

# Assignments in the danger zone



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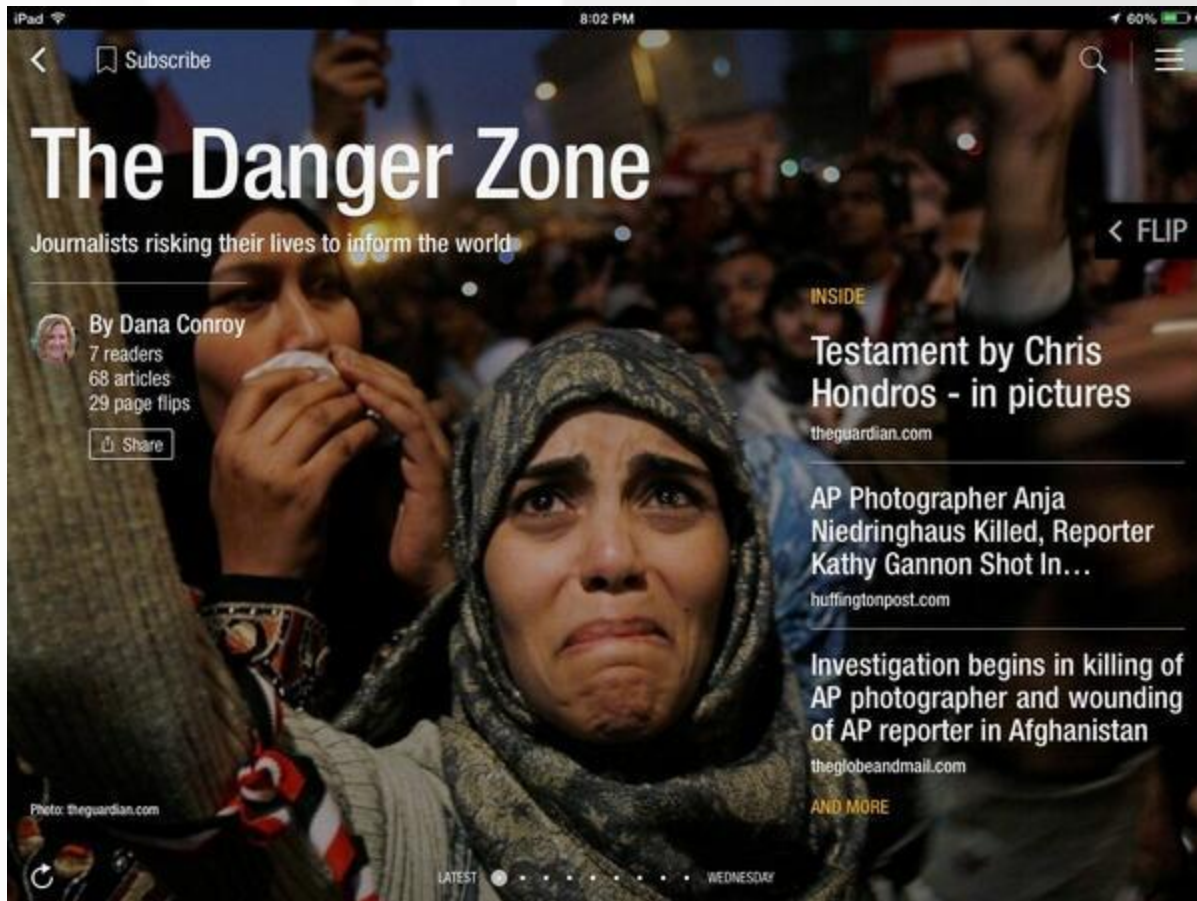
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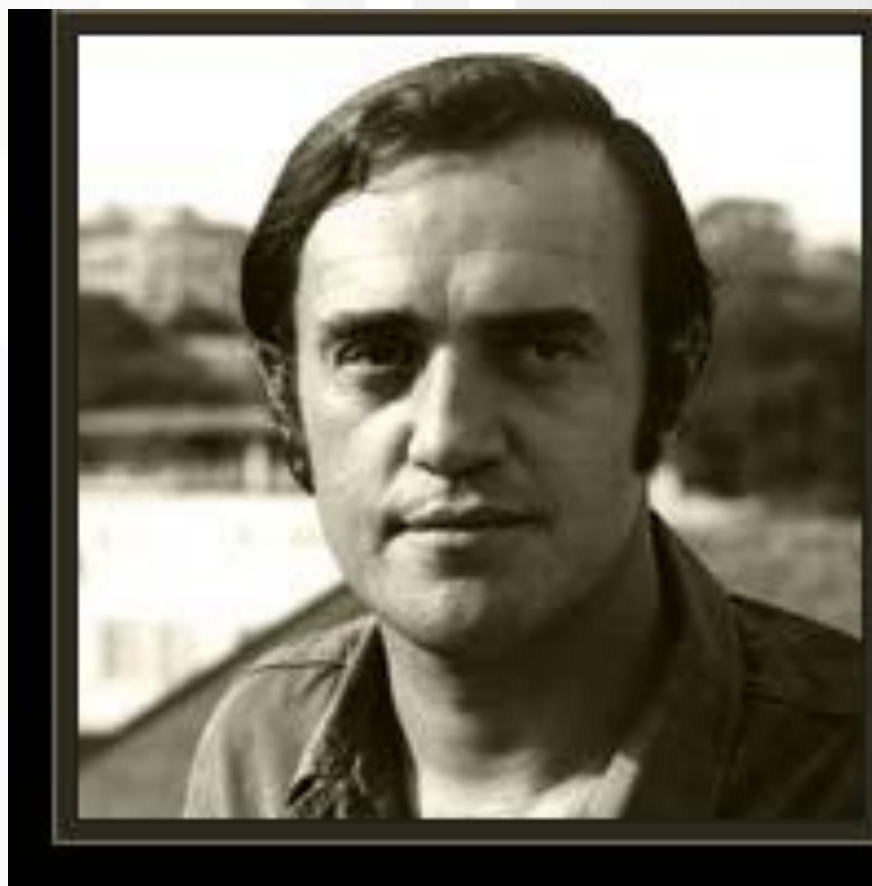


