FREEDOM OF THE PRESS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2018

2018

Photo Courtesy of Trevor Paglen

**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS FOUNDATION
601 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE E731
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102**

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For anyone who cares about press freedom rights, it's been a concerning year. In the United States, the president attacks journalists as "enemies of the people" on a weekly basis. Leak investigations targeting whistleblowers are at an all-time high. Journalists have been arrested and physically attacked covering protests at alarming rates. Abroad, the number of journalists being jailed is unprecedented.

But there is also reason to hope. Reporters have started adapting to the more adversarial environment by better protecting themselves and their sources using digital security. There is more public awareness than ever before about the importance of press freedom. And the ability of press freedom advocates to document and loudly protest violations of journalists' rights has never been greater.

TREVOR TIMM

At Freedom of the Press Foundation, we are at the forefront of all these issues. While there are certainly a lot of battles ahead, it's our job to equip journalists to defend themselves against the ever-changing threats in the 21st Century. While they face increasing dangers, we've also never been better prepared to help them. But without our supporters, our donors, and the brave journalists and whistleblowers who put their lives on the line, none of this would be possible.

We're going to fight harder than ever in the coming year, and with your support, the public's right to know will emerge stronger than ever.

Sincerely,
Trevor Timm
Freedom of the Press Foundation

WHO WE ARE

"A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."
—Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) is a nonprofit organization that protects, defends, and empowers public–interest journalism in the 21st Century.

The organization works to preserve and strengthen First and Fourth Amendment rights guaranteed to the press through a variety of avenues, including the development of encryption tools, documentation of attacks on the press, trainings in newsrooms on digital security practices, and advocacy for for the public's right to know.

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) leads the development of **SecureDrop,** an open source platform for secure and anonymous communication between sources and media organizations, and we support its adoption by newsrooms around the world. SecureDrop is now available in 14 languages and used by more than 75 media organizations worldwide, including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Associated Press*, *The New Yorker*, *The Intercept*, *USA Today*, *CBC*, and *The Guardian*.

We conduct in-person **digital security trainings** with journalists and filmmakers to help teach them about digital security tools and offer them the best available technologies to protect themselves and their sources. These trainings include how to lock down your accounts to prevent hacking, how to protect your anonymity online, how to mitigate potential harassment or doxing, and how to encrypt a variety of communications methods such as text messages, phone calls, and emails.

FPF recently launched the **U.S. Press Freedom Tracker**, a website that monitors virtually all press freedom violations in the United States. This nonpartisan news website is the first to provide reliable, easy-to-access information on the number of press freedom violations in the United States—from journalists facing arrest to those stopped at the U.S. border or physically attacked while on the job.

FPF also builds a variety of open source encryption tools that aim to protect journalists or promote transparency. In 2018, we released an Android app called **Haven,** which can use the sensors on anyone's smartphone to act as a security system for your surroundings. We also launched an Android app called **Sunder,** which uses encryption to help journalists protect large sensitive datasets over long periods of time.

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

@FOIAFeed is an automated Twitter account that highlights hundreds of news stories that rely on the Freedom on Information Act (FOIA), landmark US legislation that protects the public's right to request information from the government about its actions. FOIA is routinely threatened and undermined by public officials. We showcase its critical importance for public interest journalism, so that anyone can make the case for preserving and expanding FOIA access.

Secure the News tracks the adoption of HTTPS encryption by news sites around the world. HTTPS encryption provides important privacy and security protections to readers and is a vital tool for protecting against potentially nefarious spying or hacking.

We also launched a new project called **Archive the News**, a complete backup of news websites threatened by wealthy buyers pushing an agenda or litigants with deep pockets. Our archive collection protects the work of these outlets and acts as a disincentive against attempts to silence inconvenient reporting through lawsuits or shutdowns.
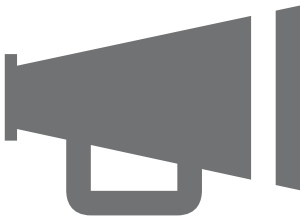
FPF engages in **Public and Legal Advocacy** around critical press freedom issues, including excessive government secrecy, the protection of whistleblowers, the surveillance of journalists, the Freedom of Information Act, and reporter's privilege. We continue to advocate for expansive press freedom rights everywhere.

FPF aims to broaden the financial base of organizations that are helping to reinvent and reimagine independent watchdog reporting through **Crowdfunding** efforts. We are the fiscal sponsor for Signal, an open source encrypted text message and phone call application developed by Open Whisper Systems used by millions of people worldwide. Open source security tools are an increasingly vital component of the journalism landscape, and we support their use by journalists and whistleblowers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

IMPACT IN 2018

75+
Over 75 major media organizations have installed SecureDrop in the U.S. and abroad. It has become a vital tool for outlets holding the Trump administration to account and getting crucial information to the public.

1,200
Our digital security training team has conducted over 60 digital security trainings, training over 1,200 journalists to better protect themselves online this year alone.

