

## OPC Awards Showcase Ambitious Reporting in 2014

### EVENT RECAP

By Trish Anderton

In tones ranging from defiance to joy and mourning to optimism, foreign correspondents gathered on April 30 to celebrate the vitality of their profession.

"It's time for us to take our story back from the handwringers," Dean Baquet, executive editor of *The New York Times*, proclaimed in his keynote address at the Overseas Press Club Annual Awards Dinner. "We need to scream about the fact that there is huge and ambitious work being done in the old places like *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*, and in the new places like BuzzFeed and Vice."

The same digital technologies that have turned the industry's business model upside down have also given it new tools and "enormous new audiences," Baquet added.

"The issues confronting the world are big, and our ambitions should be at least as big," he urged.

There was no shortage of ambitious reporting on display, from C.J. Chivers's investigation into American troops' exposure to chemical weapons in Iraq, to Jason Motlagh

and Atish Saha's dissection of a factory collapse in Bangladesh. While heavy hitters like *The New York Times* were well represented, less traditional organizations like Human Rights Watch, *Medium/Matter* and HBO Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel also turned up on the winners' list.

Motlagh started his reportage several months after the Rana Plaza disaster, which claimed more than 1,100 lives. He said he drew inspiration from Saha's unsparing photos.

"He had worked the scene of the tragedy for three weeks, every day, day in and day out, pouring everything into his photographs," Motlagh recalled with Saha at his side. "They were startling and personal and they really challenged me to find the words to match."



Michael Dames

Keynote speaker Dean Baquet.

Chivers described the secrecy and oppression he faced trying to discover how many U.S. soldiers had been poisoned by abandoned Iraqi chemical weapons.

"We like to think it's Uzbekistan that acts like that, but you're in a country that does too."

Secrecy and danger were undercurrents running through the evening. Whitman Bassow Award winner Nick Miroff recalled being surrounded by angry gold miners in Peru, and facing

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## Panel to Discuss Press Freedom in China

### EVENT PREVIEW: May 18

President Xi Jinping's crackdown on all sources of political diversity inside China is reaching new heights and is being compared with some of the ideological campaigns that Mao Tse-tung once waged. The number of dissidents and lawyers fleeing China has reached levels not seen since the suppression of the Tiananmen demonstrations in 1989. Xi's government has targeted foreign non-profit groups, journalists, educators, local

courts, and Internet activists, and has even created a special tool called the Great Cannon to disrupt foreign websites that host content not considered favorable to the government. In so doing, Xi is dashing any hopes that the Communist Party would allow a process of "peaceful evolution" to develop. Please come to a panel discussion that will consider these increasingly dramatic developments.

As the anniversary of the sup-

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## CALL FOR 2015 BOARD NOMINATIONS

Members of the OPC are invited to consider running for the OPC Board of Governors. This year, the membership will elect ten (10) Active members of the board and two (2) Associate members. Candidates for the OPC board are invited to submit a statement of candidacy, which should combine an overview of the candidate's qualifications and a sense of what one might contribute to the OPC board.

Please watch your emails for further details and deadlines. Send nominations to Brian Byrd at [bibyrdi@gmail.com](mailto:bibyrdi@gmail.com).

## Book Night: The Lonely War

### EVENT PREVIEW: May 20

Join us for an evening with Nazila Fathi to discuss her personal account of life before and after Iran's 1979 revolution in *The Lonely War: One Woman's Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran*, which interweaves her personal story with the country's turbulent struggle between hardliners and reformers.

Fathi worked for two decades as a correspondent in Iran before she was forced to flee in 2009 during the Green Revolution. She is a writer for NPR and *Foreign Policy*, and a commentator for the Persian Language Voice of America television.

The event will be moderated by Gary Sick, a senior research scholar at Columbia University's Middle East Institute. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. at Club Quarters.

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pression of Tiananmen Square protesters approaches on June 4, a panel of experts will consider how far Xi will go in taking steps against not only corrupt members of the Communist Party, but also against all elements of a civil society. Panel members will also discuss the implications for U.S.-China relations.

William J. Holstein, Overseas Press Club board member and China correspondent starting in 1979, will moderate. His is also editor of the OPC book, *Has the American Media Misjudged China?* [January 2015]

Panelists include Kathleen McLaughlin, who is just completing a Knight Journalism fellowship at MIT and returning to Beijing as correspondent for *Science* magazine. She previously reported from China for *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, and BuzzFeed, and has served as head of the media freedoms committee for the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China; Sarah Cook, senior research analyst for East Asia at Freedom House, author of *The Politburo's Predicament: Confronting the Limitations of Chinese Communist Party Repression* [January 2015]; Ying Zhu, professor of media culture at the City University of New York, College of Staten Island, and an expert on the Chinese media and cultural institutions; and Jerome A. Cohen, professor at New York University School of Law and co-director of its U.S.-Asia Law Institute. Cohen is also a leading expert on the Chinese legal system.

Attendance is free, but you must make a reservation by contacting the OPC office by email or phone.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. at Club Quarters. Stop by for a reception at 6:00 p.m.

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drilling crews in Bolivia who wanted to take his photographer's camera. He also devoted part of his speech to the plight of fellow Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, who is imprisoned in Iran.

"Jason is in jail for doing his job, the job that all of us do every day," said Miroff. Acknowledging Post editors in attendance who've been working for Rezaian's release, he asked the crowd to "show them your support and help us free Jason."

He got a passionate round of applause in response.

Associated Press journalist and longtime OPC member Kathy Gannon lit the traditional Candle of Concern in honor of foreign correspondents killed, injured or missing last year. Gannon was gravely injured in a shooting in Afghanistan in 2014. Her colleague Anja Niedringhaus was killed.

"I am so honored to have been asked to light this candle," Gannon said. "I do it for my friend Anja, and for all of those who are no longer with us. I do it as a symbol of how bright your collective legacies shine, and for those of us whose injuries I hope will inspire us to keep working and refuse to even entertain the word defeat."

Several trends in the industry have combined to make life increasingly hazardous for journalists in the field. Technology has made it easier than ever for freelancers to operate as one-person crews. Budget cuts have led even the largest media organizations to rely more on those freelancers. And organizations like Islamic State, also known as ISIS, are targeting journalists in kidnappings and killings.

