



**2024 EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD
OVERALL EXCELLENCE SUBMISSION
RUNDOWN**



The Israel-Hamas War Begins Begins

The world woke up that October morning to hear the unthinkable, to see evidence of bloodshed and horror. From day one, our teams at ABC News have tried to cover this conflict with sensitivity, to convey the complex dynamics of this war between Israel and Hamas to our viewers on all platforms and programs.



The Missing: A Mother Speaks 01:01:07

David Muir was the first American anchor to report from Israel, spending time with families and witnessing first-hand the anguish of those early days – an anguish that would only grow as time passed and more atrocities were discovered. In this poignant interview, Rachel and Jonathan Goldberg-Polin express what can only be described as every parents’ nightmare - the dire condition of their 23-year-old

son Hersh, who was celebrating his birthday at the Nova Music Festival. An explosion severed his arm in the Hamas attack and then he taken hostage by militants.



The Indictments - ABC News Exclusives 01:03:24

The night of March 30th was only the beginning of what became a marathon of carefully reported, meticulously sourced, and timely news coverage of the indictments of Donald J. Trump in 2023. Our team's preparation for and commitment to reporting on the complex and ever-shifting civil and criminal proceedings the former president faces has been utterly unrivaled -- with our reporting consistently becoming the [primary source for other newscasts](#) and news outlets, and often going unmatched. Less than 24 hours later after one report, the Georgia judge in Fulton County, GA issued a protective order shielding the rest of the evidence.

Repeatedly, Donald Trump and his aides have challenged our reporting though none of the comments have ever been about the substance or accuracy.



IMPACT x Nightline: On The Brink - 01:05:39

This powerful program uncovered the harrowing stories of pregnant women with life-threatening obstetric emergencies in states with laws restricting abortions, and the physicians caught in a legal web when trying to provide essential health care. When Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022, 21 states began to enforce their own laws restricting access to abortion. At the time of our broadcast, 16 states have a near total ban in place, with a narrow medical exception to save the life of the mother. At the

center of this program are families asking viewers to listen to their stories, asking if this is what Americans want for pregnant women in our country? This is, at its core, a maternal healthcare issue.

Diane Sawyer wanted to understand and see the true scope of the problem -- a visual representation of the lives impacted from different backgrounds. We studied lawsuits, local news reports, spoke with dozens of organizations and doctors to identify women willing to share their stories. Our team studied data on rates of pregnancy complications and discovered that tens of thousands of women are affected by these complications every year.

We contacted 50 women, and 18 joined both Diane and ABC's Rachel Scott in Denton, Texas, for an unprecedented group interview. Some of these women were pushed to the brink of death before they qualified for care, many described lasting physical and emotional trauma. Some of the women did not have the resources to travel and had to carry their fetuses to term and watch them die.

Within four days, we heard from more than 10,000 viewers. Just a fraction were negative. We are so honored these women and their families trusted us to share their stories with the world, and sincerely hope you find *On the Brink* worthy of commendation.



Ukraine Frontline Fighters - 01:12:08

This deeply reported ABC News special report strived to encapsulate that level of sacrifice, but also to illustrate *why* Ukrainians feel compelled to make this choice and risk losing everything. The cruel irony is that so many of them are fighting in the war to protect their families and the way of life they want their children to enjoy. From watching the horrifying images of the situation facing so many soldiers on the frontlines, we also knew that those soldiers, which are lucky enough to emerge physically unscathed, will carry psychological scars for much of the rest of their lives. We decided that we needed to see all of this from the perspective of the soldiers themselves. However, the real challenge would be encapsulating the moments in the soldiers' lives, away from the frontlines, when the sheer scale of their sacrifice hits home.



Turkey Earthquake: The Disaster Zone 01:13:38

“World News Tonight with David Muir” was the only American newscast on the ground in Turkey after a devastating earthquake decimated entire towns, killing nearly 60,000 people across Turkey and Syria. Our foreign correspondent Ian Pannell and his team slept in their van for days on their journey to reach the border town of Antakya, completely decimated by the quake. Few buildings were standing as search and rescue teams found miracle survivors 96 hours after the earthquake. Pannell also reported from inside the hospital where the injured were taken – so many families searching for those lost in the middle of the night, when the earth shook them out of their beds.