250
Since the launch of the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker in late 2017, FPF has documented over 250 press freedom violations involving journalists and reporters in the United States.

500K
Haven, an android app that acts as a security system, has been downloaded over 500,000 times since it's release.

86%
86% of major news organizations now use HTTPS encryption by default, thanks in significant part to our Secure The News advocacy campaign.

52K+
In 2018, we created over 52,000 PDFs of articles for working journalists to include in their archives and writing portfolios.

300+
Freedom of the Press Foundation was cited in the media about press freedom issues more than 300 times in 2018.

Barton Gellman @bartongellman

Follow

Once again @FreedomofPress is making an exceptionally important strategic move to keep information available to the public.

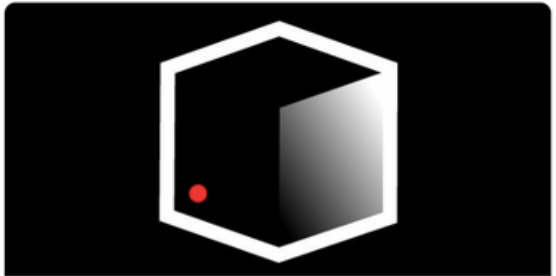**The Daily Beast** @thedailybeast

Follow

Got a sensitive tip or document? Use our new SecureDrop system to send it to us without compromising your identity

Ronan Farrow @RonanFarrow

Follow

If you have a story or a piece of evidence you'd like to share with me/@NewYorker, here's a secure way to do it:

Edward Snowden @Snowden · Aug 2

We've helped over half a million people learn how to use Android phones to protect the places that matter to them with @GetHavenApp. Check out this new interview with @n8fr8 on what's coming next:

Haven security app receives 500,000 downloads in first six months
Raft of new features planned for Snowden-endorsed security system.

The New Yorker SecureDrop
Do you have a tip for The New Yorker that requires anonymity and security? Send it via SecureDrop.
projects.newyorker.com

Runa Sandvik @runasand

Follow

Kudos to the @SecureDrop team for creating the SecureDrop Workstation Updater. Not only does it look great, it makes the update process a whole lot easier for Admins and Journalists.
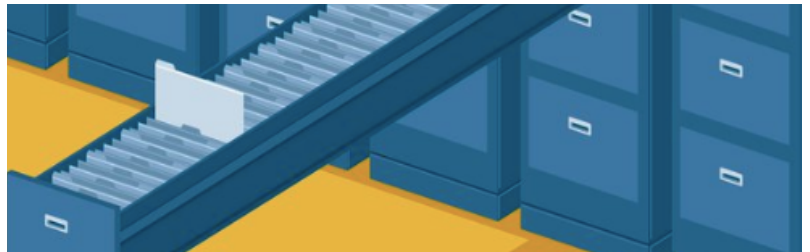
5:12 AM - 28 Jun 2018

Cora Currier @coracurrier

Follow

Press freedom advocates have long been worried about the government using subpoenas and National Security Letters against journalists -- but @FreedomofPress got the rules for using FISA court orders, too

TechCrunch

Freedom of the Press Foundation will preserve Gawker's archives

The Freedom of the Press Foundation began by backing up the digital archives of Gawker and LA Weekly

The Gawker Archives Aren't Going Anywhere
The Freedom of the Press Foundation will preserve them using Archive-It, a service from the non-profit Internet Archive.

EXPANSION FOR 2019

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

SecureDrop

- Hire a Senior Software Engineer
- Hire a User Experience Designer
- Create more user-friendly experience for journalists
- Harden architecture & prepare for external security audit
- Release pilot of SecureDrop re-design
- Increase installations to over 100 media outlets worldwide

Digital Security Trainings

- Hire a full-time Editor to produce more training guides for the public
- Hire an additional full-time Trainer to keep up with demand
- Build upon our network of freelance trainers worldwide
- Design an academic curriculum for journalism schools in the U.S.
- Increase the number of journalists trained to 1,500

U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

- Hire a Managing Editor
- Document threats and harassment of journalists
- Build a network of freelance reporters to cover more local threats

Advocacy & Activism

- Hire a full-time Web Developer
- Hire a full-time Advocacy Director

Press Freedom Endowment Fund

- Establish an endowment fund as an investment in the security of journalists, whistleblowers and activists for generations to come

FPF FINANCIALS, 2018

REVENUE

Foundations & Corporations
$1,200,000

Major Gifts & Individuals
$890,000

Crowdfunding
$150,000

Technology Contracts
$80,000

Other
$30,000

| TOTAL | $2,350,000 |

EXPENSES

Staffing Costs
$2,021,000

Technology
$70,000

Additional Costs
$117,000

| TOTAL | $2,208,000 |

Note: All figures preliminary and unaudited.

