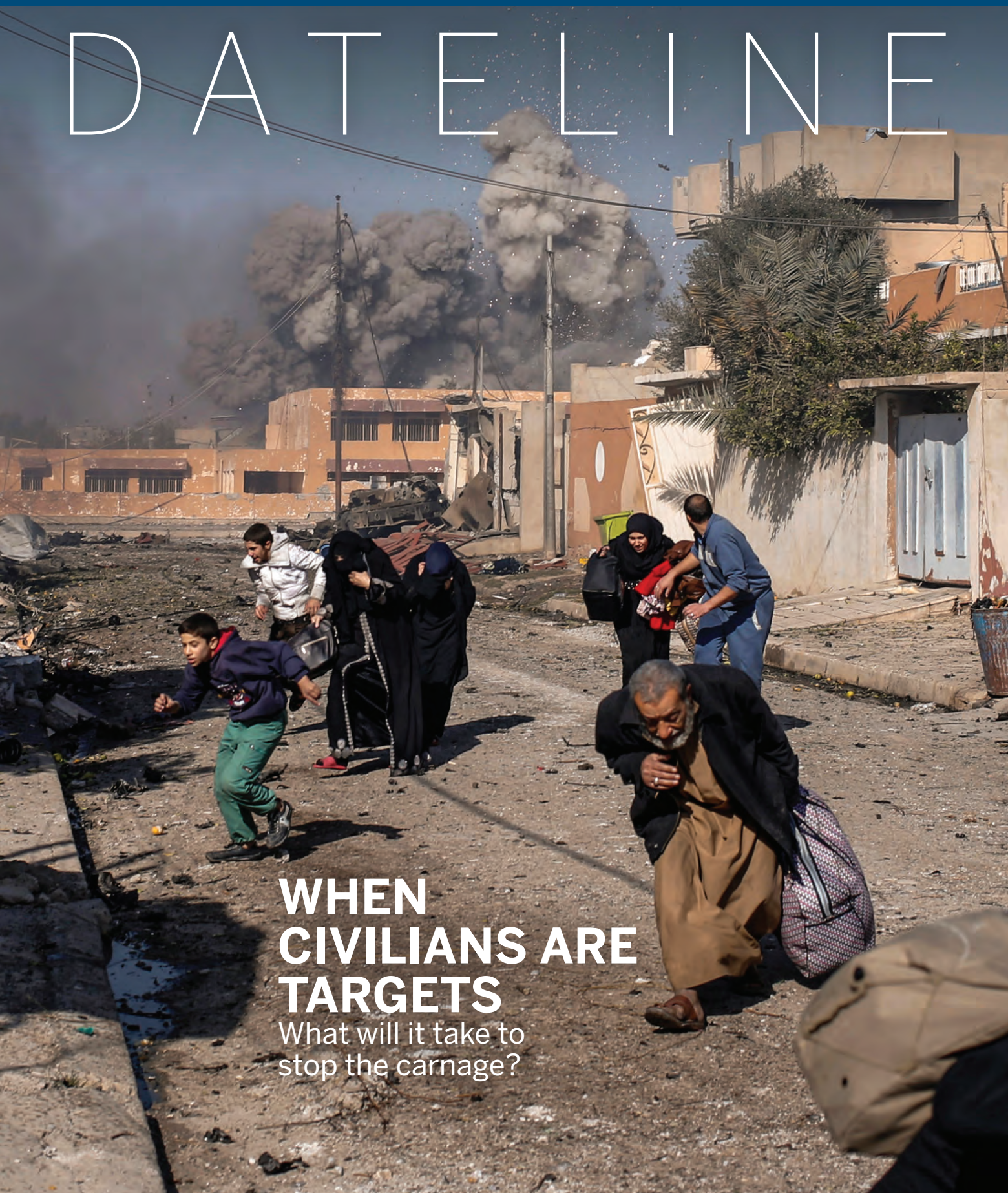




Winners of the
Overseas Press Club Awards
2017 Annual Edition

DATELINE



WHEN CIVILIANS ARE TARGETS

What will it take to
stop the carnage?



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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF TONIGHT'S WINNERS.



THERE IS A THEME to our gathering tonight at the 78th annual Overseas Press Club Gala, and it's not an easy one. Our work as journalists across the globe is under unprecedented and frightening attack. Since the conflict in Syria began in 2011, 107 journalists there have been killed, according the Committee to Protect Journalists. That's more members of the press corps to die than were lost during 20 years of war in Vietnam. In the past year, our colleagues also have been fatally targeted in Iraq, Yemen and Ukraine. Since 2013, the Islamic State has captured or killed 11 journalists. Almost 300 reporters, editors and photographers are being illegally detained by governments around the world, with at least 81 journalists imprisoned in Turkey alone. And at home, we have been labeled the "enemy of the American people" by the president of the United States.

Tonight, together, we take a stand. Even as we endure barrage after barrage of criticism, disdain and danger, we commit to speaking truth to power, to standing strong against tyranny in any form. The press will remain a bulwark against those who would subvert or deny liberty. We will persist as an independent watchdog exposing corruption and official misconduct. And we assert once and for all that the news media is not the enemy of the people: not in the United States and not in any country in the world.

This evening, with the President's Award, we honor our colleagues who have died reporting from Syria. And with six separate

awards, we recognize others who have risked all to tell the story of that gruesome civil war. These awards showcase the professionalism, perseverance and courage that are the hallmarks of our profession and the everyday reality for many journalists.

In addition to six awards for exemplary reporting on the Syrian conflict, there were multiple winners whose work illuminated the unraveling of Venezuela's public institutions, state media control in China and Russia and the fight against the drug trade in Colombia and the Philippines. Other work detailed unethical practices of the International Olympics Committee and examined the powerful elites exposed in the Panama Papers.

In an encouraging development for the financial future of our industry, several of our awards are to journalists who received funding from nonprofit organizations devoted to excellence in journalism. The Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting funded three separate award winners and one citation winner. Groundtruth and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists each backed another award-winning entry.

The important time we spend together tonight is made possible by the dedication of many, including the 90 judges who read, watched and listened to nearly 430

entries, narrowing them to our 22 winners. Our judging process was ably led by Scott Kraft of the Los Angeles Times.

Sarah Lubman headed our dinner committee, setting new records for participation. She was supported by Bill Holstein, past president of the OPC and current head of the OPC Foundation's board, and assisted by her Brunswick colleague Beatriz Garcia.

This outstanding issue of *Dateline* was edited by Michael Serrill, a past president of the OPC. Vera Naughton is the designer (she also recently updated the OPC logo). Bob Nickelsberg is *Dateline*'s photo editor. Our theme for this issue: the failure of the international community to take any action in the Mideast wars to curb human rights abuses. In addition, Emma Daly writes of the important role international correspondents will play in monitoring the actions of the Trump administration overseas. There is also an essay by Chris Dickey on America's endless wars—many of which he has covered. Finally, we have a piece by Anjali Kamat on government pressure on the press and the resulting self-censorship in India.

Of course, the OPC simply could not continue its work without the dedication of my fellow governors, the leadership of Executive Director Patricia Kranz and the hard work of Office Manager Lucrecia "Boots" R. Duque and Web Manager and Social Media Editor Chad Bouchard.

Finally, we could not continue without the support of all of you—individuals, companies and institutions. Your generosity and presence here tonight ensure that the Overseas Press Club will never stop taking a stand against those who work to undermine the fundamental right to a free press.

Thank you, and please enjoy your evening.

Deidre Depke, a former foreign editor for Newsweek, is the New York Bureau Chief at Marketplace, the public radio show produced by American Public Media.



Deidre Depke



A girl reacts as coloured water is thrown on her face while celebrating Holi, the Festival of Colours, in Mumbai, India, March 13, 2017. REUTERS/Shailesh Andrade

Reuters congratulates the winners of the 2016 Overseas Press Club Awards.

We're proud to support the Overseas Press Club and the 2016 award winners, and wish them continued success.



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OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS



Jimboy Bolasa's bullet riddled body was found under a bridge. He was one of thousands of alleged Philippine drug dealers killed after President Duterte took office.

ON THE COVER: People run for cover after an airstrike hits Islamic State positions in Mosul, Iraq.

GORAN TOMASEVIC/REUTERS

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Covering the U.S.'s Wars Without End

Overseas reporters risk all to get beyond the propaganda newsfeeds, even as the President labels them “enemies of the people.”

By Christopher Dickey

WITHIN DAYS of taking office, President and commander-in-chief Donald Trump approved a raid on an Al Qaeda stronghold in Yemen by U.S. Special Operations Forces. It did not go well. The hoped-for high-value target was missing, civilian casualties included an 8-year-old girl, a Navy SEAL was killed,

and a \$70 million aircraft had to be abandoned and blown up after it crash landed. The incident was a reminder—a brief one amid a storm of controversies—that the United States is involved in shadow wars around the globe, and often there are no reporters on the scene to tell the world what's happening.

In this case, anyone who wanted to know what happened had to rely on the Pentagon and, yes, Al Qaeda, for conflicting accounts of the fight

that were impossible to confirm independently. If, as the saying goes, truth is the first casualty in war, in our current era of alternative facts truth might never make it off the battlefield at all.

