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*www.veranaughton.com*

40 West 45th Street, New York, NY 10036, USA  
Phone 212.626.9220 • Email info@opcofamerica.org • *opcofamerica.org*

**DATELINE 2021**
Letter from the President

As we celebrate the work done by global journalists in 2020, I’m reminded that our chosen field has always been a tough one, and that journalists have always been a tough-minded crowd. But in my 43 years as a journalist, I’ve never seen a year like 2020.

It was harder and more life threatening than usual to practice our trade.

More journalists than ever, 274 worldwide, were in jail last year, while 32 media workers were killed, 20 percent more than in 2019, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Yet correspondents went to the front lines to cover the unfolding Covid pandemic and to document the existence of uighur internment camps in China. They exposed the exploitation of workers in Indonesia’s palm oil industry. They revealed how Mexico had militarized its borders to prevent people from fleeing hardship in Central America and how the Mexican government had lost control of some of its own states to narco-traffickers. They exposed how millions of Muslims in India were at risk of losing their citizenship, despite the denials of top officials. They explained how the CIA trained and operated militias in Afghanistan.

Correspondents also investigated the downfall of one of Europe’s highest flying financial-technology firms. They visually told the story of World War II sex slaves in the Philippines. They uncovered government and corporate neglect in the collapse of a Brazilian dam, which killed hundreds. They showed how forces, ranging from colonialism to social media, shape life in West Africa today.

These are just some of the storylines behind our 22 award winners this year. It’s all riveting stuff. And it shows how dangerous the world has become as we investigate, interpret, photograph, narrate and record the world around us. But it’s not just because of an out-of-control virus, as difficult as it was to work under such stressful conditions. In many cases, the dangers came from within: corrupt governments, neglectful corporations, deliberately misinformed citizenry.

To me, if there’s one overarching lesson, it’s the importance of holding governments and the private sector accountable for what they do — or fail to do. And that means the role of the news media is more important than ever, despite the efforts of many to hold us back, keep us in check, stop us from asking the big questions and informing the public of what we learn.

As a financial journalist, I see another danger looming in the crackdown on the world’s press: The lack of information can allow governments and the private sector to hide political and regulatory problems, not to mention potential fraud and corruption. This could explain why, during a global pandemic and at a time when many families around the world are struggling to get by, the financial markets keep rising, disconnected from and seemingly oblivious to the underlying problems that billions of ordinary people face.

Like you, the OPC had to continue operating in 2020 and 2021 under the most stressful conditions. We had to cancel our 2020 annual awards dinner, we couldn’t hold in-person monthly meetings and many of
our freelance members, unable to travel, saw their income sources dry up.

But we didn’t let any of that stop us. This year, we applied for and received $100,000 from the Ford Foundation to make $1,000 micro-grants to 92 freelancers in distress. The board held monthly Zoom meetings. We switched from monthly to weekly issues of the Bulletin to keep members more closely in touch and better informed. We held online discussions with the winners of our 2020 journalism awards. I encourage you to give these fascinating videos a look — each one is available to watch on our website, opcofamerica.org.

Last year, we lost Christopher Dickey, a cherished OPC board member and colleague. While Chris was an accomplished magazine journalist and book author, he was also an avid photographer who captured the heart and soul of many of the cities he visited while on assignment and especially of Paris, where he last lived. To honor his memory, we worked with Photoville to create a traveling memorial to showcase Chris’ poetic images and his distinguished career spanning 40 years. We are also posthumously bestowing the OPC President’s Award on Chris this year.

I want to thank OPC head judge and Third Vice President Scott Kraft, who did his usual masterful job managing the awards program, including recruiting the more than 100 judges needed for this massive effort.

Behind the scenes, Executive Director Patricia Kranz worked tirelessly to perform the many duties that keep the OPC humming, day in and day out. I want to thank her as well as Chad Bouchard, the editor of the OPC Bulletin and our technology specialist, from the bottom of my heart for making us look good.

Sincerely,
Paula Dwyer

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**When the Overseas Press Club put out the call for award entries in late 2020, we weren’t sure what to expect.**

On-the-ground reporting had been severely curtailed across the globe for most of the year, and many news organizations had been forced to scale back their international coverage.

