

I. F. “Izzy” Stone

“All governments lie,” said Izzy Stone, 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 DC 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. and battled the National Press Club over its exclusion of African Americans.

Founded in 1953, *I. F. Stone’s Weekly* stood bravely against Senator Joe McCarthy’s witch-hunting and against racial discrimination. He revealed the lies propelling the Vietnam War, including the Tonkin Gulf hoax.

Izzy Stone has inspired generations of journalists and social-justice activists. “In this age of corporation men, I am an independent capitalist, the owner of my own enterprise,” 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.”

A true independent, he wrote in passionate support of 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 collected writings appear in *The Best of I. F. Stone*. Read more about this icon of independent journalism at the official site 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 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. Visit us online at www.ithaca.edu/indy, and “friend” us on Facebook.

PCIM deeply appreciates the support of the Park Foundation. Special thanks to Jeremy Stone for donating the I. F. Stone memorabilia we proudly display on the third floor of Park Hall.

Izzy Award JUDGES are JEFF COHEN, PCIM director; LINDA JUE, executive director and editor of the G. W. Williams Center for Independent Journalism; and ROBERT W. MCCHESENEY, University of Illinois professor and author.

The inaugural Izzy Award was presented to GLENN GREENWALD and AMY GOODMAN; the 2009 honoree was JEREMY SCAHILL; and last year’s award was shared by ROBERT SCHEER and *CITY LIMITS*.



THE PARK CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

PRESENTS

THE FOURTH ANNUAL

IZZY

AWARD

honoring

Sharif Abdel-Kouddous
and the
Center for Media & Democracy

April 10, 2012

Emerson Suites, Ithaca College

The Izzy Award recognizes special achievement in independent media — journalism created outside traditional corporate structures.

The award is named after I. F. “Izzy” Stone, the legendary muckraker who for decades exposed government deceit and assaults on civil rights and liberties, notably through *I. F. Stone’s Weekly* (1953-71).



I. F. “Izzy” Stone



Sharif Abdel Kouddous

Sharif Abdel Kouddous was born in the USA and raised in Cairo. At 18 he returned to the USA to attend Duke University, where he majored in economics and philosophy. He began as a volunteer with *Democracy Now!* in 2003 before being named a producer. He is also a fellow at the Nation Institute.

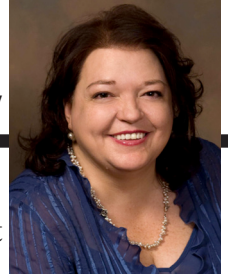
In 2011, inspired by recent events in Tunisia, Egyptians were emboldened to expand their annual January 25 “National Police Day” protests. They abandoned fear and embraced a collective determination to overthrow the dictatorship of Hosni Mubarak.

This is the story for which Kouddous receives the Izzy Award. Often in grave danger, barely resisting arrest and dodging bullets himself, Kouddous brought to *Democracy Now!* viewers and listeners the excitement, chaos, courage, danger, and celebratory spirit of that 18-day people’s uprising in Tahrir Square and subsequent events. That public space became not only a horrific battleground where military assaulted and killed civilian protesters, but also the birthplace of an organized system of resistance and community care programs, of democracy building and mutual support.

The Izzy Award judges said, “With breathtaking bravery, Sharif’s unflinching on-the-street reporting simultaneously brought us the voices and faces of Egyptians, the drama of the moment, and big-picture analysis — sometimes while tear gas or live rounds exploded in the background.”

Although Mubarak has been gone 14 months, Egypt remains under military rule. We will continue to rely on the work of Sharif Abdel Kouddous in bringing us the story of the ongoing populist uprising.

See Sharif’s reporting at www.democracynow.org/topics/sharif_kouddous.



Center for Media and Democracy

The Center for Media and Democracy, based in Madison, Wisconsin, is a nonprofit independent investigative news organization founded in 1993. Its reporting and analysis focus on exposing corporate spin and government propaganda and are published via PRWatch, SourceWatch, and BanksterUSA.

CMD’s newest investigative site is “ALEC Exposed,” for which it is being honored with the Izzy Award this evening. This exhaustive exposé probed the American Legislative Exchange Council, a big-business-funded organization that has promoted a wish list of pro-corporate legislation into law in virtually every state and in the U. S. Congress.

Triggered by a whistleblower, CMD’s investigation analyzed and exposed more than 800 ALEC “model bills” — on issues ranging from the environment and education to workers’ rights and voting rights — that were developed in secret by legislators sitting side-by-side with corporate lobbyists. CMD made its investigation public in July in collaboration with *The Nation* magazine, and the exposé has sparked months of news coverage in mainstream and independent outlets.

The Izzy Award judges commended CMD for its “high-impact journalistic work that turned a bright light on a powerful institution that had that had largely operated in darkness.”

This public interest newsgroup is led by executive director and editor-in-chief **Lisa Graves**, who will accept the Izzy Award on behalf of Center for Media and Democracy’s small staff of experts, researchers, and writers, and its volunteers and interns. Graves formerly served as deputy assistant attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice and chief counsel for nominations for the chair of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

Visit the site: www.alecexposed.org/wiki/ALEC_Exposed.