Of course, journalistic access to the scene of combat has always been a difficult and potentially deadly game. But there are critical differences now because of the radical changes in the nature of war, and the nature of journalism,

ROBERT NICKELSBURG/GETTY IMAGES



and the unprecedented hostility of the chief executive of the United States. The job of a correspondent—part of the media establishment labeled the “enemy of the American people” by President Trump—has never been more dangerous or, one might add, more thankless.

For as long as I’ve been an adult, which is several decades, the United States has been fighting ill-defined wars against endless enemies. When I was a potential draftee in the 1960s (finally saved from the jungles of Southeast Asia by a high lottery number) I followed the Vietnam war closely in print and on television thanks to reporters who had extraordinary access to combat zones. David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, Peter Arnett—the list of journalists in the thick of the fight is long and laudable, and for the generation of journalists who succeeded them, they were heroes.

Finally, the war in Vietnam ended with the defeat of the United States and its allies. But America’s little wars continued around the globe. Year on year, decade upon decade, the United States carried

out military actions against someone somewhere in the world every few months. Most of those actions, from Granada, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Libya and the Persian Gulf in the 1980s to Iraq (repeatedly), Somalia, Haiti and Kosovo in the 1990s, quickly became forgotten headlines on yellowing newspapers.

We hear talk today of war with Iran—but we’ve already been there, done that. In 1987 and 1988, after Iranian- and Syrian- backed suicide bombers forced the Reagan administration to beat a humiliating retreat from its ill-considered military deployment in Lebanon, the U.S. Navy was sent to protect ships carrying oil that supported Saddam Hussein’s war against the ayatollahs. In short order, U.S. warships were sinking Iranian military vessels and blowing up Iranian oil derricks.

Frustrated by my inability to get close to the action, and blessed with the kind of budget news organizations had in those days, I joined with a British TV crew to rent a workboat to sail in randomly mined waters with no protection. In retrospect, I think we were insane,

but we got to watch the war more closely than anyone else.

A few months later, the climax came when an American guided missile cruiser destroyer shot an Iranian airliner out of the sky, killing everyone on board. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini decided to end the war that had gone on for eight years, and Saddam Hussein declared victory, however implausible. Then, two years later Saddam invaded his former ally Kuwait. That brought on the U.S.-led operation against him called Desert Storm, the first taste since Vietnam that Americans had of a “big” war, although the fighting only lasted five weeks.

Throughout those years, in Central America and the Middle East, my job often was to go to places the United States was about to attack and watch the smart and not-so-smart bombs rain down. The challenge was to confirm or refute what Washington was saying about operations with names like El Dorado Canyon (Libya 1986) and Desert Fox (Iraq 1998). Very often what Washington had to say, particularly about civilian casualties

Above:
Guatemalan
Chief of Army
Staff Gen.
Benedicto Lucas
Garcia, 1982.
The U.S. military
was involved in
three different
Central American
conflicts at the
time.

Opposite:
Marine Col.
Steven Hummer
briefs reporters
in Kuwait as the
U.S. prepares to
attack Iraq in
2003.



Majeed Sharife, a 12-year-old shoeshine boy, stands by the wreckage of Al Jazeera's Kabul headquarters after it was hit by a U.S. laser-guided bomb in November 2001.

and about the political impact of its actions, was untrue or bordering on delusional.

But with each decade a reporter's ability to do such work and survive has declined dramatically. The protection afforded by a press card, or "TV" taped to a windshield, or t-shirts that read "No Dispare Soy Periodista," (Don't shoot, I'm a journalist), if such protection ever existed, steadily eroded, and now is long gone.

In the wars of the 1980s, even the worst of the bad guys knew they needed the Western press to get out their message. That wouldn't stop a bullet and it didn't prevent kidnappings in a place like Lebanon, but at least it offered a bit of insurance, or reassurance, to reporters. When governments were involved—Muammar Gaddafi's in Libya, for instance, or Saddam Hussein's in Iraq— one worked on the somewhat tenuous assumption that if they let you into their country, they were not going to kill you. Even as late as 2003, Western correspondents were able to report on the American invasion of Iraq from Baghdad.

But terror organizations were

another matter. By the 1990s, the ranks of Islamist extremists were growing and when these "non-state actors" turned to terror they learned that the new proliferation of cable news channels would allow them to pick and choose their outlets, the most famous example being the way Al Qaeda gravitated toward Al Jazeera. In this century, such groups have developed multiple communication platforms of their own, with slickly produced packages broadcast on their own Internet "news" channels.

At the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, Osama bin Laden and his cronies thought they needed to carry out spectacular operations to get media attention and hold the world's attention. Five years later, after U.S. forces occupied Iraq and resistance began to build, the Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al Zarqawi understood that pure savagery, the beheading of Western hostages, would get air time for his grainy video tapes of atrocity leaked to whatever satellite stations would air them.

The so-called Islamic State, which grew out of Zarqawi's organization, is much larger and its propaganda, while just as grizzly, is much more polished. When ISIS burns a pilot alive in a cage or carries out a mass execution, the presentation is as slick as a high-end video game. The world can watch the killers' videos and pick up their Twitter feeds, so the terrorists see no need to answer questions from journalists. And those reporters who are intrepid enough to get close to the action have found themselves, all too often, held hostage for ransom or killed in a gruesome spectacle.

The United States did not stop hunting and killing its enemies, but after the wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan proved disastrous, it opted for more surgical and secret campaigns, relying on drones and Special Operations Forces to liquidate supposed evil doers. As the New York Times reported last October, in 2016 alone the U.S. "carried out airstrikes in seven countries and conducted Special Operations missions in many more." How did we cover them? Mostly not at all, and

ROBERT NICKELSBURG/GETTY IMAGES



Left: Author Dickey interviews Gen Lucas Garcia in Santa Cruz del Quiche, Guatemala, 1982. In 2016 Lucas was arrested and charged with war crimes.



Left: A gunner opens fire from Lucas's helicopter with Dickey and Nickelsberg aboard.



Above: OPC award-winner Clarissa Ward reporting from Aleppo, Syria.

when we did, from very far away.

The spread of secret or semi-secret American wars around the globe took place under the Obama administration, but now, in addition to the obscurity supposedly dictated by “operational security,” we have a president in the White House who seems to regard objective facts as a nuisance and has, as the only measure of truth, his subjective judgment. His spokesman insisted, for instance, that the Yemen raid was a great success.

As the last 40 years ought to have taught us, we already live in a world of wars without end. But how can we continue to speak truth to the powers that wage those wars? A couple of approaches come to mind:

First, we must pry the press away from propaganda newsfeeds and emphasize the importance of being there, on the ground, as close to the action as possible—and

then we need to find much better ways of supporting the men and women who now take such extraordinary risks to report from war zones. Whether this is done by major news organizations, or by some sort of cooperative venture, or private foundations, or all of the above, these correspondents need to know the people they work for have the will, the means, and the determination to support them if they get into trouble.

But some places where horrible things happen will remain inaccessible at the moment of combat. In those cases, even if it takes years, the press has to commit itself to the investigation of the aftermath. Several examples come to mind, including two extraordinary documentary films: “Terror at the Mall,” about the 2013 attack by al-Shabaab militants on the Westgate shopping center in Nairobi, and the recently

released “Finding Oscar,” laying bare at last the truth about a massacre in Guatemala that took place more than 34 years ago.

Such reporting will not bring an end to war or its atrocities, but it will help the world understand that there are no alternative facts when it comes to violent death, and bringing to light how and why people die in these myriad conflicts might eventually save lives that otherwise will be squandered in the shadows.

Christopher Dickey is the author of seven books; foreign editor of The Daily Beast; an NBC contributor; and an essayist on war and terror. He was formerly bureau chief for The Washington Post in Central America and then in the Middle East, and Paris bureau chief and Middle East editor for Newsweek Magazine. He is a member of the board of the Overseas Press Club.

'We Condemn the International Community'

World powers and the U.N. have stood by impotently while massive human rights violations have been committed in Syria by all sides. Will there ever be a reckoning?

*By Alessandria Masi and
Hiba Dlewati*

AT MIDNIGHT in the dead of winter, four figures made their way to a farm in the town of al-Bab in the northern Aleppo countryside in Syria. Al-Bab was under the control of the Islamic State and the quartet was bent on escape. They crept and crawled for five kilometers in complete silence, knowing that ISIS shines spotlights on the area when its militants hear movement, hoping to catch those fleeing without permission. Under the cover of darkness, 18-year-old Wateen Saleh, her father, her brother and a doctor from their town succeeded in escaping ISIS territory. When they reached a safe point, exhausted from the walk and fear, they lay in the dirt until the sound of gunfire pointed them toward their destination, the opposition-controlled city of Azaz, near the Turkish border.

There they joined their mother, Sidra, who had fled to Azaz six days before. She had tried to leave al-Bab with her children but had been stopped at an ISIS checkpoint. An ISIS-run Shariah Court had given the family an exit paper for just one person. Sidra wept and pleaded with the guard, who Saleh described

as "huge and dirty" and possibly Tunisian, to let her take her children with her, but he refused. He finally started beating the car, yelling at the siblings to "go back where you came from," and threatened to take the boy for "jihad." Fearing that her son would be forced to fight, Sidra left her children behind.

