



Overseas Press Club of America

BULLETIN

OPC Panel Marks 30th Anniversary of the Opening of the Berlin Wall

EVENT RECAP

BY EMILY BROWN AND CHAD BOUCHARD

THE WORLD observed a seismic shift of history when the Berlin Wall opened on Nov. 9, 1989, as images and reporting from journalists on the ground showed throngs of residents celebrating the end of a divided city, sparking hope and optimism across the East and West.

Thirty years later, during an OPC panel to mark the anniversary of the wall's opening, journalists who covered events before and afterward, including the cascade of upheavals that followed in the Soviet Union, the Eastern Bloc and elsewhere, gathered to recount their experience, and reflect on a knotty legacy.

"Taken together, it marked the beginning of the end of the Soviet empire and the Cold War, and I guess I would argue the true end to World War Two," said OPC past president Deidre Depke, executive producer of *The Takeaway*, who moderated the discussion. "We can



CHAD BOUCHARD

Left to right: John Daniszewski, Carroll Bogert, Jonathan Kapstein, Andrew Nagorski and Deidre Depke.

trace the birth of the European Union and the current political turmoil in Europe directly to those events."

She was joined by panelists Carroll Bogert, John Daniszewski, Jonathan Kapstein, and Andrew Nagorski, who provided their insights into what life was like in

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ACOS Alliance Expands Its Reach with Help from the OPC and OPC Foundation

BY WILLIAM J. HOLSTEIN

THE CULTURE of Safety alliance (ACOS) is expanding its geographic reach and the range of support it is providing to help editors, producers and freelance journalists of all stripes as they seek to cover an increasingly dangerous world.

The alliance, born in the aftermath of the grisly murders of James Foley and Steven Sotloff five years ago in Syria, has promulgated a set of best practices it believes will help editors better

manage freelance and local journalists, and has supported or organized a series of trainings around the world.

In cooperation with VICE, BuzzFeed, The Associated Press, Reuters and the Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma at Columbia, ACOS has been involved in Hostile Environment and First Aid Training (HEFAT), in Lebanon, the United States, Kenya, Thailand, Ecuador and Colombia. The OPC has supported trainings in Nairobi and Beirut with

money raised at last year's Annual Awards Dinner (see 'Kenya,' pg. 4). The OPC Foundation serves as the financial sponsor for ACOS, handling flows of money from the MacArthur and Open Society foundations. (Full disclosure: I sit on the boards of the OPC, OPCF and ACOS.)

Now ACOS is expanding its range of activities by facilitating the launch of insurance programs for all freelancers and local journalists around the world (see 'Insurance,' pg. 2). Its annual coordi-

nation meeting in early December in New York at Columbia University was attended by a growing number of global organizations, helping ACOS move beyond its Anglo-American origins. Some 90 people participated. Attendees were present from Britain, Colombia, France, Germany, Mexico and Sweden. The number of organizations represented also increased. In attendance were the executive director of ACOS, Elisabet Cantenys, and the president, Maria

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ACOS Alliance Offers Insurance for Correspondents and Local Media

BY WILLIAM J. HOLSTEIN

AS TRADITIONAL Western news organizations have downsized or disappeared, the burden of covering some of the world's toughest stories has fallen to freelancers, who either arrive from other countries or who are citizens of the country they are covering. Reporting these stories usually means working with drivers, fixers or translators. But very few of the people involved in this coverage have been insured, which magnifies the risks they must take. In most cases, they've simply been on their own.

That's changing as of the first quarter of 2020. The ACOS Alliance, the coalition that came together following the murders of James Foley and Steven Sotloff, is working with insurers and stakeholders to facilitate access to affordable insurance for all journalists. The alliance is helping launch ground-breaking insurance options that benefit freelancers and local journalists in particular, and at a discount.

Some of the options the alliance has worked on provide insurance to media workers regardless of their nationality or residence. "Being insured means being prepared," said Executive Director Elisabet Cantenys. "Everyone should have access to insurance." In some cases, the Alliance has collaborated with insurance administrators to create new schemes in response to current needs. In other instances, ACOS and the insurance administrator have agreed to a discount. The aim is always the same: promote the use of insurance and facilitate access.

Here are two options the alliance is helping to promote as part of this initiative. Check the [ACOS Alliance website](#) for more details, including a discount code.

Insurance for Journalists: This plan covers journalists travelling to any country in the world, including conflict zones, being embedded and even traveling in a military vehicle or helicopter.

The insurance coverage is available by the week and includes: accidental death and disablement, sickness and accident medical expenses subject to a \$250 or € 250 deductible per claim, and emergency medical evacuation from the point of an incident to an appropriate care facility and repatriation home when necessary.

Additional coverage can be purchased while on an assignment if extended coverage is required or if a journalist is travelling to an even higher risk-rated zone.

Insurance for Local Media: News organizations, production companies, commissioning NGOs and individual journalists can insure their fixers, local producers, translators, and other media workers on the ground. This policy covers individuals from any nationality anywhere in the world including when they are working in their country of residence.

The insurance coverage is by the day and includes: accidental death, accidental medical expenses subject to a \$250 deductible, emergency accident medical evacuation from point of an incident to an appropriate care facility. ACOS Alliance signatories can benefit from a discount.

The ACOS alliance is helping promote two other insurance initiatives:

- In partnership with Escapade Travel Insurance, Reporters Without Borders provides a complete health insurance and repatriation for journalists and reporters travelling on assignment to any country, war zones included. RWB membership is mandatory. To become a RWB member, visit rsf.org/en/insurance-0. This program has been available since 2009 and several hundred journalists have used it. U.S.-based reporters are unfortunately not covered.
- Also, the International Federation of Journalists also offers insurance through its partnership with a group known as Battleface. This insurance offers on-the-ground emergency support and equipment coverage and is accessible via a tech-based platform that fits in your pocket. That scheme is limited to IFJ members. For more information, go to ifj.org.

