Winners of the Overseas Press Club Awards

2020 ANNUAL EDITION

DATELINE

2019: The Year of Violence and Protests
In pondering what to share and highlight in my letter to you, I have returned again and again to the idea of our individual and collective resilience. It is difficult to imagine all the professional and personal hardships that our OPC of America members and their families have to endure in 2020. Coronavirus changed so many of our lives in profound ways. Job loss, family dynamics under stress, health concerns, and just having to do your job through all of it.

We are here to celebrate the outstanding work created, produced, photographed, voiced, and written in 2019 by the 22 winners of the 81st annual Overseas Press Club awards. When we announced the winners in April of last year, I said: “The OPC Award winners carry on the great tradition of international reporting through their curiosity, tenacity and bravery. Though we cannot honor the winners in person this year, we do recognize that the continuing need for a free press that pursues transparency and accountability was proven many times over during all the upheaval that unfolded and revealed itself in 2020. I want to highlight the success we have had with our pandemic relief microgrants. The OPC gave nearly 50 micro-grants of $750 to OPC members around the world in two rounds of giving in 2020. In their applications for the grants, freelancers described how COVID-19 travel restrictions have hobbled them, how some news organizations they depend on have collapsed and how surviving news organizations have dramatically cut their freelance budgets and delayed payments.

I’m delighted that the work we all put into making the program a success was recognized with a generous and substantial grant from the Ford Foundation that will allow the OPC to offer a third round of microgrants in 2021. I would like to give a virtual standing ovation to our Executive Director, Patricia Kranz. The last year has been one of the most challenging in the history of the OPC. The Board and the executive committee had to make (and continue to make) decisions that directly affect the future of the club, its finances, and its members. I am so very proud of the open, honest and transparent way all of us gathered together to virtually handle all that this last year has thrown at us.

Speaking of virtual, I so looked forward to our monthly board meetings via Zoom. The ability to stay connected with peers and friends has been a lifeline for many of us and I am grateful for the catch-ups with many of you. This was never more profoundly felt than when we gathered to celebrate the life of our dear friend, colleague, and legendary foreign correspondent Christopher Dickey. His sudden death in Paris last July was a gut punch for all of us. That pain, grief and shock was softened when we virtually gathered together to share our stories of this wonderful man.

I want to wish Paula Dwyer all the success during her tenure as President of the OPC of America and likewise to all the board members. The OPC could not continue its work without the dedication and passion of leaders like Paula and her fellow Governors. I’m especially excited to see visual journalists so well represented on the Board with Sandra Stevenson of The New York Times and J. David Ake of the Associated Press. A special thank you to Vice President Scott Kraft for also being the Head Judge for the annual awards contest.

It is my sincerest hope that we can all gather together in person during 2021 to celebrate great journalism and toast to the winners of the 82nd Annual OPC Awards.

Sincerely,
PANCHO BERNASCONI
The Wall Street Journal won two awards, for interpretive reporting and feature photography, for its series tracking the quest of Swede Patricio Galvez to retrieve his grandchildren, born to an ISIS convert, from a Syrian camp. Shown is a view from the window of his car as he makes his way through Iraq to Qarnishli, Syria.

ON THE COVER: A Haitian shouts anti-government slogans during a violent Port-au-Prince demonstration in June 2019. Photographer Dieu Nalio Chery won the prestigious Robert Capa award for his images of protesters taking to the streets to demand the resignation of the government of President Jovenal Moïse, accused of corruption.

PHOTO BY DIEU NALIO CHERY / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Letter from the OPC Awards Chair / SCOTT KRAFT

The process of selecting the 2020 Overseas Press Club Awards began with the diligent work of nearly 100 top-flight jurors, who represented more than two dozen news organizations plus freelancers, authors, writers, photographers, videographers and editors. Among them were journalists and academics with deep experience working abroad as well as past winners of OPC Awards and Pulitzer Prizes. Each category had its own jury, and over the course of a month they reviewed a record number of submissions – more than 500 in all.

