96 different works submitted to the competition, in accordance with the rules set out for the award.

The Jury primarily took into account the relevance of the findings of the investigations, methods used in the investigation and the challenges faced in the investigation. Furthermore, only works regarding corruption cases were considered.

After much deliberation, the Jury declared Jorge Loáisiga, from the newspaper *La Prensa* in Nicaragua, the winner of the prize. His investigation demonstrates embezzlement of state funds on the part of former President Arnoldo Aleman, in office at the time the Loáisiga article was published. By bringing to light significant evidence, Loáisiga's research achieved conclusive findings.

With regard to the method whereby evidence was obtained through anonymous sources, it is important to note both Loáisiga's considerable research efforts prior to proof gathering and his continuous dedication to the case demonstrated in *La Prensa* publications. During this process, the reporter obtained new and decisive sources that contributed to the investigation's success.

The jury highlights the quality of nine other investigative reports that, together with the prizewinner, form the finalists' group. The authors are the following:

- Rodolfo Flores, of *Siglo XXI* from Guatemala y Rolando Rodríguez, of *La Prensa* from Panama, for the revelation that Guatemala President Alfonso Portillo, the vice-president and the private secretary of the president opened 13 secret bank accounts in Panama City.
- Daniel Santoro, of *Clarín* from Argentina, for disclosing the Swiss bank accounts belonging to former Argentine President Carlos Saúl Menem and his private secretary Ramón Hernández.

- Miguel Agosta, of *Telenoche Investiga* of TV channel *Canal 13* in Argentina, for revealing intimidation methods and solicitation of bribes by some leaders of the Civil Construction Workers' Union of Argentina.
- Amaury Ribeyro, of the magazine *Istoé* of Brazil, for disclosing an alliance between the Anti-Drug Trafficking Division of Paraguay and the Brazilian drug traffickers linked to Fernandinho Beira-Mar.
- Fábio Gusmão, of the newspaper *Extra* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for revealing of corruption within the local anti-drug trafficking police forces.
- Eduardo Faustini, of *TV Globo* in Brazil, for disclosing corruption within the Secretary of Planning in the municipality of São Gonçalo in the State of Rio de Janeiro.
- Norbey Quevedo, of *El Espectador* in Colombia, for revealing the obscure dealings of the leaders of the Colombian Football Federation, which allowed them to profit from the Copa America football games.
- Fabio Castillo, from *El Espectador* in Colombia, for exposing Nigerian racketeers operating via the Internet in the United States.
- 17 reporters from the staff of *El Meridiano* in Córdoba, Colombia, for the disclosure of 91 abandoned and half-built public works in the city of Cordoba and its surroundings.

The Jury also highlights the extent of responses to this competition; reports came from all countries of the region. Furthermore, the Jury draws special attention to the quality and diversity of investigative journalism relating to corruption in Latin America.

Cartagena de Indias, April 4th 2003

The JURY

Tina Rosenberg

Marcelo Beraba

Gustavo Gorriti

Juan Lozano

Michael Reid