"It was the hardest moment in my life. Especially when my mother began to shed tears, it was so harsh on me," Saleh said, in one of many online conversations. But even after she reached Azaz weeks later to join her mom, Saleh realized she no longer had much hope for her future, and knew that no one in the international community was ever coming to help her. To Syrians like Saleh, the "international community" is at best a hollow term. At worst its inaction gives a tacit nod to the world's powerful to turn a blind eye on their daily horrors. While the United Nations and major world powers fruitlessly repeat their calls for a Syrian political solution in Security Council resolutions, armed state and non-state actors continue to fight in a war where victory can only be ensured by blatantly disregarding human rights and the rules of war.

"The war has taught me many things," Saleh said. "I have to be brave and I have to never give up

on anything in this life and I have to depend on myself for everything." If the international community "wanted to help me and the Syrian people, they would have helped us a long time ago," she added.

Human rights abuses in Syria are not just a wartime phenomenon. The regime of the late President Hafez al-Assad killed thousands while putting down a purported Muslim Brotherhood uprising in Hama in 1982. Amnesty International documented cases of arbitrary detention and government-sanctioned torture in 1987. More than a decade later, Bashar al-Assad took over from his father, promising to institute reforms and strengthen Syria's ties with the international community. But ten years into his presidency, Syria's improved relations did not lead to "any improvement in its human rights record," a 2010 Human Rights Watch report stated. It has only gotten monumentally worse since then.

Today, every party fighting in Syria has been accused of human rights abuses. Saleh has suffered under three different groups. ISIS entered al-Bab with a promise to protect her and her community. She almost believed them, until a militant stopped her while she walked to school, yelling that she should dress more modestly and in black. Soon after, ISIS began to use violence to control the population, and banned women from studying, or from traveling without a man. Militants also kidnapped her cousin, who is still missing.

Soon after, a myriad of parties vowed to rid her town of ISIS, under the guise of protecting civilians.

SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE NEW YORK TIMES; ARIS MESSINIS/AFP; GORAN TOMASEVIC/REUTERS



A family flees the fighting in Mosul, Iraq, driving past oil fields set alight by the Islamic State. At the height of the battle, 1 million people were trapped in the city, with little access to food and water and constantly threatened with bombardment.



A migrant is rescued from the Mediterranean by a member of the Proactiva Open Arms NGO in October. The world community has done too little to help refugees.



A prisoner suspected of being an Islamic State fighter crouches in a bomb crater east of Mosul, Iraq, as hundreds displaced by the fighting look on.

Technology of torture: In Falluja, Iraq, this hook and chain apparatus was used by the Islamic State to hoist prisoners in the air. Beneath the chain is a set of batteries used to apply electric shocks.

The Syrian government began to rain bombs down on al-Bab, but instead of hitting ISIS, the bombs fell on residential areas, including Saleh's apartment complex. The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters, later intervened to fight ISIS around al-Bab, but they could not be trusted either. When Saleh took a taxi down the dangerous road from Azaz to al-Bab alone to visit her family in June for Ramadan, the SDF stopped the car, forcing her to stand in the desert for five hours while they searched her car for bombs, knowing that she could not eat or drink during daylight hours of the holy month.

Saleh's story is just one of thousands told by Syrians who have suffered unimaginable horrors. New violations emerge, each more horrific than the last, every day. First we saw the videos of protesters being shot at by government forces in 2011. Less than two years later, we watched media activists' footage of bodies wrapped in shrouds lined up on the ground in the aftermath of the chemical attack in Ghouta. In 2014, images of detainees tortured to death in regime prisons were made public. Next came the images of emaciated children under siege in Madaya in 2015, followed by the calls for help from a decimated eastern Aleppo in December 2016.

The more we see, the more we are forced to ask the tough question: Why, in six years of conflict that has killed more than 400,000 people, displaced nearly half of the country's pre-war population from their homes and left 13.5 million in need of humanitarian assistance, has nothing been done to stop the blatant human rights abuses?

NO PUNISHMENT FOR WAR CRIMES

When we think of the international community we think first of global entities like the United Nations and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), charged with enforcing the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), codified in the wake of World War II. This

code of conduct sets out the rules of war, designed to protect those not participating in hostilities, and restricts the means and methods of warfare. The strictures should apply to Syria, but they have not been enforced.

The U.N. Security Council is just one example of how the international bodies ostensibly created to protect the helpless have failed. The five permanent member states of the Council have veto power, allowing them to halt any action that goes against their national interests. "Syria is a mirror of how the veto turned from a theoretical instrument to preserve peace to an instrument to protect war crimes and actors involved in war crimes, to make it impossible for anyone to go after a regime that is violating international law," said Dr. Ziad Majed, a professor of Middle Eastern studies at the American University in Paris.

Russia, a key ally of Assad, has used its veto seven times in the past six years to protect the Syrian government from Security Council resolutions that would hold it accountable for IHL violations in Syria. Moscow also removed its signature from the Rome Statute of The International Criminal Court in November of last year, not long before Russian forces assisted the Syrian government in decimating eastern Aleppo.

But favoritism within the international community did not start with Syria. The U.S. has used its veto countless times to protect Israel from accusations of abuses against Palestinian civilians and breaches of international law. When the International Court of Justice ruled in 1986 that U.S. involvement in Nicaragua was a breach of international law and demanded the Americans pay reparations to the



BRYAN DENTON/NEW YORK TIMES

Sandinistas, the U.S. withdrew from the ICJ's compulsory jurisdiction.

Protection for civilians in wartime was most recently codified at the 2005 U.N. World Summit on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), a mandate that states a country's government -- in this case the Syrian state -- is the primary entity responsible for protecting its population from major IHL violations, regardless of the perpetrator. If a government fails to fulfill its duty, the international community should first use diplomatic and humanitarian means to assist in protection, and if that fails "must be prepared to take stronger measures, including the collective use of force through the U.N. Security Council." R2P has done nothing in the face of allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, largely because past invocations had left a bad taste in the international community's mouth. When former U.S. President George W. Bush invoked the principle to invade Afghanistan and Iraq, it "ruined" the international principle created to protect civilians, said Dragana Kaurin, a Bosnian ethnographer formerly with the U.N.

What's more, local Syrian organizations are usually left out of any international-scale discussions aimed at helping civilians. For the small group of Syrian activists that do get invited, "these events, summits and high-level meetings (or whatever fancy labels they are given) are seen as gatherings where excessive amounts of money are spent to hear emotional speeches by world leaders, and where great pledges of assistance are made but never translated into concrete results on the ground," Fadi Halisso, a cofounder of Syrian refugee relief organization Basmeh & Zeitoneh, wrote ahead of this year's U.N. General Assembly.

Six years into the Syrian conflict, the term international community is being redefined. Global institutions' inertia in the face of such a large-scale humanitarian crisis has put the onus on individuals and grassroots groups to rise to the occasion and fill the gap. And while they do not have the political or

financial resources allotted to the traditional international bodies, they do have solidarity networks and the will to act. Local Syrian groups brave borders and frontlines to provide much-needed aid in areas where U.N. agencies have failed to do so. Greek locals and international volunteers provided life-saving aid to refugees arriving on Greek islands long before the U.N. launched its projects there. Most recently in the U.S., lawyers, translators and protesters challenged and were able to overturn President Donald Trump's ban on refugees and immigrants.

Meanwhile, help never came when grassroots groups pleaded with the international community to save eastern Aleppo. "We have allowed world leaders to co-opt the humanitarian community, to continue to invoke their outrage over the carnage in Syria without doing anything to stop it," 25 NGOs work-

the response, but before that happens there needs to be a stop to this."

Holding the Syrian government responsible for its crimes will become more difficult as the war drags on, particularly as world powers increasingly adopt the notion that Assad is the only viable option left to run the country. Even Turkey, which firmly stuck by its stance that Assad had no place in Syria's future, has publicly stated that this is no longer "realistic." It's alarming to think that after reports of atrocities, like Amnesty International's recent investigation into mass hangings and crimes against humanity at Saydnaya prison, foreign powers are dabbling with the idea of allowing Assad to remain.

Already both sides have exploited media platforms, old and new, by flooding them with what in the current context could be called "fake news," or by dismissing true and verifiable reports. The result is that

Saleh's story is just one of thousands told by Syrians who have suffered unimaginable horrors.

ing in Syria said in a joint statement as the fall of Aleppo loomed. "We condemn, in the strongest terms, the international community, in its entirety, for its complicity in the massacre of Aleppo."

POST-WAR SYRIA

Many Syrians have given up on the international community's will to intervene while the conflict is ongoing, so they are pushing to, at the very least, hold those who committed IHL violations accountable for their crimes. Not until this year did the United Nations General Assembly adopt a resolution to investigate war crimes and human rights violations in Syria since 2011. "If the conflict were to end, we have years of work in front of us to document missing people, to try and identify people in mass graves," said Nicolette Boehland, Syria researcher at Amnesty International. "We are so behind in

truth in Syria has become a subjective and arbitrary entity. When those inside the country, and those watching from around the world, "feel that nothing can be believed, what matters is the emotional truth, or the narrative that people want to believe -- even if they know it's not true," journalist Annia Ciezadlo wrote in Syria Deeply. And each time the gruesome reality portrayed by human rights groups is challenged, it is that much easier for the international community to, once again, justify doing nothing.

