



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin : July 10, 2020

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this week's digital newsletter, which includes:

- A call for signups for the OPC's free July 14 [Workshop on Covering Civil Unrest](#).
- A recap of the OPC's [discussion with winners of this year's David Kaplan Award](#).
- A piece from OPC Foundation scholar Russell Midori on [lessons learned while covering civil unrest](#).
- A recap of the OPC's online discussion with winners of this year's [Lowell Thomas Award](#).
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists covering COVID-19 and protests in the U.S.
- [People Column](#).
- [Press Freedom Update](#).

Scroll down for more content, summaries and links to items online.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 14: Free Workshop
On Covering Civil Unrest

Time: Noon Eastern Time

Place: Via Zoom

Please register now for next week's safety workshop, which is free to OPC members and non-members. This two-hour program, conducted by Global Journalist Security, will be held on Zoom at noon Eastern Time on Tuesday, July 14.



The workshop will be limited to 30 people to allow ample time for questions. There is no charge: The OPC is footing the bill as a service to members during these trying times.

This workshop will cover best practices with a focus on journalists covering civil unrest and major political events, including upcoming Republican and Democratic National Conventions. The curriculum includes situational awareness, “tactical” breathing, crowd dynamics, police operations, line of sight, safe navigation and teamwork, riot dispersal equipment, personal protective gear, concealment versus cover, and active shooter response.

The Zoom link will be emailed to participants the morning of the event.

[RSVP Now](#)

David Kaplan Award Winners from VICE News Share Background on 'Uganda: Orphanage Inc.'

by **Chad Bouchard**

Last year, an investigative team from VICE News Tonight started looking into the shifty world of illegal orphanages in Uganda and began to unravel a thriving industry that garners up to \$250 million in donations from rich countries like the U.S. annually.

In a 10-minute video piece, correspondent Hind Hassan and her team revealed that corrupt Ugandan officials profit from these facilities through bribes to overlook their operations, which actively recruit children – including many with living parents – to bolster numbers and draw more donations.

That story, “Uganda: Orphanage Inc.,” won this year’s David Kaplan Award for best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad for what judges called

“disturbing, haunting, top-notch reporting.”

On July 9, the OPC hosted an online discussion with Hassan and two other members of her team: Joe Hill, associate producer and researcher; and Julia Lindau, producer. The moderator was Terry McCarthy of the American Society of Cinematographers, who served as head judge for the Kaplan Award.

[Read More](#)



What I've Learned Covering Social Unrest

by Russell Midori

Two generation-defining stories are colliding in America; the first wave of the great virus and the second wave of the civil rights movement.

Journalists' heads are spinning. Reporting on COVID-19 created a sudden and necessary urgency by media leaders to validate



government precautions, while protests following the death of George Floyd rapidly diminished the foundational credibility of government institutions altogether. Journalists are called on now to make sense of these enormous social disruptions.

Objective journalism endeavors to find the balance between the fully opposite concepts of upholding social cooperation and giving voice to revolutionary ideas. Journalism is most important to the health of society in times when finding such a balance feels impossible, and this is one of those times. The present generation of journalists is undergoing an exhaustive test of intellect, ethics, and tenacity that will distinguish them in history and guide Americans to the next phase of our nation's great experiment in democracy.

Russell Midori won the OPC Foundation's Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship in 2016, having learned cinematography on the job as a Marine Corps combat videographer before earning his degree in broadcast journalism from Brooklyn College.

The full version of Midori's extensive story is posted on the OPC website, and includes a list of specific recommendations for those covering unrest in the field, including teaming up with other journalists, contacting police, credentials, mitigating damage, detecting danger, and many other useful pieces of information.

His story is also linked on the OPC's Resources page.

Click the button below to read more.

