

# dateline

A woman wearing a brown shawl and a dark headscarf is holding a young child. The child is wearing a blue headscarf and a light-colored jacket. They are standing in front of a tent in a dry, cracked landscape. The scene is set in a hazy, outdoor environment with a dark tent in the background.

WINNERS OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AWARDS

2013  
SPECIAL EDITION

A Correspondent Asks:

**REMEMBER THE AFGHAN WAR?**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the Overseas Press Club office in New York, staff member Lucrecia (Boots) Duque is in charge of compiling news about the abuse of journalists around the world and sending dispatches to our Freedom of the Press Committee for possible action by the club. The reports, from the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders and other groups, are nothing if not global. In a recent two-week period we had journalists being intimidated, arrested, assaulted and murdered in Oman, Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Vietnam, Belarus, Turkey, Egypt and Eritrea. In mid-March, Brazilian crime reporter Rodrigo Neto de Faria was shot dead execution-style in a killing possibly related to his reporting on police corruption.

Covering the world has never been more dangerous — and while we at the OPC complain that the band of reporters traveling beyond our shores is constantly shrinking, the number of people targeted by the authorities is rapidly expanding, as online journalists, bloggers and tweeters take up the task of afflicting the comfortable.

And then, of course, there is the continuing stream of journalist deaths, injuries and disappearances from the civil war in Syria. We honor one of them at tonight's dinner: Jim Foley, a freelance writer, photographer and videographer who was kidnapped on Nov. 22, 2012. We join his family's appeal for whoever is holding him to send him home.

In my first half-year as president of the OPC we sponsored a series of programs that addressed some of the human rights issues that have gotten reporters into trouble with the law. None was more moving than our program featuring Danny Lee, a refugee from the North Korean gulag, who spent the first two decades of his life in a concentration camp — for the crime of being born to parents who were already there.

Stories that dig deep into such horrors were prominent in our awards for the best reporting and photography of 2012. Syria, of course, dominates the breaking news categories, with reporters and photographers taking home a half dozen prizes for their coverage of that dangerous conflict. There were also tales from more remote corners of the world. Especially noteworthy is a combination print, radio and video package by WBEZ and ProPublica that uncovers for the first time details of the military massacre that destroyed a village in Guatemala 30 years ago. Equally compelling are the winning reports on violence in Honduras and the "opium brides" of Afghanistan.

We thank the 76 judges who helped choose our prize winners, and congratulate them for their good work, and, in some cases, for risking their lives to produce it.

—Michael S. Serrill, President

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# AWARDS 2012



**BANGLADESH**

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COVER: Ibrahim holds his youngest son in an open-air refugee camp near Kabul where he lives with his wife and 11 children. Last winter, the same camp buried at least two children who died due to the freezing temperatures during the same week. ANDREA BRUCE/NOOR Images/*The New York Times*, *A Deathly Cold* — Faber Award submission



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A group of Rohingya men, working in the Shamlapur area of Bangladesh, push their fishing boat back to shore after working all night. Often Rohingya men, a muslim minority in western Burma, work as bonded laborers in Bangladesh and are trapped into debt to local boat owners. GREG CONSTANTINE / *Exiled To Nowhere: Burma's Rohingya* — Rebbot Award submission

## dateline 2013

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# SETTING NEW STANDARDS

BlackRock commends the members of the Overseas Press Club of America and congratulates tonight's award recipients and honorees.

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## PRESIDENT'S AWARD TO TOM BROKAW



## Duncan and the Dirty Dozen

By Martin Fletcher, NBC News

The engine was screaming on the chartered Dakota into Mogadishu in 1992, everyone was sweating, and the water bottle passed from the Duke of Miller to the Jinx to the Wanker to Screaming Skull and ended in the hands of Duncan the Wonder Dog aka Tom Brokaw. There was barely a mouthful for Tom who grimaced at his grimy colleagues, and said, "Here we go. NBC's Dirty Dozen."

It was true. The same bunch of comrades trotted the globe and when the story was big enough, we were cheered by the presence of our intrepid leader, immaculate in Patagonia.

Tom was always well briefed by the ambassador of whichever country we were in, top American intelligence sources, and Robert Redford. Yet he is modest and unassuming, as he will be the first to point out.

Keith Miller explains that Duncan the Wonder Dog earned that particular nickname in Beirut when he was always the first up and the last to bed, and bewildered drunken hacks at the bar asked, "Who is that guy?" An exhausted NBC producer said spontaneously, "Duncan the Wonder Dog," and the name stuck.

It stuck because it fit. Superbly informed, with his trademark match of boyish enthusiasm and worldly cool, he outperformed everyone.

On Nov. 9, 1989, probably Europe's most important day since the end of World War Two, Tom, also known as Big Foot, was the only American anchor in Berlin when the wall came down, a genuine scoop. Surrounded by hundreds of thousand of partying Berliners, Tom decided very late to end Nightly News with an impromptu "thoughts of the day."

He ad libbed for two minutes and as I listened, and

later studied his report, I realised that if I had had two days to polish it, I would not have changed a word.

It takes enormous guts to ad lib live such a historic moment, and only an exceptional newsman who combines depth of knowledge with great empathy for the people could have pulled it off.

Yet Tom managed anyway.

It wasn't always such a smooth ride but Tom knew how to take it on the chin. Back in Beirut, ABC owned the American hostages story and Tom came in to turn things round. This was shortly after Thomas Hearn was beaten bloody by Marvin Hagler in what came to be known as the best three rounds in boxing. Tom, drinking Baileys at the Commodore bar, learned, to his horror, that ABC correspondents had just interviewed some of the hostages around the pool of the Summerland hotel. "Maceda," he said to our correspondent aka Jim, slumping as if he'd just taken a heavy body blow, "I feel like the Thomas Hearn of Network News."

Tom Brokaw: raconteur par excellence, comic, insightful analyst, down-to-earth. There was no anchor entourage with Tom, no airs and graces. He carried his own backpack, traveled with one producer, rode in a cab. In Jerusalem I complimented him on a script. His response: "Fletcher, don't suck up."

But I will anyway.

As anchorman, Tom was the true team leader, admired, loved and respected by his colleagues, and he still is.

Today no NBC wedding, funeral or celebration around the world is complete without a humorous, respectful note, read out to great laughter and appreciation, from Tom Brokaw who still loves nothing more than to get out of Manhattan and see the world. ■

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OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO  
THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB  
AND ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES.

**CBS NEWS**  
ORIGINAL REPORTING

## DATELINE HOPE

# In Ravaged Mogadishu, Scenes of a New Somalia and Ambitious **Africa**



FARAH ABDUI WARSAMEH / AP PHOTO

By Alex Perry, Time

**N**OVEMBER 30, 2012, MOGADISHU: As always, the long, slow descent into Mogadishu feels something like falling. Nothing you can do but watch that scorched flat land, with all its war and white heat, come up at you. We land next to the sea, turning at the end of the runway right in front of the pink, single-story complex which houses the CIA. I've always wondered about that. The very first thing you see when you arrive in Somalia. Pink.

