# FREEDOM OF THE PRESS FOUNDATION

## 2023 Impact Report

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...abase of press freedom incidents in the United States — everything from ○arrests of ...the ○seizure of their equipment to ○assaults and ◉interrogations at the U.S. border. ...edom Tracker documents incidents across the country, involving national, state and loca... ...orities.

| | |
|---|---|
| Equipment Damage | 221 |
| ...ment Search or Seizure | 95 |
| ...t Case | 10 |
| ...r Restraint | 32 |
| ...poena/Legal Order | 217 |
| ...Incident | 131 |

**○ Vandal throws brick, shattering glass door at Oregon daily**

**✿ Colorado newspaper wins access to recording of closed city council session**

...officers warn

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Incident | Date |
| Location | New York, New York |
| Targets | Dale (Jane) Bee-Ora (Freelance) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Incident | December 15, 2023 |
| Location | Washington, District of Columbia |
| Targets | Media |

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Incident | December 11, 2023 |
| Location | Jonesboro, Georgia |
| Targets | Lauren Santos (WANF) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Incident | December 11, 2023 |
| Location | Jonesboro, Georgia |
| Targets | Asia Wilson (WANF) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Incident | December 8, 2023 |
| Location | Grants Pass, Oregon |
| Targets | Unidentified Journalist 10 (Grants Pass Daily Courier) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Incident | December 7, 2023 |
| Location | Aurora, Colorado |
| Targets | Sentinel Colorado |

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Incident | December 4, 2023 |

...data for All incidents | public records | robbery | election

the past six months | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | all time

...owing incidents grouped by type of attack. An incident can ...der more than one category.

Showing incidents distribution in the U.S. Incidents are grouped by state.

Showing the number of journalists targeted...

| | |
|---|---|
| ...rrest/Criminal Charge | 296 |
| ...ssault | 1011 |
| Border Stop | 53 |
| Chilling Statement | 55 |
| Denial of Access | 83 |
| Equipment Damage | 220 |
| Equipment Search or Seizure | 92 |

# Our Mission

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) protects, defends, and empowers public-interest journalism in the 21st century.

### Press Freedom Underpins Democracy

There's a reason press freedom is protected in the very first amendment to the Constitution — it's the right that protects all else by ensuring access to information. Press freedom is the gateway to accountability and the cornerstone of democracy.

### Tech Is Crucial Where the Law Falls Short

In today's flawed political system, where legal safeguards often fail, open source technology provides protection. We create digital tools to defend a free press, countering attempts by those in power to misuse the legal system for suppression.

### Press Freedom Is for All

In the digital age, it's not just reporters from big-name newsrooms that need protection. Everyone from nonprofit outlets to independent filmmakers and citizen journalists needs our help, especially when they don't have the resources to defend themselves.

### Principles Over Politics

Governments often threaten critical rights by first attacking unpopular or vulnerable citizens. Our role is to defend press freedom, particularly when establishing a precedent, regardless of the individuals involved or their views.

Dear Supporters of Press Freedom,

Thanks to our U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, we know journalists — particularly those daring to take on entrenched government power or from independent outlets — are often attacked for doing their jobs.

Consider Kansas, where a local newspaper faced an office raid and their reporters endured hours of waiting in scorching 100-degree heat. Their crime? Investigating misconduct by the local police chief. In Ohio, a journalist with a local publication was charged with wiretapping for publishing leaked audio from courtroom testimony. The news outlet's seized computer has still not been returned. In Florida, an independent journalist had his house raided by the FBI for publishing a video that was already available on the open internet. These are but a few of the egregious attacks on press freedom we have meticulously documented and opposed this year.

The United States is also poised to extradite Julian Assange to stand trial for publishing classified information. It's a case that could be a devastating blow to the rights of all journalists – no matter your feelings on Assange.

These are but a few of the disturbing cases of investigative journalists being targeted for informing the public.

Press freedom is a hollow term if it's only used to defend journalists who are popular and uncontroversial. This is why the work of Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) is so important.

Through the work of our investigators tracking attacks on journalists, FPF is shining a light on wrongful prosecutions, searches, and physical assaults against journalists in the United States. Our engineers build and install SecureDrop in newsrooms across the country, so journalists can securely receive documents from anonymous whistleblowers — ensuring the newsroom can never be forced to turn over the identity of its sources. We're also leading the fight for reform by championing the PRESS Act in Congress so that journalists won't be spied on and forced to turn over their sources.

Thanks to our loyal supporters, we are able to stand firm even when confronting adversaries with seemingly limitless resources — like the United States government. There are significant battles ahead but thanks to your unwavering support, we will persist in protecting the First Amendment where it's most crucial, ensuring that journalism remains authentic and inclusive.

Thank you for all you do to help us protect press freedom,

Rainey Reitman
Board President (2022–Present)
Freedom of the Press Foundation

# Major Projects & Programs

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) has been empowering journalists and whistleblowers to subvert arrest, surveillance, and censorship since our founding in 2012.

We ground ourselves in the real–world challenges that journalists face every day, while anticipating new threats to press freedom. We don't copy what other organizations do; instead, we spot the gaps and develop innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of journalists and their sources.

## SecureDrop

We provide the gold standard for secure communication between sources and journalists.

Brave whistleblowers and reporters are increasingly under threat from surveillance, prosecution, or worse. SecureDrop fights this by shielding journalists' communications and protecting the anonymity of sources. SecureDrop is used by over 70 major newsrooms worldwide.

## Dangerzone

We sanitize documents, making them immune to spyware.

Hackers who target journalists and newsrooms often exploit security bugs in apps used to open common files. Dangerzone combats this by converting documents into safe PDF files. What remains is the same content displayed on your screen — nothing less and, crucially, nothing more.

# Digital Security Training Program

| We pioneer digital security training specifically adapted for journalists.

We trained over 1,300 journalists in 2023 on topics like how to encrypt calls to sources and protect sensitive footage in transport. Through specialized programming for filmmakers and university students, our Digital Security Training team protects journalists from the classroom to the newsroom and beyond.

# U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

| We are the only organization tracking and monitoring press freedom in the U.S.

From documenting arrests and assaults of journalists to tracking legal threats like subpoenas for source material, the Tracker database informs advocacy, reporting, and the public. The Tracker documented over 130 incidents in 2023 and is the backbone of press freedom advocacy.

# Press Advocacy

| We pinpoint critical press freedom matters and ignite action within our community.

We engage in public and legal advocacy, championing the protection of whistleblowers and journalists, promoting legislation that broadens access and transparency, and challenging excessive government secrecy. We use our platforms to advocate for journalists — and the public — in pursuit of systemic change.

# *Remembering Daniel Ellsberg*

**We Mourn the Loss of a Legend**

This year, our dear friend Daniel Ellsberg, world-renowned whistleblower and Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) co-founder, died at the age of 92 from pancreatic cancer.

Ellsberg's legacy will forever remain a testament to the power of truth, press freedom, and the tireless defense of those who speak out against injustice.