The overall quality of the entries, and the courage and creativity of journalists who do this work, was truly impressive. Time and again, jury chairs praised the work they saw, which reflected the importance of international reporting today. Much of it was a showcase for the best in our craft, but it also highlighted — not that we needed to be reminded — the power of global reporting and the value that a U.S. audience places on it.

Not surprisingly, a plurality of the winners focused on the ongoing tragedy in Syria. A series in The New York Times called “The Russia Tapes” documented the systematic bombing of hospitals and other civilian targets in that benighted country by Russian aircraft. NPR won for a chilling two-part podcast on the disappearance of Kurdish photojournalist Kamaran Najm. And Wall Street Journal staffers won two awards — best interpretative journalism and best feature photography — for its at once uplifting and sobering story of a Swedish man who travels to Syria to rescue his seven grandchildren, orphaned when their parents, who had joined the Islamic State, were killed in U.S. airstrikes.

The best journalism wasn’t confined to the Middle East. Our list of 22 winners included powerful work from Asia, Africa and Latin America. One of our three photography awards went to National Geographic for its images from violence-torn El Salvador, while another photo essay by the Associated Press looks at the turmoil in Haiti. The winners also included a deep look at Venezuela’s economic and political crisis from Reuters, while The New York Times earned our award for the best reporting from Latin America by examining the region’s high rate of violence and murder.

The pandemic robbed us of the opportunity to honor the winners and toast their success in person. But it prompted us to launch what we hope will be a new tradition — showcasing the year’s best work in individual Zoom sessions, hosted by the jury chairs, who engaged in illuminating discussions of the winning entries with the journalists themselves. Those conversations are available on the OPC website, and you can also access them on the facing page. Our hope is that they will be an inspiration for aspiring as well as experienced journalists — and, even when we are able to resume our awards dinner, become an annual feature of the awards process.

My deepest thanks to all of our 2020 jurors, who worked so hard to select our winners from such a competitive field. I know they, like me, came away with an appreciation for the high quality of the work that is being done, day in and day out, across the globe.

Scott Kraft is managing editor of the Los Angeles Times and a Vice President of the OPC.
OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA
ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2019

THE HAL BOYLE AWARD
Best newspaper, news service or digital reporting from abroad

The Associated Press Staff, with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting “Outsourcing Migrants”

The judges were deeply moved by AP journalists’ series following the eviction of migrants from Europe’s homegrown Muslim foreign fighters and the situation in post-conflict Syria, Syria, and other places where people with access and effort focused on haunting personal details while never losing sight of the big picture.

Citation: Jerry Flint
The Washington Post

Sponsor: Norman Pearlstine in memory of Jerry Flint

Judges:
- Farnaz Fassihi (head), New York Times
- Mohammed Jamjoom, Al Jazeera English
- Vanessa Gezari, The Intercept
- Eduardo Castillo, Associated Press
- Mei Fong, Center for Public Integrity
- Larry Kaplow, Middle East Editor, NPR

The judges recused herself from the final selection.

THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD
Best newspaper, news service or digital interpretation of international affairs

Isabel Coles and Rena Effendi
The Wall Street Journal

“The Children of No Nation”

The judges were deeply moved by Isabel Coles’ series following a Swedish grandfather as he fought to find and rescue his orphaned grandchildren, the children of ISIS fighters from battle-scarred Syria. The stories not only highlighted an increasingly overlooked but critically important issue facing the international community — the fate of those ISIS fighters and other displaced people following the collapse of the “caliphate” — but did so in a compelling way. The series, including powerful photos by Rena Effendi, brought to life the larger story of Europe’s homegrown Muslim foreign fighters and the situation in post-conflict Syria in a way readers could relate to and engage with. The series featured brave, dogged reporting in the initial report inside Iraq and Syria, followed by a compelling follow-up after the children were returned to Sweden.

