

Journalist Safety Panel Highlights Growing Risks

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

With violence against journalists soaring to an all-time high in recent years, freelancers and mainstream news media are seeking better ways to protect and give them the support they need to do their jobs.

On Dec. 16, the OPC, Bloomberg LLP and the Ford Motor Company co-sponsored a discussion about journalist safety with a panel of journalists and press freedom advocates.

In 2015, 69 journalists were killed and 199 jailed worldwide, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Joel Simon, the CPJ's executive director, told attendees that journalists are increasingly targeted because of shifting power in the current "information ecosystem," with governments, criminal organizations and militant groups becoming less dependent on journalists than they were in the past.

"The reason journalists are more vulnerable is that they no longer exercise this collective information monopoly," he said. "That feeling of

invulnerability you had, that press pass – that magical thing that gave you this sort of force field – that's gone."

He called for more pressure from governments, and added that many of the worst jailers of journalists around the world are allies of the U.S.

"They're countries like Egypt – which is the second leading jailer of journalists – Turkey, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia. These are countries where the U.S. has significant influence, and it should be exercising that influence."

The panel also included Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaite, Lithuania's permanent representative to the UN. She and Lithuania were the driving force behind a May UN Security Council resolution to scale up efforts to protect journalists in conflict zones. She urged continued pressure on governments that repress



Left to right: Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaite, Joel Simon, Anna Therese Day, Gregory D. Johnsen and Lara Setrakian.

free speech. "We have to make noise about this at all possible levels," she said. "Those who can't stand the right to free information will never defend the journalists."

Anna Therese Day, a freelance journalist and a founding board member of the Frontline Freelance Register, applauded work from groups like hers and the alliance of news organizations, freelance reporters and non-profit journalism groups that have crafted the Global Safety Principles and Practices. She

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YOU ARE INVITED: TO THE OPC HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Come join us from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Club Quarters at 40 West 45th Street. The event will be held in the dining room.

The party features an open bar with wine and beer, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, filet of Atlantic salmon, roast turkey and dessert and coffee.

The cost is \$30 per person. Advance Reservations Are Essential. Please call the OPC office 212-626-9220 or email RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

Calling all OPC Californians (and Parisians)

By Markos Kounalakis

San Franciscans have a hard time enjoying all the OPC benefits and events in New York City. That's why a few of us in SF are trying to put together some events coordinated with OPC right here in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2016.

OPC is offering its help and some logistical support to help us find each other. The OPC board was open and supportive of this idea. Now it's time to see if we can make it work.

The West Coast is home to a number of foreign correspondents, either active or retired. Many of them focus on the Pacific Rim and Latin America in their reporting. Others have had long careers in other parts of the world and call California home. Lots of us have been based here for years or work as freelancers. Stanford, U.C. Berkeley, and USC's Annenberg School keep developing new members of our profession who live and work in the region.

There is also a preponderance of journalists who report on cyberspace – a virtual space that may or may not be interpreted as “Overseas” per se, but is certainly a place where wars are being fought (e.g., North Korea v. Sony Pictures) and troops being mustered (e.g., Daesh's [Islamic State, ISIS] use of social media).

San Francisco used to have a wonderful press club with a library and bar, but that is history. This is a first attempt to bring back the convening and convivial space for those engaged in our profession. We have

already had some discussions with The Mechanics' Institute as a place to convene and hold programs.

If you are an OPC member on the West Coast and interested in finding out more, getting an invitation to the first programs, or helping out in any way, send me an email: Kounalakis@gmail.com. In your email, include any suggestions for a good bar, meeting place, or potential programs (take a look at the types of programs you're missing in NY). Include your coordinates.

The East Coast events are terrific, but a BART ride to downtown SF beats taking the Virgin America red-eye to NYC.

OPC MEMBERS IN PARIS ALSO MULLING MEETUPS

Inspired by Markos Kounalakis' outreach to members in the San Francisco area, OPC members in Paris are calling for colleagues to help organize club gatherings in the City of Lights. If you would like to get together with fellow OPC members in Paris, please contact OPC governors Christopher Dickey and Vivienne Walt at: christopherdickey@gmail.com and mail@vivwalt.com.

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'No Time for Patience' Over Jailing of Jason Rezaian

By Douglas Jehl

The awful ordeal being endured in Iran by the *Washington Post's* Jason Rezaian hit a grim milestone earlier this month. As of Thursday, Dec. 3, Jason had been held in Iran's Evin Prison for 500 days – 500 days robbed of his freedom, 500 days deprived of his family, 500 days denied any semblance of justice.

Jason has now been held by Iran nearly three times as long as any previous Western journalist – and longer than the American hostages who spent 444 days held by Iranian students during the nightmare of 1979-81.

Anyone who has followed the case knows the magnitude of this outrage. Jason is the *Post's* correspondent in Tehran, working with full accreditation when he was detained without cause on July 22, 2014. He has done nothing wrong, and Iran has never even bothered to produce any evidence against him.

Jason's so-called trial, which ended on Aug. 5, was a sham. Recent announcements, without details, of his supposed "conviction" and "sentencing" have only added new layers of cruelty. Neither Jason nor his lawyer have ever been informed of these developments.

What is particularly outrageous is that Jason's treatment has in some ways worsened since the United States and Iran reached an agreement on issues related to Iran's nuclear program in July 2015. It is increasingly clear that Jason's fate has been caught up in a bitter struggle inside Iran over the country's future.

