

# Christopher Allbritton

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## PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, JOURNALIST, AND COMMUNICATOR

I am an innovative and experienced editor and journalist with a proven record of leadership, managing projects, and developing long-form stories, all under tight deadlines. I have strong writing, editing, research, and social media skills with a flair for presenting complex ideas clearly, as well as extensive experience working with multicultural teams. With more than 20 years of experience focusing on military, national security, and international issues, my work has appeared in many major domestic and foreign publications.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Middle East
- South Asia
- Colombia/Venezuela
- Climate Change
- US National Security
- Migration/Refugees
- Social Media/Digital Publishing
- Newsroom Leadership
- Team Management

## EXPERIENCE

### FREELANCE JOURNALIST/MEDIA CONSULTANT

2003–Present

- Foreign correspondent and editor for the *Boston Globe*, *New York, TIME*, Reuters, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Intercept*, *New York Daily News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Newsweek*.
- Operated independently and with *TIME* in Iraq from 2002-2006 after raising more than \$20,000 from readers to cover the war for [Back-to-Iraq.com](http://Back-to-Iraq.com).
- Experienced photographer and photo editor, having shot and edited photos for both Reuters and *Newsweek*.
- Thrive under long hours in difficult environments, such as Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Pakistan, Djibouti, Thailand, Colombia, Nigeria, Kenya and Washington, DC.

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Wrote first story on Sunni Awakening in Iraq for *TIME* in 2005.
- Founded [Back-to-Iraq.com](http://Back-to-Iraq.com) in 2002, demonstrating viability of crowdfunding for independent conflict journalism. Grew audience from zero to 50,000 unique daily readers through media outreach and promotion.
- Subject matter expert (on camera) for Oscar-nominated documentary, “No End in Sight.”
- Developed a series of features on US naval operations during the global war on terror, reporting from Gulf of Aden, northern Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

### UNIDOSUS, Director of Media Relations

2020-2021

- Managed team of two to leverage strategic communications to inform debates and shape public policy on a broad range of issues affecting Latinos, including COVID-19 relief, health care, housing, immigration, income inequality, financial empowerment, and food assistance.
- Worked closely with program and policy staff to promote their work through storytelling techniques, resulting in increased public awareness of UnidosUS priorities.

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Authored multiple op-eds that appeared in *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and elsewhere in both English and Spanish.
- Led a remote team through a tremendous increase in work to support COVID-19 efforts, resulting in a 75 percent increase in the number of significant media hits for UnidosUS in major outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Politico*, *TIME*, *NPR*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and others over two quarters.

**REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL, Director of Communications**

**2019**

- Managed a team of three (Senior Communications Officer, Communications Officer, and Digital Communications Assistant) in a fast-paced environment, including on crisis communications, media relations, media training of advocates, social media strategies, managing budgets, and report production.
- Ensured all materials, including field reports, videos, online newsletters, fundraising appeals, invitations, etc., accurately reflected Refugees International's messaging and brand.
- Designed a strategic communications plan for Refugees International that enhanced its visibility, promoted its brand, and increased financial support for its work.
- Identified priorities and developed strategies and messages for field mission findings to reach target media, policy audiences, and donors.

**KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Implemented a quick response format that increased the number of significant media hits for Refugees International in major outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, by approximately 75 percent over two quarters.
- Developed a plan and funding mechanism for communication field missions to gather original content to be used across the organization for advocacy, fundraising, and other purposes.

**MERCY CORPS, Media Relations Manager**

**2017–2019**

- Managed a team of seven staffers and two consultants across three countries and five cities, setting work priorities, clearing and editing others' communications products, and managing my own global lead portfolios of Iraq, Palestine (West Bank/Gaza), Pakistan, Bangladesh/Myanmar, North Korea, and Climate Change.
- Maintained and expanded key media relationships by building on 25 years of experience as a foreign correspondent, including with *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *Wall Street Journal*.
- Reviewed all press releases and statements for consistent voice, editorial excellence, and alignment with Mercy Corps' strategic goals and objectives.
- Worked closely with policy and research, digital marketing, content, program and country teams, and executive teams to develop messaging and plan media outreach related to Mercy Corps' global advocacy agenda.

**KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Led global emergency communications efforts for Fuego Volcano in Guatemala and Hurricanes Florence and Michael in the United States, generating dozens of media hits for the organizations.
- Developed and implemented plans for content gathering trips to Kenya and Colombia, focusing on climate change, violence prevention, and refugees, all of which later was used online for social media and fundraising materials.

**CENTER FOR CIVILIANS IN CONFLICT, Communications Manager**

**2016–2017**

- Advised organizational leadership and program directors to set and implement strategic communication priorities that raised CIVIC's profile, expanded its thought leadership position, and promoted awareness of CIVIC's issue across traditional and digital media, targeting both international and national audiences.
- Ensured editorial quality of briefs and reports, newsletters, web content, social media, and other online communications, across CIVIC's programs.
- Managed editorial budgets and schedules.

**KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Developed and implemented 2016-18 strategic plan for the organization's overall communications efforts to support its advocacy and program goals.
- Managed a major website redesign.

**THE DAILY BEAST, Senior Editor**

**2014–2015**

- Developed and implemented coverage strategy for the weekend edition of the Daily Beast for the web, mobile, social media, and newsletters.
- Created quality editorial and visual digital content, applying best practices for search engine optimization and maintaining a consistent voice and tone.
- Recruited and managed new writers and regular columnists.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped grow monthly traffic from 13 million unique visitors a month to nearly 21 million.

**THOMSON REUTERS, Pakistan Bureau Chief/Chief Correspondent**

**2009–2012**

- Led a strong international team of Pakistani, British, and American journalists and developed a network of 15–20 stringers across the country.
- Repeatedly broke stories in a highly competitive and deadline-driven environment while juggling multiple projects.
- Set daily editorial priorities and identified key news hooks.
- Designed and managed budgets, coverage priorities, and content development in editorial and visual media.
- Coordinated with other bureaus on global stories, working across language, cultural, and geographic divides.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Landed a global scoop on the US military's stealth helicopters by leading a team of reporters and photographers in Abbottabad when Osama bin Laden was killed.
- Broke an exclusive story on Pakistani cooperation in the US drone campaign, interviewed Prime Minister Yousaf Gillani, and wrote special report on mining operations in Baluchistan, focusing on risks to outside investors.

**TRENDS MAGAZINE, Managing Editor**

**2008**

- Planned, assigned, edited, and checked editorial and visual content for every issue.
- Managed an international team of four journalists.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led magazine to its most profitable month, growing monthly circulation to nearly 58,000.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

**JOHN S. KNIGHT JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP, Stanford University**

**2008-2009**

- Spent academic year researching the role of technology in foreign coverage.
- Studied filmmaking, Iranian history, and Arabic.
- Produced short documentary on the experience of Afghans in the United States.

## **EDUCATION**

- John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship Award, Stanford University, 2008 – 2009
- Masters of Science, Journalism, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 1997
- Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 1993