



A Georgian man cries as he holds the body of his brother after a bombardment in Gori, 80 km (50 miles) from Tbilisi. August 9, 2008.

REUTERS/GLEB GARANICH

## 2008 JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR

### PHOTO JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

An individual photo journalist who produced exceptional still photographs on a variety of stories and events throughout 2008

#### GLEB GARANICH

For his series of photographs from the Georgia War

“Gleb is an exceptional photographer whose stirring photographs from the Georgia War deservedly won prominent play in publications around the world. His commitment, talent and courage are truly outstanding.”

– David Schlesinger, Editor-in-Chief, Reuters



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A Georgian reservist rests as a municipal worker cleans in central Gori, 80 km (50 miles) from Tbilisi, August 9, 2008.  
**REUTERS/GLEB GARANICH**

#### WINNER OVERVIEW

Kiev-based Gleb Garanich delivered outstanding coverage of the Georgia crisis. His hard-hitting images captured the scale of the conflict, the human impact of the bombing of Gori and on the thousands of people made homeless. Of particular note was an exclusive set of pictures soon after hostilities began that showed a man crying over the body of his brother, who was killed in an air strike. The photos were published on the front pages of hundreds of newspapers and magazines around the world, and saw matching prominence on websites, giving Reuters the best usage for many years—a truly outstanding achievement. The standard of Gleb's work and commitment to the story remained even when broader interest in the conflict ebbed, with Gleb continuing to produce the kind of images from the region that made Reuters the agency to watch for picture editors the world over.

Gleb Garanich was born on Sakhalin Island off the east coast of Russia in 1969. He went to school in Ukraine, studying at Kharkiv Aviation Institute. He served two years in the air force of the Soviet army in St. Petersburg. In 1990, he began working in news photography at local newspapers, and later at a national news agency. He joined Reuters in 1995 as a Kiev-based photographer. "With that job," Gleb says, "I finally found what I was looking for in my life professionally." Since joining Reuters, Gleb has covered elections, revolutions, wars, soccer, gas cutoffs and currency devaluations. "I have the best job in the world," Gleb says.

Gleb's road to a career in photo journalism was neither straight nor quickly traveled. As a child, he dreamt about figure skating, but upon discovering that "the ice was cold and hard if you fell on it," he switched to diving, assuming water would be more welcoming. Soon enough though, Gleb became bored with swimming and diving. His coach, wanting to keep him around, introduced him to underwater photography when he was twelve. But it wasn't until his time in the air force in St. Petersburg several years later that Gleb's interest in photography was revived, not only by the city's graceful streets and vast squares, but also by the major political and social changes his home was undergoing. He began shooting street protests and watched his skills improve.

Gleb is married, and has a daughter and a son. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, traveling and, yes, photography.

#### 2008 JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Recognize the best in Reuters journalism over the last year. Winners of 10 awards were honoured for their exceptional work on March 5, 2009, in New York City