

25th ISOJ Global roundup: Part 2: Lightning presentations about the state of journalism around the world

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 - **Pavla Holcová**, investigative journalist and founder, **investigace.cz, Czechia** (JSK/Stanford)
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Dawn Garcia [00:00:00] Hey, welcome to part two of Global Roundup Lightning presentations about the state of journalism around the world. I'm Dawn Garcia, I'm the director of the Johns S Journalism fellowships. For those of you here this morning, a little bit of repeat, but it's worth it. That we're bringing these fellows here from around the world, around the journalism fellowships that are at the JSK Fellowships at Stanford, the Nieman Fellowships at Harvard, the Knight Wallace Fellowships at the University of Michigan, and the UT Austin Fellowship here. Right in this spare space where we are. Before I begin, I do want to say a number of you may already be seeing on Twitter and on AP just I think we need to acknowledge some international news going on right now. And that is that, Israeli aviation authorities are closing the country's airspace to all flights as they brace for an Iranian drone attack. Unfortunately, Iranian state television had announced that Tehran had launched an attack toward Israel. And we don't have much more information. There's a bit on AP, but I just thought we should acknowledge that is going on. Our fellow this morning, Efrat from Israel, had heard the news and is getting information about what's going on there, and her family just wanted to acknowledge her and acknowledge what's going on in the news today. I want to say just a bit about the JSK fellowships program, and then I'm going to introduce these folks. So our program brings 15 to 20 journalists from around the world to spend nine months at Stanford University. Our fellowship aims to empower a range of journalists, diverse journalists around the world. We coach them to be resilient leaders and to work on solutions to journalism's most urgent problems, and including defending press freedom around the world. More than 1000 journalists have been fellows in our country on our program for more than 80 countries, and including me. And in the room here today, we have alumni of other fellowship programs, including Lynette Clemmens said, hi, Lynette from the Michigan Fellowships, the Knight Wallace Fellowships, and our own. Rosenthal, who was a Nieman Fellow back in the day. Yeah. So today I have the privilege to be on the stage with four great, accomplished journalists which joined the four that were here in this room this morning. And these folks are pioneering, courageous journalists who are here to tell you about the state of journalism in their countries. The urgent issues facing journalists around the globe are multiplying. We live in a world where journalists and independent media are facing increasing challenges from authoritarian regimes, polarization, misinformation and financial pressures to sustainability and this includes physical dangers. And as we've just heard this news, the wars in

Gaza and Ukraine are not helping the situation. CPJ, The Committee to Protect Journalists, has documented 320 journalists behind bars around the world as of last year, and a number of journalists who were killed in places outside of Israel Gaza war as well. And one thing I just wanted to mention, which is not always known as well, is tragically, you know, many, many journalists, too many journalists have been killed around the world and they have been killed in the United States as well. Since CPJ began documenting the killing of journalists in 1992. It's not just a couple. It's 15 journalists and media workers have been killed in the U.S. in connection with their work. Just to cite a couple. Chauncey Bailey, the editor in chief of the Oakland Post in Oakland, California, an African American newspaper, was gunned down walking to work in August 2007 after investigating corruption and criminal activities by associates of a black Muslim bakery that he was investigating. Dylan Colby Lyons, a television news reporter for Spectrum News in Orlando, Florida, was fatally shot in February 2023 while reporting on the scene of a homicide and the shooter who had murdered that person that prior shooting came back and shot him and his photographer Jeffrey German, an investigative reporter who wrote for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He was stabbed to death in September 2022 outside his home by an elected county government official on trial for his murder. And sadly, we also lost someone that I knew very well. My friend and 2004 alumni of our JSK fellowships program, Rob Hiaasen. Rob was a columnist and editor, and he also taught at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill School College of Journalism. He was shot and killed in June 2018, when he was at work, along with four of his colleagues in the newsroom at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland. He was killed on his wife's birthday. People have called the killing at the Capital Gazette newsroom a targeted attack. The shooter had previously filed an unsuccessful defamation lawsuit against the paper. The killer had brought in a gun and grenades and blocked the back door so no one can get out, and Rob was one of five people killed there, four of whom were journalists and they say that time heals all wounds. But my heart aches today, just as it did that day when I found out I was attending a journalism conference for Open News in Minneapolis. And in a way, I was lucky because I was surrounded by journalists that day, alumnae of our program, and people who understood the shock and horror that we were going through. Rob's death was a personal tragedy for all of us and a loss for journalism. Journalists like Rob do essential work in our communities. They tell the stories of our cities and our towns, the big places and the small places. They hold the powerful accountable. They shine a light on injustice. They stand up for the little guy and women. They teach us about each other. They weave a shared narrative of the people and the places in our lives and help us understand the world so we can make informed decisions. I want us to use grief for good. Words matter, facts matter. Journalism matters. I don't want us to forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for journalism. And let's do all we can to support brave journalists around the world by shining a light on injustice and defending press freedom around the world. Thank you. Okay, we're going to go to our great journalist here today. The first person is Pavla Holcová and Pavla is an investigative journalist and founder of Investigace.CZ from Czechia and a JSK Stanford fellow with us this year. Pavla.

