

ARI RATH PREIS FÜR KRITISCHEN JOURNALISMUS 2023

PREISTRÄGERIN NOA LANDAU

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It is an honor to present Noa Landau on behalf of the selection committee. I am definitely sure that Ari would be very satisfied with our decision. And although Noa and Ari have never met, I am pretty sure that he has read her articles. Because Noa is a brilliant journalist. She joined Haaretz, the truly liberal voice in Israel, in 2009. She served as a reporter and head of the news department. Before starting with a very special project she was the diplomatic correspondent – and when I was based in Israel it was a must to read her articles. Always well informed and often presenting inside views when traveling with Israeli politicians. Ari must have read her articles because he was always interested in these diplomatic issues.

This reminds me to Ari's stories when he joined Israeli delegations on their trips to the USA and Europe. And I have something in common with Noa, we are both alumnis and members of the advisory board of the Reuters Institute for the Study of journalism in Oxford.

And what really is very special is her engagement for a project which is unique in Israel. Noa is the founder of "Haaretz 21," a new organizational project aimed at amplifying underrepresented voices and stories of Arab communities in Israel. The idea was and is to recruit, train and publish Arab Israeli or Palestinian writers.

When she started the project she described it in that way, I quote: "We couldn't go on like that. We needed Palestinians on the staff for two reasons: to live by our principles, based on the equality of rights for Israeli citizens, and more importantly, to give our readers a view of the other, which the Israelis almost never get. Otherwise, for a Palestinian, there was no way to take up journalism in the Israeli system."

This project is a new form of a journalistic incubator. The idea behind is to overcome visible and transparent barriers in Israel which are hurdles for Arab Israelis. It is a proactive approach to bridge gaps within the society and to show different perspectives. Because there is only little media coverage about what is going on in the Arab communities.

Take the protests against judicial overhaul – so far, it was dominated by Jewish supporters. Where are the Arab voices in this broad protest movement? These colleagues add unique angles which makes their work so important. And it is also the beginning of a form of „Arabisation“ of Haaretz editorial staff.

The first class brought together 20 people, of whom five are now working on the paper.

That is an idea Ari would have loved to support it. That is the journalistic approach he would have endorsed, I am pretty sure. The fight for peace and press freedom is definitely Ari's legacy. It is the same target which brings Ari and Noa together.

For Ari this was a commitment deriving from his personal experiences during the Holocaust. And Noa is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors.

Noa was not only heavily engaged with this project, she got also – despite her age – an promotion and serves now as deputy editor-in-chief of Haaretz. And still, you can read some of her excellent analysis. Just recently she issued a warning to her reader with the title: wake up and smell the Coup: Netanyahu is the problem, not the solution.

In the last few months she wrote about the constitutional crises, the historical singularity which is occurring in Israel right now.

She does not hesitate to express views which are unpopular and uncomfortable – not only in Israel. He shows the blind spots and challenges the Israeli ignorance – which exists even on the so called left side of the political spectrum. She does not want to accept the occupation as something normal. Because it is not normal what is going on in the Westbank and in the Gaza Strip. And nobody in Israel should get used to it, also not to the behavior of Bibi Netanyahu. She is a constant reminder that he does not behave like a responsible statesman.