

# 2024 Q3 Report

 Pulitzer Center



***“The ‘caste’ column and any references to caste in undertrial and/or convicts’ prisoners’ registers inside the prisons shall be deleted.”***

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On October 3, 2024, with these 21 words, India’s Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, **ended a centuries-old system of caste-based work in prisons** throughout the country. It was a system that assigned the most inhumane jobs, such as cleaning latrines, to those in the lower castes, while allowing prisoners in the higher castes to do administrative work, or no work. The landmark ruling obliterates an entrenched injustice and, just like that, changes the lives of millions of imprisoned individuals.

Meanwhile in Brazil, the Ministry of Health announced a **new program to reduce Black maternal mortality** after a spike in deaths by preventable causes, such as high blood pressure and infections — a regression to levels not seen in 25 years.

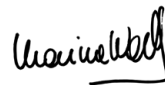
These impactful policy decisions followed the groundbreaking work of journalists supported by the Pulitzer Center, as well as intentional engagement programs that amplified the reach of their reporting, taking the stories where audiences are.

In the case of India’s Supreme Court ruling, the chief justice acknowledged that he was following the lead of journalists. For two years, Pulitzer Center grantees Sukanya Shantha and Jahnavi Sen, of the independent outlet The Wire, **investigated and exposed** how caste-based work, among other forms of discrimination, was sanctioned in prison manuals across India. The chief justice congratulated the journalists and said that had it not been for their reporting, the injustice may have never come to light. The stories received significant attention, won awards, became part of **lesson plans** in the U.S., and were also featured in a Pulitzer Center **global online event** about mass incarceration and the challenges of prison reporting.

In Brazil, it was **meticulous reporting** by journalist Cláudia Collucci of *Folha de S.Paulo*, Brazil’s largest newspaper, that revealed the unjustifiable health breach in maternal deaths. After the stories came out, the Pulitzer Center provided additional funds to the reporters so they could organize a public conversation about disparities in maternal mortality. The event was attended by healthcare professionals, researchers and a representative of Brazil’s federal government. Just a few weeks after the event, Brazil’s Ministry of Health **announced the new program** to reduce Black maternal mortality. The initiative is called Rede Alyne, in honor of Alyne Pimentel, a pregnant Brazilian woman whose 2002 death was blamed on a lack of care.

These two examples of policy changes—the result of deep journalism combined with creative and impactful activities to reach audiences beyond the original publication—give us hope. They also encapsulate many aspects of the Pulitzer Center’s mission, where we engage communities worldwide on issues that are relevant to them, increasing the quality of discussion, and cultivating a more active and informed civil society. At the heart of it all are journalists, educators, and communities who dig deeply and persist in the pursuit of truth.

Thank you for your support,



**Marina Walker Guevara**  
Executive Editor



**Flora Pereira**  
Chief Engagement and Education Officer





Image by Jenny Adler/Vox, United States, 2024

# BREAKTHROUGH JOURNALISM

So far in 2024, we have supported

**158**

projects

**231**

journalists

in **91**

countries

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Resulting in more than 635 stories

**The Pulitzer Center empowers a global community of journalists and media outlets to deepen engagement with critical underreported issues, bridging divides and spurring change. Highlights of our impact:**

On November 19, 2005, after a roadside bomb in Haditha, Iraq, killed a U.S. Marine, fellow Marines retaliated by executing 24 civilians who had nothing to do with the bombing. It was a war crime, plain and simple. Yet no Marine went to prison. Grantee Madeleine Baran's [podcast series](#) for *The New Yorker* examines a deeply flawed military justice system.

Grantee Akhilesh Pandey's [Choking to Death investigation](#) about impoverished Indian quarry workers dying of silicosis prompted immediate demands for safety campaigns and aid for families. With Pulitzer Center global health reporting support, Pandey was able to travel far and wide for a [Caravan magazine story](#) and an intimate [documentary](#) about government neglect.

Grantee Fred de Sam Lazaro and *PBS NewsHour* explored climate backsliding in Scotland with [reporting on the transition from oil to clean energy](#) that delved deeply into the political forces there—and elsewhere—that have bedeviled pivotal green commitments.

Grantee Alejandra Crail and a team at *El Universal* newspaper investigated Mexico's so-called "[Panama Canal](#)," a massive transportation project cutting through Indigenous communities and environmentally fragile areas. Published in English with [U.S. outlet palabra.](#), one story documented faked signatures consenting to land sales for the development and other violations of Indigenous rights.

