



NOVEMBER 2018
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FIJ – SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

Special #GivingTuesday Edition

As you review requests for donations today, we ask you to help continue the work of journalists like those you see in this newsletter. If you can, please take a minute to donate and support the reporting made possible by FIJ at [our donations page](#).

People in this Issue

Sylvia Varnham O'Regan & Maddy Crowell

Naveena Sadasivam

David Armstrong

Burt Glass

Lauren Lee White

Kira Zalan

Marc Perrusquia

Victoria Mckenzie

Suman Naishadham

David Montero

News from FIJ

- The Board of Directors of the Fund for Investigative Journalism has awarded \$67,810 for eight grants to nine investigative journalists in its most recent round of funding. The grants will help investigative reporters cover the costs of reporting work, such as travel, document fees, and other out-of-pocket expenses. The grant recipients are:

Sylvia Varnham O'Regan & Maddy Crowell, New York-based journalists

Naveena Sadasivam, a journalist based in Austin, Texas

David Armstrong, of the Georgia News Lab in Kennesaw, Georgia

Burt Glass, a journalist from Boston

Kira Zalan, a freelance reporter from Washington, D.C.

Marc Perrusquia, a journalist based in Bartlett, Tennessee

Victoria Mckenzie, an investigative journalist based in New York City

Suman Naishadham, an independent journalist currently studying at the Missouri School of Journalism

The deadline to apply for the next round of grants is February 4, 2019.

The Fund for Investigative Journalism is an independent, nonprofit organization that has supported public service reporting projects since 1969, when it provided funding for Seymour Hersh to investigate the massacre of civilians in My Lai during the Vietnam War. Since then, FIJ has supported the work of hundreds of reporters who have uncovered and published important investigative stories from across the United States and around the world.

FIJ GRANT DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEB. 4, 2019, 11:59 EST



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- With gratitude for their moral and financial support, the board and staff of the Fund for Investigative Journalism would like to acknowledge the many individuals and organizations that have sustained the work of independent investigative reporters throughout the year.

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Thanks to all!

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Investigation Spotlights



View of the entrance to the L.A. County women's jail.
Photo by Lauren Lee White

- Congress passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in 2003 to “prevent, detect, and respond to” sexual abuse in American prisons. Yet at least 11 lawsuits alleging criminal sexual abuse of inmates have been filed against former employees of New Jersey’s Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women since 2015.

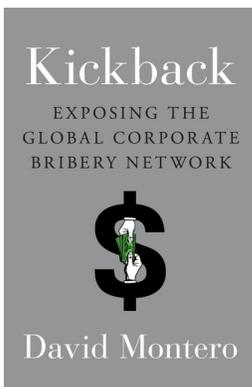
So, when PREA auditors examined the prison in 2014 and 2016, how did it pass?

This question is at the center of FIJ grant recipient Lauren Lee White’s story, “[#MeToo Behind Bars: How Federal Investigators Are Ignoring Prison Sexual Assaults They Are Hired To Report](#),” the first in a series for WitnessLA.

Lovisa Stannow, executive director of Just Detention International, calls one of the Edna Mahan audits a “rubber stamp.”

It includes nearly verbatim passages found in at least 12 other audits of other facilities conducted between 2015 and 2018. White’s story explores this apparent failure of the PREA auditing system and shows how that affects incarcerated women across the country.

- FIJ thanks the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation for providing the funding for this project.



- [Kickback](#), a new book by FIJ grant recipient David Montero, traces the ways that international corporate bribery foments poverty, violence, and environmental disaster around the world. The book notes a litany of foreign and domestic companies accused of bribery and kickbacks, both historically and today, from the British East India Company to the international conglomerate Siemens. One chapter explains how a history of ingrained bribery in Greece contributed to that country’s economic collapse. And an FIJ grant helped Montero complete reporting on a chapter documenting international pharmaceutical firms’ payoffs to gain market share in China.

But a main point is that “corruption rarely stays ‘out there,’” Montero says.

“Bribes eventually harm Americans, American society, American values, and American interests, both domestically and around the world, in ways that are difficult to gauge.”

- FIJ thanks The Reva and David Logan Foundation for providing the funding for this project.

The FIJ Newsletter was compiled by Jerry Redfern.

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