Annual Report 2022

The Intercept_



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The Intercept_

The Intercept is an independent news organization delivering investigative journalism that unearths injustices and holds the powerful accountable.

Beholden only to the public, never to corporate influence, The Intercept is committed to defending the First Amendment right to report information that the public deserves to know. We publish independent, urgent news stories as well as in-depth feature investigations that are missing from mainstream media outlets.

Our investigative reporting informs readers and inspires citizens, journalists, news outlets, policymakers, and advocacy organizations to take informed action in response to the most pressing issues of our time.

A Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

Since The Intercept's founding in 2014, our core mission has been to expose corruption and injustice wherever we find it, but especially in the gray areas where politics, national security, criminal justice, and technology meet.

In 2022, we continued to investigate stories that other news organizations found too controversial or intractable, and we insisted on framing issues from the perspective of those most affected by them. This approach to investigative journalism demands conviction, but it has generated the kind of impact that few news organizations – of any size – can claim. The Intercept punches above its weight because we are laser-focused on pursuing the truth, no matter where it leads or how long it takes.

The Intercept's willingness to invest for the long term can make a real difference. In April, for example, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond filed a motion to vacate the death sentence of Richard Glossip, whose wrongful conviction we've been investigating since we broke the story in 2015. As with many of the wrongful convictions we investigate, the Glossip case starkly illustrates the deep structural flaws of the U.S. criminal justice system.

And after a two-year legal battle with Dakota Access pipeline owner Energy Transfer, we received thousands of documents that shed new light on the militarized counterinsurgency tactics employed by the mercenary company TigerSwan during the Standing Rock protests. The Intercept has been investigating the spying and intimidation of protesters since 2017, when we first obtained a cache of internal documents from a source. Our investigation revealed a disturbing alliance of corporate power and law enforcement that used military techniques honed in Afghanistan and Iraq to violently suppress protesters who were exercising their constitutional rights.

As we begin our first year as an independent nonprofit, The Intercept's approach to investigative journalism is more important than ever. Militarism, surveillance capitalism, and political violence continue to pose dire threats to the political stability of the U.S. Far-right extremists populate our military and law enforcement agencies, while far-right politicians continue their assault on bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom. One of the two major political parties has abandoned its commitment to democracy while the other blithely whistles past the graveyard. Faced with such circumstances, it's hard to be optimistic about the future.

The Intercept was created to confront such challenges. But we can't do it alone. We are able to continue this work only with the generous support of our members and donors.

Roger Hodge Editor-in-Chief

OUR IMPACT IN 2022

The Intercept's track record speaks for itself. Our work makes change through short, urgent breaking news stories, and through long-term, narrative features. The Intercept's team excels at both. This is journalism for maximum impact.

Several metrics are used to evaluate The Intercept's impact, including audience reach and shares, awards, policy change, mentions by advocacy organizations, story pickups, and republication on other respected news sites.



At least 7 Intercept stories have led to concrete corporate or government policy changes



The Intercept was cited in congressional letters, hearings, and reports at least 40 times

Since its founding, The Intercept's original reporting has contributed to the exoneration of six death row inmates who have been the victims of wrongful convictions, and our work has drawn national attention to four death penalty cases where, at least for now, those executions have been put on hold.



At least 25 Intercept stories have influenced or sparked action on important issues and causes

HIGHLIGHTS OF HIGH-IMPACT COVERAGE FROM 2022

Rush to Judgment: Is Texas Sending Melissa Lucio to Die for a Crime That Never Happened?

Liliana Segura, Jordan Smith; March 5, 2022

One of the few investigative outlets in the country that covers the death penalty as a beat, The Intercept has developed a unique capacity to identify cases that are emblematic of the system's flaws and endemic injustices. In a series of reports on people facing execution, journalists Liliana Segura and Jordan Smith have exposed the failures of capital punishment in vivid, unsettling detail, from its disproportionate impact on people of color to the routine indifference of the courts toward evidence of innocence.

The large wave of reporting that began with The Intercept's coverage helped pressure the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to grant Lucio a stay of execution.