The OPC, which has contributed to ACOS freelancer training sessions in Nairobi and Beirut, plans to sponsor an event in the New Year to build awareness about the new insurance programs. ❖

OPC Members Play Major Roles in Foreign Editors Circle Meeting

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

OPC PRESIDENT Pancho Bernasconi participated in a panel titled "The Power of the Image in Foreign Coverage" at the 7th Foreign Editors Circle at the New York headquarters of The Associated Press on Nov. 15. The day-long gathering was hosted by AP and the International Press Institute's North American Committee.

Participants included high-level editors for foreign coverage at major news organizations and representatives of journalism non-profits like the OPC, the Committee to Protect Journalists and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. OPC member David Rohde of The New Yorker represented the ACOS Alliance, which works to imbue a culture of safety across newsrooms and among freelancers. ACOS was born at the Foreign Editors Circle event in 2014.

Bernasconi, vice president for global news at Getty Images, highlighted a photo by OPC member John Moore of an asylum-seeking young girl from Honduras dressed in a red shirt crying as Border Patrol agents questioned her mother on June 12. The photo went viral, and later won the World Press Photo of the Year Award. More importantly, the photo was one factor that spurred changes in Trump Administration immigration policies.

On June 20, Trump signed an executive order ending his administration's practice of separating migrant families, and later that month, a federal judge ordered the Trump administration to reunite migrant children who were separated from their parents.

"The need for strong international photojournalism continues to play a vital role in helping to give context in the increasingly rapid space with which news is being consumed," Bernasconi said. "There is no substitute for being able to share impactful and thoughtfully produced visual reporting from myriad global events that have and will continue to impact our understanding of the world around us."

OPC member Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation at AP, moderated the panel. John Daniszewski, an OPC member and vice president and editor at large for standards at AP, co-hosted the program with Marty Steffens, North American chair of the International Press Institute.

Steffens noted that IPI will hold its 2020 World Congress next September at Columbia University, where IPI was founded

by a group of American and international editors. Information on the congress can be found at: ipiwoco2020.sched.com.

Doug Jehl, foreign editor of The Washington Post and an OPC Governor, noted the perils faced by local reporters who work for American news organizations in their home country. "Governments know they can get us by going after local reporters," he said.

Charlie Sennott of The GroundTruth Project and an OPC member, was on a panel discussing cyber-meddling, the media and democracy. He shared a link to GroundTruth's Authoritarians Playbook on steps populists are taking to undermine the democracies that elected them.

Other useful links on issues discussed at the meeting can be found in the digital version of this story on the OPC website, or via the Member Dashboard under "Resources," or go directly to the page here:

opcofamerica.org/members-dashboard/best-practices. ❖



A two-year-old Honduran asylum seeker cries as her mother is searched and detained near the U.S.-Mexico border on June 12, 2018 near McAllen, Texas. The photo by John Moore of Getty won the World Press Photo of the Year award in April.



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ACOS Editors' Workshop Highlights Urgent Need for Digital Vigilance for Journalists

BY ALLAN DODDS FRANK

ONLINE HARASSMENT of journalists, particularly women and minorities, is at an all-time high and only going to get worse. That's the warning delivered by an expert panel of press freedom defenders who conducted an Editors' Safety Workshop at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

The ACOS Alliance spon-

sored the workshop to enlighten top editors about approaches to managing the risks that abound on the Internet, threatening individual journalists and media institutions alike.

Two dozen editors traded experiences and ideas about ways to educate and protect staff and the news organizations simultaneously to meet the burgeoning threat, one that sometimes is initially undetected when victims

are reluctant to report online harassment to their bosses.

"The editors' workshop served to heighten my personal and professional awareness of the myriad of possible threats that the journalistic community has been facing and will be facing with the very active news cycle we have upon us," said OPC President Pancho Bernasconi. "I am so very grateful
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YOU ARE INVITED: THE OPC WINTER PARTY

COME CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH COLLEAGUES
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THE COST IS \$50 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL. PLEASE VISIT THE OPC WEBSITE TO RSVP AND SELECT A PAYMENT OPTION, OR SEND A CHECK TO THE OPC:
40 WEST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10036.

OPC Funds Helped Support Hostile Environment Safety Training in Kenya

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

THE OPC donated \$950 from its freelance safety training fund to cover the fees for psychosocial and digital security trainers at a hostile environment awareness training course in Nairobi and Limuru, Kenya on Nov. 30.

The training was sponsored by a group that included ACOS Alliance, Agence France Press and SEPAR International, a security firm that specializes in hostile locations. According to Stephen Smith, SEPAR's director and leading trainer, the training incorporated physical security, digital security, psychosocial care and trauma medical training. Subjects covered during the busy four days included gender, source protection, fixer management and civil unrest. ❖



STEFANO KLEINOWITZ



STEPHEN SMITH

'Berlin Wall' Continued From Page 1

East Germany and other Eastern Bloc countries, what led to the opening of the wall, and how it changed the world.

Nagorski, a journalist who spent more than three decades as a foreign correspondent and editor for Newsweek, talked about events across Europe leading up to November 1989.

"By the 80s, there were an increasing number of movements that were challenging the system from within," he said. "I compare this a little bit to a five-act play. Act one is in Poland, where there had been martial law in the beginning of the 80s, the attempts to keep suppressing Solidarity and keep the economy going. All of that failed."