Alessandria Masi is an award-winning journalist and the Managing Editor of Syria Deeply. She is also the chief of News Deeply's Beirut bureau. Hiba Dlewti is a Beirut-based journalist and the Deputy Managing Editor of Syria Deeply. She is also the recipient of a National Geographic Fulbright Fellowship.



The Trump Watch

As the new president lays down draconian restrictions on immigration, imposes a new ‘global gag rule’ and seeks to unwind laws requiring ethical business practices abroad, it’s important that foreign correspondents be there to report on the consequences.

By Emma Daly

DIS THE first modern U.S. president to make no effort to promote human rights during his campaign. Now he is governing without paying much attention to the checks and balances a democratic system puts on executive power. His promise to create an America-centric foreign policy will affect people the world over.

So it’s more important than ever for people to be able to rely on international correspondents to cover the Trump administration’s reach beyond U.S. borders. First, Americans will need to know the

direct consequences of U.S. actions abroad undertaken in their name. They also need to see the knock-on effects that could harm millions as other governments use Trump policies to justify their own abuses.

With his cry of “America First,” President Trump is shattering decades of bipartisan consensus in Washington that post-Cold War foreign policy should – at least in principle – support human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In practice, of course, hypocrisy and self-interest frequently undermined this ideal, most obviously of late in the Middle East. Even so, Trump’s attempts to erode human rights or misuse them for political ends will



ROB SCHUMACHER/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC VIA AP

have devastating consequences for many outside the U.S.

Take the proposed refugee ban, which is squarely aimed at Muslim refugees and is being challenged in the courts. Although there is still a vast need for aid to the millions displaced by conflict and crisis around the world, the U.S. has been a leader in resettling refugees, taking in more than 3.3 million people over the past 40 years – from Cambodia, the former-Soviet Union, the former Yugoslavia, Iran and Sudan, among others. The State Department refugee program's stated intention has been to promote the values of compassion, generosity and leadership – and was created in part because the United States did so little to save refugees from Nazi Germany.

Only 1 percent of the world's refugees are selected for resettlement by the United Nations High

Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), which leads the global process, and those sent to the U.S. undergo extensive, rigorous – one might even say “extreme” – vetting that typically takes 18 to 24 months. American voters should understand the human cost of Washington upending 40 years of bipartisan policy, especially if the Trump administration also cuts funding for refugee assistance abroad in the upcoming budget, including through UNHCR, which gets about 40 percent of its budget from the U.S.

The president tweeted after an appeals court declined to reinstate his ban that “72% of refugees admitted into U.S. (2/3 -2/11) during COURT BREAKDOWN are from 7 countries: SYRIA, IRAQ, SOMALIA, IRAN, SUDAN, LIBYA & YEMEN.” (His caps.) Those statistics merely reflect the fact that refugees – by definition – are fleeing conflict and repression of the kind currently underway in those nations.

Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Kenya, which host enormous numbers of people fleeing conflicts in Syria and Somalia, receive hundreds of millions of dollars from the U.S. While some governments could take up a bit of the slack in cuts to refugee funding, others may follow Trump's suit and cut their funding and other commitments as well. In any case, significant cuts in U.S. support for refugees will almost certainly make life even more miserable for some of the world's most vulnerable people. Journalists need to be there to describe that misery for Americans and the world.

One of Trump's first orders of business on his first full day on the job was a massive expansion of the so-called Mexico City policy (also known as the “global gag rule”), which bans U.S. funding to health programs that could be linked to abortion. No foreign organization will be eligible for U.S. funding if it tells a woman that abortion could be an option or refers her to services – even if, for example, continuing a pregnancy could endanger her life. While the rule is a partisan staple – Republican presidents since Ronald Reagan adopt it, Democrats overturn

it – the Trump version goes far beyond what it covered under previous Republican administrations, impacting \$9.5 billion of health funding, approximately 15 times the amount of funding that would have been affected under George W. Bush's version of the rule.

Women's rights activists and public health experts say the Trump rule will reach deep into the doctor-patient relationship, censor much information and could lead to the deaths of thousands of women around the world every year. Who will tell those stories? The Netherlands reacted by promising a fund to offset some of the cuts, with support from Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Finland, Canada and Cape Verde.

But it's unlikely they can mitigate the full impact of the rule or replace the U.S. in many other arenas that could be under threat. Washington has frequently pushed governments to end human rights violations and to free dissidents. For years, Washington funded independent groups to foster and encourage development of civil society groups and advocates who could hold governments to account. If the forthcoming budget is trimmed, as many expect, those are some of the first programs that could be frozen or dramatically downsized.

Authoritarian leaders who fear scrutiny have laws restricting foreign funding of human rights groups – in Russia, Ethiopia and Venezuela, for example. They also tend to crack down on independent journalism, often demonizing the media as untrustworthy, corrupt or unpatriotic. It's hard to imagine that a White House that labels any critical reporting as “fake news” will put money into supporting a free press or a strong civil society outside the U.S. Reporters on the ground are best placed to discover the sources, dig up the information and develop the stories that really matter.

When the U.S. openly flouts human rights standards – for example, after 9/11 with “enhanced interrogation techniques,” secret prisons and the Guantanamo detention center – other governments can more easily

Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos was suddenly seized and deported when she made one of what had been annual visits to an immigration office. At left she peers out of a van stopped by protesters in Phoenix.



JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

Immigrant detainees at a detention facility in Florence, Arizona. Immigration agents, emboldened by Trump policies, have detained thousands in a nationwide sweep.

shrug off criticism of their own torture, indefinite detention and enforced disappearances. Journalists should be watching to see whether Washington's leading by (bad) example encourages or empowers abuses elsewhere.

Closer to home, the executive orders on immigration and border security, prioritizing for removal anyone who has "committed acts that constitute a chargeable criminal offense" could uproot millions of people with deep roots in the U.S., including the parents of American children. The administration's new rules could target anyone who entered the U.S. illegally – which is estimated to cover about half of the 11 million people living in the U.S. without legal status.

One of the first people known to have been deported under Trump was Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos, a mother of two U.S.-citizen children, who came to the U.S. as a 14-year-old. Her only crime was using a fake Social Security number. She was arrested after checking in with immigration officials, as she had every year since 2008. She was deported to Mexico the next morning. Voters

in the U.S. will only understand the brutality of such policies if journalists and activists tell their stories. During the Obama push to deport undocumented migrants, Human Rights Watch actually found American citizens who had been deported – just one example of why we need independent reporting from the ground.

Congress and the Trump administration have also been moving swiftly to unwind laws that encourage corporate transparency and accountability abroad. One transparency rule under attack requires listed oil, gas, and mining companies to publicly disclose what they pay governments for production. Another requires U.S. companies to disclose sources of gold and other conflict minerals. The first was the result of repeated exposes by journalists and human rights groups showing that rulers in Angola, Equatorial Guinea and other resource-rich countries were misusing billions of dollars in funds; the second came about because journalists and rights groups exposed how business deals were enriching abusive warlords in the Democratic Republic of Congo and

neighboring countries. Suspending these rules will make it harder to monitor corporate behavior and make it easier for corrupt leaders to steal and mismanage public funds. That will increase the need for accurate investigative reporting.

Since January the world's attention has been glued to events in Washington. As time goes on, it will be up to foreign correspondents to make sure that people back home understand the ongoing effects of the new "America First" policy on the rest of the world – and on America's image abroad. We won't know which Trump policies cause harm (or good) in the wider world unless the media invests time and resources in seeking out these stories.

Emma Daly is communications director of Human Rights Watch, which she joined after 20 years as a journalist. She covered conflict and human rights issues in Central America before joining Britain's Independent. She spent two years based in Sarajevo during the Bosnian war and also covered the Kosovo conflict and ensuing refugee crisis, and later covered Spain and Portugal for The New York Times.

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

Citi would like to congratulate the winners of the 78th Annual Overseas Press Club Awards. Their efforts in keeping to the highest standards of journalism not only promote professional integrity, they promote progress.





Prime Minister Modi

Shrinking Press Freedoms in India

The subcontinent boasts a diverse and vigorous media, yet pressure and self-censorship make critical coverage of the government increasingly rare.

Anjali Kamat

THE PRESS is big business in India. And with over 100,000 newspapers, nearly a thousand television channels, hundreds of radio stations, and dozens of news websites serving the country's 1.2 billion residents in nearly two dozen languages, business is booming. Yet the world's

largest democracy has consistently placed in the bottom third of the World Press Freedom Index, coming in at 133 out of 180 last year. Veteran Indian journalists argue that a flurry of corporate takeovers of media outfits, combined with a rapidly shrinking space for dissent under the current government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has had a chilling effect on press freedoms in the country. Moreover,

colonial-era laws on defamation and sedition are routinely abused.