Pavla Holcová [00:08:21] Okay. Thank you. Dawn. I don't have any slides, so I'm just going to tell you about what's on my mind when I am supposed to speak about the state of media. Disclaimer I was born in Czechoslovakia. That's a country that does not exist anymore. There's

Czech Republic and Slovakia. I live in the Czech Republic, but I report on Slovakia. What's one of the things that's keeping me safe. And, for me, Slovakia is not a country anymore. It became a case study. Case study of failed states of lost of hope. And, I became first I became crushed by the development in Slovakia. But I switched, and now I am this kind of a passionate observer. As a person who is a surgeon and discovers a new form of cancer, feeling very sorry for the patient, but can't stop watching and researching. It all started in 2017 when, very powerful Slovak businessman who was close to the government, kind of, hired assassins for hire as send them and killed my friend and colleague at his home together with his fiancée. And it was really the breaking point. People understood that this was enough. You know, we've been hearing about corruption in our state, but now they are killing journalists and we need to do something about it. So they went to the streets and in 2019, they top of the government and the government just, you know, it looked like it's over. It was the government that during the investigation of the murder case of young Khattak and his fiancée, the police discovered and detained more than 20 judges, more than five prosecutors. They pretty much detain and put under arrest the whole police leadership, including three consecutive police presidents, one of them committed suicide. And, you know, the scale of corruption, and the scale of the proofs that we had for the first time as a journalist, was unprecedented. The stupid thing that happened with the new government was that the politicians claimed those detentions as they are credit. What means they connected justice to their political will. What upset so many people and so many voters that in elections in 2013, the old party that enabled the corruption won, and they made it very clear at the first press conference that now it's going to be the government of revenge, and now they are going to go after journalists. It was one of their first statements of the first press conference. They mentioned names of the journalists. They mention names of the journalists they are going to go after. And it had really a chilling effect. Many of the journalists were already very tired after those five years struggle to investigate what happened to our colleague. But, we need to go to another round because they want elections. And now, a couple of weeks ago, they also won the president. It's from the same party. So, you know, it's not over, and we just need to go, not to lose hope and go into another round. And I'm really happy I'm taking this year off and can go back to Slovakia to do more work. Thank you.

Robertson Alphonse [00:12:38] Hello. It's good. Thank you for having me. Congratulations to your organization and I'm very happy to spend this day with you. I've learned a lot. Thank you for that. I've written something, but I decided to not go through it and to just tell you my story. My journey. The state of journalism in Haiti. Sharing with you the experience of being in exile. The experience of dealing with traumas. And what I call an angel. Coming round. Me and my wife to help me go through and my decision to move after horrific days of my life. I have decided to go back to my work, to write again, to do my morning show again, and to not let the killers silence my voice. I was born in a slum called Cite Soleil in the 80s. My mom was a pool lady. Proud. My dad was in the military. I'm from a community where everybody has come together to raise us. We have learned the meaning of solidarity. We have learned the fact that to raise a kid, it needs a village. It needs a community. And by enduring that experience early in my life, my conscience have been forged. I was the witness of inequality, poverty. And in 199, was a witness of brutal military repression. Was. How they gunned down civilians or the Gondo Kids. And from now I've decided to become a journalist. But I didn't know how I will become a journalist, but later in my

