



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: June 4, 2020

Greetings!

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

- A recap of the OPC's [Zoom panel to discuss work that won the Bob Considine Award](#).
- A look ahead at next week's Zoom discussion [on June 10 with three photo category winners](#).
- A [video link](#) for a discussion about Hong Kong on Thursday hosted by the Foreign Press Association and OPC with Martin Lee.
- A [call for editors](#) to look at pitches from freelance journalists in the OPC's newly launched networking effort.
- [A statement from the OPC](#) on violence against journalists during U.S. protests.
- Updates on OPC member coverage of COVID-19.
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists covering COVID-19 or protests in the U.S..
- [People Column](#).

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

OPC Hosts Discussion About Bob Considine Award Winning Stories

by Chad Bouchard

When the Islamic State collapsed last year, it left in its wake a massive and thorny refugee crisis, with thousands of family members and children of the former caliphate displaced, living in refugee camps, and their former home countries wary of repatriating members of the terror group.

A series of [Wall Street Journal articles](#) last year followed the story of Patricio Galvez, a Chilean immigrant living in Sweden, as he travels to Northeast Syria from Iraq following the death of his daughter, Amanda González, a Swedish convert to Islam, who died in Syria in the waning days of ISIS, leaving behind seven children.

That series, “Children of No Nation,” won this year’s Bob Considine Award for best newspaper, news service or digital interpretation of international affairs from the OPC. On June 3, the OPC hosted a discussion via Zoom with the journalists who worked on the series, including reporter Isabel Coles and photojournalist Rena Effendi. Peter Spiegel, US managing editor of the Financial Times and the head judge for the Bob Considine Award, moderated.

Effendi won the OPC’s Best Feature Photography Award for her work on the story in Syria. She will [speak on a panel](#) that will cover all three OPC photography awards on June 10.

Spiegel said the series stood out among other submissions about Syria because of the way it depicted the crisis and the plight of one family, finding “someone to tell the story through.”

[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.



Video thumbnail above, left to right: Peter Spiegel, Isabel Coles, and Rena Effendi

You can read stories from the winning series below:

1. [He Lost a Daughter to Islamic State. Can He Save His Grandchildren?](#)
2. [Swede Brings His Orphaned Grandchildren Home From ISIS Trauma](#)
3. [He Rescued His Grandchildren From Syria. Then He Lost Them Again.](#)



Upcoming Events via Zoom

June 10: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories - Photography Awards

Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 10

Place: Via Zoom

Join the OPC in an online discussion via Zoom with this year's photography award winners.



Winners of the OPC's three photography awards will be interviewed by freelance photographer **Daniella Zalcman**.

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

- The Robert Capa Gold Medal Award for best photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise. Winner: **Dieu Nalio Chery** of The Associated Press for "Haiti: Nation on the Brink."
- The Olivier Rebot Award for best photographic news reporting from abroad in any medium. Winner: **Moises Saman** of National Geographic for "El Salvador: A Country in Crisis."
- The Best Feature Photography award for best feature photography on an international theme published in any medium. Winner: **Rena Effendi** of the Wall Street Journal for "He lost a daughter to the Islamic State. Can he save his grandchildren?"

[RSVP Now](#)

Above, left to right: Dieu Nalio Chery, Moises Saman and Rena Effendi.



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

On June 19 at 5:00 p.m., join the OPC for a discussion with winners of this year's Lowell Thomas Award for best radio, audio, or podcast coverage of international affairs.

Winners participating in the call 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, is the interviewer.

[RSVP Now](#)



75th Annual Silurians Excellence in Journalism Awards

On June 24, the Silurians Press Club will host an online "Zoom Gala" from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to honor award recipients in 16 categories in print, television, and online journalism.

With a keynote address from his ranch in Montana, veteran NBC News anchor, correspondent, and author Tom Brokaw will keynote the event.

"This year's Silurians Excellence in Journalism Awards comes at a most challenging moment for our profession. It is a privilege to recognize an extraordinary collection of the best and brightest, paying tribute to all those who each day give so much of their talent and energy to keep us informed and in touch with our world."

[Read More and RSVP Now](#)

OPC Creates Networking Tool for Freelancers and Editors

Calling editors of all stripes!