Citation: Louisa Loveluck, Liz Sly, Erin Cunningham, Joyce Lee and Alice Martins
The Washington Post

“A After the Caliphate”

Sponsor: William J. Holstein and Rita Sevell

Judges:
- Peter Spiegel (head), Financial Times
- Stephen Fidler, The Wall Street Journal
- Heather Timmons, Reuters
- Maura Reynolds, Politico
- Julian Barnes, The New York Times

Judge Stephen Fidler recused herself from the final selection.

THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD
Best photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise published in any medium

Dieu Nalio Chery
The Associated Press

“Children of No Nation”

Local AP photojournalist Dieu Nalio Chery showed exceptional courage while covering protests in his home country of Haiti. In 2019, he was wounded while covering one protest after a Haitian senator fired a pistol during a confrontation with protesters just outside parliament. Even after being hit in the jaw with a fragment from the bullet, Chery remained to cover the chaotic scene. His images were raw, precise and engrossing, leaving viewers with a strong emotional sense of what it was like to be on the ground. Chery’s brave work highlights the unique dangers some local journalists face to cover the stories important to their communities and to the world.

Citation: Nariman el Mofty
The Associated Press

“Disembarking in Hell”

Sponsor: Solutions Journalism Network

Judges:
- Danny Zalcman (head), freelance
- Noelle Flores Theard, Magnum Foundation
- Nariman el Mofty, The Associated Press
- Cinthya Santos Briones, freelance
- Mikhael Simmonds, Solutions Journalism Network

Moises Saman
National Geographic
“El Salvador: A Country in Crisis”

Moises Saman’s work was a sensitive portrayal of the violence consuming El Salvador and the numerous lives it has affected. Saman’s images reflect the complexity of a situation that is often only documented through scenes of gore. The humanity of the individuals entangled in this web comes across in each of his photographs, from the residents at the scene of a homicide to the young girl deported from the U.S. Saman’s holistic photography showed a deep understanding of El Salvador’s tragedy.

Citation: Natacha Pisarenko
The Associated Press

“Bolivia: Political Unrest”

View the slideshow here: https://opcofamerica.org/Awardarchive/03-the-robert-capagold-medal-award-2019/

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THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD
Best photographic news reporting from abroad published in any medium

Moises Saman
National Geographic

Citation: Natacha Pisarenko
The Associated Press

“Bolivia: Political Unrest”

View the slideshow here: https://opcofamerica.org/Awardarchive/03-the-robert-capagold-medal-award-2019/
Demonstrations and police and gang violence engulfed Haiti for much of 2019, as citizens took to the streets to protest food and fuel shortages, rising prices and alleged embezzlement by the government of President Jovenel Moïse from a multi-billion dollar aid package awarded to Haiti by Venezuela. Photographer Chery captured it all in images shot from February through November. Clockwise from above: Two women escape a fiery protest on a moto-taxi; looters flee from a store as police arrive; a relative of Rigueur Pierre Richard, who was killed in a drive-by shooting two blocks from the national palace, is overcome with grief.
Gun violence was rampant during the 2019 protests. Chery himself was wounded when hit in the face by shrapnel from gunfire. Clockwise from left: Opposition Senator Ralph Fethihiere fires warning shots in September after being rushed by a crowd while attending a rally on behalf of prime minister nominee Fritz Michel; a demonstrator pleads for help for a woman shot by police; a police officer draws his gun on protesters in Port-au-Prince. Four people were shot and wounded that day.
THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD
Best feature photography on an international theme published in any medium

Rena Effendi
The Wall Street Journal

Citation:
“Through its intimate recounting of the disappearance of Kurdish photojournalist Kamaran Najm, ‘The Search’ reminds us that wars don’t end when fighting stops. We hear audio of Najm’s dramatic last moments of freedom, as well as a shocking phone call from his ISIS captors. Most powerful, though, are the voices of Kamaran Najm’s family and friends, recorded during their years of searching to learn his fate. Najm was just one of thousands of people lost in the Kurdish communities occupied by ISIS. In telling their story with honesty and openness, Rough Translation has helped us grasp the very human long-term legacy of conflict.”