We will continue to honor his memory and carry forward his unwavering commitment to a more transparent and just world.
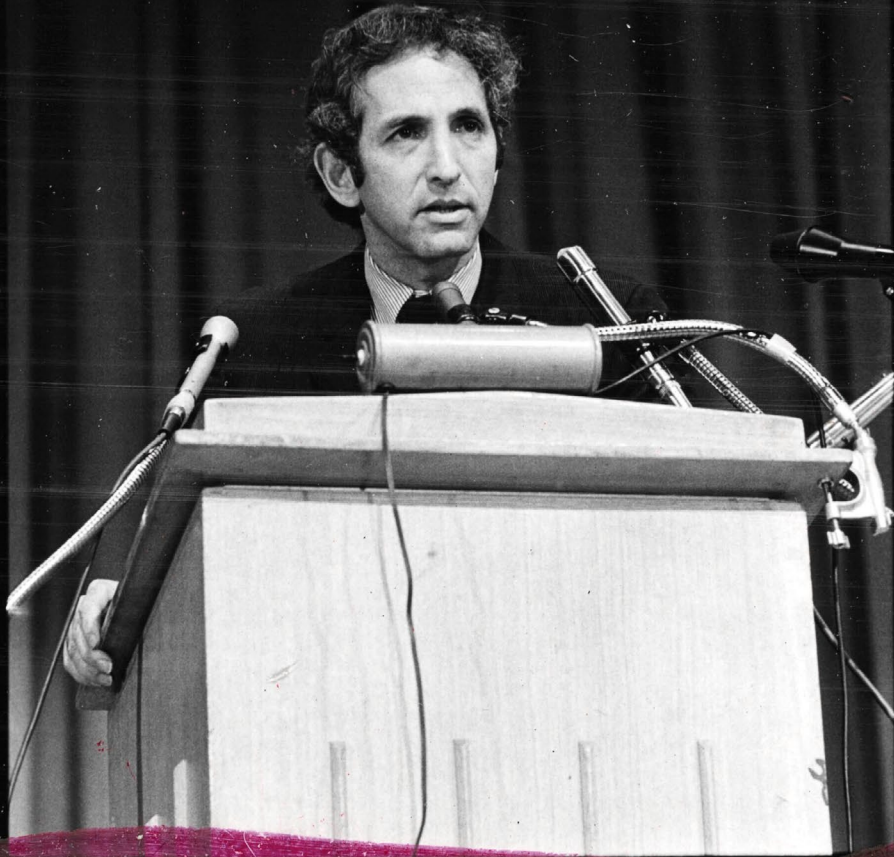
## Leaving a Mark on History

Ellsberg stands as one of the most influential figures in American history, leaving an indelible impact on the last century. His courageous decision to leak the Pentagon Papers to The New York Times in 1971 led to the most important Supreme Court case for press freedom in the modern era, sparked a series of events that culminated in the resignation of President Richard Nixon, and ultimately accelerated the end of the Vietnam War.

He became a hero to millions for his unwavering anti-war activism and fight to abolish nuclear weapons.

## Defending the Defenders

Ellsberg, the first source for journalists to be prosecuted under the often-abused Espionage Act, only escaped decades in prison because of what he would later refer to as "a series of miracles" (in reality, severe government misconduct).

So he spent the second half of his life passionately defending other whistleblowers who were less fortunate. He made it part of his mission to draw attention to unjust and unconstitutional laws and help other patriotic whistleblowers who were irreparably harmed by them.

## Whistleblower Rights: A Core Press Freedom Issue

Ellsberg's fight to uncover government deception, the secret escalation of the Vietnam War, and policy failures is an undeniable factor in why we consider whistleblower rights a core press freedom issue. Ellsberg staunchly rejected efforts to manufacture distance between his actions as a source in 1971 and his work in the decades later.

For instance, he welcomed Edward Snowden to FPF's board of directors and worked closely with him for years. He retained backup copies of whistleblower Chelsea Manning's disclosures and regularly called her "my hero." He called former National Security Agency intelligence analyst Daniel Hale in prison every Sunday, even when Ellsberg was terminally ill.

His long-term legacy may lie with the countless whistleblowers whom he inspired to follow in his footsteps. It is for those whistleblowers that FPF will continue to fight.

## Continuing the Mission

FPF would not exist without Ellsberg, as he was one of the galvanizing forces behind our organization's founding in 2012. He then sat on our board for more than 10 years and has been a constant inspiration.

Our organization plans to honor our dear friend by carrying the torch for two of the causes he championed for much of his life: reform of the U.S. government's secrecy system and unconstitutional abuse of the Espionage Act. This year, we announced the creation of the Daniel Ellsberg Chair on Government Secrecy, which aims to tackle those two issues with the same passion, rigor, eloquence, and intellectual honesty that he embodied.
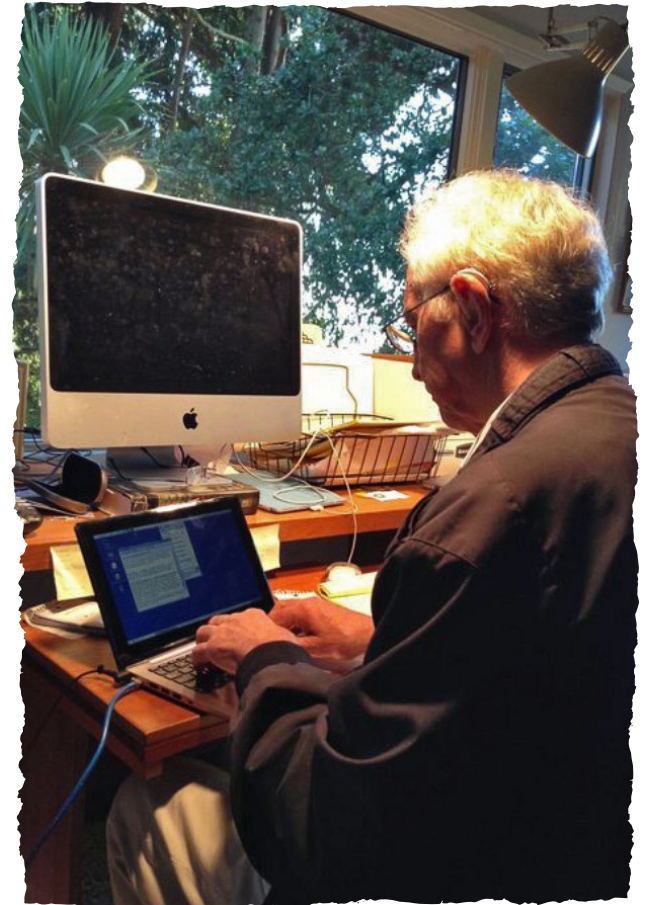
Daniel Ellsberg speaking with Edward Snowden for the first time in September 2013. Photo by Trevor Timm.

# SecureDrop

*Building the premier open source whistleblower submission system, used by major news outlets worldwide.*

**2023 Releases**
SecureDrop [2.7.0](#) I [2.6.1](#) I [2.6.0](#) I [2.5.2](#)

[SecureDrop](#) empowers newsrooms around the world to report on information submitted by anonymous whistleblowers, and works to establish a transparent and just society where humanity's most important information can be shared with investigative journalists and the public — even when powerful corporations or governments attempt to keep it secret.