The Intercept was the first national news organization to publish an in-depth investigation into the case of Melissa Lucio, a Latina woman



Melissa Lucio speaks on the phone from death row in Gatesville, Texas, in 2018, in a still from the documentary "The State of Texas vs. Melissa." Still: Courtesy of FilmRise

who faced execution in Texas for killing her 2-year-old daughter. While previous coverage had focused on Lucio's history of trauma and status as a woman on death row, The Intercept's original reporting unearthed evidence that her conviction was built on faulty forensic science and a coercive interrogation. Segura and Smith also found out that the toddler's death, rather than a brutal murder, was likely the result of a tragic accident, raising the question: Was Texas sending Lucio to die for a crime that never happened?

Lucio was set to be executed by lethal injection on April 27, 2022, and The Intercept's reporting amplified and built awareness of her case at a critical point. The large wave of reporting that began with The Intercept's coverage helped pressure the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to grant Lucio a stay of execution. Lucio's case is headed to a lower court for a hearing which will consider new evidence.

Elephant in the Zoom: How Meltdowns Have Brought Progressive Advocacy Groups to a Standstill at a Critical Moment in World History

Ryan Grim; June 13, 2022

In 2021 and 2022, Joe Biden's presidency and a Democrat-controlled Congress created a singular moment for progressive groups to wield a decisive amount of power. Yet these groups were locked in internal battles, often broken down along generational lines, and with roots in the ongoing reckonings in our society around racial and gender equity.

D.C. Bureau Chief Ryan Grim was uniquely placed to jump on this unreported trend, as he's been on the front lines of the progressive movement and the Democratic Party since 2007 – and for The Intercept since 2017. Because of his long-standing work cultivating political sources and the trust of movement leaders, he was able to persuade key figures in progressive advocacy to speak candidly about their challenges – even as most insisted on some level of anonymity.

"Elephant in the Zoom" quickly became one of the most widely talked about stories of the year, earning at least half a dozen mentions in the New York Times alone. It also generated follow-up commentary in the New York Times,



Megaphones lay on the pavement before a protest in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 4, 2020. Photo: Al Drago/Getty Images

Washington Post, Washington Examiner, Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, politically oriented Substacks and podcasts from the left to the right – and even a satirical response from National Review. New York Times columnist David Brooks called it "one of the more discussed essays of 2022" and awarded it one of his annual Sidneys.

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In December, Maurice Mitchell, the widely respected national director of the Working Families Party, published a 6,000-word essay called "Building Resilient Organizations" that addressed the culture Grim identified. Mitchell credited The Intercept's article with inspiring him and opening the space to make his essay possible. Michelle Goldberg covered Mitchell's essay – and Grim's, for the second time – in the New York Times, writing that the complementary pieces together were a catalyst for genuine social change underway. "The publication of 'Building Resilient Organizations' and the conversation around it are signs that the fever Mitchell describes is beginning to break," she wrote.

Secret Service Deleted Jan. 6 Text Messages After Oversight Officials Requested Them

Ken Klippenstein; July 14, 2022

On July 14, The Intercept was the first to report that the United States Secret Service had deleted text messages from January 5 and January 6, 2021, shortly after the Office of Inspector General requested these communications from the Secret Service's parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security.

Although the Secret Service maintains these text messages were lost as a result of a "devicereplacement program," the erasure was a major blow to the House Select Committee's investigations into the January 6 attacks. (When rioters entered the Capitol building on Jan. 6, the Secret Service tried to take then-Vice President Mike Pence away from the scene. If Pence had followed the Secret Service's order, he would have been unable to certify the 2020 presidential election results



Supporters of Donald Trump storm the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6, 2021. Photo: Christopher Lee

The Intercept's story triggered an entire reporting cycle on the role of the Secret Service in the events of January 6, being cited over 550 times in the weeks following our scoop.

A day after our scoop, the January 6 committee issued a subpoena to the Secret Service, marking the first time the panel had publicly announced the subpoena of an executive branch agency. And when the committee learned that DHS Inspector General Joseph Cuffari failed to alert Congress about the missing messages in a timely manner, Democratic Reps. Bennie Thompson and Carolyn Maloney issued a letter requesting for Cuffari to step aside. Watchdog groups like American Oversight and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington quickly followed by asking Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate the issue; the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee penned a letter to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas about the deleted text messages.

