



# Overseas Press Club of America

## BULLETIN

### Cast Your Vote to Elect an Eclectic Slate of New OPC Officers and Governors

BY BRIAN BYRD

**A**S CHAIR of this year's nominating committee – which includes club President Deidre Depke, and governors Emma Daly and William Holstein – it is with great pride that I nominate a slate of officers and board candidates who have the energy, talent and drive to guide the OPC through these turbulent times. The Committee made it a priority to select candidates for a slate that is balanced, a well-mixed combination comprising young journalists as well as those with distinguished careers. Each of them is exceptional.

This year, the OPC is electing nine (9) governors who are Active members and three (3) who are Associate members. The club is continuing to use the online voting website Balloteer.com to host its secure election. You will receive an email in late July with a link to the election at the e-mail address where you receive OPC electronic correspondence. If you have not re-

ceived this link by Aug. 6, please e-mail [info@opcofamerica.org](mailto:info@opcofamerica.org) to obtain it.

The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 3 at noon, and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Sept. 4. Each ballot requires a login, which is your e-mail address where you received the ballot link. The system allows one voting ballot and delineates between Active and Associate members. For those who prefer to use a paper ballot, please send an email to [info@opcofamerica.org](mailto:info@opcofamerica.org) or call the OPC office at 212-626-9220.

One final thought. Everyday our members strive to truthfully capture events as they unfold, to provide meaning and perspective, despite being declared an “enemy of the public” or members of “fake news.” To counter this deceit and protect the Fourth Estate, it is imperative to have a strong OPC and board of governors. This can only be achieved if you vote. When you receive your ballot, please remember this and cast your vote. I know I will. ❖

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### ‘Civil’ Platform Offers Help for Newsrooms and Journalists

#### EVENT RECAP

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

**T**HE LITANY of challenges facing the news industry is daunting. Traditional journalism has a trust problem. Newsrooms have a sustainability problem. Armies of bad actors, social media gate keepers, fake news makers, hired trolls and hostile politicians press against the gates.

But a new project is looking for ways to thwart these threats, to help newsrooms find sustainable models, to foster a trusted community of content creators, and eventually help journalists get paid for their work.

The secret weapon: blockchain and crypto-economics.

On July 11, former OPC Governor Daniel Sieberg presented an overview of “Civil,” a new platform for journalists that uses cryptocurrency to create a decentralized marketplace that will be governed by holders of Civil “tokens” based on Ethereum’s virtual currency system.

“You can think of this as a cooperatively owned platform,” Sieberg said during the program. “Imagine building a platform in service of journalism. This is what we are trying to do.”

Sieberg is a co-founder and business development lead at Civil. He said the company is building a whole system for journalists where community members who care about journalism can challenge each other’s work, hold other members accountable, and work



together to create sustainable business models.

The government and management of the community is up to “citizens” who acquire a stake in the community by purchasing Civil tokens.

The company, which employs about 25

*Continued on Page 9*

# 2018 Election Slate

## President

### PANCHO BERNASCONI

I am deeply honored and excited to have been selected by the nominating committee to run for the post of OPC President. During my 4 years as an OPC Governor it has been tremendously gratifying to work with so many talented and knowledgeable members such as past presidents Marcus Mabry and Bill Holstein as well as current President Deidre Depke and Executive Director Patricia Kranz.

I very much want to build on Deidre's work of expanding our rolls with younger members as well as creating relationships with the key independent organizations that have come to fill the gaps in training and assistance for freelancers and staff working internationally.

I would be the first OPC President from the visuals side, having begun my career working for Agence France-Presse in Washington DC. I went on to work in various photo editing roles at the *Chicago Tribune* and *The New York Times* and have been with Getty Images for the past 14 years. My current role has me in charge of our global news report working with our roster of staff and freelance photographers and editors.

I am proud to serve on two other photojournalism-related boards: The Eddie Adams Workshop and the Chris Hondros Fund. The Hondros Fund is especially close to my heart as it works to amplify the legacy of Getty Images staff photographer Chris Hondros, who was killed in April 2011 while on assignment in Libya.

I am humbled by the OPC nomination and deeply appreciate your support and look forward to engaging with many of you in the coming months and years.

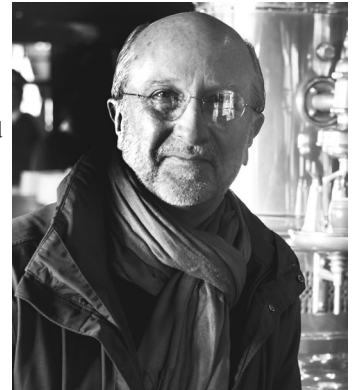


their careers unfold. I want to develop more support for "local" journalists. These brave professionals are the bedrock of international reporting. Called "fixers" or "translators" they share our risks while sharing their expertise in a country and society. The world is ever more dangerous for us and especially for them. I want to emphasize the Overseas in our title.

### CHRISTOPHER DICKEY

I am the foreign editor of The Daily Beast, based in Paris. It is vital, I think, for the OPC to be seen clearly as the representative organization promoting the work and protecting the interest of journalists who actually are overseas. As one of the dwindling number of staffers in that category I hope I can help with that. But I would also hope that going forward we can have more representation of active freelancers on the OPC's board of governors. I work with several who might be excellent candidates.

