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# Connecting

August 21, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning!

Today's Connecting focuses on two major stories, separated by 6,000 miles but both illustrating the dangers that journalists face in covering the news:

The killing of freelance photojournalist James Foley and the ongoing protests in Ferguson, Missouri.

Your thoughts and comments on both stories are welcomed, for sharing with your Connecting colleagues.

Paul

**From Missouri to Syria, Journalists Are  
Becoming Targets**

**By RAVI SOMAIYA and CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY**  
**The New York Times**

In Iraq, Islamic extremist fighters forced the freelance reporter James Foley to read propaganda celebrating their cause, and then beheaded him. Another American journalist is next, they warned. In Iran, Jason Rezaian, a reporter for The Washington Post, was snatched by men waving an arrest warrant in late July. He has not been heard from since. In Afghanistan, Matthew Rosenberg, a reporter for The New York Times, was ordered expelled from the country because government officials did not like his stories.

In America, journalists have been hit with tear gas and held by the police, with little explanation, while covering protests in Ferguson, Mo. At the Justice Department, prosecutors have aggressively prosecuted leaks to journalists and employed eavesdropping techniques that have chilled the relationship between reporters and their sources.

In a series of interviews on Wednesday, reporters, editors and those who monitor the freedom of the press described a harsh environment for reporters both at home and abroad, complicated by changes in the way that journalists work, and a change in the way they are viewed by both governments, and the public.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## **The death of James Foley**

### **Obama condemns killing of photojournalist James Foley**

President Barack Obama condemned the gruesome videotaped killing of American journalist James Foley Wednesday afternoon in a statement from Martha's Vineyard.



"Today the entire world is appalled by the brutal murder of James Foley by the terrorist group ISIL," Pres. Obama said during a live address from the Massachusetts island, where he resumed his

vacation late Tuesday after unexpectedly returning to the White House earlier this week.

Hours before Pres. Obama returned to Martha's Vineyard, an online video surfaced purported to show the beheading of Foley, a photojournalist, being carried out by members of the Islamic State, formerly known as ISIS or ISIL. The group controls vast swaths of land in Iraq and Syria (or the Levant). On Wednesday morning, the National Security Council confirmed the authenticity of the footage.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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**AP President/CEO: assassination should be considered international war crime**

**Gary Pruitt**, AP's president and CEO, commented Wednesday morning:

The Associated Press is outraged by the killing of James Foley and condemns the taking of any journalist's life. We believe those who kill journalists or hold them hostage should be brought to justice.

Further, we believe the assassination of a journalist in wartime should be considered an international crime of war.



The murder of a journalist with impunity is a threat to a free press and democracy around the world.

**NOTE: Pruitt will appear on CNN's Reliable Sources program at 11 a.m. Eastern on Sunday morning to discuss his statement on the killing.**

(Shared by Paul Colford)

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**Slain American journalist remembered as driven**



*Father of James Foley: 'We know Jimmy's free. He's finally free'*

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP) - In 2011, just after James Foley was released from the Libyan prison where he'd been held for six weeks, he acknowledged the peril journalists face covering the world's most dangerous places, soberly conceding that a mistake could mean death.

"It's pure luck that you didn't get killed there. Pure luck," Foley said during the appearance at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. "And you either need to change your behavior right there or you shouldn't be doing this. Because it's not worth your life. It's not worth seeing your mother, your father, brother and sister bawling and you're worrying about your grandmother dying because you're in prison."

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#### ISIS Demanded Ransom From U.S. Before Killing Reporter

Kneeling in the dirt in a desert somewhere in the Middle East, James Foley lost his life this week at the hands of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Before pulling out the knife used to decapitate him, his masked executioner explained that he was killing the 40-year-old American journalist in retaliation for the recent United States' airstrikes against the terror group in Iraq.

In fact, until recently, ISIS had a very different list of demands for Mr. Foley: The group pressed the United States to provide a multimillion-dollar ransom for his release, according to a representative of his family

and a former hostage held alongside him. The United States - unlike several European countries that have funneled millions to the terror group to spare the lives of their citizens - refused to pay.

