



Perilous Assignments

JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA STAFF KILLED IN 2008



INCLUDING IFJ INTERNATIONAL SAFETY FUND REPORT

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Cover image:

Palestinian journalists hold up the damaged camera and flack jacket of slain Reuters cameraman Fadel Shana during a protest in Gaza April 22, 2008, against his killing.
REUTERS/Suhaib Salem (GAZA)

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Perilous Assignments 2008

There was good news at the end of the year — a significant reduction in the number of media casualties during 2008 and the release of two journalists held hostage by bandits in Somalia. But any satisfaction was short-lived. Within hours the first victim of 2009 was being counted — Hassan Mayow Hassan, a Somali journalist, who was shot dead as he and colleagues made their way to cover fighting in the south of the country. In the next four days three more journalists died — in Pakistan and Palestine.

Despite the sign of an end to successive peaks in killings and targeting of journalists during 2008, the business of journalism remains acutely dangerous. The stories and tragedies set out in the following pages reveal that although there is much to welcome in a year when the number of work related killings of journalists fell by almost a third after three years of record death tolls, there are still countries — Iraq, India and Mexico, in particular — where journalism remains a perilous profession.

Iraq remains the world's deadliest country for journalists and media staff since the American-led invasion in 2003, despite a dramatic fall in the murder rate of journalists. Only 16 were killed in 2008 compared with 65 in 2007. The total media death toll in Iraq since April 2003, more than 90 per cent of them Iraqi nationals, is estimated to be around 284.

But no-one can be sure. In fact, this report as always comes with a warning — there are many different sets of figures given every year, but no organisation can say for certain that they have counted everyone.

The IFJ, working with the International News Safety Institute, tries to include the whole range of victims, including those media staff who die in accidents while on duty, which is why our numbers may be higher than other groups. But there are still deaths we may not know about, other journalists who have been silently and quietly silenced. All we can say with certainty is that these are the ones we know about.

The regional reports tell their own story of how conflict, war and social dislocation provides the backdrop for assignments that are inevitably risky and

often may involve a death sentence on journalists who stray into territory where gangsters and terrorists are in control.

Across the world journalists and media continue to be in the firing line. From poverty and tribal rivalry in central Africa, to drug wars on the United States border with Mexico, civil strife in Sri Lanka, the never-ending tragedy of Palestine and continuing clashes of culture and politics in Iraq, the uncertainties of unresolved borders between India and Pakistan and rapidly-warming frozen conflicts around the former Soviet Union, all provide stories laced with danger and threats.

But it is not just on the political battlegrounds where journalists are at risk. The Philippines, for instance, a country where corruption and lawlessness are rampant, remains notorious as the country where journalists are most likely to be murdered.

Of the nine journalists killed in the past year or so, eight were murdered. Five were radio broadcasters who had reported on corruption and were killed in drive-by shootings. Like many other governments that drag their feet when it comes to investigating the killings of journalists, the Government of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been slow to challenge the culture of impunity, and has, as this report points out, presided over the worst death toll for journalists under any Philippines administration. It was only as a result of international pressure that in the past 12 months it opened investigations into some of the 62 murders of journalists during the last seven years.

In India, one of the gloomy black spots of the year, there were a series of murders in parts of the country where civil insurgencies are taking place. A total of eight journalists were killed — six murdered and two killed in separate cross-fire incidents in the disputed regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

In nearby Pakistan the situation is almost as bad. Some seven journalists were killed during the year, in line with the previous year's toll. Most died reporting on conflict and Islamist militants in one chilling case in Balochistan provided a stark warning to local journalists if they get too close to the truth.



Reuters photographer Yiorgos Karahalidis (2nd R) of Greece runs from an exploding sound and light grenade thrown by Israeli troops as he covers a violent protest against Israel's security fence in the West Bank village of Bilin March 28, 2008. © REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis (WEST BANK) PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE FIELD

In Mexico the cruel realities of endemic drug wars between rival gangs have been more threats and killings of journalists. For years the focus in Latin America centered on Colombia where a toxic cocktail of drugs crime and political insurgency has claimed many media victims, but now the spotlight is trained firmly on the lawless regions of the Mexican north where drug trafficking is deeply embedded in the realities of everyday life. The number of journalists killed has steadily increased. In 2008, 10 died.

The IFJ and other press freedom groups continue to press for campaigns that will isolate the killers, challenge impunity and create a culture of safety within Mexican journalism. That is no easy task given the lack of professional solidarity among journalists and within media. The IFJ will continue to work closely with its regional organisation FEPALC to find ways of building a new unity within journalism to combat the current safety crisis.

Meanwhile, this report concludes with a review of the work of the IFJ Safety Fund — the world's leading

'journalists to journalists' source of solidarity. The Fund provides vital humanitarian assistance and legal aid to journalists and their families, particularly to those who are suffering most from the scourge of violence and intimidation that overwhelms media in many regions.

During 2009 the IFJ will be expanding the use of the Safety Fund, building a new coalition of families who have suffered tragic loss and looking to lobby more effectively with other media support groups to make sure that the fallout from violence against media does not lead to yet more suffering through indifference and neglect.

The numbers go up and occasionally come down, but behind the statistics are human tales of suffering and continuing need that challenge all of us in journalism to do more to ease the pain of the survivors. They, too, have their story and if solidarity has any meaning at all, it is in providing fast and effective assistance to those who need it most.