The Intercept's story triggered an entire reporting cycle on the role of the Secret Service in the events of January 6, being cited over 550 times in the weeks following our scoop. The Associated Press, NBC News, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times were among the outlets that mentioned and followed our reporting.

Lastly, our reporting might have played a role in the unprecedented rift between the Office of the President and the Secret Service, with sources saying Biden thinks these events have made the agency look "incompetent and politicized."

Junk Invasion: Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey Defies Biden With Border Wall Made of Shipping Containers

Ryan Devereaux From September 18 to December 23, 2022

"It shall be the policy of my Administration," announced President Joe Biden just days after taking office in January 2021, "that no more American taxpayer dollars be diverted to construct a border wall."

While the news brought solace to millions of Americans who opposed President Donald Trump's harmful border wall, in September 2022, Intercept readers found out that Arizona Republican Gov. Doug Ducey was resuming work on the wasteful U.S.-Mexico wall.

Not only did The Intercept bring national attention to the restart of the wall's construction, we were also the first national news organization to report when Ducey began dropping thousands of shipping containers along a 10-mile stretch of national forest – breaking federal law and transforming a remote section of the Huachuca Mountains into a junkyard. Days later, when The Intercept returned to the border, our reporters spoke to those impacted by Ducey's project, i.e. the people who allegedly needed protection from a "wave of Mexican migrants." Unsurprisingly, the only threat the local community was concerned with was the very existence of the container wall. After they organized and were able to stop the project, what started as a story about immigration and conservation became a tale of how everyday people stood up against the most powerful lawmaker in their state.

> Ducey was subsequently forced to begin removing hundreds of shipping containers he had illegally installed on federal land.

By early December, The Intercept's coverage had sparked a wave of additional reporting and pressured the Biden administration to intervene. Ducey was subsequently forced to begin removing hundreds of shipping containers he had illegally installed on federal land.



Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's illegal wall of shipping containers in the Coronado National Forest on Nov. 28, 2022. Screenshot:The Intercept/Kitra Cahana for The Intercept

Oakland Cops Hope to Arm Robots With Lethal Shotguns

Sam Biddle; October 17, 2022

In October 2022, The Intercept broke another explosive story: The Oakland Police Department, which has been under federal oversight for over two decades, submitted a proposal to arm robots designed for defusing bombs with shotguns, turning these remote-controlled devices into lethal weapons.

The proposal was submitted to a civilian oversight committee responsible for addressing rules that govern Oakland's military-grade police equipment, and it was still under consideration when our scoop caused a national furor. Although OPD said it would only use armed robots in "emergencies," the proposal's broad language made it clear that it would be up to the agency to decide what passes as such. Two days after our story went live, the Oakland Police decided to reverse course – a move widely attributed to The Intercept's reporting.

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By December, our reporting had been picked up by hundreds of national, tech, and criminal justice news outlets, provoking a healthy ethical and civic debate on whether robots should ever be armed with lethal weapons. This wave of coverage, as well as the widespread opposition to the move, likely played a role in the failure of a similar proposal in San Francisco.



Oakland police are seeking to use live shotgun rounds in an attachment to the Remotec Adros Mark V-A1, a robot seen here in a standoff where Dallas police deployed the robot in Dallas, Texas, on June 13, 2015. Photo: Stewart F. House/Getty Images

As it became clear the OPD and othver law enforcement agencies could resurface this and other similar proposals at any time, organizations like the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the ACLU of Northern California began calling for the public to oppose the arming of robots – and demand more transparency and accountability from state officials and police departments.



Illustration: Alex Williamson for The Intercept

Experimenting With Disaster

Mara Hvistendahl; November 1, 2022

The origins of the Covid-19 pandemic remain unknown, but scientists agree that the next pandemic could come from a lab. That chance, however small, has sparked a focus on biosafety by lawmakers and global health advocates. But one thing is missing from the conversation: hard data on how frequent lab accidents are.

This three-part series was mentioned by several mainstream news organizations.