life I became a journalist and I'm the head of The Novelist. The national news of The Novelist. The Novelist is a daily news in Haiti, the largest one, the oldest one also. And I'm also the co-host of a morning show. As a journalist I covered politics and government, economical issues. And I craved to give a voice to those who were voiceless. And I think to be a useful journalist, it was, a duty for me to operate that way. And for decades because of my investigation against corruption, against misuse of public money. I make myself a lot of enemies. I received threats, but I knew one day they will come after me. But that did not stop me doing my job. As a result of my work, public outrage and youth demonstrations in Haiti in 2018 and 2019. The audit court investigated those were involved in misuse of public money. They call that Do Se. Some of those people have a name and they would be a day in court. I've been threatened, as I told you earlier, and in October 25 2022. I was ambushed while I was driving my car to my morning show. I was ambushed by a pickup and two gunmen. One of them with a M16 opened fire on me and I don't know if I can share the image of my car. That's my car. I don't know how I survived, but I was badly wounded. I receive plenty of bullets over my body and my right forearm was, you know, blast. And from somewhere less than two minutes after the shooting a woman come to help me. She make me turnakit. I don't know why I drove my car to the hospital. I've been through two surgeries. And after eight days at the hospital, I didn't have the chance to go back home, to see my dogs. I had or my wife, Natalie, had to pack a bag and we fled the country. And we are currently living in exile. And exile is one of the atrocious condition. A human being can experience. When they remove you, from your country, from your community. When they remove your roots, where you belong to. It's a very violent situation. Nevertheless, I consider myself lucky because. In 2022, six journalists had been assassinated. And those are some of them. On the left, those two young fellows, Tyson and Lartigue went to work in Cite Soleil, they were killed. And, gangs took their body and their family didn't have at least the right to have a service to bury them in dignity. And those three others, the gentleman would right the red shirt was a photographer. Vladimir Lugano was his name. He went, to do his job and he went missing. They didn't even found his body. So I think you understand. What I mean when I say even if I was badly wounded, that I was lucky. Two months after the assassination, as I said earlier, I decided to not let them silence my voice. And I've been reach out to a voice. To an angel, as I call her. The voice was the voice of your friend Dawn. It was the voice of Lynnette. I was in, you know, in a hole, depression. Flashback. Pain. I was in pain. I was in rage. I asked myself if it was worth it to do the sacrifice and to put my family into this. And I was mad at myself, but weeks after I've receive help from my therapist. And Lynnette because of one of our fellow, loads of y'all reach out. The Knight Journalism Fellowship was, for me, like a light in a tunnel that gives me at this time a goal. The purpose is to bounce back. And at University of Michigan. I experience something very special. It was challenging intellectually. But the most important part for me was the healing process and how collectively we as a journalist who have been through a traumatic situation can heal together. I know we were looking at as a journalist to discuss your own issues, especially your own mental health issues. I've learned how to dealt with them. And so far I'm, I'm going better and I want to to commend that and to say thank you to those who come to help me. Sadly, since the assassination of, the Asian journalist, my country is engulfed in the violence. I'm sure you're watching CNN. You read the news. And you know for sure that in 2023, 5000 Asian have been killed, most of them by gangs. And so far this year, 1500 of my federation have been killed by their gangs, who are controlled

over 80% of the capital. They block ports and international airports. Now there's a shortage of everything looming over the head of the population in Port au Prince and those gangs. Especially one of them, the King Lord's name is threatening journalist. And because my fellow Asian journalists are leaving the same fifth of my fellow Asian in general, they have some, in some case, to move, to flee their neighborhood and to try to make a living. Sometimes, in people, places. Currently, the news outlets are facing a very tough time because after five years of recession, our economy of collapse. And I've been reach out last week by my boss saying, we have to cut half your your salary because there's no business, there's no advertisement. So for my fellow Asian journalist, it's struggling. Just have in mind that for journalists who earn less than \$400, how you can make a living in that situation. Currently beside the violence, there is a lack of of hope. And that was and that is one of the main concern I have. That's why I've decided to be a voice to engage. In advocacy to protect journalists in advocacy in a large scale for human rights. Because it's not acceptable to be silent witness. Thank you. While women have been raped, children have been starving, and while there is no solution. Yesterday the government published a decree to create a new council. President Biden approved 60 million for the multinational force to support Asian forces, but it's just pledge. It's just work. There's a need of urgency each day. Their waste means more people will end up dead. Much more suffering. And my dream is to see one day children running, laughing again. Instead of crying instead of starving. So currently there is zero elected official in Haiti. In two years, we'll have a decade since we held our last election. So democracy in my home country is dead currently. I think journalists have a crucial role to play. To make sure that people regain that Haitian people regain is right of elected official to have a voice to describe. But we need to act swiftly, strongly to anticipate. To deal with the peril of democracy, its consequences on journalists and on our society on a large scale. My pledge is to keep doing my job. Please reach out. If you need any background, any contacts on Haiti, please reach out. I plan to be a voice. I plan to advocate for protection for Asian journalists. I plan to build up an NGO. It will take time. I plan also to be, a journalist who will keep doing his job. Usually I say we are useful idiots. I think I changed my mind. I think we are soldiers. We are important for democracy in and for the communities and for press freedom. Thank you.