Jonathan Kapstein covered the opening of the Berlin Wall while serving as Brussels regional bureau chief for Business Week magazine. He described the chaotic atmosphere in Berlin on Nov. 9.

"The sense of euphoria was intense," he said. "I arrived in the evening and went promptly to the wall. There were parties everywhere. Ad hoc groups, church groups, drinkers, and you could hear everything, the sound on the other side of the wall of East German military engineers, crossing what was called the 'death strip,' removing the mines, removing the inner curtain wall and clearing a path."

John Daniszewski, vice president and editor-at-large for standards of The Associated Press, talked about covering the Romanian Revolution and the fall of Nicolae Ceaușescu in December 1989.

"I think Romania was the most oppressive, in an ironic way, because Ceaușescu held himself up as a bridge between East and West, and yet he ran the most repressive dictatorship in the Eastern Bloc," he said. Unlike in other Eastern European coun-

tries, where the leaders "saw the writing on the wall," Romanian leaders weren't going down without a fight.

"[Ceaușescu] was determined to hold on to power, and he was willing to use firepower to do it." Daniszewski himself was shot during the violence of the Romanian Revolution.

Carroll Bogert, president of The Marshall Project, who covered the collapse of the Soviet Union for Newsweek from Moscow, recalled her experience covering events in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, which she said had served as a warning of what could happen in Moscow during the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"I just want to throw out there for everyone's consideration the idea that actually, we lost the Cold War," Bogert added. "That we lost it together with the Soviet Union. And we lost it because we bankrupted our country building what Eisenhower rightfully called the military industrial complex, which was not dismantled in the wake of the end of the Cold War. But not only that, we allowed ourselves a kind of triumphalism about the victory of our system."

The program included a montage of audio clips from coverage 30 years ago, as well as a presentation of photos from David Turnley and his brother Peter Turnley, who were on the ground during the opening of the wall in November 1989.

David is a photographer who won the Pulitzer Prize for his work in 1989 covering the opening of the Berlin Wall and other revolutions that year. He has won three OPC awards, including the Robert Capa Gold Medal in 1989 for covering revolutions in Romania and China for Black Star and the Detroit Free Press. Peter's photos have been on the cover of Newsweek magazine more than 40 times. He has won numerous awards, including the OPC's Olivier Rebbot Award for best photographic reporting from abroad in 1989 for the Newsweek story "Ceaușescu, the fall of a dictator." ❖

Click here to watch video clips from the program.

'ACOS' Continued From Page 1

Salazar-Ferro, emergencies director for the Committee to Protect Journalists.

"I'm so excited about all that has been achieved in five years," said Diane Foley, mother of Jim Foley and founder of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation. "There is nothing like working together as opposed to doing it in isolation. All of this is going to make a difference." Also present was Art Sotloff, father of Steve, who founded a Miami-based organization, called the Steven Joel Sotloff Memorial 2Lives Foundation, to give scholarships and provide training.

The coordination session this year blossomed into three different tranches of activity. First, an editors' workshop was held for the second year and was well-attended by major news organizations (see 'Workshop,' pg 2). Secondly, a separate working group on helping journalists deal with trauma and post-trauma stress, coordinated by the Dart Center, vowed to map out and publicize all the resources that are available from different counseling and treatment organizations. Many journalists are traumatized by covering conflicts, terrorism, riots or other scenes of devastation, but do not know where to find help.

The third major area of focus, and the one where I spent the most time listening, centered on safety training. It is an exceptionally difficult challenge. The profession is recognizing that not everyone needs full HEFAT training. And some providers of HEFAT training, particularly those with military backgrounds, may push too far by putting hoods over the heads of participants and subjecting them to verbal abuse, simulating the conditions of being kidnapped. Moreover, it is becoming clear that journalists also need training in how to manage their online social media presences, how to maintain the security of their devices and avoid surveillance, how to contend with legal challenges that are used in some countries to muzzle the press, how to provide first aid, and how to deal with gender-related issues. Women journalists are particularly vulnerable to online harassment by governments, criminal groups and others.

There is no one-size-fits-all package. How long should a training last? Is three days long enough? There is no firm agreement. And Eliot Stempf, security adviser at BuzzFeed, argued that training should be individualized to reflect the nationality and experience of a particular journalist and the nature of the challenges that journalist is likely to face. Nor has the industry agreed on how often any type of safety training should be refreshed. Is it good enough to do it every three years? There is no agreement.

What makes the issue even more complicated is that no one agrees on what constitutes valid training. There are a wide variety of companies offering different types of training. If the BBC puts a stringer through its security course provided by an outside vendor and that stringer goes to The Associated Press or Reuters to try to get an assignment, those news organizations may not recognize the validity of the training that the freelancer obtained from the BBC. Editors and producers may argue that the way

their newsrooms operate is different from other organizations. A freelancer's employment options are thus limited.

To begin tackling the problem, ACOS and the Frontline Freelance Register in May formed a steering committee consisting of BuzzFeed, VICE, the BBC, NBC News, CNN, Free Press Unlimited, the Afghan Journalist Safety Committee of the International Media Support organization, the Dart Center and various freelancers to try to define the elements of solid HEFAT training. The steering committee presented their findings, which can be seen on the incredibly valuable ACOS website, acosalliance.org.

One embryonic idea that emerged was that the ACOS steering committee could become the industry's de facto clearing house for approving and validating different trainings so that news organizations would have a guide as to which are valid and which are not. Participants agreed that would be difficult, but there is no other central body even attempting to perform that role.