But we were surprised and delighted when the entries — more than 400 in all, in 22 categories — began arriving and our nearly 100 volunteer judges began looking over them. International journalism not only survived the pandemic year, but it thrived.

The winners and citation awards ranged across news organizations and subjects, and the journalists we honored showed remarkable tenacity and creativity — and often courage — in bringing some of the most important stories of the year to a us audience. Covid was, of course, a recurring theme, and three of our winners were pandemic-related. But the OPC judges also identified winning reporting on human rights abuses, corruption in business and government, and climate change. And the judges honored work from multiple continents and countries.

The 82nd OPC Awards wouldn’t have happened without the care and dedication of our teams of judges, which included journalists who have themselves been recognized with the highest awards in our profession. They spent long hours in deliberation and debate in an effort to identify the best work — a task made more difficult by the high quality of entries this year. The high standards of the judges are the key to the prestige of these awards, and we want to express our deepest gratitude for all their hard work.

Scott Kraft is managing editor of the Los Angeles Times and a Vice President of the OPC.

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“International journalism not only survived the pandemic year, but it thrived”.

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**Letter from the Awards Chair**
Kiana Hayeri won the Robert Capa Gold Medal for her extraordinary photos from the Herat Women’s Prison in Afghanistan. Here inmate Nafas, 20, cares for the child of one of the prison guards. She was sentenced after she shot to death the man, drug-addicted and 17 years her elder, that she was forced to marry by her family. “I had to do it,” she told Hayeri.

ON THE COVER: Emilio Morenatti of the Associated Press won an OPC Citation for Excellence for his photos of elderly Covid patients in Barcelona. Here Covid victim Francisco Espa, 60, is permitted a few minutes to gaze at the Mediterranean after staff at the Hospital del Mar wheeled him onto the boardwalk. He had spent 52 days in the hospital’s intensive care unit.
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KIANA HAYERI / THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE
Bloomberg

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Overseas Press Club of America
THE HAL BOYLE AWARD
Best newspaper, news service or digital reporting from abroad

Andrew Quilty
The Intercept
“The CIA’s Afghan Death Squads”

In nearly two years of painstaking reporting, Andrew Quilty exposed a U.S.-backed “campaign of terror against civilians” in Afghanistan. Detailing evidence of massacres, executions, mutilation, forced disappearances and airstrikes, he meticulously documented how 10 CIA-backed raids in Wardak province killed 51 civilians. Some were boys as young as eight; most of these raids had never been reported.

Citation for Excellence:
Katrin Bennhold
The New York Times
“Outing Germany’s Far Right”

Sponsor: Norman Pearlstine in memory of Jerry Flint

Judges:
Azmat Khan (head), freelance
Shane Bauer, Mother Jones
Assia Boundaoui, freelance
Sarah Childress, FRONTLINE PBS
Caitlin Dickerson, The Atlantic
Asma Khalid, NPR

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

Mary Beth Sheridan and Kevin Sieff
The Washington Post
“Losing Control”

The state capture of Mexico’s government by narco-traffickers could not be a more important story, but it is also one whose telling is fraught with danger. By uncovering the shocking truths of how pervasive corruption and violence has become in Mexico, the series epitomized great foreign correspondence: it tackled an important truth authorities have worked hard to hide and showed great bravery in exposing it. Importantly, the judges also felt the series was compellingly told, with each installment exposing a new horror in a clear narrative that kept readers glued to the end. Online, it was beautifully presented with innovative design elements and graphics that only enhanced the more traditional journalistic elements.

Citation:
The New York Times Staff
“Behind the Curve”

Sponsor: William J. Holstein and Rita Sevell

Judges:
Peter Spiegel (head), Financial Times
Julian Barnes, The New York Times
Steve Fidler, The Wall Street Journal
Maura Reynolds, Politico
Heather Timmons, Reuters
THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD
Best photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise published in any medium

Kiana Hayeri
*The New York Times Magazine*
“Where Prison is a Kind of Freedom”

Kiana Hayeri’s unprecedented look into the Herat Women’s Prison in western Afghanistan exemplifies the photographer’s extraordinary courage and enterprise: not only to overcome physical and access barriers at personal risk, but to challenge the status quo in the visual portrayal of underrepresented communities. Hayeri’s work sets the highest standard for upholding the dignity of her subjects while modeling the power of photographic reportage.