Dawn Garcia [00:28:03] Thank you so much Robertson. Okay, next we have Yana Lyushnevskaya. From Ukraine.

Yana Lyushnevskaya [00:28:15] Thank you so much. It's a pleasure to be here. Very grateful to the ISOJ for a great event. I am spending this year as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, and before arriving in Cambridge, I spent over 11 years with the BBC in Ukraine. I work for a department called BBC Monitoring. Our job is to track and analyze media around the world. And since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, my focus has been on examining Ukrainian media's response to the invasion and also the changes that happened in the Ukrainian media environment in the past two years. And let me start by saying that even before 2022, it was never easy to do quality independent journalism in Ukraine. TV channels have long promoted the political and business interests of their wealthy owners. Independent media have long struggled financially and political pressure was not uncommon. And then also we had a war raging in the east of the country since 2014. It was smaller in scale than what we are seeing

now, but it was still very badly and it left a big footprint on the media. But at the same time, what sets Ukraine apart from some of its neighbors, like, for example, Russia and Belarus, was the fact that there was pluralism in the media. There was never a situation where there would be only one opinion on TV, in the press or on the internet. So if I were to describe the state of Ukrainian media after Russia's full scale invasion, I would use the word turbulence. Turbulence on every level imaginable, from physical safety of journalists to economic challenges facing their media, to actually challenges with media freedom, because wars inevitably come with elements of censorship and various restrictions on media operations. The most urgent issue is, of course, security for Ukrainian journalists until 2022. Becoming a war correspondent was a choice, not anymore. Reporting on the war is no longer about going to the frontline, reporting, and then coming back to your peaceful hometown. As a journalist, I could be in Kyiv. I could be in Lviv. You know, peaceful city is far away from the actual conflict zone. But a Russian missile or a drone could explode outside my window. At any moment there are journalists who have been killed covering the war. There are journalists who have been killed in their own homes in those, missile attacks on peaceful Ukrainian cities. And we have also lost journalists who have enlisted in the military and have been killed on the frontlines, you know, in their new role as soldiers defending Ukraine. And just imagine the toll it takes on journalists, on their mental health, on the work that they do. Journalists are human beings, and unlike foreign correspondents whose work we greatly appreciate, they come. But then they have the luxury of going back to their peaceful countries. We don't have that. This is our home. It is virtually impossible to disconnect even when you are not actually working. You are still living the reality of the war. Which is why when you speak to journalists, one of the most pressing needs that they mention is mental health support. Another huge challenge that doesn't get talked about as much as it should be is staffing. We are seeing journalists leaving the workforce for a variety of work related reasons. For example, male journalists get conscripted into the army because journalists are not exactly exempt from being recruited and drafted. Many female journalists have left the country as refugees. You know, many of them had little children to take care of and they took them to safety. And many of them, you know, have not come back to journalism. And they may not do that in the future either. And I have heard so many times that it is virtually impossible to find correspondents, editor or technical staff for your TV channel, for example. There's just not enough people on the market. And speaking about the market, economic difficulties are another major issue for independent media in particular. The advertising market collapsed badly because the economy collapsed because of the war. And one of the few ways for independent media to survive is to rely on grants and other donor funding. How sustainable this is in the long term is a big question. We are seeing that attention to the war in Ukraine is declining. And, you know, all those wealthy international donors may have other priorities soon, too, unfortunately. And last but not least, media freedom remains a challenge. Most TV channels in Ukraine are currently under total control of the presidential office. As soon as the full scale invasion started, the leading broadcasters united into the single newscast. So whatever TV channel you turn on, you will see the same news, the same program on all of them. The content of this newscast has been criticized by the media community for, in particular, for creating unrealistic expectations for Ukrainians about Ukraine's potential successes in the war. According to many journalists and media, analysts are just painting an overly optimistic picture of where this is all headed. And news audiences are increasingly moving to telegram, to social media in general. But telegram in

