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Dear Subscriber,

We've been covering major conflict and disaster zones since the Civil War. From the World Wars to earthquakes, pestilence and 21st-century battlefields in the Middle East, readers have turned to The Times for trustworthy firsthand accounts, analysis and commentary. In this issue of Off the Press, we share some of what goes into our reporting from the front lines around the world.

## In Harm's Way: The Risks and Precautions We Take to Cover the News



Covering the Ebola crisis, video journalist Ben Solomon gets a chlorine spray outside a hospital in Monrovia, Liberia. Photo: Daniel Berehulak for The New York Times

Peril is just part of the job description. Covering the most important news worldwide often puts us close to the front lines of major conflicts and disasters. A good day at the office may mean not getting abducted, injured or killed. Each of the stories below is a case in point.

["ISIS Sent Four Car Bombs. The Last One Hit Me."](#)

["4 Times Journalists Held Captive in Libya Faced Days of Brutality."](#)

You can also [click here](#) to see work by Times photographer Tyler Hicks, who earned a Pulitzer Prize in 2014 for courageously documenting a deadly terrorist attack at a Nairobi shopping mall.

It takes fortitude and strategy to protect journalists and get accurate information in trying circumstances. Below, Times veteran Jodi Rudoren tells us more.

TAKE A LOOK

CATCH UP WITH EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF NYT GLOBAL

Jodi Rudoren



Jodi Rudoren

The world's her stage. Recently appointed editorial director of NYT Global, and just before that a deputy editor of international news, Jodi knows about bringing home the big stories from all over the map. She also brings to her job a diversity of experiences, having served as a National and Metro correspondent and editor. Perhaps no correspondent ever inspired as much reader email as Jodi did while serving as Jerusalem bureau chief; one of her critics fiercely accused her of "neutrality."

We recently spoke to her, and here's what she told us.

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**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FOR THE TIMES TODAY IN COVERING A WORLD IN TURMOIL?**

Access. We have been unable to safely travel to most of Syria during the long and chaotic civil war there. In China, we struggle to get journalist visas to bring in new correspondents. We recently had a reporter turned back at the Istanbul airport because he had been blacklisted. Hamas has made it difficult for our reporters to work in Gaza.

And, of course, danger: our photographer Bryan Denton was recently hit by an ISIS car bomb in Iraq, our team in Mogadishu was frighteningly close to a deadly explosion in January, travel in Yemen is severely restricted. The list goes on and on.

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**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS — OR IN YOUR**

## OTHER WORK AT THE TIMES?

I covered two wars in Gaza: I don't think I'll ever forget the night I woke up to an FA-18 dropping its load a block from my hotel in 2012, or writing about an Italian journalist and Palestinian fixer who were killed in 2014 doing a feature on the Hamas team that handled unexploded ordnance (a story I might have been doing that day myself). But those scary things are not the most powerful experiences.

Much more impactful, in terms of human understanding and growth, was the afternoon I spent with Nidaa Badwan, an artist in Gaza who locked herself in her room for a year because she could not cope with the situation. I'll never forget the young Israeli hipster who had tattooed her grandfather's Auschwitz number on her forearm. Or the strength of Rachel Fraenkel, whose son was among the three yeshiva boys kidnapped in the occupied West Bank, as she awaited word whether he was alive (he was not).

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## WHAT DOES YOUR NEW JOB AS EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, NYT GLOBAL ENTAIL?

Well, I'm writing this on an airplane to Newark at the end of a 15-day trip through Stockholm, Amsterdam, Brussels, Hong Kong and Beijing — so it seems to entail a lot of travel!

The idea of NYT Global is to grow our audience around the world and to make The Times a truly international news organization. That means expanded coverage in Australia and Canada, where the decline of the local media has left readers clamoring for quality journalism. It means building our brand across Europe to showcase our coverage of Europe as well as our indispensable service journalism on health and food, our innovative visual-first projects, our podcasts. It means evolving our Spanish and Chinese websites. It means helping build out lines of coverage on climate change, gender, technology and urbanization that resonate in every corner of the world. And it means working across the newsroom to ensure that the report is not presumptively American, that we don't send the message to readers abroad that this is not for them.

That's what I know right now, but Global is new and entrepreneurial and looking for opportunities to seize. We'd love to hear readers' ideas about how to get their friends and neighbors engaged with Times journalism. Send your suggestions to [global@nytimes.com](mailto:global@nytimes.com).

## Did you know?



We have our own Department of Corrections. Not exactly jail time for erring journalists, but, just as we call out erroneous statements made by political leaders, we also regularly note factual errors that we inadvertently make ourselves. We may be good, but we're not yet perfect. You can find our daily Corrections in the Main News section of our newspaper and under "News" in the list of categories on the home page of [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com).

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### Heart of Darkness



[Heart of Darkness](#)

In this Times Insider article, Azam Ahmed, The Times's Mexico bureau chief, recounts his journey to the remote town of Rendel, Haiti, to report on the cholera epidemic devastating the community.

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