



44th International URTI Grand Prix for Author's Documentary

Press release * The awards - Thursday 4 December 2025

contact@urti.org - www.urti.org

Under the presidency of Jacqui Hlongwane (SABC, South Africa)

And the URTI 2025 TV Jury members:

Jemima Catraye (SRTB, Benin), Tabe Enonchong (CRTV, Cameroon), Thierry Pardi (France Télévisions, France)
Alessandra Solarino (Rai, Italy), Bekim Hasani (RTK, Kosovo), Noureddine Rakib (SNRT, Morocco),
Carlos Maio (RTP, Portugal) & Alina Amza (TVR, Romania).

GRAND PRIX URTI - ex aequo: Les sacrifiés de l'IA

Henri Poulain

France - France Télévisions, France 2

Magical, autonomous, all-powerful... Artificial intelligence fuels our dreams and our nightmares. But while tech giants promise the advent of a new humanity, the reality of their production remains completely hidden.

While data centers concrete over landscapes and dry up rivers, millions of workers around the world prepare the billions of pieces of data that will feed the voracious algorithms of Big Tech, at the cost of their mental and emotional health. They are hidden in the belly of AI.

Are they the collateral damage of the ideology of "long-termism" that has been brewing in Silicon Valley for several years?

GRAND PRIX URTI - ex aequo: Fragments de guerre - Femmes du 7 octobre

Solène Chalvon-Fioriti

France - France Télévisions, France 5

Armed conflicts have one constant: regardless of their origin, they always exacerbate violence, male domination, and religious fanaticism. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is no exception to this rule. With each deadly escalation, women are caught at the intersection of these forms of violence. Without drawing comparisons between witnesses, this diptych deciphers the unique way in which this conflict attacks women's intimacy and their bodies—another battlefield in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A childbirth threatened during a military checkpoint. A rape in the background of captivity. A pregnancy carried out through fanatical resistance. A child from Gaza whom one would like to "put back in her womb" and whom one protects viscerally with big lies about the reality of the bombs. Through these fragments, these bursts of voices, most of them unpublished, a whole other side of the conflict emerges... another story of war.

Silver Medal: Grand Me

Atiye Zare Arandi

Belgium - APIMED, Associate Directors, Al Jazeera Doc Channel, VRT

A 9-year-old Iranian girl plans to sue her parents after their bitter divorce in a lively and bittersweet film directed by her aunt. A lively contribution to the great Iranian tradition of films about the world of children.

Eight-year-old Melina lives with her loving grandparents in the Iranian city of Isfahan. Her parents have divorced and neither her mum nor her dad are able to take care of their daughter. Melina wants to live with her mum in Tehran, but neither her unpredictable father nor her new stepfather will allow it. But when the strong-willed girl turns nine, she comes of legal age and has an idea: She wants to start a custody battle. But her plans are challenged by the complicated realities of adult life. Director Atiye Zare Arandi is also Melina's aunt, and their close relationship provides a unique insight into her life and thoughts.



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Bronze Medal: The Human Factor - The Crew **Raffaele Manco & Marco Raffaele Della Monica** Italy - RAI

A young Libyan man boards a crowded barge, chasing a better future in Europe. he is a student and professional footballer. By the time he disembarks in Italy, he is accused of being a human trafficker and held responsible for the deaths of 49 people who suffocated in the hold. The crew tells the story of Alla f. Hamad Abdelkarim, sentenced to 30 years in an Italian prison for manslaughter and migrant smuggling. Arriving on August 17, 2015, on a boat of horror, he and several others were identified as the "crew" — those blamed for piloting the vessel. But were they truly traffickers, or just migrants themselves, forced to take the helm under threat?

The documentary unravels a decade-long legal and human odyssey, tracing the flawed investigations, the rushed translations, and the testimonies given in chaos. It places Abdelkarim's case within a broader context: more than 2,500 migrants in Italy have been imprisoned as smugglers — often simply for steering the boats that carried them.

Martine Filippi Prize for Discovery: **100 days after the Jeju Air Aviation disaster: We do not part** **Director/Producer: Na-Young Cho** Cinematographer: Sung-Hoon Choi South Korea - KBS

Through the stories of Kim Seong-cheol, who lost his wife and daughter; Park In-uk, a former Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries official who once handled the aftermath of both the MV Seohae and Sewol Ferry sinking disasters, but lost five family members in the Jeju Air crash—this documentary reveals that such tragedies are not just personal losses but collective ones. It highlights how our recurring disregard for safety remains the root cause of these preventable disasters.

Digital Works Award: Truth Be Told - The Breastfeeding Warrior **Enver Samuel** South Africa - SABC

34-year-old chartered account Thabang Mabuza's mother, Phila Portia Ndwandwe was only 23 years old when she was tortured and killed by apartheid security police in 1988 when he was just 5 months old. Today he calls her his Breastfeeding Warrior. Can he reconcile the trauma of her death as he goes in search for answers as to why his mother was killed? As past and present merge he will look at the question, was his mother's sacrifice worth it or in vain?

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