To remedy that dearth of information, The Intercept published a three-part reporting series titled "Experimenting With Disaster." Based on over 5,500 pages of National Institutes of Health documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, including 18 years of laboratory incident reports, these three stories paint a detailed picture of what has been happening inside America's infectious disease labs, revealing that the current oversight of lab biosafety is both inconsistent and incomplete. The incidents include malfunctioning equipment, spilled beakers, transgenic rodents running down the hall, and a sedated macaque coming back to life and biting a researcher. While most accidents involved low-risk pathogens, some happened in Biosafety Level 3 labs and involved dangerous viruses like the 1918 influenza and a modified H5N1 avian influenza.

Clearly, there was a need to lift the curtain at America's biolabs. This three-part series was mentioned by several mainstream news organizations, including the New York Times. It was also shared on Twitter by dozens of experts on the topic, including New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, epidemiologist and University of Toronto Professor David Fisman, and scientific adviser at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard Alina Chan.

ONGOING IMPACT

Policy and other types of meaningful changes are often a slow, incremental process, and many of The Intercept's stories make an impact years after their initial publication.

Below is a selection of stories published prior to 2022 that had an impact this past year:

In April 2022, Cook County prosecutors overturned the convictions of scores of individuals arrested on narcotics charges by corrupt Chicago Police Sgt. Ronald Watts and officers under his command, bringing the total exonerations to 212. The Intercept published "Code of Silence," a four-part investigation of a far-reaching criminal enterprise within the Chicago Police Department led by Watts, in 2016, which prompted multiple official investigations.

The Environmental Protection Agency announced it had lowered what's considered a safe level of toxic PFAS in drinking water to virtually zero.

In June 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency announced it had lowered what's considered a safe level of toxic PFAS in drinking water to virtually zero. Reporter Sharon Lerner's body of work on PFAS for The Intercept is considered groundbreaking and likely influenced this decision; for example, Politico cited our investigative reporting as putting the PFAS issue "on the map."



Laura Kealiher holds a childhood photo of her son, Sean Kealiher, at her home in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 30, 2021. Sean was a Portland activist killed in 2019, when he was 23 years old. Photo: Brooke Herbert for The Intercept

In August 2022, police finally charged a suspect with murder in the 2019 killing of a prominent Portland antifascist. The Intercept was the first national outlet to call attention to the case.

When oil giant Energy Transfer announced plans to build the 1,172-mile-long pipeline across watersheds and drinking water sources, it sparked huge protests led by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. As part of its response, Energy Transfer hired a security firm called TigerSwan that collaborated with police and employed counterinsurgency tactics to quash the protests.

The Intercept sued under state open records laws to gain access to thousands of pages of documents that could shed light on TigerSwan's activities – and after two years of litigation, we won. These news documents revealed how TigerSwan used social media monitoring, aerial surveillance, radio eavesdropping, undercover personnel, and subscription-based records databases to build watchlists and dossiers on Indigenous activists and environmental organizations.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

The Intercept received seven award wins and five award nominations in 2022.

Mirror Award Winner

Best In-Depth/Enterprise Reporting "<u>Meet the Riot Squad: Right-Wing Reporters</u> Who Use Viral Videos to Smear BLM"

Mirror Award Finalist

Best Single Article/Story "<u>Mirrors of Calamity: How Hospitals Became</u> Vaults That Hid Evidence of Covid-19's Toll"

Deadline Club Award Winner

Newspaper or Digital Feature Reporting "<u>Big Trouble in Little Rock: A Reformist Black</u> Police Chief Faces an Uprising of the Old Guard"



Chief Keith Humphrey sits in his office at LRPD headquarters in Little Rock, Ark. Photo: Andrea Morales for The Intercept

Deadline Club Award Finalist

Opinion Writing

For our "General Impunity" series which includes the following stories: "<u>Stanley McChrys-</u> tal Accidentally Reveals the Dishonesty of U.S. Generals," "The U.S. Military Is a Machine of Impunity," and "General Failure: How the U.S. Military Lied About the 9/11 Wars." Newswomen's Club of New York's Journalist of the Year Award Winner (Sharon Lerner) For our reporting on <u>Big Pharma's profiteering</u> during the pandemic, and our investigation into <u>the</u> <u>ways</u> chemical companies have circumvented EPA limits to harmful chemicals.

