



Funding Proposal
To Provide Training for Freelance Journalists at Risk
In Honor of the Memory of Steven Joel Sotloff
June 2017

Global Journalist Security, the leading U.S.-based provider of Hostile Environments & Emergency First Aid Training worldwide, and the **2LIVES Steven Joel Sotloff Memorial Foundation**, which honors the late freelance journalist Steven Sotloff, are raising funds to begin a sustainable program to provide pro bono training to at least 16, qualified freelance journalists in Miami by the summer of 2018.

Working in collaboration with the University of Miami School of Communication Department of Journalism and Media Management, GJS and the 2Lives Foundation seek to establish a sustainable freelance journalist training program. The goal would be to provide training at least once and eventually twice per year. The program would also help train and prepare University of Miami journalism students to cover dangerous assignments both at home and overseas.

The training would involve Hostile Environments and Emergency First Aid preparation. Taught through a mixture of classroom exercises, one-on-one practice opportunities and increasingly complex and challenging simulation exercises, the training would provide the same opportunities for hostile environments preparation that GJS currently provides to staff journalists at clients including Associated Press, National Public Radio, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, Vice News, BuzzFeed, HuffingtonPost, Agence France-Presse and Getty Images.

The training would further emphasize preparation in risk assessment protocols tailored to the expected areas of reportage by the individual freelance journalist. The training modules would also include situational awareness, emergency first-aid, tactical breathing and stress management, travel security, personal safety, mob protests, sexual assault, interrogation and captivity and combat hazards.

The first-aid protocols would include preparation for anything from relatively minor injuries up to vehicle accidents and combat or terrorist attack triage. The overall training would unfold over a period of three to five days, with four days being an optimal time frame for adequate instruction and simulation practice. The trainings

involve highly-skilled former military, intelligence, law enforcement, self-defense and counseling professionals along with veteran conflict and investigative journalists. The scenarios are enhanced by vetted, professional actors along with various props to create the most realistic training environment possible.



Global Journalist Security

(<https://www.journalistsecurity.net/>)

Global Journalist Security is the leading U.S.-based Hostile Environments and Emergency First Aid training and consulting firm, and one of the leading security firms for journalists including freelance journalists worldwide. Our regular media clients include Agence-France Presse, National Public Radio, Getty Images, *The New York Times*, Associated Press, NBC News, ABC News, *The Washington Post* and the Associated Press. GJS' training has profiled by [The New Yorker](#) and the [Daily Show](#). GJS has trained student journalists at the National Security Zone of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and the City University of New York. GJS has provided tailored risk assessment mentoring and [custom training](#) for young journalism fellows at The Ground Truth Project. Because of GJS' commitment to journalist security and giving-back policy as a modeled B-Corp, GJS is also the only training provider that is a member of ACOS or A Culture of Safety, the coalition formed in London and New York to promote the interests of freelance journalists.



2 Lives Steven Joel Sotloff Memorial Foundation

(<https://www.2livesfoundation.org/>)

The 2LIVES Foundation is dedicated to the support of journalists by providing scholarships for journalism students, implementing global safety best practices for journalists working in conflict-torn regions of the world, and promoting policy changes in U.S. and worldwide hostage laws.

The Foundation's vision is to equip journalists with the knowledge and tools they need to tell the important stories of the world in the safest possible way, honoring freedom of speech and freedom of the press, ending impunity, and bringing them home safely under all circumstances.

Thus far, the Foundation has provided both endowed and individual scholarships for journalism students who have the passion and desire to pursue a career in journalism. To date, scholarships have already been set up in Steven's name at Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire, University of Central Florida and University of Miami.



About Steven Joel Sotloff

Steven Joel Sotloff

May 11, 1983 - September 2, 2014

Steven Joel Sotloff was born and raised in Miami, Florida, the son of Arthur and Shirley Sotloff, the brother of Lauren Sotloff, and the grandson of Holocaust survivors.

He graduated from Kimball Union Academy, a private boarding school in Meriden, New Hampshire, and continued on to the University of Central Florida, where he majored in journalism. It was during his sophomore year at UCF that Steven developed a passion for Israel and the Middle East.

Interested in exploring his Jewish roots, he participated in a [Taglit-Birthright](#) Israel trip, and eventually decided to make *aliyah* and relocate to the Middle East, becoming a dual American-Israeli citizen. He graduated *Cum Laude* with a B.A. in Government, Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security in 2008 from the [Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya's Raphael Recanati International School in Israel](#).

Steven was a courageous and adventurous freelance journalist, passionate about reporting news through the eyes of people in conflict-torn areas. Inspired by his grandmother's experience, and working from some of the most dangerous regions of the world, he wove together stories of average individuals and families simply trying to survive, trying to make an impact on others, and trying to find hope in a world of festering darkness. He became known as "a voice for the voiceless."

While he had worked for ABC News affiliates in Israel and Jordan, Steven's career

really began to take off during the [Arab Spring](#) of 2010. He worked for [Time](#), [The Christian Science Monitor](#), [The National Interest](#), [The Media Line](#), World Affairs, and [Foreign Policy](#), and his reports appeared on [CNN](#) and [Fox News](#).

His work took him to Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Libya and Bahrain, and he covered stories about Al-Qaeda, Bashar al-Assad, Benghazi, Ahmad Abu Khattallah, Ansar al-Sharia, the Alawites and more.

Steven is perhaps best known for breaking the Benghazi story that there was no protest, covering the Arab Spring, and bringing attention to the suffering of the everyday Syrian people which was the world's early glimpse into the coming Syrian Refugee Crisis.

On August 4, 2013, after crossing the Syrian border from Turkey, Steven was kidnapped, along with several others, near Aleppo by militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Steven went to great lengths to hide his Jewish faith and dual US/Israeli citizenships during his captivity, which even during his work brought an extra element of danger. In September 2013, he feigned illness so that he could secretly observe the Jewish fast day of Yom Kippur. His family, friends, the Israeli government and previous employers also went to great lengths to keep his Jewish faith and Israeli citizenship a secret from ISIS, fearing harm would come to him if this information went public. He used a pseudonym for most of his hundreds of reports, for this same reason, so that his work could continue.

During his captivity, he managed to smuggle out two letters to his parents, Arthur and Shirley, one of which said in part: *"Everyone has two lives: the 2nd one begins when you realize you have only one."*

Despite tireless work by his family and government officials for over a year to gain his release, Steven was savagely murdered by a member of ISIS on September 2, 2014. The horrific murder was videotaped and distributed for all the world to see.

After his death, Felice Friedson, Steven's editor at The Media Line, called him "one of the most courageous, talented and insightful journalists that I have met.