

## JURY DECLARATION FOR THE IPYS/TILAC JOURNALISM AWARD

We, the members of the jury for the *Award for Best Investigative Journalism Report on Corruption*, awarded annually by Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS) and Transparency International for Latin America and the Caribbean (TILAC), under the auspices of the Open Society Institute (OSI), declare the following:

1. That we met on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June in New York City in order to choose the best investigative pieces of work for the year 2007, from a total of 170 entries from 16 countries. Having evaluated journalistic investigations of corruption over six years, we noticed a clear trend towards more and better quality reporting on corruption in Latin America.

2. That we declared the results for the first prize of US \$25,000 to be a draw. The winners were:

- Mabel Rehnfeldt, of Paraguayan newspaper ABC Color, for showing that Víctor Bernal, director of the Itaipú Bi-national Hydroelectric Power Station, was wealthier than his income could account for.
- Américo Zambrano, of Peruvian magazine Caretas, for revealing that some members of the Sánchez Paredes family were linked to drug trafficking. (In this case, Gustavo Gorriti, a columnist from that magazine, abstained from voting).

3. That we awarded second place prizes of US \$5,000 each to the following:

- Luis Murcia, of El País newspaper in Cali, Colombia, for exposing corruption in the administration of the mayor of Cartago, Luis Castro Ocampo.
- Carla Rocha, Dimmi Amora, Fábio Vasconcellos, Sérgio Ramalho, Paulo Motta and Angelina Nunes of O Globo newspaper in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for documenting the regime of terror in which approximately 1.5 million inhabitants of Rio's *favelas* (shantytowns) live due to drug traffickers, militias and corruption among the police.

4. That we awarded special mentions to the competition's finalists, which are listed according to the alphabetic order of their countries:

### ARGENTINA

**“Esclavitud laboral”** (Slavery at work), by *FM radio station La Tribu's* Alberto Recanatini, who uncovered a network that exploited illegal immigrants.

**“Corrupción en la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente”** (Corruption in the Environmental Ministry), by Claudio Savoia of *El Clarín* who revealed the improper use of public funds by the environment minister, Romina Picolotti.

## **BRAZIL**

**“Mordomias, regalías de los poderes de la República”** (Perks and privileges of the powers of the Republic), by *O Globo*’s José Casado, Alan Gripp, Gustavo Paul, Bernardo Mello Franco, Adriana Vasconcelos, María Lima, Ricardo Galhardo, Aduari Antunes Barbosa, Rodrigo Lopes, Tatiana Farah, Isabela Martín, Maiá Menezes and Claudia Lamego, who discovered how 74,000 federal officials wasted public money on professional perks.

**“Ajuste de cuentas: financiamiento electoral”** (Settling of scores: electoral funding), by Lúcio Vaz and a team of journalists from *Correio Braziliense*, who proved that a significant part of the electoral campaign funding for more than 20,000 candidates for governor and member of parliament in the 2006 elections (including president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s campaign and that of his opponent, Geraldo Alckmin) came from the coffers of 200 companies who currently have contracts with the State. The investigation shed light on the system of lobbies and powerful political interests in Brazil.

## **COLOMBIA**

**“Manejo indebido de cuentas del gobernador de Cundinamarca”** (Improper management of accounts by the governor in Cundinamarca), by Norbey Quevedo of *El Espectador* newspaper.

**“Corrupción de gobernador”** (Governor’s corruption) by Édgar Torres, Julio Barrón and Guillermo Reinoso of *Hoy* newspaper.

Both investigations revealed unlawful operations by the governor of Cundinamarca, Pablo Ardila.

## **ECUADOR**

**“Corrupción en Telecsa”** (Corruption in Telecsa) by Mónica Almeida and Xavier Reyes of *El Universo* newspaper, who proved that the administration of the state-run telephone provider was turned over to a nonexistent company.

## **EL SALVADOR**

**“Alto funcionario entregó certificados falsos de áreas naturales para simpatizantes de partido de gobierno”**, (High ranking official supplied false natural areas certificates to government party sympathizers), by Daniel Valencia and Rodrigo Baires of the digital newspaper *El Faro*, who revealed that the president of the Agrarian Transformation Institute (ISTA) awarded property from natural conservation areas to allies of the government’s political party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, of which he was also the executive director.

## GUATEMALA

**“Malos manejos de ONG con fondos públicos”** (NGO’s mismanagement of public funds), by Lesly Véliz and Rodrigo Pérez of *Siglo Veintiuno* newspaper, who revealed that a group of civil society organizations in charge of managing public funds enriched six companies linked to several mayors in Guatemala.

## MEXICO

**“Corrupción en el Estado Mayor Presidencial”** (Corruption in the Office of the President), by Fátima Monterrosa of *Emeequis* magazine, who exposed how the Mexican army’s elite corps (who administer a quarter of the annual Presidential budget) arranged contracts with nonexistent suppliers and made irregular purchases involving millions of pesos.

## NICARAGUA

**“Ejército quita tierras a campesinos y las negocia”** (Army takes land from peasants and sells it), by José Adán Silva of *El Nuevo Diario* newspaper, who discovered that the Army forcefully took land from its owners and sold it to private businesses.

**“El caso Kamusi”** (The Kamusi case), by Moisés Martínez and Jorge Loáisiga of *La Prensa* newspaper , who revealed that the government engaged in shady negotiations to hand over the administration of Empresa Nicaraguense Electricidad (ENEL) to a phantom electricity company.

## VENEZUELA

**“Corrupción en ejecución de obras en plantas iraníes”**, (Corruption in execution of Iranian projects), by Luz Mely and Gabriela Rojas of newspaper *Últimas Noticias*, who discovered irregularities in the implementation of an infrastructure project to construct an auto-parts plant, factories for the processing of maize and milk along with a plastics molding plant with the aim of establishing a joint venture with Iran.

New York, 13 June 2008

Tina Rosenberg

Marcelo Beraba

Gustavo Gorriti

Michael Reid

Gerardo Reyes

For previous winners, see:

[2006](#)

[2007](#)