In six years of coming to Mogadishu, I've generally stayed at the Peace Guesthouse, where the owner, Yusuf Bashir, does an all-in package including a room with a fan, Wi-Fi, Al Jazeera on the TV, shared showers, three meals a day and security, all for \$300-

\$1,200 a day, depending on how well Bashir knows you and, more specifically, how well he knows your finances. This time I'm trying something different. In August 2011, African Union troops pushed Islamist militants from al-Shabab out of Mogadishu and 13 months later, a new Somali parliament chose a former teacher, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, as its first permanent president for 20 years. I'm here to profile Hassan but I also want to see the city, which is said to be experiencing a revival. So I've cut our security to three guards and we're staying in the center of town, at an old journalists' favorite, the Shamo, for \$100 a night. In October 2009, to make the point that learning is seditious, al-Shabab killed 25 people at the Shamo in a suicide attack on a university graduation cer-

Somali women sell dates on the first day of Ramadan, July 20, 2012. Fortunate Mogadishu residents would enjoy such treats as they break their fast after sunset.



emony. As the Shamo's 12-foot high steel gates part and we pull into the forecourt, I see the meeting hall has been repaired. Still, the management deems it prudent to keep its reception deep inside the building. As I check in, I notice the cash desk is wall-papered with yellowed business cards from Western correspondents from the 1990s—legends included. Several of them, I note, are dead.

**DECEMBER 1, 2012, MOGADISHU:** The changes in Mogadishu are real and dramatic. Shop-owners have patched up their broken walls, repaved their sidewalks and thrown open their doors once more. They are being joined by a mass of returning Somali expatriates from Britain, Canada, the U.S., Australia and Scandinavia who fill the city's hotels and bring in hundreds of millions of dollars to fix up their homes and invest in new businesses. Seafront property has quadrupled in price. A queue of ships arriving with concrete, televisions, cars and mobile phones, and taking away camels, mangoes and bananas, now sits at anchor outside Mogadishu's suddenly inadequate port – an indication of both more business and less piracy. The empty streets we used to race down for fear of gunfire are now filled with thousands of Somalis, working, shopping, sipping coffee and smoking shisha pipes late into the night at roadside cafes. In a former al-Shabab stronghold we eat grilled lobster in a beach restaurant. Coca-Cola has re-opened its factory. There's even street lighting.

But the old rules to moving around Mogadishu still apply. You need two cars: a pick-up in front for your gunmen, then a second closed cab behind for you. You wear a vest. You vary your routes. You make vague arrangements for an interview but try not to be specific, even for a president. You drive fast but you don't crowd other cars, particularly ones with

A swordfish and a shark are carried from the ocean to the market in Mogadishu.

Ahmed Jama Mohamed, right, has opened two western-style restaurants in two hotels he owns, one on the beachfront, and the other in the downtown of the capital.

Boys play video games, a first-world entertainment option for teenage boys that wasn't permitted when ultraconservative al-Shabab militants controlled the capital.

Two soccer players practice at the beach in Mogadishu.



PHOTOS BY FARAH ABDUL WARSAMEH / AP PHOTO

their own gunmen. Outside the car, you minimize your exposure, never stopping more than 20 minutes. The strategy is to show yourself as little as possible and, when you have to, to try to look like too much trouble for anyone to mess with. Our guards have the look – the way they fan out, the way they extend their forefingers above their trigger guards, the way they never smile – and no one does.

We take a tour through the city center. I've covered 35 conflicts but Mogadishu always makes them feel like preparation. The city's destruction is so complete in some areas that life itself can seem inconsistent. Every facade is blasted with a thousand bullets. Whole crescents of houses have spilled their stone guts into the street. The ash from a thousand fires and a million ruins coat the city with a funereal dust. In this monochrome, tropical Dresden, the colors of life – an overgrown pink bougainvillea, the turquoise of the sea, a scarlet headscarf half-buried under rubble – can be a shock. Even the act of living takes on strange forms. In the city center, 250,000 people survive in egg-shaped pods of brushwood and plastic tied together with string. Inside the skeleton of the seafront Uruba Hotel, Ugandan AU peacekeepers eat barbecued beef and spicy cabbage in shabby green tents erected over broken tile floors under chipped corniced ceilings. On my last trip here, visiting the frontline to the west of the city, I found a riverfront palace belonging to a long departed Arab prince, within whose walls, through war, famine and intermittent occupation, the staff had cared for a lone giant ostrich in a lush garden of date palms and mango trees.

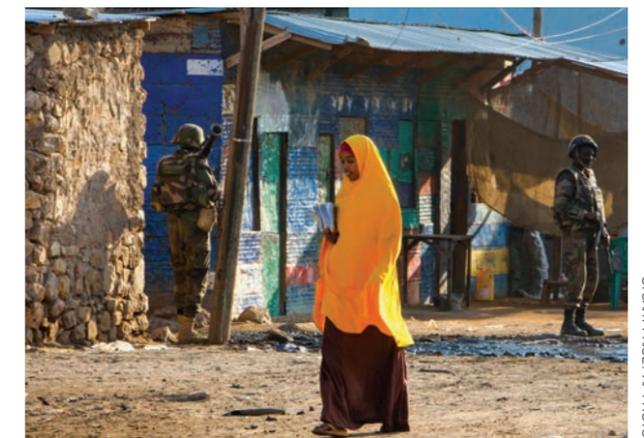
For years I wondered why I loved Mogadishu's ruins so, guiltily worrying I took a lurid thrill from death and devastation. Then one day I understood. The tools – AKs, RPGs, technicals mounted with .50 cal and anti-aircraft guns – were uncon-

Bananas from a farm in Afgoye town, a onetime al-Shabab stronghold, are driven across what used to be the frontline between government troops and insurgents.

A Somali girl walks to school while soldiers of the African Union peacekeeping force stand guard.

Burundian troops, serving as peacekeepers, sing church hymns at their base near Mogadishu.

A woman sells fruits and vegetables in Afgoye, a main produce source for the capital.



FARAH ABDUL WARSAMEH / AP PHOTO

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FARAH ABDUL WARSAMEH / AP PHOTO

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**The changes in Mogadishu are real and dramatic. Shop-owners have patched up their broken walls, repaved their sidewalks and thrown open their doors once more.**

ventional. But as every street was destroyed, and then every house, and every wall, and every brick, the city revealed itself as the giant canvas for patient, painstaking work. This was wild war, the most intense I had ever seen. But it was also, in its way, craftsmanship.

**DECEMBER 3, 2012, MOGADISHU:** It's been a lot of waiting to see President Hassan, and a lot of checkpoints too. To enter Villa Somalia, where Hassan works and lives with his family, I must pass 10 separate security barricades. At each one, I am asked for my pistol. (To general bewilderment, I don't have one.) Then the soldiers scan me with walk-through detectors and hand-held wands, squeeze my armpits, my shoes, my ears and my crotch, and progressively relieve me of my phone, my torch, my computer, and finally my entire bag, leaving me with the clothes I stand up in, two pens and a notepad, though there is much grumbling about the extra pen. There are bullet holes in the windows of Villa Somalia. Inside, fresh plaster and paint vainly try to hide more bullet holes in the walls. When I am finally shown into Hassan's office, the curtains are drawn, even at midday, from behind them comes an intermittent 'crack-crack' of AK-47 fire and the occasional, distant 'boom'. "Every single hour, someone is trying to eliminate me," says Hassan in the first of our three conversations. "But hundreds of thousands of Somalis have died and if I die, I would be just one of them. It is not that I will live longer if I am not a politician."

Hassan, 57, is unusual in Somali politics for not being a warlord or a clan leader or a terrorist. He hasn't even been a politician for very long. He founded his Peace and Development Party only in mid-2010, essentially because he was fed up with the way war kept ripping Mogadishu's schools apart. "My friends and I realized that until we fixed the political problem, nothing could flourish here in Somalia," he says.

Hassan's task is also without precedent. In between assassination attempts, the first on his second day in

office, it is his job to stitch back together the world's most failed state and bring peace and prosperity to a nation that, in the last two decades, has given the world "Black Hawk Down," an African Al Qaeda affiliate, a hoard of 21st century pirates and recurrent famines that have cost hundreds of thousands of lives and created millions of refugees. Few fresh starts were ever so colored by the past. Hassan is realistic about the task. "We're starting everything from scratch," he says. "We lost everything in the war. We're walking in the dark." But he's sure change is irreversible. "I see this very, very old history of conflict changing in the Horn of Africa," he says. "I dream of a Somalia that is a contributor of ideas, an example to the rest of Africa. I see people demanding to become Somalis."

