



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: June 11

Greetings!

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

- A recap of the OPC's Zoom panel to discuss [three OPC photography awards](#).
- A look ahead at next week's Zoom discussion [on June 19 with winners of this year's Lowell Thomas Award](#).
- Photos from past OPC Award winner Atish Saha.
- Updates on OPC member coverage of COVID-19.
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists covering COVID-19 and protests in the U.S.
- [People Column](#).
- [Press Freedom Update](#) for June 11.

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

OPC Hosts Discussion With Photography Award Winners

by Chad Bouchard

Winners of the OPC's three photography award categories shared behind-the-

scenes insights of their work, discussing the challenges of operating in conflict areas as well as the often thorny ethics of telling stories while maintaining respect for sensitivity, privacy and the safety of sources as well as themselves.

On June 10, 2020, the OPC hosted an online discussion via Zoom with this year's photography award winners, including Dieu Nalio Chery of The Associated Press, winner of the Robert Capa Gold Medal Award for best photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise; Moises Saman of National Geographic, winner of the Olivier Rebbot Award for best photographic news reporting from abroad in any medium; and Rena Effendi of The Wall Street Journal, winner of the Best Feature Photography award for best feature photography on an international theme published in any medium.

Freelance photographer Daniella Zalcman, who served as head judge for the OPC's photography awards jury, moderated the panel. In introducing Chery and the Capa Award, she highlighted the importance of the word "courage" that sets the award apart from the other photo categories.

"Courage in the context of photojournalism can mean a lot of different things. But especially this month, especially these past few weeks, as we think about the police violence and the brutality that we've been witnessing in the United States, and we think about the ways in which our colleagues are being harassed and assaulted simply for trying to their jobs, to tell stories," Zalcman said.

[Read the Full Story](#)



Click the window below to watch clips from the program, [or click here](#) to open a playlist on the OPC YouTube channel.



Thumbnail above, clockwise from upper right: Daniella Zalcman, Dieu Nalio Chery, Rena Effendi and Moises Saman.



You can see galleries of all the winning photos on the OPC website via the links below:

[The Robert Capa Gold Medal Award >>](#)

[The Olivier Rebbot Award >>](#)

[The Feature Photography Award >>](#)



Upcoming Events

June 19: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories - The Lowell Thomas Award

Time: 5:00 p.m. Eastern
Time on June 19

Place: Via Zoom

Join the OPC for an online discussion with winners of this year's Lowell Thomas Award for best radio, audio, or podcast coverage of international affairs.



Winners participating in the webinar will include:

Gregory Warner, Karen Duffin and Sebastian Meyer of NPR's Rough Translation podcast for "The Search: Parts 1 and 2."

Ann Cooper, Professor Emerita of the Columbia Journalism School who served as head judge of the Lowell Thomas Award, will be the interviewer.

RSVPs are required. A link to the Zoom webinar will be emailed to registrants two hours before the program begins.

[RSVP Now](#)

Reminder: OPC Creates Networking Tool

for Freelancers and Editors

The Overseas Press Club 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.

This networking tool grew out of the OPC's recent program that awarded 27 grants of \$750 each to freelance members who were suffering financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The OPC funded the grants program with donations made during the club's annual awards dinner. The OPC is soliciting donations for another round of grants. Donations can be sent via Zelle Quickpay to patricia@opcofamerica.org or via Paypal to paypal.me/opcofamerica.

We welcome pitches from all freelance members. Feel free to send them at any time and they will be added to the group list.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

Photos from the Field: Atish Saha Covers Black Lives Matter



Bangladeshi photographer **Atish Saha** sent these images of his recent coverage of Black Lives Matter demonstrations in San Bernadino, California to the OPC.

Saha, now based in New York, won the OPC's 2014 Madeline Dane Ross Award along with Jason Motlagh for coverage of the Rana Plaza building collapse.

