



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: Sept. 25, 2020

Greetings!

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

- Reminders about two upcoming programs from our series with winners of this year's awards, including the [Ed Cunningham Award on Oct. 1](#) and the [Peter Jennings Award on Oct. 7](#).
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists.
- COVID-19 Coverage by OPC members.
- [People Column](#).
- [OPC Statement](#) on new restrictions in Hong Kong.
- [Press Freedom Update](#).

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



Upcoming OPC Events

[OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories](#)

Oct. 1: The Ed Cunningham Award

Time: Oct. 1 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

As the OPC continues a series of online panels with this year's award winners, please join us for a discussion with **Alex Perry**, the winner of this year's Ed Cunningham Award for best magazine-style, long-form narrative feature in print or digital on an international story.



Perry won for his piece for Outside magazine, titled "The Last Days of John Allen Chau." **Megan Stack**, the head judge for this year's Ed Cunningham Award, will moderate. Stack is author of *Women's Work* and *Every Man in This Village Is a Liar*. She was part of the Los Angeles Times team that won the OPC's 2006 Hal Boyle Award for coverage of war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Judges for the Ed Cunningham Award called Perry's article a "superb feat of compulsively readable storytelling. Alex Perry weaves a deeply humanizing portrait of a young man with a deadly missionary zeal and illuminates the ongoing effects of missionary work, adventurism and the exoticism of the world's remote peoples."

You can read "[The Last Days of John Allen Chau](#)" [here](#).

RSVP Now

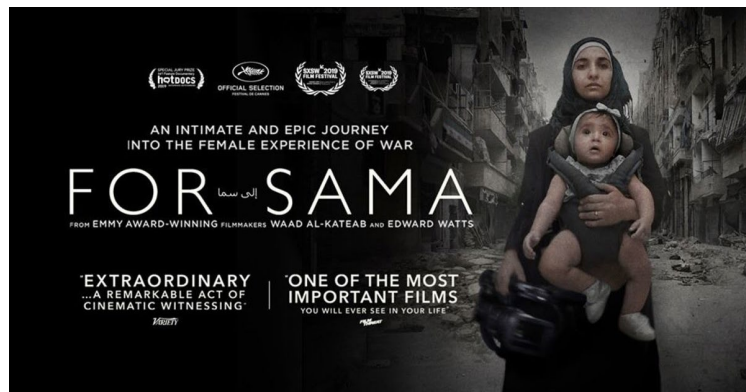


Oct. 7: The Peter Jennings Award

Time: Oct. 7 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Please RSVP to join an online program with one of the producers of the award-sweeping film "For Sama," which garnered the Peter Jennings Award for best TV, video or documentary about international affairs with a run time over 30 minutes.



On hand will be one of the co-directors, **Waad Al-Kateab** of FRONTLINE PBS.

Moderating the program will be **Robert Friedman** of Bloomberg News, who served as head judge for the Jennings award jury.

RSVPs are required. Links to the video conference call will be emailed to registrants about an hour before the program begins.

The winning team also included Edward Watts, Dan Edge and Raney Aronson-Rath. "For Sama" also won a BAFTA Award for best documentary, as well as a Peabody Award, a British Independent Film Award, an Academy Award nomination and many other accolades.

Judges for the Peter Jennings Award said:

"A powerful personal story about a mother's love for her young daughter, a city on the brink of destruction and a war that unleashes a terrible humanitarian disaster. Waed Al-Kateab didn't start out as a journalist -- she was driven by her desire to save the city of Aleppo -- but she ended up doing what journalists do: telling a compelling story based on witnessing a human tragedy. Her camera captures stories of love, loss and survival. This is a beautiful documentary about horrible events that continue to wreak havoc on the people of Syria."

[You can read more and watch the trailer here >>](#)

RSVP Now

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **International Center for Journalists** (ICFJ) launched a global survey with UNESCO on Sept. 24 to track the incidence and impacts of online violence against women journalists and to help identify effective ways to combat it. A release about the survey said there is mounting evidence to suggest levels of violence are increasing against women journalists amid the COVID-19 pandemic and rising racial tensions globally. [Read more and submit a survey.](#)

The **ACOS Alliance** resource page has recently been [updated](#) with new links to information on insurance, contracts and other safety information. Check out downloadable [model freelance agreements](#), a [freelance journalist safety checklist](#), and [expanded guidelines about insurance](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

Tonight (Sept. 24) at 6:00 Eastern Time, the **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** will host its annual Dart Awards for Excellence in Coverage of Trauma to recognize "exemplary journalism on the impact of violence, crime, disaster and other traumatic events on individuals, families or communities." CNN's Anderson Cooper will serve as host for the ceremony. [Read more and join the program here.](#)