Citation:
Nariman el Mofty
*The Associated Press*
“Fleeing War”

Sponsor: Getty Images

Judges for all three photography awards:
Daniella Zalcman (head), *freelance photojournalist*
Natalie Keyssar, *freelance photojournalist*
Whitney Matewe, *National Geographic*
Pamela Chen, *Apple*
Marvin Orellana, *The New Yorker*

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

Nanna Heitmann
*National Geographic*
“Covid Russia”

One of the many challenges for photographers in 2020 was how to capture the seismic shifts all around us, and the profound fear and loss that accompanied them, from a distance, with faces covered, through layers of plastic and hazmat suits. Heitmann’s stunning photographs documented the ravages and contradictions of the pandemic in Russia with a powerful but sensitive visual voice, pairing images of crowded churches, with portraits of isolated elderly, and mournful, surreal scenes of hospitals battling the virus. The gentle, intimate approach to the painful subject was a testament to the way that a light touch can produce a resounding impact.

Citation:
Chris McGrath
*Getty Images*
“In the Aftermath of the Blast”

Whitney Matewe recused herself from the jury’s final decision
THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD
Best feature photography on an international theme published in any medium

Cheryl Diaz Meyer
NPR with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and Yunghi Kim
“Comfort Women”

Cheryl Diaz Meyer

The jury was immediately moved by Cheryl Diaz Meyer’s powerful and emotional work documenting the survivors of World War II sexual enslavement. She captured heartbreak, humanity and healing in the expressions of this incredible community of survivors. This body of work is the perfect example of an impactful story amplified through the caring and intentional eye of the photographer.

Citation:
Emilio Morenatti
The Associated Press
“Covid: Devastation and Death on Spain’s Elderly”

Sponsor: Sony Images

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

Maria Hinojosa, Julieta Martinelli, Fernanda Camarena, Benjamin Alfaro and Marlon Bishop
Latino USA with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
“The Moving Border”

Maria Hinojosa

This series captures not only how us border policies have had a terrifying and lethal impact on asylum seekers and migrants, but also how Mexico has militarized its own southern border and blocked the free movement of people from Central America. Maria Hinojosa and team tell the human stories and connect the policy dots to show how the Mexican government is no longer bowing to economic pressure from the U.S. on immigration but instead, has its own new harsh stance that criminalizes the quest for safe haven across the Americas and exposes the continent’s most vulnerable people to unprecedented dangers.

Citation:
Keegan Hamilton, Jesse Alejandro Cottrell, Annie Avilés and Kate Osborn
VICE Audio
“Painkiller”

Sponsor: Deborah Amos

Judges:
Suzanne Marmion (head), KPBS San Diego
Joanne Griffith, NPR — California Regional Newsroom
Jean Guerrero, author
Shandukani Mulaudzi, freelance
Chris Woolf, former BBC World Service
Chris Livesay, freelance
Shandukani Mulaudzi, freelance
The inmates of Herat Women’s Prison, many of them convicted of killing abusive husbands, experience a level of camaraderie and compassion they never saw outside.
Top: Nahid spends most of her time on her bunk, watching TV and smoking. She was married to a man for 15 years who regularly beat and stabbed her. She says he also abused their children. “One day when we were fighting it got out of hand and I shot him,” she told Hayeri.

Bottom: Inmate Parisa, 20, bathing her one-year-old daughter. She was married to a man for five years who also assaulted her, at one point tying her up and beating her hands and feet with a piece of wood. One night she locked herself in the room where her husband kept his rifle. When he tried to break in, she fired through the door, killing him. She was sentenced to 16 years. Her three-year-old son is also incarcerated with her.
Women inmates climb a gate to retrieve a volleyball from the barbed wire.
THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD
Best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad

David Culver
CNN
“Coronavirus Outbreak in China”

David Culver and producer Yong Xiong were first on the scene in Wuhan, China, at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, scoring a world-beat with the only interview of Chinese whistleblower Dr. Li Wenliang, who died of the disease, then braving the government lockdown to get the story out to the world.

