

Beyond War: Causes of Conflict, Prospects for Peace Conference
June 2, Dinner Program Speakers

Jon Sawyer Introduces Yochi Dreazen

I'm Jon Sawyer, executive director of the Pulitzer Center, here to introduce the final part of tonight's program — celebrating the journalists and journalism that are the heart and soul of our work.

We support reporting on a wide range of systemic global issues, from climate change and economic security to religion and public policy. Reporting on conflict — its consequences, its roots and, most important, the lessons that can be drawn so as to prevent future conflicts — has been a constant in our work since the beginning.

What has changed is the growing dependence on freelancers for frontline reporting in conflict zones. The Pulitzer Center has worked closely with ACOS, A Culture of Safety, the alliance of nearly 100 media organizations aimed at raising the standards of news outlets in their treatment of freelancers and helping freelancers acquire the skills and resources they need to make their reporting in conflict zones as safe as possible.

For the third year in a row the Pulitzer Center is funding high-level hostile environment and first-aid training to freelancers, this year with additional support from ACOS. The 14 freelancers chosen for this year's training will head out to rural Virginia tomorrow afternoon, for a five-day course led by 1st Option Safety, a leading trainer in this field. The freelancers have come from nearly a dozen countries. Could the freelancer HEFAT group and trainers all please stand? Thank you!

One of the workshops tomorrow morning will focus on the security challenges we all face, news media outlets and freelancers alike. I hope to see many of you there.

And now to our journalist grantees.

Over the past 12 years we have supported over 900 journalists, working throughout the world—and then bringing home what they've learned, in presentations at the hundreds of schools and universities that are part of the Pulitzer Center network.

A number of our journalist grantees are with us tonight. Could you all please stand? We salute your work. We're grateful for what you do.

And now we'll hear from two of our journalist partners.

I'll introduce the first — Yochi Dreazen, a long time friend of the Pulitzer Center, who is really here in two capacities: first as a grantee, reporting on security issues from the Middle East and Africa, and second as a valued news media partner, in his capacity as a senior editor, first at *Foreign Policy* and now at *Vox*.