For more than 16 months, the *Post* has worked closely with Jason's family to pursue every possible channel that might win Jason's freedom. We have been grateful for the support shown by press freedom organizations, particularly Reporters Without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists – and also the National Press Club, which on Dec. 4 hosted a marathon 24-hour reading of Jason's public work.

This is no time for patience. Iran needs to hear the



Zoeann Murphy / Courtesy of the Washington Post

A 2013 file photo of Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian.

world's outrage over its treatment of this *Washington Post* journalist. Even now, Jason continues to be subjected to physical and psychological mistreatment, including being forced to wear a hood when allowed to venture outside his cell.

We know that Iran's senior leaders have the power to bring this case to a swift and merciful resolution, just as they have intervened previously in similar cases. They can dismiss these outrageous charges and overturn any secret verdict or sentence. They must allow Jason and his wife, Yeganeh, to leave Iran and be reunited with Jason's family.

Iran's leaders must also know that Tehran will be judged – including by prospective business partners – by its conduct. For Iran, as well as for Jason, there is much at stake.

Jason has already spent two Thanksgivings in Iran's worst prison. In this holiday season, he should not have to endure another day behind bars.

Douglas Jehl is a longtime OPC member and is the foreign editor for the Washington Post.

FEB. 2: USING ENCRYPTION TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR SOURCES

Encryption is just as important as a flak jacket in today's dangerous reporting environment. Learn about when and how to use encryption from Ryan Tate and Erinn Clark of *The Intercept*, published by First Look Media. Founders of *The Intercept* include Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras, who helped Edward Snowden leak a massive trove of National Security Agency documents. The event is co-sponsored by the OPC and New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute and will be held at the Carter Institute at 6:00 p.m. on Feb. 2.

FEB. 24: RUSSIA HANDS REUNION

The OPC and Columbia University's Harriman Institute are hosting a gathering of journalists who covered Moscow, Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union. There will be panel discussions and plenty of time for reminiscing and catching up with old friends. Diplomats, academics, spouses and other professionals who worked in Russia are also welcome. If you are willing to help organize this event, please send an email to one of the people listed below.

Patricia Kranz: patricia@opcofamerica.org

Charles Wallace: charleswallace05@gmail.com

Alexander Cooley: ac210@columbia.edu

English Language Dailies Battle it Out in Cambodia

By James Brooke

Near the west bank of the Mekong River, the Foreign Correspondents Club of Cambodia is decorated with black and white combat photos, snapped in the early 1970s, during the “Second Indochina War.”

But as overhead fans slowly circulated muggy air on a recent evening, a visiting American journalism professor related his shock at encountering in Cambodia a second kind of war: a newspaper war.

“What you have here, we haven’t seen in the U.S. since the 1970s,” marveled Matthew D. LaPlante, assistant professor of journalism at Utah State University.

Indeed, in Phnom Penh, a city of 2 million people – with an expat population of about 50,000 – three competing English language dailies do battle every weekday morning: *The Cambodia Daily*, *The Phnom Penh Post*, and the newcomer, the *Khmer Times*.

While these papers fight over English-speaking readers, Cambodian language media is largely deferential to Prime Minister Hun Sen, Cambodia’s longrunning prime minister who increasingly is returning to his authoritarian roots.

This feisty field contrasts to the collapse of the English language press in Moscow, my home for eight years before moving here in March, 2014. Shortly before I left Moscow, population 10 million, three English language publications closed: *Passport*, a monthly magazine; *Element*, a fortnightly; and *The Moscow News*, which came out twice a week.

The month I left Moscow, Russia annexed Crimea and started to attack Eastern Ukraine. In that year, 2014, one third of American, British and German residents left Russia. The *St. Petersburg Times* closed.

Then, last month, the big blow came to its mother publication, *The Moscow Times*. A standby for foreign-

ers since 1992, *The Moscow Times* shrank radically: from daily to weekly.

This tale of two cities highlights several elements. The Kremlin is dragging Russia into a xenophobic era. Russia’s economy is contracting and is unattractive to foreign investors.

Cambodia is tolerant, open country visited by 4 million foreign tourists a year. Cambodia’s booming ‘frontier’ economy has expanded by 7 percent a year for over a decade.

For the last 16 months, I have run the upstart entrant in Cambodia’s press war – the *Khmer Times*, which is published by T. Mohan, a Cambodian palm oil plantation investor originally from Malaysia. The *Daily* and *The Post*, have been publishing since the early 1990s.

The *Daily* is in frank opposition. The *Post* less so, and the *Khmer Times* straddles the fence.

In one year, we moved the *Khmer Times* from weekly to daily.

We assigned full-time correspondents to Siha-noukville (Coast) and Siem Reap (Angkor Wat). We brought in an award-winning Polish magazine designer for a sharper, eye-pleasing layout. We imported a crack-erjack French photographer and a matching French photo editor.

We launched five weekly inserts – Khmer language, French language, *Youth Today*, *Kid’s Weekly* and the *WEEKLY*, a city entertainment guide. Dropping smudgy newsprint, we opted to print on high quality, white stock paper. The *Khmer Times* became the first English newspaper in Cambodia to bring in comics: Garfield, Peanuts, Calvin and Dilbert. On the front page, I put an image of Garfield prowling Angkor Wat, with the headline: “The Cat Comes to the Kingdom.”