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](#)

OPC and Foreign Press Association Host Martin Lee for Zoom Discussion China's latest assault on Hong Kong's Rights

On June 4, the Foreign Press Association and the OPC hosted an online Zoom discussion, titled "From Squeeze to Squash," with **Martin Lee**, founder of the Hong Kong Democratic Party, who was recently arrested and faces imprisonment by surrogates for the Chinese government within the "Special Administrative Region" of Hong Kong.

The discussion was hosted by two veteran China watchers, FPA President **Ian Williams** and OPC Past President **William Holstein**.

The event commemorated the 31st anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989, and comes on the heels of China's recent assault on the rights of Hong Kong citizens.

"We're in terrible shape," Lee said at the beginning of the panel. "What's happening recently doesn't surprise me at all, because Beijing six years ago on June 4, 2014 published a white paper saying that the central government, the Chinese Communist Party, has comprehensive jurisdiction over Hong Kong."

Click the window below to watch the full program on YouTube.



Press Freedom Update

OPC Condemns Attacks on Journalists Covering Protests

The Overseas Press Club condemns the harassment and targeted attacks on journalists covering the protests across the United States.

The OPC and its Press Freedom Committee calls on U.S. law enforcement agencies as well as protesters to stop the use of violence and intimidation against the news media and accept the essential role that journalists play in a democracy.



More than 230 cases of press freedom violations, including 41 arrests, are being investigated by representatives of the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, a comprehensive database that records press freedom incidents across the country.

By comparison, there are normally 100-150 incidents investigated in an average year, according to the Tracker.

The incidents logged have all occurred since May 28 as demonstrations intensified against the death of George Floyd, 46, a black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis.

Reporters attempting to do their jobs have been aggressively targeted by police with pepper spray, rubber bullets, tear gas, physical attacks and arrests. In some cases, reporters have shown their media credentials before being assaulted or pepper sprayed.

Protesters have also attacked reporters physically and vandalized media property.

These reported attacks have occurred at protests in 33 U.S. states. Cities include Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New York, Louisville, Las Vegas, Des Moines, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Atlanta and Columbus, among others.

Media coverage of demonstrations informs the public about what happens at protests, the grievances expressed and the response by authorities, providing an informed context for public conversation.

[Read or Share Via the OPC Websire](#)

[Read More Press Freedom News](#)

Above right: Police push back protesters during a demonstration on June 1 in Washington, DC.
Photo: Joshua Roberts/Getty Images.

COVID-19 Coverage from OPC Members

OPC member and former Washington Post executive editor **Marcus Brauchli** on June 4 [interviewed Gerry Shih](#), also of Post, who was the recipient of the OPC's Citation for Excellence in the Hal Boyle category this year. The interview was for the "In-Depth Asia" podcast, to discuss Shih's coverage of COVID-19 in China, and to discuss his 2020 Osborn Elliot Prize for Excellence in Journalism, for which Brauchli served as jury chair.

OPC member **Norman Stockwell** of The Progressive news site has been covering the effects of COVID-19 on poor and marginalized communities. In [a recent piece](#) titled Global Crisis Spurs Global Activism, Stockwell wrote that in most countries, those with wealth have fared significantly better than marginalized groups. He wrote about a group of more than 60 academics, activists, writers, artists, workers, students, and others from more than twenty countries who drafted a manifesto to address inequities in COVID-19 response worldwide.

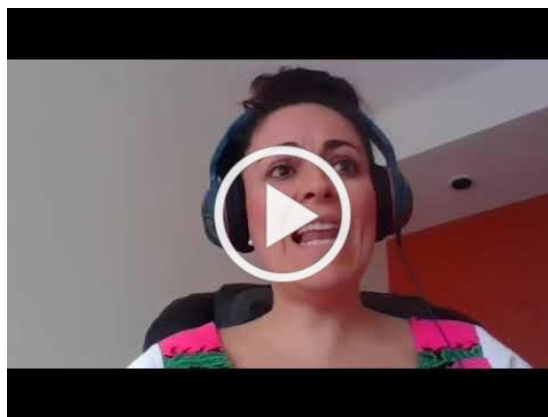
Please send us your personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces related to COVID-19 to info@opcofamerica.org, and we will publish them on our website and share with members. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

