



# DATELINE

## THE REFUGEE CALAMITY

JOURNALISM IN THE  
WAKE OF EUROPE'S  
TERROR STRIKES

WINNERS OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AWARDS  
2016 ANNUAL EDITION





REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar

# Reuters congratulates the winners of the 2015 Overseas Press Club Awards.

We honor and support the Overseas Press Club and the 2015 award winners,  
and wish them continued success.





## PRESIDENT'S LETTER | MARCUS MABRY

**W**elcome to the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual OPC Gala and to this outstanding issue of *Dateline*.

This event, and this magazine, celebrate the work that we do as journalists covering the world. Ours has become an increasingly hazardous profession, even as it has grown increasingly crucial to an ever-more-connected planet. That is why the OPC joined last year with the FRONTLINE Freelance Register, Reporters Without Borders, the Committee to Protect Journalists, DART, other advocacy groups and 90 news organizations to sign the Global Safety Principles and Practices for protecting freelancers in dangerous overseas assignments. Often the danger seems to grow in direct proportion to the importance of the work.

Sometimes the threat is to our lives, sometimes it is merely to our livelihoods. As our profession has faced economic and technological challenges and our jobs have become both harder and harder to come by, the world we cover has become harder too.

In the last months alone, a flood of human beings—we call them refugees or migrants, but they are people, like you and me, often with children, like you and me—has pushed its way to Europe merely seeking safety and security. At the same time homegrown European terrorists—not obviously dissimilar from millions of other alienated young men in the West—blew themselves and hundreds of civilians up in Brussels. This happened months after terrorists from the same cell killed more than 100 innocents in Paris.

We gather tonight not to bemoan this reality, but to confront it. That is what we do each day and night as photojournalists, reporters, editors, producers and publishers. Our role is to bear witness, and through fulfilling that mission, ensure that the suffering is not in silence, that the injustice is not unknown.

This issue of *Dateline* is charged with the power and determination of those who bear witness. From the extraordinary Deborah Amos of NPR, who shows us the faces and the lives of the often faceless masses pressing against Europe's now shuttered doors, to the indomitable Martin Smith of FRONTLINE, whose survey of the geopolitical interests of various Middle Eastern capitals in the fight against ISIS will chill your blood.

Vivienne Walt writes from a Paris changed by the attacks of last November, warning us of the dangers of our complacency and journalistic shortcomings. Anna Therese Day, who was recently detained in Bahrain, writes an essay on what it is really like to be a freelance foreign correspondent today that will open your eyes.

It is worth noting that Deborah, Martin and Vivienne all sit on the OPC Board of Governors, likely our most diverse in the club's 77-year history. The next generation of extraordinary journalists also sits on our Board, including Rukmini Callimachi of *The New York Times*, who has done as much as anyone to take us inside the terrible mind and tactics of Daesh, or the so-called Islamic State.

Rukmini was a double-award winner two years ago, for work she did as West Africa bureau chief for the Associated Press.

Speaking of award winners, tonight's will soon get to speak for themselves. Collectively and individually, they are the best of the best. They make us all proud to call ourselves journalists, none more so than the person and the organization to whom we will present The President's Award: David Fanning and PBS investigative series FRONTLINE.



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## PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT 2016

### DAVID FANNING

Founder and Executive Producer at Large  
of PBS investigative series FRONTLINE

# *CELEBRATING THIS YEAR'S WINNERS. TONIGHT YOUR STORY IS THE STORY.*

Citi would like to congratulate the winners of the 77th Annual Overseas Press Club Awards. Their efforts in keeping to the highest standards of journalism not only promote professional integrity, they promote progress.





## PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT 2016 | DAVID FANNING

The choice of the recipient of the President's Award falls solely to me as president of the OPC. And I cannot imagine a more worthy recipient than David, his successor as executive producer, Raney Aronson, and the team at FRONTLINE, given their work over the last three decades. That this award comes months after David announced that he would step down as FRONTLINE's executive producer is even more fitting. I am certain David will achieve great things yet, but this is most definitely an award for the achievements of a lifetime.

David grew up in a small town in South Africa in the 1950's and 60's, with—can you believe it?—no television and only government-run radio. His mother made a twice-weekly trip to the library and returned with books. David said they fed his curiosity and started him on his journey to report and make films about his own country, and in time, “so many others.”

David joins a long line of extraordinary laureates—from Ted Koppel and Tom Brokaw to Robert MacNeil and Neil Armstrong—yes, Neil Armstrong, for the first news reports from the moon.

Finally, tonight's event would not have been possible without the work of a whole village of volunteers. I want to thank the 86 judges who read, watched and listened to nearly 500

entries to parse all that excellence. I want to especially thank Robert Friedman for leading this crucial undertaking for the past three years.

A special note of gratitude goes to Bill Holstein, the former OPC president and current president of the OPC Foundation's board, who has led the dinner committee for a decade. And to his co-chair and successor, the indispensable Sarah Lubman.

The *Dateline* in your hands right now would not have been possible, literally, without Michael Serrill and Alexis Gelber, two of the finest magazine editors anywhere and also former OPC presidents. Thanks also to Nancy Novick, who created the handsome design. And the OPC wouldn't be possible without my fellow governors or without Office Manager Lucrecia “Boots” R. Duque, Web Manager and Social Media Editor Chad Bouchard, and especially Executive Director Patricia Kranz. Thank you all!

And to all my brothers and sisters of this privileged fraternity, please enjoy the night. You have earned it! ■

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*Marcus Mabry is a former foreign correspondent and chief of correspondents for Newsweek and a former editor of The New York Times. He is president of the OPC and managing editor of Twitter Moments.*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS



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**DATELINE | 2016** Editors: Michael Serrill, Alexis Gelber; Photo Editor: Robert Nickelsberg; Design: Nancy Novick  
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# | 2015 OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS



President's Letter	1
President's Award: David Fanning By Marcus Mabry	
Reporting a Calamity   The Syrian Refugee Crisis By Deborah Amos	6
Fighting ISIS   Clashing Agendas By Martin Smith	10
Europe Under Attack   How Paris Changed Us By Vivienne Walt	12
The Myth of the Reckless Young Freelancer By Anna Therese Day	14
<b>THE OPC ANNUAL AWARDS</b>	<b>19</b>
The Hal Boyle Award	20
The Bob Considine Award	20
The Robert Capa Gold Medal Award	21, 22-23
The Olivier Rebbot Award	24, 26-27
The John Faber Award	24, 28-29
The Feature Photography Award	25, 32-33
The Lowell Thomas Award	25
The David Kaplan Award	30
The Edward R. Murrow Award	30
The Ed Cunningham Award	31
The Thomas Nast Award	34, 36-37
The Morton Frank Award	34
The Malcolm Forbes Award	35
The Cornelius Ryan Award	35
The Madeline Dane Ross Award	38
The David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award	38
The Joe and Laurie Dine Award	39
The Whitman Bassow Award	39
The Robert Spiers Benjamin Award	40
Best Multimedia News Presentation	40
Best Investigative Reporting	41
Best Commentary	41
Where OPC Members Are Welcome	45

Above: a man suspected of membership in the youth militia of Burundi's ruling party emerges from a sewer pipe, where he fled from a mob protesting President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term. JEROME DELAY/AP

Cover: Battling high winds and rough seas, refugees arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos in October. TYLER HICKS/The New York Times



# REPORTING A CA

*NPR's Middle East reporter follows the flood of the displaced and the*



Volunteers assist refugees who traveled in a dinghy from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos in November. SANTI PALACIOS/AP

*By Deborah Amos*

In the great exodus of our time, the migrants paused for movie night in the farming village of Idomeni on the border between Greece and Macedonia. The bright lights of a projector, donated by local aid volunteers, cut through the dark winter gloom for a screening of *Wall-E*, featuring a child-like robot trapped in a dystopian world.

The Disney feature was a way to distract the children from their miserable surroundings for a few hours, but the adults knew all too well about dystopia. Idomeni had become another misery hotspot for refugees and migrants alike. It's a speck of a town grown to a dateline, with more than 12,000 inhabitants at one point last winter. The desperate and displaced had gathered at the latest gateway to Europe only to find that the door to the so-called "Balkan route" had slammed shut after the European Union and Turkey hammered out an agreement to stem the flow in marathon talks in Brussels.

It was five years ago in March that peaceful protests in Syria transformed into a brutal civil war and the first wave of

refugees crossed the borders into neighboring Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. I've witnessed every phase of the exodus, as the trickle became a torrent.

The harrowing scenes in the crowded camps on the Greek border are the latest chapter of the Syrian catastrophe, a symbol of another cruel failure of the international community. In Syria, proxy powers and regional competition take precedence over the suffering of so many civilians. The story has been a challenge to cover since the first protests in a Syrian farm town in March 2011. Reporting on the refugees' journey from Turkey to Greece and onward has been especially daunting. One refugee is a tragedy; two becomes a statistic. How to convey the calamity of this unprecedented movement of human beings? How to portray the motivation and the circumstances that would compel a family to walk the back lanes and forests of Europe in the freezing cold?