The memory of James Foley permeated the evening. Foley was abducted in Syria in 2012 while working as a freelancer, and executed by Islamic State in August 2014. Foley's parents lit the Candle of Concern in 2013 and attended the dinner this year as well.

Veteran journalist David Rohde of Thomson Reuters received the President's Award in part for his efforts to address these threats facing freelancers abroad.

Working with the Overseas Press Club, Rohde has led the effort to develop a code of conduct for organizations and freelancers embarking on overseas contracts.

"Never has it been so dangerous, or so expensive – to be blunt – to cover conflict," Rohde told the audience. "At the same time, many news organizations are struggling with shrinking budgets. We as an industry must work together."

The code calls on news organizations to show the same concern for freelancers' welfare as for that of staffers. It says the organizations should factor in the additional cost of training, safety equipment and insurance required for war zones, and pay for stories and expenses promptly.

It says freelancers should have first-aid and hostile-environment training and carry sufficient insurance when operating in war zones. It calls on them to evaluate the dangers of every assignment and "measure the journalistic value of an assignment against the risks."

Some 60 organizations have signed on to the princi-



President's Award recipient David Rohde.

ples, including AFP, the AP, Bloomberg, the BBC and Reuters. "Together we can stop governments from stealing our voices. Together we can stop the rich, the corrupt and the criminal from intimidating us. Together, we can stop censors from squelching our stories. Together, we will do the reporting we must. Together, we will meet the challenge of our times, and together we will not be silenced."

Another highlight of the evening was a presentation by cartoonist Signe Wilkinson, who provided a little comic relief. The fourth-time Thomas Nast Award winner tackled the ongoing controversy over religious cartoons with arch humor, noting that many American newspapers "have made themselves safe from a *Charlie Hebdo* attack by cleverly getting rid of their cartoonists."

She went on to share a cartoon she'd drawn in 2006 showing the Prophet Mohammed, the Buddha, Jesus Christ and other icons of major faiths laughing over "The Big Fat Book of Offensive Religious Cartoons." She said the drawing "has gone around the world many times with no complaints" – because, she theorized, it depicted Mohammed in a happy context rather than an angry or humiliating one.

A lively crowd of 453 winners and guests turned out – one of the largest-ever attendances for the annual event. They traveled from as far as Bangladesh, Paris and Oslo to be there.

Deborah Amos, veteran international correspondent for NPR, deftly hosted the proceedings. "It's so nice to meet my Twitter feed in person," she laughed, looking out over the crowd.

Marcus Mabry, OPC president, joked that the evening was about much more than the rare sight of "international photojournalists in tuxedos." Instead, it's a moment to pause and acknowledge the extraordinary work being done – and the extraordinary people doing it.

"There are few things more humbling than being president of the OPC," he said in his opening remarks. "To be president of such a club is to be eternally in awe, for our members are the people who brave risks, often mortal, from mortars to disease, to merely report the world to the world."

"It is that simple, and that complicated."



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# OPC Awards Dinner



Guests mingle during a pre-dinner reception.



Kathy Gannon, left, and OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz light the Candle of Concern.



Left to right: OPC First Vice President Calvin Sims, Patricia Sims, OPC President Marcus Mabry and Hal Boyle Award winner Sheri Fink.



Left to right: Ed Cunningham Award winner Matthieu Aikins, Sarah Leonard and head judge Robert Friedman.



Left to right: Brion Tingler, Aedhmar Hynes, Milanka Muecke and Aymar de Lencquesaing.



OPC Governors Bill Collins, left, and Brian Byrd with Tamara Boorstein.

Photos by Michael Dames, except where noted.





**Left to right: Greg Winter, Shreeya Sinha and Hal Boyle winner Helene Cooper.**



**OPC Governor Liam Stack, left, and Joe and Laurie Dine Award winner Anjali Kamat.**



**Bob Considine Award winner Sergei Loiko, right, with his son Stepan Perfilev.**



**Left to Right: Bill Holstein, Rita Sevell, Abby Lee and Brian Su.**



Ashley Revell

**Guests take their seats in the main hall as the program begins.**



**Matthew Whitaker, left, and former OPC President Alexis Gelber.**



**Robert Capa Gold Medal winner Marcus Bleasdale, left, and Pamela Chen.**



**Joe and Laurie Dine Award winner Samuel Black, left, and Mathieu Skene.**

*(Continued on Page 8)*

# 2014 AWARDS AND WINNERS

## HAL BOYLE AWARD

*Best newspaper, news service or online reporting from abroad*

**Adam Nossiter, Nori Onishi, Helene Cooper, Sheri Fink and The New York Times Staff**

*The New York Times*

"Ebola From the Front Line"

### CITATION:

Richard Marosi and Don Bartletti

*Los Angeles Times*

"Product of Mexico"

## BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

*Best newspaper, news service or online interpretation of international affairs*

**Sergei Loiko and Carol Williams**

*Los Angeles Times*

"Ukraine: A Nation Torn Apart"

### CITATION:

Anthony Faiola, Greg Miller,

Kevin Sullivan and Souad Mekhennet

*The Washington Post*

"Foreign Fighters"

## ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

*Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage, enterprise*

**Marcus Bleasdale**

Human Rights Watch, *Foreign Policy* and *National Geographic Magazine*

"Central African Republic Inferno"

### CITATION:

John Moore

Getty Images

"The Ebola Crisis in Monrovia, Liberia"

## OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

*Best photographic reporting from abroad in magazines or books*

**Jérôme Sessini**

Magnum Photos, *Time* and *De Standaard*

"Crime Without Punishment"

## JOHN FABER AWARD

*Best photographic reporting from abroad in newspapers or news services*

**Bulent Kilic**

Agence France Presse

"Euromaidan Revolution in Kiev"

### CITATION:

Oliver Weiken

European Pressphoto Agency

"2014 War Between Israel And Hamas"

## FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

*Best feature photography published in any medium on an international theme*

**Rodrigo Abd**

The Associated Press

"Peru's Illegal Gold Mining"

## THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

*Best radio or audio news or interpretation of international affairs*

**Marine Olivesi and Aaron Schachter**

PRI's "The World"

"Repercussions of the Arab Spring"

### CITATION:

Emily Harris, Ahmed Abu Hamda, Abu Bakr Bashir, Marwah Jbara Tibi, Ellen Krosney, Nuha Musleh, Larry Kaplow, Doug Roberts

NPR

"War in Gaza"

## THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

*Best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad*

**Nick Schiffrin, Philip Maravilla and Ben Mulkey**

Al Jazeera America

"Conflict in Gaza"

### CITATION:

Holly Williams, Agnes Reau, Erin Lyall, Justine Redman, Abdi Cadani and Andy Stevenson

The CBS Evening News With Scott Pelley

"Holy War"

## THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

*Best TV or video interpretation or documentary on international affairs*

**Rachel Boynton and Simon Kilmurry**

POV, PBS and American Documentary Inc.

"Big Men"

### CITATION:

Marcela Gaviria

PBS Frontline and ProPublica

"Firestone and the Warlord"

## ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

*Best magazine reporting in print or online on an international story*

**Matthieu Aikins**

**and Sebastiano Tomada-Piccolomini**

*Medium/Matter*

"Whoever Saves a Life"

### CITATION:

Patrick Radden Keefe

*The New Yorker*

"The Hunt for El Chapo"

## THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

*Best cartoons on international affairs*

**Signe Wilkinson**

*Philadelphia Daily News*

## MORTON FRANK AWARD

*Best magazine international business news reporting in print or online*

**Cam Simpson and Jesse Westbrook**

*Bloomberg Businessweek*

"The Hedge Fund and the Despot"

### CITATION:

William Langewiesche

*Vanity Fair*

"The Chaos Company"



# 2014 AWARDS AND WINNERS

## MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

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

**Stephen Grey and Reuters team**

Reuters

"Comrade Capitalism"

### CITATION:

Jo Becker, Steven Lee Myers

And Jim Yardley

*The New York Times*

"Putin's Way"

## THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

*Best non-fiction book on international affairs*

**Evan Osnos**

Farrar, Straus & Giroux

*Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth and Faith in the New China*

### CITATION:

Jack Fairweather

Basic Books

*The Good War: Why We Couldn't Win the War or The Peace in Afghanistan*

## MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

*Best international reporting in the print medium or on-line showing a concern for the human condition*

**Jason Motlagh and Atish Saha**

*The Virginia Quarterly Review*

"The Ghosts of Rana Plaza"

### CITATION:

Joshua Hersh

*The Virginia Quarterly Review*

"The Lessons of Atmeh"

## THE DAVID A. ANDELMAN and PAMELA TITLE AWARD

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

**Josh Fine and David Scott**

HBO Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel

"The Price of Glory"

### CITATION:

Terry Moran, Melia Patria, Jeanmarie Condon  
and Almin Karamemedovic

ABC News Nightline

"Moscow Is Burning"

## JOE and LAURIE DINE AWARD

*Best international reporting in any medium dealing with human rights*

**Samuel Black, Anjali Kamat and Fault Lines Staff**

Al Jazeera America

"America's War Workers"

### CITATION:

Rehad Desai, Cynthia Kane  
and Al Jazeera America Presents staff

Al Jazeera America

"Al Jazeera America Presents: Miners Shot Down"

## WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

*Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues*

Nick Miroff

*The Washington Post*

"Pushing South"

## ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

*Best reporting in any medium on Latin America*

**Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Tracy Wilkinson, Kate Linthicum, Cindy Carcamo and Don Bartletti**

*Los Angeles Times*

"A Wave of Migrants"

### CITATION:

Teresa Bo and Singeli Agnew

Al Jazeera America

"Fault Lines: Mexico's Vigilante State"

## BEST MULTIMEDIA NEWS PRESENTATION

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

**Steve Inskeep, Kainaz Amaria and NPR Staff**

National Public Radio

"Borderland"

### CITATION:

Peter Bouckaert And Marcus Bleasdale

Human Rights Watch

"The Unraveling – Journey Through the Central African Republic Crisis"

## BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

*Best investigative reporting in any medium on an international story*

**C.J. Chivers**

*The New York Times*

"Secret Casualties"

### CITATION:

Desmond Butler, Alberto Arce, Andrea Rodriguez and

Michael Weissenstein

The Associated Press

"America's Secret Cuban Twitter"

## BEST COMMENTARY

*Best commentary on international news in any medium*

Matthew Kaminski, *The Wall Street Journal*

"On Ukraine"

### CITATION:

Andrew Browne

*The Wall Street Journal*

"China's World"



Han Tjan, left, and OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz.



Left to right: Audrey Topping, Arthur Sulzberger and Seymour Topping.



Left to right: 2014 Malcolm Forbes Award winner Stephen Grey, 2014 Edward R. Murrow citation recipient Marcela Gaviria and OPC Governor Martin Smith.



Sandy Drayton, left, and former OPC President Roy Rowan.



Rita Sevell, left, and OPC Governor Jacqueline Albert-Simon.



Left to right: OPC Governor Evelyn Leopold, OPC President Marcus Mabry, and OPC members Kathleen Eldon and former OPC President Allan Dodds Frank.



# PEOPLE... By Randy Fung and Chad Bouchard

## OPC SCHOLARS

2008 H.L. Stevenson winner **Ma-yank Bubna** has been hired to work for the Joint Operations Center in the UN Mission in South Sudan, a small team that plans military and humanitarian operations across the country, and is the information hub for the mission. Since his OPC Foundation win in 2008, Bubna has worked for defense think tanks in New Delhi, the advocacy group Enough Project on his first trip to South Sudan, an academic appointment in Switzerland, and Small Arms Survey, among others in Afghanistan. He continues to freelance.

