

THE PARK CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA PRESENTS...

THE 2ND ANNUAL

IZZY AWARD

honoring
JEREMY SCAHILL

The Izzy Award recognizes “special achievement in independent media” – journalism created outside traditional corporate structures. The Izzy is named after the legendary muckraker who launched *I.F. Stone’s Weekly* and exposed government deceit and assaults on civil rights and liberties. Jeremy Scahill was chosen for the second annual award for his “persistence, independence and journalistic courage” in exposing military contractor/human rights abuses – elevating the issues into front-page mainstream news.



“I am a wholly independent newspaperman, standing alone, without organizational or party backing, beholden to no one but my good readers. I am even one up on Benjamin Franklin—I do not accept advertising.”

-- I.F. STONE

Jeremy Scahill



JEREMY SCAHILL is the author of the bestselling *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army* (Nation Books, 2007). He is a Puffin Foundation Writing Fellow at The Nation Institute, a frequent contributor to *The Nation*, and a correspondent for the national radio and TV program *Democracy Now!*. He was a 2008 election correspondent for HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*.

In continuous reporting throughout 2009, Scahill followed the trail of military contractors that he'd first pursued for the *Blackwater* book. His work appeared in many independent outlets, including *AlterNet*, *HuffingtonPost*, *CommonDreams* and his own *Rebel Reports* blog. Mainstream news organizations eventually picked up the story; this past January on MSNBC, Rachel Maddow ended an interview with Scahill about security contractors in post-earthquake Haiti by saying, "Whenever I read stories like this – even when you don't write them – I think of you."

In 1998, he won his first Polk Award – with Amy Goodman – for the radio documentary *Drilling and Killing: Chevron and Nigeria's Oil Dictatorship*, which exposed the company's alliance with a dictatorship that led to the deaths of environmental activists. A decade later, he won his second Polk Award for *Blackwater*. This is his first Izzy.

Monday, April 19, 2010
Roy H. Park School of Communications
Ithaca College

What others say about Jeremy Scahill

"He is a one-man truth squad." -- Bill Moyers

"Scahill provided me information . . . which I have not been able to get from the U.S. military . . . I have read more from Mr. Scahill, than I've got from our own government." -- Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Defense Appropriations Committee

"At Blackwater USA, Jeremy Scahill's is the face they love to hate . . . [He is] perhaps the private military company's most dogged critic." -- *Virginian-Pilot*

Comments on *Blackwater* best-seller

"A crackling exposé of the secretive military contractor Blackwater." -- *New York Times Book Review*

"An utterly gripping and explosive story." -- Naomi Klein, *The Guardian*

"His book is so scary and so illuminating" -- Bill Maher, host of HBO's *Real Time*

"[T]his is no uninformed partisan screed . . . Meticulously documented and encyclopedic in scope . . . it's a comprehensive and authoritative guide . . . this book serves as a provocative primer for advancing the debate." -- Bill Sizemore, Pulitzer-prize nominated journalist

"It should be mandatory reading. It's very interesting – and scary." -- Scarlett Johansson

"Jeremy Scahill actually doesn't know anything about Blackwater." -- Martin Strong, vice president, Blackwater Worldwide

JUDGES of the Izzy Award are PCIM director JEFF COHEN; University of Illinois communications professor and author ROBERT W. McCHESNEY; and LINDA JUE, director and executive editor of the San Francisco-based G.W. Williams Center for Independent Journalism. The inaugural Izzy Award was presented last year to blogger GLENN GREENWALD and *Democracy Now!* host/executive producer AMY GOODMAN.

Izzy Stone

Founded in 1953, I.F. Stone's Weekly stood bravely against Sen. Joe McCarthy and the lies propelling the Vietnam War, including the Tonkin Gulf hoax – inspiring generations of journalists and activists. "In this age of corporation men, I am an independent capitalist, the owner of my own enterprise," Izzy Stone wrote in 1963. "I am a wholly independent newspaperman, standing alone, without organizational or party backing, beholden to no one but my good readers."

"All governments lie," said Izzy, the ultimate un-embedded reporter. He launched his first independent publication at age 14. He went on to become a daily reporter, editor, columnist and powerful journalistic advocate for FDR's New Deal at the then-liberal New York Post. As Washington D.C. editor of The Nation, he exposed U.S. corporations doing business with Hitler's Germany. He was one of the first to sound the alarm about the Nazi holocaust. He battled the National Press Club over exclusion of African Americans.

A true independent, he wrote books that passionately supported the birth of Israel, but strongly criticized its mistreatment of Palestinians. He advocated peace and negotiations with Soviet Russia, while denouncing its rulers. He despised racists, but defended their civil liberties, and everyone's – even during "the haunted Fifties." His books include Underground to Palestine, The Hidden History of the Korean War, and Killings at Kent State. Collected writings appear in The Best of I.F. Stone. More information is at the official website supervised by Izzy's son, Jeremy Stone: www.ifstone.org.

The **Park Center for Independent Media**, launched in 2008, is a national center for the study of media outlets that create and distribute content outside traditional corporate systems and news organizations. Throughout history, technological and social upheaval have given rise to independent media voices. Today, independent media are growing amid crisis and conglomeration in mainstream journalism, and the rise of the Internet and new forms of media production and distribution. The Center's mission is to engage media producers and students in conversation about career paths in independent media.

PCIM appreciates the support of the Park Foundation.

Special thanks to Jeremy Stone for his help and for www.IFStone.org.

ITHACA

