

PRESS RELEASE

DENIZ YÜCEL RECEIVES M100 MEDIA AWARD 2018

The international media conference M100 honours the German-Turkish journalist for his courageous and incorruptible work and at the same time aims to remind of all journalists imprisoned in Turkey. The laudator is the editor-in-chief of Deutsche Welle Ines Pohl.

Potsdam, August 21, 2018. The German-Turkish journalist **Deniz Yücel** receives this year's M100 Media Award. The award ceremony will take place on September 18, at the Potsdam Museum at "Alter Markt" and will conclude the M100 Sanssouci Colloquium, which for the first time takes place in the Barberini Museum.

As Turkey correspondent for the WELTN24 Group, Deniz Yücel attracted the displeasure of the Erdogan regime with his uncomfortable reporting, inter alia, on the Kurdish conflict and corruption in government circles. He was targeted by the judicial authorities at the end of 2016 after reporting in DIE WELT about a hacker attack on energy minister and Erdogan son-in-law Berat Albayrak. The e-mails, which included links between the Turkish government and the terrorist militia "Islamic State" (IS), were leaked to opposition media. Yücel was subsequently arrested and remanded in custody for alleged "terrorist propaganda". But even under the pressure of his one-year imprisonment, Yücel was not banned from thinking or speaking.

"As a journalist Deniz Yücel reported intrepidly and well-founded about the political conditions in Turkey and even out of prison he stood up for critical and independent journalism," said **Jann Jakobs**, chairman of the M100 advisory board and lord mayor of the city of Potsdam, explaining the decision, "At a time when autocrats and populists are threatening the values of a free and open society, this requires a great deal of courage. We would like to honor Deniz Yücel for this courage."

M100 Advisory Board member **Andrea Seibel**, Head of Opinion/Forum of WELTN24, adds: "The case of my colleague Deniz Yücel is not only a prime example of the arbitrariness and malice of a country that was once on such a good path. At the same time, we experienced the miracle and the power of silent diplomacy. And also a fireworks display of civil society sympathy, which one fervently wishes to the many other imprisoned and disenfranchised in this world."

The **M100 Media Award** has been presented annually since 2005 as part of the **M100 Sanssouci Colloquium** to personalities who have left "footprints" in the world and are committed to democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Previous prize winners include **Bob Geldof**, **Hans-Dietrich Genscher**, the Danish cartoonist **Kurt Westergaard**, **Vitali Klitschko**, **Erdem Gündüz**, "The Standing Man", the French satirical magazine **Charlie Hebdo**, the Italian writer **Roberto Saviano** and last year the Russian journalist **Natalia Sineeva**.



Dank an die Medien der M100-Beiräte für die Unterstützung von Pressefreiheit und des M100 Sanssouci Colloquiums

The title of this year's M100 Sanssouci Colloquium taking place during the day at the Barberini Museum is "Home Alone? - Europe and the Post-American Age". Some 60 editors-in-chief, historians and politicians from many European and US countries discuss the state of transatlantic relations, the European agenda in the post-American era and the role of the media. The colloquium will be opened by the Prime Minister of Brandenburg, **Dr. Dietmar Woidke**.

The accreditation form (for reporting journalists only) can be found here:

<http://www.m100potsdam.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/08/PRESS-ACCREDITATION.pdf>

Further information about the conference and participants can be found here:

<http://www.m100potsdam.org/en/m100/m100-sanssouci-colloquium/topic/>

<http://www.m100potsdam.org/en/participants/colloquium/>

M100 is an initiative of the **City of Potsdam** and the **Potsdam Media International e.V.** This year's event is sponsored by the **City of Potsdam**, the **Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg**, the **State of Brandenburg** and the **Federal Foreign Office**.

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Auswärtiges Amt



Dank an die Medien der M100-Beiräte für die Unterstützung von Pressefreiheit und des M100 Sanssouci Colloquiums