Military Reporters & Editors Association Award Winner

Small Newspapers, Online or Magazine "<u>The AFRICOM Files</u>" (partnership with Type Investigations)



Screenshot: The Intercept

The Society of Publication Designers Award Silver Medal – Web: Custom Feature Design, Editorial Package "Empire Politician"

The Society of Publication Designers Award Winner

Digital Merit Award in the Feature Video: News / Documentary [Web] "Precarity"

Dateline Awards Winner

Magazine / Business Reporting category "Meet the Consulting Firm That's Staffing the Biden Administration" (partnership with The American Prospect)



VHP leader Rajesh Awasthi, center, holds a gun in Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, India, on Jan. 12, 2021. Sumit Khanna, another VHP leader, stands on the right. Photo: Betwa Sharma

Human Rights and Religious Freedom Journalism Awards Shortlist – Best Text Reporting on Human Rights & Religious Freedom

"Hindu Vigilantes Work With Police to Enforce 'Love Jihad' Law in North India"

Adweek Podcast of the Year Awards Finalist

- Best Storytelling Podcasts of 2021 "<u>American ISIS</u>"

New York Festivals Radio Award Finalist

– Narrative/Documentary Podcast "<u>American ISIS</u>"

We also received other accolades and recognitions:

Intercepted was named <u>one of the best</u> political podcasts of 2022 by Digital Trends.



Illustration: Michael Byers for The Intercept

<u>"The Future Dystopic Hellscape is Upon Us</u>"
by Sam Biddle and "<u>Atlanta's Mental Health</u>
<u>Problem – and Ours</u>" by George Chidi were
named to Longreads' Best of 2021 stories list.

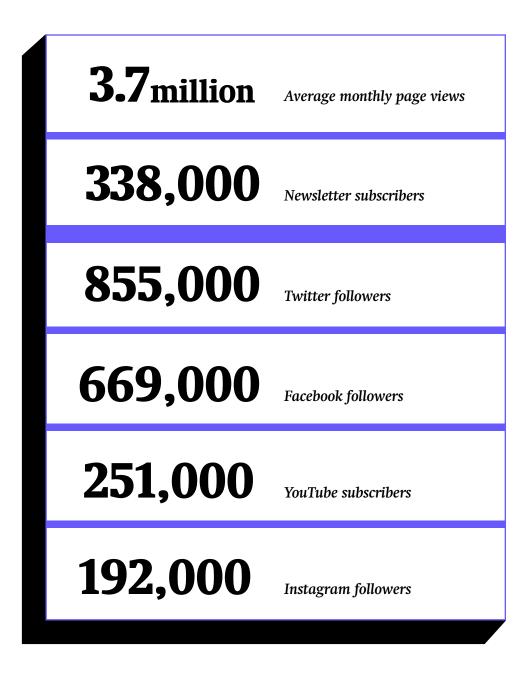
The podcast "American ISIS" was included in Uproxx's <u>Best Non-Fiction Podcasts of 2021</u> list.

High Country News recognized two of our articles in its list of the <u>biggest stories from the</u> <u>United States-Mexico border</u> in 2022.

The Lown Institute awarded pharmaceutical company Merck a satirical 2021 "Shkreli Award" as part of its top 10 list of the worst examples of profiteering and dysfunction in health care. The decision was based on our <u>reporting</u> on Merck's price gouging of a Covid-19 pill.

OUR AUDIENCE IN 2022

More readers give to The Intercept than any other nonprofit digital newsroom. Nearly 50,000 individuals supported The Intercept in 2022, a number that has grown fivefold since the membership program launched in 2017.



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & PROJECTS

In 2022, The Intercept partnered with local, national, international, and specialized news organizations to produce dozens of stories and video investigations covering topics such as foreign policy (+972 Magazine), surveillance (Lighthouse Reports), misuse of Paycheck Protection Program loans (The Counter), environmental exploitation (Forbidden Stories), the climate crisis (Floodlight), New York state politics (New York Focus), foreign intervention (Responsible Statecraft), and more.