— Aidan White

Journalists and media staff killed in 2008

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Afghanistan | Carsten Thomassen | Reporter | Dagbladet Newspaper | 14.01.08 |
| Afghanistan | Abdul Samad Rohani | Reporter | BBC World Service | 7.06.08 |
| Bolivia | Carlos Quispe Quispe | Journalist | Radio Municipal | 3.04.08 |
| Brazil | Walter Lessa de Oliveira | Cameraman | TV of Alagoas State | 5.01.08 |
| Cambodia | Khem Sambo | Journalist | Moneaseka Khmer | 12.07.08 |
| Colombia | Manuel Arturo Macías | Director | Gente Nueva Radio | 09.02.08 |
| Croatia | Ivo Pukanic | Journalist | Nacional newspaper | 23.10.08 |
| Croatia | Niko Franjic | Media Executive | Nacional newspaper | 23.10.08 |
| Dominican Republic | Normando Garcia | Reporter | La Noticia | 07.08.08 |
| Democratic Rep of Congo | Didace Namujimbo | Journalist | Radio Okapi | 21.11.08 |
| Ecuador | Raul Rodriguez | Journalist | Radio Sucre | 23.06.08 |
| Georgia | Alexander Klimchuk | Reporter and owner | Caucus Press Images | 10.08.08 |
| Georgia | Grigol Chikhladze | Journalist | Newsweek Russia | 10.08.08 |
| Georgia | Stan Storimans | Cameraman | RTL | 12.08.08 |
| Georgia | Georgi Ramichvili | | | |
| Greece | George Koiliaris | Reporter | NET | 15.11.08 |
| Guatemala | Jorge Mérida Pérez | Reporter | Prensa Libre | 10.05.08 |
| Honduras | Jose Fernando Gonzalez | Director | Radio FM Mega 92.7 | 01.01.08 |
| India | Mohammad Muslimuddin | Correspondent | Asamiya Pratidin | 01.04.08 |
| India | Ashok Shodi | Photojournalist | Daily Excelsior | 11.05.08 |
| India | Javed Ahmed Mir | Cameraman | Local TV channel | 13.08.08 |
| India | Ravi | Photographer | Freelance | 23.09.08 |
| India | Jagjit Saikia | Reporter | Amar asom | 22.11.08 |
| India | Vikas Ranjan | Reporter | Hindustan | 25.11.08 |
| Iraq | Alaa Abdul Karim | Cameraman | Al-Forat TV | 30.01.08 |
| Iraq | Alaa Assi | Driver | Al-Forat TV | 30.01.08 |
| Iraq | Hisham Mijawet Hamdan | Reporter | Al Akhbar Newspaper | 12.02.08 |
| Iraq | Shihab Al-Timimi | President Iraq Union of Journalists | | 27.02.08 |
| Iraq | Qassem Abdul Hussein al-Eqabi | Reporter | Al Watan newspaper | 13.02.08 |
| Iraq | Jassim al-Batat | Journalist | Al-Nakhil | 25.04.08 |
| Iraq | Tharwat Abdul-Wahab | Journalist | Salah Eddin TV | 04.05.08 |
| Iraq | Wissa Ali Ouda | Cameraman | Afaaq TV | 21.05.08 |
| Iraq | Haidar Hashem al-Husseini | Reporter | Al Sharq newspaper | 22.05.08 |
| Iraq | Mohey al-Din Abdel Hamid al-Naqeeb | Presenter | Al Mosil TV | 17.06.08 |
| Iraq | Soran Mamah Hammah | Reporter | Lafeen magazine | 22.07.08 |
| Iraq | Musab Mahmoud al-Azawi | Bureau Chief | Al Sharqeya TV | 13.09.08 |

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Iraq | Ahmed Salim | Cameraman | Al Sharqeya TV | 13.09.08 |
| Iraq | Ihab ma'ad | Cameraman | Al Sharqeya TV | 13.09.08 |
| Iraq | Qieldan Salman | Driver | Al Sharqeya TV | 13.09.08 |
| Iraq | Dyar Abas Ahmed | Reporter | Eye Iraq | 10.10.08 |
| Kenya | Trent Keegan | Photographer | Freelance | 28.05.08 |
| Mexico | Francisco Ortiz Monroy | Correspondent | Diario de México | 05.02.08 |
| Mexico | Alfonso Cruz Cruz | Editor | El Real newspaper | 07.02.08 |
| Mexico | Bonifacio Cruz Santiago | Director | El Real newspaper | 07.02.08 |
| Mexico | Teresa Bautista | Journalist | La Voz que Rompe El Silencio Radio Station | 07.04.08 |
| Mexico | Martinez Sanchez | Journalist | La Voz que Rompe El Silencio Radio Station | 07.04.08 |
| Mexico | Candelario Perez Perez | Journalist | Sucesos magazine | 23.06.08 |
| Mexico | Alejandro Zenon Estrada | Journalist | EXA FM | 24.09.09 |
| Mexico | Miguel Angel Villagomez | Editor and owner | La Noticia de Michoacan | 09.10.08 |
| Mexico | David Garcia Monroy | Journalist | Independent | 09.10.08 |
| Mexico | Jose Armando Rodriguez | Reporter | El Diario newspaper | 13.11.08 |
| Nepal | Pushpa Shrestha | Editor | News Season newspaper | 13.01.08 |
| Nepal | Jagat Prasad Joshi alias Pandit | Editor | Janadisha newspaper | Missing since 08.10.08 |
| Nigeria | Eiphraim Audu | Journalist | Nasarawa State Broadcasting Service | 15.10.08 |
| Pakistan | Chishti Mujahid | Senior Journalist | Akbar e-Jehan | 09.02.08 |
| Pakistan | Sirajuddin | Correspondent | The Nation | 29.02.08 |
| Pakistan | Khadim Hussain Sheikh | Bureau Chief | Khabrein newspaper | 14.04.08 |
| Pakistan | Mohamed Ibrahim Khan | Journalist | Express TV | 22.05.08 |
| Pakistan | Abdul Aziz Shaheen | Reporter | Azadi | 29.08.08 |
| Pakistan | Abdul Razzak Johra | Reporter | Royal Network TV | 08.11.08 |
| Pakistan | Qari Mohammas Shoaib | Reporter | Khabar Kar newspaper | 3.11.08 |
| Palestine | Fadel Shana | Cameraman | Reuters | 16.04.08 |
| Palestine | Hamza Shahin | Photographer | Shehab News Agency | 26.12.08 |
| Panama | Eliécer Santamaria | Photographer | El Siglo newspaper | 08.04.08 |
| Philippines | Benefredo Acabal | Columnist and Publisher | Philipino Newsmen | 07.04.08 |
| Philippines | Marcos Mataro | TV Host | UNTV | 27.04.08 |
| Philippines | Robert Sison | Radio Host and correspondent | Regional Bulletin newspaper | 30.06.08 |
| Philippines | Martin Roxas | Presenter | RMN Radio Station | 07.08.08 |
| Philippines | Dennis Cuesta | Director | Radio Mindanao Network | 09.08.08 |
| Philippines | Aristeo Padrigao | Commentator | Radio Natin | 17.11.08 |
| Philippines | Leo Mila | Commentator | Radio Natin | 2.12.08 |
| Russia | Gadzhi Abashilov | Director | Dagestan | 21.03.08 |

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Russia | Magomed Yevloyev | Website owner | | 31.08.08 |
| Russia | Abdullah Alishyev | Reporter | | 02.09.08 |
| Somalia | Hassan Kafi Hared | Journalist | Somali National News Agency | 28.01.08 |
| Somalia | Nasteh Dahir Farah | Journalist | BBC WS Somali Service and Reuters | 07.06.08 |
| Sri Lanka | Paranirupasingam Devakumar | Journalist | Express TV | 28.05.08 |
| Sri Lanka | Rashmi Mohamed | TV Journalist | Sirasa TV | 06.10.08 |
| Thailand | Athiwat Chainurat | Senior Reporter | Matichon newspaper | 01.08.08 |
| Thailand | Chalee Boonsawat | Reporter | Thai Rath newspaper | 21.08.08 |
| Thailand | Jaruek Rangcharoen | Reporter | Matichon newspaper | 27.09.08 |
| Thailand | Wallop Bounsampop | | | 05.10.08 |
| Uganda | Rebecca Wilbrod Kasujja | Journalist | Buwama FM Radio Station | 17.02.08 |
| Venezuela | Pierre Fould Gerges | Journalist | Reporte Diario de la Economia | 02.06.08 |
| Zimbabwe | Richard Mills | Correspondent | The Times | 14.07.08 |



