**II | Habib Battah – Second Prize – For an election reality check, visit your local mukhtar**Mr. Battah is Lebanese. He was awarded the second prize of the 2006 Samir Kassir Award for his article « For an election reality check, visit your local mukhtar», published on June 18, 2005 in the English-language daily The Daily Star.
Mr. Battah was born in 1979. Graduated in journalism from Texas University (Austin). He is, since May 2005, the managing editor of the Middle East Broadcasters Journal, a bimonthly magazine covering business and media trends across the Middle East region, where he also publishes numerous articles.
From 2003 to 2005, he was Senior Writer for the first English-language daily in the Middle East, The Daily Star, for which he covered the political, social and especially economic news in Lebanon and across the region. His most outstanding reports have been featured on CNBC Arabia channel and BBC World, where he has repeatedly appeared as an analyst in the « Middle East Business Report» program. From February to May 2005, he worked as a broadcast journalist for the satellite television Future TV, for which he conducted and produced a three part interview with the current Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. In 2003 he was staff writer for Al Jazeera television, recruited to develop Al Jazeera.net. He also worked for the British BBC satellite television during the week of the American presidential elections of the year 2000.
To his journalistic expertise should be highlighted an experience of working with NGOs and international aid organisations: project development, drafting of reports and studies for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Vision and USAID. He received top prize for best feature article in the Middle East in the 2004 Pan Arab Press Competition.