One of the newest twists to the whole issue of training is whether augmented and virtual reality can or should play a role. Two British organizations offering such training were present. One is called Also Known As and the second is SilkRoad Training, which was founded by a pair of former British military men. I put on one of SilkRoad's VR headsets and found myself in the middle of an attack by invisible gunmen on a stationary vehicle on a road in a jungle-type setting. The firing was coming from the left front side of the vehicle and I stood with three unarmed men wearing body armor on the right side of the vehicle as they debated their options. Taking shelter behind the engine block is the only real way to avoid bullets because that is the only solid part of a vehicle. Even better is figuring out which way to run (away from the guns, obviously) and how to stay low and minimize one's exposure.

Online training sessions also are popping up and many specific segments of training courses are becoming available. They might solve some of the training dilemmas — journalists in harm's way can find the specific type of training they need on their smart phones just before they truly need it.

A final theme of debate is, when should journalists start getting trained? Some graduate schools of journalism are building safety training into their curricula. And the Foley Foundation is adapting some of that course material for undergraduate students as well. The trick is to inform aspiring correspondents without overwhelming them with fear.

Overall, the sheer success of what ACOS has achieved was evident at the Columbia meetings by the number of organizations taking part. Aside from the groups mentioned above, the meeting counted participants from the International News Safety Institute, International Women's Media Foundation, Reporters Without Borders, Rory Peck Trust, RISC, WAN-IFRA, the Fundación Para La Libertad de Prensa (FLIP, based in Colombia), Global Investigative Journalism Network, Freedom House, International Committee of the Red Cross, IREX and Free Press Unlimited, among others. ❖

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Amanda Florian
Editor
Billquist Communications
News Sàrl
Vésenaz, Switzerland
Active Overseas

Robert Grimm
Columbia University
Graduate School
of Journalism
New York
Student

Bing Guan
Freelance
Visual Journalist
Hong Kong
Active Overseas, Young
(29 or under)

Mariana Henninger
Senior Video Producer
NBC News
New York
Active Resident

Michael Kay
Reporter and Filmmaker
Freelance
Paris
Active Overseas

Cristian Movila
Photographer
and Videographer
The New York Times
Bucharest

Active Overseas

Aryana Noroozi
Columbia University
Graduate School
of Journalism
New York
Student

Claudia Rosett
Freelance
Journalist
Hong Kong
Active Overseas

PEOPLE

by Emily Brown

OPC SCHOLARS

2016 Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner **Dake Kang** was part of a team that won a Oliver S. Gramling Journalism Award from The Associated Press, where he works, for “China Clamps Down.” The series documented the repression of Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in China’s Xinjiang region. He shared the \$10,000 prize with the other two members of his reporting team, Han Guan Ng and Yanan Wang. “The journalists were relentless in their pursuit of the truth, staying a step ahead of the competition to deliver stories and images that set AP apart on one of the major international stories of the year,” said an AP release.

2019 Reuters Fellowship winner **Jonas Ekblom** is one of this year’s winners of the US Foreign Press Association Scholar Awards. He posted on social media that in honor of the 2013 winner of that award, Kim Wall, he would donate a quarter of his award amount to the Kim Wall Memorial Fund. “I have so much to thank the brilliant women and women journalists I’ve worked with,” Ekblom wrote in the post, “and few things make me so sad as when I think about them having to even consider the very real risk of violence and abuse solely because they are women.”

Isabel DeBré, the Stan Swinton winner in 2018, is now based at The Associated Press bureau in Cairo. She began her AP career as an OPC Foundation fellow in the Jerusalem bureau in the fall of 2018.

Leticia Duarte, the winner of the 2019 Harper’s Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone, visited favelas in Rio, Brazil for GroundTruth to talk with the victims of President Jair Bolsonaro’s campaign of extrajudicial police killings, which have hit record a record high. The GroundTruth Fellow’s visit was featured as the first episode on the organization’s podcast, titled Democracy Undone: The Authoritarian’s Playbook. The podcast covers seven authoritarian tactics, using the actions of leaders in seven countries to illustrate one of each “play.” Duarte focuses on Bolsonaro’s use of weapon-



SANGSUK SYLVIA KANG, MICHAEL DAMES

Kang



Ekblom

ized fear. She also traveled to Virginia for the story to talk with Olavo de Carvalho, who commands an online army of trolls to intimidate political opponents.

2019 Nathan S. Bienstock Scholarship recipient **Audrey Gray** wrote a piece for The New Republic about the impact of climate change on fisheries in New England. Titled “Global Warming Is Already Destroying New England’s Fisheries,” the piece details how the rapidly warming Gulf of Maine, warming at almost four times the global ocean average, is becoming less viable for supporting ecosystems of large fish. A fisherman she interviewed used to be able to catch 34,000 pounds of fish from the gulf, but this year, he could only catch 2,000. “We’ve lost a whole generation that was completely discouraged from getting into the industry,” fourth-generation fisherman Al Cottone told Gray.

2018 Schweisberg Award winner **Jack Brook** wrote an article for the Miami Herald about unreported hate crimes in Florida. According to Brook’s reporting, law enforcement in Florida, where more than 90 percent of districts reported zero hate crimes in 2018, disproportionately lags behind other states in reporting hate crimes. By comparison, the District of Columbia reported 213 hate crimes and New Jersey reported 561, while Florida reported 141. “It’s up to local law enforcement agencies to decide whether something should be reported as a hate crime, and whether law enforcement properly documents an incident impacts how prosecutors approach the case,” Brook wrote.