Citation: Elizabeth Palmer, Agnes Reau, Seyed Rahim Bathaie and Andrew Stevenson
CBS News
“U.S. and Iran on the Brink of War”

Sponsor: ABC News

Judges: David A. Andelman (head), author
Jim Bittermann, CNN
Steve Kroft, former CBS
Jim Laurie, former ABC and NBC
Scotti Williston, former CBS

Jim Bitterman recused himself from the jury’s final selection.

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

Isobel Yeung, Jackie Jesko and Ahmer Khan
VICE on Showtime
“India Burning”

Moving and illuminating, VICE captures this underreported story with humanity and clarity, in just 15 minutes. By venturing deep into remote communities, the team exposes the disconnect between millions of Muslim Indians at risk of losing their citizenship, and the denials of top officials. The film portrays characters pitted against a bureaucracy with the power to unravel their lives. Dogged investigative reporting and probing interviews result in a work of real impact.

Citation: John Holman, Pablo Perez, Amparo Rodriguez, Andalucia Knoll and Vanessa Gomez Viniegra
Al Jazeera English
“Frontline Mexico: The Fight Against Covid”

Sponsor: CBS News

Judges: Vivienne Walt (head), TIME magazine
Ric Esther Bienstock,
Good Soup Productions
James Graff,
The Wall Street Journal
Steven Mufson,
The Washington Post
Sigi de Vos
NBC News
THE PETER JENNINGS AWARD
Best TV, video or documentary about international affairs with a run time over 30 minutes

James Bluemel and Jo Abel
FRONLINE
“Once upon a Time in Iraq”

A searing documentary narrated exclusively by the most authoritative of experts: ordinary Iraqis who survived the tumultuous history unleashed after the fall and execution of Saddam Hussein. In intimate interviews, these men and women share the brief joy, then the long disillusionment, grief and terror they experienced as their country moved from the Saddam era through frightening periods of street warfare, sectarian violence and the ruthless occupation of ISIS. Countless stories have reported the details of those years, often with a focus on the actions and policies of the US. But the producers of this film have shown us how little we understood of how Iraqis experienced the impact of those policies. In telling us how they endured, these Iraqis have brought a new depth of understanding to America’s legacy in their country.

Sponsor: The Jennings Family

Judges:
Ann Cooper (head), professor emerita, Columbia Journalism School
Josh Fine, HBO’s Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel
Patty Guerra, CBS 60 Minutes
Abi Wright, Columbia Journalism School

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

Sarah Topol
The New York Times Magazine
“Her Uighur Parents Were Model Chinese Citizens. It Didn’t Matter.”

With intimate and meticulous reporting and elegant prose, Topol creates a haunting depiction of a family tragedy, shedding light on the little-understood plight of China’s Uighurs.

Sponsor: Michael S. Serrill

Judges:
Megan Stack (head), author
Cecilia Ballí, Texas Monthly
Maria Abi Habib, The New York Times
Janet Steele, Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communications, George Washington University
Tim Sullivan, The Associated Press

Maria Abi Habib recused herself from the jury’s final decision.
Worshipers gather to celebrate Easter at an Orthodox church in the centuries-old city of Tver on the banks of the Volga River. Normally an occasion for processions and outdoor singing, Easter activities were curbed in 2020 by the pandemic.

Though the government of President Vladimir Putin is reluctant to admit it, Covid has hit the country hard. Heitmann won the Rebbot award for her stark photos of the suffering.

Though the government of President Vladimir Putin is reluctant to admit it, Covid has hit the country hard. Heitmann won the Rebbot award for her stark photos of the suffering.

THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

NANNA HEITMANN
National Geographic “Covid Russia”
Above: Inside Moscow’s Hospital No. 52, a patient recovering from Covid breathes in the oxygen that is helping him try to return to health.

