



Andrew Sullivan

drew@occrp.org

Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives
February 12th, 2025

Dear Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to share the vital work of my organization, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), and to urge you to protect and sustain U.S. funding for independent investigative journalism.

OCCRP is an internationally respected investigative journalism network with staff and member centers across six continents. It has won over 100 international awards for its reporting and has uncovered large-scale organized crimes, money laundering, and other illicit activities that harm public welfare. Its reporting has led to over \$11 billion in criminal asset recoveries worldwide, including about \$3 billion for the United States – a return of more than \$100 for every dollar received from the U.S. government. Despite this extraordinary impact, OCCRP lost 38% of its funding due to recent foreign aid freezes, threatening its ability to continue this essential work.

For example, OCCRP led a global network of journalists to expose four international massive money laundering vehicles, which we've termed "Laundromats." The investigations revealed how corrupt politicians and criminals systematically moved and hid more than \$30 billion in illicit funds from Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. Law enforcement actions and U.S. fines followed our reporting; Danske Bank pled guilty to fraud charges and forfeited \$2 billion and Deutsche Bank paid \$150 million in penalties for its correspondent banking relationships with Danske Bank Estonia and FBME Bank, along with arrests, asset seizures, fines, and other actions in the U.K. and Europe.

USAID has played a critical role in supporting investigative journalism and the free press worldwide. Through its funding, USAID has helped media organizations operate in some of the most challenging environments, ensuring that journalists have the resources to uncover corruption and organized crimes. USAID-backed programs have strengthened



Andrew Sullivan

drew@occrp.org

independent media in developing countries, providing essential training, security assistance, and legal support to journalists facing threats for their work.

Organized crime, large-scale corruption, and money laundering operate across borders through sophisticated schemes, and undermine the prosperity and stability of the jurisdictions they touch. The work of OCCRP, including the programs funded by U.S. agencies, directly contributes to the global fight against these threats by:

Providing nearly 600 instances of security training, advising, and support to investigative journalists worldwide in 2024 alone, including responses to digital, physical, and legal threats and emergency relocation services.

Exposing \$4.8 billion in public funds at risk due to corruption, including investigations into contracts and procurement schemes in Kenya, India, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, and the Solomon Islands.

Supporting journalists to work across borders, such as the 43 organizations in 17 countries who collaborated on the NarcoFiles project to expose how drug trafficking networks have recently evolved.

OCCRP's independent reporting strengthens democratic values, protects taxpayer dollars, and holds the most powerful criminal networks accountable. Attacks against OCCRP funding for this work only benefit corrupt and criminal actors worldwide.

I urge you to reject misleading claims and continue robust support for investigative media and anti-corruption initiatives. Upholding investigative journalism and the integrity of global anti-corruption efforts is in the best interest of the United States and the democratic world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Drew Sullivan

Co-Founder and Publisher