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Daniel Sieberg Shows Off Tech Tools at Google News Lab

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

In June this year, Google launched an aggressive project to connect journalists with its software tools, data, training and other resources to boost reporting.

The new Google News Lab site brings together under one umbrella some of the tech giant’s previous initiatives and existing tools, including Fusion Tables, Maps, Google Earth, Trends, Google Consumer Surveys and polling data. The site also offers 35 short, self-guided tutorials to teach reporters how to use its vast resources.

On Dec. 10, OPC Governor Daniel Sieberg, who serves as the company’s global head of media outreach, outlined the News Lab’s offerings and talked about the many collaborations connected to the project. The event took place at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism in New York.

Sieberg said News Lab is meant to be a portal to help foster innovation and navigate fast changes in the journalism industry.

“I think it’s extremely important that we come in in this very collaborative fashion and say ‘what is it that we can do?’” he told attendees.



Chad Bouchard

Daniel Sieberg

With a core team of about 12 people, News Lab has worked with newsrooms around the world to help journalists to make better use of Google products.

Sieberg said that to date, the

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PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

OPC SCHOLARS

Stephen Kalin, who won the Roy Rowan Scholarship in 2013, is now with the Reuters bureau in Baghdad covering political and some economic news. Most recently Stephen was with the Reuters Cairo bureau.



Kalin

Max Strasser, 2008 Alexander Kendrick winner, has been named an editor of the op-ed section of *The New York Times*. Until recently an associate editor for *Foreign Policy*, Max spent several years in the Middle East, mostly in Cairo where he was the former news editor at *Egypt Independent*, the English-language sister paper of *Al-Masry Al-Youm*, Egypt's leading newspaper. His writing has appeared online or in print in *The Nation*, *The New Statesman*, *The London Review of Books*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Atlantic*, *Newsweek*, and elsewhere.



Strasser

Hossam el-Hamalawy

AWARDS

OPC member **Lynsey Addario** received the Gaudium Award on Nov. 9 from the Breukelein Institute, a charitable organization in Brooklyn. The award honors people whose efforts in the arts and public service have “illuminated the horizon of human experience.” Michele McNally, assistant managing editor for Photography at *The New York Times* wrote that Addario’s “contributions to the stories of conflict, and the consequential human tragedies it produces, elicit emotional and powerful responses.”

2012 Robert Capa Gold Medal Award winner **Manu Brabo** has won the British Journalism Award for photojournalism. Brabo, who shared a Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography in 2013, is a freelancer who has photographed conflicts in countries including Libya, Egypt and Syria. **Alan Rusbridger**, former editor-in-chief of *The Guardian*, won the BJA’s Marie Colvin Award for courage in journalism.

OPC members **Sheri Fink** and **Adam Nossiter** have been honored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for their reporting on the Ebola epidemic. Fink and Nossiter won a silver medal in the Online division of the Kavli Science Journalism Award, which they shared with New York Times colleagues Pam Belluck, Kevin Sack, Daniel Berehulak and the *Times* graphics team, along with Dan Edge of Frontline. The awards honor distinguished reporting for a general audience by professional journalists.

Two-time Thomas Nast Award-winner **Rob Rogers** will be honored with the Clifford K. & James T. Berryman Award for Editorial Cartoons by the National Press Foundation in February. “Rogers has a vivid visual style that invites you in. He tackles really heavy issues with a light-handed visual touch,” the judges wrote. Rogers draws for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

2013 Robert Capa Gold Medal Award-winner **Tyler Hicks**, 2014 John Faber Award-winner **Bulent Kilic**, and 2014 Olivier Rebbot Award-winner **Jérôme Sessini** have all been recognized in the Spot News division of this year’s World Photo Awards. Kilic won first place in the single-photo category for his picture

of a young woman injured in clashes in Istanbul. Hicks claimed second with a photo of Palestinian boys on a beach killed by an Israeli missile. Sessini claimed first and second place in the multi-photo stories category for his coverage of the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 and the conflict in Ukraine.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: *The New York Times* tried a new way of measuring the impact of its content this year: it looked at the total amount of time spent on a story by all readers. OPC Governor **Rukmini Callimachi**’s groundbreaking story on systematized rape within ISIS placed in the top 20 for 2015, as did the investigation of the Navy’s Seal Team 6 co-bylined by member **John Ismay**.

The Columbia Journalism Review named OPC member **Martin Smith**’s Frontline documentary *Inside Assad’s Syria* to its Best Journalism list for 2015. CJR writes that the video “ventures into regime-controlled regions of the war-torn country, providing a rare glimpse at daily life on that side of the civil war” and reminding us that “in any conflict, most people are driven by simple motivations of keeping their families safe and lives intact.”

OPC member **Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff** is the new communications director for Salon Media Group, returning to New York after seven years with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Public Affairs, Office of the Historian. In her spare time, she continues to write about French soccer and basketball, with pieces this fall for Vice Sport and CNN International, and serve as communications consultant for the

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Sport in the Cold War project.

