

2014 Cartoonist Award and exhibition of 100 Press Cartoons “Every State of War”

Geneva, 29 April 2014 - To celebrate the International Day of Freedom of the Press, the Foundation *Cartooning for Peace/Dessins pour la Paix* and the City of Geneva will present the 2014 Press Cartoonist award to two talented cartoonists who risk their lives for their art: Doaa Eladl, from Egypt and Hani Abbas, a Palestinian from Syria. Moreover, the public will be invited to visit an exhibition of 100 press cartoons along Quai Wilson, on the theme of “Every State of War”, one hundred years after the beginning of the First World War.

1914-2014: two world wars, four genocides, the use of atomic weapons against civil populations, decolonisation wars, civil wars and cyberwars. “Science in this field unbridles human imagination. And, above all, that of press cartoonists who celebrate freedom of expression with, as weapons of mass conviction, their audacity, their talent and their pencils”, said the Honorary President of *Cartooning for Peace*, Kofi Annan, 2001 Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

“The Foundation *Cartooning for Peace* and the City of Geneva have united their efforts to offer to these courageous cartoonists one of the most beautiful exhibition spaces in the world capital of human rights, the lakeside, giving the public the opportunity to admire strong and satirical pieces of arts which denounce offences to human rights all over the world”, declared Geneva Administrative Counsellor Guillaume Barazzoe, who will present the 2014 Cartoonist Award together with Kofi Annan, in the presence of the cartoonists Patrick Chappatte (Le Temps/The International New York Times), Jean Plantu (Le Monde) and Liza Donnely (The New Yorker), members of *Cartooning for Peace*.

Doaa, a cartoonist in Egypt, is a well-known artist in the Arab World. She has conquered a traditionally masculine bastion with her talent, choosing to fight against the touchiest issues in Egyptian society such as the condition of women and sexual harassment. A cartoon showing Adam and Eve banished from Paradise published in 2012 provoked the fury of the censors and a complaint from the authorities for blasphemous sentiments. Although her cartoons encourage people to express themselves democratically, she does not want to be considered as a heroine.

The glance of an artist can denounce the inexpressible. A cartoon can change a destiny. Hani Abbas, a cartoonist born in 1977 in the Palestinian camp of Yarmouk, in Syria, had this bitter experience. After having posted a cartoon on Facebook in 2012 immortalising a flower as a symbol of the Syrian rebellion, this young teacher was threatened by the Syrian secret services. Obligated to flee Syria with wife and child, Hani Abbas is now a refugee in Switzerland, where he continues to denounce the horror of a tragedy with his talent and a stripping sense of humour.

After Geneva, the *Cartooning for Peace* exhibition will go to Sarajevo, on 28 June 2014, thanks to a partnership with the WARM Foundation, anxious to exhibit the 100 press cartoons in the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the context of the 100th Anniversary of the assassination of the Archduke of Austria, which triggered the First World War.

Contacts for information and requests for interviews

Luisa Ballin – luisaballin@yahoo.fr - 079 649 71 45

Raoul Schruppf – City of Geneva – 022 418 24 68 - raoul.schrumpf@ville-ge.ch

Web sites: *Cartooning for peace* : <http://www.cartooningforpeace.org>

City of Geneva/Ville de Genève : <http://www.ville-geneve.ch>

Swiss Press Club/Club suisse de la presse – www.pressclub.ch