Here's a full list of the organizations The Intercept collaborated with in 2022:

+972 Magazine 100 Days in Appalachia American Prospect **Appalachia Free Press** Arizona Luminaria The Counter Der Spiegel **Economic Hardship Reporting Project** Floodlight **Forbidden Stories** Grist Lighthouse Reports Local Call The Nation **New America** New York Focus **Overseas Press Club** Pulitzer Center Responsible Statecraft / The Quincy Institute The Texas Tribune Type Investigations



100 Days in Appalachia

THE AMERICAN PROSPECT



The — Counter

DER SPIEGEL

Nation.

LIGHTHOUSE REPORTS

שיחה_LOCAL

מקומית CALL







Pulitzer Center

floodlight

RESPONSIBLE STATECRAFT

forbidden stories



Grist



Highlights of those collaborations include partnerships with:

NEW YORK FOCUS, on a story exposing <u>sexual</u> assault allegations at Shawangunk Correctional Facility, in upstate New York, and a piece focused on <u>New York Gov. Kathy Hochul's</u> police budget and her push for additional funding for fusion centers.

100 DAYS IN APPALACHIA, on a video about West Virginia Democrat Eric Barber and his participation in the January 6 insurrection.

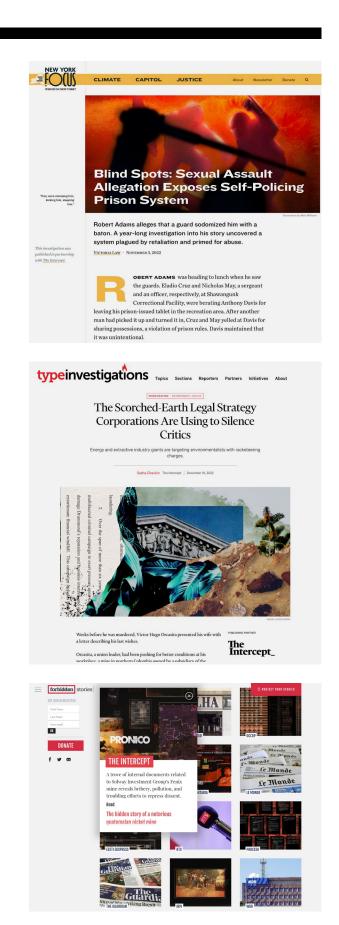
FLOODLIGHT, a nonprofit newsroom that investigates the powerful interests stalling climate action, on the following story: "<u>The \$287</u> <u>Million Pipeline No One Needed? How Spire's</u> <u>Ambitions Almost Left St. Louis Without Heat.</u>"

TYPE INVESTIGATIONS, on two feature stories: "The Scorched-Earth Legal Strategy Corporations Are Using to Silence Their Critics," by Sasha Chavkin, and "The Texas Border County at the Center of a Dangerous Right-Wing Experiment," by Melissa del Bosque.

NEW AMERICA, on the <u>four-part podcast "No</u> <u>Way Home</u>," an original audio series developed, reported, and narrated by Afghans forced into exile when the Taliban took over in late 2021.

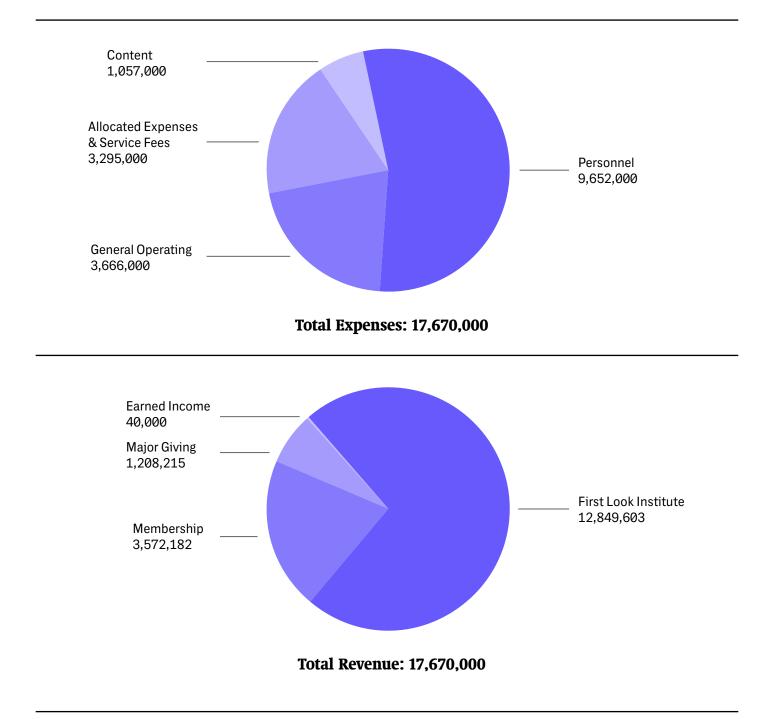
THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP REPORTING PROJECT, on "<u>Freedom Dreams</u>," a 10-minute documentary on the effects of the student debt crisis on Black women, and on the three-part video series "<u>Insecurity</u>," highlighting the economic struggles of three working women during the pandemic.