OPC member **Ruth Gruber** will have photos on display at the Brooklyn College Library Art Gallery through Feb. 12. Gruber, who recently turned 104, was a pioneering photojournalist. She documented, among other things, the flight of Jewish refugees from Europe in 1944 and life in the Soviet



Gruber

Arctic in the mid-1930s. According to the New York-based International Center of Photography, which organized the exhibit, the images will include “never-before-seen color photographs and vintage prints, made over more than half a century, on four continents, alongside contemporary prints made from her original negatives.” After the exhibit closes in New York it will tour other parts of the country.

The New York Times has offered buyouts to its video staff, and layoffs are possible as part of an ongoing video-desk reorganization, according to Politico Media. The paper is also hiring new video talent and has installed **Alex MacCallum**, who was previously an assistant managing editor overseeing audience development, to head up the team.

NEW LONDON: OPC Governor **Rukmini Callimachi** will be the keynote speaker at Connecticut College’s 98th Commencement on May 22, 2016. Callimachi, an investigative reporter for *The New York Times*, was chosen by a committee of Connecticut College students, faculty and staff. She will receive an honorary degree.

WASHINGTON, DC: *National Geographic* announced 180 layoffs in November, soon after 21st Century Fox expanded its ownership stake

in the company. Rupert Murdoch, executive chairman of 21st Century Fox, tweeted that only four of the cuts came at the magazine while the rest were at the National Geographic Society. Fox now owns 73 percent of the company, while the National Geographic Society controls the remaining 27 percent.



Osnos

OPC member **Evan Osnos** was invited to appear at the recent National Book Festival. Osnos spoke on the rise of individualism and ambition in China, the subject of his book published earlier this year, *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth and Faith in the New China*.

LOS ANGELES: More than 80 *Los Angeles Times* staffers accepted buyout offers in late November, in an exodus felt throughout the paper. “Nearly every department got hit,” wrote CNN Money, “including metro, national and international desks, as well as sports, obits, food, education, business beats and the editorial page.” The paper’s parent company, Tribune Publishing, had signaled the impending cuts in October; it also owns the *Chicago Tribune* and *Baltimore Sun*.

Carol Williams, who shared the 2014 Bob Considine Award with Sergei Loiko for their coverage of the conflict in Ukraine, has accepted one of the early retirement buyouts at the *Los Angeles Times*. Williams writes that she plans “to stay engaged in international affairs with a focus on Russia” and is also in the process of moving to the Seattle area. The 2014 award was her third from the



Williams

OPC. Also taking buyouts are former Baghdad bureau chief **Tina Susman**, who appeared on an OPC panel about female war reporters in 2013, and London bureau chief **Henry Chu**.

OPC member **Rachel Boynton**’s 2005 documentary about American campaign tactics in the Bolivian presidential race, *Our Brand is Crisis*, has inspired a Hollywood drama of the same name. The fictionalized *Our Brand is Crisis* stars Sandra Bullock and Billy Bob Thornton and was released on Oct. 30 to mixed reviews. If you missed Boynton’s documentary, which gets an impressive 92 percent favorable rating on RottenTomatoes.com, it’s available on Amazon.

NEW ORLEANS: It’s not uncommon for OPC members to win prizes; however, *being* a prize is considerably rarer. The 2015 New Orleans Film Festival offered a consultation with **Simon Kilmurry** as part of its prize in the Documentary Features category. The winner was first-time Spanish director Irene Gutiérrez. Kilmurry himself received the OPC’s Edward R. Murrow award earlier this year.

DES MOINES, IOWA: 2012 OPC Lifetime Achievement Award winner **Tom Brokaw** will headline a key business event in Des Moines just days before the Iowa presidential caucuses. The former NBC News anchor will address the Greater Des Moines Partnership’s annual dinner on Jan. 25.

MOSCOW: 2011 Madeline Dane Ross Award-winner **Andrew Higgins** is joining the *New York Times* Moscow bureau as a correspondent. He previously covered the human crisis from Germany and the economic crisis in Greece for the paper. Higgins has been a foreign correspondent

for *The New York Times* since 2012. Before joining the *Washington Post* in 2009, Higgins worked at *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Independent* and Reuters news agency.

HONG KONG: The *South China Morning Post*, Hong Kong's venerable daily, has been bought by Chinese online giant Alibaba in a move that raises concerns for the paper's editorial freedom. The English-language paper has a history of reporting on sensitive issues such as political protests and human rights. While Alibaba says it will not interfere with the *Post*'s operations or censor stories, some analysts have expressed concern over whether the company will soften its China reporting in order to curry favor with the government.

MANILA: OPC member **Jaime FlorCruz** was recently profiled in *The Standard (Philippines)*, which

traced his remarkable launch as a journalist. In 1971, as a 20-year-old business student, FlorCruz went to China for a study tour. While he was abroad, then-President Ferdinand Marcos suspended the writ of habeas corpus. Months later, Marcos would declare martial law. FlorCruz and 14 other student leaders stayed in China rather than face possible arrest at home. He studied Chinese history and learned Mandarin. As China began reopening to the outside world, his skills came into demand. FlorCruz got hired by *Newsweek* and went on to become CNN's Beijing bureau chief and the most senior foreign correspondent in China. FlorCruz retired in 2014 and is now working on his memoirs.



FlorCruz

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Barry Schweid, who covered some of the biggest international stories of the 20th century as diplomatic correspondent for the Associated Press, died on Dec. 10 from complications of a neurological condition. He was 83. Schweid wrote about the Camp David talks that resulted in a historic 1977 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. He also chronicled the collapse of the Soviet Union while traveling with Secretary of State James Baker.