**Jeff Roberts**, 2010 Reuters Fellowship winner, was named a 2015-2016 Knight-Bagehot Fellow. Now covering technology and policy for *Fortune Magazine*, Roberts also has worked for GigaOm, paidContent and Reuters. He had an OPC Foundation fellowship in Paris. Roberts has a law degree from McGill University and a master's from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. The Knight-Bagehot Fellowship provides full tuition and a \$55,000 stipend for the nine-month program that involves graduate courses at Columbia's schools of business, law and international and public affairs.



**Alexander Saeedy, left, with Larry Martz at the OPC Foundation Luncheon in February.**

Yale University has taken note that Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner **Alexander Saeedy** will soon embark for Brussels, where he will work as a foreign correspondent for the Reuters bureau after his graduation from the

school this spring with a B.A./M.A. in history. "Larry Martz took me out to lunch, and we discussed the future of journalism," Saeedy told Yale News in an interview about the fellowship. "The whole event just made me feel like I was making a big leap into adulthood, being treated as someone who writes and thinks about the world." Saeedy was a staff writer for the Yale Herald starting in his freshman year. In his winning essay for the fellowship, he explored the growth of low cost air carriers in Europe and explained why there hasn't been a similar growth in the United States.

**Derek Kravitz**, 2014 I.F. Stone winner, is one of three co-authors of the *Columbia Journalism Review's* analysis piece critiquing *Rolling Stone's* story about an alleged rape on the University of Virginia campus. Reporters from other media raised doubts about the plausibility of the story soon after its publication and the magazine retracted it. *Rolling Stone* then contacted Columbia about conducting an investigation into what had gone wrong. Kravitz and co-writers Sheila Coronel and Steve Coll found that the magazine allowed avoidable "failures of reporting, editing and supervision."



**Kravitz**

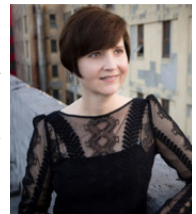
**Jonathan Jones**, who won the 2009 I.F. Stone scholarship, along with his colleagues at ProPublica, PBS Frontline and Rain Media, won the 2014 Investigative Reporters and Editors award in the Large Multiplatform category for "Firestone and the Warlord," which also received an Edward R. Murrow citation this year. The story examines how Firestone managed to continue operating during the brutal Liberian civil war. The team used diplomatic cables, court documents and accounts from Americans who ran a rubber plantation as Liberia de-

scended into chaos. This was the topic of Jones's winning essay in 2009. The IRE Awards, which honor the best in investigative journalism, will be presented at the 2015 IRE Conference in Philadelphia on Saturday, June 6.

## WINNERS

OPC Second Vice President **Abigail Pesta**, a freelance journalist, won a National Headliner Award for her reporting in *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Her award for "magazine feature writing by an individual on a variety of subjects" recognizes work in three of her stories: "Who Are You Calling a Bully," "I'm Still Alive" and "From Grad School to Prison." The first is an investigation of a tragedy in Florida: A girl leapt from a tower to her death, and two middle-school girls were arrested and charged as felons for alleged bullying. The second is about a young woman who survived a campus shooting and became a campus police officer at the same school where she nearly died. The third is about a young woman who was sent to Rikers Island, accused of assaulting an officer at an Occupy protest, when she says the officer assaulted her.



**Pesta**

OPC member **Sheila Nevins**, the president of HBO Documentary Films, won CUNY Graduate School of Journalism's 2015 Journalistic Achievement Award. As an executive producer or producer, she has received 28 primetime Emmy Awards and 32 News and Documentary Emmys. Nevins was part of a team that won the 2013 Edward R. Murrow Award for the documentary "Tales from the Organ Trade." She has supervised the production of more than 1000 documentary films and won the first George Foster Peabody award for "She's Nobody's Baby," produced with Ms. Magazine.

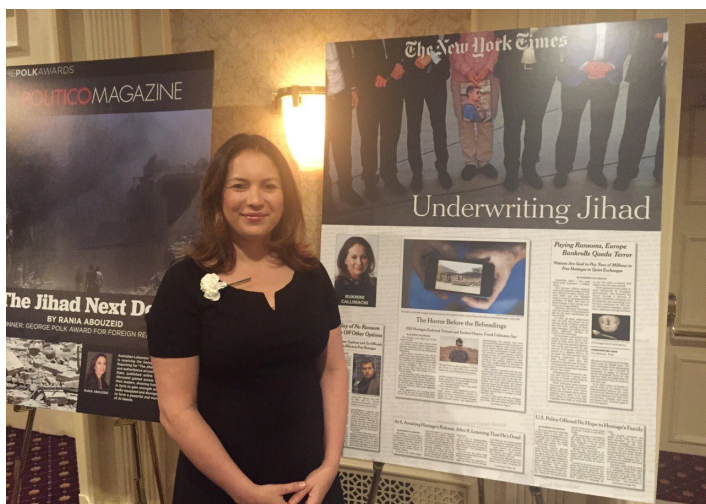
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Photography Award, along with *New York Times* colleagues Sergey Ponomarev and Wissam Nassar, for coverage of conflict in Gaza. *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* won the award for capturing images of outrage in Ferguson, Missouri.

Three OPC Award winners won accolades in the Spot News category in

Normandie in Bayeux, France. The exhibition will include the letters he wrote home from the First Army Press Camp, a chateau in Vouilly. **Robert Pledge**, also a photo editor, who is an OPC member and an awards judge, will be on hand with his colleague to speak and sign books. The recently created Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center in Budapest will host a similar exhibition in June, along with the traveling exhibition of Robert Capa in Color, which opened at the International Center of Photography in New York last year. Morris is working on a book called *My Century*,



Rukmini Callimachi of *The New York Times* received a George Polk Award for international reporting in February.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan has announced results from its inaugural FCCJ Freedom of the Press Awards. The club released results on May 3 to coincide with World Press Freedom Day. Awards honored work in categories including the Japan Investigative Journalism Awards, Friend of the Free Press, Publication of the Year, Fallen Hero and Lifetime Achievement. To see winners, watch videos from the . . . and read more details about the awards, check the club's website at [fccj.or.jp](http://fccj.or.jp).

