IN MEMORIAM:  
BOB SIMON

CBS NEWS AND “60 MINUTES” CORRESPONDENT BOB SIMON,  
MOST-HONORED FIELD REPORTER IN TELEVISION NEWS, DIES AT 73

60 MINUTES  
Correspondent Bob Simon, whose decades of foreign reporting for CBS News earned him singular respect and an unprecedented number of awards for his field reporting, died on Feb. 11 in a car accident in New York City where he lived. Simon was preparing a 60 MINUTES report on the Ebola virus and the quest for a cure for it for this Sunday’s broadcast. He was working with his daughter, Tanya, a 60 MINUTES producer with whom he collaborated on several stories for the program. He was 73 and lived in New York City.

With his movie-star looks, a taste for risk and a way with words, Simon was the embodiment of the intrepid foreign correspondent. During a 47-year career at CBS News he reported thousands of stories, 90 percent of them from overseas war zones, including Vietnam and especially from the Middle East where he was captured and tortured by the Iraqi Army during the Persian Gulf War. His stories (national and international) earned him more than 40 major awards, including 27 Emmys (believed to be the most Emmys ever earned by a reporter for fieldwork). Honoring him for his body of international reporting in 1999, the Peabody Awards Committee noted, in part: “In an age when neophytes with cell

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“Bob Simon was a giant of broadcast journalism, and a dear friend to everyone in the CBS News family. We are all shocked by this tragic, sudden loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob’s extended family and especially with our colleague Tanya Simon.”

-- CBS News President David Rhodes.

“It’s a terrible loss for all of us at CBS News. It is such a tragedy made worse because we lost him in a car accident, a man who has escaped more difficult situations than almost any journalist in modern times. Bob was a reporter’s reporter. He was driven by a natural curiosity that took him all over the world covering every kind of story imaginable. There is no one else like Bob Simon. All of us at CBS News and particularly at 60 MINUTES will miss him very much.”

-- Jeff Fager, Executive Producer, 60 MINUTES.

Simon’s conflict zone reporting began in 1969 when, after two years of proving himself in New York, he was posted to the London Bureau where he covered Biafra’s war for independence in Nigeria and the troubles in Northern Ireland. He went to Saigon in 1971 to cover the Vietnam War and its spillover to Cambodia, where his reporting earned him the coveted title of correspondent and his first honors: an Overseas Press Club (OPC) award for his television reports on the North Vietnamese spring offensive. He returned in 1975 to cover the American pullout and left Saigon on one of the last helicopters, again winning accolades from the OPC for his radio dispatches on the days of the war. In addition to his war reporting, Simon served as State Department correspondent and CBS News bureau’s correspondent in Tel Aviv. In 1996, he began contributing stories to 60 MINUTES, becoming a principal correspondent for “60 Minutes II in 1999 and named a full-time correspondent for 60 MINUTES in 2005.

Simon is survived by his wife, Francoise, his daughter, Tanya, her husband, Dr. Evan Garfein, and his grandson Jack.

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