



Fund for Investigative Journalism

MAY 2018

## FIJ grant recipients among nominees for Livingston Award

Over the years, FIJ has sought to widen opportunities for freelance and independent journalists, including ambitious young reporters still establishing themselves in the field of investigative journalism.

**Christina Goldbaum** and **Cat Ferguson**, two recent FIJ grant recipients, are certainly well on their way. Both were recently named finalists for the Livingston Awards, a prestigious honor for promising young journalists.

Goldbaum won praise for her FIJ-funded reporting, published by The Daily Beast, about the massacre of civilians in Somalia by U.S. Special Operations Forces.



Christina Goldbaum

Ferguson's nomination was for a package of stories published by the Verge and partly funded by FIJ that explored the ethical questions that have arisen over drug rehab companies and their links to online marketers and websites that dispense information about addiction.



Cat Ferguson

Livingston winners will be announced June 6.

Earlier this month, **Laird Townsend** of the **Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting** won a Peter Lisagor Award from the Chicago Headline Club, the nation's largest chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Townsend won recognition for his two-year investigation into the use of contractors by seed-corn companies like Monsanto in recruiting thousands of migrant farm workers. The use of contractors has led to repeated allegations of labor violations.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

#### *Armed groups in Congo continue to profit from mineral trade*

Minerals from militia-controlled mines in Congo flow into the marketplace despite U.S. law meant to prevent armed groups from gaining financially from the mineral trade. Buried in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is a provision requiring publicly listed American companies to disclose if their tin, tungsten, coltan or gold come from Congo or its neighboring countries. American companies are required to conduct due dili-

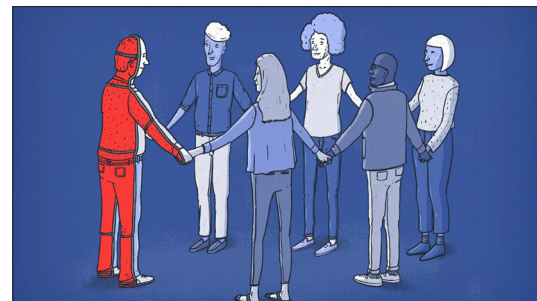


A miner emerges from the 500-foot deep Kachuba tin mine in February. (Photo by Laura Kasinof)

gence to minimize risks that minerals could be fueling militias, according to reporting by Laura Kasinof for The WorldPost. Nevertheless, minerals coming from militia-controlled mines are still making their way into the global market.

**Cat Ferguson continues her investigation into the drug rehab industry** with a look into how marketers use online

social media sites like Facebook to find vulnerable — and potentially valuable — targets. In her latest piece for the Verge, Ferguson reports on how some marketers join or start support groups on the platform and trawl them for clients, often without disclosing their financial interest in the treatment center.



Verge illustration by Laurent Hrybyk

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