*The New York Times* staff that won this year's Hal Boyle Award from the OPC also won the Pulitzer in the International Reporting category for "vivid human stories" in its coverage of Ebola in Africa. **Ned Parker** of Reuters was a finalist along with a team from his agency for reports on Iraq and the rise of Islamic State. Feature Photography honors went to **Daniel Berehulak**, a freelance photographer for *The New York Times*, for his photographs of the Ebola epidemic. 2014 John Faber Award winner **Bulent Kilic**, of Agence France-Presse, was a finalist for the award for his photographs of Kurds fleeing Islamic State attacks in Iraq. **Tyler Hicks**, the 2013 Robert Capa Gold Medal Award winner, was a finalist for the Breaking News

the 2015 World Press Photo Contest. **Bulent Kilic** landed First Prize Singles for a photo of a young girl who was wounded during clashes in Istanbul, Turkey. He also won Third Prize in the same category for an image of a fiery mushroom cloud during a US-led airstrike against Islamic State. Second Prize went to **Tyler Hicks** for a photo of the bloody aftermath of an Israeli missile strike on a beach in Gaza City. 2014 Olivier Rebbot Award winner **Jérôme Sessini** won first and sec-



Bulent Kilic and Tyler Hicks

ond place in the Spot News Stories category for his photos of wreckage of a Malaysia Airlines shot down over Ukraine and his coverage of violent clashes in that country.

**PARIS:** OPC member **John Morris**, photo editor, has announced the May 15 opening of an exhibition of his 1944 photographs at the Musée Mémorial de la Bataille de



John Morris



Robert Pledge

aimed to be published in two years around his centennial birthday.

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer and OPC Member **David Hume Kennerly** will join *Politico Magazine* as a contributing editor to cover the 2016 presidential elections. Kennerly, who has been a OPC member since 1992, will also follow the campaign trail for *Politico* over the course of the next two years to mark his 50th year of documenting political campaigns. The May/June issue of the magazine will highlight his work with a 30-page retrospective of his career, which began during the 1966 midterm elections.

**BRUSSELS:** OPC member **Jonathan Kapstein** was elected as



president of the Press Club Brussels Europe on March 31. Kapstein previously served as bureau chief for *Businessweek* in Rio de Janeiro, Toronto, Milan, Johannesburg, and Brussels. While in Belgium, he covered European affairs and the nordic region for the magazine. After several years working as Europe director of government affairs for two major corporations, he returned to journalism as an independent. Kapstein won an OPC award for Best Reporting from Latin America and shared two other OPC citations for his work.

**NEW YORK:** After nine years at Bloomberg News, **Michael Serrill**, former OPC president, has gone freelance. He plans to travel and continue writing and editing on international affairs and global finance, and possibly to write a book on Cornelius Vanderbilt IV, a foreign correspondent who was one of the original members of the OPC. Before joining Bloomberg in 2006, Serrill was a writer and editor for 15 years at *Time* magazine and six years at *Businessweek*. He plans to take the summer off before launching new projects.



Serrill

Al Jazeera America found itself under the spotlight after a wrongful termination lawsuit, the departure of top executives, and replacement of the foundering news station's interim chief executive, Ehab Al



Lesley Topping  
Marcy McGinnis, left, with Porter Bibb, media commentator, during a 2013 OPC panel on challenges facing global broadcasters.

Shihabi. OPC member **Marcy McGinnis**, senior vice president of outreach, resigned, telling *The New York Times* that she "didn't like the culture of fear" at the station and that "people are afraid to lose their jobs if they cross Ehab." The lawsuit from former employee Matthew Luke alleges anti-Semitism and sexism from another high-level executive. Al Shihabi had claimed the network would keep him on, but Al Jazeera English founder Al Anstey is taking Al Shihabi's position.

OPC member **David Alpern**, longtime writer and editor for *Newsweek*, has taken a new job with an OPC connection. After closing down the For Your Ears Only radio and Internet program that he began in 1982 as *Newsweek on Air*, Alpern has launched a podcast at the urging of former OPC President



David Andelman, the editor-in-chief of the *World Policy Journal* at the non-profit World Policy Institute. Alpern interviews authors and experts on *World Policy On Air*, which launched in February. Guests have included Nina Khrushcheva, the grand-daughter of former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and now a Russian expert at the New School University in New York. Episodes are available on iTunes.

## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

**John C. Lucht**, a longtime OPC member, died April 13 at the age of 81. He was an author and executive recruiter known for bringing senior executives into major corporations in the U.S. and abroad. After starting his career in general management and marketing, he joined Heidrick and Struggles in 1970 as a

recruiter until launching his eponymous consultancy in 1977. *Rites of Passage*, a book about job searches, negotiating compensation and career advice for executives, quickly became a bestseller on the topic when it was first published in 1988. The book was frequently updated in new editions, most recently last year.

**Juan Leon**, a former Associated Press correspondent and press freedom activist, died after a battle with pancreatic cancer on April 16 at age 72. The native Bolivian was exiled during the country's dictatorship in the 1970s, and he was one of many journalists arrested and tortured during a coup led by General Luis Garcia Meza in 1980. Leon began his journalism career at age 18 for the La Paz daily *Presencia*, where he worked as news editor. Leon then joined the AP as a stringer in 1978 and was hired full time in 1980 after the government expelled AP correspondent Harold Olmos. Leon is survived by his wife, Daysi Vacafior, and his two children Esteban and Romina.

**Sandra Mackey**, a journalist and author based in the Middle East, died on April 19 at age 77. Her journalism career began in secret, reporting undercover for U.S. newspapers from Saudi Arabia under the pseudonym Michael Collins while her husband worked in a Riyadh hospital. For four years, she concealed her identity and smuggled stories out of the country to circumvent the ban on foreign journalists. Her work appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Christian Science Monitor*. Mackey is also the author of two books: *The Saudis: Inside the Desert Kingdom*, and *Passion and Politics: The Turbulent World of the Arabs*. She is survived by her son, Colin Mackey.

# PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

The U.N. Security Council is slated to hold a debate on journalist safety on May 27. The Committee to Protect Journalists is calling for the Council to include a warning to states not to use national security as an excuse to jail, harass or censor journalists. The Council held a similar debate in 2013 that included participation from 50 member states. It marked the first time journalists were invited to address the Council, according to a U.N. press release.



