



IPA Prix Voltaire Special Award Guidelines 2023

Periodically, the IPA Freedom to Publish Committee may confer the Prix Voltaire Special Award, a posthumous honour for individuals who have died recently for exercising their freedom of expression. The aim of the award is to give visibility to the laureate's exceptional engagement for freedom of expression and expose how he or she was silenced. The award should promote the laureate's legacy and support their family, friends and supporters, if necessary, by helping to ensure that the laureate and their case are not forgotten.

Recipients have typically demonstrated a courageous commitment to freedom of speech through lives spent writing, publishing, or in activism, and have been murdered, put to death, or lost their life in prison.

Any IPA member may alert the FtPC to cases which they feel are worthy of a Special Award. This may be done confidentially. FtPC members may nominate candidates for the Special Award.

Criteria for nominations:

Posthumous

- It should be awarded to individuals who devoted their lives to activities in favour of freedom of expression, or who died for the views they struggled to express freely. This concept includes but is not limited to laureates who were murdered, whose death was directly caused or precipitated by persecution, or who died in prison.

For an individual

- The award aims to honour an individual (publishing houses and other companies are not eligible).

Exceptional

- The laureate must have shown exceptional engagement for freedom of expression related to writing or publishing. The laureate need not necessarily be a publisher, but should be related to (book) publishing.

Recent

- The death of the laureate should be relatively recent in order for the award to be given. There is no strict time limit, but news of the laureate's death should normally not be older than about three years in order for the award to have the desired impact.

The Freedom to Publish Committee will consider the list of nominees according to the given criteria and decide on a laureate. The Special Award laureate will be announced at the same time as the Prix Voltaire.