



Overseas Press Club  
of America

## Bulletin Jan. 27, 2026



Greetings!

We hope you enjoy the first 2026 edition of the Bulletin.

In this issue, don't miss the final week to [submit entries](#) for the OPC Annual Awards, with a **deadline of Jan. 30**. This month read the articles about Paris-based journalists reviewing [2025 at the American Library in Paris](#), [Yousra Elbagir on Covering Sudan](#), and a tribute to [Peter Arnett](#) in People Remembered. Also find the recap of the OPC Winter Party, and guest article by OPC member Pakhi Dixit.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events like the Feb. 2 [screening of "Cover Up,"](#) on the career of Seymour Hersh at Columbia University and a weekend program on [The Future of Nonfiction Video](#), also at Columbia. Scroll down for updates on OPC community members in the People column, INSI's Killing the Messenger report, and news of trainings and scholarships.

Enjoy!



 **Honoring the Best in International Journalism**

We are now accepting applications.

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

## Annual Awards

Enter online  
[www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org)

Annual awards for **INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE** in Newspapers, News Services, Newsletters, Digital, Magazines, Radio, Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons, Books and Photography.

**Eligibility Period:**  
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

**General Deadline:**  
January 30, 2026

**Cornelius Ryan Book Award Deadline:**  
January 9, 2026

**Awards Dinner:**  
April 20, 2026  
at Cipriani, 25 Broadway

The deadline to submit nominations for this year's OPC Annual Awards is **Friday, Jan. 30 at 11:59 p.m.** Eastern Time.

Click on the image above or the button below to read more and submit entries, or share the link to help the OPC spread the word on social media.

Submit Entries

## OPC's New Number: 646-825-5310

### New Number for the OPC

Getting in touch with the Club just got easier. We've moved to a new phone system! Please save our new number for all inquiries regarding awards, memberships, and events:

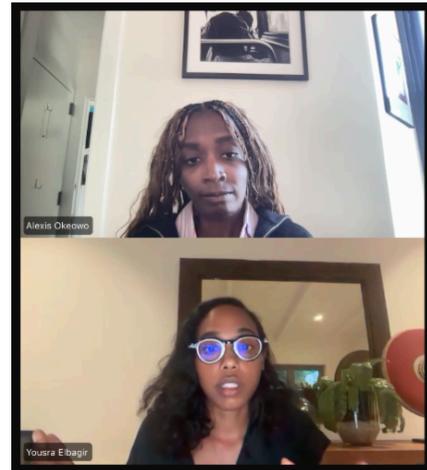
OPC's office  
646-825-5310

## 'How I Did It': Yousra Elbagir on Covering Sudan

by Cathy Manso

Before Sky News Africa correspondent Yousra Elbagir began documenting Sudan's current war, she had already spent years reporting on the country's political upheaval, while navigating the complexity of telling stories from a place that is both her homeland and a conflict zone.

Elbagir returned to Khartoum in 2015 to cover stories she felt were underreported. In 2019, while working for Channel 4 News, she reported on the Sudanese Revolution. Since April 2023, she has chronicled the war that has displaced more than 13 million people, including members of her own family.



On Dec. 15, the Overseas Press Club of America cohosted a program with the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia University featuring Yousra Elbagir, the recipient of the International Women's Media Foundation's 2025 Courage in Journalism Award. She appeared on Zoom in conversation with Alexis Okeowo, an OPC governor and writer at The New Yorker, as part of the club's "How I Did It" series, which pairs journalists to examine the reporting behind international correspondence.

Okeowo opened the discussion by asking Elbagir to describe recent developments, "The conflict in Sudan, the genocide in Sudan, is ongoing, seems to become ever more severe, yet is still largely not in the global spotlight."