Protesters in Islamabad in Pakistan © Ishaque Chaudhry



© FOTO ELA-HAINBAT

Accidental deaths in 2008

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Bangladesh | Ainul Huq | Reporter | Muktabarta | 31.07.08 |
| Bangladesh | Dipu Sikander | Journalist | Bangla Bazar Patrika | 17.04.08 |
| China | Zhou Jian | Journalist | Turpan Radio | 26.03.08 |
| China | Pan Fengpin | Cameraman | TV | 26.03.08 |
| Colombia | Pablo Josué Charry | Reporter | CNC Noticias | 10.10.08 |
| Greece | George Koiliaris | Journalist | NET | 15.11.08 |
| Guyana | Akila Jacobs | Journalist | Unknown | 19.10.08 |
| India | Javed Khan | Journalist | Bilaspur Hindu Daily | 17.04.08 |
| India | Diharan Manikpuri | Journalist | Bilaspur Hindu Daily | 17.04.08 |
| India | Ved Prakash Chouhan | Journalist | Amar Ujala | 11.07.08 |
| India | Komal Yadav | Photographer | Amar Ujala | 11.07.08 |
| Japan | Omori Shinji | Cameraman | Asahi Broadcaster Aomori | 06.07.08 |
| Japan | Kimura Shingo | Announcer | Asahi Broadcaster Aomori | 06.07.08 |
| Peru | Adelmo Chavez Goicochea | Journalist | Radio Antenne 1 | 12.10.08 |
| Philippines | Gasper Jun Galias | Radio Announcer | NUJPO Sorsogon | 02.07.08 |
| Uganda | Samuel Wossita | Photo_journalist | The Monitor | 19.04.08 |
| USA | Steven Shoob | Journalist | WTOC | 21.07.08 |
| USA | Dave Garrett | Photographer | SkyEye | 13.10.08 |
| USA | John Downhower | Pilot | SkyEye | 13.10.08 |
| USA | Tom Borrelli | Journalist | Buffalo News | 20.11.08 |

Killed by region

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| AFRICA | 7 |
| DR Congo | 1 |
| Kenya | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| Somalia | 2 |
| Uganda | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | 1 |
| AMERICAS KILLED | 19 |
| Bolivia | 1 |
| Brazil | 1 |
| Colombia | 1 |
| Dominican Republic | 1 |
| Ecuador | 1 |
| Guatemala | 1 |
| Honduras | 1 |
| Mexico | 10 |
| Panama | 1 |
| Venezuela | 1 |
| ASIA-PACIFIC KILLED | 31 |
| Afghanistan | 2 |
| Cambodia | 1 |
| India | 6 |
| Nepal | 2 |
| Pakistan | 7 |
| Philippines | 7 |
| Sri Lanka | 2 |
| Thailand | 4 |
| EUROPE KILLED | 10 |
| Croatia | 2 |
| Georgia | 4 |
| Greece | 1 |
| Russia | 3 |
| MIDDLE EAST KILLED | 18 |
| Iraq | 16 |
| Palestine | 2 |
| TOTAL | 85 |

Accidental deaths by region

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| AFRICA | 1 |
| Uganda | 1 |
| AMERICAS | 7 |
| Colombia | 1 |
| Guyana | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| United States | 4 |
| ASIA-PACIFIC | 16 |
| Bangladesh | 2 |
| China | 2 |
| India | 4 |
| Japan | 2 |
| Philippines | 1 |
| Thailand | 5 |
| EUROPE | 1 |
| Greece | 1 |
| TOTAL | 24 |



The Journalists Memorial, located in the Newseum in Washington, D.C., pays tribute to reporters, photographers and broadcasters who have died reporting the news. © Newseum/James P. Blair



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Africa Regional Office



Gabriel Baglo, Africa Regional Director

The year 2008 will be remembered as another year that has witnessed untold hardship on journalists on the African continent. Africa continues to register each year, a crucial number of its journalists killed with impunity in relation to their work. This toll on the journalists of the continent is indeed too high. Hardly a year passes without a journalist being killed in Africa. 2008 was no exception. Despite vigorous campaigns by different media freedom organisations and advocates, press freedom has suffered some serious setbacks on the African continent in the year 2008. Six journalists were murdered in Somalia, DRC, Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. Physical assaults, torture, arson attacks, harassments, death threats, jailing of journalists have been the daily lot of those

who have escaped death. The incessant wars and rebellions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Uganda have increased risks to the safety of journalists who cover these events.

Furthermore, press freedom continues to deteriorate in countries like Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, The Gambia, Swaziland, Guinea Bissau and Zimbabwe where journalists are arbitrarily arrested, held incommunicado and face numerous trials for simply reporting the news as it is. The media environment in these countries is characterised by obnoxious legislations and government practices which cripple the media.

Apart from the campaigns against impunity, efforts to improve the legal environment, reduce attacks and detention of journalists as well as to promote safety training and equipment for journalists in conflict zones, hostile countries and during violent demonstrations remain a priority for the Africa Region.

Gabriel Baglo
IFJ Africa Director

January

January 28 ■ Somalia

Hassan Kafi, a journalist working for the Somali National News Agency was killed by a remote-controlled land mine which exploded on a road in Siyad when he was on his way to a press conference in Kismayu.

The explosion also destroyed a vehicle carrying two aid workers from Médecins sans Frontières-Holland, killing them and their driver.

February

February 12 ■ Uganda

Rebecca Wilrod Kasujja, a woman journalist for Buwama FM radio station based at 62 km south of the capital, Kampala was raped and killed as she was on her way to work.



Photographer Trent Keegan. © Brian MacCormaic



Journalist Nasteh Dahir Farah. © NUSOJ

Her body was discovered by residents in the nearby bush who alerted the local police. According to her journalists colleagues, her assault and murder were related to her work as a journalists.

May

May 28 ■ Kenya

Trent Keegan, a freelance photographer was found dead with head injuries in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

According to police sources, the body of Keegan was found in a trench near a main highway. His camera, laptop and mobile phone were missing.

Two Kenyan nationals have been charged with taking part in the murder of Keegan and are on trial in a Nairobi court. The family of the photographer believe Keegan was killed because of a story he was following in Tanzania.

June

June 6 ■ Somalia

Nasteh Dahir Farah, journalist for BBC World Service Somali service and Reuters was killed by unknown assailants in the town of Kismayu.

According to NUSOJ, Farah, Vice — President of the National



Richard Mills/The Times



Journalist Didace Namujimbo. ©Reuters

Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) at the time of his murder, was gunned down by armed men in the southern town of Kismayu when he was returning home. The gunmen shot him several times in the stomach and chest before fleeing. He was taken to hospital but died shortly afterwards.

July

July 14 ■ Zimbabwe

Richards Mills, a correspondent for the *Times* newspaper was found dead in the safe house where he was staying in the capital, Harare. His body was discovered by a colleague from the same paper who was working with him in Zimbabwe at the time.

According to medical sources, the cause of death was suicide as there was no evidence of foul play.

October

October 15 ■ Nigeria

Eiphrain Audu, senior journalist for Nasarawa State Broadcasting Service, was killed in Lafia, central Nigeria.

Audu, who had returned home from a state function, was shot by armed men several times as he left his house to visit a neighbour, according to his colleagues. Police declared that no personal property was taken from him or his car which was parked nearby.

November

November 21 ■ Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Didace Namujimbo, a journalist for UN-backed Radio Okapi was killed in the town of Bukavu, in south Kivu province of the

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Didace was shot in the neck and back by armed men outside his house. According to UN officials, Namujimbo's killers took his mobile phone but left his laptop and money.