Right: Nurse Margarita Sokolova, after working the so-called Red Zone – the most potentially contaminated areas of the hospital — for 24 hours straight.

Opposite Top: Homeless and other needy people line up to register for food and drink in a tented meal kitchen set up by an Orthodox church charity, whose Russian name translates as Mercy.

Opposite Bottom: A young patient, newly admitted and suffering from grave lung problems, is sedated and intubated in the Covid ward of Moscow’s Hospital No. 52.
THE BEST CARTOON AWARD
Best print, digital or graphic journalism on international affairs

Kevin “KAL” Kallaugher
*The Economist, The Baltimore Sun, Counterpoint*

Kevin “KAL” Kallaugher seems like a cartoonist transported from a bygone era, while still creating compelling work that resonates with today’s audience. His impeccable pen and ink cross-hatching and weaponized bobble-headed caricatures might look at home on newspaper editorial pages of a century ago, which seems fitting since that was the last time we saw a global pandemic on the scale of Covid. With his crow quill aimed like a syringe at China, Putin, climate change and deadly conspiracies, KAL’s incisive commentary serves as the perfect shot in the arm for today’s pandemic-weary world.

**Citation:**
*Michael Ramirez*

**Sponsor:** Daimler

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

THE MORTON FRANK AWARD
Best international business news reporting in TV, video, radio, audio or podcast

Monte Reel and Topher Forhecz
*Bloomberg Green “Blood River”*

Through dramatic storytelling and deep reporting into the murder of an environmental activist in Honduras, Bloomberg Green reveals (in a 7-part audio series) how corrupt corporate and government forces will do anything to get an international development project launched in that country.

**Citation:**
*Alan Jeffries, Austin Carr, Michael Smith and Jordan Oplinger Bloomberg Businessweek “Inside Carnival’s Coronavirus Nightmare”*

**Sponsor:** Marc Lemcke

**Judges:**
Geraldine Baum (head), CUNY
Carlos Rajo, *NY1/Noticias*
Jane Sasseen, *The McGraw Fellowships*
THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD
Best international business news reporting in newspapers, news services, magazines or digital

Dan McCrum, Paul Murphy, Sam Jones and Olaf Storbeck
*Financial Times*
“Inside Wirecard”

The remarkable multiyear takedown of a European fintech high-flyer, Wirecard, by a Financial Times investigative team culminated in 2020 with stories detailing the rot — not only at the Dax 30 firm, but in the German financial establishment that had sought to protect it. Dan McCrum laid out for readers the campaign by Wirecard and its hired guns to discredit and even prosecute him for unearthing the scandalous accounting, actions which earlier prompted the FT to suspend its efforts while it completed an internal probe. The work resumed with stories on the shady leaders of Wirecard and on the Big Four auditing firm, EY, whose professionals were complicit in the fraud. From this courageous and resourceful journalism have followed arrest warrants, resignations and a gaping insolvency.

Citation:
Cam Simpson, Michael Smith and Nacha Cattan
*Bloomberg News*
“Addicted to Profit”

Sponsor: Forbes Magazine

Judges:
Tim Ferguson (head), freelance
Loretta Chao, American Journalism Project
Jason Del Rey, Recode
Alexandra Harney, author
Joe Nocera, Bloomberg Opinion

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

Declan Walsh
*W.W. Norton & Company*
“The Nine Lives of Pakistan: Dispatches From a Precarious State”

Walsh’s deep knowledge of Pakistan, lively writing, his ability to mesh certain kinds of stereotypes with the reality of the situation, his gorgeous descriptions of the scenery and historical and intellectual asides and tangents, along with his personal commitment to the story, give the book the weight of truth. His portrait of the Karachi police chief who will use any measure – no matter how brutal or corrupt — to police his beat shows how Pakistan’s forces of order control, or fail to control, the country. Each of his other portraits of Pakistani figures brings into focus another aspect of the way things keep falling apart in a critically situated nuclear-armed regional power.