Read the Full Article



## American Library in Paris: 2025 in Review

by Cathy Manso

On Dec. 10, 2025 the American Library in Paris hosted a one-hour panel of Paris-based journalists who reviewed the major stories that defined 2025. The event, in partnership with the Overseas Press Club of America, featured Dov Alfon, editor-in-chief of Libération; Ben Barnier, senior correspondent of France Info TV; Saskya Vandoorne, CNN Paris bureau chief; and was moderated by Vivienne Walt, Paris correspondent for TIME and FORTUNE and a governor of the OPC.



American Library in Paris Zoom Screenshot: Ben Barnier, Vivienne Walt, Dov Alfon, & Saskya Vandoorne (left to right)

The panel opened with Walt framing 2025 as a year dominated by the return of President Trump and the ripple effects of that administration across geopolitics, press freedom and public life. Panelists took turns describing single images or moments that they thought captured the past year's dynamics.

Alfon said the image that captured the year was, “the image of a bulldozer going through the east wing of the White House,” using that image to describe and compare a disruptive and unstable U.S. policy.

Saskya Vandoorne focused on attacks on the press and their effect. She described how lawsuits filed by the administration against major outlets, “is not necessarily to win these lawsuits. I think it’s to instill in journalists a fear of reprisal.” She also recounted a pre-taped interview with the French president in which the Elysee press team tried to remove an unscripted answer; she framed that episode as symptomatic of broader efforts to “bend the press to your will or you can bully them into submission.”



## People Remembered: Peter Arnett

by Cathy Manso

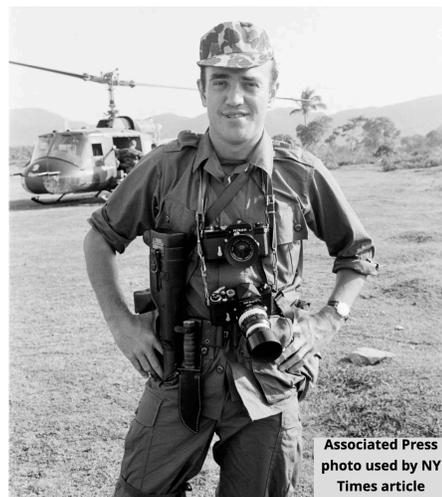
Peter Arnett, a veteran foreign correspondent who received the Overseas Press Club's President's Award for lifetime achievement in 1990, died on Dec. 17 in Newport Beach, California, at 91 from prostate cancer.

Arnett won numerous other OPC awards during his long career. In 1969, he shared the George Polk Award with Horst Faas for "The Story of Company A" while at The Associated Press.. At CNN, he was part of teams honored with Edward R. Murrow Awards for "CNN Presents: Kingdom of Cocaine" (1994) and "Back to Baghdad" (1996), recognizing excellence in television interpretation and documentary reporting on foreign affairs.

Joining CNN in its early years, Arnett covered conflicts in El Salvador, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Grenada, and Angola. His reporting during the Persian Gulf War brought him global prominence and highlighted the rigor and discipline in his 18 years with CNN.

And who could forget his 1997 interview with the leader of Al Qaeda: Osama bin Laden.

Born on November 13, 1934, in Riverton, New Zealand, Arnett began his journalism career at 17, quitting school and working for a daily paper in



Invercargill. He continued his early reporting career at *The Wellington Standard* before moving to Australia to work for *The Sydney Sun*. He filed his first war-zone report in 1960, a story about a coup in Laos.

Arnett's reporting set a high standard for foreign correspondence, and his work continues to influence generations of journalists covering international conflicts.

[Read more about his career and legacy in the New York Times' obituary here.](#)

## My First OPC Winter Party: Putting Faces to Bylines

by Cathy Manso

On the second floor of the Playwright Tavern in Midtown, the OPC hosted their 2026 Winter Party. While the temperatures dropped outside, the atmosphere at the bar was warm, with shimmering remains of holiday decorations. As a 4-year OPC member, I've spent my first few years looking at these names on screens from abroad; now, I am the OPC's Bulletin and digital media editor, and on January 21, I finally saw some in person.