For every Syrian refugee, the choice is wrenching. Those who decide to pay smugglers for a seat on an unstable raft for a ride across the fatal waters of the Aegean Sea have chosen life over certain death in a war zone. They are convinced the only way to save their children is to risk their lives one more



# LAMITY | THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

*desperate out of Syria and into Europe.*



Iraqi Oman Saman holds one of his four children as he waits in October with other refugees in a soggy field in Slovenia near the Austrian border for European officials to determine his fate. CAROLYN COLE/*Los Angeles Times*

time on the open sea. In many ways, the journey is Darwinian—a real-life Hunger Games with a tangible prize: a future. The grand prize, on offer via German Prime Minister Angela Merkel's open door policy, is a job, free education, a stable government, and perhaps even a European passport.

This summer I watched in southern Turkey as the exodus started to build. Most Syrians didn't want to leave their country. They clung to their homeland as long as possible, even as it crumbled around them. Turkey was seen as a temporary refuge; a place to wait out the war. But by the summer of 2015, many Syrians concluded the wait could last for a generation.

As the summer weather reduced the risk of a sea crossing in flimsy boats, the exodus to Europe began as soon as the school year ended. "A lot of this is about education," explained Rae McGrath, Mercy Corps' country director for Turkey and northern Syria. "The one thing that all (Syrian) parents say, and it's always the same—education," he added, citing one reason that so many had decided to abandon Turkey for the dangerous trip.

Turkey has been very welcoming to Syrians, but the language barrier meant many refugee children had not been in school for

years. Syria's exiled professional class had organized a private school system along the border, but in the summer of 2015 more than a dozen Syrian schools in Turkey that offered courses in Arabic were closing because private donations had dried up.

Surprisingly, a second wave of migrants to Europe came from pro-government areas inside Syria. "Mostly, what I've seen is people coming directly from regime areas to Turkey to get out," explained Bassam Al-Kuwatli, a Canadian-Syrian who moved to Turkish border town of Gaziantep to help the opposition. "It's pro-regime and anti-regime."

The best and the brightest joined the wave. International aid agencies that deliver food aid and medicine into northern Syria lost their most qualified local staff, doctors and dentists, to the pull of Europe, where there is a path to re-licensing to open practices again.

In July, I met 29-year-old Syrian activist Hiba Ezzideen in Gaziantep. Her resumé was typical. A college English professor before the war, Ezzideen first joined the protests against Syrian President Bashar al Assad in 2011 because she believed that the popular demonstrations could transform her country.





Migrants escorted by riot police walk in October to a camp outside Dubova, Slovenia, to register as refugees. SERGEY PONOMAREV/  
*The New York Times*

*One refugee is a tragedy; two becomes a statistic. How to convey the calamity of this unprecedented movement of human beings? How to portray the motivation and the circumstances that would compel a family to walk the back lanes and forests of Europe in the freezing cold?*

Ezzideen had accomplished more than most. She founded the first women's center in Syria's northwestern city of Idlib after rebels liberated the surrounding countryside. She continued her work when radical Islamists took control of the provincial capital of Idlib. She organized a network of journalists to challenge the growing power of the militants. She fled to Gaziantep when militants threatened to kill her, but continued to support her network of reporters inside Idlib from Turkey.

This dynamic activist seemed committed to sticking it out to shape Syria's future when we talked on a quiet summer day near the Syrian border. Yet a few weeks later her resolve had collapsed. "Suddenly, I felt we are doing nothing serious for the people," Ezzideen explained via Skype when I reached her in a refugee camp on the German border a few weeks after we met on the Turkish border. "It was one night. I have to make a decision. I didn't sleep. Is there a future in Turkey? And I said 'no.'"

After posting her decision on Facebook, she set off alone from southern Turkey for a journey of more than 1,000 miles. She paid for a seat on an overcrowded raft, rode in a sealed truck, walked through a forest, slept on the street and in a jail cell to reach northern Europe. Ezzideen had weighed all the risks. She consulted Facebook and Internet forums that explained every step along the way, listing the ferry schedules, cheap hotels and the best answers to border guard interrogations to ensure a smooth passage.

Still, the harrowing journey was filled with unexpected dangers. Ezzideen survived two failed attempts to escape

by sea. Smugglers stopped one crowded boat at gunpoint to steal the engine in the dead of night, forcing passengers to paddle back to the Turkish shore and try again. On her second attempt, an overcrowded wooden ferry began to sink after five hours lost in the water. "The Greek coast guard rescued us. They were yelling at us, 'Why do you keep coming?'" she recalled.

The landing on the Greek island was the beginning of a 20-day odyssey through the "Balkan route." Her traveling companions included a wounded rebel commander and a regime supporter from Damascus. Now, they were all in the same boat. "In my camp, more than half of the people are (regime) supporters," Ezzideen said of the refugee center where she was staying in March. "Really – it's strange." She asked that her exact location not be disclosed. But I can see her new post on LinkedIn. It's Hiba, without a head scarf, in full make up, a dynamic young woman who will find her future in Europe.

As of mid-March, the route she took to escape Syria was closed. A string of Balkan nations had shut their borders tight, leaving more than 30,000 migrants stranded in Greece. ■

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*Deborah Amos covers the Middle East for National Public Radio. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the OPC and author of the book Eclipse of the Sunnis. Awards include the George Polk and DuPont-Columbia, but she is most proud of recent teaching fellowships, mentoring journalism students at SUNY, Columbia and Princeton.*



# Congratulations to this year's award winners!



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Above: A funeral procession for five people, including two doctors, who were killed when ISIS exploded a car bomb near two ambulances during the battle for the town of Kobani, Syria. GABRIELE MICALIZZI/Cesura

# FIGHTING ISIS | CLASHING AGENDAS

By Martin Smith

**W**hy is it taking so long to defeat ISIS? That's a question I hear all the time, as I've reported on the group's rise these past few years. With that in mind I traveled throughout the Middle East this January and February for an upcoming Frontline documentary, "Confronting ISIS," pressing officials in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey to explain how they see the fight, how they think the war is going and what they recommend.

To listen to the current crop of presidential candidates, defeating ISIS is just a matter of enlisting more of our regional allies' help. We need to build a coalition of Sunni Arab nations, the candidates all say, to form a ground force to go in and take ISIS out. If only it were so simple.

Reporting from the ground, it is readily clear America's regional allies have widely divergent views and a set of priorities that often don't coincide with our focus on ISIS. More than anything, this divergence has helped to make the conflict complicated and drawn out. Welcome to the Middle East.

Of course, no country in the region wants to see ISIS thrive. Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey have all been victims of attacks, and their own stability is at risk. Yet when you travel the region and talk to officials, you see that ISIS is just one of many pressing issues that worry them. I heard it over and over: "ISIS, we don't like them, but they are just a symptom...."

Saudis, Emiratis, Kuwaitis, Jordanians and Turks all see ISIS as a symptom of Shia oppression in Iraq and Assad's war in Syria. Fighting ISIS is getting it backwards, attacking the symptom and not the disease, they say.

One former White House official recently complained to me that it has been a struggle to get our Middle Eastern allies to see things our way. It didn't start out that way. Initially, after President Obama announced the formation of America's anti-ISIS coalition, pledging to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the group, Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E., Jordan and Qatar geared up to help us with great fanfare. Stories were written about their courageous pilots. In the West, their participation was lauded.

Over time that has changed. U.S. military officials and diplomats have told me that today the number of airstrikes by America's Middle Eastern partners has fallen to near zero. And the Obama administration continues to be very frustrated by the half-hearted efforts of the Sunni states, notably Saudi Arabia, to counter those who support ISIS in their midst.

Cooperation began to fray early. Just three months into the fight, after Jordanian pilot Muath al-Kasasbeh was shot down by ISIS and captured, governments began to reassess their participation. Then in February 2015, ISIS posted Kasasbeh's gruesome death—he was set on fire while locked in a cage. Jordan responded with some well-publicized airstrikes and the execution of two prisoners. But very soon the country's appetite for confrontation waned. Already reeling from a large influx of Syrian refugees, Jordan backed off, reluctant to keep stirring the hornet's nest and risk ISIS attacks inside its own borders. According to a member of parliament, Jordan has not flown an airstrike since August 2015.

General Ahmed Assisi of the Saudi Ministry of Defense insists Saudi Arabia is still deeply engaged in the fight. And the country is continuing to provide the U.S. with key intelligence and operational support. But U.S. officials say that the Saudis are today flying few if any missions. I asked General Assisi





Center: Residents search through rubble after what they said was an airstrike by forces loyal to Bashar Assad in the rebel-controlled Douma neighborhood of Damascus. MOHAMMED BADRA/Reuters. Right: ISIS fighters captured by Kurdish forces in Syria. GABRIELE MICALIZZI/Cesura

## PLAYERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS DON'T ALWAYS SEE THE TERRORIST GROUP AS THE MAIN ENEMY.

how many bombing sorties targeting ISIS the Saudis have made. I'm still waiting for his answer.

Saudi Arabia has been distracted by events in Yemen. Since March 2015, the Kingdom has been leading efforts to combat that country's Iranian-backed Houthi fighters. That proxy fight with Saudi Arabia's arch rival has overshadowed the fight against ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

Kuwait and the U.A.E. are also involved in helping Saudi Arabia in Yemen. Their fight against ISIS is no longer their top priority.

