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Connecting

April 8, 2014



AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus, right, and journalist Kathy Gannon during a visit to photo agency Keystone in Zurich Aug. 27, 2013. (AP Photo/Keystone, Walter Bieri)

Colleagues,

Three days after an Afghanistan police officer opened fire on a car, killing Associated Press photographer **Anja Niedringhaus** and wounding reporter **Kathy Gannon**, news organizations around the world on Monday called for greater protections for journalists. AP President and Chief Executive Officer **Gary Pruitt** said at a [news conference](#) in New York City that journalists are "increasingly under attack" by people trying to influence and control the news. Niedringhaus, 48, an award-winning photojournalist, and Gannon, 60, were covering the run-up to Afghanistan's elections. Pruitt said the increased dangers

to reporters and the growing secrecy of governments make journalists' jobs more challenging but also more important.

In the United Kingdom, representatives from nearly 30 organizations issued a joint statement calling for more protections for journalists. "We have gathered to protest at the increasing attacks on journalism around the world and the damage to free speech that can result from the rise in violence and intimidation against the media," read the statement, issued at the BBC's Safety of Journalists Symposium. At least 70 journalists were killed worldwide in 2013, and 547 have been killed since January 2007.



Journalists protest censorship outside BBC headquarters.

Supporters of the statement protested the censorship of journalists and called for "establishing a safe and enabling environment" for journalism.

"UNESCO has just published detailed evidence which shows that journalism has become increasingly dangerous in many parts of the world. Only last week the acclaimed Associated Press photo-journalist Anja Niedringhaus of AP was killed in Afghanistan," the symposium participants added. "In too many countries journalists are facing serious intimidation and violence, which in turns leads to disturbing patterns of censorship and self-censorship. We stand against these abuses and today we call on the governments concerned to investigate each one of those crimes promptly and effectively so as to bring those responsible to justice."

The statement also pointed to Al Jazeera journalists **Peter Greste**, **Mohamed Fahmy** and **Baher Mohamed**, who have been detained in Egypt since December as a result of their coverage and alleged collaboration with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Al Jazeera and other journalism groups have called for their release. The symposium coincided with the 100-day anniversary of the Al Jazeera journalists' arrest in Egypt. Journalists gathered outside BBC headquarters in London and other locations to protest world censorship and to call for their freedom.

Meanwhile, **Paul Colford**, director of media relations for AP, said in a statement that Gannon has been flown to Germany for further medical evaluation. She suffered wounds to her shoulder and wrist in the shooting in the eastern province of Khost as she and Niedringhaus reported on election workers delivering ballot papers. Funeral plans for Niedringhaus have yet to be finalized, he said.



Bullet-riddled car in which Niedringhaus and Gannon were riding in Afghanistan. (AP Photo)

In Berlin, German federal prosecutors said they have opened an investigation into Niedringhaus' death. Niedringhaus, a German citizen, was killed when the

Afghan police commander shouted "Allahu Akbar" and then opened fire. The police officer surrendered to colleagues. Authorities in Germany are required by law to investigate the killing of any German citizen, at home or abroad. Germany has urged Afghanistan authorities to conduct a speedy investigation of their own.

"War zone photographers a breed apart"

Sandra Oshiro at the Poynter Institute reports that Niedringhaus' death "serves as another reminder of the deadly calling that war photography can be." Afghanistan has become a dangerous assignment "on par with the height of the Iraq war or the current situation in Syria," said **Bob Dietz**, Asia program coordinator of the Committee to Protect Journalists. "Where once reporters and photographers were seen as the impartial eyes and ears of crucial information, today they are often targets," said AP CEO **Gary Pruitt**. Poynter's **Kenneth Irby**, senior faculty for visual journalism, talked with Poynter's **Ren LaForme** about the challenges for photographers covering violent conflict and the courage it requires to walk into situations from which they may not return.

Investors Business Daily columnist **Andrew Malcolm** said the attack on the AP journalists is a reminder "don't confuse that media with this media." "The American media endure a soiled reputation in the United States these days. Rightly so too often... Today's column is to remind many of us that there is media and then there is media. **Anja Niedringhaus** was a member of the other media."