New York Times reporter **Tom Buckley**, who covered Vietnam for the paper and later wrote a book on U.S. relations with Central America, died on Nov. 19 from lung cancer. He was 87. In a nearly 30-year career at the *Times*, Buckley worked his way up from copy boy to U.N. correspondent and war reporter. He would also cover national and local news and even file book, movie and TV reviews.

(*'Under Fire' - Continued From Page 1*)

said as the industry depends more and more on contracted labor instead of staffers, budgets are "our biggest enemy in terms of freelance safety."

"Because we can now have this group conversation, we're able to prove that it's not impossible to have higher standards," she said.

Gregory D. Johnsen, who recently left Istanbul where he was writer-at-large for BuzzFeed News, recounted his narrow escape in 2012 from an attempted kidnapping while working in Yemen.

He and a colleague were held at gunpoint on a crowded street, and decided to run – fortunately the kidnappers did not fire and the two escaped. He said to him, the incident signaled a shift after the Arab Spring in the way

foreign journalists are seen in the Middle East.

"In Yemen, in Syria, in Iraq, in other places, this has become normal. And when no one knows the rules, no one is willing to step out."

OPC Governor Lara Setrakian, Co-Founder & CEO of News Deeply, moderated the discussion. In closing remarks, she called for news media companies to shoulder more responsibility.

"I think we've seen a lot of major news outlets take a step back and say that we're going to solve this, so to speak, by not encouraging freelancers or not using their work. And I think it's a fallacy and it's completely unfair. Because at the end of the day they still benefit from the passing of that video from one hand to the other."

(*'Sieberg' - Continued From Page 4*)

group has conducted trainings for 23,000 journalists around the world, and the team has set an ambitious goal of training a total of 100,000 journalists by the end of 2016.

News Lab has forged partnerships with a broad range of news and tech and journalism groups, including Poynter, the Society of Professional Journalists, Hacks/Hackers, Matter, the Center for Investigative Reporting and the European

Journalism Center.

Sieberg gave several examples of ways journalists can use Google applications, such as tracking Google's searches to follow trends and public interest in real time, or using reverse-image lookup to verify image details. News Lab has worked with Matter, First Draft News and Bellingcat, which all focus on verifying content from eyewitnesses and citizen journalists.

News Lab is also exploring possibilities of new technologies like virtual reality cameras and Accelerate Mobile Pages for making news content more mobile-friendly.

"Data journalism is no longer just some lowly person sitting off in a corner trying to plot things on a map," he said. "Journalists are expected to understand the value of data and how to present it. It will be interesting to see how that trend continues in 2016."

Recollections of Our Trip Up the Amazon

By Roy Rowan and Marc Rowan

Since reading *The Sea and the Jungle* at Dartmouth College in 1938, I have always been fascinated by the Amazon. Prior to this excursion with my youngest son, Marc, I reread that book from my college years and also “River of Doubt” about Teddy Roosevelt’s journey up the river. I had been to Brazil during a month-long tour of South America with my wife, Helen, in the sixties. I have vivid memories of flying into the Mattagrasso on a single prop plane to stay at the Rockefeller ranch, but I have always dreamed of travelling up the Amazon.

Without even consulting me, Marc had called my personal physician six months ago to get his thoughts on my traveling to these parts. As Marc relayed to me later, my doctor started to laugh, saying, “Well, we would never expect anything easy from Roy!” Marc



A passenger boat steams from Santarem to Manaus, a journey of about 4 days.



Left: Marc Rowan and Roy Rowan enjoy their dream trip.



Photos courtesy of Marc Rowan

Right: a dock on the banks of the Amazon River.

reminded him that I had had malaria, typhoid, and Yellow Fever in China in the 1940’s, so I might even be immune to these diseases resident on the Amazon. My doctor wryly countered, “Have you considered the Caribbean?” Marc assured him that he had, and my doctor finally said, “If your dad wants to do the Amazon trip, I am fine with it...if you need a resident doctor, let me know!”

Things that have really struck me during the trip:

- The sight of pink dolphins swimming freely in the muddy waters.
- The vastness, the sheer size and width of the river in parts.

(Continued on Page 10)

(‘Cambodia’ - Continued From Page 4)

The website and Facebook page went through dramatic upgrades. They now draw hundreds of thousands of visitors. In November, the *Khmer Times* circulation went nationwide, selling through Smart cell phone stores to the major provincial capitals in the Kingdom.

Realizing there is a steady churn in the expat population in Cambodia, I marketed relentlessly, delivering to all embassies, serviced apartments and high-end coffee shops.

The investments and innovations paid off.

Davy Chan, our commercial director, who previously worked at the *Daily* and *Post*, estimates that our paper and ink circulation is now double the *Daily* and 20 percent more than the *Post*.

Last May, on the event of the

Khmer Times first anniversary, I emailed the then-president of the Overseas Press Club of Cambodia (no relation to the Foreign Correspondents Club restaurant). I proposed that, at a neutral location, the Press Club moderate a 3-way debate among the top editors of the three newspapers. He said they declined.