Previously I was the Paris bureau chief for The Daily Beast and for *Newsweek* magazine. I served as the *Washington Post* bureau chief in Cairo, and before that in Mexico City, where I took my first posting as a foreign correspondent in 1980.



### SCOTT KRAFT

I'm managing editor at the *Los Angeles Times* and a former foreign correspondent who spent a decade abroad for the *Times* – in Johannesburg, Nairobi and Paris. It's been an honor to be on the OPC board, and to be the OPC's Awards Chair, for the past two years. I've recruited many current and former correspondents to chair our awards juries and marveled at the amazing work our colleagues are doing. I'm very proud to be associated with the OPC because I believe so strongly in our mission to encourage talented journalists to become correspondents and to help protect the rights and ensure the safety of our colleagues around the world.



## Vice Presidents

### DEBORAH AMOS

I have been an international correspondent for three decades, covering the Middle East. I report on wars, invasions, and most important, the humanitarian fall-out. My career covers reporting for NPR, PBS and ABC. My awards include the DuPont-Columbia, a Peabody, and a George Polk. I am also an educator, teaching journalism at Princeton, Columbia and SUNY New Paltz. I was emcee for the OPC's Annual Awards Dinner in 2015, and was elected Vice President in the 2016 election.

I am running again for Vice President because I want to do more for young journalists and freelancers. I meet them as students and watch



# Secretary

## PAULA DWYER

As a Bloomberg News editor and veteran of print and digital media, I believe I'm well-positioned to represent the interests of working journalists globally. (I'm also good at taking notes, which will come in handy if you choose me to be OPC secretary.) I'm now an editor for QuickTakes, Bloomberg's explanatory journalism unit. Previously I was a columnist and editorial writer at Bloomberg View, where I was a Pulitzer finalist for editorials on Europe's debt crisis. I spent five years at *The New York Times* and 20 years at *BusinessWeek* magazine, serving in the 1990s as BW's London bureau chief, where I shared an OPC award for coverage of globalization.



new technology. As it's become clear that freedom of the press is in retreat around the world, I believe defending liberal democracy at home and abroad will be the primary challenge of our lifetimes – and the “overseas” piece of that equation is likely to be more important in the long run. The work of the Overseas Press Club is vital in this effort and I'd be honored to be part of the Board of Governors to help fight the good fight and protect journalists working abroad, where telling the truth can put their freedom at risk without the right support to remind those reporters – and forces hostile to freedom of the press – that they are not in this alone.

## MIRIAM ELDER

As the World Editor at BuzzFeed News and a former *Guardian* correspondent in Russia, I've seen the challenges that reporters face all over the world, both online and off. I joined BuzzFeed in 2013 and lead a team of 19 reporters and editors, who have reported on everything from the Ebola crisis to the fall of Mosul, the rise of crime against women in Argentina to opioid addiction in Nigeria. At the *Guardian*, I was the Moscow bureau chief and covered politics, business, and culture in Russia at a time when Putin was consolidating control and swiftly eroding democratic norms. I was the first foreign correspondent to profile Pussy Riot in Russia, and followed their case closely, putting women at the heart of my coverage. Beyond the traditional challenges that correspondents face, it's clear that misinformation is on the rise and press freedoms are eroding worldwide. If elected to the board, I would work to engage our membership around these urgent issues, while advocating for greater recognition and defense of digital-only organizations, as well as the importance of promoting diversity in foreign correspondence.



# Treasurer

## LIAM STACK

I am a politics reporter for *The New York Times*. Before that, I was a general assignment reporter covering national and international issues for the *Times*. I was the editor of *Watching Syria's War*, a multimedia feature that used curated video by Syrians to tell the story of the Syrian conflict, and covered the Egyptian Revolution and the Arab Spring for the *Times*. From 2005 to 2012 I was a freelance reporter and correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor* based in Cairo, where I began my career at *The Daily News Egypt*, an Egyptian English-language newspaper.



## ALIX FREEDMAN

I joined Reuters in 2011 as the global editor for ethics and standards. My role is to uphold the Reuters Trust Principles, making sure that we gather the news independently and impartially in the more than 100 countries where we operate, including many where we are unwelcome and frequently under attack. I spend much of my time working closely with editors on major stories, final-reading sensitive, high-impact pieces before publication.

Before Reuters, I served, starting in 2005, as a Deputy Managing Editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, overseeing ethics and standards and, briefly, as Page One editor. Earlier, I spent many years as an investigative reporter, winning a Pulitzer prize in 1996 for work on the tobacco industry. I also undertook international investigations in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, including a story that exposed the Iraqi oil-for-food scandal in 2002. At the OPC, I'd like to help promote the highest standards of fair, fact-based journalism, especially in violent and repressive countries where information can be scarce; and insuring the training and safety of local journalists and freelancers.



# Active Members

## JOHN AVLON

After 5 years as Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Beast* and a CNN analyst, I am now full time on CNN's New Day between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. as Senior Political Analyst and fill-in anchor as well as advising on digital. I've always believed that world news should not be seen as “foreign” but as compelling stories of real heroes and villains in real time. The good news is that world news is relatable to a new generation where the tyranny of distance has been broken down by





## DOUGLAS JEHL

I'm foreign editor of *The Washington Post*, a job I've been lucky enough to hold since 2009. The *Post's* international coverage is expanding rapidly; our team now includes 28 correspondents in 20 locations outside the United States, along with more than a dozen foreign-desk reporters and editors in Washington.