AWARDS

OPC member **Martyn Aim** won first place in the Editorial/War category of the International Photo Awards for his project “Ukraine’s Forgotten War.” Between September and December of 2018, Aim traveled around conflict zones in Ukraine and documented the lives of people in fractured and heavily damaged villages.

2018 Edward R. Murrow Award winner **Raney Aronson-Rath**, along with her team at FRONTLINE, won two Alfred duPont-Columbia Awards for their multi-part documentaries “Documenting Hate” and “The Facebook Dilemma.” “Documenting Hate,” produced in partnership with ProPublica, investigated the rise of white supremacist groups in America. “The Facebook Dilemma” showed the social media giant’s impact on privacy and speech around the world. The award recipients will be honored at a ceremony hosted by OPC member Christiane Amanpour and Michael Barbaro on Jan. 21.

UPDATES

New Media Investment Group and **Gannett** have merged, creating the largest U.S. media company by print circulation. The merger was a mixture of cash and stock valued at around \$1.1 billion. “Our mission is to connect, protect and celebrate our local communities,” said Paul Bascobert, one of the new company’s CEOs. “Great journalism really is the core of that mission. The question really becomes, what’s the sustainable and exciting business model that powers that mission?”

Roula Khalaf is the new editor of The Financial Times, taking over the position from Lionel Barber, who held it for 14 years. Khalaf, who was previously the paper’s deputy editor, has been with The Financial Times for 24 years, during which she oversaw 100 foreign correspondents and led the paper’s coverage of the Middle East.

“I have full confidence that she will continue the FT’s mission to deliver quality journalism without fear and without favour,” said Tsuneo Kita, the chairman of Nikkei, the media company that owns The Financial Times. She will be the FT’s first female editor since the paper was founded in 1888.

Longtime OPC member and former Governor **Seymour Topping** turned 98 on Dec. 11. Topping began his career in journalism in 1948, as a foreign correspondent in China and Southeast Asia for The Associated Press. From 1977 to 1987, he served as the managing editor of The New York Times. After retiring in 2002, he became Professor Emeritus of International Journalism at Columbia University.



Audrey Topping, Seymour’s wife, joked on social media about the above photo that “on his 98th birthday, Seymour Topping gets his wish again. The former NYT managing editor sees another presidential impeachment.”

OPC Governor **Farnaz Fassihi** co-authored “The Iran Cables: Secret Documents Show How Tehran Wields Power In Iraq” for The New York Times. The article details 700 pages of leaked Iranian intelligence reports that expose “Tehran’s vast influence in Iraq, detailing years of painstaking work by Iranian spies to co-opt the country’s leaders, pay Iraqi agents working for the Americans to switch sides and infiltrate every aspect of Iraq’s political, economic and religious life.” The reports were first sent to The Intercept, who veri-



COURTESY OF HASAN MAHMUD

Hasan Mahmud (4th from left), newly named head of news and current affairs, poses with his news team in Jagoroni TV Studio-1 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

fied their authenticity, translated them from Persian to English, and shared them with the Times. The anonymous source who leaked the documents said that they wanted to “let the world know what Iran is doing in my country Iraq.”

Former OPC Treasurer **Abigail Pesta** appeared on the Dec. 5 episode of The Dr. Phil Show. The episode was based on her book “The Girls,” about the USA Gymnastics abuse scandal. She joined judge Rosemarie Aquilina, attorney Jamie White, who helped the victims secure a \$500 million settlement from Michigan State University, and two survivors who Pesta interviewed in her book. “This is a courageous, courageous book,” Dr. Phil said on the show. “*The Girls* is probably the most thorough account of this case.”

OPC member **Hasan Mahmud** became the head of news and current affairs at Jagoroni TV, a new Bangladeshi satellite television channel. Previously, Mahmud served as a special correspondent for Jamuna Television, and as chief crime reporter for Diganta Television. He has covered news from South Sudan, Geneva, New York, Italy, Greece, Bahrain, France, Saudi Arab and Nepal. Mahmud served as editor of the weekly Sunday Line since 2010.

OPC past president **William J. Holstein** had a letter to the editor published in the Nov. 8 issue of The New York Times, in which he responded to an article about China stealing research from the National Institutes of Health. “Chinese scientists are not just stealing secrets from the National Institutes of Health and the biomedical community,” he wrote. “With active support and encouragement from China’s central government, the systematic looting of American technologies is occurring on virtually every scientific front inside the United States.”

The **Coalition For Women In Journalism** launched a bi-monthly

newsletter in November to cover interviews, research, and issues facing women working as reporters around the world. OPC member **Kiran Nazish**, founding director for the coalition, wrote in an introduction to the first issue of the newsletter that advocacy groups including hers had attended a hearing in January for multiple journalists, including women, who were persecuted by the Turkish state. She said their presence caused the hearing to be surprisingly brief. “In the absence of any support or advocacy groups, these hearing typically go on for hours and comprise of unfounded accusations, often of terror links and tedious bullying,” she said. Nazish said the newsletter would celebrate “the work female reporters do across the world, keeps an eye on important events and opportunities and of course, offers an insight into our safety and advocacy related work that we do every day.

2009 Robert Spiers Benjamin Award winner and New Yorker staff writer **Jon Lee Anderson** was the subject of an in-depth interview with Adriana Carranca for the Columbia Journalism Review about his journalism career. In the interview, Anderson talks about his journey from his first job as a reporter for The Lima Times in Peru in 1979 to The New Yorker, which he joined in 1998. “I became a journalist because I wanted to see the world myself. I wanted to get my fingernails dirty,” he told CJR.