The attire was anything that can warm a body and the OPC took advantage of every coat hanger in sight. It was a group of 15-20 people who are equally comfortable with a camera or a pen as they are with a glass of wine or pint of beer.

The event was organized by OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz. Longtime members and governors who attended included OPC President Scott Kraft, Bill Holstein, Edith Lederer, Minky Worden, Hendrik Hinzl, Andy Katell, Leah Spiro, Jordan Bonfante and his wife Viktoria, along with Sonya Fry, a former OPC executive director. Representing the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York were Karen Chu and Gloria Shih. New student member Jason Alpert-Wisnia of New York University came with his guest, Alice Currey.

One of the most unexpected moments was seeing Vivienne Walt, an OPC governor. For the last few years, I've watched her virtually, moderating panels at the American Library in Paris.



Jordan Bonfante and Viktoria Bonfante Ritter



Edith Lederer, Scott Kraft, and Jason-Alpert-Wisnia (left to right)

[Continue Reading Here](#)

## The Quiet Calculus: How Indian Journalists Navigate the Space Between Self-Censorship

# and State Pressure

by Pakhi Dixit

The call arrived past midnight—a cliché that, in modern Delhi, has regained its teeth. It wasn't an overt threat, but rather a "pointed inquiry" regarding a three-month-old investigation into tax irregularities. The implication was a shadow, not a blow.

My colleague, who insisted on anonymity with a frantic sort of pragmatism, spiked her follow-up report the next morning. "Nobody had to articulate the stakes," she told me later, her voice resigned. "You simply learn to calibrate your courage to the temperature of the room."



This is the current morphology of press freedom in India: it does not perish in a singular, dramatic conflagration, but through a thousand infinitesimal retreats. As the current administration's tenure crosses the decade mark, the fundamental crisis isn't whether a journalist can publish. It is the [psychological alchemy that occurs in the mind before the first keystroke](#)—the transformation of a reporter into a censor.

The empirical data offers a grim, if slightly fluctuating, roadmap. [In the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, India occupies the 151st position out of 180 countries.](#) While this represents a marginal, almost cosmetic climb from its previous nadir of 159th, the categorization remains "very serious." [When Prime Minister Modi assumed office in 2014, the nation sat at 140th.](#) But the rot is not found in the numbers alone. It is found in the "ghost stories"—the investigations aborted in the crib, the adjectives diluted to a dull gray, and the editorial critiques that vanish during the final proofing.

[Read the full article here](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Feb. 2: "Cover-Up" Screening and Discussion

**Time:** Mon. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. ET

**Place:** Columbia University  
Graduate School of Journalism

He's devoted his career to uncovering stories the powerful want buried. Dig into the life's work of journalist Seymour Hersh.



[Cover-Up](#) is a political thriller that traces the explosive career of Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Seymour Hersh. Urgent and deeply reported, *Cover-Up* is both a portrait of a relentless journalist and an indictment of institutional violence — revealing a cycle of impunity in the U.S. military and intelligence agencies. Drawing on exclusive access to Hersh's notes, and interweaving primary documents and archival footage, *Cover-Up* captures the power and process of investigative journalism.

The screening will be followed by a conversation with Seymour Hersh, Reporter, and Laura Poitras, Director, Producer and Editor, moderated by Azmat Khan, Director, Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism.

This event is co-sponsored by the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism and the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia University, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, Investigative Reporters and Editors, and the Overseas Press Club.

[Registration is required.](#)



Register



## Feb. 6-8: Future of Nonfiction Video 2026

**Time:** Fri. 5:30 p.m. ET to Sun. 2:00 p.m. ET

**Place:** Columbia University, 2960 Broadway

Video Consortium's annual Future of Nonfiction Video is back! Be part of the ultimate gathering of nonfiction video creators — journalists, doc filmmakers, academics, students, decision makers, and media innovators — driving the future of storytelling. Three days of bold conversations, insider workshops, and practical sessions exploring what's next for nonfiction video. Spots are limited. Be part of shaping the future!