**70+**

*Installations by major newsrooms across the globe*

**20+**

*Supported languages for worldwide accessibility*

In 2023, we channeled our growing insights into shaping SecureDrop's future. We zeroed in on addressing broad deployment challenges and successfully wrapping up the next-generation SecureDrop pilot to prepare to deploy it fully next year.

*"While it is true that we, like other news organizations, cannot say which stories SecureDrop was contributing to, there are a lot. And they happen on a quite frequent basis. I don't know how we would be able to do the work we do in a world where SecureDrop didn't exist."*

— Journalist at The Guardian

## The Why

Sources who provide sensitive information to journalists can face serious consequences — like harassment, retaliation, and legal threats — if their identity is revealed. Traditional methods like in-person meetings, phone calls, emails, and mail to communicate with sources each carry a risk of interception, which is why SecureDrop was created.

The New York Times    NBC NEWS    HOUSTON CHRONICLE    THE GLOBE AND MAIL
HUFFPOST    The Washington Post    POLITICO    PROPUBLICA    BBC NEWS
The Guardian    AP Associated Press    The Intercept_    ALJAZEERA    Forbes

SecureDrop is used by major newsrooms around the world every day to break big stories. You can see a full list of official installations at [securedrop.org/directory](#).

## SecureDrop and the Vulkan Files:
# Exposing Russian Cyber Espionage

> By design, Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) cannot access whistleblower submissions on any news outlet's SecureDrop. This means that it is extremely rare for us to know what news stories come through the open source whistleblowing platform.

This year on The Lawfare Podcast, we learned that an anonymous whistleblower used SecureDrop to provide over 5,000 pages of documents on Russia's intelligence agencies, including the notorious hacking group Sandworm — allegedly responsible for the shutdown of Ukraine's electrical grid on two occasions: the disruption of the 2018 Winter Olympics and the catastrophic 2017 NotPetya cyberattack.

"The company is doing bad things, and the Russian government is cowardly and wrong," said the anonymous whistleblower. "I am angry about the invasion of Ukraine and the terrible things that are happening there," they added. "I hope you can use this information to show what is happening behind closed doors."

The leaked documents also outlined plans to use software platforms for real-time attack coordination.

This included projects designed to facilitate disinformation campaigns on social media, identify vulnerable hacking targets, and provide training for real-world attacks on critical infrastructure, such as air, sea, and rail transport.

SecureDrop helped these revelations reach more than 50 journalists from 11 prestigious news organizations, ensuring the story was heard worldwide. Among them were the German newspaper with whom the documents were initially shared, as well as The Washington Post, The Guardian, Le Monde, and Der Spiegel.

The anonymous whistleblower declined to identify themself, declaring the need to vanish "like a ghost" for security reasons. But we're glad SecureDrop was able to make all that happen.

# U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

*Comprehensively tracking every arrest, assault, surveillance order, and other rights violation against journalists in the United States.*

Since 2017, the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker has documented incidents across the country, involving national, state, and local authorities, including everything from the arrests of journalists and the seizure of their equipment to assaults and interrogations at the U.S. border. The Tracker has become an essential tool for building awareness of press freedom issues while demanding accountability.

**1,800+**

*Published reports of press freedom incidents across the country*

**1,000+**

*Citations by outside sources since 2017, making it the primary source for press freedom advocacy*

**140+**

*Published analyses of major incidents and trends in press freedom*

*"I regularly refer to the Tracker to stay up to date on press freedom incidents in the U.S. I don't know any other projects that track press freedom violations in the U.S. as closely and comprehensively as the Tracker does. The database is especially helpful for documenting trends in violations over the years."*

— Washington, D.C.–based journalist

## The Why

To protect press freedom, we have to first understand the threats against it. Attacks on our free press — physical, legal, and even verbal — undermine the media's ability to report on important issues. The Tracker's news database allows us to hold those who harm journalists to account so that journalists can continue to hold the powerful to account.

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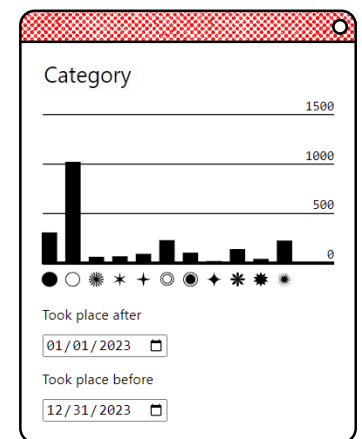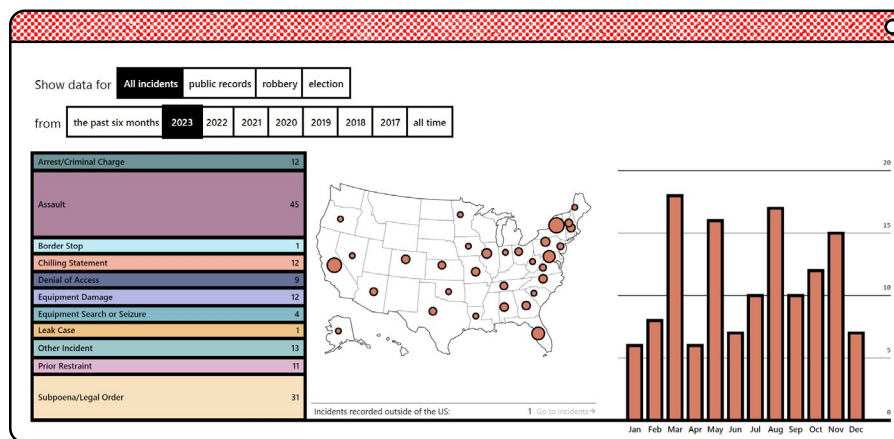
## 2023
# Notable Tracker Coverage

◉ ☀ Independent Florida journalist Tim Burke has home newsroom raided by FBI over hacking allegations following a Tucker Carlson interview controversy[1]

○ Spectrum News 13 reporter Dylan Lyons killed in the field; photojournalist Jesse Walden critically injured[2]

◉ ☀ Seized devices from investigation around murdered journalist Jeff German protected by Nevada Supreme Court[3]

○ ◉ ☀ Marion County Record journalists' home and newsroom raided, equipment seized; reporter injured[4]

☀ Arizona reporter Camryn Sanchez faces restraining order after probing whether a senator lives in the district in which she's elected[5]

● ○ NewsNation correspondent Evan Lambert arrested during Ohio governor's press conference[6]

# Digital Security Training Program

*Teaching journalists how to encrypt their communications, lock down their accounts, mitigate harassment, and stay anonymous in the age of surveillance.*

Our team of digital security trainers stands at the forefront, teaching journalists essential practices to fortify and maintain digital security within their organizations. Through targeted support, we address unique risks individual reporters face, ranging from government surveillance to phishing and online harassment.