I believe the Overseas Press Club plays an essential role in championing the very best in international journalism. I am seeking reelection so that I can continue to support the OPC in its mission of training, inspiring and celebrating the journalists who are finding new ways to tell the world's most important stories.



## COLEEN JOSE

I am an independent documentary photographer and digital strategist with experience working at Instagram and now, Adobe. For the OPC Board, I intend to develop digital media and innovation strategies to educate journalists on resources and further elevate the work of members. As a freelance journalist, I was a Steiger Fellow at the Committee to Protect Journalists, working on press freedom issues in Southeast Asia. I've reported from the aftermaths of conflict and natural disasters in the Philippines. From the Marshall Islands, our team reported an award-winning series on climate change, migration and contamination from a U.S. nuclear waste site. My work has been published in CNN, *The Guardian*, *Rappler*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and other news outlets with exhibitions of my photography in museums and galleries. I am passionate about inclusivity and providing protections to journalists working internationally.

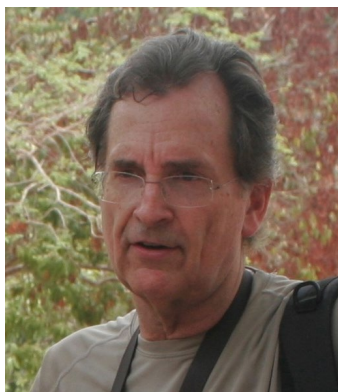


## JIM LAURIE

Greetings from Beijing. Starting in October, I shall be spending more time in the United States. Therefore, I shall be available to engage in OPC activities in New York. As an older Asia hand, I am keen to assist in developing more programs focusing on China, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and other parts of Asia.

My career began in Asia in 1970. I joined NBC News in Saigon in 1972. My Vietnam experiences through 1975 led me to a career as an international correspondent: 28 years first at NBC and then at ABC News.

In more recent years, I established a media firm in Hong Kong which



continues to produce documentary films and provide consulting services to a variety of global television news channels.

It would be an honor to serve again as an OPC Governor.

## ADRIANE QUINLAN

Fascinated by China, I graduated from Yale and jumped to an internship at *TIME* magazine's Hong Kong bureau, before moving to Beijing where I freelanced ahead of the 2008 Olympics. My life took me back to the U.S., where I was lucky to go to graduate school, snag a fellowship to report for *The New York Times'* Metro Desk, and win the Overseas Press Club Foundation's Flora Lewis award in 2013. I planned to use it to return to Beijing, but I was recruited to write for *The Times Picayune* in New Orleans – culturally, a kind foreign country inside the states. I was grateful to have my award to network with other reporters, and pay for the move. From there, I've launched a career as a television news writer, starting at CNN International in 2016. Now, I'm a show writer for HBO's "VICE News Tonight" based in Brooklyn, where I work with producers, fixers, correspondents, and investigators around the world on scripts that aim to make complex stories visceral and compelling.



## GARY SILVERMAN

I am interested in becoming a governor of the OPC because it is a good way to do two things that matter to me: recognizing good reporting, and helping the people who are out in the field doing it.

I am currently serving a second stint as US news editor of the *Financial Times*, directing our news coverage in the Americas. During more than 18 years at the *FT*, I also have been a columnist in New York and London, global marketing correspondent in London and US banking editor in New York.

Before joining the *FT*, I worked in New York for *Businessweek*, on Long Island for *Newsday*, in Hong Kong for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, in Kuala Lumpur for Bloomberg and in Chicago and Washington for United Press International.



### MICHAEL WILLIAMS

I joined Reuters in 2011 to establish an international investigative, explanatory and data journalism team. Our work has earned Reuters its first Pulitzer Prizes for reporting (the Rohingya crisis in 2014 and Duterte's drug war this year) and first Overseas Press Club Awards (Ayatollah Khamenei's business empire, the Putin circle's wealth, Philip Morris and other subjects). Before Reuters, I was at *The Wall Street Journal* for 19 years, where my last job was Page One editor. Before that, I was Japan politics & economics correspondent, and later served as Tokyo bureau chief, Southern Europe bureau chief, and editor of *The Wall Street Journal Europe*. I'm interested in pursuing two themes at the OPC: helping journalists do their jobs safely in lands hostile to independent reporting; and promoting data journalism and business-investigative journalism globally.



### SARAH LUBMAN

I'm a partner at Brunswick Group, a global corporate communications firm specializing in critical issues. Before joining Brunswick in 2005, I was a journalist for 17 years, including 6 years in Tokyo and Beijing, starting with a night editing job in ABC News' Tokyo bureau. I covered Tiananmen Square as a stringer for *The Washington Post* and subsequently became a Beijing correspondent for UPI and a regular contributor to NPR and *The Boston Globe*.



After China, I was a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, state/national/foreign editor at *The San Jose Mercury News* and Asia editor at *Newsweek International*.

I chaired the OPC Annual Dinner in 2017 and 2018 and helped recruit several new corporate sponsors to fund the OPC's activities. Next year is the OPC's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary – let's blow it out of the water!