Citation:
Joshua Yaffe
*Crown Publishing Group*
“Between Two Fires: Truth, Ambition, and Compromise in Putin’s Russia”

Sponsor: Friends of Richard Threlkeld

Judges:
Daniel Hertzberg (head), retired
John Bussey, *The Wall Street Journal*
Jennifer Siebens, retired
Amy Wilentz, author
University of California, Irvine
THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

CHERYL DIAZ MEYER
NPR with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and Yunghi Kim
“Comfort Women”

Diaz Meyer won the OPC Feature Photography Award for her moving images of now-elderly women held in sexual slavery in the Philippines during World War II. These so-called “comfort women” are still seeking justice from the Japanese government.

Pilar Quilantang Galang was one of more than 100 girls and women raped by members of the Japanese Imperial Army in the Philippines village of Mapaniqui on Nov. 23, 1944. She was 9 years old at the time. Even now, in her 80s, when she sees the ruins of the Red House (at rear of photo), where the rapes happened, she says, “I feel like I’m losing my mind. I wish it would be destroyed.”
Above: “We will not forget what happened until the day we die. It has been engraved in our hearts,” says Francia Ága Buco (center). Buco was also a victim of the mass rape in Mapaniqui. She was declared ineligible for Japanese compensation because she was not held over an extended period.

Left: Felicidad delos Reyes, 90, died of pneumonia on Feb. 1, 2020. Here, she is photographed with her great-grandchildren in Antipolo, outside Manila, in the Philippines. As a student in Masbate during the Japanese occupation of World War II, delos Reyes was asked to sing with her class for visiting Japanese soldiers — or suffer dire consequences.
Above: Sisters Estela Adriatico and Narcisa Claveria, Felicidad delos Reyes and Estelita Dy were teens when they were sexually enslaved. Many of the estimated 1,000 Filipinas who served as “comfort women” died of injuries or illness during the war.

Left: Fedencia Nacar David was 14 when a Japanese soldier sliced her ear and threatened to behead her if she didn’t go to a garrison with him. She was then raped repeatedly over a period of 10 days. “I was innocent,” she says. “Why did that happen to me?”
Danielle Paquette
The Washington Post
“Life in West Africa”

The series “Life in West Africa” is remarkable in its breadth of time and place, showing how powerful forces from colonialism to social media shape lives throughout West Africa. Each story is exquisitely told through the ordinary people confronting those forces: rubber plantation workers in Liberia, a teenage dancer from Mali. The standout tale of a Black American who moves to Ghana to flee racism is a reminder that overseas reporting can serve as both window and mirror.

Citation:
Ryan Lenora Brown
The Christian Science Monitor
“Congo Ebola crisis: To fight disease, an anthropologist heals distrust”

Sponsor: Linda Fasulo

Judges:
Hannah Allam (head), NPR
Henry Chu, Los Angeles Times
Miriam Elder, Vanity Fair
Ron Nixon, The Associated Press
Mohamad Bazzi, New York University

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

The Wall Street Journal Staff and Gimlet Media
“Vale Ignored Warnings”

WSJ

In 2019, a dam owned by Brazil-based Vale S.A. collapsed near the Brazilian town of Brumadinho, releasing three billion gallons of mud and mining waste and leveling buildings, homes and farms. The disaster killed 270 people. In its aftermath, Wall Street Journal reporters relentlessly investigated the dam’s failure, even as Vale denied fault. The company refused interview requests and site access; Vale workers and business partners were warned not to talk. Nonetheless, the Journal found that Vale had ignored warnings about the dam’s stability and uncovered a conflict of interest in how the company conducted inspections and audits. One year after the collapse, reporters Samantha Pearson and Luciana Magalhaes narrated an episode of The Journal podcast that told the story of the dam, its vulnerabilities and the double-edged sword of Vale’s compensatory payments to the mostly poor victims of the disaster. Ultimately, the Journal’s work helped pave the way for regulatory changes in Brazil, strengthened industry guidelines world-wide and gave voice to the countless people whose lives were upended by the collapse.

