

Elizabeth Alexander,
President of the Pulitzer Prize Board
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
New York,
NY

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Nomination letter

It is with great pleasure that we the undersigned would like to nominate Bellingcat, a journalism collective publishing the findings of citizen journalist investigations into war zones and the criminal underworld, for the **Pulitzer Prize in Journalism in investigative reporting**.

With regard to this award, Bellingcat has made contributed to the emergence of a new type of journalism. It is a platform to bring together critically acclaimed and emerging citizen investigative journalists using open source information to investigate, collaborate and report on worldwide issues that are being underreported and ignored. Furthermore, although most investigative journalism is shrouded in mystery, the platform shows their workings, detailing how they found out the story and which techniques they used. This is not only encouragement to the members of the public to get involved but also signifies a new level of transparency in the reporting on critical issues.

Bellingcat has made contributions to uncovering some of the biggest issues in recent history – the platform's first work investigated Russian involvement in the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, with the website showing that Russian authorities had doctored images from the crash using Adobe Photoshop in an attempt to deny culpability. Recently, Bellingcat, in cooperation with the BBC, carried out a ground-breaking investigation in Cameroon. Bellingcat made international headlines when they uncovered that Salisbury poisoning suspect Ruslan Boshirov is in fact Colonel Anatoliy Vladimirovich Chepiga, a highly decorated senior officer from Russian military intelligence who was awarded the state's highest honour in late 2014. All Bellingcat findings have a certain quality in common – they seek to uncover the truth in the most controversial, most difficult places and subjects.

As an organization, Bellingcat is responsible for working on, and responsible for breaking, some of the biggest news stories worldwide. They have been bringing the same single-minded dedication and commitment to all their investigations, and certainly will continue to do so. It is no exaggeration to say that there are many who regard their work with some awe.

The contributions to uncovering the truth made by the Bellingcat are unparalleled. They have a proven track record of excellence in investigative journalism. Recognizing the contributions to the creation of this new type of journalism and their investigative work would be long overdue.

We highly recommend Bellingcat for the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism in investigative reporting. Thank you for your consideration.

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