

10

**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor
Board of Governors 2021-2022**



Austin RAMZY

Affiliation: The New York Times

The FCC has always been a great place to hear a talk, get a meal and drink. But as Hong Kong changes, and speech and press freedom face increasing threats, the FCC's role in defending such rights has grown ever more important.

If elected to the board, I would work to support such efforts and uphold the club's critical place in Hong Kong. The keys to doing so include fostering the FCC's own deep sense of community and cultivating its solidarity with all journalists.

In mainland China the expulsion of reporters – once a somewhat rare act of retaliation – is now becoming commonplace, with more than a dozen forced out last year. Others left due to threats to their safety. Haze Fan of Bloomberg was detained in December with only vague explanations from the authorities.

Hong Kong was once a sanctuary, but now too is increasingly inhospitable to news media both foreign and local. Journalists have been forced to leave here too and my own employer has relocated much of its staff to Seoul due to uncertainty over visas. RTHK, the widely respected public broadcaster, is now slowly being choked.

Such a hostile environment, compounded by the ongoing pandemic, requires a robust FCC. That means a club that not only speaks up for free speech, but can embrace all of its roles, from organizing timely and interesting talks to providing convenient work and exercise spaces to being a great place to gather over food and drink.

The issues confronting the FCC are complex and defy simple solutions. If elected I pledge to listen to all ideas about making this organization as strong as possible and will work to support that goal.

About me: I've been a reporter with the New York Times since 2013, and have previously been based in Taipei and Beijing. I spent 10 years with TIME Asia and TIME magazine in Beijing and Hong Kong, and I grew up in the U.S. states of Texas, Oklahoma and Iowa.