Namujimbo was covering the trial of fellow Radio Okapi journalists Serge Maheshe who had also been killed in Bukavu in 2007.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

April 4 ■ Uganda

Samuel Wossita, a senior photo-journalist for the country's leading independent newspaper, *The Monitor*, was killed in a car accident which occurred in Masaka province.

Wossita was travelling in a bus from an assignment in Mbarara, southern Uganda where he had been covering a sport event, the Mbarara Golf Open. According to eye witnesses quoted in the *New Vision* newspaper, the accident happened when the taxi's driver tried to avoid a head-on collision with another vehicle, lost control of the bus and hit a stationary truck.

Two other passengers in the bus were also killed in the accident.



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Americas Regional Office

Latin America remained one of the most dangerous regions for the exercise of journalism with a total of 22 killed and accidental deaths in 2008. The situation in the region presents a contrast which is remarkable in two ways.

Firstly, there is the numerical gap which has opened between Mexico and the other countries, since ten of these killings — almost half of the total — took place in the Azteca country. The other is Colombia, long considered a killing field of media personnel, whose body count of journalists murdered now stands at one, to the astonishment of the world.

In the case of Colombia, however, we must urge caution by pointing out that the promotion of human rights, including the right to association and the exercise of freedom of union, remains highly risky. Dozens of union leaders and social activists have lost their lives because of their work. A case in point was the murder of journalist Manuel Arturo Macías Carrera who was also the leader of the Unión Indígena Afrocolombiana (Afro Colombian Indigenous Unity), a social sector that has become very belligerent in this Andean country. His death was a typical case of contract killing.

Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Honduras and Panama were other countries where journalists and media representatives were murdered.

But Mexico had the record of murders and there is evidence that the causes of these crimes which targeted not just journalists, but civilians in general are organized crime and drug traffic

which are now deep rooted in the Mexican economy, impacting on the whole social fabric.



These Mexican gangs have not only harassed and killed editors and journalists who report on the drug trade but also targeted media professionals for campaigning against the levels of criminality in Mexico.

That was the case of Alejandro Zenón Fonseca Estrada, presenter of a morning interview program in EXA FM, who was shot while hanging posters denouncing delinquency in Villahermosa, capital of Tabasco, state located by the Gulf Coast.

The most worrying aspect of the drug traffic is that it is not confined to Mexico. Others countries in the region are vulnerable to the potential for harm of these drug cartels. Countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Colombia, have very recently

witnessed murders of journalists at the hands of drug cartels' hitmen. And there is very little progress in the fight against impunity. On the contrary, this year saw one of the murderers of TV reporter Tim López in Brazil being released. His release shocked the Brazilian society, and in Venezuela, one suspect of the crime on radio journalist Mauro Marcano was also set free. In both cases, drug dealers bore responsibility.

However, it is worth mentioning that the initiative of analyzing the role of journalism in covering drug traffic action in the context of security of journalists is still incipient in the region. Its difficult edges need an integral approach and we believe that this area which the International Federation of Journalists and its affiliates in the *Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe* (FEPALC) (Federation of Journalist of Latin America and the Caribbean) must give proper consideration.

Another source of violence in the region comes from the violent political polarization in countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela, where

governments and private media are locked in a confrontation which arises from political changes. This type of situation caused the murder of journalist Carlos Quispe Quispe of Radio Municipal, killed in Pucarani, La Paz, when a group of opponents to the local Mayor took over the building housing the radio station, set it afire and beat to death the journalist who was in the transmission room.

In the face of such a dramatic situation, the IFJ, FEPALC, and their Latin American Unions are committed to redoubling their efforts to lower levels of violence against journalist, help them work with more security in risky surroundings and continue the fight against impunity through the campaign launched under the slogan 'To get the message through, we must protect the messenger' started in Mexico City in November 2008. This campaign followed a joint special mission of the three international organizations, which took place in April.

Gregorio Salazar
Regional Coordinator
IFJ/Latin America and the Caribbean

JANUARY

January 1 ■ Honduras

Jose Fernando Gonzalez, 35, director of Radio FM Mega 92.7, killed in the city of Santa Barbara, Trinidad, 150 kilometres northeast of Tegucigalpa.

Three unidentified men in a vehicle without license plates violently entered the radio station. Gonzalez was shot in the head, back and abdomen.



Walter Lessa de Oliveira. Image courtesy of IFJ Latin America.

Walter Lessa de Oliveira, 53, cameraman, ex director of the Union of Journalists of the State of Alagoas, worked for the TV channel of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Alagoas. Shot four times in the head when waiting for the bus in the city of Maceió.

Police claims behind the crime is a drug trafficker the journalist had filmed with his camcorder.

FEBRUARY

February 5 ■ Mexico

Francisco Ortiz Monroy, 48, correspondent of *Diario de México*, in Tamaulipas, was gunned down by a group of armed men, when leaving the Municipality Palace of Camargo.

According to information of the General Prosecutor's Office of Tamaulipas, unidentified men opened fire from a moving van. Ortiz Monroy tried to run and seek shelter, but was tracked down by the criminals.

February 7 ■ Mexico

Bonifacio Cruz Santiago, 66, and **Alfonso Cruz Cruz**, 40, director and editor of *El Real* newspaper, were shot at the entrance of the offices of the local attorney, Raymundo Olivares Diaz. Two workers of the establishment were wounded.

The armed men fired at Alfonso Cruz next to the driver side of the vehicle. His father, Bonifacio Cruz, came out of the vehicle and was shot at least six times in the back. He died at Hospital General 90 Camas.

February 9 ■ Colombia

Manuel Arturo Macías, 38, director of *Gente Nueva*, a daily radio programme broadcasted by Sur colombiana station, was shot dead in his head when heading home, in the municipality of Algeciras.

Macías died ten minutes after arriving to the municipality medical facility. The gunmen hid among habitants celebrating the day of the Virgin of Lourdes, patron of the area.

Manuel was a founding member of the Association of Journalists of Huila (ASPEHU), affiliated to the Colombian Federation of Journalists (FECOLPER), and also worked as municipality counsellor representing the Afrocolombian Indigenous Unity Party.

APRIL

April 3 ■ Bolivia

Carlos Quispe Quispe, 35, Radio Municipal journalist, killed in Pucarani, La Paz.

Quispe was fatally wounded during an attack against the radio station from groups opposing



Journalist Carlos Quispe Quispe. Image courtesy of IFJ Latin America

the mayor of Pucarani, Alejandro Mamani. The furious aggressors invaded the municipality building, destroying and burning the radio station located in the tower.

During the attack, Quispe was located inside the building. Nearly 30 men brutally beat the journalist.

Quispe was taken to the hospital of Pucarani in critical condition and transferred to medical facilities in La Paz, where he died.

April 7 ■ Mexico

Teresa Bautista, 24, and **Felicitas Martínez Sánchez**, 21, commentators for community radio were victims of an ambush on a highway in the State of Oaxaca. Four more were wounded.

The two journalists were killed when heading to produce a report for La Voz que Rompe el Silencio radio station. The station based in the municipality of San Juan Copala (Oaxaca) provided jobs to young adults and adolescents of the Trique indigenous community.