“Think about it from their end, not only personally, but institutionally,” the president, a 30-something former *Post* staffer, wrote back. “They’ve been at it for decades; you’re the new kid...If I were part of a longstanding institution, I would see no benefit in sharing a platform with a new competitor. The *Khmer Times* would benefit much more just by being on a stage as an equal.”

Harrumph!

Fast forward six months.

In December, *The Khmer Times*

completes a massive newsroom raid on *The Phnom Penh Post*. The *Khmer Times* is hiring 10 of their most senior Cambodian news personnel – three editors, six reporters and one photographer. News professionals that would not go near the *Khmer Times* one year ago, seem to be voting with their feet on the outcome of the press war.

The week before I left Cambodia, on Nov. 26, the publisher of *The Post* was fired and the Australian owners renewed their efforts to sell their papers. As in the old days, newspaper wars provoke casualties.

Now as I move to Ukraine and begin work as CEO of the *Kyiv Post* in Ukraine – the lone English-language paper in Ukraine – I am confident that my work in Cambodia over the last 16 months is in safe hands, with a strong editorial team.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

The Foreign Correspondents Club of China is speaking out on behalf of French journalist **Ursula Gauthier**, saying she has been targeted by “an aggressive campaign” of intimidation. Gauthier penned an article about terrorists that touched on a sensitive issue: the conflict with the Muslim Uighur people in the northwestern region of Xinjiang. The FCCC says Gauthier’s photograph and address were published on several websites linked to the military, and state-run newspapers ran inflammatory editorials about her and allowed readers to post death threats. “Receiving criticism is a normal and necessary part of journalistic work, but this is neither proportionate nor reasonable,” the club wrote in a statement.

Reporters Without Borders has launched an online petition asking President Obama to pardon former CIA operative **Jeffrey Sterling**, who is serving 3.5 years in federal prison after being convicted of passing classified information to *New York Times* journalist James Risen. The petition argues that the government was “unable to present any direct evidence proving that he divulged classified information to Risen.” Risen himself fought a seven-year legal battle over whether he could be forced to identify his confidential sources in court.

The Committee to Protect Journalists is raising the alarm about a proposed change to the penal code in **Togo** that could impose jail sentences and fines on reporters found guilty of spreading “false news.” “Laws that seek to criminalize journalism have no place in a democratic country and President Faure Gnassingbé should exercise his authority to ensure that this proposed change to the penal code does not come into effect,” said Peter Nk-

anga, CPJ’s West Africa representative. Local press freedom and rights groups have also reportedly come out against the proposal.

Press freedom organizations and advocates have joined forces to call on Turkey to release Turkish journalists **Can Dündar** and **Erdem Gül**. Dündar and Gül, the editor-in-chief and Ankara bureau chief of the newspaper *Cumhuriyet*, were placed in pre-trial detention in late November. They are accused of aiding a terrorist organization, espionage and disclosure of classified documents after printing a report alleging that Turkey’s intelligence agency was covertly sending weapons to Islamist rebel groups in Syria. Signatories to the international appeal include Reporters Without Borders, the Committee to Project Journalists, the International Press Institute, linguist Noam Chomsky, reporter Carl Bernstein and economist Thomas Piketty.

The Vatican is trying two Italian journalists with “criminal misappropriation and misuse” of documents after they published books alleging scandals and corruption in the Roman Catholic Church. Three former Vatican officials have also been charged with leaking documents to reporters **Emiliano Fittipaldi** and **Gianluigi Nuzzi**. If convicted, Fittipaldi and Nuzzi could be sentenced to up to eight years in prison. They have called the proceedings “Kafkaesque.” Press freedom organizations have also condemned the trial and criticized the Vatican for pursuing charges in the case.

Assaults against Vietnamese bloggers and activists have worsened in 2015, according to Human Rights Watch. “In every month pro-democracy campaigners have reported being attacked by plainclothes agents or police,” the group wrote in a state-

ment in December. “No one involved in the assaults has been held accountable.” HRW also condemned the ongoing detention of bloggers **Nguyen Huu Vinh** and **Nguyen Thi Minh Thuy**, who have been behind bars awaiting trial since May 2014. The two are charged with “abusing democratic freedoms to impinge on the interests of the state.” The Committee to Protect Journalists writes that authorities have increasingly used this charge to oppress critics.



The International News Safety Institute has released its Annual Review, which finds that “The risks to journalists are as high as they have ever been.” But the organization sees progress in the fact that “from the United Nations down, the importance of journalist safety is being more clearly recognized and there are more initiatives to co-ordinate action across the sector.” The work INSI has done to reduce violence this year includes: journalist safety programs in Brazil, Tunisia and Jordan; research into the killings of journalists worldwide; and cooperation with other organizations on a steering committee to develop a set of industry-wide global safety guidelines for freelancers.

Libyan photojournalist **Mohamed Neili** has been missing since late October and is believed kidnapped. Neighbors told the Libyan Center for Press Freedom that men stopped

(Continued on Page 10)

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Neilli's car near his house in southern Tripoli, forced their way inside, and drove off with him. The group told the Committee to Protect Journalists that Neilli's family has since received ransom demands. Neilli works for China's Xinhua news agency. Abductions have become common in Tripoli as rival governments and militias vie for power.