We provided over 75 trainings this year, helping over 1,300 journalists and filmmakers protect their work. In April, we launched the first weekly digital security digest newsletter, aimed at journalists who have been part of our training so they can stay up to date on the cybersecurity landscape.

8,500+

*Journalists who have attended at least one training since 2018*

*"Freedom of the Press Foundation's training on digital security was hugely helpful and enlightening for our team of documentary journalists. The tactics and best practices covered are highly relevant for anyone working with confidential material or anonymous sources, but they were also helpful in improving digital security and mindfulness in our day–to–day communication. FPF showed us a clear and simple path to better digital security."*

— Scripps News documentary news team

**The Why**

Digital threats to press freedom take many forms, including cyberattacks, surveillance, hacking, and phishing. In some cases, governments and other actors use technology to control the flow of information. Many journalists and newsrooms lack the security knowledge and resources to effectively protect themselves against these threats.

This year, we redoubled our efforts to provide security audits, especially for local newsrooms needing threat assessments. We focused on revamping our most popular digital security trainings and on rolling out new post-training surveys to measure the effectiveness of our work. We also unveiled Spanish-language digital security guides to ensure more reporters can use our resources.

Here are some of the specialized courses we offer — in tandem with our trainings on security audits and digital security basics — that cover the most salient and pressing issues facing reporters:

**Source Protection Programme**
Through comprehensive eight-week courses, we teach journalists how to navigate high-risk reporting. From making first contact with sources to mitigating retaliation after publishing, our team covers it all. This program has grown by leaps and bounds, helping over 500 journalists from dozens of countries in 2023.

**Journalism School Curriculum**
Our curriculum, tailored for journalism schools, has witnessed a surge in adoption. We're actively exploring ways to integrate components of this curriculum into existing university courses, fostering an environment that prioritizes digital security education.

*"I cannot overemphasize the importance of this curriculum. As someone who's done global studies, I come across journalists who risk their own lives (as well as the information and the sources they collect) due to a lack of understanding that surrounds cybersecurity and journalism studies."*

— Paromita Pain, professor at University of Nevada, Reno

**Digital Security for Filmmakers**
This specialized course addresses the unique security challenges encountered by filmmakers, providing crucial strategies to safeguard their digital assets and communications. We trained over 40 independent documentary filmmakers in 2023.



**Most requested training topics:**

Digital Security 101
Online Harassment Prevention and Response
Advanced Topics: Secure Communications
Secure Collaboration Strategies
Environment Training: Digital Component
Secure Communications
Risky Research

# High–Profile Issues





◎ ☀ **Marion County Record Raid**
Leading National Conversations on Press Freedom

On Aug. 11, the entire police force of Marion County, Kansas, descended upon the Marion County Record newsroom, seizing equipment from reporters, and raiding the home of the editor, Eric Meyer, and Joan Meyer, Eric's mother and co–owner (who died the next day). The raids, ostensibly related to computer abuse allegations, garnered swift action from Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) and were quickly documented by the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker with continuous updates for weeks.

FPF organized an urgent meeting among press freedom allies to strategize, share on–the–ground updates, and spotlight the work of a legal defense fund to help the Record. FPF's condemnation resonated with media giants emphasizing the violation of the Privacy Protection Act of 1980. FPF also led national discussions on NewsNation with Chris Cuomo alongside editor Meyer, as well as on the Scripps News Morning Rush, The Lawfare Podcast, and the News in Context podcast.

● ☀ **PRESS Act**
Protecting Journalists from Exposing Sources

Journalists shouldn't have to choose between protecting their confidential sources or going to prison — but right now many do. This is why FPF has tirelessly campaigned for a reporter's shield law known as the PRESS Act that would prohibit the government from spying on journalists or threatening them with prison if they don't burn their sources.

Since late 2022, FPF has called on select leaders to support the bill. These calls, along with coalition letters and direct collaboration, have secured key support from major players including Sen. Ron Wyden, Sen. Mike Lee, and Sen. Dick Durbin (who called our work some of the best advocacy efforts he'd ever seen). Today, it maintains bipartisan support, with Sen. Lindsey Graham reportedly being added as a co–sponsor.

This year, we made serious strides. Our blog is more active than ever, we've briefed staffers on Capitol Hill, and we've been featured on local news and national TV programs and podcasts.  We're champions for all journalists, whether they're freelancers or New York Times correspondents. That passion fueled our launch of a press freedom working group, sparking collaborative efforts that might not have happened otherwise.

# Press Advocacy
# Lesser-Known Stories



● ◎ ☀ **Asheville Blade Trial**
Defending Local Reporters

After Asheville Blade journalists Matilda Bliss and Veronica Coit were arrested for recording police evicting a homeless camp on Christmas Day 2021, you couldn't find coverage outside North Carolina. However, since Day 1, the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker has been following this incident.

In late 2022, the Tracker team learned there was bodycam footage of the arrest. So, FPF partnered with the ACLU and the Committee to Protect Journalists to petition a North Carolina court for the full public release of the recordings. In March 2023, the footage was made public and confirmed that Bliss and Coit had been targeted by the police for their roles as journalists. Despite the evidence, Bliss and Coit were convicted on trespassing charges in April 2023.
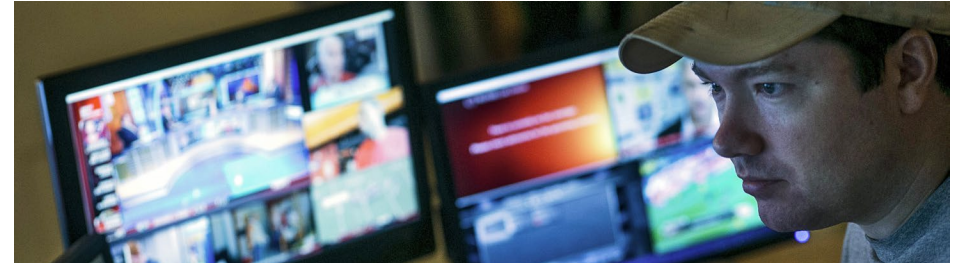


◎ ☀ **Tim Burke Raid, Equipment Seizure**

The FBI raided Florida journalist Tim Burke's home newsroom in May following the publication of outtakes from Tucker Carlson's interview with rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West. Burke says he obtained the outtakes online through a publicly accessible URL.

Following the raid, we led the demand for the Department of Justice to explain the basis for the FBI raid of Burke and why it believed his online newsgathering was illegal. We continue to speak up about this case and its connection to other recent press freedom threats. We also collaborated with the Florida First Amendment Foundation on a guide for journalists to deal with searches and seizures of their equipment.

Numerous advocacy organizations are involved in national and international press freedom violations. But for every threat to big-name reporters, there are countless local journalists and whistleblowers harassed, assaulted, and prosecuted for constitutionally protected activities.

# Empowering Journalists in the U.S. and Abroad

It's never been more important for journalists to protect themselves and their sources.

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) provides whistleblowers a secure line to journalists, trains reporters how to safely work on the digital front lines, documents attempts to suppress media rights, and fights for the First Amendment.

