

A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS



*LIVE
NEWS*

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Front cover picture:

*A press photographer in a cloud of teargas during a riot in Lima, Peru, in May 2000.
Photo: AP / Martin Mejia*

Title page picture (right)

*A newspaper vendor waits for customers in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, one of many countries where media have been put under threat. In November 2002, an emergency aid programme was launched by the IFJ, the Communication Assistance Foundation, International Media Support and Media Assistance International, working with the Union Nationale des Journalistes de Côte d'Ivoire (UNJCI) and the West Africa Journalists Association. The programme included training on safety and conflict reporting.
Photo: AP / Clement Ntaye.*

LIVE NEWS



A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS

Written and produced for the IFJ by Peter McIntyre
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All IFJ affiliates worldwide, who work to make the lives of journalists safer;
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Preface

Crucial steps on the road to safety

by *Aidan White*, General Secretary,
International Federation of Journalists



War and violence rarely answer anything – but when they happen, journalists and other media staff have a crucial role in cutting through the fog of deception, lies and manipulation of information that inevitably follows. Their task is to show the impact on the lives of ordinary people. In taking on that role, journalists and others put their lives and safety at risk.

The IFJ has campaigned for many years for greater safety and for a focus on the in-country journalists and freelancers who are at greatest risk and who have the least protection. With the creation of the International News Safety Institute (*see pages 103-105*), that is beginning to happen. This book is part of the process. It takes the experience of those who have reported from and filmed in hostile zones and tries to draw lessons to save lives. But safety is not just an issue when bullets start flying. It is also about creating a culture of risk awareness in all aspects of journalism – whether in war zones, investigative reporting or reporting events from the streets.

We have attempted to spotlight the needs of local journalists, but much of the available information comes from international correspondents, and from training courses set up for the giants of the electronic media. The IFJ will use this book to spread the message of safety, but we will also help our regional offices to produce local versions to draw out local experience. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience amongst journalists who live and work on the front line of conflict and who have learned to survive while continuing to do their jobs. Those lessons and that knowledge need to be pooled and the courage and tenacity of those journalists needs to be honoured. This is a small step in that direction, and we dedicate this book to these true heroes of our profession.