Awards Dinner to Honor Reporting in a Year of Crisis

EVENT PREVIEW: April 28
By Chad Bouchard

Europe’s refugee crisis and deadly terrorist attacks are in focus in this year’s Dateline magazine, which will be shared at the OPC’s Annual Awards Dinner on April 28. The issue – and the gala event – honors the work of international journalists covering upheaval in the face of growing threats, which OPC President Marcus Mabry said makes the work of correspondents harder and ever more essential.

Kai Ryssdal, host and senior editor of American Public Media’s Marketplace, will be our presenter. Ryssdal joined Marketplace in 2005, and has hosted the show from China, the Middle East and across the United States. This year’s 22 award winners were selected from more than 480 entries in categories including news coverage, print, cartoons, photography, broadcast, books, commentary and multimedia.

Mabry selected David Fanning, founder and executive producer at large of PBS investigative series FRONTLINE, to receive this year’s President’s Award. In a message to Fanning offering the award, Mabry praised FRONTLINE and Fanning’s “extraordinary, defining” work since the show’s first season in 1983. Fanning retired as executive producer last year after 33 seasons, and still serves at the series’ executive producer at large.

Increasing dangers in the profession remained in the spotlight for the OPC over the last year as terrorists continue to target journalists and governments detain and intimidate colleagues.

Jason Rezaian, journalist and former Tehran bureau chief for The Washington Post who was released from Iran in January after more than 18 months in prison, will light the press freedom candle in memory of journalists who have died in the line of duty in the past year and in honor of those injured, missing and abducted.

The dinner will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Columbus Circle, and begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m., sponsored by multinational computer company Lenovo. International news agency Reuters is sponsoring a “Meet the Winners” reception immediately following the dinner. Tickets for this year’s dinner are $295 for OPC members and $295 for a member’s guest; $750 for non-members. Table prices are $7,500 (Friend), $9,000 (Sponsor), $14,000 (Patron), $18,000 (Fellow). Dress for the event is black tie. The Annual Awards Dinner will be streamed live.

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Book Night: Andrew Nagorski’s Nazi Hunters

EVENT PREVIEW: MAY 18

The OPC will celebrate the publication of OPC member Andrew Nagorski’s latest book, The Nazi Hunters, on Wednesday, May 18 at the offices of Marketplace at 747 Third Ave. (47th Street) at 6 p.m. Come raise a glass to Andy! Interviewing Andy will be Deidre Depke, who worked with Andy many years at Newsweek. Andy was Newsweek’s bureau chief in Hong Kong, Moscow, Rome, Bonn, Warsaw and Berlin and the author of many books. To RSVP, contact Eva Fryscak at: Eva.Fryscak@marketplace.org.
Panelists Analyse Crackdown on Press Freedom in Turkey

By Chad Bouchard

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has waged an aggressive campaign to silence critics and clamp down on press freedom as he moves increasingly toward authoritarian rule.

On March 30, the OPC sponsored a program to analyze the recent seizure of two key Turkish news outlets and to discuss the fate of free expression in the country. Kerim Balci, recently the editor-in-chief of Turkish Review, a bimonthly journal published by Zaman Media Group, left the country before police raided and took control of Zaman. He now lives in self-imposed exile. His family remains in Turkey, however, and his name remains on the top of a list of wanted journalists and many of his colleagues are in jail or had their passports confiscated. Those who escape are not safe, he added.

“They don’t have the hope or courage to start again.”

Repercussions of the government seizure are far-reaching. Zaman Media Group had conducted news trainings around the country, had correspondents in 120 countries around the world and shared content with 87 local stations around the country, had correspondents in 120 countries. Governmental organizations and the judiciary are among the institutions that have stopped work with him.

It’s not just about the press,” she said. “what’s happening in Turkey is about dissent and political opposition.”

She said between 30 and 33 journalists are currently in jail in Turkey, many of them on national security charges. Turkey has also stepped up attacks on social media as people increasingly seek online sources of information amid the crackdown on traditional media.

Turkey has the “most egregious” record in the world when it comes to pulling content from Twitter, Balci said. Between January and June 2015, there were 406 Turkish court orders to Twitter for removal of content – which constituted 90 percent of the number of requests worldwide for the same period.

The OPC has written a letter to Erdoğan calling for an end to the press crackdown. Please consider adding your name to the list of more than 600 supporters on Change.org. To read more details about the recent takeover of major media outlets in Turkey, see page 14.