Three soldiers have been charged in the high-profile 1998 murder of newspaper publisher **Norbert Zongo** in Burkina Faso. The move comes as a transitional government installed last year prepares to hand the reins of power to Roch Marc Kabore, the incoming president. Zongo's killing sparked nationwide outrage and violent protests at the time. The case is seen as a litmus test for Kabore, who held high positions in the repressive 27-year regime of Blaise Compaore.

A Jordanian TV anchor faces charges under the nation's cyber-crime laws for a Facebook post that authorities called "non-objective and full of libel and slander." **Tareq Abu al-Ragheb**, who hosts the show "Face the Truth" on privately-owned satellite channel Al-Haqiqah International, was released on Nov. 10 after being detained for a week, according to Global Journalist. He thanked supporters who campaigned for his freedom. In a move that has drawn fire from press freedom advocates, the government ruled last month that journalists could be charged under the country's cybercrime laws rather

than its press laws. Al-Ragheb could face a jail sentence of three months or more, plus a fine.

MURDERS

- In what Reporters Without Borders is calling Brazil's "Black November," a journalist and two bloggers were murdered in less than two weeks in the country's northeast. The first was *Radio Comunitária Itaenga FM* host **Israel Gonçalves Silva**, 37, who was killed on November 10 in Lagoa de Itaenga, in Pernambuco state. According to the Knight Center for Journalism at the University of Texas in Austin, Silva was shot inside a store after dropping his children off at school. The murderer reportedly fled on a motorcycle.

- The second murder victim in northeast Brazil was 30-year-old blogger **Italo Eduardo Diniz Barros**. He was found dead on November 13 in Governador Nunes Freire, in Maranhão state. The Guardian reports that his posts were frequently critical of local politicians. Diniz was shot by two men on motorcycles.

- **Orislandio Timóteo de Araújo**, 37, also known as Roberto Lano, was killed on November in Buritupu, Maranhão. He was reportedly shot in the head in front of his wife. According to *The Guardian*, Lano was critical of local politicians and wrote on his blog about receiving death threats: "I've already received threats from mayors, councillors, cronies, and security. I don't pay attention, but I always file a report."

- An Al Qaeda-linked terror group has claimed responsibility for the car-bombing murder of a journalist in Mogadishu, according to *Bloomberg News*. **Hindiya Hajji Mohamed** was driving when the bomb went off and reportedly died of blood loss after being taken to a hospital. The group Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement read on Radio Andalus. The group, which is fighting the Somali government, has targeted journalists working for state media. Mohamed reported for Radio Mogadishu and Somali National TV.

- Two journalists were killed in restive northwest Pakistan in November. On Nov. 3 a gunman on a motorbike shot 38-year-old **Zaman Mehsud** of the Pakistani Urdu newspaper Daily Umet and the SANA news agency. Reuters reports that Mehsud also worked for the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The Taliban claimed credit for the murder within hours. "We killed him because he was writing against us," Taliban commander Qari Saif Ullah Saif told Reuters, adding that the militants planned to target more journalists.

- The second Pakistani journalist, 42-year-old **Hafeez Ur Rehman**, was killed on Nov. 22 near his home on the outskirts of Kohat, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to Yahoo News. Rehman worked for the Neo TV network.

(‘Amazon’ - Continued From Page 8)

- The overwhelming smell of smoke – part of the consequences of burning the forest, largely illegally, to make way for farming or cultivation.

- How Brazil has the seventh-largest economy in the world, yet so much of the river basin is still in a primitive state, even the large cities, and largely unchanged since 30-50 years ago.

- Going up some of the tributaries of the Amazon

on a side trip using an old-fashioned river boat that was reminiscent of Bogart and Hepburn's "African Queen"; the sound of the engine going "thump, thump, thump" as we investigated wildlife and were told that in the rainy season, much of the vast upland area in view on the horizon would be under water.

- How the river's brown silt fans out far offshore into the blue Caribbean sea for miles.

Marc is now threatening to take me to China for my 96th birthday in February: my first trip was 70 years ago!

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Stanley Reed

By Trish Anderton

Stanley Reed writes about energy, business and environment for *The New York Times* and *The International New York Times*. Previously, he worked at *BusinessWeek*, holding several positions including London Bureau Chief as well as Middle East Correspondent. He was later a reporter-at-large for Bloomberg News. He co-authored, with Alison Fitzgerald, 2010's *In Too Deep: BP and the Drilling Race That Took it Down*. He has been based in London since 1996. He won the Best of Knight-Bagehot award from Columbia Journalism School for his coverage of the Iraq war in 2003. He has lived in London since 1996 and has British and U.S. citizenship.

Hometown: New York.

Education: B.A. Yale, M.B.A. Columbia.

Languages: Arabic, French.

First job in journalism: I started as a freelancer in Cairo, but my first real job was staff editor on the foreign desk at *BusinessWeek*.

Countries reported from: Numerous including the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway, The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, West Bank, Gaza, Algeria, Libya, Republic of Congo, Russia, Brunei, China, India, Venezuela, Mexico.

When did you join the OPC? 1993.

Major challenge as a journalist: Coming up with good story ideas and ways to tell them.

Best journalism advice received: Steve Shepard, the editor of *BusinessWeek* most of the time I was there, once told me to “go, don’t call”. I still think that is good advice.