## Associate Members

### PETE ENGARDIO

I am a senior writer for the Boston Consulting Group, where I specialize on global business topics. Previously, I was with *BusinessWeek* for 24 years, where in addition to five OPC awards and citations, I received George Polk, Loeb, Sigma Delta Chi, and other awards for my coverage of Asia and the global economy. I have served previously on the OPC board and on numerous judging panels. I believe I can be an asset to this vital organization as its assess its strategic direction at a time when support for journalists on the front lines is more vital than ever.



### KEM KNAPP SAWYER

I am a contributing editor at the Pulitzer Center in Washington, DC, and director of its Campus Consortium student fellowship program. The Pulitzer Center provides more than 130 international reporting grants to professional journalists each year. We also partner with 35 universities (including community colleges, journalism schools, HBCUs, and schools of public health) and support fellowships for students to do international reporting projects.

I've reported on children at risk in Haiti, Bangladesh, India, and the Democratic Republic of Congo and have written more than a dozen books for young readers, with subjects including refugees and child soldiers, as well as biographies of Eleanor Roosevelt and Anne Frank.

I am committed to expanding international reporting opportunities for journalists new to the field – and to celebrating the groundbreaking work of reporters who cover global issues that matter. ❖





# PEOPLE

By Farwa Zaidi and Chad Bouchard

## OPC SCHOLARS

**Charles Rollet**, who received the Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting winner in 2017, won a 2018 Gerard Loeb Award along with his colleagues at *The Wall Street Journal* in the international category for the paper's series entitled "China's Surveillance State." Rollet was posted at the *Journal's* bureau in Beijing as an OPC Foundation fellow.

**Isma'il Kushkush**, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2016, has been named an Ida B. Wells Fellow by the Investigative Fund. He will receive \$12,000 plus funds to cover travel and out-of-pocket reporting costs. Kushkush will focus on sports reporting. He had an OPC Foundation fellowship with AP in Jerusalem.

**Caelainn Hogan**, the H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner in 2014, has been named a Cill Rialaig resident for 2018 by the Irish Writers Center. Hogan had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau in Nigeria.

**J.p. Lawrence**, the winner of the 2015 H.L. Stevenson Fellowship who now works as a downrange reporter for *Stars and Stripes* in Afghanistan, has been covering U.S. and Afghan military operations. On July 8, he reported that special operations troops had captured a stronghold that Islamic State fighters claimed as their local capital. Before his move to *Stars and Stripes*, Lawrence had an OPC Foundation fellowship with the Associated Press in Uganda.

## WINNERS

The list of honors continues to grow for OPC Governor **Azmat Khan** and OPC member **Anand Gopal** — the pair won a Deadline Club Award for Magazine Investigative Reporting for their story "The Uncounted" in the *New York Times Magazine*. The story covers undisclosed civilian casualties from US-led airstrikes against ISIS, won and this year's Ed Cunningham Award for best magazine reporting.



Rollet



Hogan

Two-time OPC Award winner **Es-ther Htusan** was on a Associated Press team that won a Deadline Club Award this year in the category of Newspaper or Digital Beat Reporting for "Rohingya Exodus." The AP team also included Kristen Gelineau, Muneeza Naqvi and Todd Pitman. Htusan was part of the AP team that won the OPC's 2015 Hal Boyle Award and Malcolm Forbes Award, both for reporting on slavery in the seafood industry in Southeast Asia.

The Deadline Club's Feature Photo Award went to **James Nachtwey** of *TIME* for photographs of the human cost of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war. Nachtwey has won four photo awards from the OPC over the years, including Robert Capa Awards in 1994 and 1998, a Olivier Rebbot Award as well as a special photo award in 2001. In 2008, he received an OPC President's Award for his work.

## UPDATES

Management at **The New Yorker** voluntarily recognized a union that editorial staff voted to organize in June. Longtime editor David Remnick said in a note to employees on July 9 that the magazine agreed to recognize the union after "several weeks" of discussion between the parties. "We're in this together," he wrote in the note. "The work we set out to do every day is more important than ever." The magazine, which is owned by Condé Nast, joins the list of several other publications that have recently unionized, including Gizmodo, Vox, HuffPost, VICE, The Intercept, ThinkProgress, Thrillist

and Salon. About 90 percent of *The New Yorker's* editorial staff voted to form a union with NewsGuild of New York, which also represents employees at *The New York Times*, The Associated Press, Thomson Reuters, *The New Republic* and *The Daily Beast*.

OPC Award winner **Clarissa Ward** has been named the new chief international correspondent at CNN. Ward replaces OPC member **Christiane Amanpour**, who was recently promoted to chief international anchor. Ward previously served as senior international correspondent for the network. Last year, she won the OPC's David Kaplan Award for best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad, for her coverage of rebel-held territory in Syria. Ward has reported from multiple war zones, including Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine. Amanpour has been an OPC member since 2009.