FORBIDDEN STORIES, on "<u>The Hidden Story</u> of a Notorious Guatemalan Nickel Mine," by Sandra Cuffe.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2022, The Intercept was an initiative of First Look Institute. The revenue and expenses outlined below represent unaudited financials for The Intercept from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Audited financial statements for 2022 will be made available upon release from First Look Institute. Those statements will include The Intercept in addition to all other First Look Institute programming.



DONORS

The Intercept is fueled by the generosity of its members — a community of committed readers who financially support its mission and goals — and institutional contributors who support our mission.

> We are honored to be among the philanthropic priorities of nearly 50,000 individual and institutional supporters.



For more information on how to support The Intercept, please contact our team at development@theintercept.com

STAFF LIST IN 2022

The Intercept Leadership

Roger Hodge, Editor-in-Chief Nausicaa Renner, Deputy Editor David Bralow, General Counsel Betsy Reed, Editor-in-Chief (through July 2022)

Philanthropy Team

Thomas Crowley, Membership Communications Manager Leslie Keeton, Manager, Institutional Giving Kate Miller, Associate Director, Major Gifts Jill Mosebach, Director, Institutional Giving & Partnerships Michael Sherrard, Senior Membership Director

First Look Institute Leadership:

Michael Bloom, Chief Executive Officer Shani Boone, Chief Financial Officer Beth Nathanson, Chief Philanthropy Officer

We are grateful to First Look Institute's Board of Directors for their guidance:

Jeff Alvord Michael Bloom Pat Christen

A full staff list may be found at www.theintercept.com/about

For more information on how to support The Intercept, please contact our development team at **development@theintercept.com**

Looking Forward

After nine years under the auspices of First Look Institute, The Intercept has spun off into a stand-alone nonprofit organization. Over the last nine years, we took meaningful steps to diversify The Intercept's funding sources, including developing one of the largest membership programs among nonprofit digital newsrooms and attracting new major donors. The success of our efforts demonstrates the material impact of our journalism and the hard work of our reporters, editors, and staffers.

Moving forward, our mission and our editorial zeal for hard-hitting journalism remains unchanged. We'll continue focusing on original investigations that expose injustice wherever we find it. Public corruption, war crimes, unlawful surveillance, violations of civil liberties, abusive policing, prosecutorial misconduct, economic inequality, and environmental degradation – these important issues remain our unrelenting focus.

As we enter this new phase, I am pleased that Annie Chabel will join us as our inaugural chief executive officer, and Nobel Prize-winning journalist Maria Ressa and Omidyar Group Managing Director Pat Christen will join our new board of directors. Roger Hodge will continue to lead the newsroom as editor-in-chief.

2023 will be a year of exciting transition for The Intercept – putting the organization in a strong position to celebrate its 10th anniversary, in 2024, on a path of prosperity and growth. We are excited to share our progress with you. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

David Bralow General Manager and General Counsel





For more information, please email development@theintercept.com

Front cover (clockwise): Courtesy of Joe Berlinger: Photo by Brooke Herbert: Photo by Kitra Cahana; Photo by Christoph Lee; Illustration by Alex Milliamson. Back cover (left to right): Photo by Elise Swain; Illustration by Matt Williams; Photo by Christopher Lee; Photo by Kholood Eid.