[Read More](#)

Lowell Thomas Award Winners Discuss 'The Search'

by Chad Bouchard

Conflict reporting overseas, as well as other kinds of foreign reporting, can too often depict people as reductive stereotypes or victims. In 2011, Kurdish photojournalist Kamaran Najm joined forces with colleagues to launch a photo agency focused on pushing back against those tendencies. But in 2014, the effort

came to a halt during a reporting mission with peshmerga fighters, when he was wounded in a firefight with ISIS and disappeared.

On June 19, the OPC hosted an online discussion via Zoom with journalists and people close to the story who worked on a two-part podcast series about Najm's disappearance, and family and friends' long mission to track him down.

"The Search," a series from NPR's Rough Translation podcast, won this year's Lowell Thomas Award for best radio, audio, or podcast coverage of international affairs.

The program included award winners Gregory Warner, Karen Duffin and Sebastian Meyer, moderated by Ann Cooper, Professor Emerita of the Columbia Journalism School who served as head judge for this year's Lowell Thomas jury.

[Read More](#)



OPC and Foreign Press Association Host Discussion with Ambassador John Bolton

On July 2, FPA President and OPC member Ian Williams discussed John

Bolton's new book, "The Room Where it Happened" for a program sponsored by the OPC and the Foreign Press Association. Williams has known Bolton and long has reported on his career and perspectives. Click the window on the right to watch the entire program.



Welcome New Members

Traci Ferrence

Photographer
for Geralind Kolarik
Chicago
Active Non-Resident

Ashwaq Masoodi

Harvard University
Nieman fellow
Cambridge, MA
Active Non-Resident (Young, 30-34)

Gera-Lind Kolarik

Freelance
Chicago
Active Non-Resident

Sandra M. Stevenson

Assistant Editor,
Photography Department
The New York Times
New York
Active Resident

COVID-19 Coverage from OPC Members

OPC member **Kathy Gannon** [reported](#) for The Associated Press in late June on the push to reopen Pakistan despite the country having one of the fastest COVID-19 infection rates in the world. She said while the government touts social distancing and masks as methods to stem the spread of the virus, many are ignoring safety measures in public. "Millions crowd markets and mosques. Hard-line clerics tell followers to trust that faith will protect them. Many call the virus a hoax," she wrote. She said Pakistan is an example of many developing countries forced to live with rising infections because fragile economies cannot withstand extended lockdown.

OPC Past President **David Andelman** [reflected](#) in a piece for CNN Opinion in late June about the likelihood of extended self-isolation due to lifelong asthma and severe health risks if he should contract COVID-19. Cloistered in a cabin in northeast Pennsylvania since his return from Paris three months ago, he said news of the partial reopening of his home city of New York sparked thoughts of "some hard, and very sad, facts of life" for himself and others with vulnerable health conditions. "I recently arrived at the disturbing conclusion that I may be unable to return to my New York City apartment, or visit my family in Paris, for years," he wrote. He said even the prospect of a coronavirus vaccine may not change realities for those with

ongoing respiratory conditions. “As we celebrate America's opening up, there must be millions of Americans just like myself asking themselves, is this my life until the end?”

OPC member **Anita Snow** wrote for The Associated Press [on July 7](#) that American vacationers from hard-hit Arizona were turned back by protesters on the road to the popular tourist resort of Puerto Peñasco over the July 4 weekend. The protest group Sonoyta Unidos briefly shut down all southbound travel to the coastal town on Saturday of the holiday weekend. She said a cross-border agreement between neighboring municipalities broke down as officials worked to get southbound traffic moving again.

OPC Governor **Farnaz Fassihi** was [interviewed](#) on CNN and PBS in late June by **Christiane Amanpour**, also an OPC member, about the epidemic of domestic violence against women that has accompanied an era of quarantine and lockdowns across the world. Fassihi and Gabriela Jauregui, a Mexican author and women's rights activist, discussed rising violence and murders of women in what the United Nations has called a “shadow pandemic.” Fassihi recounted her reporting on an “honor killing” in Iran in which a 14-year-old girl was beheaded by her father. She cited a study showing that [30 percent](#) of murders in Iran are of women at the hand of a male relative. Jauregui said the number of distress calls connected to family violence in Mexico was up 97 percent in April, a statistic Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador [called](#) “fake news” from political opponents.