Sponsor: Sony Images

View the slideshow here: https://opcofamerica.org/Awardarchive/DS-the-feature-photography-award-2019/

THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD
Best radio, audio or podcast coverage of international affairs

Gregory Warner, Karen Duffin, Marianne McCune, Jess Jiang, Sebastian Meyer and team NPR’s ‘Rough Translation’ podcast

Citation:
“Through its intimate recounting of the disappearance of Kurdish photojournalist Kamaran Najm, ‘The Search’ reminds us that wars don’t end when fighting stops. We hear audio of Najm’s dramatic last moments of freedom, as well as a shocking phone call from his ISIS captors. Most powerful, though, are the voices of Kamaran Najm’s family and friends, recorded during their years of searching to learn his fate. Najm was just one of thousands of people lost in the Kurdish communities occupied by ISIS. In telling their story with honesty and openness, Rough Translation has helped us grasp the very human long-term legacy of conflict.”

Sponsor: Sony Images

THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD
Best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad

Hind Hassan, Craig Thomison, Madeleina Haeringer, Julia Lindau and Joe Hill
VICE News Tonight

Citation:
“VICE uncovered a horrendous story of unregulated orphanages in Uganda that bring in some $250 million in donations from rich countries like the U.S. for what turns out to be — at least in part — a corrupt business scam by Ugandan officials in which children are the victims. With her brave and enterprising reporting, correspondent Hind Hassan and her crew got some of those involved to incriminate themselves on camera, while also showing the costs to the poor children, some of whom are not even real orphans, but all of whom are too innocent to realize how they are being used. Disturbing, haunting, top-notch reporting.”

Sponsor: ABC News

THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD
Best TV, video or documentary interpretation of international affairs with a run time up to 30 minutes

Singeli Agnew, Rukmini Callimachi, Geoff O’Brien and Victor Tadashi Suarez
The New York Times
“Collision”

Citation:
“This episode of the New York Times The Weekly series tells a tale of poignant tragedy, through meticulous reporting and strong visual imagery. The narrative arc takes viewers from the open joyfulness of two young Americans, into the heart of a cold-blooded ISIS outpost in the wilds of Tajikistan. From the victims’ excited dispatches home, to the chilling cell phone videos from their killer, the film leaves the audience moved and disturbed.

Sponsor: CBS News

Judges: Vivienne Walt (head), TIME magazine
Jim Bittermann, CNN
James Graff, The Wall Street Journal
Vivienne Walt (head), TIME magazine

DATELINE 2020
Onlookers gather at the scene of a homicide in downtown San Salvador. Violence has driven hundreds of Salvadorans to leave each day for the United States, where they make up the fourth largest Latino community, after Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans.
Top: Salvadoran police check for gang tattoos on a suspect arrested for having a gun in his car. Above: Members of the MS-13 gang, which has thousands of members in the U.S., are jammed into a cell in a Chalatenango prison, in northern El Salvador.

Authorities house members of different gangs in separate prisons to avoid violence. Right: Fisherman Arnovis Guidos Portillo enjoys the company of his children in Usulutan department. Father and daughter were detained when they crossed the U.S. border in 2018, then held in separate facilities for a month before being deported separately to El Salvador, where they reunited.
THE PETER JENNINGS AWARD
Best TV, video or documentary about international affairs with a run time over 30 minutes

Waad Al-Kateab, Edward Watts, Dan Edge and Raney Aronson-Rath
FRONTLINE PBS
“For Sama”

This is the powerful 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 Syrian 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.

Citation: Ellen Barry
The New York Times
“The Jungle Prince of Delhi”

Sponsor: The Jennings Family

Judges: Rob Friedman (chair), freelance
Abigail Van Buren, author
Zia Mody, author
Laura Segall, The New York Times
Lila Arian, author

THE ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD
Best magazine-style, long-form narrative feature in print or digital on an international story

Alex Perry
Outside
“The Last Days of John Allen Chau”

In this superb feat of storytelling, Alex Perry weaves a deeply human portrait of a young man with what turns into fatal missionary zeal and illuminates the ongoing effects of missionary work, adventurism and the exoticism of the world’s remote peoples.

