NOTE TO THE MEDIA

WINNER OF THE IMAGES TO STOP TUBERCULOSIS AWARD ANNOUNCED IN BERLIN, GERMANY

11 November 2010 – Berlin, Germany — Misha Friedman is the winner of the Stop TB Partnership’s 2010 Images to Stop Tuberculosis Award.

The award, which is supported by the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership, seeks to obtain outstanding photos depicting tuberculosis (TB) prevention and treatment and community activity to raise awareness about it. Photojournalist Gary Knight serves as Chair of the award’s Advisory Board.

Mr Friedman’s portfolio, which depicts the stigma and hardships faced by people with multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB in Central Asia, was selected from among 33 entries by an international jury. He will receive a grant of $5000 to produce a photo essay on TB and $5000 in prize money.

TB is an airborne infectious disease. More than 9 million people became ill with TB and some 1.7 million died of the disease in 2009. If TB is detected early and fully treated, affected individuals cease to be able to infect others and can be cured.

Mr Friedman, who was born in 1977 in the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic (now the Republic of Moldova), relocated to the United States in 1991 and has been based in New York City since then. Soon after completing university studies in economics and political science, he began working with Doctors without Borders (Médecins sans Frontières) and in that role discovered photography. He has documented a humanitarian crisis in Northern Uganda, urban violence in Nigeria, kala-azar in India, TB in Chechnya and Central Asia, sleeping sickness in South Sudan and civil war in Darfur. His work has been widely published, notably by Le Figaro and the BBC.

The Stop TB Partnership, which is hosted by the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, consists of more than 1200 international organizations, countries, donors from the public and private sectors, and nongovernmental and governmental organizations that are working together to eliminate TB. The Partnership’s Global Plan to Stop TB (2011-2015) sets forth a roadmap for halving TB prevalence and deaths compared with 1990 levels by 2015.

The Lilly MDR-TB Partnership is a public-private initiative that encompasses global health and relief organizations, academic institutions and private companies and is led by Eli Lilly and Company. Its mission is to address the expanding crisis of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). The partnership is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to fight MDR-TB through increasing drug supply at concessionary prices; research; providing training in prevention, treatment, and surveillance; promoting awareness and community support programs and sharing drug manufacturing technology with nations most at risk of MDR-TB.

For further information, please contact:

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Note to editors: Photos by Mr Friedman can be downloaded for editorial purposes at http://www.stoptb.org/news/mediacenter.asp.