particular is the messenger app that is full of quite popular but usually anonymous news sources channels they are called. And this is also where Russian propaganda is rampant. Ukraine has worked really hard since 2014 to limit the influence of Russian disinformation. Russian TV channels, for example, have been banned for a long time. Russian social media platforms have also been taken offline. But the Russians are kind of trying to find more subtle ways to get their message across. And usually they do that by amplifying and playing on the disagreements that already exist in Ukrainian society. And this is a big concern for the Ukrainian government and for the media community in general. And of course, I need to say that it is difficult to expect the country fighting for its survival to be a beacon of media freedom and political pluralism. After all, we're not just journalists, we're also citizens of our country. We have it has affected us all very on a very personal level. We also have very strong views about what peace should mean, how war should end. So self-censorship could also be an issue. But I also have good news, Ukrainian journalists are fighting really hard to maintain their rights to report on difficult, sensitive stories and to criticize the government and the president, even during the war, even despite the fears that this may benefit Russia in the long term. One of the best examples of that are the investigations done by Ukrainian anti-corruption reporters. For example, we had a very prominent investigation about corruption in the military. So you can only imagine how sensitive the stories are in the country at war. But yes, there are journalists in Ukraine doing just that and having an impact. For example, the defense minister was fired shortly after that scandal was uncovered. So with all the extraordinary challenges, there are also signs of hope. But this kind of international journalism needs support and Ukrainian journalists need support. A lot of it. Thank you.

Dawn Garcia [00:35:26] Thank you. Yana. Next we have Hannah Ajakaiye who is the lead at FactsMatterNG in Nigeria and a JSK fellow at Stanford.

Hannah Ajakaiye [00:35:41] Hello everyone. Yes, my name is Hannah Ajakaiye, as Dawn rightly mentioned. I'm glad to be able to present the state of journalism in Nigeria. So I'll start with an overview of the media landscape. And it's a vibrant media landscape with lots of radio stations and private TV channels that are in operation, and some of them are owned by government and some by private entities. And we also have the presence of international media organizations like CNN and the BBC that has launch services in some local languages in Nigeria. Like the rest of the world, the print media is in decline, circulation is reducing, people are no longer buying newspapers, and a lot of them are having to shut down and also lay off workers. We are seeing a rapid increase in the number of online news publications and some of those publications, created or pioneered by young journalists who are tired of the status quo, or older journalists who are to leave legacy media platforms out of some challenges. And it's quite important to states that social media is playing a big role in the way people are accessing news and the way people are consuming content. In Nigeria, of course, that has led to a huge case of disinformation, especially on platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp. I think there's no say in the fact that journalists have paid the price for democracy in Nigeria, as we all know. Nigeria has the biggest democracy in Africa, and right from the time of military rule, you've