Worst experience as a journalist: Being asked by my editors – citing safety concerns – to leave Egypt in the midst of the demonstrations that led to the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

What drew you to covering the energy sector? When writing about Middle East politics and economics, I discovered that oil was behind a lot of what happened there. The oil industry is fascinating because it is political and because fast-evolving technology has led to breakthroughs like shale gas and because so much money is involved. The oil and gas beat has taken me



Courtesy of Stanley Reed

Stanley Reed in Kuwait on the eve of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

to great places like Sakhalin Island, the austere former prison colony off the east coast of Russia.

Covering energy has also been an entrée into climate change and renewable energy sources like wind and solar. Visiting an offshore wind farm is as much fun as going to an offshore oil platform and usually easier to reach. Energy is integral to modern life.

When traveling, you like to ... In the Middle East I like to go to the souks to talk to the dealers and see what is there. I learned a lot that way.

Journalism heroes: The Egyptian journalist Mohamed Sid Ahmed; David Hirst, former Middle East correspondent for the *Guardian*; Hunter Thompson.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Try to acquire some knowledge or experience that is in demand but in short supply.

Dream job: Making feature films.

Favorite quote: It is not over until it's over.

Place you're most eager to visit: Namibia.

Most over-the-top assignment: Writing about making bespoke fowling pieces that can cost several tens of thousands of dollars at Purdey, the London-based firm. Mr. Purdey showed me how to shoot them.

Country you most want to return to: Iran.

Twitter handle: @Reed_INYT

Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Please contact patricia@opcofamerica.org.

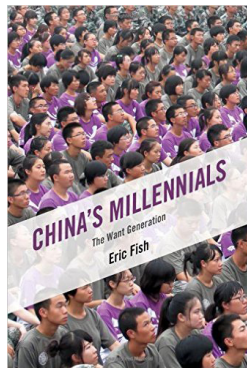
New Books

CHINA

“BE SURE TO SAY THAT WE post-90s people aren’t just idiots. Foreigners always think we’re brainwashed,” a young Chinese person told OPC member Eric Fish while he was writing *China’s Millennials* [Rowman & Littlefield, June]. Fish takes that advice, drawing a more nuanced portrait of the nation’s youth than the popular notion of a materialistic, apathetic generation.

Fish, himself a millennial, worked as a teacher and journalist in China from 2007 to 2014. Rather than try to explain or categorize a whole generation, he explores the millennial experience by interviewing a wide swath of young people – from factory workers to recent graduates to social activists. He buttresses the sociopolitical context with some carefully-chosen statistics.

“I do not pretend to have a finger on the political pulse of China’s youth,” he writes. “Nobody has that detailed knowledge, not even the mandarins in Beijing.



But through their personal stories, I hope to give a sense of what they are up against – socially, economically and politically.”

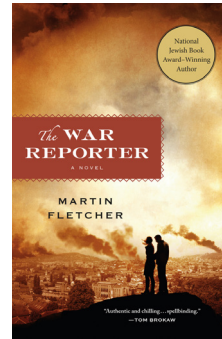
“In debunking generational stereotypes, Mr. Fish gives the future of the world’s most populous country a human face,” wrote *The Wall Street Journal’s* Cameron White in his review of *China’s Millennials*. “He also outlines a relationship between the youth and the

state that is far more nuanced than many have suggested it to be.”

Dan Harris of China Law Blog wrote that the book “actually makes for an excellent starting point for any company seeking to market to or employ China’s millennials. Through first-hand reporting on the stories of China’s young from all over the country, Fish provides a fascinating road-map on how China’s millennials think.”

Fish is now a content producer at the Asia Society in New York.

him back to Bosnia – offering the chance to confront the past and possibly reunite with the woman of his dreams.



That’s the premise of *The War Reporter* [Thomas Dunne Books], a novel penned by foreign correspondent Martin Fletcher. A former NBC News bureau chief in Tel Aviv, and now a special correspondent for NBC News and PBS, Fletcher draws on

his own experiences covering the conflict in the Balkans.

“My goal with the book was to write a novel about television journalism that my colleagues would want to read. I actually wrote this for my friends, I really did,” Fletcher told TVNewser. “It’s a thriller, it’s a love story, and it’s about how foreign correspondents work.”

Kirkus Reviews calls *The War Reporter* “a fast-paced thriller,” adding that Fletcher “is masterful at portraying realistic combat and showcasing the survival skills of working journalists.” Ellen B. Skolnick of the Jewish Book Council finds it “a moving novel, a crisply written and believable story of modern-day war and its effect on human relationships that keeps readers fully engrossed from start to finish.”

— **By Trish Anderton**

Upcoming Events

OPC Holiday Party
6:00 p.m., Jan. 6

Using Encryption to Protect Yourself and Your Sources
6:00 p.m., Feb. 2

Russia Hands Reunion
Feb. 24

OPC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon
11:30 a.m., Feb. 26

TRAUMA

TOM LAYNE IS A TV JOURNALIST at the top of his game. It’s 1994, and, working with cameraman Nick and interpreter Nina, he’s filing national stories nearly every night from the troubled Balkans. Then the team decides to venture into the Sarajevo countryside in an effort to reunite a lost child with his mother. A deadly encounter with a paramilitary force leaves Layne struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It also separates him from Nina, whom he has come to realize he loves.

More than a decade later, a documentary project brings

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Nick Frisch
Resident Fellow Yale Law School
Information Society Project
Student

Gwynn Guilford
Reporter and Editor
Quartz
Active Resident