For our team, the staggering loss of life called for the resources and time to immerse our viewers in the harrowing reality for so many. And we are proud of our commitment to send not only reporters, but a full newscast to the scene -- providing crucial context to a crisis at that time lost in other headlines.



Tyre Nichols' Family Speaks 01:15:16

When 29-year-old Tyre Nichols' beating and subsequent death at the hands of Memphis Police became the latest symbol for our nation's fraught history with race and the culture of policing, ABC committed to telling his story. When police body camera footage of Tyre's encounter with police was released, Nichols' family sat down shortly after with ABC News for a live interview.

The body camera footage had left them angry, saddened and looking for more answers, hoping the public would analyze every minute of the video to see how badly the police hurt their son.



Maui Strong: 808 01:17:26

The tragic Maui fire on August 8th was one of the worst wildland fires in American history, Other national news outlets left Maui and moved on to the next breaking news story, but ABC News stayed. We returned time and time again, expanding our coverage with a reporting initiative across all programs and platforms - *Maui Strong 808*. Our dozens of in-depth stories on streaming, network, audio and digital have examined the impacts of the crisis, the ongoing recovery efforts and the strength and spirit of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community.

In this *Maui Strong: 808*, two months after the wildfires, ABC News investigated the island's utility company Hawaiian Electric and uncovered missteps, missed opportunities and insufficient preparation - days, weeks, months and even years before.

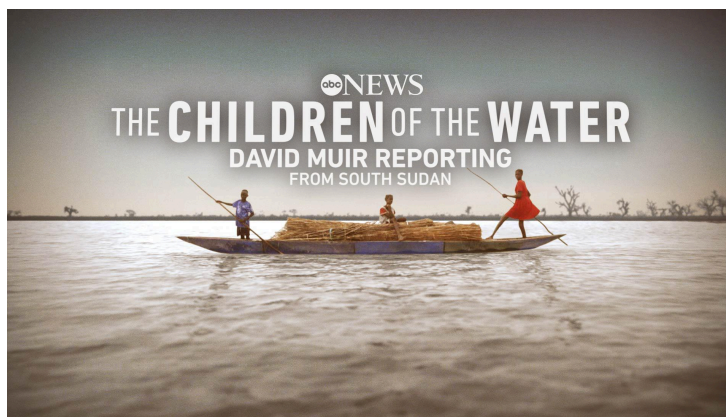


20/20 - It Happened Here: A year in Uvalde 01:20:37

ABC News remained in Uvalde for a year, opening a bureau with a dedicated team there to cover the investigation into the police response at Robb Elementary that was slowly unfolding, as well as cover the community that was just starting to ask questions but hadn't even begun to grieve. But during our time in Uvalde and as we continued to report the news from there, something extraordinary happened: our perspectives as journalists were broadened and enriched by the relationships we formed, changing how we do our jobs. We understood the people of Uvalde that much more, which led to a depth of reporting on a community that has so much to offer but otherwise may not be seen. This two-hour documentary is the culmination of the year of reporting.

We watched as families forged paths to futures that gave them purpose, honoring their children through demanding change and calling upon their representatives to advocate for gun reform and stricter gun laws, even running for office. We saw survivors slowly begin to talk about what they saw that day, raising their own voices for change. We watched the high school football team each week, young men who felt so much pressure to give Uvalde something to finally cheer for.

We are grateful that so many Uvaldeans let us into their living rooms and into their lives - and then let us stay. We truly hope that in the process, we were able to give our national audience a true portrait of the community as they know it to be, while honoring the memory of those they lost on May 24, 2022.



[World News Tonight with David Muir and Nightline - Children of the Water 01:24:12](#)

Committed to reporting on the growing front lines of the climate crisis, "ABC World News Tonight" anchor David Muir and his small team traveled to South Sudan, where more than one million people are now facing severe food insecurity, and millions more are displaced due to the worst floods here since the 1960s. The small producing team traveled to Unity and Guit states in northern South Sudan – following a convoy of critical humanitarian aid, which we would come to learn was the last one to arrive after the eruption of violence to the north, in Sudan.

ABC News joined humanitarian workers as they raced against time to bring necessary supplies -- and food -- to support the hundreds of thousands of people who are now displaced by both conflict and climate in the town of Bentiu. One in five children here are severely malnourished, with many mothers here forced to feed them water lilies, which grow in the flood waters, to keep their bellies full. We filmed as they jumped into the deep floodwaters to collect the plants – a cruel reality ABC News doesn't shy away from showing.