2018 Olivier Rebbot Award winner **Nariman El-Mofty** exhibited her Pulitzer Prize-winning photo project at Dupont Underground from Nov. 9 to Dec. 8, in partnership with the 2019 World Press Photo Exhibition. Her project, “Jalila: Surviving War and Famine in Yemen,” documents the lives of Hagar, a mother of eight, and her baby, Jalila. El-Mofty told the Pulitzer Center that she hopes for her work to humanize the people she photographs “rather than continuing a narrative of victimization.” ❖

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

by Emily Brown

Reporters Without Borders

(RWB) released its annual report on violence against journalists on Dec. 17. According to the report, a total of 49 journalists were killed in 2019, a 44 percent fall from 2018 and the lowest number since 2003. Fewer journalists were killed in war zones, but more journalists were killed in countries at peace. The number of journalists detained in connection with their work, 389 in 2019, has increased 12 percent from last year. Half of those journalists detained in 3 countries: China, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. “Donald Trump’s hostility towards the independent media is spreading and amplifying already dangerous conditions for journalists worldwide,” the report said. Separately, the editorial board of The Washington Post published an op-ed on Dec. slamming the Trump administration for encouraging a hostile environment against journalists around the world with dismissive and aggressive rhetoric aimed at journalists.

The **Committee to Protect Journalists** (CPJ) released a report on Dec. 16 about China targeting press freedom in Taiwan and Hong Kong. According to the in-depth report, titled “One Party, One Censor,” Taiwan and Hong Kong are under increasing pressure from China to maintain a pro-Beijing stance in their reporting. “The repeated police attacks on journalists trying to cover the turmoil, with no apparent consequences for the police, speaks to the broader concern that over the decades, the rise of China’s influence in Hong Kong has gradually squeezed the once-freewheeling local press,” the report said.

The **CPJ** found that at least 250 journalists are currently imprisoned worldwide in relation to their work, according to their annual global survey released on Dec. 11. The survey found that China is the top jailer of journalists, overtaking Turkey for the first time in four years. “China tightened its iron grip on the press and Turkey, having stamped out virtually all independent reporting, released journalists awaiting trial or appeal. Authoritarianism, instability, and pro-

tests in the Middle East led to a rise in the number of journalists locked up in the region – particularly in Saudi Arabia, which is now on par with Egypt as the third worst jailer worldwide.”

On Dec. 12, three people were detained in Ukraine for suspected involvement in the 2016 murder of **Pavel Sheremet**, a Belarusian journalist who was a vocal critic of the Kremlin. Sheremet was killed in a car bomb attack in Kyiv, and Ukrainian officials immediately suspected Russian involvement. The suspects include a heart surgeon who treated soldiers in combat zones and a musician who served in Ukraine’s special forces.

RWB on Dec. 3 called for Governor **Augustus Jaspert** of the British Virgin Islands to reconsider several sections of a bill that would hamper journalists’ work. The group argued that the “Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act 2019,” a bill that targets online crime, would have the effect on reporting on the islands. The law could be used to criminalize actions of journalists and others who publish digital information. Similar laws have been used as a tool to suppress press freedom in other countries around the world.

On Dec. 2nd, **The Washington Post Press Freedom Partnership** ran their monthly list of the 10 most urgent cases of journalists under attack, as identified by the One Free Press Coalition. The list includes Sophia Huang Xueqin, a Chinese reporter and activist who covered sexual harassment and the Hong Kong protests who was arrested for “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”; Luis Carlos Diaz, a Venezuelan reporter who was detained for over 24 hours in March and is still awaiting charges despite the Venezuelan government missing their deadline for presenting evidence; and Svetlana Prokopyeva, a Russian reporter who faces seven years in jail on terrorism-related charges.

Palestinian journalist **Sameh al-Titi** was arrested and held without any

charge by Israeli soldiers on Dec. 9. Al-Titi, a reporter for Radio Alam, was arrested following a raid on his home in a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank, during which his cell phone and laptop were seized. “We are very concerned about the arrest of Sameh al-Titi given Israel’s frequent use of legal measures, including administrative detention, to keep journalists in jail without bringing any charges against them,” said CPJ’s Middle East and North Africa representative, Ignacio Miguel Delgado. “Israeli authorities should immediately explain why they are holding al-Titi or let him go.”

Omoyele Sowore, a New York-based Nigerian journalist and activist, was detained one day after he was released on bail following a court order. Sowore, the publisher of Sahara Reporters, a Nigerian news outlet covering government corruption, was first arrested on Aug. 3 on treason charges. He was granted bail in October but remained in Nigerian Department of State Security custody until Dec. 5. Amnesty International Nigeria said in a statement on social media that Sowore’s arrest “tells a bigger story of impunity and flagrant disregard for the rule of law by the Nigerian government.”

More than two years after Maltese investigative journalist **Daphne Caruana Galizia** was killed in a car bomb attack, prosecutors in late November charged businessman Yorgen Fenech with complicity in her murder. Fenech was arrested on Nov. 19 for allegedly hiring three contract killers to carry out Galizia’s murder in October 2017. He is part owner of companies that received a nearly \$500 million concession to build a power plant that Galizia had reported on extensively. Galizia also reported on 17 Black, a company owned by Fenech that she believed was a channel for kickbacks.

Egypt arrested the senior editor of the country’s last large independent news outlet on Nov. 23, as part of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi’s 6-year crack-down on press freedom. **Shady Zalat**, a senior Arabic language editor

who has worked for the investigative journalism outlet Mada Masr since 2014, was arrested following a raid on his home. Officers provided no warrant or explanation for his arrest. “He has done nothing more than use words to report the news,” Mada Masr said. Almost every other news outlet has come under the control of the Egyptian government since 2013.