The first story published by [our inaugural cohort](#) of StoryReach U.S. Fellows is already making waves [with Louisiana state officials](#). Louisiana-based Fellow Lorena O'Neil [broke a story](#) about the potential maternal health threats of a new state law that will classify two vital pregnancy care drugs as controlled dangerous substances. O'Neil continues to spotlight this controversy [with her reporting](#).

Grantee Andrea Kalin's documentary, [Public Defender](#), which debuted on *The New Yorker's* website, tells the story of Heather Shaner, a public defender in the District of Columbia who takes on the cases of two January 6 rioters. Amidst a growing political divide, the unlikely bonds between Heather and her clients reveal how people can rise above the fray to find each other's humanity.



Image by Valente Rosas/El Universal. Mexico, 2024






*“This series was made possible solely because of the support Jahnavi and I received from the Pulitzer Center.*

*I can't express enough gratitude ... for believing in us and giving us the opportunity to work on this series for two whole years—something that small, resource-strapped newsrooms like ours wouldn't have managed without your support.”*

**Sukanya Shantha**  
Grantee, The Wire, India



# STUDENT REPORTING FELLOWS

Image by Katie Schuler-Battis, Mongolia, 2023

**Pulitzer Center Reporting Fellowships empower college and university students and recent graduates to tell stories that impact the world around them. The Fellowships also help launch careers by creating networks and developing journalism skills that will serve Fellows well, no matter the field they pursue.**

The Pulitzer Center **awarded** 13 Fellowships to recent graduates of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University to produce in-depth projects on underreported stories from around the globe. The Fellows will report on topics including the aftermath of war, the spread of infectious diseases, the impact of climate change and toxins on vulnerable ecosystems, and more.

Reporting Fellow alums gathered for a networking event at the Pulitzer Center headquarters in downtown Washington, D.C., in August. The get-together underscored the Pulitzer Center's commitment to cultivate the next generation of journalists, welcome them into a vibrant community, and follow them as they move forward in their careers.

This quarter featured multimedia projects produced by Reporting Fellows attending our Campus Consortium partner schools. Fellows reported on such topics as innovative solutions to **homelessness** in Finland; a young person's **quest to make the most of his musical gifts** while coping with hyperactivity and depression; a community effort to develop infrastructure designed to mitigate loss of life in anticipation of **volcanic eruptions** in Ecuador; and a **ger, or "yurt," construction project** designed for community engagement and innovation in Mongolia.

