



The World Press Photo 2016 was won by Burhan Ozbilici (R) for his shocking photo of a Turkish policeman assassinating the Russian envoy to Turkey

Image of 'hatred of our times' wins World Press Photo

Brandishing a gun, his face contorted with rage, the shocking image of an off-duty Turkish policeman assassinating the Russian envoy to Turkey won the prestigious World Press Photo Award on Monday.

Judges praised the bravery of Burhan Ozbilici, a photographer for the Associated Press, who stood his ground as 22-year-old policeman Mevlut Mert Altintas pumped nine bullets into ambassador Andrei Karlov at the opening of an Ankara exhibition.

Altintas shouted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is great") and "Don't forget Aleppo" as he opened fire, vowing those responsible for events in Syria would be held accountable.

"From the moment I heard the shots I knew this was a historic moment, very serious," Ozbilici told AFP.

"I knew I had to do my job. As a journalist, I couldn't just run away to save my skin."

The powerful photo went viral and has been viewed some 18 million times.

Judges from the World Press Photo Foundation in Amsterdam acknowledged it had been tough to choose the 2017 winner from over 80,400 images by 5,034 photographers from 125 countries.

"It was a very, very difficult decision, but in the end we felt that the picture of the year was an explosive image that really spoke to the hatred of our times," said jury member Mary Calvert.

Agence France-Presse also scooped three awards. Manila-based photographer Noel Celis took third place in the General News category for his photo of inmates trying to sleep in an over-populated prison in the city.

Syrian snappers Abd Doumany and Ameer Alhalbi won second prize in the Spot News category for pictures of children caught up in the bombardments of Aleppo and Douma near Damascus. It is the second year in a row that Doumany's work has been honoured by the World Press Photo Foundation.

'Morally problematic'

But the winning photo sparked dissensions on the jury, with president Stuart Franklin, a British photographer, saying: "I voted against. Sorry Burhan."

"It's a photograph of a murder, the killer and the slain, both seen in the same picture, and morally as problematic to publish as a terrorist beheading," he wrote in the British daily The Guardian.

He argued that "placing the photograph on this high pedestal is an invitation to those contemplating such staged spectacles".

Ozbilici, who covered the failed coup bid in Turkey and been sent on mission to Syria, Libya and Egypt, said he always tried to be ready for difficult tests, "to have the courage to confront a world which has been made rotten by the dishonest and corrupt, in order to try to do some good".

He said he was sorry for the death of the envoy, whom he described as a "natural, kind, sincere man" whose death was a direct consequence of the "Syrian catastrophe".

"This photo marked an important moment in the history of Turkey, especially in its relations with Russia," said Ozbilici, who has worked for AP since 1989.

'Edge of abyss'

Jury members agreed his photo captured an important moment in time.

"Right now I see the world marching towards the edge of an abyss," said jury member Joao Silva, referring to Altintas as a man who had "clearly reached a breaking point".

"This image to me talks" of everything that is happening across the world. "It is the face of hatred."

A total of 45 photographers won awards across eight categories, touching on a vast array of subjects – from racial tensions in Louisiana to walls built around the world to thwart migrants.

Jury member Tanya Habjouqa said the choice of the 2017 winners was "bold".

"I think the selection is definitely going to push forward a debate and I think it is a debate that is essential to have," she said.

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Disney dumps PewDiePie over anti-Semitic videos

Disney has cut ties with YouTube's most watched blogger PewDiePie for posting several videos containing anti-Semitic remarks and Nazi references, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The 27-year-old Swede, whose real name is Felix Kjellberg, is known for posting humorous clips to his more than 53 million followers on YouTube.

"Although Felix has created a following by being provocative and irreverent, he clearly went too far in this case and the resulting videos are inappropriate," a spokeswoman for Maker Studios, the Disney division that had partnered with PewDiePie, told the Journal.

PewDiePie, who had editorial independence under the terms of the arrangement with Disney, reportedly paid two Indian men five dollars to hold the banner reading "Death to all Jews" while they laugh and dance in the 11 January video.

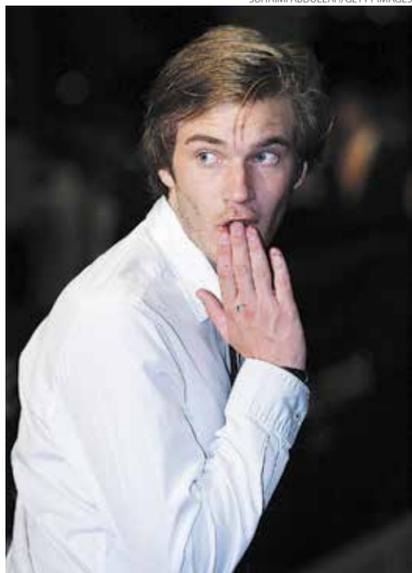
"I was trying to show how crazy the modern world is, specifically some of the services available online," Kjellberg said in a Tumblr blog post on 12 February.

