

CHRIS ALLBRITTON

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Washington, DC

305.741.9886

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Iraq/Lebanon/Arabian Gulf
- India/Pakistan
- Colombia/Venezuela
- Conflict Reporting
- Travel Writing
- Migration/Refugees
- Social & Digital Media
- Newsroom Leadership
- Team Management

EXPERIENCE

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL, Director of Communications

2019

- 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.
- Ensured all materials, including field reports, videos, online newsletters, fundraising appeals, invitations, etc., accurately reflected Refugees International's messaging and brand.
- Managed 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.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented quick response format that increased 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 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 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 and our responses.
- 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 weekend edition of the Daily Beast for 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

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

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Freelance/Contract Journalist

- 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* in Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, South and Southeast Asia, and Colombia.
- Experienced photographer and photo editor, having shot and edited photos for both Reuters and *Newsweek*.
- Thrives under long hours in difficult environments, such as Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Pakistan, Djibouti, Thailand, New Zealand, Colombia, Nigeria, Kenya and Washington, DC.
- Comfortable in all media, including text, photography, radio, video, and social. Appeared in stand-ups for NBC, Fox News, Al Jazeera and others.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Founded 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.
- Wrote first story on Sunni Awakening in Iraq for *TIME* in 2005.
- Subject matter expert (on camera) for Oscar-nominated documentary, "No End in Sight."
- Developed 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.

EDUCATION & HONORS

- 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