Panelists Discuss Security, Privacy and Intelligence Gaps

By Chad Bouchard

Terrorist groups are using more sophisticated tactics than ever before to carry out attacks and recruit supporters via social media campaigns. Using encrypted communication and new mobile messaging platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram, terrorists such as those who planned the November 2015 attacks in Paris have left law enforcement guessing in the dark.

On March 2, the OPC and New York University’s Center for Global Affairs co-hosted a panel to discuss recent intelligence failures and the increasing tension between security and privacy.

In an interview with Michael Isikoff, chief investigative correspondent for Yahoo News, National Security Agency Director Michael Rogers confirmed that the terrorists in Paris used encrypted communications to dodge surveillance.

The panelists discussed the pitched battle between Apple and the Federal Bureau of Investigation over access to and other data on a cell phone from one of the suspects in the San Bernardino attack in December 2015.

“This is really an inflection point,” said Daniel Klaiderman, OPC governor and Yahoo News deputy editor who has covered the FBI for much of his career. The FBI demanded that Apple develop software to help them unlock the device, but Apple refused and has invoked free speech and public privacy rights in its defense.

The panelists said both sides were using the case for their own larger agendas. Calls to and from the phone are already available to investigators through metadata, Isikoff said. “The basic idea that the FBI needs this phone unlocked to find out whether there was a co-conspirator really doesn’t hold up to the evidence.”

He added that instead of leaving the decision to Con-
following is a list of the fifteen 2016 scholarship and fellowship recipients, their affiliations, the prize they won, the presenter, and a brief description of their winning applications. The winners were selected from a highly competitive field of 173 applicants from around 55 different colleges and universities.

Alissa Greenberg
UC-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family; presented by David's brother, Matthew Schweisberg

An ardent traveler, Alissa once spent a year traveling solo around the globe, including a trek on the Trans-Mongolian railroad from Helsinki to Beijing. Fluent in Spanish and proficient in Mandarin, she wrote about how the spread of palm oil plantations in Malaysia was creating severe problems for local livelihoods, specifically its impact on the indigenous Mah Meri tribe. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University in New York.

Neha Wadekar
University of Southern California

REUTERS FELLOWSHIP Sponsored and Handled by The Correspondents Fund; presented by David Bohde, National Security Investigations Editor, Reuters

After graduating from Tufts University, Neha spent two years as a management consultant acquiring the technical and analytical expertise that will aid her in her career in international journalism, preferably in Eastern or South Asia. In her essay, she wrote about complex cultural issues surrounding the beauty industry and skin-lightening products in Kenya. A multimedia journalist with Spanish language skills, she has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Nairobi.

Jesse Coburn
New York University


In his essay, Jesse wrote about how tensions eventually subsided between the historically Protestant city of Hamburg as a Lutheran church underwent conversion into a mosque. Having lived in Berlin for several years, some as a student and later as a journalist for a German architectural magazine and intern at The New York Times, he is fluent in German and proficient in French. A graduate of Wesleyan University, he intends to report on Europe for American audiences.

Annika Hammerschlag
Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

IRENE CORBY KUHN SCHOLARSHIP Sponsored by the Scarr Foundation; presented by Pamela Howard of the Pamela Howard Familly Foundation

A photojournalist and endurance athlete, Annika was afflicted with a disease that forces her to spiral on the story that was the essence of her winning essay. In the northeastern Indian town of Bodh Gaya and elsewhere, she observed how some Dalits, or untouchables, have renounced Hinduism and converted to Buddhism and Christianity as a means of escaping the social trappings of the caste system. Fluent in French and proficient in Spanish, the UCLA graduate intends to report on humanitarian issues and cover health issues in West Africa.

Gabrielle Paluch
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

H.L. STEVENSON FELLOWSHIP Funded by the Gunjel family and sponsored by family and friends; presented by Sharron Gannum

In her winning essay, Gabrielle told the story of Olive, a former drug dealer, prisoner and survivor, whose story reveals Myanmar’s endless civil war. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, she speaks German, Mandarin, Spanish, French, and a bit of Thai and Burmese. While reporting from Myanmar, she broke the story of female genital mutilation in hospitals in Thailand. A multimedia journalist with stand-up comic, she has an OPC Foundation fellowship in The Associated Press bureau in Bangkok.