Citation: Ellen Barry
The New York Times
“The Jungle Prince of Delhi”

Sponsor: The Jennings Family

Judges: Abi Wright, Bloomberg News
Tom Hurwitz, freelance
Josh Fine, HBO’s Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel

THE BEST CARTOON AWARD
Best print, digital or graphic journalism on international affairs

Adam Zyglis
The Buffalo News

Zyglis is a cartoonist in the bloody-fingered tradition of Thomas Nast, but with a little of James Gillray’s whimsy thrown in. His portfolio consists of powerful and insightful commentary on a wide variety of international issues including climate change, Ukraine conspiracies, the U.S. abandonment of Kurdish allies, Brexit and Trump’s fealty to dictators. An impressive caricaturist, Zyglis is the kind of cartoonist who might be jailed immediately if he lived abroad. That’s the standard by which all great political cartoonists should be judged.

Citation: Matt Wuerker
Politico

Sponsor: Daimler

Judges: Rob Rogers (chair), freelance
Chelsea Saunders, freelance
Jenny Robb, Ohio State University
Tony Norman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Nikahang Kowsar, freelance

THE MORTON FRANK AWARD
Best international business news reporting in any medium

Rick Young, Emma Schwartz, Laura Sullivan and Fritz Kramer
FRONTLINE PBS
“Trump’s Trade War”

The report did an excellent job of guiding viewers through an up-close understanding of the places, from Wenzhou, China to cities in Ohio, and the people, including Trump himself, who forged this confrontation between the United States and China. As well, the film provided a coherent overview not just of what happened inside the White House but in the broader U.S. business community and revealed key moments and decisions that resulted in the Trump tariff regime.

Citation: Kavitha Chekuru, Josh Rushing, Joel Van Haren, Leslie Atkins and Laila Al-Arian
Fault Lines, Al-Jazeera English
“System Failure: The Boeing Crashes”

Sponsor: Marc Lemcke

Judges: Geraldine Baum (chair), Graduate School of Journalism CUNY
Carlos Rajo, NY1/Noticias
Amanda Aronczyk, NPR
Jane Sasseen, McGraw Center for Business Journalism

Amanda Aronczyk recused herself from the final decision.
Photographer Effendi spent many hours with Patricio Galvez while he sought to retrieve his seven orphaned grandchildren from the camp where they were held in Syria. Here he travels by bus from northeast Syria to Iraq, where he lived while organizing his children’s release to Sweden. The Swedish government was cool at first, but heavy coverage by local media helped smooth the way for the kids’ repatriation.

Upper right, Galvez and the children wait in Erbil, Iraq, for permission to fly to Gothenburg. Bottom right: a photo of Galvez’s daughter Amanda, who was killed in a U.S. airstrike while traveling with trapped Islamic State fighters. Her husband was also killed.
Far left, the al-Hol refugee camp where Galvez’s children were held until he rescued them. The camp at the time held 70,000 people, many of them wives and children of Islamic State fighters. They were malnourished and had their heads shaved to ward off lice. Top: The children on the airplane that would take them to Sweden, where 53% of those polled said they opposed the return of Islamic State family members. Left: Galvez sips a cup of tea during one of the many hours of waiting for his grandchildren to be repatriated.
OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA
ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2019

13 THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD
Best international business news reporting in newspapers, news services, magazines or digital.

Nick Kostov and Sean McLain
The Wall Street Journal
“The Fall of Carlos Ghosn”

Through the efforts of two reporters half a world apart, working through headquarters on a third continent, the Journal owned one of the most competitive business stories of the year: the stunning downfall, arrest and, ultimately, escape of a renowned auto executive. By peeling an onion of ambitions, rivalries and self-dealing, Kostov and McLain revealed the scope of the intrigue at Nissan and Renault that set Carlos Ghosn’s fate in motion. Their persistent enterprise over the course of the year helped Journal readers solve a great mystery.