On Sept. 30 at 5:00 a.m. Eastern Time (11:00 a.m. Central European Time), the **European Journalism Centre** along with partners including the ACOS Alliance, Frontline Freelance Register, the Rory Peck Trust and Risk Management, is hosting a webinar on digital security with trainer Ela Stapley. The program is part of an online series about safety as part of the Freelance Journalism Assembly. [Read more and register here.](#)

As part of the same series, the **European Journalism Centre** and partners will host a session on Oct. 8, at 5:00 a.m. Eastern Time with Anna Therese Day discussing contracts and insurance, focusing on key elements to freelancing safely.

On Oct. 5 starting at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **ICFJ** will host its Annual Awards Dinner online to honor “the achievements of intrepid colleagues whose outstanding news reports and analyses are having tremendous impact.” CNN’s Wolf Blitzer will be the presenter. [Read more and register here.](#)

The **James W. Foley Legacy Foundation** is calling for participants in the 2020 James W. Foley Freedom Run to join virtually as thousands of runners and walkers worldwide participate on Saturday, Oct. 17, to run in remembrance of Foley, a native of New Hampshire, and “advocate for the freedom of all Americans held hostage abroad and promote the safety of journalists worldwide.” Foley, an American freelance conflict journalist, was kidnapped in 2012 while reporting from Syria and killed by ISIS in August 2014. [Read more and register for online events here.](#)

More Resources

- **First Draft** has been hosting a series of presentations on COVID-19 for journalists, and you can [browse the archives here.](#)
- **Columbia University’s Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has compiled a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA requests. [Explore the database here.](#)
- **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

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

Lauren Evans

Freelance
Philadelphia
Active Non-Resident, Young (30 to 34)

Claire Parker

Freelance
Tunis
Active Overseas, Young (29 or under)

OPC Members Reporting on COVID-19

OPC member **Jennifer O'Mahony** [filed a radio story](#) for Public Radio International's The World this month about the effect of COVID-19 on Spain's bullfighters. She wrote that Spain recently became "the first country in Europe to register half a million coronavirus cases, leaving bullrings empty and *toreros*, or 'bullfighters,' out of work." She added that a poll in May found almost half of Spaniards want bullfighting banned, with the number of events in sharp decline even before the pandemic. O'Mahony attended a bullfight as part of the story, concluding that "it's not hard to see why it's divisive."

OPC member **Ruchi Kumar** wrote for Salon [on Sept. 12](#) that rumors of an herbal remedy falsely claiming to be effective against COVID-19 sparked a frenzy in Afghanistan, which was tested and found to have opioids and other several addictive ingredients. "In Afghanistan's deeply conservative society, many viewed these moves to protect public health as an affront to Afghan culture and religious values. When government forces tried to shut down the clinic, some Afghans took to the streets," Kumar wrote.

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](#).

People by Chad Bouchard and Patricia Kranz

Jars Balan, a professor at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Edmonton, Alberta, contacted the OPC recently regarding a biography he is working on about **Rhea Gertrude Clyman**, a journalist born in Poland. Clyman grew up in Toronto and moved to New York in 1942. He learned of her involvement in the OPC when he found a copy of the OPC's 1967 publication, *How I Got That Story*, where she contributed an article titled "The Story that Stopped Hitler," based on an incident she reported on when she was the Munich correspondent for London's *Daily Telegraph*. Rhea passed away in New York at the Jewish Institute for Geriatric Care on July 9, 1981 at the age of 77. The OPC files on Clyman are stored at Columbia University and not available for research at this time. If any OPC member has information on Clyman, please email

jbalan@ualberta.ca and info@opcofamerica.org.

AWARDS

Madeleine Haeringer, one of the VICE News Tonight team members who won the OPC's David Kaplan Award this year, was also among those named as executive producer on several stories that won a News Emmy announced on Sept. 21. VICE won a total of four awards, including categories in outstanding coverage, investigative reports, best story in a newscast and outstanding writing. VICE won the Kaplan Award for their coverage of the orphanage industry in Uganda, which you can see discussed in an [online OPC program here](#).

FRONTLINE PBS, which garnered this year's Morton Frank Award for coverage of trade war with the U.S. as well as the Peter Jennings Award for the program *For Sama*, won four Emmys, with **Dan Edge** named on the team for two of those programs, and **Raney Aronson-Rath** credited on three, both of whom are named on the award for *For Sama*. *For Sama* has also been nominated for an International Emmy Award, the winners of which will be announced at a later date. See the event reminder above [or click here](#) for details about an online program to discuss *For Sama* on Oct.7.