Levi Bridges
UC-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

STEWART F. WARD FELLOWSHIP Endowed by the Swinton Family; presented by John Daniszewski, Vice President of International News, The Associated Press

Levi’s interest in Russia was piqued by a 6,000 mile bicycle journey from the Sea of Japan to Moscow when he was 19. After graduating from Alfred University graduate and former Fulbright grantee wrote about the mistreatment of cattle workers from Tlapalhuac in Mexico. Tlapalhuac, an experience he shared working as an undercover reporter.

Kanyakrit Vongtikajorn
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

EMIL R. FREEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP Endowed by the Fowler family; presented by Alitz Freedman, Manny’s daughter and Ethics Editor, Reuters

A native of Thailand, a graduate (Continued on Page 6)
After being deported from Yemen, Kate headed to Somalia where she covered, among other environmental and political stories, the effects of drought on the nomadic tribes in this Horn of Africa nation, the subject of her winning essay. Her interest lies in reporting the impact of climate change and the growing number of climate refugees. A graduate of the University of Colorado, Katie has an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Wall Street Journal in London.

Wei Zhou
University of North Carolina S&P AWARD FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS REPORTING Endowed by Standard & Poor’s; presented by David Guarino, Global Head of External Communications, McGraw Hill Financial

A third-year business journalism student, Wei believes that Western audiences need to better understand today’s China, a country rapidly growing into a capitalist state but where the process of industrialization comes at a price. In her essay, she wrote about how China’s stock market plunged last June affected individual investors. A native Mandarin speaker, she has an OPC Foundation fellowship in The Wall Street Journal Bureau in Shanghai.

Neha Thirani Bagri
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP Endowed by family, friends and admirers; presented by Roy Rowan

Isma’il’s career began as a four-month visit to his ancestral homeland of Sudan that turned into an eight-year stint in East Africa as a stringer for The New York Times and CNN, among others. There he covered the Eritrean refugee crisis, the subject of his essay. Fluent in Arabic and a graduate of UC-Davis, he is interested in covering Africa, its economy and infrastructure. A native of Karachi and currently a Fulbright scholar, Alizeh’s interest lies in documenting lives impacted by environmental change. In her essay, she wrote about the villages along the Indus River in Pakistan that bore the environmental consequences of the 1967 construction of the Tarbela dam. A graduate of the London School of Economics, she is fluent in English, Urdu/Hindi with some Punjabi, French and Spanish. She has an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters in Mexico City.

Russell Midori
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism NATHAN S. BIENSTOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Endowed by the Richard Leibner and Carole Cooper Family Foundation; presented by Richard Leibner, Co-President, Boies, a UTACo.

Russell learned cinematography as a Marine Corps combat videographer before earning his degree in broadcast journalism from Brooklyn College. His application contained a compelling short documentary on the security issues surrounding the recent presidential election in Haiti. As field producer and on-camera host, he focused on whether the Haitian National Police had succeeded in establishing safe, fair and violence-free polling stations.

Natha Kang
University of Chicago THE FRITZ BEEBE FELLOWSHIP Endowed by Anne and Larry Martz; presented by Larry Martz

Pursuing a combined bachelor/master degree in economic history in four years, Alex is intent on a career in business journalism. Fluent in French and learning German, he analyzed the explosive growth of low-cost airline carriers in Europe and the rest of the world and asked why their growth has not been as great in the U.S. He has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Brussels.

Alizeh Kohari
New York University THE WALTER & BETSY CRONKITE SCHOLARSHIP Funded by Daimler and Supported by CBS News and friends; presented by Tony Cavin, Deputy Foreign Editor, CBS News

A native of Karachi and currently a Fulbright scholar, Alizeh’s interest lies in documenting lives impacted by environmental change. In her essay, she wrote about the villages along the Indus River in Pakistan that bore the environmental consequences of the 1967 construction of the Tarbela dam. A graduate of the London School of Economics, she is fluent in English, Urdu/Hindi with some Punjabi, French and Spanish. She has an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters in Mexico City.
Ann Cooper, a professor at the Columbia Journalism School who served as NPR's first Moscow bureau chief from late 1986 to late 1991, called her era "the good years." At some point I realized the story I most wanted to do while in Russia was the disappearance of fear," she said. "For me that was the story of my era." David Hoffman, The Washington Post's Moscow correspondent from 1995 to 2001, said he had expected a closed society, but was shocked by the free flow of information. "We had no concept about how thin, how reversible, and how unsustainable it was," Hoffman said. But he added that there is some hope despite growing restrictions under Putin. "Vladimir Putin is not all of Russia. There's a ker- nel left. Those green shoots have not been completely destroyed." timothy frye, a professor at the Harriman Institute, cautioned against too much concern in the West over Putin's stranglehold on domestic media and its fervor for global "information wars.

