

## PRESS RELEASE

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## JOSÉ MANUEL LÓPEZ WINS "PX3" PARIS PHOTO PRIZES FOR COVERAGE OF SYRIA FOR AFP

SPANISH PHOTOGRAPHER JOSÉ MANUEL LÓPEZ HAS WON PRIZES IN THREE NEWS CATEGORIES IN THE PX3 PARIS PHOTO AWARDS\* FOR HIS COVERAGE OF THE MASSACRE OF YOUNG MEN IN THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR.

HIS SHOCKING IMAGES OF BODIES PULLED OUT OF THE QUWEIG RIVER IN ALEPPO EARNED HIM A GOLD MEDAL IN THE CATEGORY "PRESS-GENERAL NEWS", A SILVER MEDAL IN "PRESS-WAR" AND THIRD PLACE IN THE OVERALL "PX3 PARIS PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE".

The bodies of 68 young men dressed in civilian clothes were fished out of the Quweig river in a rebel controlled area of Aleppo on January 29 2013.

Their hands had been tied behind their backs and they had been executed by a bullet to the head or neck. Six weeks later, another 30 bodies were found in the same location, executed the same way.

José Manuel López is a freelance Spanish journalist focused on social conflicts and injustice.

He studied at the school of arts in Ovied, Spain, and worked for 11 years as a staff photographer at his local paper, *La Crónica de Leon*, until 2009.

He has covered Afghanistan, Iraq, the Palestinian territories, Iran, Haiti, Kosovo, Guatemala and Venezuela, and covered the Syria conflict for AFP from the side of the rebels.

His images have appeared in international media including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *El País*, *Der Spiegel* and *L'Espresso*.

The "Px3" Paris photograph awards were created in 2007 and its jury is comprised of respected media professionals.

Two of the award winning images will be published in the annual Px3 book and will be displayed in a travelling exhibition which opens in the Beaurepaire gallery in Paris on July 15.

<u>Click here to see the award winning images</u> – (warning - this link contains disturbing images)

## About AFP

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