April 8 ■ Panama

Eliécer Santamaría, 50, judicial photographer for *El Siglo* daily, was stabbed to death by unidentified men.

Santamaría had over two decades of experience in national photojournalism. His images, in video or photographs, were



Top to bottom: Photographer Eliécer Santamaría; Journalist Jorge Mérida Pérez; and Journalist Pierre Fould Gerges. Images courtesy of © IFJ Latin America.

published and exhibited on numerous occasions by main national media organizations.

MAY

May 10 ■ Guatemala

Jorge Mérida Pérez, 40, correspondent for *Prensa Libre* daily in the department of Quetzaltenango, was killed by an unidentified armed man who entered his home in Coatepeque, 210 kilometres southeast of City of Guatemala.

Mérida was at his computer when he was shot four times.

A few weeks before the murder, Mérida told colleagues



Slain journalist Normando García after his death and with his family. Images courtesy of © IFJ Latin America.



and relatives of several threats. On one occasion, Mérida and other reporters were intimidated for informing on 200 kilograms of cocaine confiscated by police.

JUNE

June 2 ■ Venezuela

Pierre Fould Gerges, 48, journalist, vicepresident of *Reporte Diario de la Economía* daily, in Caracas, was gunned down by armed men after dozens of death threats against workers of the media organisation during the last year.

The murder took place a short time after Gerges abandoned newspaper offices in the vehicle of Tannous Gerges, his brother and newspaper President. On his way towards his mother's house, Gerges stopped at a gas station in Chuao, a neighbourhood southeast of Caracas. Two unidentified men on a black motorcycle fired at least 12 times reaching Gerges in neck and thorax.

Caracas police said Gerges was reported dead in the crime scene.

June 23 ■ Ecuador

Raúl Rodríguez Coronel, 63, journalist, vice-president of Radio Sucre, in Guayaquil, died in an ambush outside his home.

Two armed men came out of a vehicle when Rodríguez arrived at

the front step of his house. He was shot five times.

Rodríguez worked for more than 40 years in journalism. He survived a murder attempt in May 2005.

June 23 ■ Mexico

Candelario Pérez Pérez, 32, journalist, worked for *Sucesos* magazine, gunned down in City of Juárez.

Candelario was driving to his parents home when unidentified men armed with AK-47, opened fire from a van. Investigators found 15 9 mm bullet casings in the crime scene.

Pérez worked during 15 years as a journalist and news desk chief of *Sucesos*, a publication of chronicles founded by his father three decades ago. The magazine did not have a fixed date for publishing; it had been out of the market for two months due to director health problems.

AUGUST

August 7 ■ Dominican Republic

Normando García, 38, reporter of daily programme *Detrás de la Noticia* and producer of musical programme *Pachanga Mix*, on TV station Teleunión, was killed by unidentified men, in the city of Santiago, northern Santo Domingo. The journalist covered drug trafficking and crime.



Left: Official launch of the campaign against impunity "To get the message through, we must protect the messenger" of the Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Journalists (FEPALC). Speaker: Isaac Olmeda, General Secretary of the National Syndicate of Written Press and Workers. Mexico. October, 2008: Right: Winners of the IFJ Journalism for Tolerance Award with journalist judges. México. October 2008.

García was shot five times in the head, four in the thorax and one time in the leg, from a vehicle in motion. He died instantly.

Eight months before the crime, the journalist's vehicle was burned outside Teleunión facilities and according to his colleagues, Normando received multiple death threats and anonymous calls warning he would be murdered if continued to report on crime.

SEPTEMBER

September 24 ■ Mexico

Alejandro Zenón Fonseca Estrada, 38, TV host for an interview programme on EXA FM, gunned down on September 23rd, as he hung signs condemning violence in Villahermosa, capital of Tabasco, State located on the Gulf Coast.

Fonseca was taken to a local hospital where he died from chest wounds the next morning. The aggressors used AR-15.

Fonseca, known as "The Godfather", was the host of

morning show, *El Padrino Fonseca*, with young audience as target group since a decade ago. Fonseca had announced he would be hanging and promoting signs as part of his campaign against violence in Tabasco.

OCTOBER

October 9 ■ Mexico

David García Monroy, independent journalist, died during an attack perpetrated by four hooded armed men who opened fire indiscriminately in a bar in Chihuahua. Eleven were killed.

According to official sources, the killers were a group of hitmen at the service of organized crime.

October 9 ■ Mexico

Miguel Angel Villagómez Valle, 29, editor and founder of *La Noticia de Michoacán* daily, was executed hours after being kidnapped. Body was found in the neighbouring state of Guerrero.

La Noticia de Michoacán is a regional tabloid usually informing on crime and politics, as well as sports and culture.

Villagómez disappeared after leaving the newspaper's offices to drop off two colleagues at their homes.

A month before the murder, he received an intimidating call on his mobile phone.

NOVEMBER

November 13 ■ Mexico

José Armando Rodríguez Carreón, 40, a reporter for over a decade for local newspaper *El Diario*. He was fatally wounded from a short distance as he drove to work.

Pedro Torres, *El Diario* deputy director, said Rodríguez received a threatening text message in February ordering to 'turn down the tone' (of his articles).

Rodríguez was transferred temporarily to El Paso, Texas, due to safety reasons. However, upon his return he insisted on working without special protection.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

July 21 ■ United States of America

Steven Shoob, a journalist with WTOG in Savannah, Georgia, was struck by a SUV car and killed while covering a road accident on the I-95. He had parked his car on one side of the road and crossed to ask details about the accident. While crossing the I-94 back to his car, he was hit by another car and died on the spot.

October 10 ■ Colombia

Pablo Josué Charry, a reporter with CNC Noticias was the victim of an accident on 27 April while heading to cover a story on an assassination. To arrive at the scene, he had to pass by a small bridge in a bad state. The bridge collapsed when Pablo walked over it with police agents also investigating the case. The police officers fell on top of him. He was taken to a university hospital. He had a fractured pelvis and needed surgery.

A few days later, Pablo suffered an infection and a diabetic coma that would last almost four months. On 10 October, he suffered a heart attack and died.

October 12 ■ Peru

Adelmo Chavez Goicochea, a journalist with Radio Antenne I, was killed when a bus he was riding in with the Peruvian football team was hijacked by robbers who forced the driver to get out. The bus soon afterwards plunged 200 m down a ravine.

October 13 ■ United States of America

Dave Garrett, a photographer for KTRK-TV in Houston, and **John Downhower**, a pilot with Skye Eye, died in a helicopter crash while covering a shoot-out for the television station in south west Montgomery county.

The helicopter crashed in wooded area near the intersection of FM 1488 and the People's road in the Houston area.

October ■ 19 Guyana

Akila Jacobs, mother of two and a journalist with the National Communications Network (NCN) was killed when the van she was travelling in collided with a truck.

Akila Jacobs died from head injuries on the way to the hospital.

According to reports, the bus driver was travelling at high speed and lost control of the car when the other vehicle involved slowed to turn but he slammed into the back of the truck.

November 20 ■ United States of America

Tom Borrelli, a sport reporter for Buffalo News fell from stairs leading to the press box at All High Stadium where he had been covering a school football game.