had two journalists who were killed somewhere. Some had to go on exile in order to be able to do the work. And presently journalists will continue to pay the price for a functioning democracy. And a case in point would be like the case of a young journalist who an intern, a 20 year old journalist who was killed while covering riots that involved a protest against police brutality. Looking at the state of press freedom in Nigeria. You can see the index, the ranking. It's believed that Nigeria is one of the worst places to be a journalist. Judging from experiences from colleagues and some of the cases that we have seen, there are cases where journalism, it seemed I have like an other colleague who was who was recently released, spent like over two weeks in detention because he wrote a story condemning, he wrote a story exposing corruption and that story involved one of the army chiefs, and it was picked up in front of his family. And was in detention for like over two weeks. We've also had cases, in fact, a recent case which happened a few days ago where a journalist was abducted in the oil rich region in Niger Delta and he was kidnaped and the kidnappers are demanding a ransom of \$30,000 for him to be released. So these are some of the challenges that journalists are facing. They're also saying case, we've seen cases of disappearance. I have a friend whom we studied together as campus journalist. His name is Stadiyata, is a critic of governments, is quite vocal on social media platforms. But one day he returned home from work and armed men were waiting for him, and they took him away. And it's been over four years and we've not heard anything about him. We are still trying to search for him. So that is another horrific case of some of the times when journalists have had to disappear or pay the ultimate price for the work that they do to strengthen democracy in Nigeria. And we've had cases of disinformation campaigns that targeted to journalists and active voices on social media. Governments are paying people troll armies to try and force a hashtag in order to discredit journalists and kind of distorts public opinion about journalism in the country. And increasingly we are seeing a case of surveillance where. The data of journalism has been breach. They are hacking into the forms of journalism, especially state operations and journalism, are being tracked, their conversations are monitored, and this is one of the ways that the state authorities I've been using in arresting on detaining journalists in Nigeria are we've seen like cases, especially in the last, during the last dispensation. So the civic space is closing and we are seeing increased attacks on journalists using surveillance technologies. And the recent thing, which is like something that is very common, is I show up for five points and it's right, so just leave it. This is the issue of the cyber crime acts journalists are exploiting, not journalists, the governments, state actors are exploiting the Cybercrime Act to clamp down journalists and people will voice opinion on social media. I don't know, there's a news which recently made it to an international media platform about a vocal social media user who reviewed a product. She has been arrested. She's undergoing court to try, for reviewing tomato paste on Facebook. So there's a mum, especially in the northern part of Nigeria, where journalists who post opinion on Facebook or other social media platforms would be picked up and arrested and detained. And there was also the case of some young TikTokers who we have flogged because the post said, content shaming the state government. And last year we had a case of a student who posted something about the first lady and he was detained for the claim that he was body shaming the first lady. That is the wife of the president. So those are some of the current reality that journalists are having to battle with in Nigeria. Okay, so I would not really want to talk about all the negativity. I think we should also talk about positivity, especially how journalists are pushing back. Like I mentioned in the

previous slides, we've had cases of, you know, journalists been demoralized, and it's a sad reality that many of the journalists in my country are turning to other professions. Some of them are becoming PR personnels for government. And we also have to look at the fact that some of them, because of the poor pay in the industry, cutting standards, you are seeing an increase in that they are cutting corners and just trying to see how to survive. But again, like I mentioned, the Nigerians, some Nigerian journalists are pushing back. Of course, I always say that to be a Nigerian is to be resilient because you always have to fight and survive through different challenges. And I want to use this time to kind of highlight young journalists who are pushing back and are still trying to do hard core investigative reporting that are changing, that are changing the state of things in the country and trying to hold government accountable. As you can see, my colleague Fisayo sharing on board, which is presently a fellow at the Knight Fellowship Program in Michigan, and many times, because of the restrictions of practicing journalism in Nigeria, the fact that you don't have access to government data, Fisayo has had to go undercover on several occasions on even its personnel risks to expose corruption in government circles. And also there is Phillip who is an activist and a journalist who has been doing a lot of work covering activities of Russia. And the disinformation of Russia in Africa. And I also like to highlight the media journalism organizations that are doing a lot of work to invest in the next generation. And this older colleague Yomi, whom some people may know. He has been very passionate on this particular organization, and has been doing a lot of work to push innovation in journalism, not only in Nigeria but the West Africa region. Some of the challenges that I will quickly run through. Some of that changes right now. So we've seen a rise in media start ups that are. Using analysis, you know, covering Nigeria's tech platform. Some of them actually, you know, they get funding from they get seed fundings. And I like to say to us that some of this new startup, which I pioneered, pushed by young people, are bucking the trend of the danger of a single story promoted by Western media. So they are sharing stories of positivity on the African continent. And this form of solution journalism is resonating among younger audiences. And I always like, and I also want to mention the work of fact checkers. I lead a fact checking organization that is building collaboration with social media influencers and journalists to see how we can reach underserved audiences so that they are able to demand accountability from the government. So we are pioneers in new ways of getting people to be in civic duty. Okay, I like to say thank you for listening, and also hand on the note that the young generation of journalists are committed to ensuring that democracy works in Nigeria, and we've had to do beats. There's a challenge of, you know, a sustainable business model. But then we we've been working with the support of international partners, and we want to see a country that thrives so that our children would have a better future. Thank you so much for listening.