Tracker Incidents

SecureDrop Installs

Digital Security Trainings
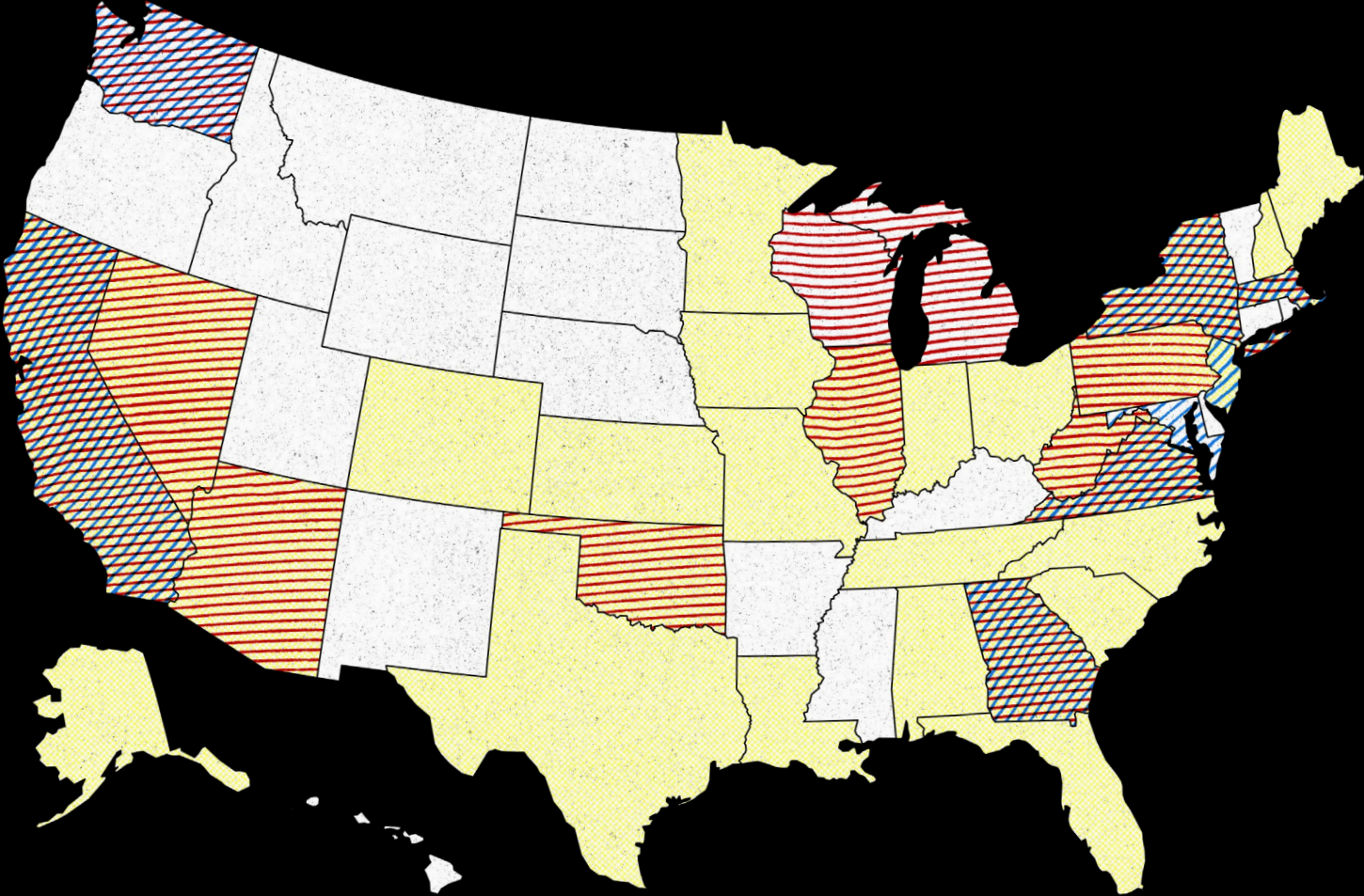
The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker documented over 130 incidents of press violations against journalists across the U.S. in 2023.
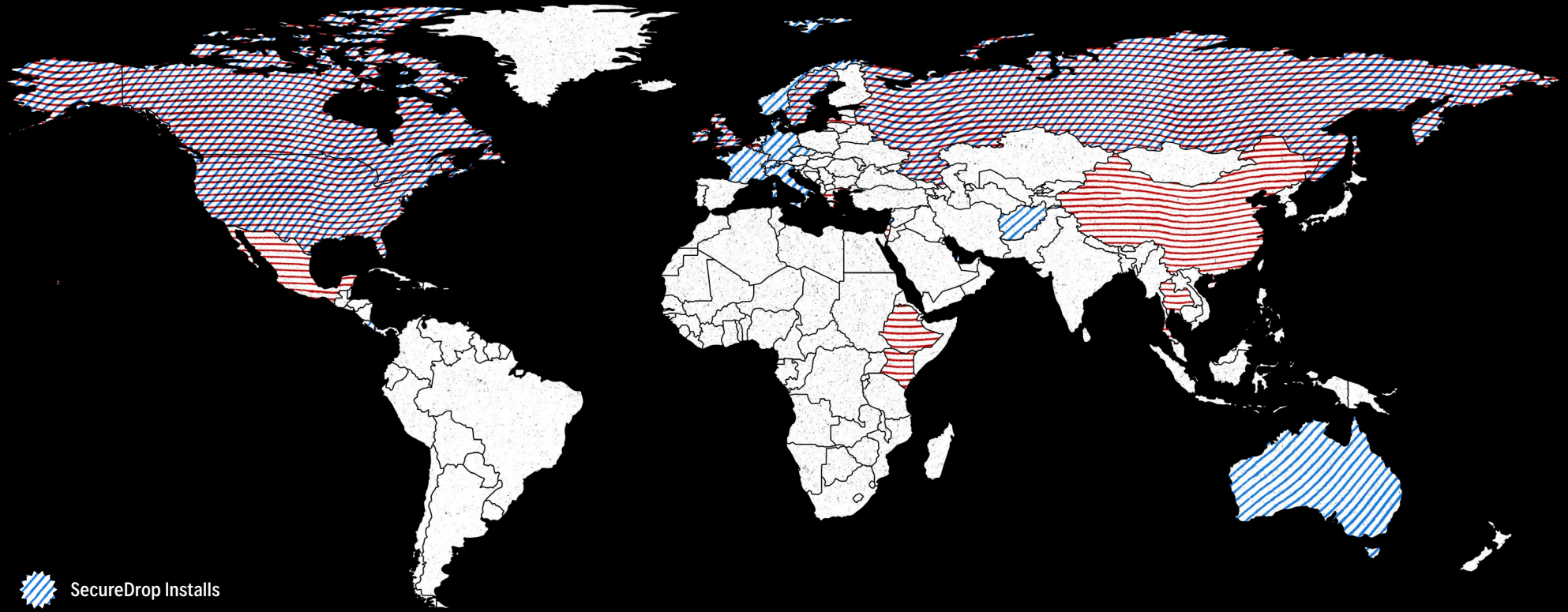
**SecureDrop Installs**

**Digital Security Trainings**

SecureDrop is used by over 70 major newsrooms worldwide.

