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From the guidelines for the bestowment of the award

The laureates of the Johann-Philipp-Palm-Award are selected by the Board of Trustees whose members are appointed by the Board of Directors in every award year. It consists of eminent figures from the church, cultural institutions, the media, politics, industry, and science. Members can be re-appointed and practice honorary.
With this award, women, men and institutions are honoured that have set an example in an outstanding way, just like Johann Philipp Palm, for their personal or institutional commitment towards the unimpeded fulfilment of freedom of speech and the press.
The Board of Trustees can distribute the award to as many as three laureates. The Board of Trustees' decision is final and cannot be contested. Membership on the Board of Trustees is honorary.

The patron of the Johann-Philipp-Palm-Award for Freedom of Speech and the Press

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