



HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME

Media, Politics and Safety of Journalists

Witness Biographies

Christiane Amanpour

Chief International Anchor, CNN-PBS; Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety, UNESCO

Christiane Amanpour is CNN's chief international anchor and anchor of the network's award-winning, flagship global affairs program "Amanpour," which also airs on PBS in the United States. She is based in the network's London bureau.

Beginning in 1983 as an entry-level assistant on the international assignment desk at CNN's headquarters in Atlanta, Amanpour rose through the organization becoming a reporter at the New York bureau, and later, the network's leading international correspondent.

Amanpour's fearless and uncompromising approach made her popular with audiences, and a force to be reckoned with by global influencers -- in 1996, Newsweek said that her reporting from conflict hotspots in the Gulf and the Balkans had helped make CNN 'must-see TV for world leaders'.

From the 1991 Gulf War to the 2003 American-led invasion, Amanpour has documented the bloody violence which has marked Iraq's recent history. In 2004, she also reported exclusively from the courtroom at the trial of Saddam Hussein, where the former dictator, disheveled and in chains, was eventually sentenced to death for crimes against humanity.

On the ground during the siege of Sarajevo, Amanpour exposed the brutality of the Bosnian War, reporting on the daily tragedy of life for civilians in the city. She was outspoken, calling out the human rights abuses, massacres and genocide committed against the Bosnian Moslems, later saying "There are some situations one simply cannot be neutral about, because when you are neutral you are an accomplice."

In 2009 "Amanpour" was launched, and the primetime interview program has seen Amanpour speak to a raft of leaders and decision makers on the issues affecting the world today.

Throughout her time at CNN Amanpour has secured exclusive interviews with global power players. In the wake of the September 11 attacks she was the first international correspondent to interview British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. During the height of the Arab Spring she conducted an Emmy-winning interview, the last, with Libya's former leader 'Colonel' Moammar Gadhafi, she was also the last journalist to interview Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak just before he was deposed.

Following his landslide election victory, Amanpour spoke exclusively to Iranian president Hassan Rouhani, eliciting from him acknowledgement of the occurrence of the Holocaust. She was the first journalist to interview Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff following her country's shocking defeat in the 2014 World Cup semi-final. She also had the rare opportunity to sit down with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, talking to him about the widespread violent demonstrations in his country.

In January 2014, Amanpour also exclusively broke the news of a dossier of testimony and photographs which alleged to show systematic torture of prisoners by government forces in Syria, welcoming a panel of war crimes experts who attested to the veracity of the shocking allegations. It was with this evidence that she later confronted Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev -- challenging him to justify his government's support for the Assad regime.

She has reported from the aftermath of many humanitarian crises including the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the 2011 Japanese tsunami, and Hurricane Katrina, where she visited a community center which had been converted to a makeshift morgue for victims of the storm.

In addition to her work as an anchor and reporter, Amanpour is an active rights campaigner. A board member of the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Centre for Public Integrity and the International Women's Media Foundation, she has used her profile to raise awareness of key global issues and journalists' rights. She has interviewed educational rights activist Malala Yousafzai for CNN on several occasions -- bringing focus to her courage and international advocacy work. In May 2014 she used an appearance on BBC television to raise awareness of the plight of the 200 Nigerian schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram - asking British Prime Minister David Cameron to join the #BringBackOurGirls campaign.

Amanpour has earned every major television journalism award including thirteen News and Documentary Emmy Awards, four Peabody Awards, two George Polk Awards, three duPont-Columbia Awards and the Courage in Journalism Award. She has received ten honorary degrees, has been named a CBE and was inducted into the Cable Hall of Fame, Broadcast & Cable Hall of Fame and The Atlanta Press Club's Hall of Fame. She is an honorary citizen of Sarajevo and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of the Press and the Safety of Journalists.

Amanpour graduated summa cum laude from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

David Kaye

Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, United Nations; Clinical Professor of Law, University of California – Irvine

David Kaye is a clinical professor of law at the University of California, Irvine, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. His 2019 book, *Speech Police: The Global Struggle to Govern the Internet* (Columbia Global Reports), explores the ways in which companies, governments and activists struggle to define the rules for online expression.

Appointed by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2014, Professor Kaye is the global body's principal monitor for freedom of expression issues worldwide. Most recently, he has reported to the Council on COVID-19 and freedom of expression and, in 2019, to the UN General Assembly on online hate speech. His earlier reporting has addressed, among other topics, the ways in which Artificial Intelligence technologies implicate human rights issues, the global private surveillance industry and its impact on freedom of expression, growing repression of freedom of expression globally, encryption and anonymity

as promoters of freedom of expression, the protection of whistleblowers and journalistic sources, the roles and responsibilities of private Internet companies, and the regulation of online content by social media and search companies. He has conducted official missions to Japan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Mexico, Liberia, Ecuador and Ethiopia, and regularly addresses major policy and academic conferences dealing with free expression, technology and media freedom worldwide. Together with the regional monitors of freedom of expression in Europe (OSCE), the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, he has joined six Joint Declarations on major contemporary challenges for free expression and independent media worldwide.

After doing his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, he joined the U.S. State Department as a lawyer in 1995. In 2002, while the principal lawyer for international humanitarian law at the State Department, he was an advocate inside government for application of the Geneva Conventions to detainees captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, which the United States had invaded in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001. He served for three years as a legal adviser at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague. In 2008, he co-founded the International Human Rights Program at UCLA School of Law. In 2012, he joined the faculty at UC Irvine School of Law.

In addition to his work on human rights and freedom of expression, his academic research and writing have focused on accountability for serious human rights abuses, international humanitarian law, and the international law governing use of force. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and former member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law, he has also published essays in such publications as *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *Foreign Policy*, *Just Security*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Dr. Courtney C. Radsch

Advocacy Director, Committee to Protect Journalists

Dr. Courtney C. Radsch is the Advocacy Director at the Committee to Protect Journalists. As a veteran journalist, researcher, and free expression advocate she writes and speaks frequently about the nexus of media, technology, and human rights. She is the author of *Cyberactivism and Citizen Journalism in Egypt: Digital Dissidence & Political Change* (Palgrave Macmillan 2016) and several other book chapters and articles about the Arab Spring, media, terrorism, and human rights. Her commentaries and articles have been published in *The New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Al Jazeera*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, and the *Huffington Post* among others. She is regularly sought out for her expertise by a range of media outlets including the BBC, MSNBC, PBS Frontline, Voice of America, and others. Dr. Radsch has participated in expert consultations at the United Nation, OSCE and E.U. on press freedom, countering violent extremism, online violence against women, and journalist safety, and has led advocacy missions to more than a dozen countries, U.N. bodies, and the Internet Governance Forum.

Prior to CPJ, Radsch worked with UNESCO's Section for Freedom of Expression, where she edited the flagship publication "World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development." Dr. Radsch previously managed the Global Freedom of Expression Campaign at Freedom House, where she edited *Policing Belief: The Impact of Blasphemy Laws on Human Rights*. She has worked as a journalist for *The New York Times*, *Al-Arabiya* in Dubai, and the *Daily Star* in Lebanon and was a freelancer in Egypt. Dr. Radsch holds a Ph.D. in international relations from American University, a master's of science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree with highest honors in mass communication from the University of California, Berkeley. She speaks Arabic, French, and Spanish and can be found on Twitter at @courtneyr.