"I picked something that seemed absurd to me – that people on Fiverr would say anything for 5 dollars," referring to a website that helps freelancers receive part time work.

The Journal said PewDiePie had posted nine videos that display anti-Semitic jokes and Nazi references since August.

One of them shows a man dressed as Jesus Christ, saying "Hitler did absolutely nothing wrong".

"I think it's important to say something and I want to make one thing clear: I am in no way supporting any kind of hateful attitudes," the YouTube



star said in the blog post.

"Though this was not my intention, I understand that these jokes were ultimately offensive," he added.

Kjellberg is a top earner on YouTube, making roughly £11.6 million last year, according to reported estimates from social media data firm NeoReach.

That amount includes splitting ad revenue with YouTube, as well as sponsorships and appearance fees.

In December, PewDiePie accused YouTube of trying to "kill" his channel and has threatened to shut it down once he reaches 50 million subscribers, a move that turned out to be a publicity stunt.

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Britain will be 'just fine' post-Brexit says Apple CEO

Britain will be "just fine" after it leaves the European Union, Apple's chief executive Tim Cook said in an interview broadcast on Friday.

"We are very optimistic about the UK's future and we are all in," the CEO of the US tech giant told ITV television after meeting Theresa May and Sadiq Khan on Thursday, 9 February, during a visit to Britain.

"We're a big believer in the UK. The UK will be just fine," Cook said after visiting a coding class at a London primary school.

But he told reporters he expected "bumps in the road" on the path to Brexit.

Apple announced in September that it would create a London headquarters in the iconic and long-abandoned Battersea Power Station on the banks of the River Thames.

Around 1,400 staff from eight existing offices in London will relocate to the renovated landmark, whose distinctive chimneys have towered over the southern riverbank since the 1930s.

There will be enough space there for 3,000 staff. "We're double-downing on a huge headquarters in the Battersea area ... and we're leaving significant space there to expand," Cook said in the interview.

Facebook, Google, Apple and Snapchat have all announced major investments in London in the past few months, underlining the capital's status as a technology hub.

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IN BRIEF



HUMBLE HAM SANDWICH TOPS THE LIST

A new study has found that the humble ham sandwich tops the list of most common repeat lunches. The research, by New Covent Garden Soup, found that 58 per cent of people admit they feel they have eaten identical meals for as long as they can remember, and, perhaps unsurprisingly, 81 per cent are "bored" by their lunch choices. Failing ham, we also go for cheese, chicken or egg sandwiches, salad or pasta.

OVER £200K RAISED AFTER COUPLE'S DEATH

Friends, family and strangers have donated thousands to the children of a couple who died of cancer within days of each other. Many were moved by an image released by the children showing their parents, Mike and Julie Bennet, holding hands during their last hours together in a Merseyside hospital. The crowdfunding campaign has raised over £200,000 in just seven days for Luke, 21, Hannah, 18 and Oliver Bennet, 13.

DONATE YOUR DISUSED SMARTPHONE

Mobile network company Three UK has launched a scheme where people can give away their old smartphone to someone who can't afford one of their own. Through the "Reconnected" scheme, unwanted smartphones are wiped of personal data, then could go to a young homeless person, someone who has just left the military or a victim of domestic abuse. They will also be connected to the Three network for 3 months free of charge.

£9.5BN TO FIX NHS CRISIS, DOCTORS SAY

The NHS needs at least £9.5 billion upfront funding to secure its future, the British Medical Association has warned. The figure is from a BMA analysis of Sustainability and Transformation Plans – local NHS plans introduced in 2015 to help the 44 "footprint areas" meet their goals and repair finances. Thirty-seven areas responded to freedom of information requests sent by the BMA, showing projected capital demands totalling £9.53 billion.

WAITROSE RE-BRANDS "BRITISH" LAMB MEALS

Waitrose is rebranding their "British" lamb ready meals after coming under fire for using misleading labels. Farmers voiced their concerns last year, when it was noticed that some of the ready meals in the supermarket's "British" range used lamb from New Zealand. Waitrose confirmed that they will re-launch the range using the "Classic" brand and will remove the "British" reference from the front of the pack.

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER ROLE IS OPEN

The government is looking for the UK's first small business commissioner. The successful candidate will support small businesses in payment disputes with their larger customers and act as a national champion for small businesses. It follows recent findings that nearly half of the UK's small-to-medium businesses experience late payment, with a total of £26.3 billion owed to them. Applications are open until 13 March 2017.

CHALLENGER BANK TO SHUT 29 BRANCHES

TSB is to shut 29 branches as more people opt for online banking. The majority of the 29 branches will shut in June, and the bank confirmed that there will be no job losses because of the closures. The challenger bank said that some of its least popular locations now serve fewer than 200 customers per week. Despite the closures, TSB estimates there will still be a bank within 2 miles of 42 per cent of the population.