OPC member **Livia Hengel**, a freelancer based in Rome, [landed](#) a piece on the front page of *Il Mattino*, the leading newspaper of Naples. The article, written in Italian, covers Italy's hard-hit tourist market following the country's early battle as a hotspot for coronavirus infections, and tensions about the return of foreign tourists, particularly those from the U.S. Hengel has also recently written several [travel pieces for Forbes](#), including two pieces about the Sorrento Coast on July 8 and 9, and a story about Italy's coffee industry on July 2.

Please send us your personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces related to COVID-19 to info@opcofamerica.org, and we will publish them on our website and share with members. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

New Resources for Covering COVID-19 and Protests

OPC MEMBER RESOURCE

The **OPC** has invited freelance members to send a short pitch document, detailing their locations, specialty areas, and contact information. They have been collected in a Dropbox folder. We hope that editors will find this a useful tool when

they need to find a journalist quickly in an overseas or U.S. locale. If you would like to gain access to this folder, please email patricia@opcofamerica.org. Read more about this networking tool on the [OPC website here](#).

TRAINING AND GUIDELINES

On July 17 at 4:00 p.m., the **National Press Club's Journalism Institute** will host a discussion about the challenges and opportunities of interviewing in the COVID-19 era. The program, titled "[The Art & Craft of the Interview: How to Deeply Listen](#)," will feature guests Terry Gross of NPR's Fresh Air, and Michael Barbaro of The New York Times' morning news podcast The Daily, with Marketplace correspondent Kimberly Adams moderating.

From July 13 to 17, the **National Press Foundation** is holding a free online training program for 25 journalists to help them track how federal pandemic assistance funds are being used. The training, "[Tracking Coronavirus Relief Funds: How to Follow the Taxpayers' Money](#)," will be held for two hours per day, a total of 10 hours. Fellows will be offered subsequent confidential follow-up sessions with experts and data analysts to help them bring their stories to successful publication.

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has updated its site with several new resources, including articles on [fighting COVID-19 disinformation](#), [reporting on communities of color](#) during the pandemic, [audience engagement in a time of social distancing](#), and [photojournalism in the coronavirus era](#).

On July 14 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time, the **ICFJ** is [hosting a webinar](#) to discuss journalism business models and the future of the industry with Join Cerf, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google, and Sharon Moshavi, Senior Vice President of the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ). Panelists include: Richard Gingras, Vice President, Google News; Nishant Lalwani, Managing Director, Luminate; and Patricia Torres-Burd, Managing Director, Media Advisory Services, for the Media Development Investment Fund.

The **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)** held a [panel on July 8](#) to discuss how to handle disinformation about COVID-19. A recap on the organization's site includes several links to resources and a roundup of useful advice from the program.

The **A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance** has launched Arabic, French and Spanish versions of the [COVID-19 News Organizations Safety Protocols](#). Those who want to help spread the word can access social media tools [here](#). All versions of the protocols are downloadable from the [ACOS website here](#).

FELLOWSHIPS

John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships at Stanford has launched a special remote John S. Knight Community Impact Fellowship program to help close information gaps in communities of color. "It's a working fellowship model, specific for the upcoming 2020-2021 year, to address the urgent needs of our times." The deadline to apply is July 22. [Read more here](#).

More Resources

- **ACOS** [assembled](#) a substantial list of COVID-19 resources for journalists, including links to practical safety advice, funding opportunities, hardship and emergency funds, and reporting resources such as guides for fact checking.
- **ICFJ** [launched](#) a page for COVID-19 resources for journalists.
- **Rory Peck Trust** has a [resource page](#) for pandemic coverage. It includes safety guidelines, funding sources, job opportunities and online training videos.
- The **Freelance Audio Fund** is [providing](#) emergency relief to the professional audio community impacted by COVID-19.
- A **retreat center in California** is providing artist residency for writers, photographers and artists needing some time without distractions to work on a project. [The Evered House](#) is located in Flamingo Heights, near the Joshua Tree National Park. The house and program were founded by writer and director Charles Evered, who served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy Reserve. Residents stay at no costs to themselves. The organization offers small honorariums to help cover travel and food expenses during their stay.