## So what is dangerous???

Journalism can be a hazardous profession. During 2001 alone, 100 journalists were killed and many hundreds imprisoned and maltreated



# Peter Arnett





For more than 40 years Peter Arnett has reported from the world's most dangerous combat zones. The New Zealand native went to Vietnam in 1962 for the Associated Press, staying with the story through the fall of Saigon and winning a 1966 Pulitzer Prize. As a correspondent for the fledgling cable news during the first Persian Gulf War, he delivered unprecedented reports from behind enemy lines in Baghdad, including an interview with President Saddam Hussein. Arnett returned to Baghdad for the 2003 Iraq War, but was summarily fired for criticizing the American-led war effort during an interview on Iraqi state television.



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While the majority were local journalists, targeted for exposing corruption or expressing political dissent, the names of foreign war correspondents feature prominently among those killed or detained.





It should be self-evident that war is dangerous and that those who report on it run the risk of becoming casualties themselves, a point poignantly made by a collection of photographs of the Vietnam war assembled from the work of photographers killed in the conflict



What is new, however, is a perception in the profession that the number of war journalists killed may be on the increase. The recent ambush and murder in Sierra Leone of two of the most respected war journalists shocked the industry and demonstrated that experience, knowledge, and common sense are not guarantees of survival.



The reporters who were killed, Kurt Schork, 53, of the United States, and Miguel Gil of Spain, died when rebels ambushed government soldiers near Rogberi Junction, 54 miles from the capital, Freetown, according to David Wimhurst, a spokesman for the United Nations mission in Sierra Leone.

# The various faces of the Hero



Kurt Schork with Christiane Amanpour. Photo courtesy Joel Brand.

Kurt Schork



Wyre Davies



Covering combat has by definition always been risky business. But as the nature of war has changed, it has become dangerous beyond measure.





# Steven Sotloff

was 31-year-old, a Floridian with a passion for the Middle East and a love of basketball and the movies of David Lynch. Sotloff, who had been freelancing for *Time* magazine and other publications, was kidnapped in Syria in August 2013. Video of his beheading was posted Tuesday. Sotloff's mother pleaded last week for his release, to no avail.



The [death of Canadian freelance photographer Ali Mustafa](#) while documenting the Syrian civil war illustrates the persistent problem of the safety of journalists in the country and, increasingly, the particular threats faced by freelance journalists reporting in one of the [most dangerous](#) locations on the planet.



Reporting from a war zone is never an easy or safe task, and the warring sides likely won't break for a stalemate while journalists document the carnage.





However, the targeting of journalists with violence prevents the rest of the world from understanding the complexities of a conflict that has so far claimed the lives of over 150,000 people, displaced more than 9 million, and produced a human rights crisis of epic proportions.

In a situation like Syria, where the absence of accurate information can produce dire consequences in terms of formulating a measured international response, the safety of journalists is paramount.



Snipers, attacks, kidnappings - war zone reporters often get caught in the crossfire. Inexperienced journalists are particularly at risk, but there's no absolute protection for reporters with experience, either.





Journalists work in extremely dangerous conditions. They often approach scenes as closely as possible to be able to report first-hand. They travel to the front lines, for example in Aleppo, Syria, where snipers hide behind windows and on rooftops. When trying to get interviews, they will often enter areas that may have been mined.



In 2012, 141 journalists and bloggers were killed worldwide, according to Reporters Without Borders - more than in any other year over the last two decades, with Syria as the deadliest country for journalists. A report said that unfortunately, it is likely journalists who report from war and crisis zones will continue to die doing their job.



Alex Crawford has become one of the faces of the Libya conflict after she was the first TV journalist to enter Tripoli with the rebels.

But the Sky News correspondent has admitted that her four children ask her why she cannot work as a dinner lady at their school instead.

At the Edinburgh Television Festival this weekend, 49-year-old Miss Crawford admitted she thought she was going to be killed at one point in the conflict.



# Thank You

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