FREEDOM FOR JOURNALISTS
COVER IMAGE: Protesters outside the Myanmar embassy in Jakarta demonstrate against the seven-year prison term handed to Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo.
(Photo by Eko Siswono Toyudho/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images)
LA PRESS FREEDOM WEEK

September 16-20, 2019
#pressfreedomweek

HFPA
Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Los Angeles Times

CPJ
Committee to Protect Journalists

ICIJ
The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

REPORTERS COMMITTEE
For Freedom of the Press
Welcome to the inaugural LA Press Freedom Week.

When Meryl Streep accepted the Cecil B. deMille Award for her extraordinary contributions to the entertainment industry at the 2017 Golden Globe Awards, she spoke about the importance of press freedom. She invited the Hollywood Foreign Press Association – and everyone in the entertainment community – to support the Committee to Protect Journalists.

That sentiment resonated with the members of the HFPA, who cover Hollywood for outlets around the world, because they deeply appreciate the difficult and often dangerous work journalists do to bring truth to light. To tell important stories. To make information available to the public.

The following year at the Golden Globes, HFPA announced grants of $1 million to both CPJ and to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. Million-dollar grants to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and InsideClimate News were presented at the 2019 show.

Working with CPJ, ICIJ and RCFP, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association sought a way to engage people across Los Angeles in discussions about freedom of the press. The Los Angeles Times, the city’s newspaper of record since 1881, was invited to co-present a weeklong series of events. Additional partners joined the initiative and LA Press Freedom Week took shape.

Now it’s our honor, on behalf of the many organizations and people who helped make it possible, to welcome you to this special communitywide conversation about the role press freedom plays in our lives.

As Ms. Streep so eloquently put it that night a couple years ago, we need a principled press to hold power to account. This week, we’ll turn the spotlight on the threats to a free press – in the U.S. and abroad – and celebrate the work that's being done to fight for the public’s right to know.

Lorenzo Soria
President, Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Norman Pearlstine
Executive Editor, Los Angeles Times
MARQUEE EVENTS

PRESS FREEDOM AND ELECTIONS

DATE: Monday, September 16, 2019
RECEPTION: 6:00 p.m.
PANEL: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Paley Center for Media, John H. Mitchell Theater

This year saw elections unfolding around the globe in places like India, South Africa, Guatemala, and Tunisia, while in the United States primary season began to heat up. This conversation will explore the particular challenges for journalists and threats to press freedom and democracy that emerge around elections both globally and in the United States. Meher Tatna of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association will offer opening remarks for this evening dialogue, which will be moderated by Ramzi Malouki, West Coast News Bureau Chief for the French Canal+ Group.

Moderator: Ramzi Malouki

Panelists:
Kathleen Carroll, Board Chair, CPJ
Maria Ressa, CEO, Executive Editor, Co-founder, Rappler
Terry Tang, Op-ed Editor, Los Angeles Times
Blanka Zöldi, Investigative Journalist, Direkt36
PRESS FREEDOM AND DIVERSITY: WHOSE VOICE GETS INCLUDED?

DATE: Wednesday, September 18, 2019
RECEPTION: 6:00 p.m.
PANEL: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: LA Central Library, Mark Taper Auditorium

Who makes the news, and for whom? “NBC Nightly News” and “Dateline NBC” anchor Lester Holt will moderate a lively discussion on the question of what diversity means in media—and how it can influence the stories we read, hear, and share. Los Angeles Times Editor-in-Chief Norman Pearlstine will provide the opening remarks for this conversation. Producer/presenter for the BBC and HFPA member Sam Asi will provide closing remarks.

**Moderator:** Lester Holt

**Panelists:**
- **Sewell Chan**, Deputy Managing Editor, Los Angeles Times
- **Marina Walker Guevara**, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Network, ICIJ
- **Leon Krauze**, Anchor, Univision; Columnist, The Washington Post
- **Errin Haines Whack**, Journalist, The Associated Press
CROSS-BORDER LEGAL THREATS TO PRESS FREEDOM

DATE: Thursday, September 19, 2019
RECEPTION: 6:00 p.m.
PANEL: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: UCLA Law School, Room 1357

Stories on migration at the southern U.S. border have taken the world by storm – as have multinational investigative reports on the Panama Papers and similar stories. Weak legal protections for press freedom in one country can spill into others. In this panel, legal experts and journalists will explore the ways that laws in other countries, like the Official Secrets Act in the United Kingdom, which expressly punishes journalists for publishing government secrets, can chill reporting here. The panel will be moderated by Dale Cohen, director of the Documentary Film Legal Clinic at the UCLA School of Law, with opening remarks by the school’s dean, Jennifer Mnookin. Lorenzo Soria, president of the HFPA, will deliver the closing remarks.

