

Remarks

Senator Christopher J. Dodd

President Hogan, it is as always an honor and a privilege to be on campus. Of all the things that make me proud about the Dodd Center, one of the best is the knowledge that it is part of such a rich and vibrant academic community. You are a fabulous host, and I look forward to many more years of working together.

It's great to be here with all of you for tonight's dinner and discussion. We come together tonight at a difficult moment for the American journalism industry.

Note that I say the journalism *industry*.

The men and women who keep Americans informed - whether in print, on TV or radio, or on blogs - are still diligent, talented, and fair. Well, most of the time.

But reporters are constantly being asked to do more with less - to compete for the increasingly divided attention of readers despite being equipped with fewer and fewer resources.

There used to be fourteen reporters from Connecticut covering Congress. Now there is one.

There used to be nothing standing between a newspaper and its subscribers. Now, with the proliferation of new technologies and the rise of new media journalists competing for stories and readers, that relationship is more distant than ever.

The jobs that are at risk aren't just those of reporters. We're talking about copy editors and photographers and the folks who stay up late printing the paper and the folks who get up early to deliver it.

And we're talking about a proud American institution with a rich and important history.

We can't turn back the progress that has made the economics of journalism more complicated. But we can take time to appreciate the true value of journalism.

It is not a profession without risk.

Tonight, we will hear from Bradley Clift, a brilliant Hartford Courant photojournalist who was detained, interrogated, and imprisoned simply because he sought to show the world how refugees in Darfur were enduring great hardship at the hands of the government-backed militia.

And we will hear from Mariane Pearl, a fine journalist in her own right, whose husband Daniel, the South Asia Bureau Chief of the *Wall Street Journal*, was killed on duty in Pakistan in 2002.

Daniel is one of 742 journalists to be killed on duty around the world since 1992. And for every journalist murdered, countless others are threatened, harassed, imprisoned, or censored.

So, tonight, we will also hear from Joel Simon, the executive director of an organization devoted to protecting not only journalists themselves, but the critical information they gather and the human rights their work defends.

This year, we are awarding the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Their work has raised awareness of these crimes against journalists, which are crimes against humanity, and their efforts have brought about real change around the world.

Their efforts led Hong Kong authorities to withdraw proposed legislation that would allow journalists to be silenced under vague charges of subversion.

Their efforts helped to free a Costa Rican journalist who had been wrongly imprisoned.

Their efforts led to a new Mexican law abolishing criminal defamation, and a promise from the Mexican government to make crimes against freedom of expression illegal.

Their efforts have helped to free dozens of journalists from prisons in Turkey, one of the world's most notorious jailers of journalists.

Their efforts have helped to ensure that, as freedom rises from the ashes of tyranny in Iraq, the right to a free press is enshrined in roots of that young democracy.

In short, their efforts have made the world safer for truth, fairer to those who lack power, and more free for us all.

I am proud that, tomorrow, we will recognize their work with the Dodd Prize. Tonight, let me just welcome our panelists and thank them for taking the time to share with us their thoughts.