And then there is Turkey. Here the government delayed its full cooperation for nearly a year, focused more on fighting separatist Kurds along its southeastern border. Turkish officials considered the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and its affiliate in northern Syria, the People's Protection Units (YPG), the most immediate threat to the country—worse than ISIS. They've said so openly.

When the U.S. airdropped weapons and ammunition in October 2014 to support Syrian Kurds of the YPG fighting ISIS for control of the Syrian border town of Kobani, Turkish tanks and troops stood by. President Recip Tayyip Erdogan was furious that the U.S. had decided to supply and support the YPG.

Also, despite angry exchanges between President Obama and Erdogan, the Turks, a NATO ally, wouldn't allow the U.S. to use its airbase at Incirlik, forcing US planes to launch strikes on ISIS from bases many miles away. Turkey has since opened Incirlik but has continued to target the YPG forces, despite the fact that the YPG is America's principal and most reliable ground ally in the fight against ISIS.

Meanwhile, sectarian tensions continue to fester in Iraq. The central government, without a strong national army, has relied on Iranian-backed Shia militias to confront ISIS. The results have been disastrous. After US airstrikes routed ISIS

from Tikrit, Iranian-backed Shia militia mounted dozens of revenge attacks against Sunni residents of Saddam Hussein's hometown and in neighboring provinces as well. In their eyes, all Sunnis are ISIS collaborators; many were tortured or murdered, some beheaded in ISIS fashion. I saw whole neighborhoods destroyed, houses leveled and listened to horrific accounts of violence. In the wake of the Tikrit attacks, the U.S. persuaded Iraqi prime minister Haider al Abadi to keep Shia militias at bay during the recent battle to retake the city of Ramadi from ISIS. Yet Abadi has assured his countrymen that when the battle is joined to reconquer Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, the militias will be involved.

As the fight against ISIS approaches its third year, a host of competing interests have taken their toll on the Obama administration's patience. Last December, President Obama was notably frank about his concern and called on these regional partners in the Middle East to do more: "Just as the United States is doing more in this fight—just as our allies France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, Australia and Italy are doing more—so must others," he said. The next day, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter arrived in the region, where he pressed officials in Turkey and Saudi Arabia to step up their efforts. What will result is as yet unclear. ■

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*Martin Smith, a member of the Board of Governors of the Overseas Press Club, has been a producer and correspondent for PBS's Frontline since 1984. He has received numerous honors for his reporting from the Middle East, including both silver and gold DuPont-Columbia batons, the Weintal Career Prize for Diplomatic Reporting, the John Chancellor Career Award from Columbia University, three Writers Guild awards and an Edward R. Murrow Award from the OPC.*





# HOW PARIS CHANGED US EUROPE UNDER ATTACK

*By Vivienne Walt*

**F**riday, November 13, 2015 was a strangely balmy night in Paris, the kind that makes visitors fall in love with the city. People spilled out of the cafés, winding down the workweek over glasses of wine, their chatter and laughter creating a soft hubbub on the streets, as pedestrians sidestepped the crowds.

And then, in a few ghastly moments, everything changed. When the news first broke of automatic gunfire, there was a moment when some people, including me, thought that the idyllic evening had perhaps been shattered by a gang fight: unsettling, for sure, but outside our realm, and to be honest, our concern. Then came another attack, and another, and another, and another. Three teams of gunmen/suicide bombers rampaged through the 10th and 11th arrondissements, aiming their weapons at the sidewalk cafés, and into the packed

auditorium of the Bataclan concert hall. They targeted the very heart of what people relish about Paris—the city’s easy, flirty atmosphere tinged with flair, beauty and intelligence. In just two hours, in France’s worst terror attack in history, 129 people lay dead; one more died later. And there was another casualty, too: the protective membrane that has long sealed us off from the realities just out of view, was punctured.

In the aftermath, Paris is a different place. “Changed” may be too strong a word, but the optic on our world has shifted. In a city usually swarming with tourists, many thousands of visitors have stayed away. Soldiers patrol the streets, rifles in hand. We instinctively open our bags before entering department stores, and spread our arms for magnetic wand searches. Inside, we take furtive glances around.

For those of us journalists living in Europe, those habits are not new, of course. Until now, however, many of us have largely used them in that other side of our reporting lives: In the field,



JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE WERE ACCUSTOMED TO COVERING HATE AND TERROR IN THE FIELD, NOT AT HOME. THEN THE STORY ARRIVED ON OUR DOORSTEPS.



rather than back home. Sure, there has been regular terror in Europe, including the Madrid train bombing in 2004, the London bombings in 2005, and on March 22, bombs in Brussels' airport and Metro system. Yet for years, many of us Europe-based correspondents have jetted in and out of gleaming airport hubs to far rawer datelines in Central Asia and the Middle East, covering this century's dominant narrative—hate and terror—before returning to our comfortable cities to catch our breath, and plan our next assignments. The two realities have allowed us to limit the risks, balancing them on a scale, and knowing that we could always opt to stay home, and stay safe.

But on November 13, the story finally made its way to our doorsteps. That might be why the Paris attacks felt deeply personal to so many, and why their impact in the news has been so amplified. As we swarmed into the Place de la République for huge vigils, the relatives of the dead, and the victims themselves, seemed like us, urban professionals who had been out having fun on a Friday night. A banner in the square under the Marianne statue, above the melted candles and withered bouquets, reads “même pas peur”—roughly translated as “we are not afraid”—a slogan that is surely as fitting for journalists as anyone else. The Paris attacks were not aimed at a particular nationality, allegiance, or even faith (several victims were Muslim). It targeted a way of life: ours. And unlike 9/11, or Syria, the attackers were not foreigners, sent by a far-off emir or conducting executions in the desert. They were born-and-raised Europeans, a few from the banlieues just a short train ride away, who looked their fellow Europeans in the eye and then shot them dead, before blowing themselves up.

With the dividing wall in our journalistic lives now breached, there is much to think about. We correspondents in Paris are left grappling with crucial questions about our work, sometimes within the press club for American and British correspondents, which now holds its monthly happy hour—on a Friday night—in one of the cafés where the gunmen murdered five people on November 13.

First question is how scattershot the reporting by English-speaking journalists is from the banlieues, where virtually none of us lives, and which many journalists probably visited just twice during 2015: after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in January, and in the aftermath of the November attacks. In the U.S., the erratic coverage has been made far worse in recent years as many news organizations have shut their Paris bureaus and let their stringers drift away.

Then there is the question of how we failed to grasp the major threats unfolding close by, even while we focused intently on the Syrian war thousands of miles away, and on the overwhelming migrant crisis it has spawned in Europe. After all, almost all the Paris attackers were known to police, either in France, or in Belgium, where most of them came from one tiny neighborhood.

Weeks after the attacks, TIME dispatched me to Brussels, a 90-minute train ride away, to try to understand how the devastating plot had been hatched under the noses of officials seemingly asleep on the job. I could stand in the office of the local mayor and look across the square into the apartment of some of the Paris attackers (all but one believed dead) before walking over and ringing their doorbells. It took Belgian police more than four months to corner that one fugitive attacker, on March 18, right in his neighborhood just a few blocks from the precinct. That was hardly the end of the story. Four days later, his accomplices blew themselves up in Brussels Airport and in a subway train, killing at least 31 people and injuring about 260 others. Once again, crowds of shaken residents huddled in a grand public square, grieving not only for the dead, but also for a lost insouciance—the high price paid for years of governments' slow-footedness. “It's like they were blind,” one Belgian journalist told me, describing his country's officials. “They saw the screws on the Titanic, but not the whole ship.”

That's easy to say, with hindsight. But the same might also be said for journalists, who had regularly quoted intelligence officials warning that a spectacular attack in Europe—somewhere, sometime—seemed likely. Now, those same officials are predicting an attack even bigger than Paris and Brussels. “It will have terrible consequences,” one intelligence veteran tells me.

How we cover the next horrific attack will depend not only on our journalistic smarts. It will also rest on our editors' wavering appetites for the quiet lulls in between. With little demand from our news organizations to go deep inside communities, journalists often find themselves scrambling for sources, and understanding, when major news occurs—as it is sure to do again. The days of a big Paris foreign press corps might be gone forever. But if the attacks have proved anything, it is that Europe is no longer a place for frontline journalists simply to rest up before flying off to the next hotspot. ■

*Based in Paris, Vivienne Walt covers the region for TIME and Fortune magazines, and is a board member of the OPC.*

Left: People run after hearing what is believed to be explosions or gun shots near Place de la République in Paris on November 15, 2015.

Above: Rescuers evacuate an injured person near the Bataclan concert hall in central Paris, November 14, 2015. DOMINIQUE FAGET/AFP Images

# COVERING CONFLICTS

# THE MYTH OF THE RECKLESS YOUNG FREELANCER



High stakes and calculated risks: Day and colleagues reporting in Bahrain before their imprisonment on charges that escalated to “participation in unlawful protest,” “rioting,” and “terrorism” after they refused to cooperate with authorities when asked for their sources.

COURTESY OF THE PEOPLE OF SITRA VILLAGE, BAHRAIN

*By Anna Therese Day*

**I**n February 2016, three colleagues and I were arrested, interrogated, and imprisoned while reporting on the five-year-anniversary of Bahrain’s popular uprising.

