

Jemal Nebez Award 2025 presented

Today, Sunday, September 21, 2025, the Jemal Nebez Award was presented during a festive and moving ceremony. The event took place at the headquarters of the Jemal Nebez Foundation in the presence of numerous invited guests.

Due to the limited capacity of the venue, the number of participants had to be restricted.

This year's award went to **Professor Khanna Omarkhali**, a Kurdish Yazidi from Armenia who currently works as a professor at Freie Universität Berlin and heads the Department of Kurdish Studies. The Jemal Nebez Prize honors individuals who have made a special contribution to the promotion of the Kurdish language, culture, and history. The first prize was awarded in 2023 to Ms. **Zara Mohammadi**, a committed advocate of the Kurdish language.

The ceremony was moderated in two languages—Kurdish and English—by **Dr. Sara Minelli** and **Kaveh Goreishi** (both members of the advisory board of the Jemal Nebez Foundation). Numerous guests participated in the event online.

After a welcome address by **Dr. Hannelore Küchler**, 1st Chair of the Jemal Nebez Foundation and widow of Jemal Nebez, who passed away in 2018, there were further online speeches by **Fexriye Adsay** (Northern Kurdistan, Head of the Selection Committee for this year's Jemal Nebez Prize), **Markus Küchler** (Sweden, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Jemal Nebez Foundation) and Dr. Mamo Osman (South Kurdistan). Due to technical problems, **Prof. Haci Akman's** speech was read out in English and Kurdish by the moderator Kaveh Goreishi.

The award ceremony was then opened with a very emotional speech by Dr. Hannelore Küchler. The award winner, Dr. Khanna Omarkhali, then took the opportunity to address those present in an equally moving speech and to express her gratitude for the award.

Another highlight was the contribution of Professor **Dr. Yedgar Balaki**, who gave a short speech. A video message arrived from Armenia, in which the Kurdish journalist **Lianna Mihoya** warmly greeted the award winner. **Dr. Akram Khamosh** then recited two sensitive poems and gave a short artistic performance, which enriched the atmosphere of the evening.

Hallo Berzinjeyie then gave a short speech thanking the award winner, the institute, the foundation's namesake, Jemal Nebez, and Dr. Hannelore Küchler. He also thanked all the guests.

In his subsequent speech, Mr. **Salar Pashai** praised the important role of the Jemal Nebez Foundation as an institution dedicated to preserving and continuing the legacy of Jemal Nebez.

Dr. Akram Khamosh gave another short speech and rounded off the program in impressive fashion, together with the Daf player Mr. **Raman Jaf**, by singing traditional Kurdish songs.

A heartfelt thank you to all the organizers, participants, and supporters. The foundation hopes to continue honoring outstanding individuals who are dedicated to preserving and promoting Kurdish identity in the years to come.

September 21, 2025

Jemal Nebez Foundation