Dawn Garcia [00:47:24] Thank you so much, Hannah. Oh, I think we have about. 5 or 10 minutes left. Do we have any questions from the audience that we want to ask? I think it's coming on a platter. So, first of all, thank you all. We're getting some questions here. Okay, we've got one here. I will ask, coming in via Slack. I would love to know what would be a "Helping journalists in danger 101." I know I should know more about this already, but given the expertise on this group, is there a best way for outsiders to keep track? And what can they do to support journalists in danger? Whether that's through donations, participating in campaigns,

resharing social media, or what other opportunities would you say there are for helping turn journalists in danger?

Pavla Holcová [00:48:27] I mean, keep an eye on us. You know, really, it's very simple and it's very helpful because especially if you are attacked by politics or by powerful people. It is increasing the cost for them to attack us, because they can feel that there is someone watching them, what they do. And you know, to kill a journalist is usually, you know, some cost benefit analysis and making killing journalists more expensive by, you know, needing to deal with a larger community. It's a good way to protect journalists.

Hannah Ajakaiye [00:49:15] I would say keeping their attention on some of those conflicts, some of those troubled regions. As a Ukrainian journalist working for international audiences. For me, the biggest challenge right now is to actually keep people interested. And we've ended up in this sort of twisted situation where global conflicts need to compete with each other for attention. We don't, we don't want that. So I guess, like, start with that. And, donating definitely helps for, independent media, in particular. But for Ukraine, I guess the more important part is to support Ukraine's war effort in general, because we will not have a healthy media environment until the war is over, unfortunately.

Dawn Garcia [00:50:08] While we're sitting here, Robertson, do you have a thought?

Robertson Alphonse [00:50:10] Yes. I agree. Keep an eye on us. We need to know that journalists around the world, democracy is under attack. We need to have our own playbook to push back. We need to reach out. We need to be proactive, to anticipate and to know that. Those campaigns discredit news organizations to discredit our way to do a job. According to the ontology to what our profession asks us to do its plain. So we cannot turn a blind eyes and pretend that we are not aware that our profession and democracy is under attack. We are under attack. We have to have a playbook to counter attack and to keep doing our job.

Hannah Ajakaiye [00:51:07] Okay. So I like to say like funding is important for doing investigative journalism, because we've had a case in my country where if police only journalists came to establish a media organization, and that organization did not see the light of the day because they ran out of funding. So that is very important, especially in a place where people are not used to paying for news and government is seeking to close down media platforms.

Dawn Garcia [00:51:36] As a as fellows at journalism programs around the universities that we've talked about. What is one thing you're going to take back with you to your country that surprises you, or that you will want to keep with you always?

Hannah Ajakaiye [00:51:55] Okay. I think I'll go first. You know, being at Stanford, I've been surprised by the culture of innovation. Especially seeing what technology can do. But with engaging people with news and new products. So that is something that I want to take back. To keep innovating, to keep thinking out of the box, thinking out of the box, and building the

capacity of the people to consume news that give them actionable information to demand accountability from their governments.

Yana Lyushnevskaya [00:52:31] I think for me, one of the most valuable parts was connecting with other fellows in the program and discovering that even though we come from many different countries, our challenges are actually similar. They may not be on the same scale, obviously, as some of us have more pressing challenges than the others. But there's so much we can learn from American journalists or Chinese journalists or journalists in India I don't know, journalist in Africa, because we all have common challenges and common troubles, learning from each other's experience can be hugely valuable.

Robertson Alphonse [00:53:04] More contacts, more fellows. And a new way to engage with journalists. With communities, and get involved in those needed to fight for press freedom, for democracy.

Pavla Holcová [00:53:19] Well, apart from the people I've met. And I'm definitely going to bring back home with me. It's, it's a mindset. You know, and the joy to fail, to try and fail and to try again.

Dawn Garcia [00:53:36] Right. Thank you so much. Let's thank our panelists. Hannah, Yana, Roberson and Pavla. Thank you so much for listening. And go out there and keep in touch with these journalists.