"I think we need to take a step back and recognize that there are real limits on the extent to which governments can simply put out a message and have people respond to it," frye said. During the reunition's second panel with veteran corres- pondents, Seymour Topping, longtime opc member and former correspondent and editor for The New York Times, recalled reporting on the first signs of division in the Com- munist world soon after his arrival in Moscow for the Times in 1960, and on the Cuban Missile Crisis near the end of his stay in 1962. "It was very much a frightened city during the crisis," he said. "I would look at my four kids in double-deckers in our small apartment and wonder if there was a possibility of a missile."

Robert Kaiser, former managing editor and Russia cor- respondent for The Washington Post, landed in Moscow in 1971, when he said relations with the u.S. were "louzy."

He said the KGB was aggressive toward american cor- respondents, and the Soviets were fed up with the adminis- tration of president Richard Nixon, who was serving in his second year when Kaiserr arrived. Tom Kent, who works for The Associated Press and the Harriman Institute, covered Russia from 1976 to 1981 for the AP when Leonid Brezhnev was at the country's helm. He said Western correspondents were barely tolerated then; getting government interviews was difficult, and ordinary people were "programmed" to avoid foreigners. "In being isolated from ordinary people, and being cut off from official organizations, a lot of correspondents missed out on the general acceptance of the system and some of the accomplishments of the Soviet state," he said. Ann Cooper, a professor at the Columbia Journalism School who served as NPR's first Moscow bureau chief from late 1986 to late 1991, called her era "the good years." At some point I realized the story I most wanted to do while in Russia was the disappearance of fear," she said. "For me that was the story of my era." David Hoffman, The Washington Post's Moscow corre- spondent from 1995 to 2001, said he had expected a closed society, but was shocked by the free flow of information. "We had no concept about how thin, how reversible, and how unsustainable it was," Hoffman said. But he added that there is some hope despite growing restrictions under Putin. "Vladimir Putin is not all of Russia. There's a kernel left. Those green shoots have not been completely destroyed."
OPC SCHOLARS
Congratulations to 2008 Flora Lewis winner Caroline Haynie and 2014 H.L. Stevenson fellow Caelainn Hogan, who are among the eleven international journalists chosen by the International Reporting Project to report from southern Africa in May. Caelainn is a freelance journalist in Ireland whose work has been featured in The New Yorker, Harper’s, Al Jazeera English, VICE, The Guardian and The Irish Times. Devon is now an international news editor for U.S. News & World Report. Both were OPC editorial fellows in Africa for The Associated Press – Devon in Johannesburg and Caelainn in Lagos.

Meng Meng, the 2014 David R. Schweisburg Memorial Scholarship winner, is now working as a reporter/researcher in the Reuters bureau in Beijing.

2013 Nathan S. Bienneck Memorial Scholarship winner Jacob Kushner has spent more than a year documenting the impact of Uganda’s notorious anti-gay law on the lives of lesbians and gay men. His story, published by VICE in March, takes us into small communities of LGBT Ugandans in Kenya, where they still face danger and discrimination while waiting years to find out whether they will be allowed to emigrate.

Fatima Bhajani, the 2013 Theo Wilson scholarship winner, landed a story in Foreign Affairs in March. “How Isin Makes Bombs” shows how the supply chain that produces the terrorist group’s “unprecedented” numbers of improvised explosive devices.

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day, according to a January memo from Editor Davan Maharaj that was published in the L.A. Observed blog. Kraft’s role is to “shepherd and polish the top stories of the day” for web and print. Kraft has spent more than two decades with the paper, as a national and foreign correspondent as well as a news department head.

SAN FRANCISCO: Thomas Fuller, who has spent a decade covering Southeast Asia for The New York Times, has taken a new posting as the paper’s San Francisco bureau chief.

Longform publisher Matter is spinning off from Medium.com to become a stand-alone company called Matter Studios. “Essentially, Matter is going to be for digital storytellers what HBO and Amazon Studios are for TV makers, or what the best incubators are for startups,” Matter Studios co-founder Mark Lotto wrote in a blog post. Lotto added that the company would produce everything from “multimodal digital journalism, to podcasts and books, to live events, to streaming film, TV, and video, to new things we haven’t thought of yet.”