The **Online Journalism Awards** [announced](#) that this year's James Foley Award for Conflict Reporting goes to **Kiana Hayeri**, a photojournalist currently based in Kabul whose work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Harper's Magazine, Washington Post, NPR, Wall Street Journal, GEO, Foreign Policy, Buzzfeed, Le Monde, The Globe and Mail, among others. Kiana is a Senior TED fellow and regularly contributes to the Times from Afghanistan.

UPDATES

OPC member **Ali Velshi** has [found himself](#) in headlines again as President Trump at several campaign events has been inaccurately retelling a story about Velshi getting injured while covering a protest. The MSNBC anchor and correspondent was struck with a rubber bullet in May while reporting on a Minneapolis protest prompted by the police killing of George Floyd. Trump has been using the story, incorrectly saying he was a CNN reporter and had been hit by a tear gas canister, to mock journalists and glorify violence against the press, saying "it was the most beautiful thing," and adding that "it's called law and order." Velshi responded to Trump's comments on Twitter, correcting details and asking "What law did I break while covering an entirely peaceful (yes, entirely peaceful) march?"

OPC Governor **Ishaan Tharoor** wrote in The Washington Post's international newsletter titled "Today's WorldView" [on Sept. 21](#) about President Trump's call earlier this month for a campaign to promote "patriotic education" and how this push for "pro-American curriculum" borrows language from dictatorships across history, including policies of China's Communist regime, Turkey's authoritarian President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and India's Hindu nationalist party. Trump's program is meant to counter what his nationalist supporters see as an education system that "overly stresses the legacy of slavery, racism and sins of America's past," Tharoor wrote.

OPC member **Judith Matloff** reviewed a new book by veteran foreign correspondent Christina Lamb [on Sept. 22](#) about the use of rape against noncombatant women as a weapon during wartime. *Our Bodies, Their Battlefields* [September 2020] examines atrocities and recounts stories of survivors across continents and centuries, including her own reporting in the Congo, Rwanda, Nigeria, Bosnia, Iraq, Southeast Asia and South America. Matloff writes that most literature about conflict ignores rape and focuses on military strategy, male heroism and suffering, ignoring survivors of rape. She writes that Lamb argues men in power have not stopped combatants from “sexual pillage,” quoting Lamb: “War rape was met with tacit acceptance and committed with impunity, military and political leaders shrugging it off as a sideshow. Or it was denied to have ever happened.” Lamb is a longtime correspondent for The Sunday Times of London. Matloff has written about international affairs for 30 years, specializing in areas of turmoil.

OPC member **Sofia Barbarani** filed a feature story for The Telegraph [on Sept. 22](#) covering the aftermath of a crisis in eastern Greece as thousands of migrants displaced in a devastating fire at a refugee camp on Lesbos were barred from traveling to mainland Greece. Barbarani recounted events through the eyes of a teenage girl who talks about her grueling journey from Afghanistan to Iran, Turkey and then Lesbos. She wrote that the girl, one of 4,000 minors on Lesbos waiting to be granted asylum, had been at the top of her class in school and won first prize in a contest to build a car model. Barbarani wrote about the particular toll of displacement on girls and young women: “UNESCO research shows that “the further girls progress with their schooling the more they develop leadership skills, entrepreneurship and self-reliance – giving them the tools to contribute to their own communities as well as their host countries.”

OPC member **Rachel Waldholz**, who has been covering climate issues in Alaska and then in the EU over the last few years, has been hired on as one of two reporters for a podcast focused on climate change titled *How to Save the Planet*. According to an interview [on Sept. 18](#) with the show’s host for Vogue magazine, she will contribute expertise on “the oil and gas industry from the Alaska perspective and on international climate negotiations and policy.”

OPC member **Gloria Dickie**, a freelance journalist specializing in environmental reportage, moderated an online discussion on Sept. 16 in Concord, New Hampshire with journalist and author Matthew Hongoltz-Hetling about his new book, *A Libertarian Walks Into A Bear: The Utopian Plot to Liberate an American Town (And Some Bears)*. The book details the story of a Libertarian mission to take over the small town of Grafton, New Hampshire, an operation called the Free Town Project. A recording of the conversation is on the bookstore’s [YouTube channel here](#).