If your economic circumstances prevent you from being able to purchase a ticket, please email [fonv@videoconsortium.org](mailto:fonv@videoconsortium.org). We don't want the cost to stop you from attending the event.

To learn more [click here](#) or the button below.

RSVP Now

## March 6-9: Hostile Environment & First Aid Training

**Place:** Bromsgrove, UK

Cosain Consultancy is offering freelancers and journalists to attend their Hostile Environment & First Aid Training (HEFAT) course. A team with backgrounds in media, security and first response prepares journalists and high-risk workers to

operate safely in hostile environments. By the end of the course, you'll need to pass a final assessment to receive a two-year certification.

All instruction is delivered in English. The cost is £295 GDP or \$371.99 USD.

Limited spots are available so make sure to [click here](#) or below to secure your spot.

If you have other questions or enquiries, please email [Madeleine.kelly@cosainconsultancy.com](mailto:Madeleine.kelly@cosainconsultancy.com)



RSVP Now



## Press Freedom

### Killing the Messenger: 2025 INSI Report Highlights Global Attacks on Journalists

The International News Safety Institute (INSI) released the 2025 Killing the Messenger report, revealing 168 journalists and media workers killed in 2025. Last year's report documented 145 deaths.



“There is no comfort to be found here. Courage does not compensate for the withdrawal of protection. Memory is no substitute for justice. Documentation does not equal accountability,” said Elena Cosentino, INSI director. “This report exists because forgetting has become the default. Remembering requires effort, choice and resistance – and that is exactly what is required from us all.”

Read on the OPC Website

## People by Cathy Manso

### UPDATES

OPC member **Mark L. Clifford** published an Opinion Guest Essay in The New York Times on Dec. 14, titled [“Trump Said Freeing Jimmy Lai Would Be Easy. He Should Prove It.”](#) The essay opens with the conviction of Hong Kong publisher Jimmy Lai on national security charges shortly after his 78th birthday and references former President Donald Trump's past statements about securing Lai's release. Clifford argues that



Trump should act on those claims by leveraging international support for Lai and reduced U.S.-China tensions following a pause in their trade dispute. He further contends that releasing Lai could provide tangible benefits for Beijing at minimal cost, improve Hong Kong's global standing as a financial center, and mitigate ongoing public relations challenges.

**Nicholas Kristof**, OPC member, published an opinion article in The New York Times on Jan. 3 titled "[Trump's Cuts Are About to Make Health Care Even Worse](#)," accompanied by photographs by Lynsey Addario, winner of the OPC's 2025 President's Award. To report the piece, Kristof traveled with Addario through Ohio, Mississippi, and Alabama, documenting families preparing for the impact of proposed cuts to Medicaid and other health programs. The article argues that these reductions could disproportionately harm marginalized communities, citing research projecting tens of thousands of additional American deaths annually as a result.



OPC member **Valerie Hopkins** published an article on Jan. 11 titled "[How 'Mr. Nobody' in a Small-Town School Took On Putin](#)." The piece centers on Pavel Talankin, a school events coordinator and videographer who documented the impact of Russia's revised, militarized school curriculum, footage that later became an Oscar-shortlisted film. Hopkins interviewed Talankin in Prague and spoke with sources in Russia and Denmark who know him. The article reports that after receiving political asylum in July, Talankin has begun traveling and speaking publicly, including an upcoming trip to the United States, where he believes the film's message is increasingly relevant.

OPC member **Beth Knobel** is a co-author of a new report examining creator-journalists, also known as content-model journalists or "newsfluencers." She collaborated with Lauren Holt, Sky Dylan-Robbins, and Liz Kelly Nelson to study several dozen creators in order to better understand how they operate and the professional challenges they face. Knobel, who spent much of her career at large news organizations, said the research aims to better understand how independent creators—many working solo—can contribute to coverage of domestic and international affairs. The full report is available [here](#).



