

SEEMO AWARD FOR BEST HUMAN RIGHTS PHOTOGRAPH FOR 2009

VIENNA, 22 May 2009 - The South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), in cooperation with the BETA News Agency in Belgrade, Serbia, is pleased to announce the winner of the 2nd SEEMO Human Rights Photo Award 2009.

The jury has chosen the photograph titled, *Sudbina* (Destiny), by Nebojsa Radosavljevic-Raus, a freelance photographer from Kragujevac, Serbia. The winning photograph was chosen by the jury from 501 photographs sent in by 118 photographers from 14 South East European countries because of its symbolic context; the photograph shows the destiny of animals that are being slaughtered for human consumption and where only one animal manages to escape. In real life, other people often decide the destiny of others and sometimes only luck prevents people from dying without the possibility of deciding their own destiny.

Nebojsa Radosavljevic-Raus was born on 19 April 1960 in Kragujevac, Serbia, and has been working as a professional photographer since 1982. His first photographs were published in the former Yugoslavian student magazines *Pogledi* and *NON*. During his career, Raus worked with various well known newspapers throughout former Yugoslavia and the daily *Eleftherotypia* in Athens, Greece. He is currently working with the Associated Press Agency and the Serbian daily newspaper *Blic*. He is the author of the book *Dogadjanja naroda 1988-2000*. Raus has received various awards for his photographs, including the YU PRESS PHOTO in the category people in the news.

In addition to the 2nd SEEMO Award for the Best Human Rights Photograph, *Sudbina* (Destiny) received the second prize in the BETA Photograph of the Year 2009 Contest. The first prize for BETA Photograph of the Year 2009 goes to Bela Szandelszky, AP photographer from Hungary, for the photograph titled *Georgia 02*. The third prize and a special ERSTE award for the funniest photograph go to Srecko Niketic, CROPIX photographer in Croatia, for the photo *Poplava* (Flood). A special Telekom Award for the best sports photo goes to Paun Paunovic, CROPIX photographer, Croatia, for the photo *Hrvatska-Nizozemska* (Croatia-Netherlands).

For the second time, SEEMO is presenting the SEEMO Award for the Best Human Rights Photograph as part of the BETA Photograph of the Year Contest. The first winner of the SEEMO Human Rights Photo Award in 2008 was Maja Zlatevska (*Dnevnik*, Skopje) for the photograph *Zatvor* (Prison) and her contribution to the human rights struggle in the region. In 2008, SEEMO also issued a Certificate of Distinction to Marko Djurica (*Blic/Reuters*) for his photograph *Liturgija* (Liturgy).

This year's SEEMO Human Rights Photo Award will be presented during a ceremony held today, 22 May 2009, at 17:00, at New Moments Gallery, Hilendarska ulica in Belgrade, Serbia, by Milorad Ivanovic, Deputy Editor in Chief, *Blic Daily*, Radomir Licina, President of the SEEMO Board, and Oliver Vujovic, SEEMO Secretary General.

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