According to press reports, he was paralysed from neck down and needed a respirator to breathe. His conditions deteriorated and he died.



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Asia-Pacific Regional Office

Asia-Pacific is the world's most dangerous region for journalists and media workers, accounting for more than a third of the global toll of journalists killed in 2008. The region's unwanted status comes as a much welcome decline in killings of journalists in Iraq shifts attention to the growing dangers for Asia-Pacific journalists.

The 2008 toll is partly a reflection of the deep troubles gripping the region as violence directed by non-state actors and government forces fuels insecurity in South Asia, and the media's role as a watchdog on corruption comes under vicious attack. Thirty-three journalists and media workers were killed in 2008, and three were killed in late 2007. Of these 35 men and one woman, 23 were singled out for premeditated murder.

Across the region, there are great differences in the character of state power and the nature of violence, abuses of the rights of journalists and the denial of free expression. In the tightly controlled regimes of China and Burma, no journalists were reported killed for their work but media personnel function amid extreme repression and at risk of harsh penalties. However, journalists are at greatest risk of being killed in countries where the media environment is considered relatively free or in the context of spiralling conflict.

The Philippines remains notorious as the country where journalists are most likely to be murdered.

Of nine journalists killed from late 2007, eight were murdered. Five were radio broadcasters who had reported on corruption and were killed in drive-by shootings. The Government of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been shamefully slow in acting to end the culture of impunity, and has presided over the worst death toll for journalists under any Philippines administration. However, in 2008 it finally bowed to pressure and began investigations into some of the 62 murders of journalists during its seven-year tenure. Until 2008, only four convictions for these murders had been secured.

While other countries of South-East Asia did not suffer to the same extent, a journalist in Thailand who had received threats due to his corruption reports was shot dead at home, while a drive-by shooting claimed the life of a journalist in Cambodia who had made anti-government comments. Another journalist in Thailand was killed in a bomb blast in the country's southern conflict zone.

In South Asia, media personnel confront more varied risks, ranging from reporting on all-out war, corruption and crime to acts of violence where the media is not the main target. But like the Philippines, most killings were outright murder.

In India, a surge in murders in insurgent-hit states late in the year brought the toll of killings to eight. Six journalists were murdered, while two were killed

in separate cross-fire incidents in Jammu and Kashmir. The big increase in India's toll compared with past years sounds an alarm for the local media community. India urgently needs a country-wide system for monitoring and reporting media rights violations and a national strategy to address the safety of media personnel working in conflict zones.

The dangers in India echo across South Asia. In Pakistan, seven journalists were killed during the year, compared with eight in 2007. Most of those killed were reporting on conflict and/or seeking information from anti-state forces. The deaths of three journalists in the Swat valley, where the Government is fighting Islamist militants, and a militant group's claim of responsibility for murdering a journalist in Balochistan are a chilling warning for local journalists.

Across the border in Afghanistan, cross-fire claimed the lives of an Afghan journalist and a Norwegian correspondent from late 2007. A third journalist was found dead after being kidnapped. Kidnappings of media workers in Afghanistan and Pakistan are now an abhorrent norm. The stakes are high for media personnel trying to report on the conflicts in the border regions, especially where they seek to contact non-state parties. Few journalists are now able to live and work in Afghanistan's war zones. Indeed, most reporting in the border region is now done by journalists on the Pakistan side.

In Sri Lanka, two journalists were killed, compared with six in 2007. This lower toll does not indicate improved safety and protection. Rather, it underscores that far fewer journalists are able to work in war-torn provinces, especially in Jaffna where one journalist was brutally murdered. Psychological warfare is now a pre-eminent means for shutting down independent reporting. Through the year, the Government's security apparatus ran a campaign of intimidation and vilification of journalists who dared to criticise the conduct of the war, zeroing in on defence reporters and taking the unprecedented step of applying draconian anti-terrorism laws to journalists.

Despite this grim picture, Nepal offers hope for a free and safe media despite suffering the killings of two journalists in 2008. The media has contended with a



Jacqui Park, *Director Asia Pacific Regional Office Director.*

marked increase in other forms of violence, especially in the Terai region, where journalists were assaulted and abused by political groups, gangs and members of the public angered by reporting which they feel does not reflect their interests. In the face of these difficulties, Nepal's journalists are well organised and run a strong national network for reporting on media rights violations, and there is optimism that the public will increasingly come to recognise the media's value in the country's transition to peace.

It has been another year of high risk for journalists in Asia-Pacific. Those who dare to report on the realities of war, corrupt officials, criminal gangs and diverse and dissenting points of view put themselves at risk of death, abduction, physical attack, threats and intimidation. Their families also suffer the consequences of courageous journalism. State authorities are not sending a clear message that killers — whatever their allegiances — will be brought to justice. Just as worrying is the negligence of employers who do not provide protection for the journalists and photographers who put their personal welfare on the line in order to get the story. Journalists, their unions and professional associations, and the international press freedom community must take a strong and united stand to ensure that governments end the culture of impunity and employers protect their workers.

Jacqui Park
Director of Asia-Pacific Regional Office



Norwegian reporter Carsten Thomassen. © *Dagbladet* newspaper.



Journalist Chishti Mughid. Image courtesy of IFJ Asia-Pacific.

January

January 13 ■ Nepal

Pushpa Shrestha, Editor of *News Season* newspaper, was shot in shoulder by a drive-by motorcycle group while standing outside of Kanya Lower Secondary School during power blackout. Responsibility claimed by Terai independence group Janatrantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (Jwala Sing division).

January 14 ■ Afghanistan

Carsten Thomassen, a reporter for *Dagbladet* newspaper was hit by gunfire during a suicide bomb attack at the Kabul Serena Hotel in Kabul. He died later in hospital during surgery for injuries. Six others died in the bomb blast. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

February

February 2 ■ Pakistan

Chishti Mughid, a senior journalist for *Akbar el-Jehan* was shot dead as he left his house — two bullets were fired.

February 29 ■ Pakistan

Sirajuddin, a correspondent for the *Nation* was killed in suicide

bomb blast in Mingora, Swat Valley, North-West Frontier Province.

April

April 1 ■ India

Mohammad Muslimuddin, a correspondent for *Asamiya Pratidin* and President of Morajhar Press Club was attacked with sharp weapons by unidentified armed group while returning home on his bicycle in Assam.

April 7 ■ Philippines

Benefredo Acabal, columnist and publisher of *Pilipino Newsmen* was shot dead by gunmen on a motorcycle as he was walking to a friends house.

April 14 ■ Pakistan

Khadim Hussain Sheikh, Bureau Chief of Urdu daily



Colleagues of Benefredo Acabal during his burial. © NUJP Media Safety Office

Khabrein and stringer for Sindh TV in Hub Baluchistan was shot dead by gunmen while travelling to work with his brother Ishaq on a motorbike.

April 27 ■ Philippines

Marcos Mataro, TV host for X-Man show was shot six times by two armed men on a motorbike at a bus stop at the North Luzon Expressway toll gate.

May

May 11 ■ India

Ashok Sodhi, a veteran photojournalist for *Daily Excelsior* in Jammu and Kashmir was killed by bullet while he was reporting on an armed encounter in Samba district between security forces and militants.