A true crime book by OPC member **Barbie Latza Nadeau** will be [adapted](#) as a movie starring Kate Beckinsale. Her book 2012, [Angel Face: The True Story of Student Killer Amanda Knox](#), covers the titular killer’s sexual assault and murder of her roommate in 2007, and seeks to cut through some of the sensational media coverage of the case. The film, to be titled *The Face of an Angel*, is a BBC Films production, and filming reportedly begins “soon” in Tuscany, Italy.

OPC member **Campbell MacDiarmid** continues to cover the Middle East for The Telegraph, with a piece [on Sept. 21](#) from Khartoum about Sudan's prime minister calling for international aid as the country "teeters amid economic collapse."

People Column September 2020

OPC Condemns Hong Kong's New Restrictions on Press

The Overseas Press Club strongly opposes the new Hong Kong Police policy established Sept. 22 that narrows the definition of "media representatives" and grants law enforcement the power to determine which journalists can report on demonstrations in the city.



The new rule represents a de facto licensing system for media working in Hong Kong. It recognizes only those journalists registered with the government, or from "internationally recognized and reputable" foreign media outlets.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong, points out that the rule will exclude freelance journalists and student reporters from covering demonstrations, in addition to raising the risk of being arrested.

The new policy also undermines the rigorous press credentialing process managed by members of the Hong Kong Journalists Association and the Hong Kong Press Photographers Association.

Article 27 of the Basic Law outlines clear protections for press freedom in Hong Kong, though the new police law is the latest example of freedom erosion that is gaining momentum since Beijing imposed the new national security law on July 1.

The OPC appreciates help from club members and colleagues in spreading the word and sharing this statement online. Click the button below to open the statement on the OPC website.

Share this Statement from the OPC Website

Photo above: Chris McGrath/Getty Images

Press Freedom Update

by Bill Collins, OPC Press Freedom Committee Chair

This week's OPC Press Freedom update focuses on China as news media in Hong Kong protest a new police policy giving law enforcement the power to choose which journalists can cover protest in the city.

Press Freedom: China

World Press Freedom Index (Reporters Without Borders)

- China ranks **136th** among 180 countries

RSF ranks 180 countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists.

Global Freedom Report (Freedom House)

- **China** scores **10** out of 100; Rating – **Not Free**

Freedom House annually rates people's access to political rights and civil liberties.

10 Most Censored Countries (The Committee to Protect Journalists)

- **China** ranks **No. 5**

CPJ's annual list is based on censorship tactics used by authoritarian governments – imprisonment, repressive laws, surveillance of journalists and restrictions on internet/social media.

New Police Order Is Another Blow to Hong Kong Press Freedom

Press clubs and media organizations in Hong Kong continue to feel the pressure from Beijing as they protest the latest policy change aimed at curbing press freedom.

Hong Kong Police announced a new guideline redefining who can be considered a "media representative." They include journalists registered with the government and reporters from "internationally recognized" outlets. Press credentials issued by local journalists groups in Hong Kong will no longer be accepted as accredited media.

The new policy triggered widespread criticism from press clubs, press unions and journalism schools.

This could pave the way for the implementation of an official licensing system, seriously interfering with press freedoms," said the Hong Kong Journalism Association, which represents six other organizations advocating for press

freedom in the city.

Journalists also believe the move will sideline freelance reporters and student journalists, many of whom captured some of the most compelling images and stories of the recent pro-democracy protests last year in Hong Kong.

"Journalism students are the future of our industry," said HKJA chairman Chris Yeung. "Many impressive photos and footage that revealed police brutality against protesters were taken by online media or student journalists, who are reporting on the very front line," he said. "Removing their presence will severely reduce the media's supervision of power."

The Foreign Correspondents Club, Hong Kong, noted that the new rule is another in the series of events undermining press freedom since the new national security law was implemented on July 1.

"This move is another step in the erosion of Hong Kong's once cherished press freedom as it would give the police — rather than reporters and editors — the power to determine who covers the police," said the FCC.

The FCC found three ways in which press freedom loses under the new policy, which was established without any input from Hong Kong's journalism community:

- It undercuts the local journalist organizations whose membership cards have been routinely recognized and respected - the Hong Kong Journalists' Association and the Hong Kong Press Photographers Association.
- The new scheme would give police officers the power to decide what foreign media outlets are "internationally recognized and reputable."
- The policy would be a serious blow for freelancers and student reporters — two groups of journalists who have provided some of the most compelling reporting from last year's protests and police actions.

China's Foreign Ministry said the FCC should "immediately stop meddling with Hong Kong affairs on the pretext of press freedom."

The number of pro-democracy protests have declined in 2020 due to coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings and the introduction of the new national security law.