**DECEMBER 4, 2012, MOGADISHU:** I've finished my interviews and have a flight out in the afternoon. I'm beginning to agree with Hassan that the changes, at least in Mogadishu, may be here to stay. Hassan has already accomplished something many Somalis never thought they'd see: taking power without killing anyone. I also have the sense of having met someone who, if he survives, may one day figure as one of Africa's most articulate and impressive voices.

As I take my seat on the plane and check my notes, I realize Hassan is echoing a refrain I'm hearing more and more in Africa. As the continent's economies gather pace, outpacing India and, five of them, China, African leaders are demanding more control over their own affairs and less foreign influence and intervention – less help, essentially. On the runway, as we taxi and turn for our takeoff, the CIA base once again appears in my window. I can't help notice it occupies a prime position, just back from the beach. I wonder if, on another trip some day in the future, I might stay there. ■

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*Perry was TIME magazine's Africa bureau chief from 2006-2013, and remains a contributor.*

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**The empty streets we used to race down for fear of gunfire are now filled with thousands of Somalis, working, shopping, sipping coffee and smoking shisha pipes late into the night at roadside cafes.**



**AFGHANISTAN**

KUNI TAKAHASHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

## **A War America — and Most of its Media — Forgot**

*By Rod Nordland, The New York Times*

It's not too much of a stretch to say that if the American news media were the U.S. military, the war would already be over for our country.

Unsurprisingly, many Americans think it actually is. While we still have at latest tally some 68,000 American troops in Afghanistan (and probably an even greater number of American contractors, many of them doing traditional military jobs), and we have committed to keep a substantial number there until the end of 2014, much of the news media has already beaten a hastier retreat.

Those of us who still cover the country often marvel at how uninterested Americans have become in the war here, but we really should not, considering how few of our organizations pay much attention any longer.

*The New York Times* is among a small number of exceptions, with four American correspondents, an expat photographer and an expat safety adviser assigned full-time to Afghanistan, bolstered by our magazine writers, reporters coming from the States for embeds, and others from time to time. A couple dozen Afghan staff support this effort in various capacities. The Associated Press keeps a bureau nearly as big, and *The Wall Street Journal* generally has three correspondents; Reuters usually has two expat staffers.

Beyond that, it's mostly solo bureaus or non-staff stringers, supplemented with occasional drive-by shooters. *The Washington Post* only has one full-time correspondent at the moment. McClatchy no longer

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Afghan police officers stand over the body of an insurgent inside the building where Taliban fighters, the day before, launched an attack on the nearby U.S. Embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul on Sept. 14, 2011. The American ambassador to Afghanistan said the Haqqani network appeared to be responsible for the assault.

# Congratulations to this year's award winners!



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## Empowering the media through Google's tools for newsgathering

has a regular staffer in Kabul, and *Time* magazine has a stringer. The American networks, and even CNN and Fox, have at best one resident correspondent. Having only one may not sound bad, until you consider that this is not a posting to which most people could bring loved ones, so a one-person bureau means a no-person bureau at leave time. Some organizations go to the expense of sending in a backup; many just run dark for long stretches of the year.

Our European and British allies are even more thinly represented, with the notable exception of the BBC, which normally keeps one or two correspondents, an expat producer and cameraman on the scene, and maintains well-staffed Dari and Pashto services.

So, to get chicken-and-egg about it, are Americans

coverage of the war in Iraq. Both wars were expensive to cover, and came during a period of financial torment in the industry that saw the closure of the print editions of some of those publications most devoted to foreign news (*Newsweek* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, for instance). That was particularly true in Iraq, because news organizations based there had to invest heavily in infrastructure and staff to keep their journalists safe; *The Times* at one point had 120 Iraqi staff, with as many as 55 armed guards, making it by far the paper's biggest foreign bureau at the time. Even *Newsweek* as recently as 2008 had a fully staffed Baghdad bureau with a quarter million dollar a year budget.

Added to the cost is just the inescapable reality that no matter how important a story is, if it goes on long



MAURICIO LIMA / THE NEW YORK TIMES

becoming less interested in the war because we're covering it less, or are we covering it less because our readers are less interested?

Ultimately, it's probably a bit of both, but the immediate reasons for this decline in coverage in the middle of our country's only ongoing war are pretty clear: weariness and Syrianess.

The war in Afghanistan is 12 years old now, although the period of really heavy coverage is more like five years – once Barack Obama declared it the good war, as opposed to the one in Iraq. That five years came on the back of, and overlapped with, six years of intense

enough it becomes old news, and an ever-harder sell to the reader. That happened in Iraq, to be sure, particularly by 2009 and 2010, but the Iraqis showed us the door by 2011 and American staffers for most of our organizations left quite gratefully along with the troops. The war of course continues there, but it's not so much our problem any longer.

Afghanistan is not only already our country's longest war, but in many ways the fighting there is just a continuation of prior decades of civil war, for a total of 35 years of conflict now. Those of us who have been covering it for a while face the challenge of finding

Young boys work as traffic controllers at the Mahi Par Pass from Jalalabad, one of the main NATO supply routes coming from the Pakistani border uphill to Kabul.

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MICHAEL KAMBER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two employees inspect a body as they search for their colleague while crying and shouting his name, "Asif," in the remains of the Finest Supermarket after a suicide bomber attack in Kabul on Jan. 28, 2011. The bomber killed at least eight people and injured at least 12 more at the site across the street from the British Embassy.

ways to make our reporting fresh and interesting to readers who may well feel they have already seen and heard it all, and sometimes they have.

Then along came the Arab Spring, a story that was new, interesting and overwhelmingly important, even without American boots on the ground. You could almost hear the collective sigh of relief as half of the press corps slid out of Afghanistan for Egypt, Libya, Lebanon and the Turkish/Syrian border. In some cases journalists were borrowed temporarily from the Afghan war zone for what unexpectedly had also become one war zone or another in the Middle East. In many cases, though, they never came back. Forced to choose between a difficult story no one was much interested in any longer, and one that was hot, organizations with limited and shrinking budgets of course opted for the Arab Spring.

Nevertheless, Afghanistan is still our country's only shooting war. Despite the Arab Spring and despite our war weariness, on some level it is still shocking and disappointing that correspondents have become so scarce in Afghanistan.

It is especially curious because Afghanistan still is not nearly as expensive, as difficult, or as dangerous as Iraq was to cover. In some ways, correspondents based

in Kabul have a relatively safe and even comfortable life, at least when they're in the capital. While most of us may not jog or take long strolls around town any longer, mindful of new warnings from security advisers, in the capital we still go pretty much everywhere and mostly in a normal way, in soft-skin cars, without bodyguards, body armor or disguise. (Many males tend to beard up for the assignment, however, and most women go out in head scarves and modest dress.) There are restaurants and, for expats at least, bars to go to at night. People have parties, and even diplomats and, occasionally, military officers venture out of their compounds to socialize.

There is even something of a social scene among 20-somethings in Kabul, thanks to a huge number of young people working for NGOs, international agencies and embassies. Last year some Western diplomats made quite a stir at a UN party by skinny dipping in the pool. Not necessarily a pretty sight.

It is hardly a comfortable posting, however. Halfway around the world, tours of duty tend to be long, because the cost of coming back to Europe or the States is high. Occasionally something in Kabul blows up – and sometimes that may be uncomfortably close, like our neighborhood supermarket, which was hit by a suicide

**... are Americans becoming less interested in the war because we're covering it less, or are we covering it less because our readers are less interested?**



REUTERS/Diunka Liyanawatte

...the immediate reasons for this decline in coverage in the middle of our country's only ongoing war are pretty clear: weariness, and Syrianess.