Citation: Erika Fry
“Epidemic of Fear”

Sponsor: Forbes Magazine
Judges: Tim Ferguson (head), freelance
David Barboza, The New York Times
Janet Guyon, freelance
Loretta Chao, VICE
Charles Wallace, freelance

14 THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD
Best non-fiction book on international affairs.

Katherine Eban
Ecco/HarperCollins
“Bottle of Lies: Inside the Generic Drug Boom”

Generic drugs are critical to the U.S. health system, making up 60 per cent of the country’s drug supply — and 40 per cent of those generics are manufactured in India. In a shocking and masterful work of global investigative reporting, Katherine Eban documents the massive fraud by which Indian drug makers have evaded a fumbling U.S. FDA to sell billions of dollars in unsafe and ineffective drugs to the U.S. The drug makers — with the knowledge of top executives — falsify safety tests on a colossal scale and routinely hide unsanitary production. While fully documenting this global scandal, Eban turns it into a page turner, focusing on key figures like the courageous Indian executive turned whistleblower at the big Indian drug maker Ranbaxy and a dogged FDA inspector in India who rips aside the curtain of fraud. This is a book that should inform and alarm millions of Americans (and their doctors) who use generic drugs.

Citation: Andy Greenberg
Penguin Random House / Doubleday
“Sandworm: A New Era of Cyberwar”

Sponsor: Friends of Richard Thrreikield
Judges: Dan Hertzberg (head), freelance
John Bussey, The Wall Street Journal
Jennifer Siebens, freelance
Margaret Scott, New York University

15 THE MADELEINE DANE ROSS AWARD
Best international reporting in the print medium or digital showing a concern for the human condition.

Karla Zabludovsky
BuzzFeed News
“The Fight for Women’s Rights in Latin America”

Karla Zabludovsky wrote with great passion and a sense of urgency about ordinary women in Latin America whose lives were upended by the restrictive — and sometimes deadly — reproductive health laws that are the norm in the region. Her profile of a Bolivian mayor who was savagely attacked displayed the reporter’s ability to use an extraordinary moment in a person’s life to illuminate a broader issue: in this case, the entrenched misogyny that female politicians in Latin America grapple with. Zabludovsky operated under dangerous conditions, traveling across the region to report with authority and sensitivity. Her work embodies the spirit of the Madeline Dane Ross Award: deeply reported stories about the human condition.

Citation: Rebecca Plevin and Omar Ornelas
The Desert Sun,
USA Today and Animal Politico (Mexico)
“Fleeing violence, Mexicans Seek Asylum in the U.S.”

Sponsor: Linda Fabulo
Judges: Hannah Allam (head), NPR
Mark Seibel, Washington Post
Eugenia Harvey, WNET
Tina Susman, TIME magazine
Ernesto Londoño, The New York Times

16 THE DAVID A. ANDELMAN AND PAMELA TITLE AWARD
Best international TV, video, radio, audio or podcast reporting showing a concern for the human condition.

Gregory Warner, Jane Arraf, Marianne McCune, Michael May, Sana Krasikov and team
NPR’s “Rough Translation” podcast
“D.I.Y. Mosul”

In “Rough Translation: DIY Mosul” for NPR, Jane Arraf, who has covered the Middle East for three decades, tells a series of unexpectedly engaging stories from Iraq’s second-largest city as it struggles to emerge from the war with ISIS. In the rubble of Mosul, Arraf and her team found independent civic groups doing work the local government wasn’t performing: clearing streets of corpies, rescuing books from a destroyed library, even repairing the city water system. Arraf tells these stories of grassroots civic action with uncommon sensitivity and insight into Iraqi culture — insight born of long years covering a very complicated country.