May 25 ■ Pakistan

Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, a journalist for Express TV was shot dead at close range by unidentified gunmen after interviewing high profile chief of Tehreek-i-Taliban, Maulvi Umar.

May 28 ■ Sri Lanka

Paranirupasingam Devakumar, a correspondent for Sirasa TV, MTV was hacked to



Marcos Mataro mourners in the Philippines. Image courtesy of IFJ Asia-Pacific.



Photographer Ashok Sodhi is taken to hospital after a gunbattle between Indian forces and suspected militants in Samba May 11, 2008. © REUTERS/Amit Gupta (INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR)

death in Naventhurei on his way home. His friend accompanying him was also killed.

June

June 7 ■ Afghanistan

Abdul Samad Rohani, a reporter for the BBC World Service Pashtu Service in Afghanistan province of Helmand was kidnapped from his home in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province and found dead one day later.

June 30 ■ Philippines

Robert Sison, according to police reports, Robert "Bert" Sison was gunned down by two assailants riding in tandem past 5 p.m. Monday while he was driving home.

Sison, 60, hosted a program that airs over radio DZAT and a correspondent of the weekly newspaper *Regional Bulletin* based in Lucena City.

Police reports stated that the victim was with his two daughters — Almira, 24, and Liwayway, 30 — at the time of the shooting. Liwayway was injured on the arm but Almira was unharmed.

July

July 12 ■ Cambodia

Khim Sambo, a senior reporter for social affairs with *Moneakseka Khmer* (Khmer Conscious) was shot dead by unidentified people on motorbike in Phnom Penh, one month after editor-in-chief of Moneakseka Khmer was arrested for anti-government references. Sambo's son was also killed in the attack.

August

August 1 ■ Thailand

Athiwat Chaiyanurat, senior reporter for *Matichon* newspaper and stringer for an army controlled radio, was shot dead at home in Tambon Chaiyamontri, Muang District. He was struck by four bullets, two in the head. Preliminary police investigations suggest the killing was linked to his work as a journalist, including reporting on corruption of local officials, police and senior civil servants. He had previously received death threats for his articles.

August 7 ■ Philippines

Martin Roxas, anchorman for Radio Mindanao Network and host of noontime program "targetanay sa Udto", was shot in the back as he left the radio station in Barangay village, Punta Tabuc, Roxas City



Anchorman Martin Roxas. © NUJP-Capiz

outside Capiz on August 7 at 1pm. He was shot by two unidentified gunmen on a motorbike. He died instantly. According to reports, Police arrested two people in relation to the incident who are now under investigation.

August 9 ■ Philippines

Dennis Cuesta, program director for dxMD program of Radio Mindanao Network and anchor for public affairs program *Straight to the Point*, was shot on August 4 by unidentified attackers near a crowded mall in General Santos City. He sustained three bullet wounds to his head, lapsed into a coma on Saturday 9 and died. According to media reports, Cuesta was targeted because of his forthright commentaries on controversial issues such as illegal gambling and drugs as well as government corruption.

August 13 ■ India

Javed Ahmed Mir, a cameraman for a local TV channel was killed, hit by a bullet in his head as he was filming the protests in Baghibehtab when security forces opened fire to disperse the crowds.

August 21 ■ Thailand

Chalee Boonsawat, a reporter with the *Thai Rath* newspaper was killed in a bomb blast outside a local restaurant in Sangai Kolok in Thailand's southern provinces. Another journalist Phadung Wannalak, a reporter from Modern NINE TV, was reportedly among the 30 injured.

August 29 ■ Pakistan

Abdul Aziz Shaheen, who worked as a reporter for *Azadi* and freelance for other media outlets



Protesters in Islamabad in Pakistan © Ishaque Chaudhry

Abducted by Taliban group two days earlier and was being held in a private jail. He was killed when Pakistan forces attacked the Taliban hideout.

September

September 22 ■ India

Ravi, a freelance photographer was the victim of a vicious assault by unidentified persons while returning from a photography assignment in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh. He was taken to hospital but pronounced dead on arrival.

September 27 ■ Thailand

Jaruek Rangcharoen, a reporter for *Matichon* newspaper was dead after reporting on alleged corruption within a local administrative organisation. He had voiced concerns for his safety before his death.

October

October 5 ■ Thailand

Wallop Bounsampop, editor-in-chief of *Den Siam*, a local newspaper was murdered in Chonburi province (south of Bangkok).

Wallop, 52, was helping his wife in a restaurant in his village when two men on a motorcycle fired five shots at him, hitting him twice in the head and killing him instantly.

Wallop's murder was believed to have been linked to his articles on local politics, which had caused controversy. He was an active member of his district council and he had criticised some of his opponents in articles about local elections due to take place next month.

October 6 ■ Sri Lanka

Rashmi Mohamed, a journalist for the Sirasa TV Killed died in suicide bomb blast at opening ceremony of the new United National Party office in Anuradhapura. The explosion killed more than 20 people including the Leader of the Opposition of the North Central Provincial Council, Major General Janaka Perera and other leading UNP figures.

November

November 3 ■ Pakistan

Abdul Razzak Johra, a reporter for Royal TV network was murdered by six armed men who dragged him from his home after reporting on drug-related crime.

November 8 ■ Pakistan

Qari Mohammad Shoaib, a reporter for *Azadi* and *Khabar Kar* newspapers was shot dead in Mingora as he returned home from work, reportedly because he did

not stop his vehicle when signalled to do so.

November 17 ■ Philippines

Aristeo Padrigao, a commentator on Radio Natin was murdered by two unidentified armed suspects on a motorcycle who shot him in the face shortly after he had dropped his child at school.

November 22 ■ India

Jagajit Saikia, a reporter for *Amar Asom* newspaper was shot dead by a group of armed men as he left his office on motorcycle, suffering 5 bullet wounds to the chest and one to the head.

November 25 ■ India

Vikas Ranjan, a reporter for *Hindustan* newspaper was shot dead as he left his office and walked towards his parked motorcycle. His killers, who had been lying in wait, fired several rounds at him when he emerged from the office.

November 28 ■ Nepal

J.P. Joshi, alias Pandit, editor of far-western editions of *Janadisha*, Nepali language daily missing since October 8. Human remains were found in a forest in far-west Nepal by Joshi's family as his, on the basis of documents and other belongings found nearby.

December

December 2 ■ Philippines

Leo Luna Mila, a commentator on Radio Natin was shot dead as he arrived at his office. He was known for his hard hitting political commentaries. He was the 7th killed in 2008 in the Philippines and the 62nd under Arroyo's administration — the worst death toll for any President.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

March 26 ■ China

Zhou Jian, a journalist from the Turpan Radio Station, and Pan Fengpin, a woman camcorder operator from the local TV station died in a fireworks blast. The explosion happened when authorities in Turpan city, about 180 km south to Urumqi, the regional capital of Xinjiang, were disposing of eight truckloads of fireworks in the Gobi desert.

The victims were mainly police officers, staff of a local professional explosives disposal company and journalists covering the event.

April 17 ■ Bangladesh

Dipu Sikander, a correspondent for *Bangla Bazar Patrika* newspaper; was run over by a speeding bus as he was returning home.