DAVID GILKEY / NPR

Afghan policemen watch U.S. Marines demonstrate the basics of emergency first aid at a recently built training facility in Marjah. The Second Battalion, Ninth Marines have helped Afghan security forces get up and running.

## REUTERS CONGRATULATES THE WINNERS OF THE 2012 OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AWARDS

We honor and support the Overseas Press Club and the 2012 award winners, and wish them continued success.



bomber in 2011, killing 14, or the U.S. Embassy and International Security Assistance Force headquarters, which were kept under siege for 19 hours two years ago; both are a short walk from the *Times*' Kabul Bureau.

Every year, the areas we can actually drive to shrink, so that now only parts of the north, and Jalalabad in the east, are normally drivable. We can still fly to most provincial capitals, and, with care and preparation, move around freely and safely within them (although not at all outside provincial capitals in more than half of the country). In most places, though, sensible correspondents will limit their time in any given location, to minimize the risk of insurgents mounting an operation against them.

Despite how few the press positions have become, filling openings remains a constant struggle. That is not just a matter of risks and hardships. Young journalists are just not as willing to forgo personal or family life for war zone duty; the Arab Spring story is a much more attractive proposition, not only because it

is new and at the moment hotter, but also because correspondents covering that story can have a somewhat normal home life in bases like Cairo, Beirut and Istanbul, something far less feasible in Kabul.

However understandable our shrunken press corps is, there remains that 68,000 statistic, which even post-surge is still more than double the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan when President Obama took office. Afghanistan remains a compelling story, either for the mess we remain in, or the mess we leave behind. It is just a shame there are not more of us here to keep an eye on it. ■

*Rod Nordland, the newly named Kabul bureau chief for The New York Times, has been stationed in Afghanistan since early 2010, and worked in Iraq for the Times from 2009. He has also done Arab Spring assignments in Libya, Egypt and Lebanon in 2011 and 2012. He ran Newsweek's Baghdad bureau during most of the Iraq war.*

Added to the cost is just the inescapable reality that no matter how important a story is, if it goes on long enough it becomes old news, and an ever-harder sell to the reader.

# The Billionaire Boon

By Tim W. Ferguson

**S**tunning disparities in income that are the order of the day in much of the world have at least one silver lining: They are creating a new cottage industry for international reporting. I refer to the great billionaire hunt.

There are now at least 1,426 world billionaires by the conservative count of my own *Forbes* Media. We like to think we own the wealth-list franchise that yields such a roster. Of course, though, there's now plenty of competition. Many countries have their own rich-list compilers, and globally, Bloomberg LP has gotten into the game too. We have a head start, but their pockets are much deeper.

For reporters and readers, however, this is a premium in an age when foreign coverage is so hard to pay for. This particular content tends to be more self-supporting because rich people like to read it so they can compare themselves to other rich people, and sponsors like to get near them when they are comparing. In the process we are able to follow

sizable international business developments, and regularly develop interesting profiles that shed light on powerful people and how they operate.

Many times these people are not like Donald Trump and do not wish to have their names and faces in public places. So, we are arguably performing a service by "outing" them, at least reminding the everyday consumer of Trader Joe's or Dixie cups or Whiskas pet food that the moneybags taking their dollars are not who a homespun company symbol might suggest. Oh, it's probably no surprise that it's a "big corporation," but in fact sometimes there's only one stockholder. How do you like them apples?

Beyond that, the long reach of many of these tycoons is a lesson in geoeconomics and even geopolitics. I am focused on Asia in my job. No one can understand the development of post-war Asia without appreciating how the ethnic Chinese business world has integrated so much of the region's commerce. A handful of the richest are nominally from Southeast Asia, but increasingly they are migrating back (business-wise) to the mainland whence their clans came. They often have family quarters in Hong Kong (as well as the U.S. or occasionally the U.K.). Even where state regimes have cordoned off much of their industry or for that matter their people, they have let friendly moguls in. Wealth or the prospect of gaining a piece of it can trump ideology.

The Indian diaspora — including the various tribes that migrated there centuries ago — is similarly far-flung. I've learned a lot about the Parsi people and others who became traders out of necessity and these days have made it a virtue.

Finally, we'd argue that the coverage has brought about more philanthropic behavior on the part of the world's richest—the Observer Effect in action. It would complete the circle if this philanthropy could support more international coverage. ■



Uniqlo sells inexpensive clothes, but founder Tadashi Yanai is worth \$15.5 billion.

*Tim Ferguson is the editor of Forbes Asia (and of Dateline).*



SUDAN

Tens of thousands of refugees streamed out of the Nuba Mountains, yet another conflict zone in Sudan, into a rapidly-growing refugee camp in Yida, South Sudan. A young girl carries a baby as their family walks to the camp.

TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES, *Lost Boys of South Sudan* — CAPA Award submission

## Arlene Getz, 2012 Awards Committee Chair

**T**wo countries dominated the 2012 winning entries: Syria and China. In Syria, where 28 journalists died last year, reporting conditions were so hazardous that two organizations withheld the names of the journalists in their entries in order to protect their Syrian families and contacts. CNN's winner is still unnamed; the *Los Angeles Times* subsequently identified Raja Abdulrahim. (Not since the Cold War have there been "Anonymous" entries to the OPC awards. In 1969, the Robert Capa Gold Medal went to an anonymous Czech photographer who covered his country's upheavals. Only after the collapse of the Soviet Union was the name of the photographer revealed.) Agence France-Presse, Associated Press, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker* and NPR also received honors for their courageous coverage of the violence in Syria. Photographer Fabio Bucciarelli's portfolio of images (see page 22) won the Robert Capa Gold Medal for "Battle to Death."

From China, David Barboza's penetrating series on the secret fortunes of the country's most powerful families won the Malcolm Forbes award for best international business news reporting. *The New York Times* later reported that Chinese hackers persistently attacked the publication's computer systems while Barboza was reporting on the series. At *Bloomberg Businessweek*, Michael Riley, Ashlee Vance and Zoe Schneeweiss won for best business reporting in a magazine for their investigation of Chinese corporate espionage. Bloomberg too, was the victim of a cyberattack.

Other winners covered a very diverse range of topics, from opium brides in Afghanistan to dying languages, violence in Honduras, Cambodian land mines, and Chinese corporate espionage. Also of note: "Finding Oscar," an investigative collaboration between WBEZ, ProPublica and Fundacion MEPI, was a report on a 30-year quest for justice against the perpetrators of a 1982 massacre in Guatemala, and was voted a winner in both the human rights and radio news categories. As always, making these choices was a stimulating — but difficult — job for our 76 judges. We thank them for their time and salute the winners. ■

## 1. THE HAL BOYLE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or online reporting from abroad



**Raja Abdulrahim**  
*Los Angeles Times*  
*Inside Syria*

This vivid and powerful series of reports from inside Syria range from bomb-making lessons to kidnapping and government tactics. The reporter focuses on ordinary people — both fighters and housewives — in extraordinary circumstances. Abdulrahim writes beautifully detailed stories from the conflict zone, giving readers a human portrayal of war.

### CITATIONS

Staff of the Associated Press  
*Inside the Syrian Resistance*

**David Barstow**  
*The New York Times*  
*Wal-Mart Abroad*

## 2. THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or online interpretation of international affairs

**Jeremy Page**  
*The Wall Street Journal*  
*A Murder Shakes China*



In this extraordinary series of articles, Jeremy Page not only connected the dots behind the mysterious death of a British businessman, but provided startling glimpses into the life of one of China's leading Communist Party bosses before he was fired in disgrace, as well as a look at the privileged lifestyles enjoyed by at least some corrupt politicians in today's China.