Citation: Ric Esther Bienstock, Rick Gurtwitz and Matthew Shochem
TLNT Productions in association with Good Soup Productions
“The Accountant of Auschwitz”

Sponsor: David A. Andelman and Pamela Title
Judges: Doyle McManus (head), Los Angeles Times
Jon Sawyer, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
Donatella Lorch, Georgetown University
Leila Fadel, NPR
Sonni Efron, National Press Foundation

Leila Fadel recused herself from the jury’s final decision.
Overseas Press Club of America

Annual Award Winners 2019

The Joe and Laurie Dine Award
Best International Reporting in Any Medium Dealing with Human Rights

Angus Berwick, Sarah Kinosian, Brian Ellsworth, Mayela Armas, Carlos García Rawlins, and Reuters’ Venezuela Bureau

Reuters “Maduro’s Venezuela”

Against all odds, a Reuters team told the indispensable story of the corruption inside Maduro’s government and the physical dangers faced by Venezuelan citizens, many of whom have had to flee the ravaged country. At a time when attention has turned to other pressing geopolitical problems, Reuters stayed with an important story, documenting human rights issues that are not getting the attention they deserve. Using court documents and government records as well as interviews, the Reuters team helped explain how Maduro has managed to hold onto power (partly by buying off the police and military and restructuring the chain of command), documented the hunger among Venezuelans as well as the breathtaking world of rickety boats. Top-notch reporting and photography, as well as clear and accessible writing, rounded out this important investigation.

Citation:
Amina Ismail
Reuters
“Inside Sisi’s Egypt”

Judges:
Anya Schiffrin (head), Columbia University
Alison Bethel McKenzie, The New York Times
Kan Terrence McCoy and Courtney Kan
Open Society Foundations
Matt Schiavenza, Asia Society

The Whitman Bassow Award
Best Reporting in Any Medium on Environmental Issues

Tom Warren and Katie J.M. Baker
BuzzFeed News
“World Wildlife Fund’s Secret War”

The World Wildlife Fund for Nature is the world’s largest conservation organization; its familiar panda logo is an icon of the environmental movement. Yet an eye-opening investigation by BuzzFeed News revealed that the group’s alliances with park rangers and paramilitary groups tasked with confronting wildlife poachers have had a deadly human cost. With meticulous research, careful documentation and round-the-world interviews, the reporters laid out a record of rape, torture and murder committed by WWF’s partners in the increasingly militarized world of wildlife conservation. BuzzFeed’s stories led the WWF to overhaul its human rights guidelines, even as Congress investigated how the U.S. government could have unwittingly helped fund such atrocities. Amid a range of highly accomplished work on environmental issues in 2019, the judges found this reporting merited the highest honor.

Citation:
The Washington Post Staff
“2 Degrees C: Beyond the Limit”

Sponsor: Robert Serio

Judges:
Kim Murphy (head), editor, The New York Times
Andrew Revkin, The Earth Institute, Columbia University
Craig Welch, National Geographic
Mary Rajkumar, The Associated Press
Sam Eaton, freelance

The Robert Spiers Benjamin Award
Best Reporting in Any Medium on Latin America

Azam Ahmed
The New York Times
“Kill or Be Killed: Latin America’s Homicide Crisis”

Azam Ahmed asked the question: why are so many people from Central America and the Caribbean risking so much to come to the United States? His answer is the gutty series “Kill or Be Killed.” The New York Times Mexico City Bureau Chief took us on an almost cinematic journey through communities undone by violence. His stories have vivid scenes, with unforgettable characters, that propel readers forward. Violence has long been a theme for coverage of Honduras, Jamaica and Mexico, but Ahmed found new ways to make us care. Ahmed spent weeks covering the siege of a neighborhood in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where rival gangs fought block-by-block for control. His persistence showed in the 17 months he spent interviewing one of Mexico’s deadliest assassins, an enforcer for the drug cartels. In another article he tracked a killer in Jamaica that police called Briana, who “preyed on the parish of Clarendon, carrying out nine confirmed kills.” Briana, he later reveals, was a 9-millimeter Browning handgun smuggled into Jamaica from one of the United States. Judges were also deeply impressed by the photography, graphics and forensic mapping that accompanied the work.