COVID-19 Coverage from OPC Members

OPC member **Eric Reidy** , who was one of the freelancers to receive an OPC microgrant, shared an article that the funding helped bring to fruition. The article, titled “ [Coronavirus: A Window of Opportunity for Action on Migration?](#) ” is part of a series Reidy has written on migration, refugees and coronavirus since the outbreak began. “I received the grant at a moment when I was feeling quite insecure financially because of the pandemic,” Reidy wrote in an email. “I was looking for online work teaching English, copy-editing, transcribing, anything I could potentially find. The grant helped to calm my nerves, boost my confidence and turn my focus back to full time journalism and my coverage of the virus.”

OPC member **Kathy Gannon** has been covering COVID-19 and other stories for The Associated Press in the Middle East. [On June 10](#) , she filed a piece from Pakistan about the impact of the coronavirus on areas that had already been beset with health epidemics before COVID-19 struck, such as endemic polio, Ebola, cholera, dengue, tuberculosis and malaria, among others. “The onslaught of infectious diseases is made worse by the many other threats in lives already overwhelmed by adversity,” Gannon wrote.

Sarah Champaign , the OPC Foundation's 2019 winner of the S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting, has been covering the pandemic in Texas for The Texas Tribune, most recently in a piece on June 10 titled “ [Texas Reports Largest Single-Day Increase in Coronavirus Cases](#) ,” in which she explores causes behind a new high of more than 2,500 new cases in a single day. The previous high had been just under 1,950 cases on May 31. More than 20 percent of the cases were from a single county, where health officials said most of the new cases were from three state prisons, Champaign reported. She has a fellowship with the Tribune.

Eli Binder , the 2019 Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner, continues to cover COVID-19 developments for The Wire China with a piece on June 7, titled “ [China's Pandemic Pork Haul](#) ,” covering the aftermath of coronavirus hotspots at U.S. producer Smithfield Foods' massive pork processing plants. Binder wrote that as plants saw a spike in viral cases and the company warned there would be U.S. meat shortages unless plants stayed open, its exports to China surged.

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

PROGRAMS

PEN America has launched a free webinar series in partnership with the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Women's Media Foundation, Freedom of the Press Foundation and the Dart Center.

Upcoming webinars include:

- **Physical Safety Strategies for Reporters**, Friday, June 12, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time: Led by Alison Baskerville, IWMF's Safety Training Consultant, Colin Pereira, CPJ's Journalist Safety Specialist, and Donte Stewart, Vox Media's Senior Director of Security. [RSVP here](#).
- **Digital Safety, Surveillance, & Privacy**, Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time: Led by Harlo Holmes, Freedom of the Press Foundation's Director of Digital Security and Viktorya Vilks, PEN America's Program Director for Digital Safety & Free Expression. [RSVP here](#).
- **Staying Sane: Managing Threat and Trauma**, Thursday, June 18, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time: Led by Elana Newman, Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma's Research Director. [RSVP here](#).

On Saturday, June 13, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time, **PBS FRONTLINE** and the **International Center for Journalists** (ICFJ) will host a conversation with embattled press freedom defender Maria Ressa as she faces her first court date on Monday in a slew of cases that she has called "lawfare" in the Philippines. The program will include Ramona Diaz, a documentarian who has followed Ressa's story, and FRONTLINE executive producer Raney Aronson, with ICFJ's Julie Posetti moderating. Register to [participate free here](#). The event will be [livestreamed here](#).

GRANTS AND GUIDELINES

The **International Journalists' Network** has [posted an article](#) covering how the journalism industry is responding to safety challenges posed by COVID-19 and the importance of safety protocols. The piece includes quotes from ACOS Alliance executive director Elisabet Cantenys and members of other journalist advocacy groups, as well as links to more resources.

The **Fund for Investigative Journalism** on June 11 announced emergency grants for U.S.-based journalists working on investigative stories related to police misconduct. The organization said it "strongly encourages applications from journalists of color, ethnic media and local media." Journalists can apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and grant decisions will be made and communicated in less than two weeks from the time

an application is received. For more information, see the [grant application](#).

More Resources

- The group **A Culture of Safety** (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.

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 Emily Brown and Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Lingling Wei, winner of the 2001 Reuters Scholarship, is co-author of a new book, along with Bob Davis, covering the U.S.-China trade war. The book, titled "[Superpower Showdown: How the Battle Between Trump and Xi Threatens a New Cold War](#)", was published on June 9 by Harper's Press.