The stories are notable for depth of reporting, an even presentation of the evidence, and a balanced tone. Nevertheless, taken together, they form a damning case that the wife of Chongqing party leader Bo Xilai may have poisoned businessman and family adviser Neil Heywood, a crime for which she was ultimately convicted. Aside from exposing the political scandal of the year in China, Page interprets the events in light of the power struggles taking place in the country just prior to its once-in-a-decade transfer of leadership.

## CITATION/THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

**Liz Sly**  
*The Washington Post*  
*Syrian Civil War*

## 3. THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

**Fabio Bucciarelli**  
Freelance for Agence France-Presse  
*Battle to Death*



The images from this portfolio put you "in the moment" and have a palatable sense of urgency. There is a consistency to the pictures that helps the viewer identify with the subjects and the perils they are encountering. Syria has been one of the deadliest locations for journalists since the beginning of this armed conflict and Bucciarelli embodies the finest values of the Capa Award in this collection of images.

### CITATION

**Manu Brabo**  
Associated Press  
*Syria's Civil War*

## 4. THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in magazines or books



**Samuel James**  
Freelance for *Harper's Magazine*  
*The Water of My Land*

With vibrant and searing images made under difficult conditions, James effectively used a full-color palette of the environment to engage the viewers and bring them to the locales documented. His work has a strong visual character that carries the story forward from frame to frame.



## THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

# FABIO BUCCIARELLI

## *Battle to Death*

Agence France-Presse

## SYRIA



In the fall of 2012, Fabio Bucciarelli carried his camera to the epicenter of the Syrian civil war in the streets of the northern city of Aleppo where residents suffered a brutal human toll from daily fighting.

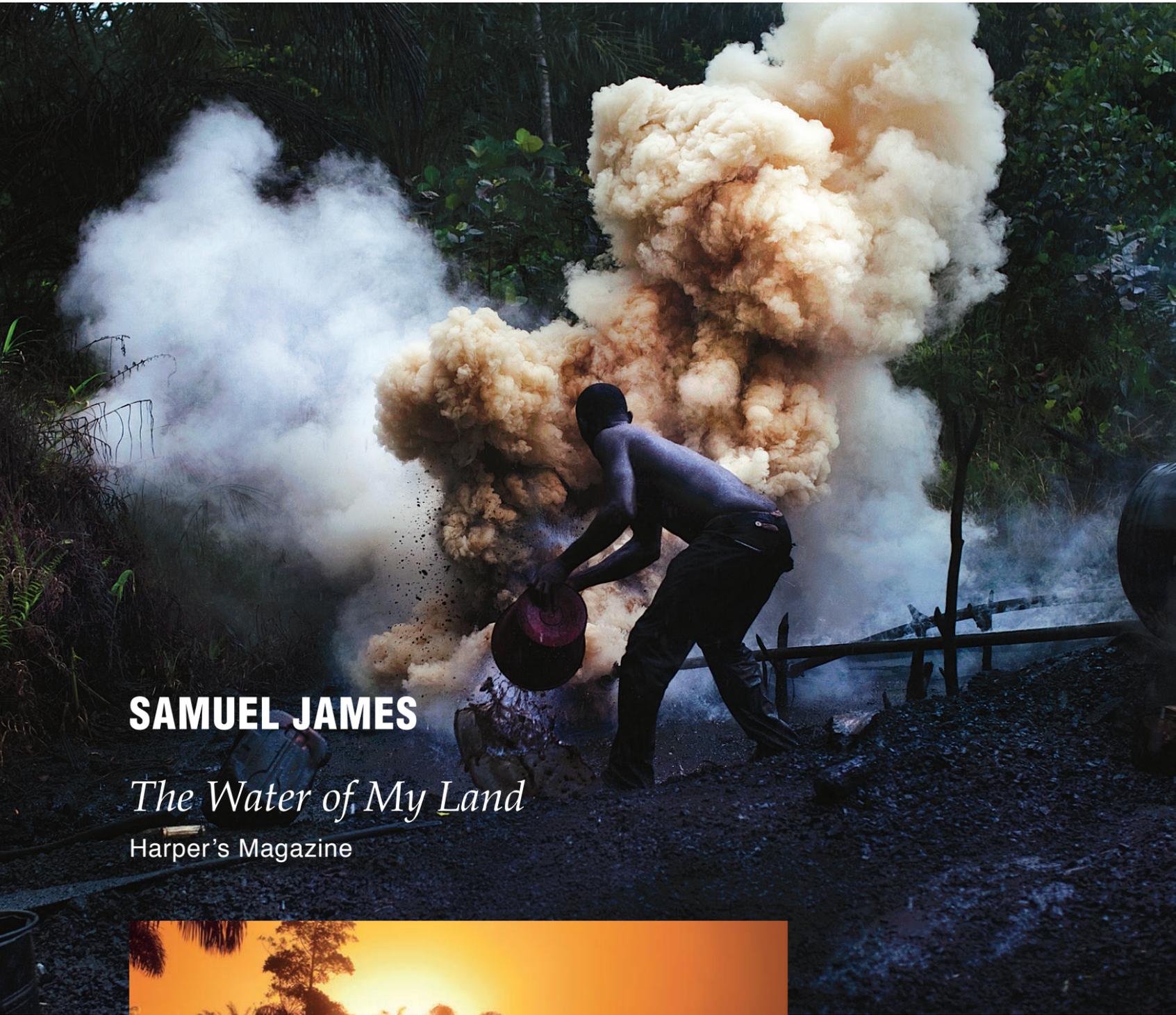
From behind the front lines, he ran beside the Free Syrian Army fighters in the darkest days of the Aleppo uprising.

As the militants fought to claim the streets, Bucciarelli captured the destructive impact and the race for survival for those who still live in the ravaged city. ■

Clockwise: Residents of Aleppo rescue a man trapped under the rubble of the Nur al-Shhada mosque after an attack carried out by soldiers loyal to President Bashar Al-Assad.

A young man escorts a wounded woman to safety.

Medics carry the bleeding body of a Syrian child in the Shaar district of Aleppo.



**NIGERIA**

**SAMUEL JAMES**

*The Water of My Land*

Harper's Magazine



Samuel James embarked on a journey through Nigeria in the spring of 2012 to document the effects of the fuel trade on the population living along the creeks of the Niger Delta. Although Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa, many residents live in complete poverty and resort to illegally pumping crude oil that they distill into diesel and sell on the black market. The hazardous waste is then discharged or haphazardly buried in the swamps. ■

Clockwise: A young Nigerian throws boiling sludge inside a makeshift pit.

A child carries firewood in the jungle where we see the environmental cost of a barely regulated oil industry.

The gas flares of perpetually burning petroleum plants light up the jungle throughout the night as boats filled with diesel fuel line up on the river.

## 5. THE JOHN FABER AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in newspapers or news services



**Bernat Armangue**  
Associated Press  
*Conflict in Gaza*

This quiet yet devastating portfolio of images that spans the full range of human emotions draws you into the people and the events captured in each frame. There is a sharp point to the visual storytelling and Armangue's work demands that you stop to consider the individuals affected.

## 6. FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Best feature photography published in any medium on an international theme



**Oded Balilty**  
Associated Press  
*An Ultra Orthodox Wedding*

Balilty exhibits beautiful painterly pictures, which hit the right visual notes, represent great photography, executed brilliantly, and show not only his photographic talent, but also his journalistic understanding of the subject and the people captured in the work.