The issue of how to deal with ISIS, which like many terror groups now routinely trades captives for large cash payments, is acute for the Obama administration because Mr. Foley was not the lone American in its custody. ISIS is threatening to kill at least three others it holds if its demands remain unmet, The New York Times has confirmed through interviews with recently released prisoners, family members of the victims and mediators attempting to win their freedom.

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### **Beheading spurs new attacks on Islamic militants**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States launched a new barrage of airstrikes Wednesday against the Islamic State extremist group that beheaded American journalist James Foley and that has seized a swath of territory across Iraq and Syria. President Barack Obama vowed relentless pursuit of the terrorists and the White House revealed that the U.S. had launched a secret rescue mission inside Syria earlier this summer that failed to rescue Foley and other Americans still being held hostage

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### **Facts come at an awful price**

Connecting colleague **Mike Holmes**, a veteran AP journalist now editorial page editor of The World-Herald in Omaha, wrote this editorial last Saturday before the beheading of James Foley, but it hits home, nonetheless:

World-Herald editorial: Facts come at awful price

More than likely, you never heard of Simone Camilli. Or of Ali Shehda Abu Afash.

Both died this week, trying to bring you the news.

Camilli, 35, was buried Friday in his Tuscan hometown of Pitigliano, Italy. He was a video journalist with the Associated Press who'd been covering the Israeli-Hamas fighting in Gaza. Afash was his Palestinian translator. They were killed covering the story as Gazan police engineers worked to defuse ordnance that then exploded, also killing three engineers and wounding four others.

You may not have heard of Anja Niedringhaus, either. She was a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photographer whose powerful images gave us a fuller

picture of events in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. In April, she was shot to death by an Afghan police officer, who also wounded AP reporter Kathy Gannon as they rode in an election commission convoy delivering ballots.

Sadly, they aren't the only ones. The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that more than 1,000 journalists have been killed worldwide since 1992.

The numerous wars raging around the globe are a main reason these reporters and photographers have lost their lives. But journalists also have been killed covering corruption, crime, human rights issues and drug trafficking.

Some of the deadliest countries for those trying to keep us informed include Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the Middle East, Ukraine, parts of Latin America and areas in Africa.

Journalists certainly aren't the only ones in danger, and they are there of their own choosing. Everyone from civilians to soldiers to aid workers is in jeopardy when violence erupts.

Events in these far-flung places once were far from our consciousness. But in today's rapidly shrinking, interconnected world, what takes place "over there" can affect us all. Headlines tell of the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa, drug violence in Latin America, North Korea test-firing rockets as the pope visited South Korea. It's more important than ever for Americans to know and understand what's happening abroad.

Pope Francis, while flying to South Korea, was told of the deaths of Camilli and Afash. "These are the consequences of war," he said, offering a prayer.

A key reason we know of the consequences is because people like Simone Camilli are willing to go there and bring us the facts.

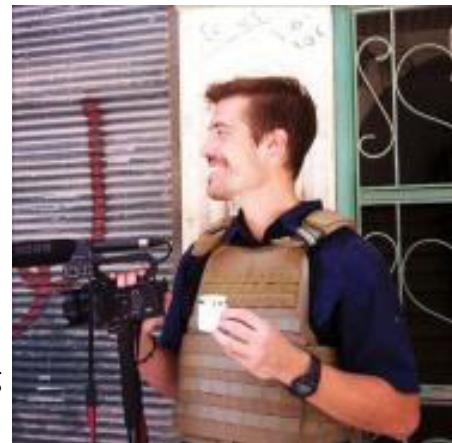
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**Holmes** shares this cartoon by the World-Herald's editorial cartoonist, **Jeff Koterba**, that appears in Thursday morning's newspaper. Click [here](#) to link to the Opinion page where it appears.

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**James Foley and the daily horrors of the internet: think hard before clicking**

With depressing frequency in this summer of diverse horrors, we hear tales of desperate human misery, suffering and depravity - and because we live now in an era where virtually every phone is a globally connected camera, we are confronted with graphic evidence of tragedy.