"Most of the new television channels, websites, and newspapers are not started by people committed to journalism but those who see the media as an influence-peddling platform to further their own personal, political, and financial interests," longtime investigative journalist Josy Joseph told me. Joseph, who is fighting a \$150 million

MONEY SHARMA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

defamation lawsuit for his reporting, is the national security editor of *The Hindu*, a family-owned national newspaper founded in 1878. He added that the partisan agendas of most large media houses are increasingly aligned with those of the ruling right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which came to power in 2014. “The climate is changing,” media analyst Sevanti Ninan said, noting that “with the watering down of liberalism across the country, the situation for the press is more oppressive.”

Curtailling press freedoms is not unique to the current government. Historians often point to the brutal crackdown on the media during the two-year Emergency declared by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of the Congress Party in 1975 as the country’s darkest period for democracy and the press. What’s unfolding in newsrooms across the country now, Joseph and several other journalists told me, is not as overt as a formal emergency, but functions as an unspoken regime of censorship. Journalists have to be very careful about how they cover the Modi government and its backers—or risk having their stories never see the light of day.

A year and a half ago, the former executive editor and co-founder of the popular news website Firstpost resigned abruptly, citing “editorial pushback,” independent magazine *The Caravan* reported. According to sources at Firstpost, certain board members at the website’s owner – the media conglomerate Network18, which in turn is owned by the country’s largest private corporation, Reliance Industries—had issued a directive warning that any critical coverage of at least three senior political leaders of the BJP, including Prime Minister Modi, was off-limits.

Last November, the Indian government threatened to take a national private news channel (NDTV) off the air for a day. Its offence: broadcasting “strategically sensitive” information about an attack on an Indian military base. After an outcry from the press, the 24-hour-ban was suspended, but only after Minister of

Information and Broadcasting Venkaiah Naidu attempted to justify the initial order, saying, “Freedom of the press is very important, but security and unity of the country is the most important.”

Most of the condemnation of restrictions on press freedom has focused on the elite English-language press based in New Delhi and other large cities. Yet reporters from the rest of the country have long had to contend with a more sinister reality. India is not a place that most international journalists consider to be particularly dangerous. Still, last year six journalists were killed in India—most of them small-town or rural reporters with local media outlets who had exposed corruption or wrongdoing by political leaders and power brokers.

“Our principal concern is impunity and the failure to prosecute people who have killed journalists,” Steven Butler, the Asia Program Coordinator at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) told me. “Since the 1990s, at least 27 journalists have been killed for their work with no one ever being held accountable.” The Geneva-based Press Emblem Campaign lists an even higher figure, reporting that at least 25 Indian journalists have been killed since 2011.

In the conflict zones of Kashmir and parts of the central Indian states of Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, and Orissa, which are controlled by Maoist-affiliated rebels, freedom of the press remains a mirage. Last year, for reasons that were never publicly stated, the Indian government banned the only independent newspaper in Kashmir, the *Kashmir Reader*, for three months. Hilal Mir, who edits the *Reader*, said that even since the ban was lifted in December 2016, the state has continued to pressure the owner over editorial content.

“Even basic reporting of the situation here is seen as problematic or anti-establishment if it goes against the narrative of the state in any way,” said Mir. “Indian security forces are wrongfully arresting old people and shooting at children. How are we supposed to do our jobs



without reporting these facts?” Mir said that in Kashmir the censorship is constant, regardless of who is in power in New Delhi. “This government is just more brazen,” he said.

Malini Subramaniam, who won CPJ’s 2016 International Press Freedom Award, had been reporting for five years from the heart of the central Indian conflict zone between Maoist and security forces for the independent news website scroll.in, exposing human rights violations by security forces. In February 2016, she was forced to move out of the state following weeks of intimidation by the police and attacks on her home by an anti-Maoist vigilante group. “It is so difficult to access these areas now that no one even knows if someone gets killed anymore,” she told me. “The government has created a set of obstructions so that even if the atrocities are continuing, the news just doesn’t get out.”

Truth, Subramaniam lamented, remains the greatest casualty of this latest clampdown on reporting from the area. To a lesser degree, the same holds across India.

Anjali Kamat is an investigative journalist and former correspondent and producer for Al Jazeera’s current affairs documentary shows, Fault Lines and Democracy Now! Her work has been recognized with a Peabody, an Overseas Press Club award, an RFK award, and four Emmy nominations. She has reported from South Asia and the Middle East for the past decade and is writing a book on migrant labor in the Middle East for Verso Books. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the OPC.

Indian soldiers arrive at an army base in Uri, Kashmir, after it was attacked by rebels. Kashmir news is heavily censored.

ANNUAL AWARDS 2016

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA



Fighters with a pro-government militia stand over the headless body of an Islamic State militant in Falluja, Iraq, in June.

BRYAN DENTON/NEW YORK TIMES

By Scott Kraft,
CHAIRMAN, AWARDS COMMITTEE

THE IMPRESSIVE roster of OPC award winners this year offers proof, if anyone needed it, that journalism remains a vibrant, powerful and courageous global force – exposing corruption, telling gripping narratives, explaining a complex world, and capturing the grit of people in extraordinary circumstances.

We invited 90 judges – representing decades of reporting experience abroad, themselves winners of OPC awards and Pulitzer Prizes – to carefully weigh 428 entries in 22 categories. The work they honored came from four continents and was produced by newspapers, wire services, television networks, public radio, online news outlets and magazines.

New York Times journalists swept the three photography categories with bracing work from a Venezuelan mental hospital, the streets of the Philippines and inside

Iraq. PBS-TV also won three, with reports from Syria, Colombia and Afghanistan.

The Associated Press had two winners, including the Hal Boyle Award for the courageous reporting of Caracas-based Hannah Dreier and the Joe and Laurie Dine Award for a team effort to chronicle ISIS killings in Iraq and Syria. Detained and threatened by state intelligence officers, Dreier skillfully charted the disintegration of Venezuelan society – coverage highlighted by her story about the life and death of a church-going victim of mob justice.

The Huffington Post won the online prize for a riveting report on refugee profiteers; the Washington Post was honored for a look at the great Internet firewall in China; and The New Yorker's Ben Taub—a former Overseas Press Club Foundation scholarship awardee—won the investigative award for a meticulous examination of the Syrian government's war on its own people.

Among other winners were Anand Gopal's moving piece for *The Atlantic* on the struggle of a Sunni family in Iraq, Bloom-

berg Businessweek's story on how Goldman Sachs lost \$1.2 billion of Libya's money, and the *L.A. Times*' Robyn Dixon for compelling tales from Nigeria and South Sudan. HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel won the new Peter Jennings Award, for a penetrating look at corruption in the International Olympic Committee.

The *Virginia Quarterly Review* took the environmental reporting prize for a vivid piece about three 20-somethings who run a giant Central African Republic wildlife preserve. Masha Gessen won in commentary for her stunning work on Russia in *The New York Review of Books*.

Our judges marveled at the high quality of work they found in every category. It made the job of selecting winners exceedingly difficult, but, as several noted, also especially rewarding. We are deeply grateful to them for helping us identify and honor the finest international journalism of the year.

Scott Kraft is Deputy Managing Editor of the Los Angeles Times. He is a member of the board of the Overseas Press Club.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE TEAM OF
***UNDERCOVER
IN SYRIA***

ON RECEIVING THE
**DAVID KAPLAN
AWARD**



OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA

ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2016

1

THE HAL BOYLE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or digital reporting from abroad

Hannah Dreier
The Associated Press
“Venezuela Undone”



In insightful, enduring, and richly detailed reports, Dreier chronicled the unraveling of a nation. Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis is not the story of a people overlooked by progress; it is the story of a once-prosperous society, with the largest oil reserves in the world, driven by its leaders to the brink of starvation. Dreier bore witness to a collapse of middle-class life — food riots, collapsing health care, the dawn of mob justice — and then unearthed its origins, a combination of mismanagement, political delusion and corruption. Throughout, she also exposed a less visible realm of ruin: the loss of empathy among neighbors, the corrosion of the soul. Her efforts had consequences. U.S. senators called for sanctions against corrupt officials. Readers donated money to pay for a child’s medical treatments. At the same time, she received threats from Venezuelan intelligence officers and government supporters. Hannah Dreier’s brave and revealing reporting exemplifies the legacy of Hal Boyle and the best of foreign correspondence. It is not only a rendering of recent history but also a warning for the future.

Citation:
Ben Hubbard, Mark Mazzetti, Carlotta Gall, Scott Shane and Nicholas Kulish
The New York Times
“Secrets of the Kingdom”

Sponsor: Norman Pearlstine in memory of Jerry Flint

Judges: Barry Bearak (head); Gady Epstein, *The Economist*; Kari Howard, freelance; *Nieman Storyboard*; Kerry Luft, *Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation*

2

THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or digital interpretation of international affairs

Simon Denyer, Emily Rauhala and Elizabeth Dwoskin
The Washington Post
“Behind the Firewall”



In “Beyond the Firewall,” Washington Post reporters confronted a subject of vast dimensions and epic implications: the Internet in China. The idea of the Internet as an inherently democratizing force for good has run up against the reality of China’s campaign to censor in cyberspace. The team took readers into the fascinating and bizarre world behind the “Great Firewall.” They explained how the authoritarian regime in Beijing has utilized social media and web usage to create an Orwellian surveillance tool, the “social credit rating,” to punish and reward every citizen. They interviewed dissidents who test the boundaries of an implacable crackdown that has succeeded in blocking tens of thousands of websites, yet tolerates certain loopholes for a globally connected minority. The series was smart, vivid and effective, bringing alive a difficult subject. It explored a frontier where geopolitics and technology converge, presenting counter-intuitive questions about how governments manage ever-sprawling societies that have the potential to affect vast numbers of people, far beyond China and far into the future.