Citation:
Fariba Nawa, James Gordon Meek, Aaron Glantz, Pete Madden and Chris Harland-Dunaway
ABC News in partnership with Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting
“Justice for Halla”

Sponsor: David A. Andelman and Pamela Title

Judges:
Deidre Depke (head), freelance
Mark Miller, Bloomberg Live
Minky Worden, Human Rights Watch
Tracy Samuelson, Stitcher Media

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA
ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS 2020

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

Danielle Paquette
The Washington Post
“Life in West Africa”

The series “Life in West Africa” is remarkable in its breadth of time and place, showing how powerful forces from colonialism to social media shape lives throughout West Africa. Each story is exquisitely told through the ordinary people confronting those forces: rubber plantation workers in Liberia, a teenage dancer from Mali. The standout tale of a Black American who moves to Ghana to flee racism is a reminder that overseas reporting can serve as both window and mirror.

Citation:
Ryan Lenora Brown
The Christian Science Monitor
“Congo Ebola crisis: To fight disease, an anthropologist heals distrust”

Sponsor: Linda Fasulo

Judges:
Hannah Allam (head), NPR
Henry Chu, Los Angeles Times
Miriam Elder, Vanity Fair
Ron Nixon, The Associated Press
Mohamad Bazzi, New York University
**THE JOE AND LAURIE DINE AWARD**

Best international reporting in any medium dealing with human rights

Margie Mason and Robin McDowell
*The Associated Press*
“Fruits of Labor”

A powerful story of exploitation, slavery, human trafficking, sexual harassment, and greed in the making of palm oil— an ubiquitous ingredient which Americans consume daily. As one source interviewed for the series put it: “When Americans and Europeans see palm oil is listed as an ingredient in their snacks,” he said, they should know “it’s the same as consuming our sweat and blood.” The often risky reporting connected the chilling abuses on the palm oil plantations directly to the reader and explained why the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) stamp of approval is not enough. These labels can be misleading to consumers who then believe a product is free from unsustainable and inhumane practices. Verification and auditing is always difficult, but the reporters made the case that Roundtable is used for greenwashing. The horrific practices that go into making palm oil in Indonesia and elsewhere are not new, but these stories helped bring the problems to light yet again and captured the attention of everyone from U.S. Senators to Girl Scouts.

**Citation:**
Drew Ambrose, Ashish Malhotra, Savitri Choudhury and Rhiona Jade-Armont
“India’s Child Sex Highway”

**Sponsor:** Philip Dine

**Judges:**
Anya Schiffrin (head), Columbia University
Alison Bethel McKenzie, *Report for America*
Rebecca Chao, *The New York Times*
Samantha McCann, *Solutions Journalism Network*
Ntibinyane (Alvin) A. Ntibinyane, *INK Centre for Investigative Journalism*

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**THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD**

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues

Abrahm Lustgarten and Meridith Kohut
*The New York Times Magazine and ProPublica with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting*
“Refugees From the Earth”

Lustgarten spent two years reporting in places as far-flung as Guatemala and Eastern Russia, for this sweeping series about climate migration. It’s a rich tapestry of individual voices, computer modeling and essay writing. It’s a rich tapestry of individual voices, computer modeling and essay writing, including a meditation on whether it’s time to flee from fires engulfing his home in Northern California. We meet a Guatemalan farmer driven by drought to cross the border into the us, and a Chinese man who moves north into Russia to grow soybeans. The writing is spellbinding, the scope ambitious and the result scary, as Lustgarten contemplates a not-too-distant future in which one-fifth of the world’s surface area will be uninhabitable and tens of millions of people are forced to leave their homes. Kohut’s photography brings into sharp focus the people and the ways in which a changing climate is driving their movements.