The footage of the apparent beheading (to refer to the atrocity as an execution serves only to lend a veneer of dignity to barbarism) of the US photojournalist James Foley at the hands of a British Isis extremist has raised particularly strong feelings.

Social networks are banning users who share the footage. Newspapers are facing opprobrium for the choices they make in showing stills or parts of the video. Others, of course, will seek out the video after seeing the row, or else post it around the internet in a juvenile form of the free speech argument.

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#### **Freelancing in war zones: Serious journalists left with little protection**

Syria is the most dangerous place in the world for journalists. In the last three years at least 60 of them have been killed while covering the conflict there, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Missing from the statistics is anything about the kind of journalist who goes to Syria and why. After the death of Marie Colvin, in a blizzard of Syrian Army shells in Homs in February 2012, much of the Western media drew back from covering the country. Meanwhile, a lightly resourced, laughably paid, almost wholly uninsured cadre of freelancers, often armed with little more than a notebook and a mobile phone, infiltrated Syria anyway. A few were crazy narcissists or war-zone tourists, but most were serious reporters. Four-fifths of all journalists working in Syria, according to one estimate, are freelance and answering to no one but themselves.

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#### **Social media pushes back at militant propaganda**

BEIRUT (AP) - The extremists of the Islamic State group have turned their social media into a theater of horror, broadcasting a stomach-turning stream of battles, bombings and beheadings to a global audience.

The strategy is aimed at terrorizing opponents at home and winning

recruits abroad. But there are increasing signs of pushback - both from companies swiftly censoring objectionable content and users determined not to let it go viral.

Public disgust with the group's callous propaganda tactics was evident following the group's posting of the beheading video of American journalist James Foley - chilling footage that spread rapidly when it appeared online late Tuesday.

## The latest from Ferguson



*Attorney General Eric Holder talks with Capt. Ron Johnson of the Missouri State Highway Patrol at Drake's Place Restaurant, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014, in Florissant, Mo. Holder arrived in Missouri on Wednesday, as a small group of protesters gathered outside the building where a grand jury could begin hearing evidence to determine whether a Ferguson police officer who shot 18-year-old Michael Brown should be charged in his death. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, Pool)*

### [Why Police Will Continue to Arrest Journalists in Ferguson](#) (Scott Charlton)

At the end of another dangerous night in Ferguson, Missouri State Highway Patrol Captain Ron Johnson offered an emotional plea to the media on Monday: Please stop putting officers in danger and glamorizing violent agitators in your quest for Internet virality.

Johnson seemed near tears as he illustrated the danger the press face in Ferguson -- earlier that night, reporters disobeyed police orders and fled the media corral to take pictures of a car parked across the street before officers could secure two guns. Johnson said police suspect the occupants of the car opened fire at the Canfield Green Apartments that night.

Journalists defied Johnson's plea, and it's easy to understand why they're even more distrustful than usual. Any journalist covering Ferguson at night has likely been tear gassed, if not hit by debris, rubber bullets, pepper pellets or bean bags. Police have threatened to shoot, mace and arrest reporters, sometimes on live TV or feeds. Officers have detained reporters from the Washington Post, Huffington Post, Getty Images and more, releasing them later without answers.

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#### What will happen to Ferguson after the press and the feds are gone?

Nearly everyone, it seems, is commenting on the death of Michael Brown, the unarmed Missouri teenager shot by a police officer 11 days ago. President Obama called the death a "tragedy," and has dispatched federal authorities to Ferguson, Mo. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon described the surreal scene of protesters, tear gas and armored vehicles rolling through the streets as "more like a war zone."

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**TIME's NEW COVER -- 'The Tragedy of Ferguson,'** with story by David Von Drehle and Alex Altman, with a stunning photo from photographer Scott Olson, who was arrested in Ferguson.



### The Huffington Post Is Not Leaving Ferguson

What happens in Ferguson and the St. Louis metro area the day after everybody leaves?