**Barack Obama speaks with Nguyen Van Hai, better known by his pen name Dieu Cay, of Vietnam, and Simegnish 'Lily' Mengesha of Ethiopia, during a roundtable with persecuted journalists to mark World Press Day on May 3.**

The United Nations joined countries and advocacy groups around the world to mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3, as journalist and human rights organizations noted that dozens of journalists have already been killed in 2015. The Committee to Protect Journalists on April 27 released its sweeping annual report on press freedom, outlining government crackdowns and rising extremism that has made this “the most deadly and dangerous period for journalists in recent history,” a CPJ press release stated. “Attacks on the Press” is a collection of essays exploring rising challenges that journalists face, including unprecedented risks in Syria, violence from trafficking organizations in Mexico and Paraguay, and increasing censorship and arrests of journalists in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Egypt

and across the Middle East. OPC member **Christiane Amanpour**, CNN chief international correspondent and a member of CPJ’s board of directors, wrote a forward for this year’s report. “It would be terrible enough if the tragedies that befell journalists in 2014 had been isolated episodes - if we could write the year off as a nightmare and move on,” she wrote. “But with well over 1,000 journalists having been killed since 1992, and with the deadly attack on *Charlie Hebdo* early in 2015, it is clear that the threats are not limited to bad years, nor are they going away.”

Malaysian cartoonist **Ulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque**, also known as Zunar, was charged with nine counts of sedition for tweets he sent in February about a sensitive court decision. The tweets included a cartoon portraying Prime Minister Najib Razak as the presiding judge in a case against opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim on sodomy charges, and suggesting that the ruling against him was politically motivated. Zunar was held for three days in February during an investiga-



**Ulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque displays his work during a U.N. Human Rights Council panel on freedom of artistic expression in March.**

tion and freed on bail amounting to more than \$6,000.

**Gary Pruitt**, president and CEO of the Associated Press called on the international community to make it a war crime to kill journalists or take them hostage. In a speech at the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club

on March 30, Pruitt said that journalists are increasingly becoming targets in war zones. He said that in the past journalists were protected when wearing “Press” or “Media” on vehicles or vests, but “that labeling now is more likely to make them a target.” He proposed a new protocol to the Geneva Conventions that would make assassination of a journalist a specific war crime.

Al Jazeera English journalist **Mohamed Fahmy**, who is awaiting retrial in Egypt after more than a year behind bars for terrorism-related charges, said at a press conference in Cairo that he has filed a \$100 million lawsuit in Canada against the Al Jazeera network for “epic negligence.” Fahmy was acting bureau chief in Egypt when he was arrested along with two other Al Jazeera colleagues in December 2013. He accused the network of endangering the trio by failing to inform him about his legal status in Egypt and airing reports on its Egyptian channel, which was banned for favoring the Muslim Brotherhood. A network spokesman said in a statement that it was “sad” to see Fahmy and his lawyer repeating Egypt’s criticisms of Al Jazeera, and urged him to seek compensation from his jailers instead of the network. In February, Fahmy and his colleague, Baher Mohammed, were released on bail and Australian journalist Peter Grete was deported from Egypt. Closing arguments in the retrial are slated to begin June 1.

A court in Cairo on April 11 sentenced three Egyptian journalists to life in prison. **Abdullah al-Fakharany**, executive director of the Rassd news website, **Samhi Mustafa**, co-founder of the website, and **Mohamed al-Adly**, a presenter for Amgad TV, were arrested on Aug. 25, 2013, two weeks after widespread protests against the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi. The



journalists were originally charged with “disturbing the peace,” but in February 2014, prosecutors changed the charges to “spreading chaos” and “spreading false information,” as well as “forming an operations room to direct the Muslim Brotherhood to defy the government.” The journalists had been on trial since April 2014 along with 48 other defendants, including prominent leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood. Fourteen defendants, including the Muslim Brotherhood leader were sentenced to death on March 16. The remaining 37 defendants, including three journalists, were sentenced to life in prison.

**Jason Rezaian**, Tehran bureau chief for the *Washington Post* who was detained nine months ago, has been charged with crimes including espionage for allegedly collecting confidential information about the country’s domestic and foreign policy. Rezaian is also accused of “collaborating with hostile governments” and “spreading propaganda,” according to his lawyer. Rezaian, who is Iranian-American, has been held in the notorious Evin prison since his arrest in July, without access to his lawyer. The *Washington Post* said his charges could carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

A Turkish court dropped terrorism charges against Dutch journalist **Frederike Geerdink** on April 13. Geerdink was indicted in January for promoting “terrorist propaganda” in her reporting on the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, a group listed as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union. Her home in Diyarbakir, where she has been based since August 2012, was raided in January.

A Beijing court convicted freelance journalist **Gao Yu** on April 17 for charges of revealing state secrets and sentenced her to seven years in prison. The Chinese government accused Gao of disclosing a confidential document issued by

the Communist Party in 2013 to an overseas Chinese language news organization, according to her lawyer. Gao began her career as a reporter for the state run China News Service and in recent years had been writing for overseas publications. She was detained after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 and was imprisoned for six years for allegedly leak-



Gao Yu

Wikimedia Commons

ing state secrets in 1993. “We are in the midst of one of the most severe crackdowns on human rights activists,” said Nicholas Bequelin of Amnesty International. “What the state used to tolerate, it doesn’t tolerate anymore.”

**Austin Tice**, a McClatchy reporter who has been detained in Syria since 2012, will receive the National Press Club’s John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award. Tice is a Marine



Austin Tice

FBI / Public Domain

Corps veteran who disappeared in Syria in August 2012 while covering the conflict for McClatchy. No organization, including the Syrian government, has admitted detaining him. “Austin Tice embodies the best of our profession, and whoever is jailing him represents the worst of the many threats to journalism,” National Press Club President John Hughes said in a

statement. The award will be presented at the club’s annual awards dinner on July 29. The club announced in March that it would give its domestic Freedom of the Press Award this year to **Jason Rezaian**.