Citation: **Tom Burgis, Pilita Clark, Michael Peel, Charlie Bibby and Kari-Ruth Pedersen**
Financial Times
“The Great Land Rush”

Sponsor: William J. Holstein and Rita Sevell

Judges: Sebastian Rotella (head), *ProPublica*; Chris Kraul, freelance; Ginger Thompson, *ProPublica*; Calvin Sims, *International House New York*; Tim Golden, freelance

3

THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

Bryan Denton and Sergey Ponomarev
The New York Times
 “What ISIS Wrought”



Bryan Denton and Sergey Ponomarev showed exceptional courage, advancing with Iraqi Special Forces and Kurdish fighters into Islamic State-occupied areas, and they captured intimate views into the lives of those affected by war. The images were artful as well as powerfully journalistic.

Citation:
Goran Tomasevic,
Zohra Bensemra,
Mohammed Salem and
Ahmed Jadallah
Reuters
 “Battle for Mosul”

Sponsor: *TIME Magazine*

Judges for the three photography awards:
 Adrees Latif (head), *Reuters*; Carol Guzy, freelance; David Furst, *The New York Times*; Sarah Leen, *National Geographic*; Kira Pollack, *TIME Magazine*; Michael Kamber, freelance

(Judges David Furst and Adrees Latif recused themselves from Robert Capa Award selections)

4

THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in any medium

Daniel Berehulak
The New York Times
 “They Are Slaughtering Us Like Animals”



Daniel Berehulak's riveting photographs captured, intimately and in depth, the lives and deaths of those affected by the Philippine drug war. It was visual story telling at its best: images that one judge described as a “journey through hell.” The work also brought wide attention to a story that had been largely overlooked.

Citation:
Aris Messinis
Agence France Presse
 “Desperate Journey”

Sponsor: *Getty Images*

(Judges David Furst and Adrees Latif recused themselves)

THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

BRYAN DENTON AND SERGEY PONOMAREV

The New York Times

“What ISIS Wrought”





SERGEY PONOMAREV (3)/NEW YORK TIMES

In the battle for Mosul, civilians paid a heavy price. When these photos were taken, more

than 70,000 people had been displaced from Iraq's second largest city. At left, a boy

cries over the body of his father, who was gunned down by an Islamic State sniper.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA

ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2016

5

THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Best feature photography published in any medium on an international theme

Meridith Kohut

The New York Times

"Inside Venezuela's Crumbling Mental Hospitals"



Meridith Kohut's moving images brought attention to the plight of people in Venezuela's state-run psychiatric hospitals, places that have been all but forgotten in that country's disintegration. The stark,

powerful photographs from inside the halls of those institutions grimly cast a light on endemic suffering and malnourishment.

Citation:

Tomas Munita

The New York Times

"Cuba on the Edge of Change"

Sponsor: Cyma Rubin, *Business of Entertainment*

(Judge David Furst recused himself)

6

THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

Best radio, audio or podcast news or interpretation of international affairs

Emily Harris, Gabe O'Connor, Barry Gordermer, Michael May and Larry Kaplow
NPR

"Moments of change for Palestinians and Israelis"



What causes people to change their minds, their beliefs, their view of the forces shaping their lives? These four powerful and nuanced stories describe such pivotal moments for people living in the middle of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Emily Harris introduces us to a Palestinian man whose empathy transforms him from revenge seeker to peace activist. Then we meet a Palestinian woman, long involved in peace activism, who becomes alienated from the process and from her former Israeli friends. An Israeli woman changes from settlement opponent to West Bank settler. And a former Israeli soldier, once a proud defender of the nation, suddenly sees himself as "occupier" when he smiles at a young Palestinian girl and catches her look of fear in response. These profound transformations, pulling in different directions, deftly remind listeners of the many facets of this conflict, and they presage the challenges of finding a lasting peace.

Citation:

Jasmine Garsd

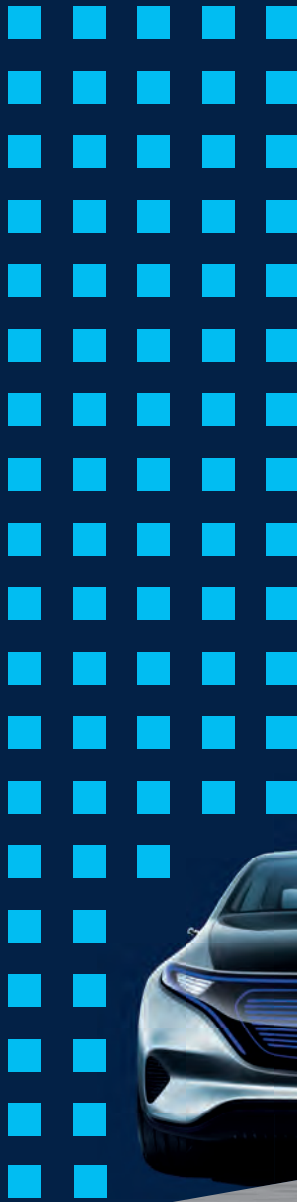
PRI's The World

"Women of Colombia's War"

Judges: Ann Cooper (head), *Columbia School of Journalism*;

Anne Garrels, author; Diantha Parker, freelance; Arun Venugopal, *WNYC*; Mary Kay Magistad, freelance

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The world is in motion. This makes an objective and critical view of changes and ground-breaking developments even more important. The Overseas Press Club of America assumes its responsibilities and recognizes exemplary communication. We appreciate this important work and are happy to support it. Congratulations to all of the award winners and their outstanding contributions.

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THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

DANIEL BEREHULAK

The New York Times





Daniel Berehulak's photos of the violent lives and deaths of drug users and dealers targeted by the Philippine government helped spark worldwide protest by human rights groups. At left, police respond to the killing of Michael Araja, 29, gunned down by unknown assailants on a street in Manila.

DANIEL BEREHULAK/NEW YORK TIMES

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA

ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2016

7

THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

Best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad

Clarissa Ward
CNN
“Undercover in Syria”



In a year marked by brave and courageous reporting, Clarissa Ward and her team at CNN stood out for the incredible risk they took to bring their stories from Syria to light. The images, editing, and writing brought jarring resonance to a critical story. With poignant interviews, CNN's team told difficult stories without resorting to hype. It didn't just address the what, but the why, including why doctors don't leave and the implications for institutions under direct attack. This report exemplified international television reporting at its finest.

Sponsor: Ben and Karen Sherwood

Judges: Edith Chapin (head), *NPR*;
Eric Marropodi, *NBC*; Diane Ruggiero, *CNN*;
Ellen Shearer, *Northwestern University*;
Gerry Holmes, *NPR*

(Judge Ruggiero recused herself from the final selection)

8

THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Best TV, video or documentary interpretation of international affairs less than one hour

Beth Murphy, Charles Sennott, Justine Nagan, Chris White and Sally Jo Fifer
PBS POV/GroundTruth
“What Tomorrow Brings”



This documentary transported the life-and-death war for women's rights in Afghanistan right into American living rooms. In a crystal-clear story about an all-girls school northeast of Kabul, the PBS team brilliantly illuminated the lives of the girls, their families and the courageous teachers and administrators striving to survive constant cultural, economic and political challenges.

Citation:
Morgan Till, Jane Ferguson, Jane Arraf, Jon Gerberg and Sara Just
PBS NewsHour/Pulitzer Center
“The Fight for Iraq”

Sponsor: CBS

Judges: Allan Dodds-Frank (head), freelance;
Walt Bogdanich, *The New York Times*;
Kathleen Campion, freelance; Kitty Pilgrim, author; Roxana Saberi, freelance



THE PETER JENNINGS AWARD

Best TV, video or documentary about international affairs one hour or longer

The Real Sports Team

HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel
"The Lords of the Rings"

HBO's documentary, the first recipient in this new OPC category, exemplified the core values of Peter Jennings' reporting: commitment to



covering international stories, unflinching dedication to the craft of journalism,

consistent inquiry to uncover all aspects of a story, and the courage to follow the story no matter the consequences. "The Lord of the Rings" was an ambitious, unique and riveting expose that explained the painful human and environmental cost of the Olympic Games and the unethical practices of its organizing body, the International Olympics Committee, the wealthiest sports organization in the world. Reported over two years from nine countries with four correspondents, the 75-minute long program aired on the eve of the 2016 Rio Games and revealed that the IOC pursues wealth, privilege and glory for its members at a staggering cost to people around the world. This complex and disturbing story shed new light on the IOC and uncovered graft and corruption at a great cost to human rights and dignity at the Olympic Games.