We were initially apprehended with Mazen Mahdi, a Bahraini photographer who faces ongoing threats, surveillance, and interrogation for continuing his work. In 2014, he survived abuse at the hands of Bahraini authorities who arrested him for covering local demonstrations.

We were detained by the same police who arrested my colleague Nazeeha Saeed, a television reporter who, like me, cut her journalistic teeth reporting the larger-than-life stories of the Arab Spring. During her detention, she was blindfolded, beaten with a hose-pipe, punched, kicked, and subjected to electric

shocks. One police officer shoved her head in a toilet; another poured urine on her face. To this day, her torturers walk free.

We were held in the same facilities where our colleagues, Abdulkarim al-Fakhrawi and Zakariya Rashid Hassan al-Ashiri, died of “kidney failure” and “sickle-cell anemia” respectively, according to Bahraini authorities. Their bodies were released from police custody with damning indications of torture.

These crimes against journalists show just how much is at stake for our colleagues who work under repressive regimes—threats at a scale of which our team likely never faced in Bahrain as U.S. passport-holders. These stories illustrate precisely why our team was reporting on the Bahraini uprising and how much worse the situation could have become for our sources had safety precautions not been taken from the onset. In this article, I’d like to focus on how professional



development opportunities, provided through the Global Safety Principles & Practices prevented a far worse outcome for me, my colleagues, and, most importantly, our sensitive Bahraini sources. More succinctly, I'd like to explain why A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance, the new industry-wide movement to provide freelance reporters with professional support, is so important for a freelance journalist like me.

As the Arab Spring erupted, so did the wave of young freelance journalists. We accepted, if not gleefully embraced, the "opportunities" presented by mainstream news outlets who offered "digital" rates in place of previous print or broadcast standards. In retrospect, we were often the scabs that allowed these organizations to survive the record layoffs of our veteran colleagues. Yet many of those same veteran reporters, newly freelance, were the very journalists who used their expensed hotel rooms to house young freelancers in Libya. In Syria, it was Toby Muse, formerly of the AP, who helped me write my first accepted print pitch; photographer Carlos Palma who calmed me by explaining how adrenaline affects your peripheral vision and can lead to chilling flashbacks; photographer Andrew Stanbridge who shared Cipro to relieve a debilitating stomach bug while bombs dropped on us in Aleppo province; and a hotel lobby full of veteran journalists who not only assured me that I was right to burn a bridge with a news outlet to protect a source, but also offered up their Rolodexes to find a new publisher.

In moments of despair, it was Roy Gutman, formerly of McClatchy, who not only tirelessly mentored young journalists in the craft of print reporting, but also provided us with the perspective to understand that, even if our work wasn't ending an unthinkable war, a single story that honors one family's pain is always worth it.

In a different vein, but an issue that must be noted: as a young woman, it was the countless number of veteran women journalists, as well as the International Women's Media Foundation, who extended outrage, services, and solidarity in cases of sexual harassment, which has left too many of my colleagues feeling violated.

By 2012, after the tragic deaths of Marie Colvin, Anthony Shadid, and other industry heroes, most news organizations pulled their staffers from Syria. The responsibility shifted to freelancers—80 percent of the coverage of the Syrian war came from us. By the end of that year, after many of our freelance colleagues had been killed or abducted, the award-winning photographer Ayman Oghanna bravely posted what would become a manifesto for our organization. His Facebook post railed against outlets asking freelancers to work on spec in Syria, "because members of my journalism tribe have been killed there. Other members are missing there, yet to be found... That is a precedent that should never have been set.



Safe resolution: Day and her team were released within 72 hours of their arrest. MAZEN MAHDI

*These crimes against journalists show just how much is at stake for our colleagues who work under repressive regimes. They confront threats at a scale our team likely never faced in Bahrain as U.S. passport-holders.*

It actively encourages freelancers to take risks and die alone without any support."

In early 2013, Aris Roussinos (now of VICE News) responded to the chorus of victim-blaming directed at young freelance journalists who had been swept up by the risks of this job. "The pressure comes from the industry," he argued. "On the one hand, [they're] saying 'inexperienced freelancers are taking reckless risks, what are these wild crazy kids up to these days?' and then you've got other people, perhaps at the same organization, saying 'there's not enough bang-bang, go back and get some more fighting.'"

Much has changed since these statements were made. Later in 2013, with the support of the London-based Frontline Club and the White Paper on Freelance Journalism Safety that it commissioned, our colleagues were able to formalize all the peer-to-peer efforts of freelance journalists by establishing the Frontline Freelance Register (FFR), the only representative body organized by conflict reporters for conflict reporters. FFR works to address the immediate needs of our members, while also negotiating with the industry and self-policing our community. By 2014, after the sickening broadcast of the murder of our colleagues, allies within the industry—including the OPC—helped FFR and other journalist safety groups create better industry standards for freelance journalists. By early 2015, the Global Safety Principles and Practices, were adopted and signed by industry leaders, journalist safety groups, freelancers, and others—a movement now known as A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance.

As a result of this process, I completed my first hostile environment training (HEFAT) with Global Journalist Security, a

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**Bloomberg**



DC-based hostile environment training-provider, in the summer of 2015. I'd been reporting from Syria, Gaza, Egypt, and Libya for years at this point with only the mentorship of veteran colleagues, Rory Peck Trust's Risk Assessment & Communications Plans (a free online guide for preparation and emergency planning), and a free first aid training, provided by the tireless efforts of Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues (RISC)). I had previously asked two different long-term clients to support my HEFAT (given that the current costs of these trainings are prohibitively expensive for freelancers due to the industry's unprofessional rates). Each gave reasons as to why they could not absorb the HEFAT expense at that time. In the spring of 2015, one of those clients signed the Global Safety Principles & Practices, and, by pointing our producer to that agreement, my team and I were able to negotiate our first HEFAT before an upcoming shoot.

It was this HEFAT that honed our skills in digital security — a skill that turned out to be the single most important aspect of our preparation for the Bahrain shoot. This training allowed us to communicate securely with contacts, to securely upload our footage while reporting, and to remotely wipe all of our devices when we were arrested. Had these measures not been taken to the most stringent level of application, our sources could have been jeopardized as we flew out on our US Embassy-facilitated deportation.

In terms of our emergency plan, it again was Rory Peck Trust's Risk Assessment and Communication Plans that served as the roadmap that provided our colleagues and families with a detailed outline on activating our emergency plan, dealing with government and NGO allies, coordinating with my colleagues at FFR, and mobilizing a media strategy — all of which no doubt contributed to our quick release.

Like Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times*, Ben Anderson of VICE, Jonathan Miller of Channel 4 News, and most international news outlets covering Bahrain, we made the decision, based on our team's unique risk profile and the facts on the ground, to enter Bahrain without official Bahraini press credentials. Like our colleagues, we were meeting with sources that risk arrest, torture, or worse for speaking out about government oppression or meeting with journalists who may or may not be monitored by the regime. We consulted with the Committee to Protect Journalists' best practices on press credentials, ensuring that we were traveling with international press cards and evidence of our status as journalists. These press cards helped the Embassy lobby against our charges — charges that were initially related to "entry on a tourist visa vs. media visa" (for which the penalty is a fine and deportation) but later escalated to "participation in unlawful protest," "rioting," and "terrorism" after we refused to cooperate with authorities when asked for our sources.

Our team was ultimately released within 72 hours of our arrest, deported to Dubai, and endured limited abuse in detention. To this day, we stand by our difficult but calculated decision to report without press credentials in this specific context. Given the state of press freedom around the world, we will likely find ourselves in a situation where we take that same calculated risk, a risk that journalists, freelance or staff, have taken for generations.

While we would hope that, as a community, all of these security measures would be common practice, many outlets

still do not require or encourage this kind of preparation on freelance assignments. Many organizations do not have the institutional memory, capacity, or expertise to support us when we undertake these security measures ourselves. Too often have I and my FFR colleagues found ourselves training the very editors and producers that commission us.

This is why ACOS is so important for us freelancers, why we are immensely grateful for industry participation, but why we also need even more urgency from our industry partners in terms of implementation.

Through generous donations from Rory Peck Trust, the International Women's Media Foundation, and Reuters, many more of us were able to obtain our hostile environment train-

*Hostile environment training honed our skills in digital security. That allowed us to communicate securely with contacts, securely upload our footage, and remotely wipe our devices when we were arrested. Had these measures not been taken to the most stringent level, our sources could have been jeopardized.*

ing last year. These HEFATs are invaluable for us; in the case of our arrest in Bahrain, the training may have saved lives.

Yet an equally, if not more valuable contribution from our industry partners, is cultivating an internal urgency on the elements of ACOS that include structural reform, particularly on pay and contracts.

To put it bluntly, we need our industry allies to demand that invoices are processed on time and that expenses are transferred in advance. These payment issues are not only unprofessional and unethical, but they are also illegal in other industries and extremely dangerous in ours. And we need our industry partners to ask for what ACOS, FFR, and our individuals members can't negotiate with companies, but what Sebastian Junger, perhaps our most loyal and indefatigable ally, has: professional pay. Sebastian Junger and RISC Training issued a statement last year about training and pay in which rates and standards are outlined. We need our allies within the industry to stand by us in this uphill battle for fair, professional rates. Fair pay is directly and inextricably linked to safety in the field: it affects the decisions we make on the ground, and when companies cut corners on pay, it forces our colleagues to cut corners on our safety.