A court in Dhanusha, Nepal convicted and sentenced Umesh Yadav, the mastermind behind the 2009 murder of journalist **Uma Singh**, to life in prison. Singh, a reporter for Janakpur Today and Radio Today, was stabbed to death in her home in Janakpur on Jan. 11, 2009. Police arrested Yadav, a former Maoist, for ordering Singh’s murder. Two others received life sentences in 2001 in connection with her death.

## MURDERS

- The body of radio journalist **Armando Saldaña Morales**, who was based in the Mexican state of Veracruz, was found with fatal gunshot wounds near an abandoned pickup truck in the neighboring state of Oaxaca on May 6. Saldaña hosted a Saturday news show at the radio station La Ke Buena in the town of Tierra Blanca in Veracruz. Four other Veracruz journalists have been killed in direct relation to their work since 2011, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Three others have disappeared and the organization is investigating the deaths of six additional journalists.

- Kenyan editor **John Kituyi** was beaten to death by attackers on a motorcycle while he was walking home on May 1. He was the editor and publisher of *Mirror Weekly*, a newspaper based in Eldoret. He focused on regional politics in Western Kenya.

- Armed men shot and killed Somali journalist **Daud Ali Omar** and his wife **Hawo Abdi Aden** on April 29 after breaking into his home in the middle of the night. Daud was a produced for a pro-government

(Continued on Page 14)

(Continued From Page 13)

radio station. Police said they suspected the militant insurgent group Al-Shabaab was responsible for the attack. Daud and his wife are survived by their three children.

- Libyan television journalist **Muftah al-Qatrani** was shot dead on April 22 in his office at Al-Anwar, a privately owned television company in Benghazi. He had been covering conflict between Islamist militias and government troops in the city. No group has claimed responsibility for al-Qatrani's killing, but local activist group Libyan Center for Freedom of the Press has linked his death to reports he wrote about fighting in Benghazi for several news outlets.

- Two masked gunmen shot and killed a Ukrainian journalist known for his pro-Russian views on April 16. **Oles Buzina** published work in Ukraine's *Sevodnya* daily newspaper. Buzina's murder came one day after a former lawmaker loyal to former President Viktor Yanukovich

was killed in a similar attack at his home.

- Congolese radio reporter and journalist **Soleil Balanga** was killed by a lone attacker April 16 while returning home from work. According to Radio Okapi and press freedom group Observatory for the Freedom of the Press in Africa, the journalist bled to death after his throat was cut. He had been broadcasting news through a megaphone in the streets of his town because the transmitter of his radio station stopped working.

- **Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani**, a well-known dissident journalist in Yemen, was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle in Sana'a on March 18. Khaiwani reported on civil rights abuses and corruption, and was beaten and jailed under the former regime. He was a supporter of the Houthi rebel movement, which took over Sana'a last year and sparked political upheaval. Houthi forces have raided news outlets, detained journalists and

banned websites amid escalating violence.

- Ukrainian photographer **Serhiy Nikolayev**, who worked for the newspaper *Segodnya* in Kiev, was killed in a mortar explosion while covering fighting between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian separatists. Both sides blamed the other for the death, according to news reports. He died in a hospital from his injuries. Nikolayev joined *Segodnya* in 2008, and covered conflict and unrest in Iran, Somalia, and Libya.

- **Gerardo Ceferino Serván Coronel**, a radio journalist for Radio Ciudad Nueva in Zanja Pytã, Paraguay, was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle in the Brazilian border city of Ponta Porã on March 4. The Paraguayan Union of Journalists said in a statement that Serván was critical of the local government, but it was not known if he had received threats before the attack. Four other journalists have been killed near the country's northern border since the start of last year.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Hannes Breustedt  
Germany Press Agency DPA  
U.S. Business Correspondent  
Active Resident

Deborah Camiel  
Producer, Long Form Unit  
CNBC  
Active Resident

Martin Chekel  
Associate Non-Resident (Retired)

Prue Clarke  
Director, International Reporting Program  
CUNY Graduate School of Journalism  
Active Resident

Paula Dwyer  
Editor  
Bloomberg LP  
Active Resident

Josh Fine  
Producer, HBO  
Active Resident

Scott Gilmore  
International Columnist  
*Maclean's Magazine*  
Active Overseas

John Ismay  
Reporter  
KPCC (Southern California Public Radio)  
2014 OPC Foundation Scholar  
Active Non-Resident

Sam McNeil  
Video Journalist  
The Associated Press  
2014 OPC Foundation Scholar  
Active Overseas, 34 and under

Alexander Michaelson  
Fujisankei Communications International Inc.  
(Fuji Television, Japan)  
Assistant Producer  
Active Resident, 29 and under

Paul Reyes  
Deputy Editor  
*Virginia Quarterly Review*  
Active Non-Resident

Allison Wright  
Managing Editor  
*Virginia Quarterly Review*  
Active Non-Resident

Kate Zhao  
Fosun International  
Corporate Communications  
Director  
Associate Resident



# Meet the OPC Members: a Q&A With John Moore

By Chad Bouchard

**John Moore** is a senior staff photographer for Getty Images, based in New York City. He received a citation for this year's Robert Capa Gold Medal Award, and won the OPC's 2007 Robert Capa Gold Medal for his work in Pakistan and the 1997 John Faber Award for coverage of refugee camps in Zaire. He is also a four-time winner of World Press Photo awards and was named photographer of the year by two organizations, Pictures of the Year International and National Press Photographers Association. He was part of an Associated Press team that won a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Iraq War. Moore started working for Getty Images in 2005 while based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He has lived in the United States for the last seven years.

**Current Job:** Senior Staff Photographer/Special Correspondent for Getty Images.

**Hometown:** Irving, Texas.

**Education:** Bachelors Degree from the University of Texas at Austin, 1990.

**Languages:** English, Spanish and small amounts of Arabic, Urdu and Hindi.

**First Job in Journalism:** Photo stringer – Associated Press, Managua, Nicaragua, 1991 (although I worked for numerous publications while in college).

**Countries where you have reported from:** Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Belize, Haiti, Panama, Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Canada, United Kingdom, Bosnia, Croatia, Ukraine, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, South Korea, Thailand, Egypt, Somalia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Libya, Kenya, Congo, Rwanda, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland, Liberia. United States.