PULLMAN, Wash.: OPC member Lawrence Pintak is stepping down as head of the Edward R. Murrow School of Communications at Washington State University. Pintak, the school’s founding dean, will wrap up his duties by the end of the spring semester, and a search is underway to find a successor in order to spend a year researching and reporting on Islam and the U.S. presidential election. During Pintak’s seven-year tenure, the size of the faculty roughly doubled; student enrollment increased by 50 percent; faculty research output doubled; and research grants quadrupled.

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.: The Virginia Quarterly Review is putting Instagram at the forefront of its new series of nonfiction stories from around the world. OPC member Paul Reyes, the magazine’s deputy editor, tells the Nieman Lab blog that he hopes writers will use the @VQRtrueStory project to “push the limits of what can be done on this platform.” The stories go first to Instagram, then to the website with excerpts following in the print magazine. The series has reported from places including India, Lesotho, Greece and the U.S.

MIAMI: OPC member Jonathan Katz was part of Miami’s The Big Read celebration in February. Katz discussed his book about the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster. Katz is currently writing in residence at Duke University’s Franklin Humanities Institute.

SEDONA, Ariz.: OPC member Deborah Camily’s documentary (Dis)Honesty: The Truth About Lies played at the Sedona International Film Festival in February. The movie, which Camily produced, explores how and why people lie. Camily currently produces long-form documentaries for CNBC; she has previously worked at CBS and Reuters.

LEBOS, GREECE: OPC member Michal Irwin and painter Marie-Hélène Carleton are working on a documentary about the impact of the refugee crisis on Lesbos. They published a story and a video excerpt on the Vanity Fair website in early March about the crossing from Turkey to Greece known as the “Route of Death”: “Refugees and migrants pay smugglers an average of $1,000 per person to get on rubber dinghies stuffed with as many as 60 people and then cross treacherous waters in freezing conditions,” they write. “Often there isn’t enough room for everyone on board.” Other times an inexperienced driver guns the engine to get to Greek waters as quickly as possible, and burns out the motor.” Garen and Carleton are fundraising for the film at light onions.com.

LONDON: Journalists at The Independent are being asked to take steep pay cuts as the newspaper ends its print edition and goes online-only, The Guardian reports. The last issue of the Independent on Sunday was published in late March. More than 100 of the 160 journalists on staff are expected to lose their jobs, and the National Union of Journalists complained in a statement that for the remaining jobs, “pay and conditions on the digital side are worse.”

DOHA, QATAR: Just months after revealing plans to shut down its U.S. cable channel, Al Jazeera revealed further job cuts. The network announced an “optimization initiative” on its website on March 27, saying “around 500” jobs worldwide will be affected, the majority of which are in Qatar.” CNN reports that the Qatar-owned network has been hit by the falling price of oil.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Editor, correspondent and media critic Ben Bagdikian died on March 11 at age 96. Bagdikian began his career as a freelance journalist and died a stint as a Middle East correspondent before joining the Saturday Evening Post and eventually The Washington Post. He played a key role in obtaining and publishing the Pentagon Papers at the Post. His book The Media Monopoly, which warned about corporate control of the news, went through several editions.

Journalist and author Florence Hartmann was dragged screaming from the Hague in late March and jailed for five days while trying to attend the sentencing of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić. Hartmann was fined €700 in 2010 for violating a federal court’s order to disclose confidential information about the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The fine was later converted to a one-week sentence, even though Hartmann says she deposited the money in a French account. She argues that her book containing the information revealed the court’s attempts to cover up Serbia’s responsibility for the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

The Obama administration set a record in 2015 for unfulfilled Freedom of Information Act searches, according to the AP. In more than one-sixth of FOIA requests, government researchers said they were unable to find any relevant records. The administration also set a record for centers that refused to provide access to requested materials, which it did 77 percent of the time.

An annual survey from the Foreign Correspondents Club of China shows some improvement in wait times for correspondents’ visa and press card renewals in 2015, though international journalists continue to face challenges. About 87 percent of survey respondents received new residence visas within 10 working days, compared to a standard wait time of 15 days in 2014. Less than 4 percent reported problems renewing their press cards or visas. But the report notes that Chinese authorities refuse the press card and renewal process to punish journalists for content unfavorable to the government.