The stakes have never been higher for freelance journalists around the world. As FFR co-founder Emma Beals recently put it, we can and must eliminate the threat from within. ACOS has the potential to mend the rifts between news organizations and freelancers and to change the industry's safety standards as a whole. For freelance journalists, the failure to seize this moment is not just a missed opportunity; we've seen firsthand that it could be the difference between life and death. ■

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*Anna Therese Day is an award-winning independent journalist. Her work has appeared on CNN, Al Jazeera, VICE, and in The New York Times. She is a founder of Frontline Freelance Register (FFR).*

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# ANNUAL AWARDS 2015

## OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA



Inmates suffer from acute overcrowding at the Pedrinhas Prison Complex in Maranhao state, Brazil. MARIO TAMA/Getty Images

*By Robert Friedman, Awards Chairman*

Journalists covering some of the biggest news events of 2015—the plight of Syrian refugees, terrorist attacks in Paris and an earthquake in Nepal—won Overseas Press Club awards this year for their compelling and often courageous reporting. But it was a fresh look at the centuries-old problem of human bondage that won top honors in two categories for the Associated Press’s “Seafood From Slaves.” The series, by Martha Mendoza, Margie Mason, Robin McDowell and Esther Htusan, was a richly reported exposé about the use of slaves in the fishing industry in Southeast Asia. The AP team interviewed captive workers, tracked boatloads of fish and identified stores where the tainted seafood was sold. Their work led to the freeing of more than 2,000 people, the jailing of owners and promises of reform by some of the world’s largest food retailers.

Judges in 22 categories, 86 of them in all, sifted through more than 480 entries looking for gold. They found it in many parts of the world, from Afghanistan to Zambia, and in a wide variety of media, from traditional newspapers such as the *New York Times*, which won four awards, to more specialized outlets like *Foreign Policy*, which won two. Winners included the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which deployed 50 reporters from 21 countries to produce a series of pieces about how projects funded by the World Bank had displaced more than 3.4 million people from their homes over the past decade; the *Financial Times* for “ISIS Inc.” about the terrorist group’s financing; and the *New York Review of Books* for its illuminating essays about France under siege by Columbia University Professor Mark Lilla.

This is the third year I have served as awards chairman, and I continue to be impressed by the range and depth of reporting from abroad. While many publications have cut back on foreign bureaus and reduced the amount of space they devote to international matters, other media organizations have stepped up their efforts. On behalf of all the judges, I would like to salute those who continue to bear witness to the horrors that engulf us, often putting their lives on the line. It is an honor to honor them. ■

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*Robert Friedman, Awards Chairman, is Editor-at-Large, Bloomberg News*



# OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2015

## 1. The Hal Boyle Award

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

This series was awarded both the Hal Boyle and the Malcolm Forbes Awards

**Martha Mendoza, Margie Mason, Robin McDowell and Esther Htusan**

The Associated Press

“Seafood From Slaves”

In a series of powerful, touching and scrupulously reported stories and videos, a team of Associated Press reporters exposed an ugly truth behind much of the inexpensive seafood on our tables—it is produced by people held captive for years and even decades in Thailand’s seafood industry. The use of slaves to fish for seafood in some parts of the world was widely suspected. But the AP team



Martha Mendoza



Margie Mason



Robin McDowell,



Esther Htusan

doggedly located and interviewed captive slaves and followed specific loads of slave-caught seafood to supply chains of particular brands and stores. The effort resulted in the freeing of more than 2,000 slaves, the jailing of a dozen people, the shuttering of businesses and the seizing of ships worth millions of dollars. It spawned calls for action and promises of reform from some of the world’s largest food retailers. The series exemplified foreign correspondence at its best: bearing witness, uncovering the truth and making a difference in people’s lives.

**Citation:** Patrick McDonnell, Christopher Goffard, Laura King, Kate Linthicum and Henry Chu

Los Angeles Times

“Fleeing Syria”

**Sponsor:** Norman Pearlstine in memory of Jerry Flint

**Judges:** Scott Kraft (head), Los Angeles Times; Hannah Allam, McClatchy; Scott MacLeod, American University of Cairo; Rebecca Blumenstein, The Wall Street Journal; Amy Wilentz, University of California Irvine

(Judge Kraft recused himself from final citation selection)

## 2. The Bob Considine Award

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

**Reuters Team**

Reuters

“The Long Arm of China”



REUTERS



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This expose of how China has created a secret, national broadcast network within the United States is fresh, original and a significant contribution to an increasingly important subject. Time and again the reporters' questions took even the interviewees by surprise. The in-depth investigative reporting had impact by bringing a previously hidden operation to light, using a crisp, clear, well-edited and well-written style.

**Citation:** The Washington Post Staff

The Washington Post  
"Confronting the Caliphate"

**Sponsor:** William J. Holstein and Rita Sevell

**Judges:** Amanda Bennett (head), freelance; Melissa Pozsgay, Bloomberg News; Kelu Chao, Voice of America; Linda Fasulo, freelance

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### 3. The Robert Capa Gold Medal Award

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

**Bassam Khabieh**

Reuters

"Field Hospital Damascus"

Bassam Khabieh's images put into perspective the tremendous danger and difficulty of being a photojournalist in current-day Syria, and they shine a spotlight on the exodus from the region. Further setting this entry apart from the others was the courage and enterprise required not only to cover but live day in and day out in one of the most hostile and unpredictable environments on the planet.

(Judge Latif recused himself from final award selection)

**Citation:** Jerome Delay

The Associated Press  
"Burundi Unrest"



Bassam Khabieh

**Sponsor:** TIME Magazine

**Judges for all four photography awards:** Adrees Latif (head), Reuters; David Furst, The New York Times; Yunghi Kim, freelance photographer; Carol Guzy, The Washington Post; Patrick Whalen, The Wall Street Journal; Alison Morley, International Center of Photography

# THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

**BASSAM KHABIEH**

FIELD HOSPITAL  
REUTERS



Medics frantically treat the injured in a makeshift hospital after what activists said were air and surface-to-surface missile strikes on the rebel-held Douma neighborhood of Damascus on December 13. At least 45 civilians were killed, according to Agence France-Presse.







## OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2015

### 4. The Olivier Rebbot Award

*Best photographic reporting from abroad in magazines or books*

**Stephen Dupont**

Steidl

“Generation AK: The Afghanistan Wars, 1993-2012”

The overall body of work is extremely compelling, and the quality and presentation of the book are impressive. Stephen Dupont offers historical context that could only come from a commitment and dedication to documenting life in a war-torn nation for nearly two decades.



Stephen Dupont

(Judge Kim recused herself from final award selection)

**Citation:** David Guttenfelder

National Geographic Magazine

“Damming the Mekong: Harnessing a River or Killing It”

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### 5. The John Faber Award

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

**Mauricio Lima, Sergey Ponomarev, Tyler Hicks and Daniel Etter**

The New York Times

“Exodus”

This series of images on the migrant crisis contains strong elements of emotion and conflict, and offers engaging variety. As a package, the images are not only beautifully shot and edited but tell the broad story of the plight of the migrants and what they endured crossing border after border in hopes of a better life.



Mauricio Lima



Sergey Ponomarev



Tyler Hicks



Daniel Etter

(Judge Furst recused himself from final award selection)

**Citation:** Santi Palacios

The Associated Press

“Coming Ashore”



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## 6. The Feature Photography Award

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

**Daniel Berehulak**

The New York Times

“High in the Himalayas, A Search After The Nepal Quake Yields Grim Results”

These images convey grief, humanity and the scale of the tragedy. The photographer was able to tell the story from different perspectives and get close enough to connect readers with his subjects and communicate their emotions and loss.

(Judge Furst recused himself from final award selection)



Daniel Berehulak

**Citation:** Mario Tama

Getty Images

“Brazil’s Afflictive Prison System”

**Sponsor:** Cyma Rubin - Business of Entertainment

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## 7. The Lowell Thomas Award

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

**Molly Webster and team, in collaboration with Israel Story**

RadioLab/WNYC

“Birthstory”

Radio Lab's Molly Webster and her team took a fascinating story about a gay Israeli couple on a quest to contract for a surrogate baby and turned it into a human, complex and surprising international tale of intolerance, economics and—ultimately—love. They followed the story to Turkey and Nepal, where they discovered a cottage industry of Indian surrogate mothers carrying babies conceived with East European eggs and Israeli sperm. The story showed how cultures cross-fertilize, brought together by different needs and sometimes to each others' symbiotic benefit. It had no easy answers and challenged listeners' assumptions about exploitation, risks and benefits of the most intimate—and ethically challenging—of industries.