Our Digital Security Training team worked with over 1,300 journalists and filmmakers around the world in 2023.

Many of our clients serve international audiences, which this map may not accurately display. Some locations are also kept private for others' safety.

# Dangerzone

*Helping journalists open documents safely by producing PDFs that are searchable and easier to share.*

**2023 Releases**
Dangerzone 0.5.1 I 0.5.0 I 0.4.2 I 0.4.1

**The Why**
Hackers who target individual journalists or entire newsrooms often try to exploit security bugs in apps used to open common file types like PDFs or Word documents. Dangerzone stops this by taking documents in many formats and converting them to safe PDF files.

Our participation in the 2023 Qubes Summit in Berlin allowed us to forge strong connections with the team behind the virtual machine–based operating system Qubes OS, paving the way for future directions. Notably, this includes introducing official beta support that empowers users to utilize Dangerzone within the Qubes OS platform, leveraging its robust isolation and security features.

**One of the pivotal achievements from 2023 stemmed from our user studies conducted during the International Journalism Festival in Perugia, Italy.** These studies were instrumental in uncovering critical insights. The firsthand feedback gathered during this event will prove invaluable in guiding our improvements to the tool.

Thanks to a contributor from South Korea, we broadened Dangerzone's use to include Chinese, Japanese, and Korean characters. We also added support for the widely used Hancom Office files, known for their susceptibility to malicious content.

**Should've Used Dangerzone!**

A security flaw affecting the Google Pixel's default screenshot editor, Markup, was discovered to allow images to become "unedited," torpedoing attempts to crop or hide names, addresses, or any other kind of personal information in the image.

For journalists, especially those handling sensitive information or relying on sources, the importance of tools like Dangerzone in these cases cannot be overstated, as it adds a layer of defense against unforeseen vulnerabilities.

In an environment where secure communication and safeguarding sensitive data are paramount, tools like Dangerzone play a crucial role in maintaining confidentiality and protecting sources.

# Exciting Ventures for 2024

**SecureDrop Workstation Full Rollout**

In 2024, the SecureDrop Workstation will graduate from its current pilot program and become the preferred, fully supported way for journalists to connect to SecureDrop to interact with sources. Current SecureDrop support clients will be transitioned and all new SecureDrops will have the option to use the Workstation from the get-go.

**Tracking How the Media Is Treated on the Road to Election 2024**

We believe that candidates' treatment of journalists while running for office gives critical insight into how they may behave when they become elected officials. Up until Election Day 2024, we will be documenting relevant incidents involving the treatment of the press during this election cycle. If a journalist is denied access or removed from a federal campaign event, we'll review the facts to determine if it gives rise to First Amendment concerns. Here is a look at this same project from the 2020 election campaign.

**Daniel Ellsberg Chair on Government Secrecy**

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) will launch the "Daniel Ellsberg Chair on Government Secrecy" in 2024. This full-time position will be dedicated to turning the enigma of secrecy abuses into public conversation starters. They will work hand-in-hand with journalists to spotlight overlooked stories about classification system malpractices. They will also apply pressure where needed by lobbying Congress for landmark changes to classification laws and the Espionage Act.

This position aims to not just follow in Ellsberg's footsteps, but make strides forward, championing one of the causes he dedicated his life to. This is more than a chair, it's a crusade for transparency, continuing Ellsberg's half-century battle.



Harlo Holmes performs training to audience in 2023.

# Helping the Press Freedom Community

## Press Advocacy

*Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) was cited or mentioned over 300 times by media in 2023*

First Amendment Watch
"Press Freedom Advocates Urge DOJ to Explain Raid on Journalist Tim Burke"

The New York Times
"Raid of Small Kansas Newspaper Raises Free Press Concerns"

NewsNation Hosted by Chris Cuomo
"Kansas newspaper gets computers back after police raid"

The Wall Street Journal
"Secrecy of Google Antitrust Trial Leads to Blame Game"

The Washington Post
"A CBS reporter refusing to reveal her sources could be held in contempt"

Scripps News Morning Rush
"Marion County Record Raided by Police"

The Washington Post
"Kansas newspaper to regain items seized in controversial police raid"

## SecureDrop

Aaron Swartz Day 2023
"State of the Drop"

The Lawfare Podcast
"Craig Timberg on the Vulkan Files"

## U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

*The Tracker was cited and its data relied upon by news outlets, industry groups, and in legal filings nearly 100 times in 2023*

### The Guardian
"Kansas paper raid shines light on rising anti-media rhetoric in US"

### Knight First Amendment Institute
"Covering Democracy: Protests, Police, and the Press"

### Reporters Without Borders
"2023 World Press Freedom Index"

### Tech Freedom
"Amicus Brief in Volokh v. James"

INDEX 2023

**45** / 180

Score : 71.22

INDEX 2022

▼ **42** / 180

Score : 72.74

23-356

In the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

EUGENE VOLOKH, LOCALS TECHNOLOGY INC., RUMBLE CANADA INC.,
*Plaintiffs-Appellees,*

vs.

LETITIA JAMES, in her official capacity as Attorney General of New York,
*Defendant-Appellant.*

BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* PROF. ERIC GOLDMAN AND TECHFREEDOM
IN SUPPORT OF APPELLEES AND AFFIRMANCE

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of New York

## Digital Security Training

### CNN Tip Page
Digital Security Training program guides
ProtonMail guide
"Locking down Signal" guide
"WhatsApp" guide
SecureDrop

### Digital Dada Podcast
Combating digital security nihilism, featuring Harlo Holmes

### The Markup Tip Page
"Sharing sensitive leaks with the press" guide

### Open Vallejo Tip page
"Signal for beginners" guide



3

**PublicSource**, secure tipline setup
OpenNews, "A lean newsroom's blueprint for gathering secure tips"

### The Telegraph Tip Page
"Sharing sensitive leaks with the press" guide

### UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television
"An in-depth guide to choosing a VPN" was added as a reading requirement for a course, Cyberpunk Submergence, regarding cyberpunk as a media genre.

### The Verge Tip Page
"Locking down Signal" guide
"In accordance with best practices set by the Freedom of the Press Foundation, this page is being served over HTTPS without third-party analytics or ad trackers."