The *Los Angeles Times* named OPC awards judge and Governor **Scott Kraft** as the paper's managing editor on July 9. He has worked at the Times for more than 30 years, most recently as deputy managing editor, and previously as front-page editor and national editor. Kraft has served as correspondent from Kenya; South Africa and France. He will oversee foreign, national, Washington, California and Metro news in addition to investigations and enterprise reporting. In a note to staff Norman Pearlstine, who became executive editor at the paper last month and is a longtime member and award sponsor for the OPC, called Kraft's promotion "an acknowledgment of the role he instinctively took on during the past tumultuous year, working with teams throughout the newsroom to produce journalism of the highest quality."

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Patrick Hilsman

CUNY  
New York  
Student

### Ted Anthony

Director  
of Digital Innovation  
The Associated Press  
New York/Pittsburgh  
Active Resident

OPC member and former Governor **Robert Nickelsberg** has been working on a book that is slated for launch in early September. *Afghanistan's Heritage: Restoring Spirit and Stone* is a collaboration between Nickelsberg and the Cultural Heritage Program of the Office of Press and Public Diplomacy at the U.S. State Department. "When the U.S. Department of State asked me in 2016 to photograph



ROBERT NICKELSBURG

cultural heritage sites in Afghanistan, the topic and subject matter represented a departure from the news driven reportage style of my previous thirty years of working in the country," Nickelsberg said. "I discovered that even in a landscape of seemingly endless conflict and war, Afghans have managed to weave their history and culture into daily life. The book represents the extraordinary efforts and resiliency of Afghan craftsmen made over the past decade to preserve their nation's heritage." The book, published by The Oriental Institute and University of Chicago, will be launched at the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the Diplomatic Center at the Department of State in Washington, DC will host an exhibit, also in early September.

The Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam is currently exhibiting work from OPC members **Coleen Jose**, **Jan Hendrik Hinz** and late OPC member **Kim Wall**. The interactive exhibition includes images and video from their reporting on climate change and nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. Several iterations of the award-winning series have been published in *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *The Guardian*, *Mashable* and other publications. The exhibit is slated to continue through the next five years.



COLEEN JOSE

OPC member **John Avlon** and his wife Margaret Hoover were featured in a July 11 *New York Times* piece that centers on the couple's "post-partisan marriage." Both work as television commentators, with Avlon presenting an independent point of view and Hoover leaning conservative. She is a former Fox News commentator, worked on George W. Bush's second campaign, and serves as the new host of "Firing Line" on PBS. She is also the great-granddaughter of President Herbert Hoover. Avlon is an anchor and senior political analyst at CNN, and previously served as editor of *The Daily Beast*. He has written books criticizing partisanship, most recently *Wingnuts: Extremism in the Age of Obama*, published in 2014. The couple first met during Rudy Giuliani's 2008 presidential campaign. Avlon had been the mayor's former speechwriter and followed him on his run for president. The two met when Hoover interviewed for a position on the campaign team. Asked about political conflict in the couple's marriage, Avlon told the Times that "there is certainly tension because Republicanism is the family religion and she married outside the faith."

*The Washington Post* has named OPC member **Elias Lopez** as senior editor for international opinions. Lopez will helm strategy and operations for the section and lead the planning of new international opinion ventures. He previously worked for *The New York Times*, where he was most recently the editorial director and founded *New York Times en Español*. He had worked for the *Times* for over ten years, and held positions on national, foreign and opinion desks. Before that, Lopez served as reporter and editor at *The Miami Herald*.

OPC member and photographer **John Patrick Naughton** had a portrait selected as part of the Fourth Annual Group Show at the Davis Orton Gallery in Hudson, New York from July 14 to Aug. 12. Juror Paula Tognarelli of the Griffin Museum of Photography selected Naughton's portrait of sculptor Steven Foust. The photo is from a portfolio entitled "Staten Island Artist," which tracks the migration of talent to the island as rents rise across Greater New York. ❖



JOHN PATRICK NAUGHTON

# PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

By Farwa Zaidi

Five people were shot to death in the newsroom of the **Capital Gazette** in Annapolis, Maryland on June 28, marking the deadliest single violent attack on media within the U.S. in recent history. Police arrested Jarrod Ramos and charged him with five counts of first-degree murder. He had filed an unsuccessful defamation lawsuit against the paper in 2012, and an appeal in 2015 was dismissed. Victims of the shooting included four journalists: editorial page editor Gerald Fischman, editor and columnist Rob Hiaasen, sports writer John McNamara, and community correspondent Wendi Winters. Rebecca Smith, a sales assistant, was also killed. In 2011, the *Gazette* had reported on a criminal harassment case against Ramos related to stalking a former classmate on social media. Ramos had sent threats to the paper before the shooting, and regularly threatened the paper and judges on his Twitter account. Tom Marquadt, former editor and publisher at the paper, told media that he had decided against filing a lawsuit or requesting a restraining order. Neither he nor Eric Hartley, who were defendants in the defamation suit, are still employed at the paper and were not present during the shooting. The attack on the *Capital* Since 1992, only seven journalists have been killed within the U.S. in relation to their work, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

**Six former journalists in Turkey** were sentenced to prison terms as high as ten and one half years on July 6. The journalists worked for the newspaper *Zaman*, which was accused of being a terrorist organization for its ties with Fethullah Gulen, a U.S.-based cleric blamed for the 2016 coup attempt. A total of 11 defendants from the paper were arrested after the coup and charged with membership in a terror organization, violating the Turkish Constitution, attempting to overthrow the government and other crimes. Five of the journalists were acquitted. The other six were found guilty of “belonging to an armed terrorist organization,” but

other charges were dropped. *Zaman* was the country’s biggest daily newspaper before it was placed under state control in 2016. At the OPC Annual Dinner in 2017, the former editor-in-chief of *Zaman*, Abdülhamit Bilici, lit the Candle of Remembrance for journalists imprisoned around the world. Kerim Balci, former editor-in-chief of Turkish Review, a bimonthly journal published by Zaman Media Group, spoke at an OPC panel in March 2016 after fleeing the country ahead of the police raid on *Zaman*.