Moderator: Dale Cohen

Panelists:
Mónica Almeida, Quito Bureau Chief, El Universo
Agnés S. Callamard, UN Special Rapporteur, extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions; Director, Global Freedom of Expression Project
Bruce D. Brown, Executive Director, RCFP
David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur; Clinical Professor of Law, UCLA, Irvine, School of Law
Dictators and Disinformation: A Discussion on the State of Press Freedom
Date: September 17, 2019
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: Four Seasons Hotel, Beverly Wilshire Champagne Room

A record number of journalists are in prison, violence against the press is on the rise, authoritarian leaders are undermining the media, and new technologies, once empowering, are being used to harass journalists and spread disinformation. The Pacific Council on International Policy will host a panel featuring Maria Ressa, founder of the Philippine website Rappler and a TIME magazine 2018 Person of the Year, and Joel Simon, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists and author of The New Censorship, which warns that journalists are increasingly vulnerable to attack by state and non-state actors who seek to use political pressure, technology, and violence to set their agenda. Sewell Chan, deputy managing editor at the Los Angeles Times, will moderate the discussion.

**Moderator: Sewell Chan**

**Panelists:**
Maria Ressa
Joel Simon

Breaking the News: Communities in Crisis and the Onslaught of Misinformation
Date: September 17, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Shared upon RSVP

“We tell ourselves stories in order to live.” Journalist Joan Didion’s famous phrase expresses a universal need for stories, meaning, and hope that we can take charge of our lives. This need is even more pronounced for people caught in crises and forced to flee their homes. These communities rely on the press, both local and international, to tell their stories and to access information that can make the difference between life and death. What responsibility does the press have in telling these stories and ensuring that the communities can access the information they need to rebuild their lives? And what role does storytelling play in protecting people from the very real dangers of misinformation?

Join Internews and FilmAid, two organizations working on the frontlines with communities facing crisis, and special guest panelists as they explore these challenges alongside innovative solutions and within the context of the rise of misinformation.

**Moderator: Jeanne Bourgault**

**Panelists:**
Karla Castillo
Jesse Hardman
Keefe Murren

‘The Panama Papers’ Documentary Screening and Discussion
Date: September 17, 2019
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Laemmle Glendale Theater

“We The Panama Papers” documentary goes behind the scenes of this unprecedented, award-winning investigation. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), along with more than 100 media partners, spent a year sifting through 11.5 million leaked files—the Panama Papers—to reveal the offshore links of some of the world’s most powerful figures. Director Alex Winter followed ICIJ and partner journalists from around the world to show how it all got done. Join us for a screening of the film, followed by a Q&A with Winter and Marina Walker Guevara, ICIJ’s Director of Strategic Initiatives and Network.

**Q&A:**
Marina Walker Guevara
Alex Winter
Points of Entry:
Press Freedom at the Border
Date: September 17, 2019
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Santa Monica College,
Center for Media & Design

This panel discussion organized by
PEN America and the Committee to
Protect Journalists brings together
journalists, legal experts, and press
freedom advocates to discuss
the privacy and human rights
implications facing journalists
who seek to cover news regarding
immigration and the US-Mexico
border. From surveilling and targeting
journalists to denying them press
access, the U.S. government’s
attempts to quash press coverage
of these stories and intimidate
those reporting on them has
large implications for the public.
This discussion will be a timely
opportunity for media freedom
advocates, First Amendment
lawyers, and national security and
immigration experts to consider
the chilling effect the government’s
actions pose to journalists trying
to cover news around the border.
This discussion, moderated by
Nora Benavidez, will be a timely
opportunity for media freedom
advocates...