The OPC has added these links to a special COVID-19 section on the member-only [Resources](#) page available to members who have logged in. Watch that page as we share more. Click the button below to go directly, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at chad@opcofamerica.org for credentials.

[OPC Resources Page](#)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Marta Orosz , 2020 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner, has received the 2020 French-German Journalism Award for her project, [Grand Theft Europe](#) , a collaborative investigation involving reporters and newsrooms from 30 countries. Orosz described the effort at the 2020 OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon in February.

Suman Naishadham , H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner in 2018, has been hired by The Associated Press as a desk editor and reporter covering 13 states in the western U.S. Naishadham, who had an OPC Foundation fellowship at the Reuters bureau in Mexico City, has been freelancing in the capital city, where she also had done an internship with The Wall Street Journal.

AWARDS

OPC member **Abigail Pesta** won a [Sigma Delta Chi Award for Magazine Writing](#) from the Society of Professional Journalists for her piece "Life after death in Parkland" in Notre Dame Magazine. Pesta profiled a family dealing with the fallout from the 2018 shooting in Parkland, Florida.

The **ICFJ** will [honor](#) CNN host **Fareed Zakaria** , Egyptian editor **Lina Attalah** , and Russian journalist **Roman Anin** during the organization's virtual tribute on Oct. 5. Zakaria will receive the ICFJ Founders Award for Excellence in Journalism, while Attalah and Anin will receive the ICFJ Knight Trailblazer Award. CNN lead political anchor Wolf Blitzer will host the program.

Gwen Ifill , who was co-anchor and managing editor of the PBS NewsHour until her death in November 2016, posthumously [received](#) the highest professional honor awarded by The Society of Professional Journalists on July 2 for her extraordinary contribution to the profession of journalism.

Media Groups Launch #HoldTheLine Campaign in Support of Maria Ressa and Independent Media in the Philippines

Sixty press freedom groups and civil society organizations, journalism institutions, filmmakers, and other supporters have formed a coalition in support of Maria Ressa and independent media in the Philippines, introducing the call to [#HoldTheLine](#).



The campaign is coordinating with Ressa and her legal team, along with dozens of partners, on the global campaign and reporting initiatives.

Those interested in showing support and helping to #HoldTheLine can take two immediate steps in the run-up to Ressa's next hearing scheduled on 22 July:

1. Join the #HoldTheLine coalition by getting in touch via steering committee groups Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) or Reporters Without Borders (RWB).
2. Sign and share [this petition](#) calling for the Philippine government to drop all charges and cases against Ressa, Santos and Rappler, and end pressure on independent media in the Philippines.

Press Freedom Update

by Bill Collins, OPC Press Freedom Chair

Hong Kong's new National Security Law, a draconian rule which was drafted by Beijing and took effect July 1, is grave news for press freedom supporters, in addition to citizens of the former British colony who believe it will be used to permanently alter the laissez-faire nature of life in the island city.

Nearly 400 protesters were arrested by Hong Kong police immediately after the law took effect in a resounding show of force against pro-democracy supporters. This included 10 people charged under the new security law.

The legal community, which is getting its first full look at the new law, has expressed shock at the security statute as "worse than the worst-case scenario," according to solicitor and freedom advocate Eric Cheung. He said via Facebook it represents the spirit of mainland China's socialist legal system rather than Hong Kong's common law system.

These were among the many concerns of Hong Kong journalists presented to Carrie Lam, the Hong Kong chief executive, just before the law's implementation. "We are concerned that the new law will curtail the ability of journalists to report freely about Hong Kong and mainland China, as is our right under Article 27 of the Basic Law," said the FCC letter.

[Read More in OPC Press Freedom](#)

