



Fund for  
Investigative  
Journalism

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## **FIJ Announces Coronavirus Rolling Grant — Apply Now**

**Washington, D.C. - March 31, 2020** -The Fund for Investigative Journalism is unveiling a new effort to provide immediate emergency grants to U.S.-based freelance investigative journalists working on stories on the coronavirus that break new ground and expose wrongdoing in the public or private sector.

We know the budgets of some journalism news outlets may be stressed during these uncertain economic times, potentially affecting freelance reporters. For the next few months, we will offer small grants of up to \$10,000, on a rolling basis, for freelance investigative projects that have a strong U.S. angle involving American citizens, government or business. All stories must be published in English and have a media outlet in the United States. You do not have to wait for a standard application deadline — **you can apply now.**

FIJ encourages proposals written for ethnic media as well as those submitted by journalists of color and involving the impact of the coronavirus in America's ethnic communities.

FIJ was created in 1969 when another crisis, the Vietnam War, was looming. Our first major investment was a grant to freelancer Seymour Hersh who in 1969 needed a travel grant to investigate a tip about the U.S. military massacre of civilians in My Lai, Vietnam. Since then we have awarded \$4.5 million in grants to freelance reporters, authors, and small publications.

Applicants should submit a proposal of no more than two pages, a letter of commitment from a publication, and a budget. We will approve grants on a rolling basis until further notice.

Click **here** to apply.

For more information please write to [fundfij@gmail.com](mailto:fundfij@gmail.com) or visit our website **[www.fij.org](http://www.fij.org)**

# Our New Grantees!

The board of directors of the Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) has awarded \$91,000 in grants to eleven investigative journalists in its most recent round of funding.

The grants will help cover the costs of reporting, such as travel, document fees, and other expenses.

The grant recipients are:



Jo Napolitano freelance reporter, Brooklyn, New York



Rebecca Renner, independent journalist, Daytona Beach, Florida



Dagmar Thiel and Frank LaRue, independent journalists based in Washington, D.C.



Kambiz Fattahi, a journalist with the BBC





Seth Rosenfeld, freelance reporter based in San Francisco.

Nathan Eagle and Patti Epler, editors at Honolulu Civil Beat



Rebecca Clarren, freelance reporter and novelist based in Portland, Oregon.



Sara Ganim, freelance reporter, based in New York City.



Tony Bartelme, senior project reporter with the Charleston, South Carolina Post and Courier.



Geoffrey Cain, investigative journalist and technology writer based in Washington, D.C.



A collaborative project between the Chicago Reporter magazine (Fernando Diaz, Josh McGhee, Olivia Obineme, Asraa Mustufa, David Eads) and Medill School of Journalism graduate students (Emine Yucel, Adam Rhodes, Arnab Mondal, Shreya Bansal and Grace Asiegbu.)

## Our Grantees' Most Recent Work



### Inside Trump's Divisive Program to Identify and Deter Potential Extremists

A counter-extremism grant program funded and administered by the Trump administration's Department of Homeland Security lacked transparency and deepened government mistrust among some minority communities it targeted, according to a report by FIJ grantee Julia Harte in **The Nation** magazine.

Harte reports that while DHS officials and grantees said the projects funded sought to remove the barriers that exist between minority ethnic groups and law enforcement and local leaders, civil rights advocates say the programs bred more fear than trust.

You can read Harte's full report, [here](#).



### Heroes, terrorists, and the police

A small police training company owned by Chicago officers, the International Tactical Training Association (ITTA), has been training units of the police of El Salvador in the use of force, according to a recent report by FIJ grantee Danielle Mackey.

According to Mackey's investigation, the training has no oversight from either the U.S. or Salvadoran governments, although ITTA appears to have extensive U.S. federal and military connections. Mackey reports that the situation is particularly concerning given the evidence of excessive use of force by both the Chicago trainers and the Salvadoran trainees.

You can read the full report, [here](#).



# Washington State

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## FIJ-Funded Story Prompts New Investment From State Legislature

In response to an **FIJ-funded report** by InvestigateWest's Jason Buch, which found that Washington State Patrol troopers disproportionately searched people of color from 2009 to 2015, the state Legislature has renewed bias studies that were abandoned by the patrol after 2007.

## Thanks to the Park Foundation

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The FIJ board of directors and staff thank the Park Foundation for its most recent grant of \$50,000 to support general operations.

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