**Citation:**
Drew Ambrose, Rhiona Jade-Armont, Nick Olle and Sharon Roobol
*Al Jazeera English in collaboration with Mongabay, The Gecko Project and Korea Center for Investigative Journalism*
“101 East — Selling West Papua”

**Sponsor:** Robert Serio

**Judges:**
Kim Murphy (head), *The New York Times*
Jennifer Forsyth, *The Wall Street Journal*
Robert Friedman, *Bloomberg News*
Justin Worland, *TIME magazine*
Marla Cone, *CalMatters*

Head juror Kim Murphy recused herself from the jury’s final decision.
THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD
Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

Kate Morrissey, Lauryn Schroeder, Nelvin Cepeda and Alejandro Tamayo
*The San Diego Union-Tribune*
“Returned”

This whip-smart series offered a fresh, reader-friendly exploration — by a regional newspaper working its own backyard — into what really happens to those seeking the promise of asylum at America’s doorstep. The stories focused not on economic migrants but those fleeing political violence back home — from paramilitaries in Daniel Ortega’s Nicaragua — who were stranded in Tijuana. We knew the immigration and asylum courts were overwhelmed in 2020, but reporter Kate Morrissey and colleagues showed, with deep data dives and shoe-leather reporting in the courtrooms, how capricious and unjust the system can be.

**Citation:**
Max Baring, Anastasia Moloney and Dan Collyns
*Thomson Reuters Foundation*
“The Adventures of Wonder Woman — Inside Peru’s War against Illegal Gold Mining”

**Judges:**
William Booth (head), *The Washington Post*
Dudley Althaus, *freelance*
Lizette Alvarez, *The Washington Post*
Geri Smith, *Inter-American Development Bank*
Jeff Franks, *former Reuters*

THE KIM WALL AWARD
Best story or series of stories on international affairs using creative and dynamic storytelling techniques

Megha Rajagopalan, Alison Killing and Christo Buschek
*BuzzFeed News with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting*
“Built to Last”

Over the last few years, China has built hundreds of high-security internment camps to incarcerate Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslim minorities while publicly denying the existence of such detention facilities. In an area blacked out on Baidu, the Chinese equivalent of Google maps, BuzzFeed’s use of satellite images proved the existence of more detention facilities than previously known. BuzzFeed’s reporting was notable for its combination of hard-to-source interviews with innovative use of satellite images and 3D visualization. The result was a powerful project that showed conclusively that China is operating a massive and industrialized internment system.

**Citation:**
Martin Stabe, the FT Visual & Data Journalism team and FT Reporters
*The Financial Times*
“Coronavirus Tracker”

**Judges:**
Louise Roug (head), *The Huffington Post*
Malachy Browne, *The New York Times*
Georgina Gustin, *Inside Climate News*
Jessica Reed, *Guardian US*
Elena Cherney, *The Wall Street Journal*
Dake Kang and AP Staff
*The Associated Press*
“China Cracks Down”

The AP disclosed how specific actions by China all but assured the spread of Covid around the world and inflicted draconian human rights abuses on the nation’s Uighur minority. Led by AP Beijing reporter Dake Kang, the series revealed that for six days China’s leaders held off alerting the public as to the great danger posed by the virus, setting the stage for its global spread. The AP team obtained thousands of pages of internal Chinese government documents and conducted hundreds of interviews at great personal risk — in Wuhan at the height of the epidemic and often at night, using encrypted messages and multiple phones to avoid detection by Chinese police.

Citation:
International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
*FRONTLINE, The New York Times and 34 other media partners*
“Luanda Leaks”

Sponsor: Marcus Rowan

Judges:
James B. Steele (head), *author and independent journalist*
Sarah Cohen, Arizona State University
Barbara Dernick, *author*
Vernon Loeb, *Inside Climate News*
Joe Stephens, *Princeton University*

Peter Beinart
*Jewish Currents*
“Yavne: A Jewish Case for Equality in Israel-Palestine”

Beinart writes a powerful essay with a lot of original thinking and draws on an impressive depth of knowledge about the history and politics of the conflict. The jury understands that his vision may be a fantasy, but it is a vision against which the likelier outcomes can be measured.

Citation:
Yaroslav Trofimov
*The Wall Street Journal*
“The Post-Covid World”

Sponsor: Paula Dwyer

Judges:
Bill Keller (head), *freelance*
Deborah Amos, *NPR*
John Daniszewski, *The Associated Press*
Scott MacLeod, *American University in Cairo*
David Shipley, *Bloomberg*
THE BEST CARTOON AWARD

KEVIN “KAL” KALLAUGHER
The Economist, The Baltimore Sun, Counterpoint
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