**When did you join the OPC:** 2013.

**What stories are hardest to photograph:** Anything involving children in extreme pain.

**You volunteered to cover the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and were one of the first photojournalists to document conditions there. What drew you to this story?** When I read that Doctors Without Borders was saying that the spread of the disease in the Liberian capital of Monrovia was potentially catastrophic, that got my attention. Ebola is usually fatal and the cramped and unsanitary conditions in that highly urban environment had horrible potential for catastrophe. I remembered the last major Ebola outbreak in Congo in the mid 1990's, which caused great alarm, so I knew international interest in this would be high.



Frank Maduakonam

John Moore

**What surprised you most about what you witnessed there?** People were generous and kind to me and open to me telling their stories through photos, even during a time of great distress, and I will always be grateful for that.

**What has been your most difficult assignment?** The Newtown massacre was awful, with the Tucson shooting as a close second. The murder of children is devastating for me to cover.

**How do you minimize risk when reporting in hostile areas?** I do a lot of legwork ahead of time to both understand the story and find the right people to work with. I don't pursue every photo at any cost. I'd say I probably miss more photos than I make, for safety concerns. I try to stay alert and make eye contact or greet everyone I can, so that even those who might otherwise do me harm know that I am aware of them and won't be surprised. I wear seatbelts, and protective clothing, when needed.

**Advice for photojournalists who want to work overseas:** Do your homework before every trip. With such quick Internet research options and social networking, we should almost always have a good idea what we're getting into before we get on the plane. Whenever possible, arrange a local fixer/driver ahead of time – someone who knows the story and the terrain – someone who can get to where you need to be and, just as importantly, get you out of harm's way if things go wrong. Hostile environment training beforehand is good, with the first aid training element the most important.

**My photojournalism heroes are:** I know a lot of brave and talented people I respect.

**Where you most want to return:** I'm afraid there are so many places I've had important life experiences in, that's a hard one to answer. Most countries I would return to if the story was right, and there are so many places I've yet to see.

**Twitter handle:** @jbmoore6400

*Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Please contact [patricia@opcofamerica.org](mailto:patricia@opcofamerica.org).*

# New Books

## WAR PHOTOGRAPHER

**LYNSEY ADDARIO, A VETERAN** photojournalist and OPC member, recounts her career covering hostile areas and explores conflicted feelings and enigmatic motivations for chasing dangerous assignments in her book *It's What I Do* [Penguin Press, February].

The memoir takes readers from her childhood in affluent Westport, Connecticut, to her first forays abroad in Argentina in 1996, when she began to sell photos to the English-language *Buenos Aires Herald* and discovered a passion for photojournalism.

Her big break followed the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001. While based in India working for The Associated Press, she had already photographed Afghan refugees in Pakistan and women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. When U.S. forces landed in Afghanistan, she was poised to become a full-time stringer for *The New York Times*.

Addario's career took her into the heart of conflicts in Sudan, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and Libya. In one of the

most alarming stories of the book, she recalls being captured by Qaddafi's soldiers while covering the civil war in Libya in 2011. Her driver was executed, and she was taken into custody for several days along with fellow *New York Times* journalists Tyler Hicks, an OPC member who won the 2013 Robert Capa Gold Medal Award, Stephen Farrell, who in 2007 won a shared OPC award for Best Web Coverage of International Affairs, and Anthony Shadid, an OPC member and 2003 Hal Boyle Award winner who died from an asthma attack in Syria in February, 2012.

Addario won the OPC's Olivier Rebbot Award in 2010. She also received the MacArthur Fellowship in 2008, and was part of a *New York Times* team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for International Reporting for work in Waziristan.

Warner Bros. won the rights to her book, and her story is slated to be directed by Steven Spielberg and portrayed by Jennifer Lawrence.

## NIGERIA

**I**N *BOKO HARAM: INSIDE Nigeria's Unholy War* [I.B. Tau-

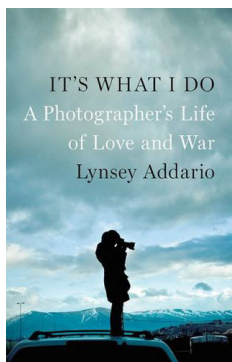
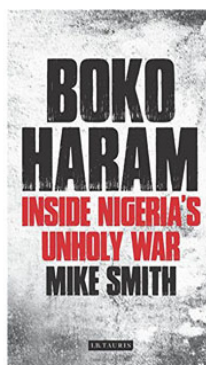
ris, March], Mike Smith, a former AFP correspondent who served as the agency's West Africa bureau chief from 2010 to 2013, takes a close look at the powerful extremist group and chronicles its rise from a small unknown Islamic sect in Nigeria in the early 2000's to its sudden international infamy after a campaign of suicide bomb attacks, mass killings and abductions, including the kidnapping of hundreds of schoolgirls last year.

Since the execution of its founder during an uprising in 2009, the group has spread its brutality from Nigeria to neighboring Niger, Cameroon and Chad. Smith examines how conditions in northern Nigeria, including abusive security forces and a corrupt, ineffective government, laid the foundation for the group's accession.

"The problem is nothing less than the current state of Nigeria and the way it is being robbed daily – certainly of its riches, but more importantly, of its dignity," Smith wrote in the book.

Smith was a correspondent for AFP and was the agency's bureau chief in West Africa from 2010 to 2013.

— By Randy Fung



## Upcoming Events

**China's Crackdown  
How Deep? How Far?**  
6:30 p.m. May 18

**Book Night  
With Nazila Fathi**  
6:30 p.m. May 20

**Mixer at The Half King**  
6:00 p.m. May 20

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OPC WINNERS!

To watch video clips from the 2015 Annual Awards Dinner, and to see and share photos of guests, members and award winners, visit our website. You can also browse galleries of photos and other work from our award recipients by visiting [opcofamerica.org](http://opcofamerica.org).

**TO ENSURE THAT YOU** receive timely notices of all OPC events, please add [info@opcofamerica.org](mailto:info@opcofamerica.org) to your email address book.