A Honduran court has sentenced journalist David Romero Ellner to 10 years in prison for defaming a prosecutor. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the court found that Romero had insulted Sonia Inez Gálvez Ferrari and reported inappropriately on her private life as part of a personal vendetta against his colleague, who directs Radio Globo and Globo TV, maintained that he was covering corruption.

The Republic of Congo blacked out telecommunications the day before the country’s March 21 presidential election and kept the ban in place for several days, preventing free and fair reporting on the vote, according to Reporters Without Borders. In addition, three French journalists had to leave and two from Agence France-Presse were reportedly attacked and had their equipment and passports seized by men who identified themselves as police. The items were later returned. The government reported that President Denis Sassou Nguesso had won re-election, but the opposition rejected the results and accused the administration of fraud.

A Venezuelan newspaper that has been printer for 82 years ended its run in mid-March, saying the state paper company had refused to supply it with newsprint. In a March 17 editorial, regional newspaper El Carabobeño wrote: “Today, a vile vendetta against her. Romero, who wrote: “Today, a vile vendetta against her. Romero, who...
Erdoğan Steps Up Crackdown on Press Freedom in Turkey

By Trish Anderton
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s simmering hostility toward the media has boiled over in recent days, culminating in the seizure of the country’s largest newspaper and its second-largest news agency.

The government took over the Cihan news agency on March 7. The move came just days after police took control of the newspaper Zaman, forcing its way into its offices while firing tear gas and using water canons to repel protesters.

The seizure of Cihan is “another nail in the coffin of journalism in Turkey,” journalist and free speech advocate Yalçın Baydar told The Guardian. The news agency, he added, “was known for independently monitoring each and every election in Turkey. The real effects of its closure cannot yet be understood, neither by the local nor by the global public.”

Both Zaman and Cihan belong to the Feza Gazetecilik Media Group, which is linked to influential cleric Fethullah Gülen, a former Erdoğan ally now living in self-imposed exile in the United States. Gülen and Erdoğan had a falling out in 2013 over accusations of corruption at the highest levels of the national government. Turkey has since labelled Gülen a terrorist, and Erdoğan has accused him of plotting to overthrow the government — a charge the cleric denies.

The latest media crackdown is about more than hammering a political foe, however, according to prominent newspaper editor Can Dundar. “Erdoğan wants to control all of the opposition media and is taking them over one by one,” Dundar told Deutsche Welle.

U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby called the Zaman takeover “the latest in a series of troubling judicial and law enforcement actions taken by the Turkish government targeting media outlets and others critical of it.” Reporters Without Borders accused Erdoğan of “moving from authoritarianism to all-out despotism.”

More than 15 journalists are currently jailed in Turkey, according to The Guardian. That number grew on March 8, when an Istanbul court sentenced newspaper editor Barış İnce to 21 months in prison for “insulting” Erdoğan.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu claimed the crackdown on the Feza Gazetecilik Media Group initiated solely in the judicial system. “Our government has no bearing in this,” he said. “It is completely a legal process. No one should have hesitation about press freedom in Turkey.”

Journalist reports. Ordaniza, 49, had covered topics including illicit gambling and the drug trade as a reporter for a radio station in the town of Prigota. The Philippines ranks fourth on the CPJ’s Global Impunity Index — a list of countries where killers of journalists go unpunished; the organization says at least 44 murders have taken place since September 2005 “with complete impunity.”

● 23-year-old community radio host Nicolás García was murdered by gang members on March 10 in the village of El Carrizal, Ahusachiquiapan, according to Reporters Without Borders. García allegedly refused the gang’s demand that they go on their payroll and report to them about police activities in the area. He had been hosting a local radio program advising residents on how to keep themselves safe.

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Valerie Hopkins

By Trish Anderton
Valerie Hopkins is a Kosovo-based journalist for the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network. She also freelances regularly from across the Balkans for Foreign Policy and Al Jazeera. Previously, she worked as web editor for the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a 2013 winner of the OPC Foundation’s Jerry Flint Internship for International Business Reporting, she interned for Thomson Reuters in Belgrade, Serbia. Before launching her career as a journalist, Hopkins worked for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and for a boutique election lawfirm in Washington, DC.

Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Education: M.A. Politics, Columbia Journalism School; B.A. International Relations (Post-Soviet Studies), College of William and Mary.

Languages: English, Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, Russian, Spanish.

First job in journalism: Reporting on trials from the war crimes chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s state court for the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network.

Countries reported from: Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Belgium, Albania, U.S.A.