New Resources for Covering COVID-19 and Protests

The **A Culture of Safety** (ACOS) Alliance is calling for applications for freelance journalists covering the protests in the US to access a civil unrest and first aid online course. The applications process is now open and they will be processed on an ongoing basis until 50 bursaries are filled. [Read more and apply here.](#)

ACOS is also launching a new resource dedicated to help news organizations to define and adopt safety protocols under COVID-19, in particular commissioning editors working with freelancers. Find material [in a folder here.](#)

The International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) held a webinar on May 27 that is now available to view on YouTube, entitled "Lessons Learned from Journalists Covering Global Pandemics." Presenters included journalists from Hong Kong and Italy sharing experience covering COVID-19, as well as journalists who reported on past global outbreaks.



The **IWMF** also published a handy [list of protective equipment](#) compiled by safety experts to support journalists covering protests and riots in which their physical safety may be put at risk.

OPC member **Judith Matloff** posted a [rundown of safety tips](#) for journalists covering protests for the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. The piece describes ways to prepare before embarking, like researching tactics of police and protesters, identifying nearby places to seek refuge, carrying ID, and having phone numbers for legal aid on speed dial. Matloff also discusses best positioning within a crowd, being wary and evasive when police might "kettle" or corner protesters, and keeping equipment light and minimal.

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](#)

Welcome New Members

Parker Asmann

Staff Writer, Investigator
InSight Crime
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident (Young)

Cody Maple

Freelance
Photojournalist
Portland, OR
Active Non-Resident

Madeline Gunderson

New York University
New York
Student

People by Emily Brown and Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Maddy Crowell, the Irene Corbally Kuhn winner in 2014, has received an a [Reporting Award from the Arthur J. Carter Institute of Journalism at NYU](#) to fund her reporting on the impact of President Donald Trump's and India Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rising nationalism, and, specifically, how it has affected Indian asylum seekers in America. As a freelance magazine journalist based in New York City, her work has appeared in Harper's, the Atlantic, and Slate, among others. Before moving to New York in 2016, Maddy lived in New Delhi, working as an intern at Caravan magazine and freelancing across the country. She has reported around the world, including Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Annie Todd, the 2020 winner of the S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting, filed a piece for Gothamist [on June 4](#) , along with co-writer Sydney Pereiraand, about New Yorkers protesting police brutality who were arrested and detained overnight in crowded cells with little protection from coronavirus infection. The two reported that more than 2,000 people had been

arrested for during protests in New York since the police killing of George Floyd. The article describes several protesters' stories of chaos during arrest, mistreatment and confinement in close quarters.

AWARDS

OPC member **Jane Ferguson** received a 2020 duPont-Columbia Award for working as correspondent along with her team from FRONTLINE – PBS for “Inside Yemen.” OPC member **Sara Just** shared the award as executive producer. Ferguson was one of the first American journalists inside war-torn Yemen to report on the effects of the conflict civilians, particularly children.

2018 Edward R. Murrow Award winner **Raney Aronson** was also among the 2020 duPont-Columbia Award recipients – twice. Aronson was executive producer for a FRONTLINE team for “The Facebook Dilemma” about the platform’s entanglement with political disinformation and division. She was also executive producer on a program called “Documenting Hate,” a collaboration between FRONTLINE and ProPublica, that delved into America’s white supremacist movement, exposing some of its most influential leaders and an underground neo-Nazi network.

UPDATES

OPC member **Ali Velshi** of MSNBC was among the first journalists to [report police attacks against the press](#) on May 30 during protests in Minneapolis when he tweeted that he had been hit in the leg with a rubber bullet and pepper sprayed, while live coverage showed him fleeing with colleagues from a phalanx of police. In an interview posted on The Hollywood Reporter website, he described the incident in detail, saying later when the TV crew encountered police and National Guard, they raised their hands and shouted “we’re media,” but police responded “we don’t care,” and fired projectiles at the group. “I’ve covered a lot of hostile environments around the world,” he said. “I have never, prior to this assignment, worn my ballistic vest in the United States. I’ve never carried a gas mask in the United States.”