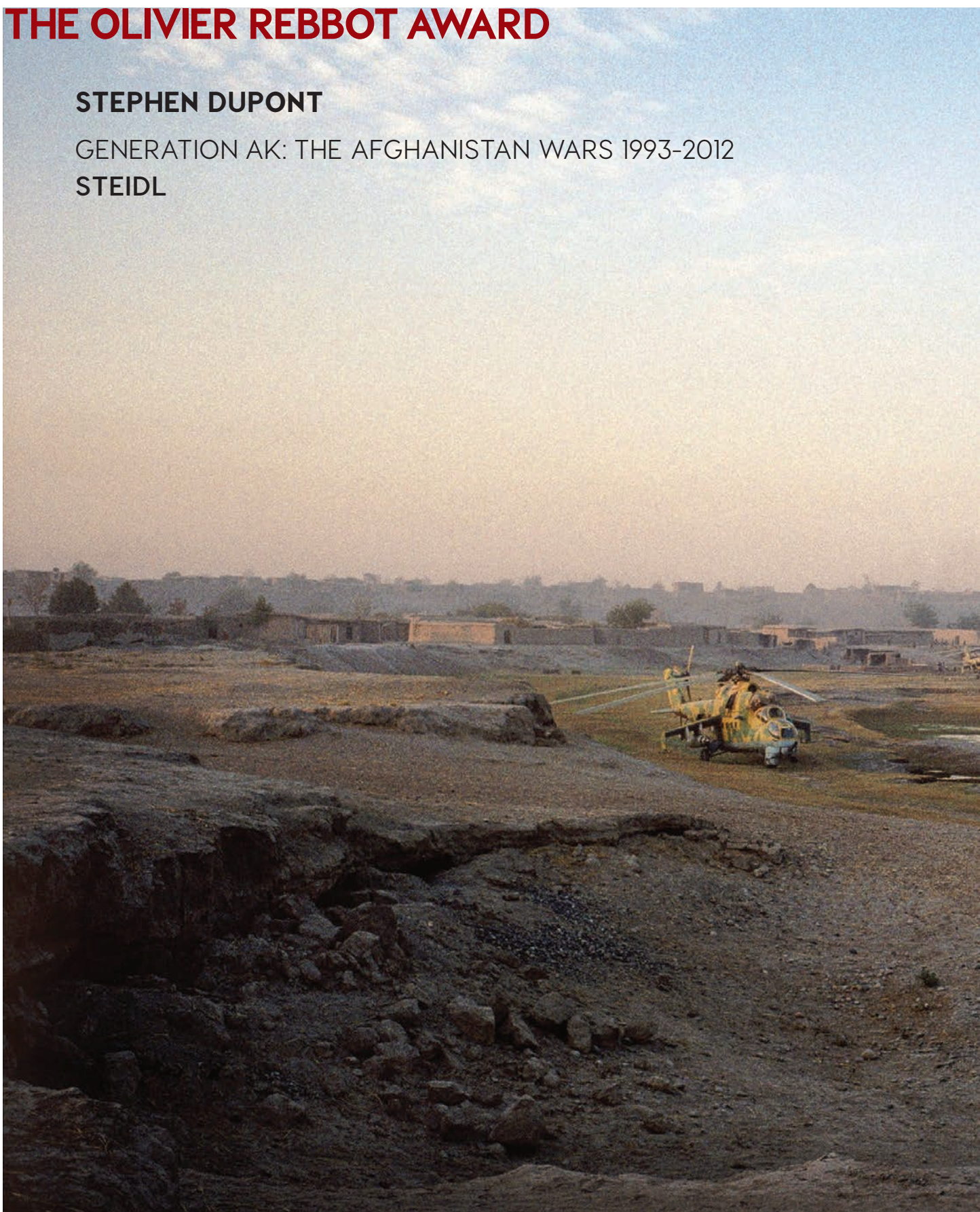
Molly Webster

**Judges:** Dorinda Elliott (head), Paulson Institute; Sarah Lubman, Brunswick Group; Alexa Oleson, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists Mary Kay Magistad, Public Radio International; Sarah Green, Harvard Business Review

# THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

**STEPHEN DUPONT**

GENERATION AK: THE AFGHANISTAN WARS 1993-2012  
STEIDL



Australian-born photographer Dupont took this photo of sunrise in Yangi Qali, a village in northern Afghanistan, in 1998, when the region was controlled by the forces of anti-Taliban rebel leader Ahmad Shah Massoud. Dupont has been making images of the wars in the beleaguered country since the early 1990s.







# THE JOHN FABER AWARD

MAURICIO LIMA  
SERGEY PONOMAREV  
TYLER HICKS  
DANIEL ETTER

EXODUS  
THE NEW YORK TIMES



Migrants crossing from Turkey arrive at the Greek island of Lesbos on November 16.





SERGEY PONOMAREV



## OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2015

### 8. The David Kaplan Award

*Best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad*

Emiland Guillaume, Ben Laffin, Specer Wolff, Deborah Acosta, Yousur Al-Hlou, Pamela Druckerman, Stefania Rousselle, Ben C. Solomon, Leslye Davis, Taige Jensen, Quyn Do, Adam B. Ellick and Steve Duenes  
The New York Times  
“Paris”



Working in a medium relatively new to the organization, journalists at The New York Times conveyed the terror, confusion and pain of the Paris terror attack almost contemporaneously by simply allowing eyewitnesses and victims to tell their stories, in their own words. The fact that these narrated accounts were spoken in French (and subtitled) did not detract at all from their power—a testament to the strength of this approach. Sensitive photography and lighting and effective use of ambient sound highlighted the stakes of the narration. The Times also judiciously used music, graphics and B-roll to highlight the reporting without overwhelming it. Especially noteworthy was the piece “An Improbable Survivor.” During the live coverage of the attacks, much of the world had been transfixed by the image of a man dangling outside a window at the Bataclan Concert Hall. The Times tracked him down and told his story.

**Citation:** Charlie D’Agata, Heather Abbott, Erin Lyall and Lynne Edwards

CBS News

“Desperate Journey: Europe’s Migrant Crisis”

**Sponsor:** Ben and Karen Sherwood

**Judges:** Deidre Depke (head), Marketplace; David Brancaccio, Marketplace; Tunku Varadarajan, Stanford University; Mona Iskander, freelance; Ronnie Weil, The Wall Street Journal

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### 9. The Edward R. Murrow Award

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

Jamie Doran, Najibullah Quraishi and Raney Aronson

PBS investigative series FRONTLINE

“ISIS in Afghanistan”

The growing global threat of ISIS, a defining story of 2015, was further revealed by this chilling FRONTLINE documentary tracking a correspondent to a remote Afghan village to see how ISIS is brutally displacing the Taliban. Najibullah Quraishi’s courageous reporting shows how ISIS offers recruits \$700 a month as they outbid the Taliban and gives a glimpse of ISIS education: tutorials in beheading, grenade tossing and death chants to the United States and Israel.



Jamie Doran



Najibullah Quraishi



Raney Aronson



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**Citation:** David Scott and Chapman Downes

HBO's Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel

"The Killing Fields: The Plight of the African Elephant"

**Sponsor:** CBS

**Judges:** Allan Dodds Frank (head), freelance; Walt Bogdanich, The New York Times; Karen Burnes, freelance; Betsy Stark, Ogilvy

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## 10. The Ed Cunningham Award

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

**Tristan McConnell**

Foreign Policy

"Close Your Eyes and Pretend to Be Dead"

Through dozens of interviews and forensic detail, McConnell delivers an epic retelling of the Westgate Mall massacre in Nairobi in September 2013. Tracking down survivors, first responders, police and neighborhood security, McConnell pieces together a minute-by-minute account of the attack by four Somali Al-Shabaab operatives, which resulted in at least 67 deaths, including their own. Through the eyes of those who lived through the horror, McConnell takes readers into the heart of the events, as though they were in the midst of the violence. The result is a wrenching and breathless experience, in which each person is left to weigh life-and-death decisions in a split second. Through much of it, McConnell shows, police officers stood impotently outside, failing to act to save lives; the military's glacial response amounted mostly to looting. A heartbreaking and damning story.



Tristan McConnell

**Citation:** Matthieu Aikins

Harper's Magazine

"Gangs of Karachi: Meet the Mobsters Who Run the Show in One of the World's Deadliest Cities"

**Sponsor:** Ford Motor Company

**Judges:** Vivienne Walt (head), TIME; James Graff, The Wall Street Journal; Babak Dehghanpisheh, Reuters



# THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

**DANIEL BEREHULAK**

TRAGEDY IN THE HIMALAYAS  
THE NEW YORK TIMES



On April 25 an earthquake devastated the mountainous nation of Nepal, killing more than 8,000 people. Above: Residents of Barpak, at the epicenter of the quake, search for salvageable items in the wreckage of their village.





Top: Residents of Charikot watch as a helicopter shuttling food and supplies to the victims takes off. Below: In Gumda, Bishnu Gurung, in red, and her family and fellow villagers react as workers remove the body of her 3-year-old daughter from the rubble of her home.



# OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2015

## 11. The Thomas Nast Award

*Best cartoons on international affairs*

**Patrick Chappatte**

The New York Times

Chappatte showed a consistent level of high quality visual journalism in his body of work. Graphically well-composed, his cartoons are clear, stark and direct, sometimes using one word, sometimes none at all to create an immediate impact for the reader. He is a master at capturing the current international political climate in a way that leaves the reader somewhere between laughing and crying.



ADRIAN BAEH, NZZ

Patrick Chappatte

**Sponsor:** JetBlue

**Judges:** Robert Sullivan (head), freelance; Spencer Platt, Getty Images; Marcy McGinnis, SUNY Stony Brook; Rula Amin, freelance

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## 12. The Morton Frank Award

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

**Christina Larson**

Foreign Policy

“The Zhao Method”

Christina Larson chronicles the rise of 23-year-old Zhao Bowen, who abandoned China’s state-run scientific research institutions to join the country’s emerging entrepreneurial class. Larson documents how the emergence of venture capital opportunities is changing the face of business at the intersection of science and capital markets and throws fresh light on the continuing evolution of China as a leading economic power.



