

The Judith Miller Award for AIDS Journalism in South Africa, 2005

For outstandingly informative, groundbreaking investigative journalism; extraordinarily original thinking; penetrating insight; astute political judgment; assiduous impartiality; brave independence; courageous risk taking; diligent fact checking and absolutely dependable factual accuracy; exceptional scientific curiosity; service to truth at any cost; a reflexive suspicion of politically correct consensus of any shape or form; a keen professional instinct for nosing out corporate PR spin behind any big media story; sedulous follow-up of tips and leads unsettling lines of thought promoted by and benefiting industrial complexes; special scepticism of corporate claims to service of human rights, particularly when peddling must-have patented merchandise, all the more when first donated to developing countries for a while to establish future markets; similar sceptical distance from organised professional guilds claiming indispensable talents, without whose skilled mediation a terrible painful, lingering and lonely death is inevitable, vomiting, wheezing, raving, dribbling and all covered in dark blotches; thorough familiarity with and reliance upon primary sources of scientific and medical information even when they are challenging to understand for all their unfamiliar specialist terms such as triphosphorylation, inhibition concentration, mitochondrial toxicity and so on; intuitive scepticism for manufactured moral narratives involving doomed victims and benevolent corporate rescuers and their local agents lavishly funded by extraordinarily flush conservative corporate philanthropies doling

out limitless slush funds in support of American foreign policy objectives with NSC and CIA approval; diligent attentiveness to the movement and directional flow of capital whenever alleged new menaces to the world are proclaimed by self-interested experts touting commercially available solutions, especially at a heart-warming, generous discount, all reported uncritically by credulous and ignorant journalists building stimulating careers in new niche beats at newspapers, themselves always looking for exciting new stories to boost circulation figures, knowing that nothing sells like sex and death, best when unseemly; a natural interest in dissident critiques of politically and commercially hegemonised intellectual schemes built upon occult shibboleths of seemingly impenetrable complexity to regular folks; special attention to the arguments and concerns of personally uninterested scientists, journalists and other professionals persecuted, vilified and marginalised for pointing out their defects, more particularly when blacklisted as morally and politically perverse deniers of terrible truth and effectively barred from publication in professional and mass media, thereby excluded from contributing to public discourse; a sharp eye for the construction of allegedly incontestable models of understanding by mass media, especially supporting racist and authoritarian ideologies; an aversion to commercial/professional/single-issue popular power aggregations claiming public beneficence, concern for societal welfare and exclusive redemptive capability, all the more when they intolerantly asperse their detractors in full-bore smear campaigns, with the media playing along; special care in writing, to report stories only and not to help make them, much less become part of them by participating in

dreadfully backfiring publicity stunts; identification with the transformation project of the revolution and vocally defending its democratic leadership when attacked and undermined by hostile foreign interests, even if it's now unfashionable do so and more natural to take the sort of essentially pro-business line espoused by people such as the Democratic Alliance's Tony Leon and Dianne Kohler-Barnard, who also know what's best for the natives; widespread peer-recognition for distinguished professional acumen and achievement in the form of awards and honours and ready access to newspaper space for the edification of the public with tremendously engaging and thought-provoking analyses; glowing personal intelligence and radiant emotional calm; and a mature adult prose style of shimmering, sophisticated literary elegance, long progressed in tone and content from the sort of juvenile writing that's typical of the homework essays of junior high school children conveying a certain unfulfilled romantic longing manifested in overheated phraseology, unrealistic ideation, a myopic disregard for inconsistent, disruptive facts, frustration, enraged, unrestrained vituperation, bitter denunciation and a peculiar, solipsistic, clanging compositional elements including a strange persistent preoccupation with African sexuality and with what fellow white experts claim is its terrible and inexorable biblical price, the **Judith Miller Award for AIDS Journalism in South Africa** for 2005 [goes to . . .](#)

(We [informed the subject](#) of the award-winning article about the honour bestowed, and other interested parties too.)