Police detained Vietnamese journalist **Le Anh Hung** on July 5 for suspicion of “abusing democratic freedoms” to infringe on the interests of the state, an offense outlined in Article 331 of the criminal code. Enforcement of this article is often used to censor dissent in Vietnam. Convictions carry a maximum seven-year prison sentence. Hung is a contributor to the U.S. Congress-funded Voice of America and is a prominent independent blogger. Hung had recently published a critical commentary on Vietnam’s new cybersecurity legislation, which gives the government expanded powers to censor and control the Internet. He had also recently posted an open letter criticizing Communist Party officials for their new proposed law on special economic zones. At least ten journalists remained detained in Vietnam as of December 2017.

Two Moroccan journalists have been sentenced to multiple years in prison and hundreds of dollars in fines. **Mohamed al-Asrihi** was sentenced on June 26 to five years in prison and a fine of 2,000 Moroccan dirhams (\$210). **Hamid al-Mahdaoui** was sentenced to three years in prison and a fine of 3,000 Moroccan dirhams (\$315). Al-Asrihi has been in prison since June of 2017 for reporting on protests organized by the Popular Movement. He was convicted on multiple charges, including “undermining Moroccan security” and “not having necessary accreditation as a journalist.” Al-Mahdaoui was an editor and reporter and has been in prison since July 2017, when

he was arrested on his way to the same protests. He was charged with “committing misdemeanors through speeches.” Both journalists are being held in Casablanca’s Okasha prison.

Indonesian journalist **Muhammad Yusuf** died while in detention in South Kalimantan. He had been on trial for defamation and hate-speech charges related to his reporting when he became ill and died on June 10. He complained to prison authorities at the detention center about breathing difficulties, chest pains and vomiting. He was taken to a local hospital, where he was declared dead. Family members said he had never suffered chronic illnesses before his detention and have called for an autopsy. Yusuf was arrested in April for charges related to his reporting on a land conflict between local farmers and a palm oil company. Between November 2017 and March this year, Yusuf wrote at least 23 articles on the land dispute. He was held in police custody for more than five weeks before being transferred in early May.

Two Canadian human rights groups called for the international community to pressure the Bangladeshi government to democratic reforms, to cease arrests of critics and restore press freedom. **The Canadian Human Rights International Organization** and **Peace And Justice Alliance** told reporters at a press conference on July 9 that the government uses extra-judicial killings, torture, kidnapping and harassment to silence critics. According to Reporters Without Borders, at least 25 journalists and several hundred bloggers and Facebook users were prosecuted in 2018 under a law that penalizes online content that is deemed defamatory or blasphemous.

## MURDERS

Mexican journalist **Jose Guadalupe Chan Dzib** was murdered in a bar on June 29. An unknown assailant shot him in the city of Sabán, about 150 miles southeast of Cancun. The gunman shot Chan Dzib multiple times and fled the scene. The journalist, who wrote for the online



news site *Semanario Playa News*, was already dead when police arrived. Ruben Pat, co-founder of the site, said that he had just been hired in March. Before joining *Semanario Playa*, Chan Dzib reported for newspapers *Por Esto* and *Respuesta*. He covered general news, local politics, and crime and security. Pat told The Committee to Protect Journalists that Chan Dzib had received a threatening anonymous phone call three weeks prior to his death. It is unknown whether the two incidents are connected. Chan Dzib was the sixth journalist murdered in Mexico this year.

A newspaper reporter in the Philippines was shot to death on June 23. **Manuel Lacsamana** was a contributor to the local monthly *The Media Messenger*, and chairperson of the Central Luzon Media Association press group. Unidentified gunmen shot him while he was driving a pick-up truck in Cabanatuan City. He was able to drive away to another street but was pronounced dead at the Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center. Joel Sy-Egco, who is presidential under-secretary for communications and

head of the Presidential Task Force on Media Safety, said that authorities are investigating the murder. Along with being a reporter, Lacsamana was also a property developer and quarry operator. He was shot while on his way home from a meeting with fellow quarry operators.

Brazilian radio journalist **Jairo Sousa** was shot and killed on June 21. Sousa had just arrived at Radio Perola, a privately-owned broadcaster in Braganca, when two unidentified gunmen shot him in the back. Sousa hosted the daily program "Show da Perola" at the station. Sousa regularly reported on corruption, homicide, and drug trafficking. He'd been working at Radio Perola for two years, most recently reporting on allegations of corruption in the local municipal government. According to a colleague, Sousa had been attacked and threatened in the past, prompting him to wear a bulletproof vest and carry pepper spray. In 2014, a man tried to attack Sousa while he reported in a restaurant in the nearby town of Quatipuru. Local police say they will investigate whether his death was related to his work.