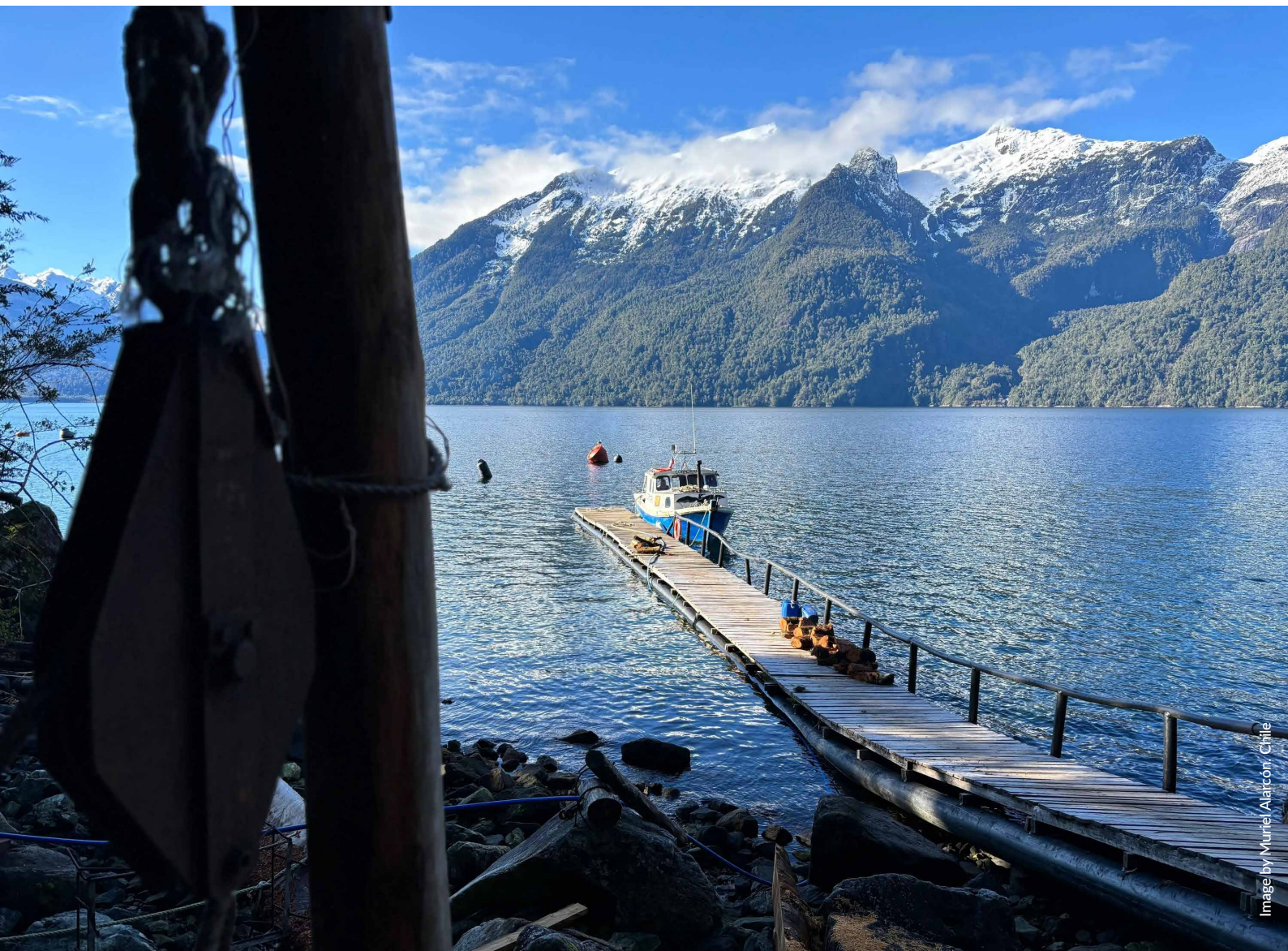


*"[T]his opportunity opened my mind to so many other interesting reporting opportunities, so I have a lot of gratitude for you and the Pulitzer Center for making that reporting possible."*

**Katie Schulder-Battis**

2023 Medill School of Journalism

at Northwestern University Reporting Fellow







# BRINGING STORIES CLOSER TO PEOPLE

Our engagement programming in the United States, Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia reaches audiences with reporting through public forums, secondary and higher education schools, exhibits, and performances. This work seeks to amplify Pulitzer Center-supported stories, build public awareness and understanding of complex issues, inspire journalism-informed action, create networks, and bridge divides.

**590k**  
website visits

**2.7 million**  
reached on social media



## Public outreach highlights:

**25**  
events

**61,000+**  
people reached

**10**  
countries

**9**  
radio shows

**3 million**  
listeners per show reached

**United States:** With a focus on the environment and health, the Pulitzer Center created the three-part webinar series, *Fuel, Foul Air, and Fallout: The Health Tolls of Energy and Defense in the United States*. Each took the audience deep into Center-supported projects about people impacted by **extraction**, **pollution**, and **contamination**.

**Latin America:** We had a **successful participation** at the Gabo Festival with three main activities: a workshop on **AI Accountability**, a conference on **demystifying AI** (broadcast on public television) and a **session** on the climate crisis, affected communities, and journalism. Together, these activities gathered 270 people.

**Africa:** The exhibition *Our Earth, Our Wealth, and Our Future* brought 126 visitors to the National Museum of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Kinshasa. The public learned from Pulitzer Center-supported stories about the challenges local communities face in the context of climate change and environmental injustice.

**Southeast Asia:** The “Who Guards Our Future?” AI Accountability workshop held in Bangkok brought together 14 participants from diverse sectors—business, academia, media, labor unions, and civil society. AI Accountability Fellow Karol Ilgan joined virtually to share insights on the impact of algorithms on users and workers in the ride-hailing sector.

Image courtesy of the Gabo Festival. Colombia, 2024



Image by Tabitha Mukwebia. Congo, 2024





*"I've never attended a conference where I learned so much about environmental journalism and the shared challenges to protect our rainforests in Africa and Latin America. The conference was incredibly insightful for me."*

**Kenny Espinosa**

Environmental engineer

Attendee, **Gabo Festival** session



# University and K-12 education highlights:

42  
events

23  
lesson and unit plans

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Reaching more than 2,800 students and teachers

**United States, K-12:** The 14 educators on our AI Teacher Council took feedback from the 142 teachers who responded to our [Teaching AI](#) survey, and analyzed more than a dozen AI Network stories, to publish “Teaching AI” guides for students and teachers, use the materials with their 800+ students, and share their learning with educators [in a public webinar](#).