OPC governor **Deborah Amos** has resumed reporting from Damascus and is publishing new work on her [Substack](#). Since Jan. 7, she has released three articles covering escalating developments in Syria, including clashes between government forces and Kurdish fighters in Aleppo and the resulting displacement of thousands of residents. Her recent reporting also examines shifting power dynamics following Syrian troops' seizure of the country's largest oil fields and the political implications for Syria's interim president and Kurdish communities.



Boston University named OPC governor **Marcus Yam** the recipient of the Hugo Shong Reporting on Asia Award for a series of reports demonstrating "[the highest standards of international journalism in matters of importance specific to Asia](#)." The award, named for journalist and College of Communication's (COM) alum Hugo Shong, recognizes



journalists who uphold exceptional professional standards; past honorees include Connie Chung, Ted Koppel, Dean Baquet, Pete Souza, and Carol Guzy.

China tech expert and longtime OPC member **Rebecca Fannin** is about to release a guide: "[The New Tech Titans of China - Inside China's Tech Power Shift.](#)" The guide covers AI, chips, blockchain, quantum computing, digital currencies, surveillance tech, and green innovation, the book profiles China's most influential tech players and maps what the next decade of global competition means for business, investors, and policymakers. Interested readers can preorder on Amazon for **Feb. 24** book release.



OPC governor **Juan Arredondo** has been nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Documentary Short Film category for "[Armed Only With a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud](#)". The documentary examines the life and work of journalist Brent Renaud, who was killed while reporting in Ukraine, and highlights his career documenting conflict. The nomination recognizes Arredondo's storytelling and his focus on the courage and sacrifice involved in conflict journalism. Readers can also explore his [Q&A with the OPC](#) for additional insight into the film.



## New Resources

### RESOURCES

**The International Journalists' Network (IJNet)**'s weekly newsletter delivers resources and opportunities for journalists in eight languages. The resource has more than 112,000 subscribers and includes practical information and real professional advice. [Subscribe here.](#)

### GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**The Islamic Scholarship Fund (ISF)** offers merit-based scholarships aimed at increasing representation in media and politics, with the goal of strengthening public opinion and public policy. Applications opened in December and remain open for four months, with a final deadline of March 21, 2026. The selection process runs through spring, with interviews in late April through early June and final awards announced in July. Learn more and apply: [www.islamic scholarship fund.org/scholarship/](http://www.islamic scholarship fund.org/scholarship/)

**The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)** is calling for applications for the **Edward R. Murrow Press Fellowship** for a foreign correspondent or editor. The fellow spends ten months full-time in residence at CFR's headquarters in New York. The deadline to apply is Feb.27. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for **Nieman Fellowships** for U.S. citizens. Candidates for academic-year fellowships must submit two essays; a professional profile and study plan summary; work samples and three letters of recommendation. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Reuters Issam Abdallah Visual Journalist Fellowship** for early-career visual journalists. This year-long, paid fellowship, based in the Reuters Dubai bureau, offers “a unique opportunity for a talented visual journalist (with up to five years of experience) to immerse themselves in impactful news reporting across the region.” The deadline to apply is Feb. 2. [Read more and apply here.](#)

**Report for America** (RFA) is calling for applications to become an RFA Corps Member. The two-year program, with an optional third year, helps local newsrooms report on under-covered issues and communities by placing journalists at news outlets throughout the country. The deadline to apply is Feb. 16. [Read more and apply here.](#)

**The Cortona On The Move | BarTur Grant**, supported by the Visual Storytellers Fund, provides grants and resources to support the creation of compelling documentary photo essays that address urgent social, environmental, economic, and cultural issues. Read more about the grant above. The deadline to apply is April 16. [Read more and apply here.](#)

## More Resources

Click the button below to go directly to the OPC's Resources page, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact **Cathy Manso** at [cathy@opcofamerica.org](mailto:cathy@opcofamerica.org).

[OPC Resources Page](#)



Overseas Press Club of America | 40 West 45th Street Club Quarters | New York, NY 10036 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!