Christina Larson

**Citation:** Nizar Manek and Jeremy Hodge

Africa Confidential/Angaza Foundation for Africa Reporting

“Opening the Black Box of Egypt’s Slush Funds”

**Sponsor:** Mark Lemcke

**Judges:** Michael Serrill (head), freelance; Gerard Baker, The Wall Street Journal; Susan Antilla, freelance; Robert Dieterich, freelance



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### 13. The Malcolm Forbes Award

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

This series was awarded both the Hal Boyle and the Malcolm Forbes Awards

**Martha Mendoza, Esther Htusan, Margie Mason and Robin McDowell**

The Associated Press

“Seafood From Slaves”

This project checked all the boxes: stellar reporting, terrific writing and fantastic use of storytelling tools traditional and nontraditional. It is an excellent example of enterprise business reporting that captured the big picture while focusing on the interest of the powerless. We were struck at how each entry distinctly exposed a layer of this shameful, globe-spanning enterprise. The impact of the story was impressive, achieving what many in our industry think is impossible or difficult to do.

#### **Citation:** Lingling Wie

The Wall Street Journal

“A Changing China”

**Sponsor:** Forbes Magazine

**Judges:** Farnaz Fassihi (head), The Wall Street Journal; Jesse Pesta, The New York Times; Celeste Le Compte, ProPublica; John Simons, International Business Times; Stephanie Mehta, Vanity Fair

(Judge Farnaz Fassihi recused herself from final citation selection)

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### 14. The Cornelius Ryan Award

*Best non-fiction book on international affairs*

**Tom Burgis**

PublicAffairs

“The Looting Machine: Warlords, Oligarchs, Corporations, Smugglers, and the Theft of Africa’s Wealth “

Exceptionally detailed reporting on a critical topic: how resource-rich African countries have been looted by their political leaders working hand-in-hand with international corporations. Burgis carries out remarkable on-the-ground investigations to identify the government and corporate officials who, in country after country, collude to amass tremendous fortunes while leaving their citizens impoverished and powerless. The book is a must-read for those eager to understand the problems plaguing a wide swath of Africa today.



Tom Burgis

#### **Citation:** Blaine Harden

Viking/Penguin Random House

“The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot: The True Story of the Tyrant Who Created North Korea and the Young Lieutenant Who Stole His Way to Freedom”

**Sponsor:** Friends of Richard Threlkeld

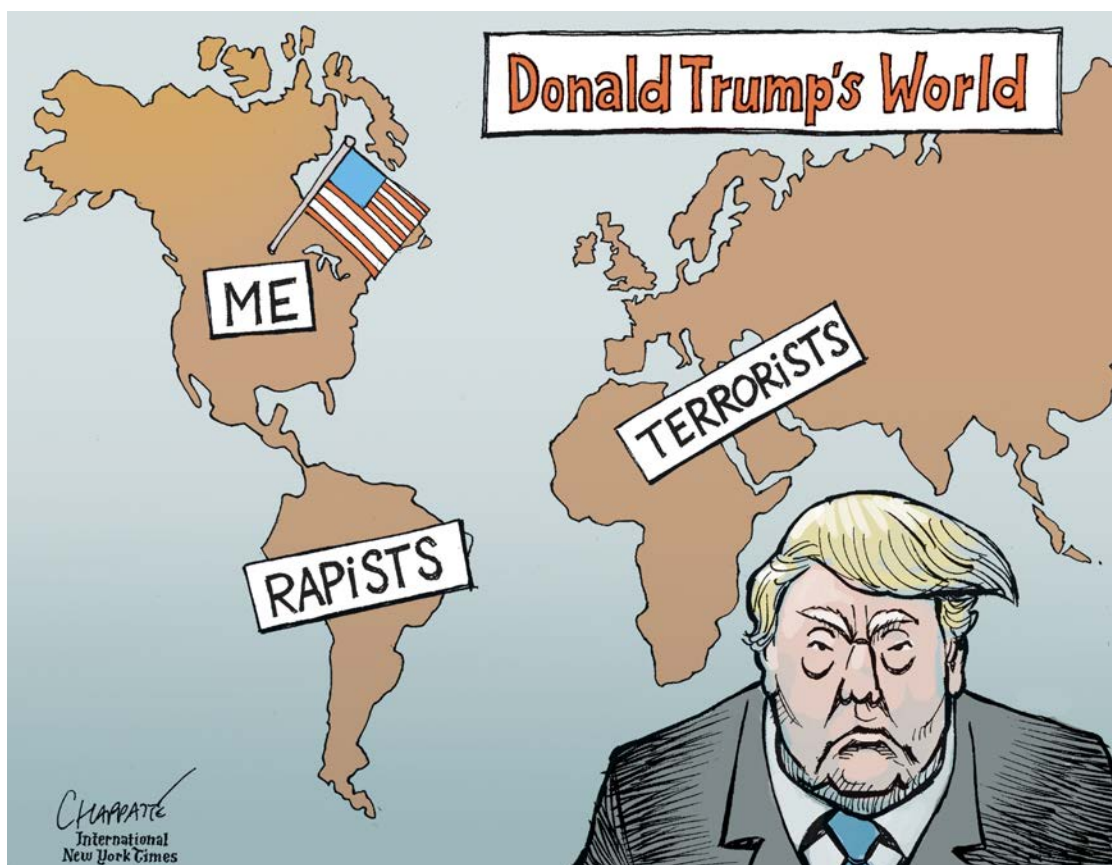
**Judges:** Dan Hertzberg (head), freelance; Neil Hickey, Columbia Journalism Review; John Bussey, The Wall Street Journal; Joyce Barnathan, International Center for Journalists

# THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

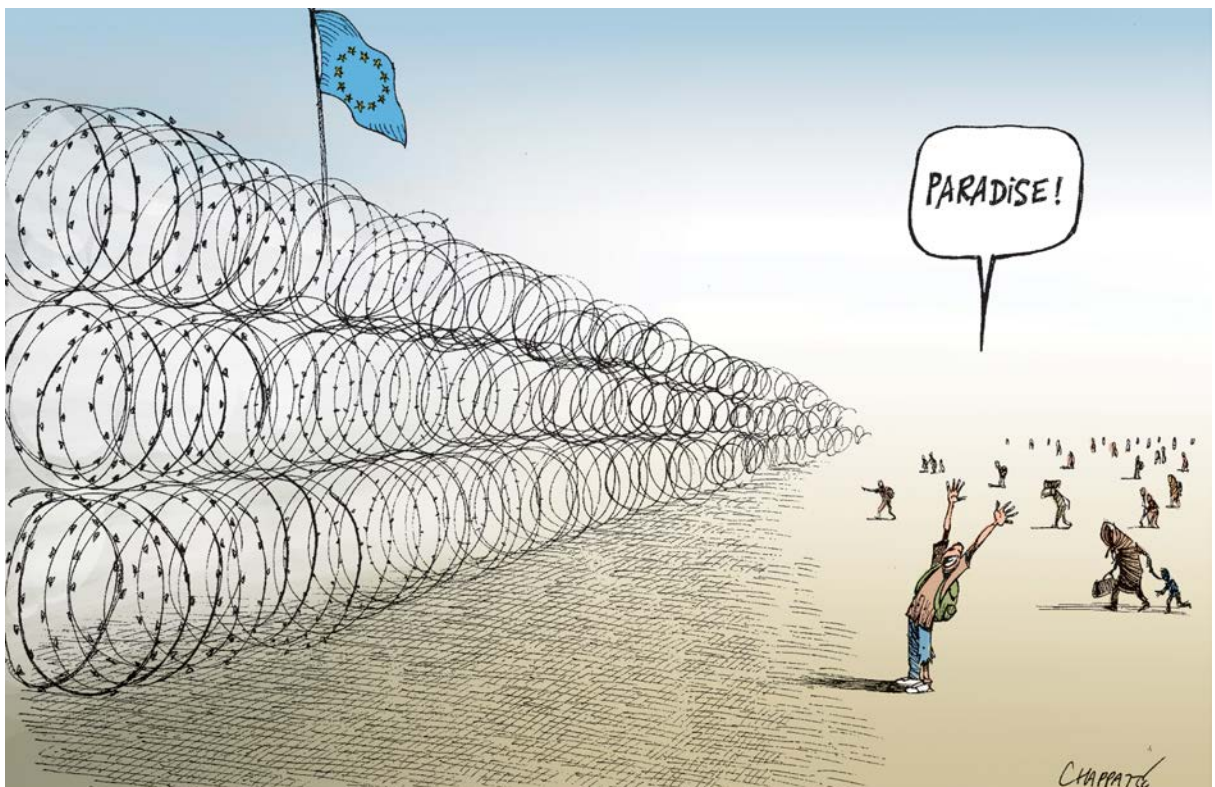
PATRICK CHAPPATTE

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK TIMES









## OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2015

### 15. The Madeline Dane Ross Award

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

**Patrick McDonnell, Christopher Goffard, Laura King, Kate Linthicum and Henry Chu**

Los Angeles Times

“Fleeing Syria”

The Times dispatched reporters to seven countries to report and write the heartbreaking narratives that helped readers understand the struggles of Syrians looking for safe refuge from the terrors of their nation’s civil war and ISIS. We were incredibly moved by the mother who had to leave her



Patrick McDonnell, Christopher Goffard, Laura King, Kate Linthicum and Henry Chu

two sick children behind while she tried to make a new home for them in Sweden. The despair of the refugee camp in Jordan also struck us. The articles were translated into Arabic. The photographs were remarkable. The editing was excellent. For their intrepid reporting to show the human condition in the form of a refugee crisis that has unsettled the world, especially Europe, we commend the team that produced this series.