As a result of the report, ABC News viewers donated more than \$5 million to support humanitarian efforts in South Sudan – a record after a news report. World Food Programme director Cindy McCain wrote to the team: “Thank you for your commitment to covering stories about people and places who would otherwise remain invisible. I am grateful that you have made it a priority for ABC News to keep hunger, and its many causes, from being forgotten.”

ABC News viewers shared with the team what prompted them to support the humanitarian efforts on the ground. Here are some of those messages.

“What inspired me to give was the report from World News with David Muir. My heart broke when I saw how isolated the families were and their lack of access to food. Seeing the mother digging for water lily bulbs, seeing the babies starving was crushing as I opened my refrigerator and saw the food. How can I not do something.”



***Primetime Special: Soul of a Nation Presents
The New Face of Hollywood 01:27:38***

This special underscores the vital importance of visibility, representation, and equal opportunity in Hollywood. What makes it an emotional tour de force is that the stories depicted reflect our own stories as Asian Americans. The pain, trauma, beauty, joy, and triumph that plays out in family immigration stories, first generation stories, and even in our own career stories when we're trying to make it in industries and more broadly in a society and culture that hasn't always seen us with full complexity and humanity. Indeed when “Everything Everywhere” won the Oscars, the Asian community rejoiced because it felt like a win for all Asian Americans who've ever felt othered,

unseen, marginalized, or minoritized. Our ultimate hope with this “Soul of a Nation” special is that our AANHPI audience felt seen and celebrated and that our broader audience felt educated, moved, and part of our collective progress towards a more inclusive America.



Shiloh: Our Inheritance is Washing Away
ABC News Prime with Linsey Davis

This impactful investigation began with a plea for help by pastor and business owner Timothy Williams, who contacted ABC News about flooding in his Alabama neighborhood. Ultimately, several ABC units and platforms came together to expose claims of environmental racism, questionable state legal practices and the feared demise of a rural community with a 150-year history of Black homeownership.

Our team made multiple trips to Shiloh, Alabama, to see how runoff from the newly widened U.S. Highway 84 drained onto residents’ properties and flooded their homes. Through interviewing homeowners and experts, analyzing environmental data and poring over thousands of pages of state documents we obtained through public records requests, we uncovered an injustice that one expert called “highway robbery.”

Previously unreported settlements showed that the state had paid multiple Shiloh residents \$5,000 or less to waive their rights to ever sue over the flooding. These deals also placed restrictive covenants on their deeds that prevented any future owners from suing the state for flood damages. While its citizens' concerns went unaddressed, the state protected itself with a maneuver that legal experts told us could be considered unethical.

Dr. Robert Bullard, an area native known as “the father of the environmental justice movement,” joined ABC on two trips to Shiloh to see the flooding and hear residents’ stories. He described the situation in Shiloh as a textbook case of environmental racism.

After our team contacted the local emergency management agency to ask why Shiloh was flooding even though it's not in a FEMA flood zone, the agency used the information we brought to its attention to start investigating the matter and talk to state representatives about potential resolutions.

Bullard used our reporting to attract environmental leaders from across the country to join him on a visit to Shiloh to discuss ways to alleviate the flooding. A rapid response team of 18 organizations went to Shiloh for a tour and listening session. Additionally, the dean of Samford University's law school, whom we interviewed about the settlements, said our stories have inspired him to soon launch a rural Alabama law clinic to help people living in communities like Shiloh throughout the state.



The Forever War: Forgotten Waves of Hope

In this moving end to our entry, John Donovan took a personal as well as historical perspective of the latest conflict, reminding the audience of a time when there was once a feeling of hope, that there could actually be peace in the Middle East.

After October 7, the world's attention once again focused on Israel and Gaza – the horrific scenes going viral on social media, politicians taking sides, the uncertain fate of the hostages, and protests erupting around the globe. Thousands dead, even more thousands continuing to die. The conflict that has dragged on for decades once again seems to be lacking a hopeful resolution.

No one can deny the importance of this story, but as days and then weeks elapsed, the images started to blur and lose impact. In order to re-connect our audience, we devised an imaginative solution that we thought would provide deeper meaning and context.