Connecting Mailbag

Linda Ellerbee's infamous personal letter to a boyfriend, typed on an AP terminal in Dallas and accidentally transmitted on the broadcast wire, continues to be the stuff of AP lore more than 41 years after the fact. Current Texas Chief of Bureau **Dale Leach** said he was pleasantly surprised to see the Ellerbee post from former Dallas COB **Jim Mangan** in Monday's Connecting, "not only to set the record set straight on the Ellerbee letter (which occasionally still comes up in Texas conversations) but to see Mangan remains the fine journalist we all remember.

"Jim should know that the Texas APME -- which remains vibrant even today -- just completed its 2014 convention on South Padre Island. With an expectation of tropical weather and cool Gulf breezes, convention-goers were greeted instead with gale-force winds and then -- for our open-air dinner overlooking the Gulf -- the 150 folks in attendance Saturday night were treated to a dense fog that reduced most of the books and photos in our silent scholarship auction to a damp, wilted state," Dale wrote. **Bob Mong**, executive editor of The Dallas Morning News, had the best line of the night when -- in his presentation of the top award -- he thanked Dale for "bringing the Texas APME convention to Transylvania."

Dave Lubeski, former sports director for AP Broadcast and now a media relations consultant in Topeka, wrote that he has been reading "with interest and amusement" the Ellerbee saga. "I was working at KTRH in Houston when her letter popped up on our newsroom printers. I remember our news director thinking it was hilarious and hung it on the back of the newsroom door for all to see. A few days later she was hired as a reporter by Houston TV station KHOU-TV. It was a CBS affiliate and so were we on the radio side, so we often shared story information and knew their personnel well. The news director at KHOU at the time was **Dick John**. He saw the private letter too, thought the writer showed spunk and hired her."

AP is inviting retirees to attend a going-away party for editor at large **Darrell Christian** at AP headquarters in New York. The gathering will be at 2 p.m. EDT, Friday, April 18, in conference room 1501. After more than four decades at the AP, Darrell is retiring to Southern California and undoubtedly considerable time on the golf course.



Correction

Due to a glitch in the html coding, Monday's item on 80-year-old

photographer **Rich Clarkson's** long and amazing journey covering NCAA Final Fours reverted to the wrong link. [The Dallas Morning News story can be found here](#). Connecting member **Lew Ferguson** wrote that he worked with Clarkson "for quite a few years until he quit the (Capital Journal), moved to Denver and started his own company, which has flourished. He is 80 now, same age as me, and is shooting his umpteen Final Four. I guess I'm a real piker. He's the Energizer Bunny and I'm the cheap, dead battery, I guess."

Welcoming a new Connecting member

Our official cold wet nose and greeter Dudley gives a friendly woof to **Laura Sellers-Earl**, newly-appointed managing editor of the Daily Astorian in Oregon. Laura has served multiple terms on the board of directors of the Associated Press Managing Editors (now Associated Press Media Editors) and is on the ladder to become APME president in 2017.



Stories of Interest

26 awkward questions to ask every news organization about the move to digital

The senior vice president of strategy at News Corp has some ideas about how to determine how companies really are managing the disruption of their businesses - and newsrooms.

AP teaming with Brazil's Newsource Globo to offer FIFA World Cup broadcast facilities

Brazil's Newsource Globo and AP Global Media Services will offer comprehensive broadcast facilities throughout Brazil at the FIFA World Cup 2014. The feed points will be available to both rights and non-rights holders.

Rutgers Athletic Director: "It would be great" if the Star-Ledger died

Speaking to a journalism class, Rutgers University Athletic Director **Julie Hermann** said "That'd be great" about the prospect of The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger dying. "I'm going to do all I can to not to give them a headline to keep them alive because I think I got them through the summer."



Julie Hermann

The ethics of NBC letting George W. Bush be interviewed by his daughter

The segment was undeniably a commercial success for NBC News. But, as a journalistic outlet, what are the ethical implications of turning over an interview with a former President to his own daughter?

Quiz: Should you be a journalist? (Shared by Beth Grace via Facebook)

Are you debating about becoming a journalist? Worried you don't have the chops to make it in a newsroom? Take this quiz to see if you should be a journo.