Sponsor: The Jennings Family

Judges: Abi Wright (head), *Columbia School of Journalism*; Liz O. Baylen, *The New York Times*; Jonathan Jones, *Center for Investigative Reporting*; Cynthia Lopez, freelance producer



THE ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Best magazine reporting in print or digital on an international story

Anand Gopal

The Atlantic
"The Hell After ISIS"



Anand Gopal

Anand Gopal's "The Hell After ISIS" is a beautifully written account of the consequences of war. His narrative, based on 13 months of reporting, recounts the suffering of one Sunni family in Iraq, fleeing ISIS jihadists only to fall prey

to unforgiving Shia militias. Gopal was detained and expelled from Iraq, but managed to return to complete this compelling narrative that sheds light on both the rise of ISIS and the global refugee crisis.

Citation:

Scott Anderson
The New York Times Magazine
"Fractured Lands"

Sponsor: Ford Motor Company

Judges: Robert Friedman (head), *Bloomberg News*; Barbara Demick, *Los Angeles Times*; Stephan Faris, *Politico Europe*; Laurie Hayes, *Brunswick Group*; Liam Stack, *The New York Times*

(Judge Stack recused himself from the citation decision.)

THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

MERIDITH KOHUT

The New York Times

“Inside Venezuela’s Crumbling Mental Hospitals”





Above and top right: Scenes from the El Pampero

mental hospital in Venezuela, where Meridith Kohut found a complete



MERIDITH KOHUT / THE NEW YORK TIMES (2); TOMÁS MUNITA / THE NEW YORK TIMES



breakdown in care as the government disintegrates.

Above: Citation winner Tomás Munita captured a scene from the days of

mourning in Cuba after the death of Fidel Castro.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA

ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2016

11

THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

Best cartoons on international affairs

Steve Sack
Minneapolis Star Tribune



Steve Sack

Steve Sack successfully harnessed all the cartoonist's tools — caricature, composition, biting wit and solid journalism — in his impressive portfolio. Visually engaging and often smile-inducing, Sack covered a wide variety of subjects, from the erosion of coral reefs to the suffering of Syrian civilians, with skill, style and aplomb.

Citation:
Adam Zyglis
The Buffalo News

Sponsor: *Daimler*

Judges: Kal Kallaughner (head), *freelance*;
Robert Ruby, *Freedom House*;
Jenny Robb, *Ohio State University*;
David Horsey, *Los Angeles Times*

12

THE MORTON FRANK AWARD

Best magazine international business news reporting in print or digital

Matthew Campbell and Kit Chellel
Bloomberg Businessweek
“Hot Mess: How Goldman Sachs Lost \$1.2 Billion of Libya’s Money”



Matthew Campbell



Kit Chellel

Matthew Campbell and Kit Chellel's engaging piece about a multi-billion-dollar deal between Goldman Sachs and Qaddafi's Libya was a feat of storytelling. The careful and vivid selection of details -- a banned novel resting on the table, a late-night call to a prostitute in Dubai, the long wait for an elevator in Tripoli -- brought a cinematic quality to the writing. The reporting was equally impressive. The story, drawn from court documents and interviews, created three-

dimensional characters and offered readers a rare glimpse into how secretive financial deals are sealed. It was a thrilling collision between two of the biggest news themes of the past decade -- the financial crisis of 2008 and an autocracy on its last legs before the Arab Spring.

Citation:
Jordan Robertson, Michael Riley and Andrew Willis
Bloomberg Businessweek
“How to Hack an Election”

Sponsor: Marc Lemcke

Judges: Farnaz Fassihi (head), *Wall Street Journal*; Aryn Baker, *TIME Magazine*;
Anna Fifield, *The Washington Post*;
Jesse Pestá, *The New York Times*;
Robert Worth, *The New York Times magazine*

13

THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

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

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, McClatchy, the Miami Herald and more than 100 other media partners

"The Panama Papers: Politicians, Criminals and the Rogue Industry That Hides Their Cash"

Using documents leaked from a Panamanian law firm, this highly innovative global coalition of news organizations shocked the world with



detailed accounts of how political and business elites, arms dealers and others hid their wealth in secretive webs of

more than 200,000 offshore banking entities. More than 400 journalists from nearly 80 countries took part in the remarkably complex project. The sheer scale of the project, lasting over a period of years, surpassed the best efforts of any single news organization.

Citation:

Rob Barry, Christopher S. Stewart, Mark Maremont, Margaret Coker and Benoit Faucon

The Wall Street Journal
"Accounting For Terror"

Sponsor: *Forbes Magazine*

Judges: Bill Holstein (head); Pete Engardio, *Boston Consulting Group*; Stephanie Mehta, *Vanity Fair*; Leah Nathans Spiro, *Riverside Creative*; Jo Ling Kent, *NBC News*

14

THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Best non-fiction book on international affairs

Arkady Ostrovsky

Viking/Penguin Random House

"The Invention of Russia: From Gorbachev's Freedom to Putin's War"



Arkady Ostrovsky

Grippingly told and brimming with brilliant insights, "The Invention of Russia: From Gorbachev's Freedom to Putin's War" explained the past 60 years of Russia's turbulent political development. Arkady Ostrovsky, a veteran Russian-

born journalist who has been on the scene at historical events, immersed himself in years of Russian newspapers and TV programming, and conducted candid interviews with dozens of Russia's leading politicians, oligarchs and media kingmakers. The result was a fascinating and compelling insider account of how power has been won and lost among Russia's ruling elite. Ostrovsky highlighted the outsized influence of the Russian media, from the pioneering newspaper *Kommersant* to the national TV networks and their often amoral news anchors. In one chilling anecdote, political reformer Boris Nemstov visits the office of Russia's newly elected president, Vladimir Putin, and sees nothing on Putin's desk except a TV remote control. Putin would soon establish complete power over Russian media; years later, Nemstov would be assassinated.

Citation:

Robert F. Worth

"A Rage for Order: The Middle East in Turmoil, from Tahrir Square to ISIS"

Sponsor: Friends of Richard Threlkeld

Judges: Dan Hertzberg (head), freelance; John Bussey, *The Wall Street Journal*; Neil Hickey, *The Columbia Journalism Review*; Jennifer Siebens, freelance

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15

THE MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

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

Robyn Dixon

Los Angeles Times

“South Sudan Slips Back Toward Chaos”



Robyn Dixon's vivid dispatches from Nigeria and South Sudan read like novellas, with strong central characters presented not in archetype but in all their complex humanity as they struggle against corruption, terrorism and

civil war. Thorough, revelatory news reporting undergirded these tales, but Dixon kept the focus on ordinary people in unimaginable circumstances: a big-hearted father of 25, a driving teacher on perilous roads, a teenage girl traded for cattle. The lyrical storytelling offered a fresh look at African lives that have slipped from view as U.S. news outlets shrink foreign coverage. A concern for the human condition was embedded in Dixon's journalism — her subjects are survivors, and their capacity for resilience lingered with the reader. Dixon's work was a master class in foreign reporting that preserves the dignity and voices of the people who trust us with their stories.

Citation:

Kathy Gannon

The Associated Press

“Honor Bound”

Sponsor: Linda Fasulo

Judges: Hannah Allam (head), McClatchy; Bob Dowling, freelance; S. Mitra Kalita, *CNN*; Ernesto Londono, *The New York Times*; John Yearwood, *International Press Institute*

16

THE DAVID A. ANDELMAN AND PAMELA TITLE AWARD

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

Marcel Mettelsiefen, Dan Edge, Andrew Metz and Raney Aronson

PBS Frontline

“Children of Syria”



This was a captivating piece of documentary-making. While there have been many stories on the Syrian refugee crisis, *PBS* produced a lovely, layered story of tragedy and hope that added context to the migrant story. The team perfectly captured the emotion of a family dealing with war and its effects. The focus switched from person to person seamlessly, building rich pictures of each family member. When the family arrives in Germany, each member is seen coping in different ways with their new lives. The eldest daughter makes German friends, shedding her hijab for lipstick and for the first time in her life feeling free. Her mother, however, seems adrift without her husband of 21 years, lonely and confused in a strange country. The cinematography was first rate.

Citation:

James Blumeil, Dan Edge, Andrew Metz and Raney Aronson

PBS Frontline

“Exodus”

Sponsor: David A. Andelman and Pamela Title

Judges: Denise Vance (head), *The Associated Press*; Tony Cavin, *CBS*; John Clarke, *Reuters TV*; Robert Reid, *Stars and Stripes*

17

THE JOE AND LAURIE DINE AWARD

Best international reporting in any medium dealing with human rights

The Associated Press Staff
The Associated Press
 "Islamic State: A Savage Legacy"

AP

AP's "Savage Legacy" series was a powerful reminder of the role that the basic business of journalism — getting the facts — still plays in the battle against human rights abuses, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The series also underlined how the reach of a global news agency can tell a story that goes beyond one country or region, showing the patterns that reflect systematized atrocities. The series is also a testament to the spirit and endurance of public service journalism. While officials were slow to document the deaths and destruction of the Islamic State, AP reporters, often at great personal risk, took an active role collecting evidence of the tragedies and despair. The AP documented the existence of 72 mass graves and the destruction of cultural and religious sites by corroborating survivor testimony with satellite imagery, on the ground reporting and reports from local rights groups. The result was a series of stories that established not just the terrible facts, but gave voice to the survivors of atrocities, implicitly challenging the international community to ensure that the perpetrators are eventually held to account.