The Washington Post on Nov. 7 named **Ezzedine C. Fishere** as its next Jamal Khashoggi fellow. Fishere is an Egyptian scholar, novelist and former diplomat. He will write columns in the paper’s Global Opinions section to cover autocracy, freedom of expression, politics and social issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Fishere is the second person to receive the fellowship, which the Post launched in early 2019 in honor of the columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

2018 Peter Mackler Award winner **Jovo Martinović** won his appeal against an 18-month jail sentence in Montenegro on Oct. 24 and will face a new trial. Martinovic, an investigative journalist covering organized crime, was arrested in October 2015 in the Balkans and spent nearly 15 months in prison waiting for the outcome of his trial and appeal. He was convicted in January of marijuana smuggling and criminal association. The appeals court ruled that the prosecution failed to prove that Martinovic committed any crime, and a new trial is set to begin soon.

MURDERS

One journalist was killed and another journalist was abducted following protests in Iraq on Dec. 6. **Zaid Mohammed al-Khafaji**, a freelance photographer, was abducted from his home in Baghdad after covering protests in the city’s Tahrir Square. Photographer **Ahmed Muhana al-Lami** was shot in the back and killed by an unknown individual while covering the protests in Baghdad’s Al-Khilani Square. “Covering the ongoing protests in Iraq is becoming a highly risky affair that

is costing local journalists dearly,” said CPJ’s Middle East and North Africa representative, Ignacio Miguel Delgado.

Abdul Hameed al-Yousef, a photographer and camera operator for Syrian pro-civil rights opposition Kafr Rumah Media Office, was killed in a shell attack on Nov. 10. Al-Yousef was covering Russian

airstrikes and Syrian Army artillery shelling when forces supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad attacked the town of Kafr Rumah, killing him and at least six other civilians, including three children. Besides documenting the victims of attacks, Al-Yousef also covered politics and sports events for the Media Office. ❖

‘Workshop’ Continued From Page 2

for ACOS’s leadership and ability to bring together the vast array of experts and the multitude of media organizations so that we could all learn together and share our own organizations’ processes and growth in this space.”

Viktorya Vilks, manager of special projects for free expression at PEN America, recommended that editors steer their staffs to her organization’s website (onlineharassmentfieldmanual.pen.org) to access their guidance about how harassment targets should react.

Jason Reich, vice president for corporate security for The New York Times, said editors should prompt everyone in the newsroom to practice “digital hygiene” by scouring the internet for information about themselves.

Reich and Harlo Holmes, director of newsroom digital security at the Freedom of the Press Foundation, emphasized that third party data aggregators such as Spokeo may have far more data about you than you realize. That information may be used by harassers and hackers to “dox” news staff by publishing what most people consider to be private confidential information.

Your family and your entire list of contacts may be at risk as a result of your personal information being compromised and collected from apps you enabled long ago. One solution is to go to a website called DeleteMe (joindeleteme.com) to begin the process of blocking information collectors from scooping up data you thought was private.

Eliot Stempf, a digital security advisor for BuzzFeed, also helped explain how editors can assess Internet risk. Breaking down into four subgroups, the workshop came up with a series of recommendations that included guaranteeing any staff member who is being harassed online that there will be no adverse career consequences if they report the problem.

Several editors said many young news people may fear that they will be rated lower if, as a protective reaction to harassment, they diminish their activity – or drop off – Twitter, Instagram or Facebook.

Equally important, the editors concluded, is the realization that any attack on an individual should also be regarded as an assault on the news organization. The consensus was that protecting the individual is paramount, but that any response by editors also has to incorporate the principles of the news organization and best judgment about whether self-protection requires an aggressive counterattack on the Internet. ❖

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPC Winter Party
Club Quarters
6:00 p.m.
to 8:00 p.m.
Jan. 15

BOOKS by Emily Brown

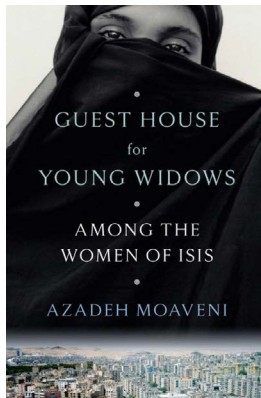
ISIS

ACROSS THE world, from Libya to Germany to England to the USA, hundreds of young women traveled from their homes to Syria to fight with the Islamic State. Women of all backgrounds fell prey to sophisticated propaganda promising liberation and social justice: teenagers, doctors, housewives. Azadeh Moaveni's *Guest House For The Young Widows: Among The Women of ISIS* [Random House, September 2019] explores this phenomenon and tells the stories of 13 of these women and the families they left behind.

For some women, ISIS seemed like a feminist path. We learn about Nour, a high school dropout from Tunisia, a country that was authoritarian but secular. As a young teen, Nour started rebelling through religion. She watched videos uploaded by a sheikh on Youtube and decided to wear a niqab to school, where she was physically assaulted by a teacher and forced to take it off. To her, ISIS was an escape from a home where she felt stuck, and she didn't see any alternative. "No one asked precisely why she felt that covering her face was her religious duty," writes Moaveni. "Had they given her the chance to mention the YouTube sheikh, they might have informed her there were opposing and indeed stronger and more valid scholarly views." Others, like a group of young teenagers from London, were radicalized by the blogs and social media of female ISIS recruiters who made life in the caliphate seem utopian. Emma, from Germany, was enticed by the community she found within her group of German-Turkish friends.