# Partners & Supporters

## U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

### Advisory Board
Committee to Protect Journalists
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
Knight First Amendment Institute
Index on Censorship
Reporters Without Borders USA

### Partners
Association of Alternative Newsmedia
Association of Health Care Journalists
Canada Press Freedom Project
Columbia Journalism Review
First Amendment Watch
Free Press
Fundamedios
Global Editors Network
International Women's Media Foundation
Investigative Reporters and Editors
James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
Media Law Resource Center
MediaShift
National Association of Hispanic Journalists
National Press Club
National Press Photographers Association
National Writers Union
New England First Amendment Coalition
Newseum
News Leaders Association
News/Media Alliance
Oklahoma Media Center
Online News Association
PEN America
Poynter Institute
ProPublica
RTDNA (Radio Television Digital News Association)
Regional Reporters Association
Society of Environmental Journalists
Society of Professional Journalists
Student Press Law Center
The Media Consortium
The NewsGuild TNG-CWA
Writers Guild of America, East

## Advocacy

### Collaborators
ACLU / *Asheville Blade journalists' arrest*
Committee to Protect Journalists / *Asheville Blade journalists' arrest*
Florida First Amendment Foundation / *Tim Burke investigation*
Sen. Dick Durbin's Office / *PRESS Act*

### Press Freedom Policy Working Group
ACLU
Association of Health Care Journalists
Brechner Center for the Advancement of the First Amendment
Coalition for Women in Journalism
Committee to Protect Journalists
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress
Electronic Frontier Foundation
First Amendment Coalition
First Amendment Foundation
First Amendment Watch
FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression)
Indigenous Journalists Association
Knight First Amendment Institute
Media Coalition
Media Law Resource Center
National Association of Black Journalists
National Association of Science Writers
National Press Club Board of Governors
National Press Club Press Freedom Committee
National Press Photographers Association
News Media Alliance
PEN America
Protect the 1st Foundation
RTDNA (Radio Television Digital News Association)
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
Reporters Without Borders
Society of Environmental Journalists
Society of Professional Journalists
Student Press Law Center

## SecureDrop

### Media Organization Installations
2600: The Hacker Quarterly (USA)
ABC News (AUS)
Aftenposten AS (NOR)
Aftonbladet (SWE)
Al Jazeera Media Network (QAT)
Apache (BEL)
BBC (UK)
Bloomberg Industry Group (USA)
Bloomberg News (USA)
Business Insider (USA)
BuzzFeed (USA)
CBC (CAN)
Center for Public Integrity (USA)
CNN (USA)
Dagens Naeringsliv (NOR)
Dagbladet (NOR)
Der Spiegel (GER)
Disclose (FRA)
Documented (USA)
Financial Times (UK)
Finanzwende (GER)
Forbes (USA)
Forbidden Stories (International)
Good Law Project (USA)
Gothamist (USA)
heise Investigativ (Germany)
HuffPost (USA)
Harvard IQSS (USA)
Kenneth R. Rosen (individual)
Kommunal Rapport (NOR)
Ktipp (SWI)
McClatchy DC (USA)
Mediapart (FRA)
Meduza (RUS)
NDR (GER)
noyb (EU)
NRK (NOR)
OCCRP (International)
POLITICO (USA)
Public Intelligence (International)
Stavanger Aftenblad (NOR)
Stefania Maurizi (individual)
Süddeutsche Zeitung (GER)
Sunnmørsposten (NOR)
taz (GER)
TechCrunch (USA)
Technopolice (FRA)
The Globe and Mail (CAN)
The Guardian (UK)
The Intercept (USA)
The New York Times (USA)
The Telegraph (UK)
The Wall Street Journal (USA)
The Washington Post (USA)
Toronto Star (CAN)
TV2 Denmark (DEN)
Verdens Gang (NOR)
Whistleblower Aid (USA)
Zvizgac (SLO)

### SecureDrop Technology Collaborators
Tor Project
Qubes Operating System
Sequoia PGP
Tails

## Digital Security Training Program*

100 Days in Appalachia
ACOS Alliance (A Culture Of Safety Alliance)
American Bar Association
"Bad Press" documentary
Bloomberg Industry Group
Carleton University School of Journalism & Communications faculty
Center for Digital Resilience
Centre for Investigative Journalism
#CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference
Cityside Journalism
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY
Dataharvest European Investigative Journalism Conference
E.W. Scripps Company
Field of Vision
Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP)
Forbes
Frontline (PBS)
G/O Media
Global Investigative Journalism Network
iMEdD (Incubator for Media Education and Development)
International Center for Journalists
International Documentary Association
Journalism & Women Symposium
Localization Lab
Meduza
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
National Association of Hispanic Journalists
NBCUniversal
New York University Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP)
Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism
openDemocracy
PEN America
POLITICO
POLITICO Europe
Prologue Projects
PublicSource
Quinto Elemento Lab
Reporters United
Rewire News Group
SRCCON (Source Con)
Seattle Times affiliate newspapers
Stanford International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic
Student Press Law Center Student Press Freedom Day
The Boston Globe
The Forward
The Signals Network
Thomson Reuters
United Nations Reham al-Farra Memorial Journalism Fellowship (UNRAF)
University of Nevada, Reno
Washington State University

*There are 25+ additional organizations and groups we cannot disclose for privacy reasons*

# Staff

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) is a nonprofit organization with roots originally in California and now headquartered in New York.

We boast a diverse team spread across the United States, with dedicated staff in District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Washington state; as well as in California and New York.



Our global reach extends to staff based in Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Greece, and India, reflecting our commitment to a wide-ranging impact.

### Executive
**Trevor Timm /** Executive Director

### Advocacy
**Seth Stern /** Director of Advocacy
**Caitlin Vogus /** Deputy Director of Advocacy

### Development & Operations
**Louise Black /** Vice President of Development & Operations
**Bevyn Howard /** Grants Manager
**Ryan Rice /** Development Coordinator
**Chris Porras /** Director of HR, Talent & Culture
**Grace Samaritano /** Operations Assistant & Office Manager

### Digital Security
**Harlo Holmes /** Chief Information Security Officer
**Dr. Martin Shelton /** Principal Researcher
**David Huerta /** Senior Digital Security Trainer
**Abigail LP /** Newsroom Services Manager
**Davis Erin Anderson /** Senior Digital Security Trainer

### Editorial & Audience
**Kirstin McCudden /** Vice President of Editorial
**Ahmed Zidan /** Deputy Director of Audience
**A. Adam Glenn /** Deputy Editor
**Stephanie Sugars /** Senior Reporter, U.S. Press Freedom Tracker
**Sophie Hagen /** Research Reporter, U.S. Press Freedom Tracker



### Engineering & SecureDrop
**Erik Moeller /** Vice President of Engineering
**Kevin O'Gorman /** Engineering Manager, SecureDrop
**Allie R /** Engineering Manager, Infra (Interim)
**Maeve Andrews /** Senior Site Reliability Engineer
**Rowen S /** Senior Software Engineer
**Cory Myers /** Senior Software Engineer
**Kunal Mehta /** Senior Software Engineer
**Nathan Dyer /** Newsroom Support Engineer
**Ada N /** Senior Security Engineer
**Alex P /** Senior Security Engineer, Dangerzone
**Francisco Rocha /** Software Engineer, Dangerzone

### Web Development
**Harris Lapiroff /** Engineering Manager, Web & Dangerzone
**Cameron Higby-Naquin /** Senior Software Engineer
**Saptak S /** Web Developer

# Board of Directors

# Major Supporters

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) is extremely grateful to our supporters, partners, and friends whose generosity makes our work possible. Thank you for all you do to help protect press freedom.

