About the photojournalist: Arun Krishnakutty

Arun K, a news photographer for Mathrubhumi Daily, has submitted his entry for the PII-ICRC Annual Awards 2024. His story, published on December 3, 2023, features the inspiring journey of Jilumol Mariet Thomas, a 32-year-old woman from Kerala who became the first Asian woman without arms to obtain a driving license. Born without arms due to a congenital disorder, Jilumol learned to drive using her feet and, after six years of determination, was finally granted her license in 2023. With support from a Kochi-based start-up, Vi Innovations, which developed a voice-command system for her car, and advocacy from the Kerala State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Jilumol’s achievement is a testament to her courage and resilience, marking a significant milestone on the eve of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.