**Sponsor:** Linda Fasulo

**Judges:** Laurie Hays (head), Brunswick Group; Evan Osnos, The New Yorker; Jonathan Kaufman, Northeastern University; Alessandra Galloni, Reuters; Mei Fong, freelance

### 16. The David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award

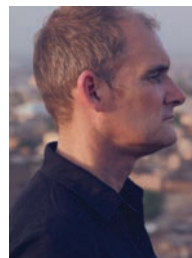
*Best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern for the human condition*

**Evan Williams, Edward Watts and Raney Aronson**

PBS investigative series FRONTLINE

“Escaping Isis”

“Escaping Isis” offers an exclusive, inside look at a secret underground cell working to free women and children from captivity. It was noted for its extraordinary access and carefully detailed depiction of daunting efforts to carry out extremely dangerous rescue work. One judge described the film as restorative journalism at its best, revealing the positive, successful efforts of those who have chosen to risk their lives to win freedom for less fortunate others. Beautifully written and edited, the film is a sensitive, humanizing portrayal of suffering and redemption.



Evan Williams



Edward Watts



Raney Aronson

**Citation:** Marine Olivesi

PRI/The World

“Trauma and the Syrian War”

**Sponsor:** David A. Andelman and Pamela Title

**Judges:** Martin Smith (head), PBS FRONTLINE; Ed Kashi, photographer; Philip Bennett, Duke University; Habiba Nosheen, CBS; Emma Daly, Human Rights Watch (Martin Smith recused himself from judging this award.)



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## 17. The Joe and Laurie Dine Award

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

**David Rohde and Charles Levinson**

Reuters

“Guantanamo Bay”

David Rohde's superb reporting addresses one of America's biggest human rights failings: the continued existence of the U.S. detention center in Guantanamo Bay. Among other revelations, Rohde's reporting broke new ground about the prevalence of torture in Guantanamo Bay and the CIA's sexual abuse of prisoners. Rohde dug through thousands of pages of legal files to unearth information that had not been published previously. His series also explains why Guantanamo Bay still has not been closed. Rohde provides new information about the Military Commission, how a court meant to supervise Guantanamo was open to manipulation and how the transfer of prisoners was delayed by the Pentagon even after countries had been found to take them. This depressing and provocative series did what the best reporting should do: report unflinchingly what had been hidden.



David Rohde



Charles Levinson

**Sponsor:** Philip Dine

**Judges:** Anya Schiffrin (head), Columbia School of International and Public Affairs; Jonathan Birchall, Open Society Justice Initiative; Nicole Pope, freelancer; Allison Silver, Thomson Reuters; Nin-Hai Tseng, Fortune

.....

## 18. The Whitman Bassow Award

*Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues*

**The Center for Public Integrity/International Consortium of Investigative Journalists /The Huffington Post**

“Evicted and Abandoned: The World Bank’s Broken Promise to the Poor”

Projects funded by the World Bank pushed 3.4 million people from their homes over the past 10 years through either economic or physical force. More than 80 journalists from over 20 countries worked for more than a year documenting tragedies that occurred as bank-funded projects failed to abide by the institution's principles and policies. The investigation was led by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and The Huffington Post. Days after publication, the World Bank said it would address the problem of “involuntary resettlement.” The investigation combines searing local reporting for both written and visual media, instructive data visualizations and a rigorous analysis of 4,000 World Bank files related to some 1,500 bank-funded projects.



**Citation:** Ian James, Steve Elfers and Steve Reilly

The Desert Sun/USA Today

“Pumped Dry: The Global Crisis of Vanishing Groundwater”

**Sponsor:** Citi

**Judges:** Eric Roston (head), Bloomberg; David Biello, Scientific American; Kat Bagley, Yale Environment360; Brad Plumer, Vox



# OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2015

## 19. The Robert Spiers Benjamin Award

*Best reporting in any medium on Latin America*

**Eduardo Castillo, Christopher Sherman and Dario Lopez-Mills**

The Associated Press

**“Thousands of Mexican Families Mourn the ‘Other Disappeared’”**

This powerful project examined the most urgent issue confronting Mexico and Latin America: impunity. Eduardo Castillo and Christopher Sherman used the notorious case of the abduction of 42 students in Iguala, Mexico, as the premise for a larger, more ambitious story about the pain and despair of a society in which 26,000 people have gone missing. The reporters explored a landscape of mafias, violence and corruption with skill, courage and empathy. The comprehensive series painted vivid human portraits: a cartel killer discussing his trade with grim nonchalance; the ordeal of a grandmother and her family in the labyrinth of the kidnapping industry; the dogged, dignified survivors who scour the mountains searching for the clandestine graves of missing loved ones. The result was a moving tale about Mexico’s national nightmare—and a stern indictment of a state that seems alternately complicit, overwhelmed or indifferent.



Eduardo Castillo, Christopher Sherman and Dario Lopez-Mills

**Sponsor:** Didi Hunter In Honor of her Father Lester Ziffren

**Judges:** Sebastian Rotella (head), ProPublica; Ginger Thompson, ProPublica; Marcela Gaviria, PBS FRONTLINE; Chris Kraul, freelance

## 20. Best Multimedia News Presentation

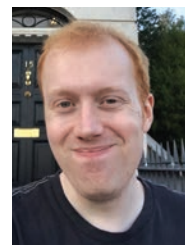
*Best use of video, interactive graphics and slideshows to report on international news*

**Eleanor Bell, Will Fitzgibbon and Chris Zubak-Skees**

The Center for Public Integrity/International Consortium of Investigative Journalists/Pulitzer Center

**“Fatal Extraction: Australian Mining in Africa”**

This unprecedented and ambitious multimedia project investigates Australia’s vast, unchecked footprint in the African mining industry to expose the massacres, torture, incarceration, negligence, displacement and hundreds of deaths ignored by the world for more than a decade. It lays bare how the quest for profits kept the industry poorly regulated and how ordinary men, women and children across Africa have paid the price. Compelling multimedia storytelling allowed viewers to see and hear directly from these victims and their families, whose voices are rarely heard by the outside world.



Eleanor Bell, Will Fitzgibbon and Chris Zubak-Skees

**Citation:** Ken Dornstein, Brian Funck and Michelle Mizner

PBS investigative series FRONTLINE

**“My Brother’s Bomber, Inheritance, The Libya Dossier, A Brother’s Quest”**

**Sponsor:** Google

**Judges:** Azmat Khan (head), freelance; Latoya Peterson, ESPN; Dena Takruri, AJ; Carla Murphy; Ryan Devereaux, The Intercept



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## 21. Best Investigative Reporting

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

**Erika Solomon, Sam Jones, Ahmad Mhidi, Guy Chazan and Robin Kwong**

Financial Times

“ISIS Inc.”

This powerful and revealing series turned a spotlight on the inner workings of one of the most opaque and dangerous organizations in the world.

This groundbreaking investigation into ISIS’s oil trading

and financial operations was based on resourceful, brave and deep reporting into where the extremist group gets its revenue and how it exploits and extorts from just about everyone in the territory it controls. The crisp, well-organized stories were aided by excellent explanatory graphics.



Erika Solomon, Sam Jones, Ahmad Mhidi, Guy Chazan and Robin Kwong

**Citation:** Ken Dornstein, Brian Funck and Raney Aronson

PBS investigative series FRONTLINE

“My Brother’s Bomber”

**Sponsor:** Michael Serrill

**Judges:** Charles Sennott (head), GroundTruth Project; Sarah Stillman, The New Yorker; Tom Hundley, Pulitzer Center; Andrew Metz, FRONTLINE

(Judge Andrew Metz recused himself from final citation selection)

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## 22. Best Commentary

*Best commentary in any medium on international news*

**Mark Lilla**

The New York Review of Books

“On France”

This is a rare case where a panel of journalists looked outside its own tribe and picked an academic: Mark Lilla’s masterful articles on France are a taxonomy of French politics, ideas and intellectual currents, all of it illuminating a year that began with the traumatic terrorist assault on Charlie Hebdo. In trenchant prose, his work combines a shrewd assessment of French current events with an impressive command of French history and literature—a rare example of commentary that is at once journalistic and scholarly, and deeply informed.



Mark Lilla

**Citation:** Bobby Ghosh

Quartz

“What the Iran Nuclear Deal Means for the Middle East”

**Sponsor:** Robert Serio

**Judges:** Barbara Demick (head), Los Angeles Times; Lee Hockstader, The Washington Post; Gady Epstein, The Economist; Nomi Morris, USC Annenberg School of Journalism; Carlos Rajo, Telemundo Network

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