British "heroine" receives prestigious Refugee Award

"I see myself really as a storyteller, my aim is always to put a human face on the plight of refugees and internally displaced people around the world," words from British photo-journalist Alixandra Fazzina who, on Monday 4th October, was presented with the Nansen Award, given annually to individuals or organizations in recognition of their extraordinary and dedicated service to refugees. She was described by the High

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Upcoming Events

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November 2010

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Fazzina, who began her career as a photo-journalist with the British army in Bosnia in 2005, has covered the conflict-displaced in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Eastern Europe, documenting the lives of the uprooted through powerful and moving photo essays.

Previous Nansen winners include Eleanor Roosevelt and the late Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti.

> Click here to see some of Alixandra's award winning work

2011 will mark a number of exciting anniversaries...

Help us celebrate UNHCR's 60th anniversary as well as the 50th anniversary of the Reduction of Statelessness Convention

> Share with your network

UNHCR online
Technology breeds hope as ex-refugee gives back

Microsoft Senior product marketing manager Leila Toplic, an ex-refugee from war-torn Bosnia now dedicates her free time to helping refugees worldwide as part of an innovative UNHCR and Microsoft initiative. This summer, she traveled to Kenya and Sudan to help document the stories of refugees in the region. "A refugee camp is an island," she said. "But technology breaks down the boundaries and brings information to the people."

> Watch a video about Leila's trip to the Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya

> Click here to learn more about the Microsoft and UNHCR partnership
Resettlement success

This September marked a major breakthrough in the resettlement of refugees, with Japan accepting 18 Burmese refugees; Asia's first ever resettlement programme, and making Japan one of only 24 countries worldwide to accept refugees for resettlement. The refugees have been taking lessons in Japanese language and culture in preparation, including traditions such as sumo and sushi!

> Read their story here

Statelessness: the untold story of an invisible people

Imagine what it feels like to exist in the twilight of statelessness; deprived of the very right to have rights. For an estimated 12 million people in the world without nationality or citizenship, this is the reality they face every day. This coming year UNHCR is launching a major campaign to increase the awareness of the plight of stateless people, and put pressure on states to adopt legal structures to address the situation.

> Find out more about statelessness here
UN refugee agency steps in to help with devastating floods in Benin

Recent floods in Benin, West Africa, have affected an estimated 680,000 people. UNHCR, which already has a presence in the area, has been called on to help in the distribution of emergency relief materials as part of the UN Humanitarian response. We have already delivered around 3,000 tents and supplies. Concerns remain, however, as the forecasts indicate that the heavy rains show no signs of letting up, and the numbers of affected grow.

> Click here to donate to the Benin flood relief

> Read more about this breaking disaster here

Pakistan emergency exacerbated by dropping temperatures

Everyone is aware of the floods this summer in Pakistan, but the crisis is far from over. As winter sets in in Northern Pakistan, temperatures are dropping to as low as -10 degrees cesius, creating an urgent need for more permanent and sturdy forms of shelter for the millions of people still displaced by the floods. To address this need UNHCR has begun airlifting hundreds of winter shelter kits to villages in Northern
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