FPF STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TREVOR TIMM

SECUREDROP DEVELOPER
KUSHAL DAS

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
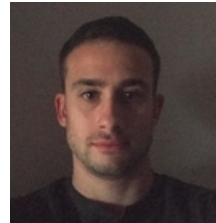LOUISE BALSMEYER

DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS ENGINEER
MICHAEL SHEINBERG

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
CONOR SCHAEFER

SECURITY ENGINEER
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PRINCIPAL PROJECT MANAGER
ERIK MOELLER

PRINCIPAL WEB DEVELOPER
HARRIS LAPIROFF

LEAD DEVELOPER OF SECUREDROP
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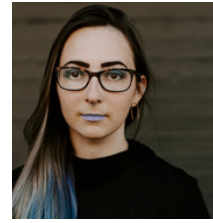
OPERATIONS MANAGER
EMMANUEL MORALES

NEWSROOM SUPPORT ENGINEER
KEVIN O'GORMAN

FPF GOVERNANCE

LEADING SUPPORTERS

MAJOR DONORS & FOUNDATIONS

ANONYMOUS

COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

CRAIG NEWMARK PHILANTHROPIES

DIGITAL DEFENSE FUND

DUCKDUCKGO

EDWARD SNOWDEN

FIRST LOOK MEDIA

FJC, FOUNDATION OF PHILANTHROPIC FUNDS

THE FORD FOUNDATION

HUMBLE BUNDLE

METABOLIC STUDIO

MOZILLA FOUNDATION

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

PRIVATE INTERNET ACCESS

The role of journalism in our democracy matters now more than ever, and we are grateful for your support of our important work. Thank you to our supporters, partners, and friends for all you do to help protect press freedom.

IN MEMORY OF

JOHN PERRY BARLOW
1947-2018

BY: TREVOR TIMM & PARKER HIGGINS
FEBRUARY 8TH, 2018

We lost a legend yesterday. John Perry Barlow, co-founder of Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) and our original guiding voice, has passed away at the age of 70.

Over the course of an indelible and truly original life, Barlow was many things to many people. Some met him as a Wyoming cattle rancher, or as a mainstay in Timothy Leary's Millbrook psychedelic facility, but many came to know him as the lyricist and poet responsible for "Cassidy" and other classic Grateful Dead tunes. It was that community—Grateful Dead fans who started some of the first message boards—that brought Barlow to the Internet, where the clarity of his vision and strength of his ideals made him a pioneer, and his gift with language made him the de facto poet laureate of a generation of technologists.

His most famous essay, a Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace ("Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel…") was a catalyst for the Internet freedom movement and is taught in universities and law schools around the country. Years before Napster and its ilk would force the music industry into a reckoning, his Wired writing on copyright became a blueprint for how less restrictive—and fairer—intellectual property rules could form a cornerstone of a new economy of ideas. He was a friend and advisor to basically every early Internet pioneer, entrepreneur, or activist you can name.

He was clearly a man of words, and he was also a man of action. In 1990, well before the reach of the Web would bring the Internet into everyday life, he understood its potential as a liberating force—as well as the risk that it could recapitulate existing power structures that had always pushed some people to the margins. In that year, he co-founded the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which has remained for a generation on the forefront of the struggle to ensure technology lives up to its potential of expanding humanity's access to civil liberties, instead of curtailing them.

It was his passion for press freedom, and his belief that whistleblowers should be protected, not punished, which spurred him to co-found Freedom of the Press Foundation in 2012. He eloquently wrote at the time, "When a government becomes invisible, it becomes unaccountable. To expose its lies, errors, and illegal acts is not treason, it is a moral responsibility. Leaks become the lifeblood of the Republic."

CONTINUED…

IN MEMORY OF

JOHN PERRY BARLOW
1947-2018

Here he is with our other co-founder Daniel Ellsberg, the day after we launched Freedom of the Press Foundation:

Two of our co-founders, @DanielEllsberg and @JPBarlow, relaxing after a momentous day for free speech and transparency. pic.twitter.com/QZKnIO4u

— @FreedomofPress, December 17, 2012

Death stared him down for years, as he suffered from various ailments and injuries of many kinds, but he never lost his poetic voice and dynamic spirit. His last public writing was a blog post he wrote for FPF on the 20th anniversary of his Declaration.

While it's impossible not to mourn, there is no doubt that he would wish to see people celebrating his life and the ideals for which he lived, rather than lamenting he is gone.

In one of the Reddit Ask-Me-Anything sessions he participated in over the last several years, he posted a list of "adult principles" that he composed for himself on the eve of his 30th birthday. The principles themselves have now been heavily recirculated, and it's a testament to the easy poetry of his words that these sparse 25 commandments have such widespread appeal. But the short introduction he gives to his principles, in response to a question about him being "a great man," is even more indicative of Barlow's philosophy.

> "The jury's well out on the great man thing. On the other hand, I'm willing to accept it when someone calls me a good man. I've been working on that one quite consciously for a long time. And, outside of being a good ancestor, it's my primary ambition."

John Perry Barlow was a good man. He was a good friend, and a visionary whose impact on technology, culture, and the world will be felt for generations. As the Grateful Dead say: fare thee well, JPB.