Citation:
Rachel Nolan
Harpers
 "Innocents: Where Pregnant Women Have More to Fear than Zika"

Sponsor: Philip Dine

Judges: Anya Schiffrin (head), *Columbia University*; Jonathan Birchall, *Open Society Foundations*; Rebecca Chao, *Foreign Affairs*; Nin-hai Tseng, *Fortune*

18

THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues

Elliott D. Woods
Virginia Quarterly Review/Pulitzer Center
 "The Fight for Chinko"



Elliott D. Woods

In a raw and unique tale from the Central African Republic, Woods described in vivid detail how three 20-somethings run the remote, 38,000-square-mile Chinko wildlife preserve. In his lone, intrepid journey, Woods captured the chilling terror and life-threatening peril the small team endures in the course of their work, including how they stave off murderous gunmen and spend months in an overcrowded jail. All this in order to keep alive one of Africa's most pristine habitats, with herds of elephant, antelope, rhinos and a multitude of other animals. The story, written with sensitivity and attentiveness, cast a light on the grueling, back-breaking effort needed to protect wildlife in a country with no resources, rampant corruption, and brutal horrors.

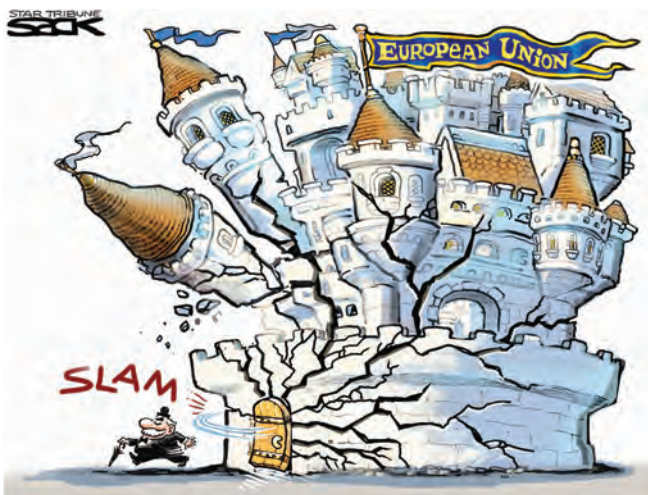
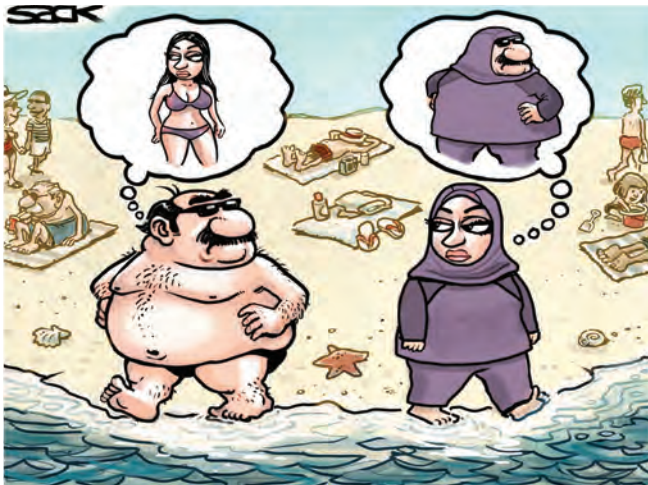
Sponsor: Citi

Judges: Vivienne Walt, (head) *TIME Magazine*; James Graff, *The Wall Street Journal*; Brad Plumer, *Vox*; Eric Roston, *Bloomberg*; Susanne Rust, *Columbia University*

THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

STEVE SACK

Minneapolis Star Tribune



An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, likely New York City, with numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter. A yellow-bordered white box is positioned in the upper-middle section, containing text. The text is white and reads: "We salute the winners of the OPC Awards for their inspiring work." The box has a yellow border on the left and bottom sides.

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19

THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

Nadja Drost, Bruno Federico, Morgan Till, Patti Parson and Sara Just
PBS NewsHour
"Fight for Peace"



Nadja Drost



Bruno Federico



Morgan Till



Patti Parson



Sara Just

The *PBS NewsHour* team took on a difficult and at times dangerous assignment about a complex issue and succeeded in obtaining unique access to produce a series of reports that enlightened and informed. The reporting reflected courage, nuance, big-picture analysis and observed details. At the core of this team were two independent journalists who dedicated themselves to being on the ground to cover the story. They teamed up with a prestigious national news organization that allowed them to produce a powerful body of work that reached a wide audience on television and online. It was a partnership that represented the very best of international news in the digital age.

Citation:
Jon Lee Anderson
The New Yorker
"The Distant Shore"

Sponsor: *JetBlue*

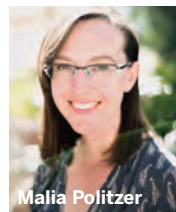
Judges: Charles Sennott (head), *GroundTruth Project*; Tom Hundley, *Pulitzer Center*; Ernest Sotomayor, *Columbia University*; David Adams, freelance; Mary Rajkumar, *AP*

20

BEST DIGITAL REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Best story or series of stories using creative and dynamic digital storytelling techniques

Malia Politzer and Emily Kassie
The Huffington Post/Pulitzer Center
"The 21st Century Gold Rush"



Malia Politzer



Emily Kassie

In a category dominated by the global refugee crisis, "The 21st Century Gold Rush" charted fresh territory in a well-traversed international issue by digging deeply into those who have profited from the refugee crisis. Spanning four countries, with characters from warlords to sex slaves, *Huffington Post* reporters Malia Politzer and Emily Kassie worked tirelessly to uncover a hidden side of the economics of global migration, and told it through powerful digital storytelling. Integrating text, photography, ambient video, documentary video and animations, the story was a seamless and searing window into a dangerous ecosystem that is only just coming to light.

Citation:
Evan Ratliff
The Atavist Magazine
"The Mastermind"

Sponsor: *Google*

Judges: Azmat Khan (head), *New America*; Ryan Devereaux, *The Intercept*; Ashley Forde, *Matter Studios*; Ethar El Katatney, *AJ+*; Dodai Stewart, *Fusion*; Lam Vo, *BuzzFeed Open Lab*

21

BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Best investigative reporting in any medium on an international story

Ben Taub

The New Yorker/Pulitzer Center
“War Crimes in Syria”



The war in Syria has generated headlines around the world, many of them focusing on atrocities committed by the militant group, Islamic State. Less understood is the saga of torture and murder going on in every corner of the Syrian government's security and intelligence apparatus. In an exhaustively detailed account, Ben Taub of *The New Yorker* laid bare the horrific campaign to stamp out opposition, sanctioned by top levels of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government. Based on a heroic international effort to gather documentation of these war crimes, Taub's account took the more than 600,000 photos, internal memos and witness statements and wove a powerful and heartbreaking story of a government waging war on its own citizens. Taub spent months poring through files to collect evidence of at least 11,000 victims mutilated, cut, burned, shot, beaten and strangled by the powerful apparatus of the Syrian state. His meticulous review of the documents was supplemented by his own unforgettable interviews with one of the regime's torture victims, and the dramatic saga of the war crimes investigators themselves — lending a powerful humanity to the document dive. The result was a piece that deployed the best traditions of investigative journalism to achieve a chilling and unforgettable narrative that truly holds power to account.

Citation:

Chris Hamby

BuzzFeed News

“Secrets of a Global Super Court”

Sponsor: Michael Serrill

Judges: Kim Murphy (head), *Los Angeles Times*; Gillian Tett, US managing editor, *Financial Times*; Bill Rempel, freelance; Mary Beth Sheridan, *The Washington Post*; Henry Chu, *Variety*

22

BEST COMMENTARY

Best commentary in any medium on international news

Masha Gessen

The New York Review of Books
“Trump, Russia and the Reality of Power”



If ever a year summoned commentators to think outside the conventional boundaries, it was 2016. The world's last superpower elected an impetuous, self-absorbed reality TV star to be its commander in chief. His campaign evidently was assisted — in what measure we still don't know — by a Russia that remains a virtual dictatorship. It was a year made for Masha Gessen. In essays written for *The New York Review of Books*, the Russian-born journalist and author brilliantly deconstructed the Trump-Putin relationship, confronted unquestioned assumptions about how power works, and described a profound crisis of democracy. Some of her dark forecasts (a stock market crash if Trump won) have not come true (yet), but there is much she got right, not least the ascent of Trump. “It's time to force ourselves to imagine the unimaginable...Trump being elected president.” That was in July. Whether or not you shared her deep pessimism about a Trump presidency, she made you think.

Citation:

Trudy Rubin

The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Columns from hot spots and home on US foreign policy challenges of the new era”

Sponsor: Robert Serio

Judges: Bill Keller (head), *The Marshall Project*; Scott MacLeod, *The Cairo Review of Global Affairs*; Lydia Polgreen, *The Huffington Post*; David Shipley, *Bloomberg View*

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The world was shocked when Mevlut Mert Altintas shot and killed Andrei Karlov, the Russian ambassador to Turkey, at an art gallery in Ankara. Altintas was then himself killed by Turkish security forces.