**United States, K-12:** In commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the publication of *The 1619 Project*, we published the [“Five Years of Teaching 1619”](#) program report, which describes how partnerships with hundreds of educators, schools, school districts, and post-secondary institutions directly impacted 28,000+ teachers and students and created curricular resources that reached over 1.5 million people.

**United States, University:** In August, photographer Justin Cook returned to Southern Illinois University (SIU) Carbondale to celebrate the work of student photojournalists who participated in a [2024 Photojournalism Weekend Workshop](#). The workshop, run by Cook and SIUC Professor and Pulitzer Center grantee Julia Rendleman, focused on documenting the stories of people living in two small towns in Southern Illinois: Alto Pass and Cobden.



Image by Simeon Hardley. United States, 2024



Image by Eric Selemani. South Africa, 2024

*"We are lucky as students to be taught by a dedicated and passionate professor and surrounded by committed mentors like Cook. Weekends like this one help us all realize that special things do happen through local journalism."*

**Lylee Gibbs**

Photojournalism Student

SIU Carbondale 2024 Photojournalism Workshop participant

**Latin America:** Nine projects were selected for the Impact Seed Fund (ISF) Latin America, focusing on education and citizenship for the underprivileged. This year, we will directly support Indigenous associations, students from Amazon communities, and journalism students in a coastal conflict area.

**Africa:** A workshop held at the University of Kinshasa (DRC) brought together 41 teachers, researchers, journalists, and curriculum experts. The event aimed to explore possible synergies between journalism, research, and education around ocean issues. A roadmap was developed and a committee was appointed to forward recommendations to education authorities.

**Southeast Asia:** The Green Voice Matters Workshop gathered 80 students, 15 educators, and 3 Pulitzer Center grantees to discuss environmental and economic degradation in Indonesia's forests and oceans. Through a survey, participants expressed a significant increase in their understanding of deforestation, ocean issues, and extractive industries.

*"The experts who write the textbooks will have another reliable source of inspiration for their work thanks to the researcher-teacher-journalist collaboration. And all this is for the good of the Congolese student."*

**Kundenga Zola Jacques**

Dipromad staff member

Attendee of DRC workshop



A large elephant is the central focus, its head and trunk visible as it eats green leaves. To its right, a man in a light-colored shirt and a tan cap stands in a lush forest, his hand resting on the elephant's trunk. The background is filled with dense green foliage and tree trunks.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Over 30 awards and citations  
received so far in 2024

The project *Amazon Underworld* won a 2024 Gabo Award in the Coverage category at the *Gabo Festival* in Bogotá, Colombia. Rainforest Investigations Network Fellow **Bram Ebus** and a team of journalists uncovered crime dynamics in the Amazon region for InfoAmazonia.

Pulitzer Center grantees have been **honored** by the 2024 Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) Awards for their reporting projects.

Arthur Bizimana & Mukulu Vilotwa Hervé won the Data Journalism Award for their project, *The Impact of the Decline in Family Farmland on Forests*. The investigation explores the consequences of farming on previously protected lands across the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

Uchenna Igwe and James Onono Ojok won the Investigative Reporting Award for their project, *Illegal Logging in a Nigerian National Park*. The work investigated how anti-deforestation efforts in Nigeria and Uganda have only accelerated illegal logging.

The Asian Development Bank recognized **Dimuthu Attanayake**, a grantee from Sri Lanka, for her **reporting** in Context that revealed domestic violence against women in rural areas is rising amid climate change. The project, *Scorched by Heat*, is part of Pulitzer's Our Work/Environment initiative.

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Image by Tim Evans/NPR, United States, 2024

**Support for the Pulitzer Center this year came from Arnold Ventures, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Clinton Family Foundation, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Facebook Journalism Project, Ford Foundation, Fore River Foundation, Golden Globe Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Henry L. Kimelman Family Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Humanity United, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Julian Grace Foundation, Laudes Foundation, Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Luminate Group, Norad, Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab, Open Society Foundations, Poklon Foundation, Trellis Charitable Fund, Walton Family Foundation, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, and our Campus Consortium partner schools.**

This broad mix of foundation funding, along with continued core support from members of the Pulitzer family, board members, and many other generous individuals, ensures the independent journalism and education that is essential to our mission in these times.

We are grateful to all who continue to sustain our work.

**We hope that others will join >**