Marta Orosz, winner of the 2020 Reuters Fellowship, was [awarded](#) a \$3,000 scholarship from the New York Financial Writers Association. The scholarship is for students interested in business and financial journalism.

Kantaro Komiya, 2020 OPC Foundation Stan Swinton Fellowship winner, has [landed his first byline](#) as part of this summer's Dow Jones internship. The piece covers Dunkin' Brands Group (the donut firm) hiring of 25,000 workers at its franchise restaurants, among other companies that are adding jobs as the dormant economy slowly grinds back into production.

AWARDS

An NBC Digital documentary produced by **Ed Ou**, winner of the OPC Foundation's 2007 Dan Eldon Scholarship, won a Peabody Award. The one-hour program, "[A Different Kind Of Force: Policing Mental Illness](#)," focuses on law enforcement approach to mental illness in San Antonio and Houston, and how "deinstitutionalization of the mental health system and lack of resources for both police and health workers created a societal problem." NBC Digital also won a Peabody for Richard Engel's reporting on the U.S. decision to abandon its traditional allies the Kurds, titled "American Betrayal."

UPDATES

OPC member **Rukmini Callimachi** [co-wrote a piece](#) on June 6 for The New York Times along with colleague Eric Schmitt covering the French military's announcement that it had killed one of Al Qaeda's longest-serving commanders in Africa, Abdelmalek Droukdal. The two wrote about the leader's rise to power over the last decade within the ranks of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, a local insurgent group, which pledged allegiance to Al Qaeda in 2006 and began what has been described as "the terrorist version of a corporate merger."

Press Freedom Update

by Bill Collins

In this week's OPC Press Freedom Update, we look at a press freedom role reversal for the U.S. and the Covid-19 outbreak:

International Leaders Ask U.S. to Uphold Press Freedom Amid Protests.

In an unusual turnabout, global leaders from Australia, Germany and Turkey are demanding that the United States uphold

its press freedom laws and ensure the safety of reporters – both foreign and domestic – covering the racial justice protests in American cities. For years, the U.S. has lobbied foreign leaders to respect press freedom on behalf of U.S. correspondents reporting from abroad.



- **In Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison** asked his embassy in Washington to investigate after two members of a Channel Seven TV crew were assaulted by D.C. police. Videographer Tim Myers was pushed to the ground by a shield and punched while reporter Amelia Brace was hit with a baton. Both were hit by rubber bullets.

- **Deutsche Welle**, the German public broadcaster, entered a formal complaint with the U.S. Embassy over police threats made against its correspondent. DW reporter Stefan Simons is seen in a live shot wearing a shield marked “Press” and asks police to stand down, though the officers continue shooting rubber bullets at the DW Crew.
- **Fahrettin Altun**, Turkey’s communications director, raised press freedom concerns over the safety of two Turkish correspondents who were hit by projectiles covering the U.S. protests. Altun said he was given assurances by the Administration that it would monitor the situation. TRT, the Turkish public broadcaster, said its correspondents Sally Ayhan (Washington) and Lionel Donovan (Minneapolis) were both hit by rubber bullets in separate incidents. Altun was immediately accused of hypocrisy via social media as critics pointed to the fact that Turkey remains one of the world’s leading jailer of journalists with 47 imprisoned, according to the CPJ.

Covid-19 Update: 338 press freedom violations related to global pandemic.

Governments around the world are leveraging Covid-19 to restrict the free flow of information among democratic and autocratic states. The global health crisis has enabled governments “to exercise control over the media on the pretext of preventing the spread of disinformation,” said a report by the International Press Institute in Vienna. The IPI has logged 338 press freedom violations since mid-February. The violations include arrests/charges, censorship, restricting access to information, verbal/physical attacks and excessive “fake news” regulation.

[Read More](#)

[Read More Press Freedom News](#)

Above right: Protesters push against a barrier that was erected overnight to prevent them from getting close to the White House during a demonstration over the death of George Floyd, who died in police custody, on June 2, 2020 in Washington, DC. Photo: Samuel Corum/Getty Images