Year you joined the OPC: 2011.

Why are you drawn to reporting on the Balkans? The Balkans have been out of the global focus since the end of the brutal wars of the 1990s but the effects of those wars remain and continue to be a primary component of political, economic and cultural life here. As a journalist interested in covering conflict, I hope the lessons I have learned covering the lingering effects of wars will enrich my reporting in the future. The religious and cultural mosaic of the Balkans has produced turbulent history but also powerful beautiful examples of solidarity and coexistence.

Major challenge as a journalist: With the global focus on Syria, Ukraine and elsewhere, it can sometimes be difficult to convince American editors that Balkan stories are not only relevant but important. However, Kosovo and Bosnia especially are both models of post-conflict state-building that will open a lot of doors. While I’m there I hope to also visit Socotra.

Most over-the-top assignment: Since October 2015, opposition parties in Kosovo have been setting off tear gas during Assembly meetings. Covering parliamentary sessions was once normal but has now turned into a circus, with many journalists now coming prepared with gas masks, scarves and water bottles.

Twitter handle: @Valeriein40

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

In 1972, Beate Klarsfeld flew to La Paz in search of former Nazi Klaus Barbie. Since Barbie was being protected by the dictatorship of Hugo Banzer, Klarsfeld had no power to get the so-called “Butcher of Lyon” arrested or extradited. So she used the powers she did have: bravery, theatricality, and a talent for PR. Klarsfeld chained herself to a bench in front of Barbie’s workplace, along with another woman whose children Barbie had sent to their deaths.

As Andrew Nagorski’s The Nazi Hunters [Simon and Schuster, May 2016] shows, Klarsfeld and her husband Serge had already invested considerable effort in Barbie. They had lobbied prosecutors in Munich to reopen his case, traced the former Nazi to Bolivia using a single photograph, and compiled a thick file of evidence proving his identity. The chaining stunt succeeded in drawing attention to Barbie. But it took the Klarsfelds many more years of work before he was convicted in 1987.

Barbie is just one of many former Nazis tracked down by Nazi hunters — some serving in official positions, and others working on their own. As Nagorski writes, “These pursuers demonstrated tremendous determination and courage as they kept up their fight even when the government representing the victors and the rest of the world grew increasingly indifferent to the fates of the Nazi war criminals.”

The Nazi hunters, like their prey, are passing away. As Nagorski points out, that “is why their stories can and should be told now.” His book captures their work in vivid and detailed prose. For journalists, it provides the added enjoyment of reading about other people’s investigative tricks and tools. The Nazi Hunters stands as both a tribute to, and a record, of a unique handful of people who devoted their lives to justice.

In 2013, The New York Times termed Paul Kagame “the global elite’s favorite strongman.” Kagame’s successes in Rwanda are undeniable; since conquering the capital and ending the horrific genocide of the early 1990s, he has turned Rwanda into an orderly and increasingly prosperous nation. Under his rule, child mortality has fallen by two-thirds while economic growth has chugged along at seven or eight percent.

But Kagame has eliminated dissent and stifled free speech with similar efficiency. As a result, writes Anjam Sundaram about his years there, the nation’s “beauty was corrupt. … It was possible to live here and love the calm eternally, but one would have to avoid knowing its center, avoid approaching it.”

In Bad News: Last Journalists in a Dictatorship [Doubleday January 2016], Sundaram describes the journalism training program he ran for nearly five years in Rwanda. One by one, promising students are murdered or forced into hiding. One is driven to the edge of madness; others give up and join the regime’s propaganda machine; still others are imprisoned. Eventually, the program itself is shut down.

Now, having written the book, Sundaram does not expect to return to Rwanda. “I don’t think I’ll be able to go back until the regime changes,” he recently told NPR.

This oppression, Sundaram points out, does not exist in a vacuum; it is supported by plentiful foreign aid. That does not appear likely to change anytime soon. “I have no problem with giving money to a dictator,” one diplomat tells Sundaram. “I’m proud to be giving him money... we will influence the government in the right direction.”

Foreign Affairs calls Bad News “an unsettling account of journalists under fire.” The Guardian praises it as “an important book that should shatter any lingering faith people might hold in Kagame’s hideous regime.”

— By Trish Anderton

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Upcoming Events

Mixer at The Half King
6:00 p.m. April 21

Annual Awards Dinner
6:00 p.m. April 28

Book Night: Nazi Hunters
6:00 p.m. May 18

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