Citation:
The Wall Street Journal Staff
“Brazil’s Deadly Dam Collapse”

Sponsor: The Guardian

Judges:
William Booth (head), The Washington Post
Dudley Althaus, freelance
Lizette Alvarez, freelance
Geri Smith, Inter-American Development Bank
Jeff Franko, freelance
Mansi Choksi, freelance
Suki Kim, freelance
Wesley Lowery, The Washington Post
Melissa Segura, BuzzFeed

The Kim Wall Award
Best Story or Series of Stories on International Affairs Using Creative and Dynamic Storytelling Techniques

Malachy Browne, Evan Hill, Christianna Triebert, Whitney Hurst, Dmitry Khavin and the Visual Investigations Team

For more than a year, fighter jets have bombed scores of civilian targets in Syria, including underground hospitals and refugee camps, in clear violation of international law. The New York Times team approached this uncovered story with innovative use of digital tools — not just to enhance the storytelling but to report the story itself. In so doing, the journalists proved conclusively that Russia was behind the bombings. The Times’ forensic visual presentation is masterfully done — and a reminder that investigative journalism reaches corners of the world that might otherwise be ignored. The reporting was stellar, the evidence it uncovered compelling and persuasive.

Citation:
The Washington Post
“More Tigers Now Live in Cages than in the Wild”

Sponsor: Molly Bingham

Judges:
Louise Roug (chair), Huffington Post
Kim Barker, The New York Times
Jessica Reed, The Guardian
Paul Hamilos, BuzzFeed News
Emily Fieldman, freelance
THE ROY ROWAN AWARD
Best investigative reporting in any medium on an international story

Michael Schwirtz, Dionne Searcey, David Kirkpatrick
and the visual Investigations team
The New York Times
“Russia’s Shadow War”

The evil emanating from Vladimir Putin’s Russia has rarely, if ever, been revealed in more shocking detail than in “Russia’s Shadow War,” a courageous, multi-continent investigation by The New York Times. Ranging from Bulgaria to Syria, Madagascar to central Africa, Montenegro and beyond, Times reporters documented in stark prose and harrowing images the extent to which the Kremlin has gone to extend Russian influence to other nations. Moscow-directed assassination squads, sophisticated disinformation campaigns, the slaughtering of innocent civilians — these are now pages in the Kremlin’s foreign policy playbook. Moscow-directed assassination squads, sophisticated disinformation campaigns, the slaughtering of innocent civilians — these are now pages in the Kremlin’s foreign policy playbook. Moscow-directed assassination squads, sophisticated disinformation campaigns, the slaughtering of innocent civilians — these are now pages in the Kremlin’s foreign policy playbook.

Citation: Chris Bing and Joel Schectman
Reuters
“Project Raven”

Sponsor: Marcus Rowan

Judges:
James B. Steele (head), independent
Barbara Demick, Los Angeles Times
Sarah Cohen, Arizona State University
Joe Stephens, Princeton
Vernon Loeb, Inside Climate News

THE FLORA LEWIS AWARD
Best commentary in any medium on international news

Li Yuan
The New York Times
“The New, New World”

Li Yuan’s pieces on China and Hong Kong were informative, insightful, and delightful to read; a great mix of vivid reporting with restrained but knowing perspective, and much of it entailing personal risk.

Citation: Martin Wolf
The Financial Times

Sponsor: Paula Dwyer

Judges:
Bill Keller (head), freelance
Scott MacLeod, freelance
David Shipley, Bloomberg
John Daniszewski, The Associated Press
Eleanor Randolph, The New York Times

Bill Keller and Eleanor Randolph recused themselves from the final decision.
THE BEST CARTOON AWARD

ADAM ZYGLIS
The Buffalo News

The RATTLE SNAKE...

The STATE of the UNION is STRONG...

BROWN FACE...

I FRIGHTENED THE WHACK A MOLLUSK FOR YEARS & I MET WITH A RACCOON IN THE LOOBY OF THE SHIRT.
Nariman El-Mofty
Associated Press
“Disembarking in Hell”

Nariman El-Mofty of the AP got a citation for excellence in the Robert Capa competition for his images from Yemen. Here a pair of Ethiopian migrants make their way across a road in Lahj, Yemen during a sandstorm.