## 7. THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

Best radio news or interpretation of international affairs

**Brian Reed, Habiba Nosheen, Sebastian Rotella, Ana Arana**  
WBEZ's This American Life, ProPublica and Fundacion MEPI  
*What Happened at Dos Erres*

The judges were riveted as they listened to this compelling and beautifully narrated story of recent events and the violent massacre of more than 200 people in the village of Dos Erres in Guatemala more than two decades ago. In 2012 the discovery of a father, still alive, and his son Oscar Ramirez, an undocumented worker in the U.S., each of whom assumed the other dead in the tragedy, prompted reporter Nosheen and producer Reed to devote five months to researching the story, finding victims and perpetrators. As a result, Ramirez was granted political asylum in the U.S. and several implicated soldiers have been apprehended for trial.



Left to right:  
Brian Reed  
Habiba Nosheen  
Sebastian Rotella  
Ana Arana

## CITATION/THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

**Kelly McEvers, Deborah Amos, Douglas Roberts**  
National Public Radio  
*Syria*

## 8. THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

Best TV spot news reporting from abroad

**Anonymous CNN Correspondent and Photojournalist, Tamara Hunt, Tony Maddox, Parisa Khosravi, Deborah Rayner and the CNN International Newsgathering Staff**  
*Damascus Undercover*



CNN's harrowing reporting from Damascus represents true bravery in the face of danger. The reporter and crew, unable to identify themselves in order to protect their Syrian helpers, uncovered fresh killings of civilians by the Syrian Army. Their work provides an all too important voice to those who have been oppressed and have survived some of the most horrific conditions of war, all the while putting their own personal safety at risk.

## CITATION

**Scott Pelley, Patricia Shevlin, Elizabeth Palmer, Heather Abbott, Justine Redman, Andy Stevenson**  
CBS Evening News  
*Shot by the Taliban, Malala's School*

## 9. THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Best TV interpretation or documentary on international affairs

**Scott Pelley, Jeff Fager, Bill Owens, Henry Schuster**  
CBS News – 60 Minutes  
*Killing Bin Laden*

Since the 9/11 attacks on the United States, the hunt for Osama bin Laden has been central to the battle against terrorism and has played continuously in the background of news coverage on the subject. While we all know the end of the tale, the details of the hunt and bin Laden's death were not available before this first-hand account and year-long investigation.

## CITATION

**Pamela Yates, Peter Kinoy, Paco deOnis**  
Skylight Pictures / PBS – POV Series  
*Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*



Top to bottom:  
Scott Pelley  
Jeff Fager  
Bill Owens  
Henry Schuster



GAZA



## BERNAT ARMANGUE

### *Conflict in Gaza*

Associated Press

Through Bernat Armangue's lens, the three weeks of clashes that killed 1,400 Palestinians last November come to life with vivid intensity. The escalation of violence between Israel and the Hamas military wing amounted to a record number of airstrikes and ground attacks in Gaza City. Devastation reached the city's hospitals, morgues and funerals. Armangue continued to document the conflict until a cease-fire on November 21. ■

Clockwise: A Palestinian cries and holds onto the body of a dead relative as his friends carry the corpse inside the morgue in Gaza City.

Armangue photographed these women mourning for Salem Paul Sweliem, a 52-year-old Greek Orthodox Christian who was killed during an Israeli airstrike on a Hamas target in a nearby high-rise.

As bombs fall, smoke rises above the Gaza City skyline.

## FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

## ODED BALILTY



*An Ultra Orthodox Wedding*  
Associated Press



Oded Balilty takes us inside the ultra-Orthodox world of Hasidic Jews with this grandiose ceremony, which took place over the course of a week in the small town of Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv. On Feb. 14, hundreds were invited to the wedding hall to watch – or at least get a glimpse of – the nuptials between Nechama Paarel Horowitz and Chanaya Yom Tov Lipa, the oldest great-grandson of the head rabbi of the town's Viznitz Hasidic community. Balilty heard about the event the week before and talked his way into the hall.



Balilty photographed the ultra-Orthodox Jewish women from behind a high gauzy curtain, which is used to separate the sexes during the traditional wedding service. When the curtain dropped, he captured the bride hiding her face behind a veil while holding onto a long sash during the Mitzvah tantz ritual, where the rabbi and relatives will dance in front of her. ■

ISRAEL

## 10. THE ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Best magazine reporting from abroad



**Russ Rymer** with photographer Lynn Johnson  
*National Geographic Magazine*  
*Vanishing Languages*

“When small communities abandon their languages and switch to English or Spanish, there is a massive disruption in the transfer of traditional knowledge across generations,” writes Russ Rymer in this subtle and moving investigation of the centuries-long decimation of tribal languages. From the 2,000 speakers of the Aka language in India to the Seri speakers of Mexico’s Sonoran Desert,

who are bringing the language back after it dwindled to 1,000 speakers, to the growing number of Tuvan speakers in Siberia, Rymer’s report gives us a broad look across multiple cultures at the ongoing rescue of the world’s dying languages.

### CITATIONS

**Jon Lee Anderson**  
*The New Yorker*  
*The Syrian Tragedy*

**Evan Osnos**  
*The New Yorker*  
*Boss Rail*

## 11. THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

Best cartoons on international affairs

**Rob Rogers**  
*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

According to his editors, Rogers “enrages” and “infuriates” some readers in Pittsburgh. The OPC Committee presumes he delights many more with his deft application of humor to serious subjects from around the globe. He executes the cartoonist’s mission: to inform, entertain and spark discussion on world events.



### CITATION

**Signe Wilkinson**  
*Philadelphia Daily News* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

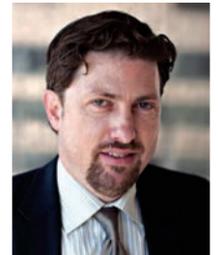
## 12. THE MORTON FRANK AWARD

Best international business news reporting in magazines

**Michael Riley, Ashlee Vance with Zoe Schneeweiss**  
*Bloomberg Businessweek*

*It’s Not Paranoia If They’re Stealing Your Secrets: Inside the Chinese Boom in Corporate Espionage*

This timely, well-written account shows how the unprecedented scale of Chinese corporate espionage and wholesale intellectual property theft is devastating U.S. companies. This strongly sourced story details the plight of American Superconductor Corp. which discovered that Sinovel, a Chinese wind turbine manufacturer that was once its biggest customer, schemed to steal and illegally replicate AMSC’s software and electronic systems to power more than 1,000 Chinese windmills.



Michael Riley



Ashlee Vance

### CITATION

**Brett Forrest**  
*Bloomberg Businessweek*  
*Empire at the End of the Earth*

## 13. THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

Best international business news reporting in newspapers, news services or online

**David Barboza**  
*The New York Times*  
*China’s Secret Fortunes*

Barboza penetrated to the heart of China’s secretive system to provide an intricate and painstaking chronicle of linkages between the Communist Party’s most powerful families and the government’s state-owned enterprises and investments. The fact that *The New York Times* placed all four parts of the series on its front page helped change the world’s debate about the structure of power and wealth in China. Barboza and the newspaper took large risks in exposing the wealth that China’s top families have accumulated. *The Times* later reported that Chinese hackers persistently attacked the publication’s computer systems during the reporting for this series.