Moderator: Nora Benavidez
Panelists:
Adela Navarro Bello
Ariana Drehsler
Tom Jones
Courtney C. Radsch

Unsealed:
A New State of Transparency in
Police Conduct
Date: September 19, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: KPCC + LAist, The
Crawford Family Forum

Press freedom and the public’s
right to know go hand in hand.
Until this year, California had some
of the most secretive laws in the
country when it came to police
records. Senate Bill 1421 helped
unseal information about police
misconduct and deadly use of force.
The California Reporting Project,
a statewide journalism coalition
of more than 30 newsrooms, has
been reporting on police conduct in
their communities based on these
records. Hear from representatives
of the Los Angeles Times, KPCC +
LAist, KQED News, the Long Beach
Post and the Reporters Committee
who fought for the legislation
and have published several
investigations since the law passed
in January.

Moderator: Megan Garvey
Panelists:
(I)
Jeff Glasser
Katie Townsend
(II)
Dana Amihere
Jeremiah Dobruck
Alex Emslie
Jack Leonard

To learn more about our moderators and panelists, scan this code:  📦 SCAN ME
The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. We defend the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal. When press freedom violations occur, CPJ mobilizes a network of correspondents who report and take action on behalf of those targeted. CPJ also provides comprehensive, life-saving support to journalists and media support staff working around the world through up-to-date safety and security information and rapid response assistance.

John Weis  
Director of Development and Outreach  
development@cpj.org  
(212) 465-1004  
https://cpj.org

PHOTO: Nigerian journalist Jones Abiri stands alongside his lawyer outside a court in Abuja, following the third hearing of a criminal case against him. (CPJ/Jonathan Rozen)
The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists is a newsroom and a global network of reporters and media organizations who work together to investigate the most important stories in the world. Our network of trusted members encompasses 249 of the best investigative reporters from more than 90 countries and territories. We also partner with more than 100 media organizations, from the world’s most renowned outlets to small regional nonprofit investigative centers. Drawing on the expertise and reach of our network, we collaborate on groundbreaking investigations that expose the truth and hold the powerful accountable, while also adhering to the highest standards of fairness and accuracy.

Caitlin Ginley Sigal
Grants Manager
cginley@icij.org
(202) 800-0160
www.icij.org

PHOTO: ICIJ staff and members meet in Munich to work together on the Panama Papers investigation in 2016.
The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press provides pro bono legal representation, amicus curiae support, and other legal resources to protect First Amendment freedoms and the newsgathering rights of journalists.

The Reporters Committee serves news organizations, reporters, editors, documentary filmmakers, media lawyers and many more who use its online resources, like the First Amendment Handbook and the Open Government Guide.

Jennifer Pelton CFRE
Director of Development
jpelton@rcfp.org
(202) 795-9319
https://www.rcfp.org/

PHOTO: Bruce Brown speaks about efforts to defend press freedom in the courts at The Atlantic Free Speech (Un)limited conference (RCFP).
THANK YOU

Andres Fernandez Carrasco, Kathleen Carroll, Philip W. Eubanks, Shazdeh Omari, Kerry Paterson, Courtney Radsch, Beatrice Santa-Wood, John Weis

Henry Arnaud, Sam Asi, Ana Maria Bahiana, Silvia Bizio, Michael Carter, Rui Coimbra, Sandra Cuneo, Karie DiNardo, Alyssa Furnari, Armando Gallo, Kristien Gijbels, Gregory P. Goeckner, Paoula Abou Jaoude, Mirai Konishi, Jamie Kronfeld, Jason Little, Ramzi Malouki, Marian Miller, Janet Nepales, Ruben Nepales, Michael Samonte, Frances Schoenberger, Matt Smith, Magnus Sundholm, Katherine Tulich, Moët & Chandon


Jon Cohn, Daphne Liu, Megan Garvey

Hillary Manning, Gail Marshall, Ashlee Roohani

Steve Adler, Anna Bahn, Bruce Brown, Dale Cohen, Jeff Glasser, Dodi Fromson, David Kaye, Lauren Kim, Jennifer Mnookin, Jennifer Pelton, Kirsten Poole, Gabe Rottman, Jenn Topper, Katie Townsend