2022 Fourth Estate Award Gala

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

JOURNALISM INSTITUTE
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CLARISSA WARD

2022 NATIONAL PRESS CLUB FOURTH ESTATE AWARD HONOREE

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Welcome!

This year’s Fourth Estate Award Gala brings together journalists, communicators, and supporters from around the world to recognize excellence in a year in which journalism has faced extraordinary challenges. We are glad to host you at the National Press Club for this exciting night.

Tonight, we honor:

**Clarissa Ward**, CNN’s multi-award winning chief international correspondent based in London and author of “On All Fronts: The Education of a Journalist”

Fourth Estate Award

**PBS FRONTLINE**

Neil and Susan Sheehan Award for Investigative Journalism

**Josh Renaud**, a Missouri reporter and developer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award (domestic)

**Rana Ayyub**, an investigative journalist living in India and a Washington Post Global Opinions contributor

John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award (international)

We are grateful to the members of the National Press Club Board of Governors, the Board of Directors of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, the Fourth Estate Awards selection committee, and our Fundraising Committee led by Danielle Coffey. We celebrate together this evening because of their hard work. Thank you to the sponsors whose messages of congratulations you’ll see in the pages that follow. Their support makes our work possible.

Thank you, and here’s to a memorable evening!

**Jen Judson**  
President, National Press Club

**Gil Klein**  
President, National Press Club Journalism Institute
Shireen Abu Akleh
A fearless journalist silenced

Shireen was a courageous and passionate Al Jazeera journalist who devoted her life to reporting on pivotal issues and unfolding stories within the occupied West Bank, Jerusalem and in Israel.

Shireen’s ruthless killing violates all international laws and is a blatant violation of press freedom.

Her killers attempted to silence a fearless journalist. But as she did in her life, even her death continues to inspire a generation of young journalists to tell stories that matter and to be objective, impartial and accurate in their reporting. With the killing of Shireen, the world lost a brave and courageous female journalist. However, her legacy will live on.
Tonight's program

WELCOME
Jen Judson, award-winning journalist covering land warfare for Defense News and 2022 president of the National Press Club

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB JOURNALISM INSTITUTE’S MISSION
Gil Klein, resident director of the University of Oklahoma’s Washington Journalism Program, 2022 president of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, and former president of the National Press Club

THE NEIL AND SUSAN SHEEHAN AWARD FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
The award recognizes work that reflects a commitment to the principle that a vibrant democracy depends on an informed citizenry and a free press. The award promotes the practice of investigative journalism exemplifying compassion, courage, and integrity.

PBS FRONTLINE, Local Journalism Initiative

THE JOHN AUBUCHON PRESS FREEDOM AWARD
Named in honor of former National Press Club President John Aubuchon, this award acknowledges those who have worked to advance the cause of press freedom and transparency.

DOMESTIC HONOREE
Josh Renaud, a St. Louis Post-Dispatch journalist

INTERNATIONAL HONOREE
Rana Ayyub, an investigative journalist living in India and a Washington Post Global Opinions contributor

FOURTH ESTATE AWARD
Each year, the esteemed Fourth Estate Award honors the person whom the National Press Club’s Board of Governors decides has achieved distinction for a lifetime of contributions to American journalism.

Clarissa Ward, CNN’s award-winning chief international correspondent based in London

THANK YOU, AND GOOD NIGHT
Jen Judson and Gil Klein
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Receive a monthly curated view of the latest issues affecting press freedom worldwide featuring updates and commentary from Post journalists and our press freedom partners.

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A history of honoring excellence

The National Press Club confers the annual Fourth Estate Award on the person who, in the judgment of the NPC Board of Governors, has achieved distinction for a lifetime of contributions to American journalism. Recommendations are made by a distinguished committee representing all branches of news media.

PREVIOUS FOURTH ESTATE AWARD HONOREES

2021: Lester Holt, NBC Nightly News and Dateline NBC
2020: Susan Zirinsky, CBS News
2019: Amanda Bennett, Voice of America
2017: Tony Kornheiser & Michael Wilbon, ESPN
2016: Wolf Blitzer, CNN
2015: Gwen Ifill, PBS NewsHour
2013: Andrea Mitchell, NBC News
2011: Jim Lehrer, PBS NewsHour
2010: Bob Schieffer, CBS News
2008: Christiane Amanpour, CNN
2006: Marvin Kalb, The Joan Shorenstein Center for Press and Public Policy, Harvard University
2005: Austin Kiplinger, Kiplinger Washington Editors
2003: Tom Brokaw, NBC Nightly News
2002: Brian Lamb, C-SPAN
2001: Robert D. Novak, Syndicated Columnist
2000: Jack W. Germond, The Baltimore Sun
1999: Carl T. Rowan, Syndicated Columnist
1997: James M. Perry, The Wall Street Journal
1996: Charles R. McDowell, The Richmond Times-Dispatch
1994: Charles Kuralt, CBS News
1993: Eugene Roberts, The Philadelphia Inquirer
1991: Peter Arnett, Cable News Network
1990: Mike Royko, Chicago Tribune
1987: David Brinkley, ABC News
1986: Art Buchwald, Syndicated Columnist
1984: Helen Thomas, United Press International
1983: Eric Sevareid, CBS News
1981: Nick B. Williams, Los Angeles Times
1980: Theodore H. White, Author
1979: Clayton Kirkpatrick, Chicago Tribune
1976: John S. Knight, Knight-Ridder Newspapers
1973: Walter Cronkite, CBS News
Clarissa Ward is CNN’s chief international correspondent. She has spent nearly two decades reporting from front lines in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, and Ukraine for CNN, ABC, CBS, and Fox News.

