

Al-Jazeera documentary in the longlist for Coronavirus Reporting Award 2020

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'Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown', the Al-Jazeera 101 East documentary that elicited a fierce response from Malaysian authorities has made it to the longlist for One World Media's 2020 coronavirus reporting awards.

One World Media is a London-based non-profit organisation that promotes media that contributes to global dialogue and understanding, human rights and development.

It announced that 'Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown' was one of 12 entries selected for the longlist from over 400 entries across 68 countries.

"The stories showcase the exceptional work of journalists and filmmakers reporting on the impact of the pandemic all over the world.

"The breadth, quality and originality of the entries were overwhelming. Shining a

light on underreported challenges, uncovering crucial investigations and highlighting local heroes," One World Media said in making the announcement.

Final shortlist to be announced on Oct 22

The final shortlist will be selected by a panel of expert judges and the winner will be announced on Oct 22.

Other longlisted entries include 'Bullet and the Virus' by BBC Africa, 'Coronavirus by Air: The spread of Covid-19 in the Middle East' by BBC News Arabic, 'How coronavirus hit Aden: A Yemeni doctor's diary' by The New Humanitarian and India's 'Comfort Food Tells the Story of Its Pandemic' by The Atlantic.

Entries by The Guardian, 'The Caravan' and the 'MIT Technology Review' are also featured.

Al Jazeera journalists being brought to Bukit Aman for questioning, on July 10.

Following the release of the documentary in July, Defence Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob hit out at Al Jazeera and demanded an apology, calling it unethical in producing what he described as a deceptive documentary over the government's handling of the undocumented migrant population during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Seven Al Jazeera staff were summoned to Bukit Aman for questioning, with Al Jazeera English Channel's managing director Giles Trendle calling the station's treatment an unprecedented attack.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi national, Mohd Rayhan Kabir, who was interviewed in the documentary, was arrested and then deported to his home country.

NGOs said the crackdown by the authorities against undocumented foreign citizens during the MCO, some of whom had contracted the disease due to living in closed quarters, has also exacerbated negative sentiments against refugees and migrants.

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