

PRESS RELEASE: 71st Annual Overseas Press Club Awards
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The Washington Post and The New York Times Lead Winners at the 71st Overseas Press Club Awards; Andy Rooney Receives Lifetime Achievement Award; Once-Imprisoned Correspondent David Rohde Lights the Press Freedom Candle Honoring Journalists Killed in Action

NEW YORK, April 22 — In a year when the most frequent international coverage originated from Afghanistan and Iran, The Washington Post and The New York Times were the only multiple winners as each captured two Overseas Press Club Awards - leading all news organizations at the 71st Annual OPC Awards Dinner.

Since 1940, the OPC awards have recognized the finest examples of international journalism. Kimberly Dozier, the Associated Press's new intelligence reporter and a veteran correspondent who was injured in Iraq four years ago, will emcee the event at a black-tie dinner tonight in New York.

Andrew A. Rooney of CBS will receive the President's Award for lifetime achievement and David Rohde, The New York Times correspondent who escaped his Taliban captors, will light the Press Freedom Candle in honor of the 71 journalists killed last year in the line of duty.

The Post raised its OPC awards total to 37. The reporting team of Bob Woodward, Rajiv Chandrasekaran and Karen DeYoung won for best news interpretation for their series on the Obama Administration's search for a new Afghanistan strategy. Post photographer Sarah Voisin won for her images of the people in Mexican communities affected by drug wars.

Not included among the 37 OPC awards won by the newspaper, a book titled "The Good Soldiers," written by David Finkel of the Washington Post and published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Finkel won the Cornelius Ryan OPC Book Award for his account of eight harrowing months with the 2-16 Ranger Army Battalion in Iraq.

Alissa Rubin of the New York Times Magazine won for best magazine reporting with a story on a would-be female suicide bomber in Iraq. The Times' second OPC award and 77th all-time came from Keith Bradsher for best business reporting on the contradictions and promise of China's environmental push.

The Wall Street Journal's Farnaz Fassihi won the coveted Hal Boyle Award for best newspaper reporting from abroad for "Hearts, Minds and Blood: The Battle for Iran." The judging committee noted her "courageous reporting under tremendous pressure that gave an inside view of the unfolding drama in Iran."

"Courage, integrity and perceptiveness are the hallmarks of the distinguished reports that the OPC winners deliver from the world's most dangerous hotspots," says OPC President Allan Dodds Frank. "We honor them because their work is the public's window to the world. Without their contributions to our knowledge of current events, the world would be a much more dangerous place."

Stories related to the war in Afghanistan accounted for five of the 20 awards but there were also multiple winning entries from Iran, Iraq, Israel and China. South America's increasing profile saw winners from

Brazil and Venezuela. Others came from Mexico, Iceland, Mauritania and India.

The Associated Press took home the Robert Capa Gold Medal Award for best photo reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage. Khalil Hamra's pictures of the Israeli military incursion into Gaza showed considerable bravery, especially as the combatants mingled among the civilian population.

Frank will present Rooney with the OPC President's Award for distinguished service in the field of journalism. The "60 Minutes" commentator, newspaper columnist, author of 16 books and former World War II foreign correspondent for the Army's Stars & Stripes joined the OPC in 1947.

"The OPC is proud to present the President's Award to Andrew A. Rooney for his continued excellence as a writer and broadcaster, and for his longstanding support of reporting from abroad," said Frank.

Video clips of the winners will be posted on the OPC website at www.opcofamerica.org after the dinner. Media organizations are encouraged to link to the clips.

The OPC Awards were founded in 1940 to recognize excellence for foreign coverage in the categories of print, broadcast and photography. There were 436 entries in this year's competition. The winners include:

Newspaper and news services

THE HAL BOYLE AWARD

Best newspaper or news service reporting from abroad
FARNAZ FASSIHI, The Wall Street Journal
"Hearst, Minds and Blood: The Battle for Iran."

THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Best newspaper or news service interpretation of international affairs
RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN, KAREN DeYOUNG, BOB WOODWARD
The Washington Post, "Obama's War"

THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

Best business reporting from abroad in newspapers or news services
KEITH BRADSHER, The New York Times
"Green China"

Photography

THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise
KHALIL HAMRA, Associated Press, "War in Gaza"

THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in magazines or books
DAVID BURNETT, ROBERT PLEDGE and JACQUES MENASCHE
National Geographic Books/Focal Point w/ Contact Press Images
"44 Days: Iran and the Remaking of the World"
and

ALVARO YBARRA ZAVALA
Reportage by Getty Images
“The Gunmen of the Bolivarian Revolution”

THE JOHN FABER AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in newspapers or news services
SARAH L. VOISIN, The Washington Post
“In Mexico’s War on Drugs, Battle Lines are Drawn in Chalk”

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Best feature photography published in any medium on an international theme
Q. SAKAMAKI, Redux Pictures/Time
“Xinjiang: Shifting Sands”

TV and Radio

THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

Best radio news or interpretation of international affairs
SORAYA SARHADDI NELSON, LAUREN JENKINS, DOUGLAS ROBERTS National Public Radio,
“Afghanistan: Nightmares and Dreams of a Nation at War”

THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

Best TV spot news reporting from abroad
DAVID MARTIN, MARY WALSH, ROB BLACHE, KEN CRUMP,
WARD SLOANE, RICK KAPLAN
CBS Evening News, “The Battle of Wanat”

THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Best TV interpretation or documentary on international affairs
MARCELA GAVIRIA and MARTIN SMITH for Rain Media,
DAVID FANNING for Frontline: “Obama’s War”

THE CARL SPIELVOGEL AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern
for the human condition
LEON GELLER, MARCUS VETTER, TOM CASCIATO, NINA CHAUDRY,
JEFF SEELBACH, AARON BROWN
WNET-TV New York/WNET.org
“Wide Angle: Heart of Jenin”

Magazines

THE ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Best magazine reporting from abroad
ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times Magazine
“How Baida Wanted to Die”

THE MORTON FRANK AWARD

Best business reporting from abroad in magazines
MICHAEL LEWIS, Vanity Fair
“Wall Street on the Tundra”

THE MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

Best international reporting in the print medium showing a concern
for the human condition
ABIGAIL HAWORTH, Marie Claire
“Forced to be Fat”

THE JOE and LAURIE DINE AWARD

Best international reporting in a print medium dealing with human rights
MAZIAR BAHARI, Newsweek
“118 Days in Hell”

THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues
JASON GALE, Bloomberg Markets
“Sanitation Nightmare”

THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America
JON LEE ANDERSON, The New Yorker
“Gangland”

Books

THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Best non-fiction book on international affairs
DAVID FINKEL, Farrar, Straus and Giroux
“The Good Soldiers”

Web

ONLINE JOURNALISM AWARD

Best web coverage of international affairs
T. CHRISTIAN MILLER, DOUG SMITH, PRATAP CHATTERJEE
ProPublica
“Disposable Army”

Cartoons

THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

Best cartoons on international affairs
NATE BEELER, The Washington Examiner

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