Indian journalist **Shujaat Bukhari** was shot and killed on June 14 along with two police officers assigned to protect him. Bukhari was exiting his office in Srinagar City to attend a dinner party when several unidentified gunmen fired at him. He suffered fatal injuries to his head and abdomen. Two police officers who had been assigned to protect him after an attack in 2000 were also shot. Bukhari and both the officers were rushed to the hospital, where all three succumbed to their injuries. Police said they are not aware of any recent threats against Bukhari. Police released images of three suspects on a motorcycle captured on security cameras and arrested a fourth suspect seen stealing a pistol from one of the killed officers. Prior to his most recent job as editor of *Rising Kashmir*, Bukhari worked as the state bureau chief of *The Hindu* national newspaper for 15 years. In 2006, he survived an assassination attempt when the gunman's weapon jammed, and in 1996, he was abducted and detained by militants in Kashmir for several hours. ❖

## 'Civil' Continued From Page 1

people, is developing a "à-la-carte menu" of alternative economic tools for community members, including crowd funding, micro-tipping or subscriptions that newsrooms can tailor to monetize content via the platform.

Past OPC President Allan Dodds Frank, who attended the program, was encouraged to hear that Civil is working on ways for news services and individual journalists to detect where their content is published.

"Allowing journalists to track how their work is used and reused would give them at least a shot at getting paid for all the rights to their work. And if Civil can perform that function, as ASCAP or BMI did for musicians, it would be a great service to all, he wrote in an email after the program. "More journalists would do better, and they would create more in-depth work and more people might be inspired to pursue the craft."

But Dodds Frank also raised concerns about the potential for bad actors to subvert the project's integrity.

"Civil as a big idea is promising but if it really gets going, I will be wondering whether some big dark

forces will try to control it through token purchases," he said.

Sieberg acknowledged that the company has spent a lot of time considering those risks, and put systems in place to protect the community. The economics of cryptocurrency prevent large-scale token purchases, and the only way to acquire tokens after the platform launches will be from existing members.

The community has a constitution to support integrity among member newsrooms, and is governed by an elected, term-limited council that can step in and block bad actors or those who do not fit with the community's mission.

Civil recently announced that former NPR CEO Vivian Schiller will lead the company's foundation, and shepherd the constitution and help to define what does – and does not – constitute ethical journalism on Civil.

The company has been recruiting newsrooms and projects with seed grants, and is preparing for an imminent launch with 100 full-time journalists across 13 independent newsrooms already on board.

Sieberg previously worked on Google News Lab and Google for Media, and before that he worked in broadcast news networks such as ABC, CBS and CNN. ❖

Click here  
to watch video  
clips from the  
'Civil' program.

# NEW BOOKS

By Farwa Zaidi

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting  
Open to all members  
6 p.m.

Club Quarters

Sept. 4

OPC Night  
at the Theater:  
'Intractable Woman'  
122 Community Center  
150 1st Ave., NY

Sept. 20

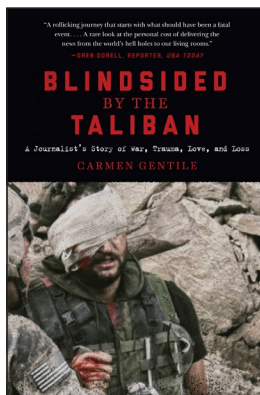
### AFGHANISTAN

**W**HILE JOURNALIST Carmen Gentile was embedded with an Army unit in Afghanistan in 2010, a rocket-propelled grenade struck him on the right side of his head, blinding him in one eye and shattering his face. Though the grenade did not explode, the injury sent him on a long journey of physical and emotional recovery. *Blindsided by the Taliban: A Journalist's Story of War, Trauma, Love, and Loss* [Skyhorse Publishing, March 2018] chronicles the ripple effects of his trauma, through multiple surgeries, a broken engagement, a drug addiction, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Gentile began his reporting career in the late 1990s as a freelancer based in Cairo. He has covered wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and lived and worked in Nigeria, writing for publications including *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *Newsweek* and *USA Today*. Gentile lived in Brazil for four years reporting on turmoil in Venezuela, Haiti and Bolivia.

For many weeks during his months-long recovery, Gentile recalls, doctors instructed him to only look at the ground. For an entire month he was instructed by doctors to only look at the ground. Gentile writes that his physical recovery was not as hard as healing from emotional trauma and depression that followed. As his mental health deteriorated, he descended into opiate addiction and struggled with night terrors, and relationships with close friends and family were strained to the breaking point. Gentile ultimately decides to return to the front lines to continue his work.

Krishnadev Calamur of *The Atlantic* called the book "an honest portrayal of how difficult it is not only to be a freelance journalist, but to be one in a war zone. It is a must-read for those who romanticize the work, as well as those who want to be journalists." ❖



### LIBYA

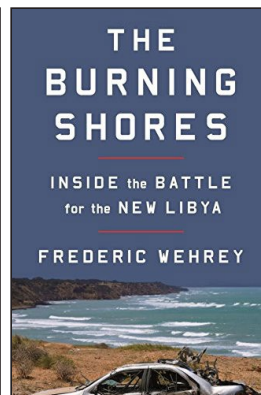
**A**FTER THE fall of Libyan dictator Moammar Muammar Gaddafi, the country was swept up in a moment of hope and euphoria. Peace and political freedom blossomed, but soon began to unravel as fear and tribal conflict sparked a civil war. Veteran Middle East correspondent Frederic Wehrey witnessed this transformation firsthand, and details his observations in his new book *The Burning Shores: Inside the Battle for New Libya*. [Farrar, Straus and Giroux, April 2018].