It's a question on the minds of nearly every resident, who know the camera crews will eventually fold up their sticks and pack up their vans, the West Florissant McDonald's will transform from an international media filing center into a trivia question. But the local police will still be there, along with the structural inequality and racial disparities that sparked the crisis.

We plan to be there as it all unfolds. For The Huffington Post, this'll

involve a first-of-its-kind collaboration with readers, the local community and the Beacon Reader to create what we're calling the Ferguson Fellowship. With reader support, we'll hire a local citizen journalist who's been covering the turmoil and train her to become a professional journalist.

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### Why we need black journalists to cover Ferguson (Latrice Davis)

Joel Anderson is a black journalist reporting from Ferguson, Missouri, and a story he shared on Twitter early Monday morning is a pretty good indicator of why it's so important for black journalists to report on the protests and the case stemming from the killing of black teenager Michael Brown.

Joel D. Anderson ✓ @blackink12  
Follow Pardon me and my language, but I've never felt more like a nigger than I did tonight.11:14 PM - 17 Aug 2014  
489 Retweets 331 favorites Reply

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### Embarrassed to photograph Ferguson

I am embarrassed by the way the media acted tonight, myself included and have decided that the media is now a problem in Ferguson. I will be leaving Missouri in the morning while hundreds of other journalists will continue to record events and battle with police for the right to be there.

~Abe

## Other stories of interest

### NYT's Rosenberg expelled from Afghanistan

The New York Times will comply with an order from the Afghan attorney general's office ordering correspondent Matthew Rosenberg to leave the country after he published an article stating that high-ranking officials were discussing the formation of an interim government, a spokesperson told POLITICO.

"We received a written notice from the Afghan attorney general's office

requiring that Matt Rosenberg leave the country. We plan to comply," spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said in an email.

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**Jonesboro Sun cops reporter resigns over vicious Facebook attacks by police chief** (Bob Daugherty)

Jonesboro (AR) Sun police reporter Sunshine Crump resigned Monday after being repeatedly attacked on Facebook by Jonesboro Police Chief Mike Yates. She told her paper that "I do not feel safe here, and I will not continue to be put in a position of self-defense. I am an innocent person and an American citizen."

Here are some of the comments Yates posted about the reporter:

- \* "Pro-dope smoking, law license revoked, left wing liberal, smelly, arrested by police, unscrupulous reporter."
- \* "This is the kind of journalism we have now ... ask ole Sunshine (reporter) why her law license got suspended next time you see her."
- \* "Reminds me of a song ... 'ain't no Sunshine when she's gone' etc."
- \* "Dealing with ole Sunshine is like trying to pick up a dog turd by the 'clean end.'"

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**The Government May Soon Send This Reporter to Jail. Here Are the Embarrassing Secrets He Exposed.**

The Obama administration has fought a years-long court battle to force longtime New York Times national security correspondent James Risen to reveal the source for a story in his 2006 book State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration.

Risen may soon serve jail time for refusing to out his source. The fight has drawn attention to Obama's less-than-stellar track record on press freedom—in a recent interview, Risen called the president "the greatest enemy to press freedom in a generation."

But lost in the ruckus are the details of what Risen revealed. Here's what has the government so upset.

## **The Last Word**

**The Vanishing American Newsroom**

"The Philadelphia Inquirer is my hometown paper," says photographer Will Steacy. "It is the paper my father worked for and the newsroom I

grew up running around in." But, like many newspapers, the Inquirer has been struggling to stay afloat in the digital age. As the public turns to Internet for news, ad revenues and circulation numbers have plummeted and the paper has been faced with serious challenges.

With his project, Deadline, Steacy hopes to offer an honest look at the inner-workings of a newsroom and to "shed light onto a complex story that so often is misunderstood as the 'death of newspapers.'" "I am not in the newspaper business," says Steacy, "so this family tradition will most likely die, which is surely big burden to carry, but I intend to preserve this ink stained family tree in the pages of the upcoming two-volume publication."



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