*Please note: We only provide the names of funding sources who have previously given permission to release their information.*

Acton Family Giving
Anonymous
Committee to Protect Journalists
Craig Newmark Philanthropies
La Vida Feliz Foundation
Filecoin Foundation for the Decentralized Web
FJC, A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds
The Ford Foundation
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
The Omidyar Group
The Park Foundation
Reva and David Logan Foundation
TEGNA Foundation
Yelp Foundation

# Financial Report

## Expenses

| | |
|---|---|
| SecureDrop | $1,540,583 |
| General Programs (Web / Infra) | $1,030,993 |
| Advocacy | $695,835 |
| U.S. Press Freedom Tracker | $659,769 |
| Digital Security | $631,102 |
| Operations | $670,042 |
| Development | $537,892 |
| | |
| **Total** | **$5,766,216** |

Please note: All figures are preliminary and unaudited. Complete audited financial statements and IRS 990 forms from previous years are available at Freedom of the Press Foundation's website, freedom.press/about/reports–financials

SecureDrop
26.7%

General Programs (Web / Infra)
17.9%

Advocacy
12.1%

U.S. Press Freedom Tracker
11.4%

Digital Security
11%

Operations
11.6%

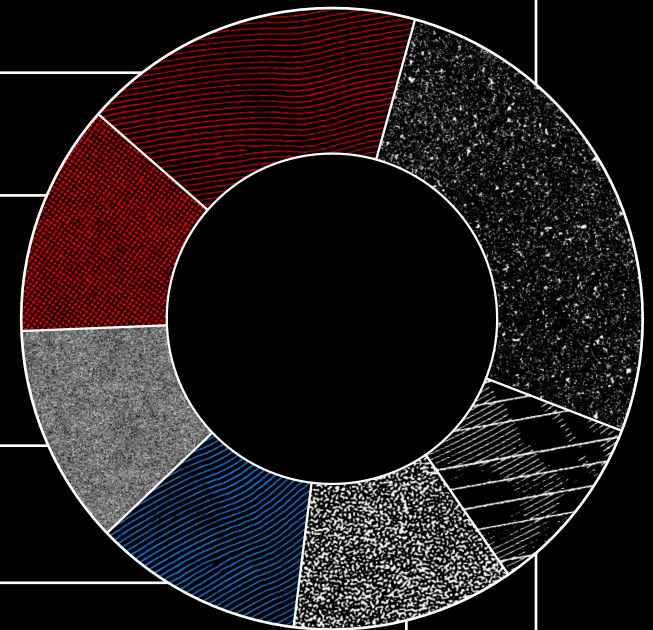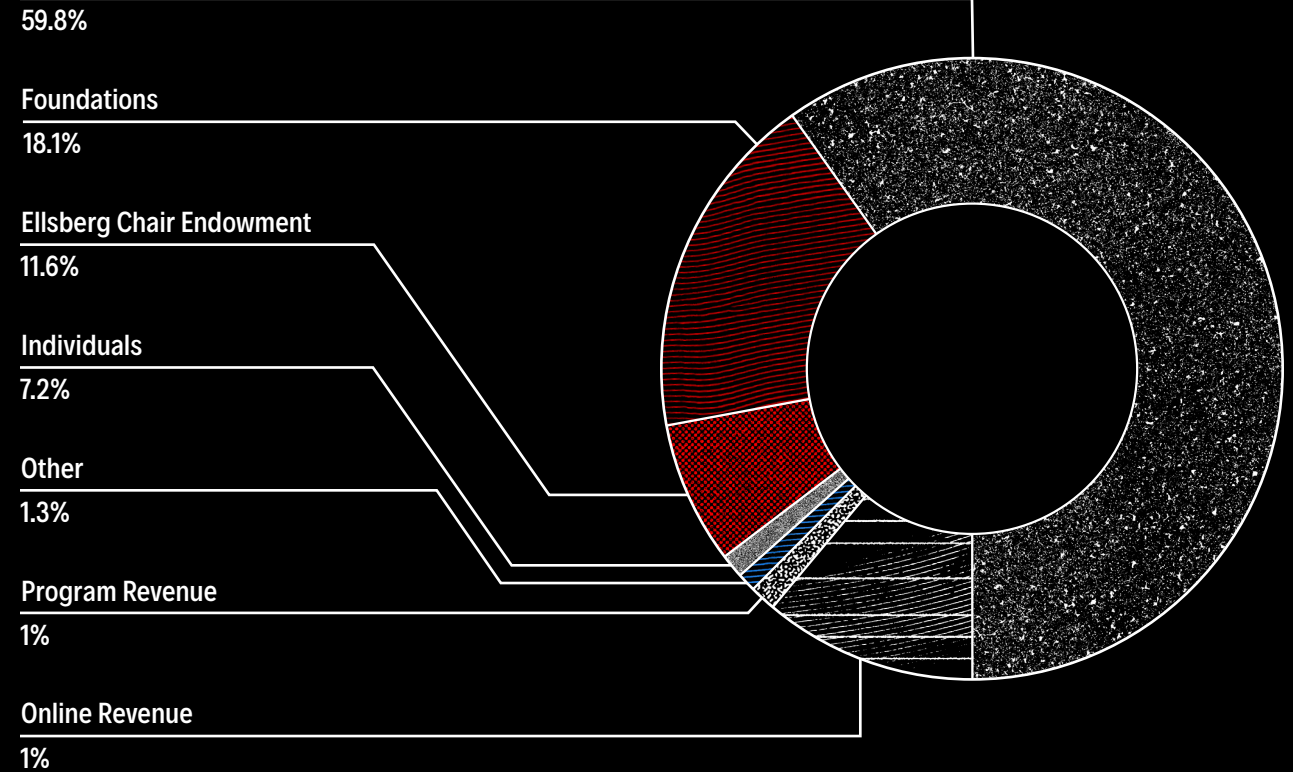Development
9.3%

# Financial Report

## Revenue

| | |
|---|---:|
| *One-time Gift | $10,000,000 |
| Foundations | $3,030,848 |
| Ellsberg Chair Endowment | $1,940,000 |
| Individuals | $1,211,628 |
| Other | $219,257 |
| Program Revenue | $159,022 |
| Online Revenue | $159,005 |
| | |
| Total | $16,719,760 |

*At the end of 2023, Jack Dorsey's philanthropic initiative, #startsmall, generously donated $10 million to Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF), to bolster and reshape our ability to build the next generation of open source tools to protect press freedom, train thousands more journalists in digital security, and further our work to protect press freedom for all.
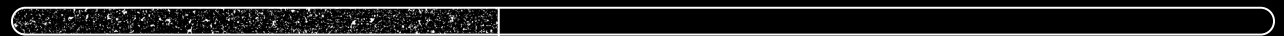
We are treating this incredible one-time gift as a three-year grant, and we will use it to expand our team in long-needed areas in early 2024. We are excited to share more info soon.



*One-time Gift
59.8%

Foundations
18.1%

Ellsberg Chair Endowment
11.6%

Individuals
7.2%

Other
1.3%

Program Revenue
1%

Online Revenue
1%

Ellsberg Chair Endowment                    $5,000,000 Goal

$1,940,000 Raised