Moaveni has a nuanced understanding of these girls' paths. Like cult members, they were carefully groomed and indoctrinated into a group that tricked them into thinking they had their best interests at heart. She also doesn't shy away from the circumstances that allowed groups like ISIS to rise up in the first place. Because of media attention, "ISIS became, in the Western imagination, a satanic force unlike anything civilization had encountered since it began recording histories of combat with the Trojan Wars," she writes.

These girls, who were both perpetrators and victims, were led down a road of confusion and suffering in search of a better life. Moaveni's book provides a much-needed perspective about how they got there, and how it could have been prevented. ❖



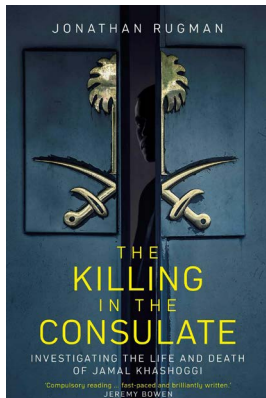
BERLIN

ON OCT. 2, 2018, Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi walked into the Saudi consulate in Turkey to get the documentation needed for marrying his new fiancée. He was never seen again. Minutes after entering the building, he was attacked, murdered, and dismembered by a group of Saudi hitmen, and his body still has yet to be recovered. *The Killing in the Consulate* [Simon & Schuster UK, August 2019] by Jonathan Rugman details Khashoggi's high-profile murder at the hands of a corrupt regime, and the lies and coverup that followed.

Rugman recounts the murder in chilling detail. Unbeknownst to the Saudis, President Tayyip Erdogan, who was a friend of Khashoggi's, and the Turkish government had bugged the consulate, capturing grisly audio of the entire attack. After being lured into the consulate, the hitmen ambushed him, injected him with a sedative, and suffocated him by putting a plastic bag over his head. The hidden microphones, Rugman says, caught the sounds of his body being dismembered with a saw.

We also learn about events leading up to the murder: the power struggle between Erdogan and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salem, the Saudi government's attempts to keep Khashoggi from writing about their human rights abuses, and Khashoggi's complicated personal life, filled with people concerned about both his safety and their own.

Rugman's writing is gripping, easy to understand, and filled with factual research. He does a good job explaining the rise of Mohamed bin Salem, the US-Saudi relationship and the ways in which the Khashoggi murder spun it out of control. Meanwhile, the US continues to send troops and weapons to Saudi Arabia, the trial of Khashoggi's alleged killers remains shrouded in secrecy, and any justice for Khashoggi seems far away. ❖



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER MILLER



Christopher Miller

Christopher Miller (upper right) interviews the mayor of the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine, where Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 fell after being shot down by a Russian missile.

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With *Christopher Miller*

Christopher Miller is a correspondent in Kyiv who covers Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics for various outlets, including BuzzFeed News, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Politico Europe, among others. Miller has reported extensively from the front lines in eastern Ukraine since 2014. He formerly served as senior international correspondent for Mashable, and was editor and reporter at Ukraine's Kyiv Post. He was part of a team that won the 2014 Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism for coverage of Ukraine's Euromaidan revolution, Russia's annexation of Crimea and the war in eastern Ukraine. Miller was trained in crisis zone safety by Columbia University's Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma.

Hometown: Portland, Oregon.

Education: Portland State University (B.S. in Liberal Studies, emphasis on the BS.)

Languages: English. Russian. And Ukrainian like a dog, as the Ukrainians say (able to understand but unable to speak much).

First job in journalism: Working the police and fire beat for a local Portland paper that went under – but not because of my reporting.

Countries reported from: Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Turkey, Italy, Greece, Malta, Israel and others.

When and why did you join the OPC: I joined in January 2019. As a full-time freelancer roaming the world without much of a safety net, I thought it was important to connect with people doing the same thing.

What first drew you to reporting on Ukraine and other former Soviet republics? I ended up in Ukraine by chance, but I quickly fell in love with the people and the place. I was fascinated by its complexities and there seemed to be hundreds of stories dying to be told.

Major challenge as a journalist: Dealing with all the waiting around. There can be so much waiting – for official government responses, for sources to get back to you, for visas, for accreditation cards, for permission to enter, for permission to leave, for editors to send readbacks, for a separatist warlord to radio back that you won't be shot and you can be on your way.

Best journalism advice received: Keep 'em talking.

Worst experience as a journalist: Reporting on the assassination of a journalist friend and colleague.

When traveling, you like to ... eat all the food I can find that is served in a wrap of some sort.

Hardest story: Covering the shoot-down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine and the aftermath.

Journalism heroes: C.J. Chivers. Ellen Barry. Marie Colvin.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: When you arrive, say yes to everything (within reason, of course). Immerse yourself in the culture. Avoid expat bars but do make contacts with those correspondents who could help support you and/or get you out of a jam.

Dream job: I'm doing it, more or less. I'd just like to get paid more to do it and be eligible for benefits, too.

Favorite quote: "We are made to persist. That's how we find out who we are." – Tobias Wolff

Place you're most eager to visit: Central Asia.

Most over-the-top assignment: In Eastern Europe, a lot of stories can feel over the top. One from the past couple of months was to visit and write about a pop-up village modeled and named after the one from Fiddler on the Roof that Rudy Giuliani had been made honorary mayor of.

A most common mistake you've seen: Thinking you know what the story is before you even hit the ground.

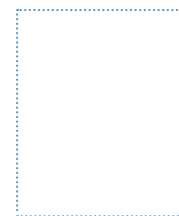
Country you most want to return to: Turkey.

Twitter handle: @ChristopherJM ❖

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



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