Webb: Journalism schools need to make the degree matter more

Journalism schools need to overhaul their curricula and change their marketing to attract students and keep up with technology, digital media strategist **Amy Webb** told a room full of journalism professors and a couple of their deans.

UK's first female photojournalist honored with Museum of London display (shared by Bob Daugherty)

Christina Broom, who died in 1939, was Britain's first female photojournalist and the documenter of life before, during and after World War I.

Refinancing pays off for Lee executives Junck, Schmidt (Daugherty)

The two top executives at Lee Enterprises, the Davenport, Iowa-based parent company of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, will receive six-figure bonuses related to the company's successful refinancing of \$800 million of debt.

Laura Sellers-Earl named managing editor of Daily Astorian

This is Sellers' second term as managing editor. In 1995, she became the first woman to lead the newspaper's editors and reporters and built the Astorian's first website with her husband. She is on the ladder to become president of the Associated Press Media Editors in 2017.



*Laura
Sellers-Earl*

How ThinkProgress became "real competition for scoops"

With some exceptions, ThinkProgress' 32 staffers are young and slightly nerdy -- though not especially geeky by the standards of Washington, D.C., where it's not unusual to see a man at a urinal flip his ID badge over his shoulders, then check his phone with his free hand.

Wisconsin "John Doe" probe is latest partisan attack on free speech

Score one for the defense of free speech. Earlier this year, a Wisconsin judge overseeing the secret "John Doe" investigation of conservative groups terminated multiple subpoenas that were used to seize their communications and other records.

"Mosaic" and the future of news

Eric Newton, senior adviser to the president at Knight Foundation, delivered the keynote address on April 3, 2014 at the 39th Edward R. Murrow Symposium at Washington State University on "The Global Face of Journalism." Here is an edited version of his speech.

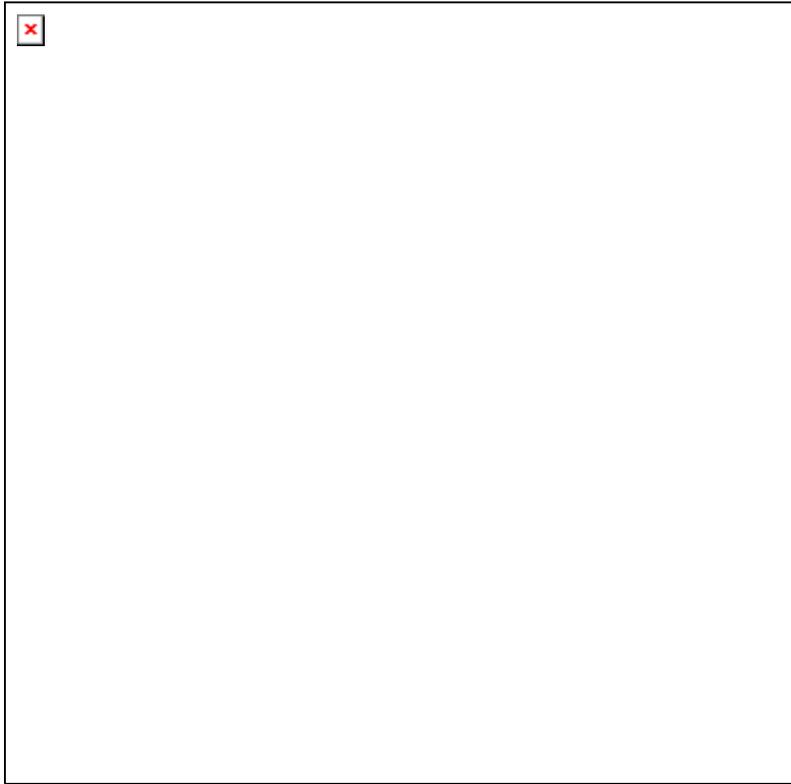


This 360-degree video shot with 6 GoPro cameras will blow your mind

If you thought those "miniature world" photos were cool, this video will make you wish you had a bunch of GoPro cameras lying around to play with.

California paper takes fall for unfortunate Facebook photo crop of wrestler

Georgina Rocha, digital content supervisor at the Visalia (CA) Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register, tells Romenesko she deleted the post below after "a handful" of commenters complained about the way it was cropped by Facebook.



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