A recipient of multiple journalism recognitions including nine Emmy Awards, two George Foster Peabody Awards, two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Awards, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, and one George Polk Award, Ward is the author of “On All Fronts: The Education of a Journalist” (Penguin Press), which details her singular career as a conflict reporter and how she has documented the violent remaking of the world from close range.

Known for her in-depth investigations and high-profile assignments, Ward and her team were the first foreign journalists permitted to enter Myanmar nearly two months after a military coup in 2021. She has since reported from Afghanistan in the weeks leading up to and after the fall of Kabul and most recently from Ukraine, where she has spent more than 10 weeks this year covering the ongoing Russian invasion.

In late 2020, Ward led the two-time Emmy Award-winning investigation of Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny’s poisoning, confronting a suspected member of the elite Russian toxins team at his home outside Moscow.

In 2019, her months-long, Emmy Award-winning investigation into Russia’s growing use of mercenaries – Putin’s Private Army – included the first on-camera interview with a former fighter for Wagner, Russia’s most notorious private military contractor. After visiting a diamond mine with ties to a Russian oligarch in the Central African Republic, Ward and her team were followed and intimidated by a car full of Russians. After their reports came out, they were targeted by a Russian media propaganda campaign trying to discredit their reporting.

Ward has reported extensively in Syria since the start of the civil war in 2011, making multiple undercover assignments to the country. As one of the last Western reporters to visit rebel-held Aleppo, Ward was asked to address a UN Security Council meeting on the embattled Syrian city in 2016, stating “there are no winners in Aleppo.”

She has conducted many interviews with world leaders like British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as well as former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former CIA Director and retired U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus.

Ward graduated with distinction from Yale University, and in 2013 received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Middlebury College in Vermont. She speaks fluent French and Italian, conversational Russian, Arabic and Spanish, and basic Mandarin.
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Neil and Susan Sheehan Award for Investigative Journalism

This award recognizes work that best reflects the Sheehans’ extraordinary commitment to the principle that a vibrant democracy depends on an informed citizenry and a free press.

PBS FRONTLINE

PBS FRONTLINE has long been recognized with journalism’s highest honors for its exceptional news and documentary programs. The Sheehan award honors FRONTLINE for its Local Journalism Initiative, in particular. The Initiative supports investigative journalism done by local and regional news organizations by providing funding, editorial support, and strategic guidance. This year, the Tampa Bay Times was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for a project supported by FRONTLINE.

John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award

Named for a former Club president who fervently advocated for press freedom, this award is given each year to an honoree in the United States and an honoree overseas who bravely pushes to disclose the truth in trying circumstances.

Josh Renaud, St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter

DOMESTIC HONOREE

Josh Renaud is a St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter who was threatened by the Missouri governor with criminal charges for uncovering a security flaw in a state database that left the Social Security numbers of public educators exposed. His diligence led to the security flaw being corrected but also drew scorn and threats from Gov. Mike Parson, who announced a criminal investigation into Renaud’s work and called his public service reporting “a hack” and accused the Post-Dispatch of having a vendetta against him. No charges were filed; in fact, Renaud had alerted Missouri public education officials to the security flaw in advance of story publication and agreed to hold the story until officials had time to fix it.

Rana Ayyub, investigative journalist living in India

INTERNATIONAL HONOREE

Rana Ayyub is an investigative journalist living in India and a Washington Post Global Opinions contributor whose criticism of the government has been met with an unwelcome assault on her rights and freedom of expression. The Indian government has made burdensome and invasive requests for Ayyub’s personal financial information, along with restricting her travel in and out of the country and freezing her assets on dubious charges. It appears at least some of this harassment is being initiated and supported by the government.
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and the Other Outstanding Journalists Honored at the 2022 NPC Fourth Estate Award Gala

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GETTING EVERY DETAIL RIGHT?
THAT'S GOOD JOURNALISM.

DOING IT IN THE FACE OF THREATS?
THAT'S PUBLIC SERVICE.

Sightline Media Group congratulates tonight's winners and all of the reporters and editors around the globe who are vigilant in their search for the truth.
ABOVE AND BEYOND FLIGHT

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Congratulations to CNN's Clarissa Ward and all other Fourth Estate honorees.

We are a proud sponsor of the National Press Club's 2022 Fourth Estate Awards Gala to celebrate our press freedom and recognize the value of investigate journalism.

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