

To

The editor

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## Egyptian blogger and activist

# **Sarrah Abdelrahman wins 2011 Edberg Award**

The Edberg Foundation in Sweden has decided to award Egyptian citizen journalist and video blogger Sarrah Abdelrahman, Cairo, Egypt, for her use of social media in a crucial time for Egypt and the Middle East. In its motivation, the foundation writes:

**“Sarrah Abdelrahman is awarded for her courageous use of social media, giving young people a voice in support of democracy causes that are universal to all people regardless of age, gender and cultural affiliation – goals that are prerequisites for social justice, human rights and that create a platform to solve environmental problems.”**

The board of the Edberg Foundation notes that the foundation has been very impressed by Sarrah Abdelrahman’s work and dedication, and concludes that in a time when it looks like young people elsewhere have turned away from political work and discourse, she and many young people in the Middle East have shown a way forward. Not only did Ms. Abdelrahman demand that a dictator must fall, but she also became a voice for young people who rightfully ask to be part of the process of building a new, democratic society.

- On other continents, young people have been inspired by the “Arab Spring” and how the use of social media has linked people and causes together, says Bo Landin, President of the Edberg Foundation, and he continues:

-Unfortunately we have also seen that this struggle is not without victims, and young people too often have ended up in the crosshairs of weapons turned against them. We have seen it in Egypt and countries in the Middle East, but we have also seen it close to home in Scandinavia, when politically active young people in Norway were slaughtered. Our award to Ms. Abdelrahman should be seen in this light, and we are proud she represents the thousands of young people who, in spite of risks, are prepared to fight for their own future.

In a comment, Sarrah Abdelrahman says:

- I am honored with such appreciation and recognition, but the real appreciation and recognition should go to the thousands that have sacrificed their lives, senses and future for us to live with freedom. And the millions that are still continuing our revolution, and will not give up until victory.

Sarrah Abdelrahman recently graduated from the American University in Cairo with a bachelor’s degree, a double major in journalism and theater. She has been a student activist but only became active with Egyptian politics on the day of the revolution.

# *The Edberg foundation*

The award will be presented to Ms Abdelrahman at a ceremony in Karlstad, Sweden on October 24th.

## **More about the Edberg Foundation:**

The Edberg Foundation was established in 1990 in the name and spirit of Rolf Edberg (1912-1997). Rolf Edberg, as an author, philosopher and environmental advocate gave a voice to those people who are struck the hardest by the environmental situation in the world. It was a lifelong dedication and struggle, and until he died in 1997 he was always a proponent of letting young people be part of the political process and have a bigger say in their own future.

Rolf Edberg was a prominent Swedish politician and diplomat, and he was, among many other things, an active participant in the formation of the United Nations and Council of Europe after the Second World War. He was a true internationalist working for peaceful solutions to political and other problems, and it was his initiative and insightful writing that led to the organization of the first UN conference on the human environment in Stockholm in 1972.

Rolf Edberg had an interdisciplinary viewpoint, where establishing democratic rights went side by side with active environmental projects in the effort to minimize environmental problems of the earth. Depletion of resources leads to deterioration of both nature and the living conditions of human beings. The industrialized world contributes to a disproportionately large fraction of the exploitation, while the developing nations suffer the greater share of the environmental burden. The Foundation's mission is to encourage environmental achievements and efforts. The Foundation's Honorary Chairman is Ingvar Carlsson, former Prime Minister of Sweden.

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