

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 Mehdi Courage in Journalism Contest Deadline May 1 Sponsored by Mehdi Family, Arabisto.com and NAAJA

New York – The Family of the late Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi, a pioneer in American Arab journalism, announced this year’s Courage in Journalism contest deadline.

The competition, which seeks to recognize the work of journalists who show courage in the face of great adversity in reporting, will offer a cash prize this year of \$800.

The award was started in 1999 and was the cornerstone of journalism awards hosted by the National Arab American journalists Association (NAAJA) which has recognized the works of dozens of journalists included Network correspondent Jim Avila, Salim Muwakkil, John Sugg, Mike Monseur, Hoda Kotbe, Charlie Reese, Stephen Franklin, Joe Haiek, the Arab American Business Magazine and many others.

“My father was always dedicated to the principle that journalism is critical means of communication that Americans Arabs and Muslims must master, a profession that is integral to those seeking truth and justice throughout the world but especially in the Middle East,” said award winning journalist and television producer Anisa Mehdi, Dr. Mehdi’s daughter.

“My family is very proud that his contribution to the journalism profession continues to be recognized by today’s American Arab and Muslim journalists.”

The contest is being co-sponsored by the Mehdi Foundation, the Mehdi Family, NAAJA and Arabisto.com, one of the internet’s fastest growing Arab news and opinion web blogs.

“Arabisto.com is honored to be associated with the memory and achievements of Dr. Mehdi and his family and we are proud to give the award an annual home in our writing community,” said Arabisto.com publisher Ken Larson.

Arabisto.com will be offering an in-house journalism contest for its stable of writers in conjunction with the Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award competition.

“When I was just a young journalist some 30 years ago, Dr. Mehdi was a role model in journalism, a field that had few American Arabs, Muslims or genuine role models,” said NAAJA coordinator and Arabisto.com editor Ray Hanania.

“I am not surprised that Dr. Mehdi’s spirit of justice and fairness which was reflected for so many years in his publication, ‘Action’ Newspaper, is today reflected in the work of his daughter, Anisa, and his family and the Mehdi Foundation.”

Details on the Mehdi Courage in Journalism Awards can be found on the Mehdi site at, at NAAJA-US.com, and Arabisto.com. There is no nomination fee.

The Arabisto.com Awards will recognize in-house writing by Arabisto.com bloggers and will recognize Excellence in Writing for the top three winners.

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COMPETITION GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

The M.T. Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award Sponsored by the Mehdi Family, Arabisto.com and NAAJA

This award is established by the family of the late journalism pioneer Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi. Dr. M.T. Mehdi regularly challenged the common stereotypes and notions of Arabs in the American mass media and in the public sphere to help create a better understanding of the Arab American community. Mehdi raised the issue of Palestine and the human rights of Palestinians to national political awareness in spite of threats to himself and his family. This was at a very difficult time in American history when Arabs were marginalized and the community was not strong. Standing up and speaking out on issues of justice, and on media professionalism, took courage. Each year, in consultation with the Mehdi Family, one candidate who demonstrates courage in journalism is selected to receive this award.

Rules:

Journalists may nominate themselves or be nominated by another individual.

The nominee or the individual submitting the nomination must submit an essay of up to 500 words describing why the nominee merits the Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award.

Include up to five (5) published articles, or media to support the nomination. Radio and video submissions must be provided on CD and/or DVD.

Make two (2) copies of completed submissions. *(Two copies of the nomination form, two copies of the nomination letter, and two copies of all sample writings or broadcast media.)*

Award Deadline:

Nominations must be postmarked by **MAY 1, 2009**.

Complete the entry form below and submit all nominations to:

Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award

Whetstone Productions

P.O. Box 1164

Maplewood, NJ 0704

Mehdi Courage in Journalism

Entry Form

Print all information below clearly:

Name of Nominee: _____

Nomination submitted by: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PERSON MAKING NOMINATION:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

If nomination is submitted by someone other than the nominee, please include contact information for the nominee here:

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NOMINEE:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I authorize NAAJA, Arabisto, and the Mehdi Family to use my materials in any manner necessary to promote the journalism awards, and to announce my name as a winner. I understand that my submission materials will not be returned. (In the event that the nomination is made by another individual, the winner will be asked to sign this form also to receive his or her award.)

Sign your name: _____

Mail entry and materials to:

Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award

Whetstone Productions

P.O. Box 1164

Maplewood, NJ 07040