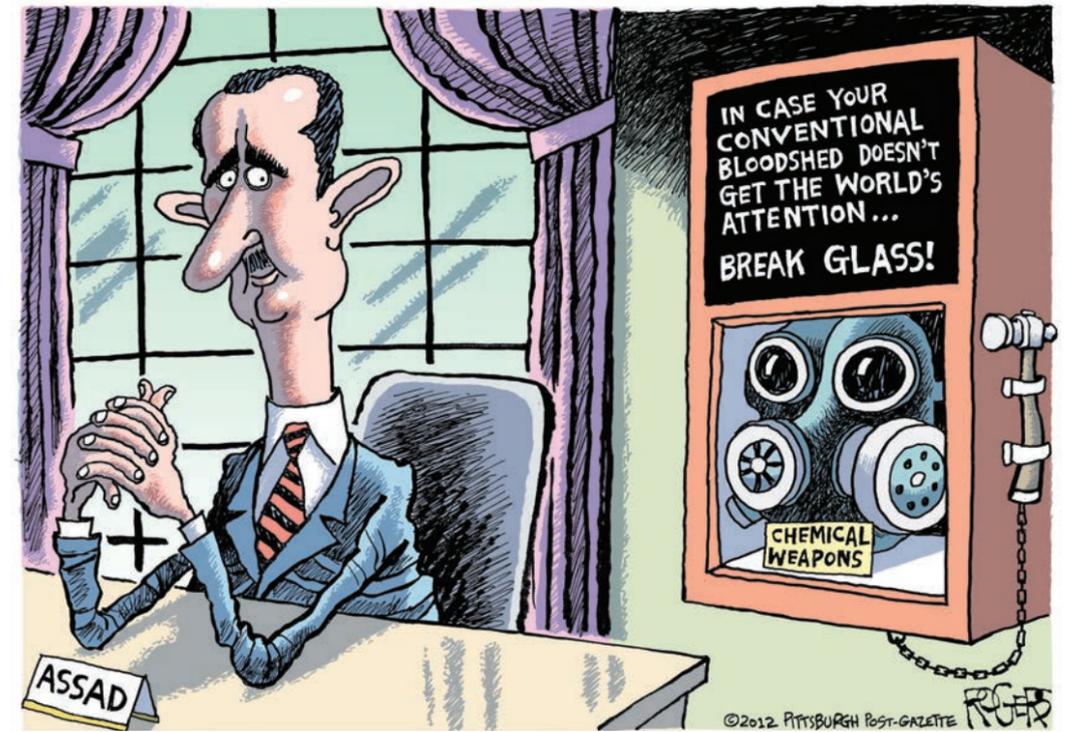


### CITATION

**Liam Vaughan, Gavin Finch, Andrea Tan, Katie Linsell, Jesse Westbrook, Lindsay Fortado, Joshua Gallu**  
Bloomberg News  
*Libor: The Biggest Bank Scandal*

# THOMAS NAST AWARD

**ROB ROGERS,** *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



**CITATION**  
**SIGNE WILKINSON,**  
*Philadelphia Daily News and The Philadelphia Inquirer*



## 14. THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Best non-fiction book on international affairs



**Peter Bergen**

Crown Publishing Group

*Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for Bin Laden from 9/11 to Abbottabad*

Peter Bergen brings his decades of reporting and insights to bear in this definitive account of the search for Osama bin Laden. He captures the tension of the years-long post-9/11 search, weaving history and personality into a brisk narrative. Bergen's deep familiarity with the subject and years of on-the-ground work demystify the dizzyingly complex Al Qaeda network, and give rich texture to the most riveting manhunt of our time.

## 15. THE MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

Best international reporting in the print medium or online showing a concern for the human condition

**Mark Jenkins** with photographer Lynn Johnson  
*National Geographic Magazine*

*The Healing Fields*

Jenkins has captured the breadth of human emotions, motivations, and coping mechanisms in his examination of how one country, Cambodia, has moved forward from the lingering horror of land mines. Many will think they already know this topic well, but Jenkins' deeply researched and accessibly written report made the subject matter fresh and compelling.



### CITATION

**Alan Katz and Michelle Wiese Bockmann**  
Bloomberg News  
*High Seas Injustice*

## 16. THE DAVID A. ANDELMAN and PAMELA TITLE AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern for the human condition

**Najibullah Quraishi and Jamie Doran**

WGBH Frontline and Clover Films

*Opium Brides*

Najibullah Quraishi's reporting on "Opium Brides" stood out for its exploration of a dangerous, hidden world to reveal a human tragedy: young Afghan girls traded by their poppy growing families to pay debts to international drug lords. The subject matter is intrinsically important, highlighting the plight of Afghan farming families caught between drug traffickers who finance their crops and government officials bent on poppy eradication. But what set the entry apart was the way it ventured into the remote Afghan countryside to show the plight of individual families and their children, as they weighed the demands of the traffickers and then succumbed to them. Brave, beautifully shot and paced, this entry was sensitive in its handling of a tragic human dilemma and harrowing in its impact.



Above:  
Najibullah Quraishi  
Jamie Doran

### CITATION

**Tim Sandler, Chris Hansen, Kristen Powers, Allan Maraynes**  
NBC News – Dateline  
*The Hansen Files: Trial and Error*

## 17. THE JOE and LAURIE DINE AWARD

Best international reporting in any medium dealing with human rights.

**Sebastian Rotella, Ana Arana, Brian Reed, Habiba Nosheen**

ProPublica, Fundacion MEPI and WBEZ's This American Life

*Massacre, Memory and Justice in Guatemala*

This multimedia entry is a magnificent journalistic collaboration documenting how prosecutors, forensic anthropologists and human rights activists persevered for 30 years in their quest for justice against the perpetrators of a 1982 massacre in Guatemala. The story begins with the compelling account of a 2011 phone call to Oscar Ramirez, an undocumented Guatemalan immigrant living in Massachusetts, from a prosecutor back home, informing him that he isn't who he thinks he is. What follows, in written, radio, and slideshow formats, takes us back in time to Dos Erres, a Guatemalan town whose 250 residents were killed by soldiers three decades ago. Oscar, it turns out, was one of two survivors, abducted at the age of three by the commander of the army squad that murdered his family, and he is now evidence of government complicity in the massacre. Recently several soldiers involved in the raid were convicted and the former Guatemalan President Efraim Rios Montt was indicted on charges of genocide.



Top to bottom:  
Sebastian Rotella  
Ana Arana  
Brian Reed  
Habiba Nosheen

### CITATION

**Alissa J. Rubin**  
*The New York Times*  
*Afghanistan's Vulnerable Women*

**THE ROBERT CAPA  
GOLD MEDAL AWARD:  
CITATION**

**MANU BRABO**

*Syria's Civil War*

Associated Press



**SYRIA**

Manu Brabo became another pair of eyes offering witness to the chaos and violence and capturing lasting impressions of the the Syrian civil war. Placing himself in the midst of Free Syrian Army soldiers, he witnessed the immediate devastation of their forces as well as the loss shared by the Syrian Army and civilians alike.

Bombs, tanks, machine guns and snipers relentlessly destroyed urban life, took the lives of soldiers from dueling armies and ravaged children and families.

Brabo courageously covered this story for the world to see. ■

Clockwise: October 2012, near the Dar El Shifa hospital in Aleppo, a father grieves, holding his son killed amidst the violence.

September 2012, in the Izaa district of Aleppo, Free Syrian Army soldiers escape the explosions from a Syrian Army tank they have attacked.

September 2012, a Syrian woman loses her brother before her eyes in a street of Aleppo.



**18. THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD**

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues



**Peter Gwin** with photographer Brent Stirton  
*National Geographic Magazine*

**Rhino Wars**

We chose to honor Peter Gwin's powerful piece with amazing photographs by Brent Stirton. The topic was enterprising and the freshest of submissions on this tragic topic. From an impact point of view, it helped lead to some of the worst South African rhino killers facing long jail terms, with one rhino poaching kingpin getting 40 years.