Wehrey follows the immediate aftermath of long-suppressed civil resistance movements as they pushed for parliamentary elections as soon as possible, while observers in the West urged a slower approach due to recent sectarian conflicts. Despite complications, Libya was doing well. Oil profits were rising, and there was progress toward elections. Libyans were guardedly optimistic about their future. That was until Benghazi.

Wehrey recounts how the attack on two U.S. government facilities in Benghazi, where the U.S. Ambassador Libya and three other Americans lost their lives, led to a more militarized American presence in Libya, which widened fractures and threatened to break the country apart. Wehrey spoke to Libyans and interviewed migrants as an estimated seven hundred thousand to one million people flooded into the country to flee famine and warfare in the region.

The last chapters of the book detail the Islamic State's growing influence in Libya, and its use of discontent to recruit young followers. In an interview on NPR, Wehrey took the Obama administration to task for "not being responsible for what followed [military intervention], of really abdicating responsibility for the post-conflict recovery and reconstruction to the Libyans themselves." He said the power vacuum in Libya opened a "breeding ground" for Islamic State, as Libyans coming back from fighting in Syria fueled the flames of radicalization.

Frederic Wehrey is an American scholar of Middle East affairs and an expert on Libyan and Gulf politics. He is a senior associate at the Middle East program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. *Burning Shores* is his second book on Middle Eastern affairs. His articles have appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. ❖





Ceylan Yeginsu

## Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Ceylan Yeginsu

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

**C**EYLAN YEGINSU is a correspondent for *The New York Times* in London. Previously, she served as correspondent for the Turkey bureau, where she covered politics, the Kurdish conflict, the rise of Islamic State and other stories. She earned a master's degree in digital media at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in 2011 and was awarded the Brigid O'Hara-Forster Fellowship. Yeginsu started her career in 2008 as a reporter and editor for the Turkish newspaper *Hürriyet*. Before joining the *Times* in 2013, she worked as a freelance journalist in New York and Istanbul, writing for *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, Huffington Post and *International Business Times*, among others.

**Hometown:** Istanbul, Turkey / London, England.

**Education:** University of Leeds (BA); Columbia University (MS, Journalism).

**Languages you speak:** English, Turkish.

**First job in journalism:** I began as intern and was then hired as a reporter for the English-arm of *Hürriyet*, at the time Turkey's most-circulated independent broadsheet newspaper.

**Countries reported from:** Turkey, the United States, the United Kingdom, Greece.

**When and why did you join the OPC?** I joined the OPC earlier this year. After a five-year stint covering Turkey for *The*

*New York Times* and a year or so covering the UK, I've seen first-hand just how important it is for journalists to support each other, particularly in challenging environments and times. I've been very lucky with the *Times*, but equally lucky to meet colleagues from other media organizations who have touched my professional life so far. The OPC is a way of staying in touch with colleagues I already know, meeting new ones, and perhaps even imparting some wisdom to future generations of journalists.

**How did you become interested in the Middle East/Europe?** Born in Istanbul, educated in England (BA, in classical civilization), and then back to Turkey for my first job in journalism, my interest in Europe and the Middle East was inevitable. The catalyst for my return to Turkey – which obviously strides both continents – was a strong gut feeling I developed after Columbia Journalism School that Turkey was going to develop into a big story. After almost a year of unsuccessfully applying for foreign postings in Istanbul from New York, I decided to move back and freelance. A few months after my return in 2013, the largest anti-government protests in recent Turkish history broke out. I ended up covering them for the *Times*, and being taken on by the newspaper's Turkey Bureau, then headed up by Tim Arango. Working with Tim – who was also the newspaper's long-serving Iraq bureau chief – only developed my interest in the region further.

**Major challenge as a journalist:** Being a national of the country you are covering for an international media outlet,

remaining independent and impartial – covering the news without “fear or favor,” – even in the face of targeted harassment and intimidation.

**Best journalism advice received:** “Now take a step back.”

**Worst experience as a journalist:** Watching dead children turn up at a morgue after being denied safe passage to Europe while alive.

**Hardest story:** Interviewing ISIS militants.

**Advice for journalists who want to work overseas:** First learn the history, then the culture and then the language. Spend time with locals even when it's not for a story. Do not just hang out with expats!

**Dream job:** Breaking into four longform stories or so a year, alongside a substantial book project. Or, perhaps, to lead a reporting team in a world city.

**Favorite quote:** “Do the work. No matter how many followers you have, or people congratulating you on Twitter – what do you have to show for it? Your last byline doesn't matter. What's the next? Always have something better in the works.”  
–David Carr

**Most over-the-top assignment:** Trying to hike up a mountain to England's highest market town during a freak snow-storm to do a weather story.

**Place you're most eager to visit:** Japan.

**Most common mistake you've seen:** Believing exaggerated accounts too easily.

**Twitter handle:** @ceylanwrites ❖

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





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