

PRESS RELEASE

EPA Images' Gaza photojournalist Haitham Imad honored at Luchetta Award Ceremony

Trieste, Italy / Frankfurt, Germany, November 24, 2025 - The Marco Luchetta International Press Award 2025 paid a moving tribute this weekend to EPA Images photojournalist Haitham Imad, whose work from Gaza earned him this year's prize for Best Photography.

As ongoing restrictions prevented Imad from leaving Gaza, EPA's Editor-in-Chief, Tomas Stargardter, accepted the award on his behalf during the ceremony in Trieste on Saturday evening – an event that highlighted not only the strength of Imad's winning image, but also the courage of all journalists documenting the current war.

Imad's winning photograph, part of the EPA Focus story *The war in first person*, captures a Palestinian journalist briefly playing with his child on the Gaza shoreline. In a recorded video message, Imad said the scene was “*an honest and purely humane moment at the beach, the last and only place for the people of Gaza to disconnect in an attempt to gain some normalcy, but the war always imposes itself*”.

A second photograph by Haitham Imad was also selected among the finalists, together with an image produced by EPA Images' Gaza photojournalist Mohammed Saber.

It is the second consecutive year in which all three finalist photos at the awards presented by the Italian Fondazione Luchetta Ota d'Angelo Hrovatin were produced by EPA Images photojournalists. The award last year recognized the job of an EPA contributor in Ukraine.

During his speech, Stargardter underscored the significance of the award at a time when frontline journalists face unprecedented risks:

“Our team in Gaza, Haitham Emad and Mohammed Saber, have endured many tribulations to keep the world informed about the war in Gaza. Their work has shown the world what is happening there. I cannot fathom what personal reservoir of courage that these two highly talented men have to dig in to be able to cover this conflict, day in and day out.”

He continued, reflecting on the dangers faced by Gaza's reporters:

“The price for them in blood and treasure and peace of mind has been high. Many other fellow journalists and friends have lost their lives or been injured to be able to inform from Gaza. They are photojournalists who have to be there. Where the news happens. There is no other way, and that is the price we pay.”

In his recorded statement for the ceremony in Trieste, Haitham Imad emphasized that the award belongs to all journalists in Gaza:

“This award isn’t for me alone; it is a medal of pride and honor to all my journalist colleagues – those who have been martyred and those who are still with us – who paid their time and their lives to document the truth. It is also a recognition for all Palestinian journalists who are living the horrors of war, displacement and hunger and are still documenting in text and images despite the ongoing dangers.”

Despite having suffered a serious injury during the war, Imad reaffirmed his commitment to continuing his work. *“I have not lost my faith in the message of journalism. On the contrary, it has grown stronger.”*

Official website of the Marco Luchetta International Press Award:

<https://premioluchetta.com/en/>

EPA Focus story *The war in first person*:

<https://epaimages.com/misc.pp?code=war-first-person>

About EPA Images:

The European Pressphoto Agency B.V. (rebranded as EPA Images) was founded in 1984 by seven European news agencies, who shared the goal of creating an independent, high-quality photo service for the European media market. Today, EPA Images delivers comprehensive photo and video coverage through a worldwide network of visual journalists and the daily production of its member agencies – ANA-MPA, ANP, ANSA, EFE, KEYSTONE, LUSA, MIT, and PAP – all market leaders in their respective countries. Its archive contains 13 million images, with more than 2,000 new photos and 80 videos added daily, covering decades of global events.



EPA Images Editor-in-Chief Tomas Stargardt receives the Luchetta Award on behalf of EPA photojournalist Haitham Imad. The award is presented by Milenka Ota, widow of Alessandro Ota, one of the journalists after whom the foundation that grants the prize is named. Credit: Giovanni Aiello/Handout Fondazione Luchetta Ota d'Angelo Hrovatin



General view of the Luchetta Award ceremony on Saturday night in Trieste, Italy. Credit: Giovanni Aiello/Handout Fondazione Luchetta Ota d'Angelo Hrovatin



EPA Images Editor-in-Chief Tomas Stargardt speaks during the Luchetta Award ceremony in Trieste on Saturday night. Credit: Giovanni Aiello/Handout Fondazione Luchetta Ota d'Angelo Hrovatin



Haitham Imad – Marco Luchetta International Press Award 2025 Winner for Best Photograph



Haitham Imad - Marco Luchetta International Press Award 2025 Finalist for Best Photograph



Mohammed Saber - Marco Luchetta International Press Award 2025 Finalist for Best Photograph