**CITATION**

**International Consortium of Investigative Journalists**

*The Center for Public Integrity*  
*Plunder in the Pacific*

**19. THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD**

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

**Alberto Arce**

Associated Press

**Honduras**

Although it is one of the most violent countries in the world, Honduras receives scant media coverage. But Alberto Arce of the Associated Press has displayed a combination of courage, strong reporting and a flair for writing to explain life in Honduras — how this is a country where gangs extort cash from homeowners, where inmates rule its deadly prisons and where the charities of political candidates give away free coffins. Honduras is struggling to maintain political stability three years after its former president was run out of office at gunpoint. Arce goes beyond the standard wire service reporting. His "Letter from Honduras" colorfully recounts difficult life inside the impoverished and dangerous Central American nation. Readers are lured into one story on a father's quest for justice after his son was killed, allegedly by military officers, with the following lead: "In a capital so dangerous that only the "walking dead" are said to venture out after dark, nothing could draw an obedient son from the safety of his parents' suburban home into the deserted night. Nothing, that is, but a girl."

**CITATION/THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD**

**Nick Miroff and William Booth**

*The Washington Post*  
*Mexico's Middle Class*

**20. BEST MULTIMEDIA NEWS PRESENTATION**

Best use of video, interactive graphics and slideshows to report on international news

**Thomas Jennings, Sabrina Shankman,  
Travis Fox, James Milward,  
Pietro Gagliano, Ryan Andal,  
Ashlee Lougheed, Sam Bailey,  
Andrew Golis**

**Based on reporting by Sebastian Rotella of ProPublica**

WGBH Frontline and Secret Location

*A Perfect Terrorist: David Coleman Headley's  
Web of Betrayal*

This entry's use of video, documents, photographs and news articles was unlike any other project submitted for this year's awards. The entry combines an excellent narrative about David C. Headley, the American who helped plan the deadly 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, with a compelling presentation that includes raw simplicity and sophisticated technology, pointing the way to a truly new form of multimedia storytelling. It gets bonus points for employing a new kind of video display technology — Popcorn.js, a new HTML5 / Javascript media toolkit created by Mozilla. Its presentation was fresh and arresting. The narrative is excellent and all the breaking points in the story are very well put together.

**CITATION**

**Rick Loomis, Kenneth R. Weiss and Staff of the Los Angeles Times**

*Los Angeles Times*

*Beyond 7 Billion*

## 21. BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Best investigative reporting in any medium on an international story

**Michael Forsythe, Shai Oster, Natasha Khan, Dune Lawrence,  
Ben Richardson, Henry Sanderson**  
Bloomberg News

# Bloomberg

*Revolution to Riches*

Through painstaking analysis of the families of Xi Jinping and the so-called “Eight Immortals” and ingenious scrutiny of regulatory filings to trace holding companies to these families, the reporters were able to demonstrate for the first time how China’s elite have used political influence for enormous personal gain. In the process, they have fundamentally changed our understanding of the Chinese state.

## 22. BEST COMMENTARY

Best commentary on international news in any medium



**David Ignatius**  
*The Washington Post*  
*Foreign Affairs*

David Ignatius’s insightful writing about the Middle East, informed by his original reporting, was refreshing and illuminating. The judges were especially impressed by his brave visits inside Syria to see first-hand the struggles of the rebel movement. Ignatius’s “48 hours in Syria” is not

only a compelling narrative about the rebels, but also an impassioned argument for more direct U.S. support, which might prevent Islamic fundamentalists from gaining an upper hand should Assad fall. “The shower of cash and weapons coming from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and other Arab nations is helping extremist fighters and undercutting any orderly chain of command through the Free Syrian Army,” he warns. In another column, Ignatius reports from Syria on the growing influence of an Al Qaeda-affiliated group. Whether writing about Syria, Egypt or Lebanon, Ignatius provides a level-headed view of the world, while uncovering new information that enhances our understanding. As one judge said, this columnist is “an expert guide” for navigating a complex world full of characters whose motives may be anything but obvious.

### CITATION

**Nicholas D. Kristof**  
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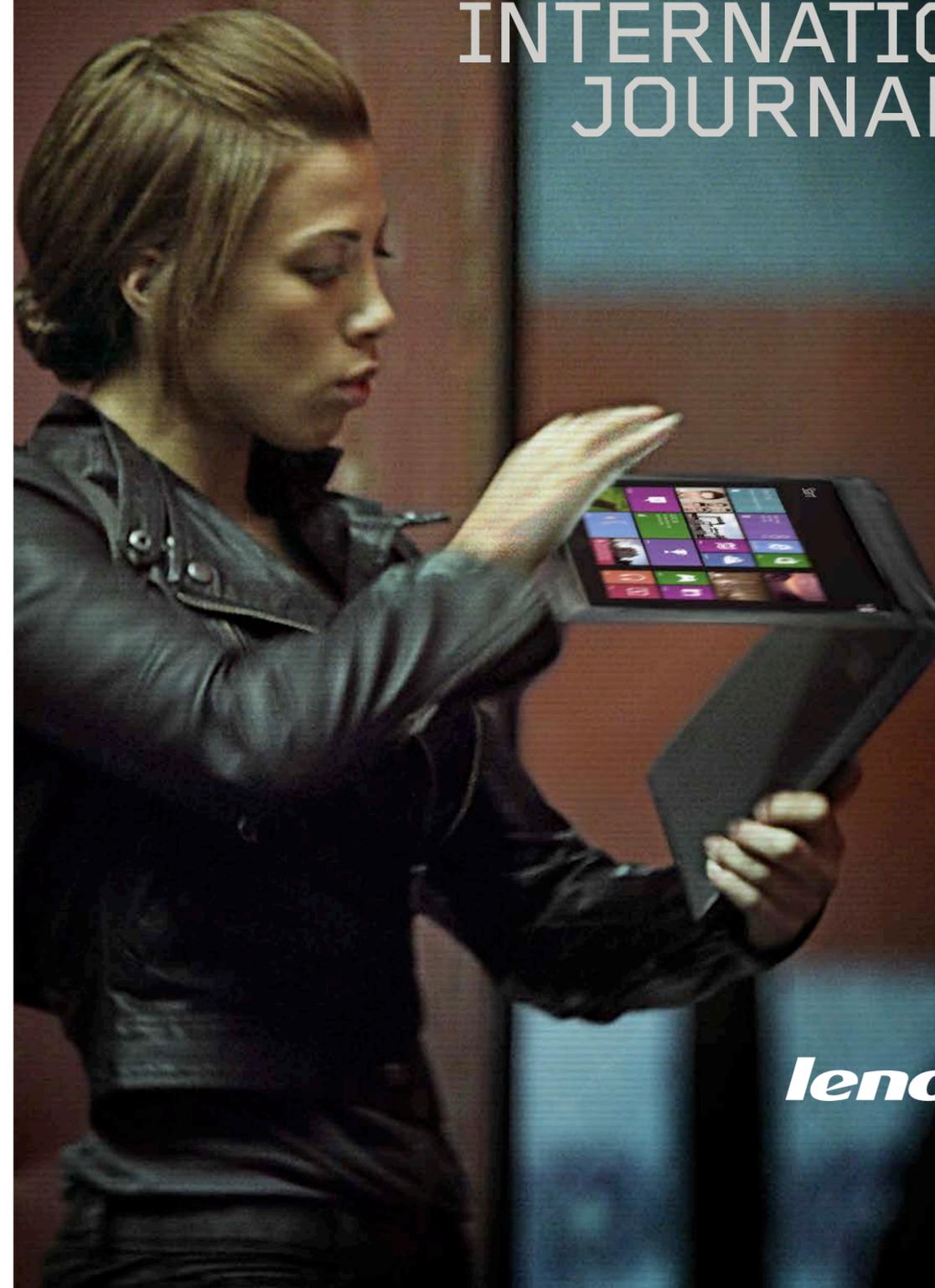
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