April 17 ■ India

Javed Khan and **Dilharan Manikpuri** both working for the *Hindi* daily in Bilaspur city were killed in a car accident when their car hit a tree, according to police sources. They were on their way to an assignment in Dantewada.

July 2 ■ Philippines

Mr Gasper "Jun" Galias, died from injuries sustained during a motorcycle accident which left him in a coma from which he never recovered.

Galias, a member of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), worked for the *Sorsogon Now*, a local newspaper. He also had a program with dzRS, an AM station there.

He was on his way to Radyo Natin station to present his daily program when the motorcycle he was riding hit a dog crossing the street along the Our Lady's Village Subdivision on Monday.



July 6 ■ Japan

Kimura Shingo, announcer for Asahi Broadcasting Aomori TV and his cameraman **Omori Shinji** are presumed dead after search parties failed to recover their bodies following the accident in which their helicopter crashed in heavy fog. They were reporting on a fire on a Japanese war ship from their helicopter.

The bodies of the pilot and sub-pilot as well as the helicopter fuselage, have since been recovered.

July 11 ■ India

Ved Prakash Chouhan, a senior journalist, and **Komal Yadav**, a photographer, both working for *Amar Ujala*, a hindi daily, were killed in a road accident when the car they were travelling in with five other journalists hit a stationary truck, according to police sources. Four of their colleagues were also injured in the accident.

July 31 ■ Bangladesh

Ainul Huq, a correspondent for *Muktabarta* newspaper was killed in a car accident in the town of Bogra when a car he was travelling in with three colleagues collided head on with a bus.

He was taken to hospital suffering serious injuries and died shortly afterwards. Two of his colleagues were also injured in the accident.

August 26 ■ Thailand

Thepnarong Wiriyaku, editor of *Thai Rath* newspaper and four reportes of the paper Sumolrat Wiriyakul, Sudjai Jittakan, Thanapat Saenkaew and Thuanthong Sukmuang were killed in a tragic accident.

According to reports, the five journalists were travelling to the funeral of their colleague Chalee Boonsawat who had died in a bomb attack when the driver lost control of the car and hit a road side tree, causing its tank to explode.



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Europe Regional Office

It is a disaster when a journalist goes to work in the morning, to report on important events in the society, and never returns. Killed by assassins, by murderers in uniform sometimes or by accident.

It is a disaster for the journalist's family, for the profession and for the public he or she served. This happened 109 times during 2008. This is a disaster that should not take place at all.

Europe is by far the least dangerous place to work in for journalists, but we lost nine colleagues here last year. Nine colleagues who went to work — and will never come back to their families, to their news rooms and to their readers, listener and viewers.

Two died in Croatia, a country where violence against journalists seemed to be something of the past. Now violence is back, together with a generally uncertain situation for journalists, in respect of workplaces, working conditions and ownership of the media.

Another place where violence against journalists hopefully was considered the thing of the past was the Basque country in Spain — but that too proved to be wishful thinking as it has come back there as well.

In Russia violence is there all the time, the situation has been bad for many years now.

Investigative journalism in Russia is a tough trade.

The European Federation of Journalists is working hand in hand with the International Federation of Journalists to put pressure on Russian authorities to make sure that in the future there will be serious investigations into violence against journalists. No



impunity for murderers of journalists, wherever they are, that is the simple and important rule to follow.

In Georgia four colleagues lost their lives. The short war there was a

remainder of how dangerous war situations — that must be covered and reported upon — can be to some colleagues who are likely to face the risk of being directly targeted by governments.

There is an obligation on journalists' unions and associations to work for a higher status of protection for journalists that would make it more costly to raise a gun against a journalist. A status that would make it more difficult for the murderer to get away with murder.

In order to reach this level, it is important to make that sure journalists are better trained in journalism, in safety matters and work under satisfactory conditions, including decent wages.

In a time of a global crisis for journalism this is a major challenge for 2009. The aim of our work should be to achieve better safety conditions for our colleagues who do the necessary reporting from those dangerous areas and contribute to healthier democracy by keeping the public informed.

March

March 23 ■ Russia

Gadzhi Abashilov, director of the state-owned radio and television company, Dagestan, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Makhachkala.

According to media reports, Abashilov was killed as he was travelling in his chauffeur-driven car when gunmen open fire from submachine gun, killing Abashilov instantly. The driver was wounded and taken to hospital.

August

August 10 ■ Georgia

Alexander Klimchuk — who owned the photo agency Causus Press Images and worked for ITAR-Tass — and **Grigol Chikhladze**, a journalist for *Newsweek Russia* were shot and injured by Ossetian soldiers in Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia during the conflict between Georgia and the breakaway republic.

According to reports, a group of journalists including Klimchuk and Chikhladze who had been in South Ossetia before the conflict



Dutch RTL broadcaster cameraman Stan Storimans is seen in this undated handout photo. © REUTERS/Hennie Keeris/Handout (NETHERLANDS)

began found themselves in an area which was captured first by Georgians and later by Ossetians. Klimchuk, Georgian born and speaker spoke to Ossetian fighters in Georgian. The soldiers fired at the journalists, critically wounding Klimchuk and Chikhladze. Their colleagues were also injured.

Once soldiers realised they had shot reporters, they took

the wounded to the hospital in Tskhinvali where Klimchuk and Chikhladze later died of their injuries.

August 12 ■ Georgia

Stan Storimans, a Dutch television cameraman for RTL was killed in Georgia when warplanes attacked the city of Gori. According to the TV station, its correspondent Jeroen Akkermans escaped with injury on the leg in the attack which killed four more people.

August 31 ■ Russia

Magomed Yevloyev, founder of the website Ingushetia.ru, was critical of the Kremlin, died while he was in police custody, according to his website.

Media reports quoted Russian prosecutors in Ingushetia as saying that “an incident” took place after he was taken into a police car resulting in a shooting



Yulia Klimchuk, the mother of killed photojournalist Alexander Klimchuk, mourns at the coffin of her son during a funeral ceremony in Tbilisi August 18, 2008. © REUTERS/Vladimir Valishvili/Pool (GEORGIA)



Left: Dutch reporter Jeroen Akkermans (R) helps seriously wounded Israeli reporter Tzadok Yehezkel after a blast in the centre of the town of Gori, about 80 km (50 miles) from Tbilisi, August 12, 2008. © REUTERS/Gleb Garanich (GEORGIA); Right: Ivo Pukanic, independent editor and publisher, is seen during a launch event of national daily newspaper 'Republika' in Zagreb in this December 2000 file photo. © REUTERS/Nikola Solic/Files (CROATIA).

injury to the head and he later died in hospital”.

September

September 2 ■ Russia

Abdullah Alishyev, a journalist and presenter of an Islamic television programme in Dagestan was shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

According to reports, Alishyev was shot by two attackers as he sat in his car. He was wounded and taken to hospital where he underwent surgery but later died of his injuries.

September 6 ■ Georgia

Georgi Ramichvili, a journalist, was killed in Georgia. Circumstances of his killing remain unclear.

October

October 23 ■ Croatia

Ivo Pukanic, journalist and **Niko Franjic**, marketing director for Pukanic's NCL Media Group, were killed when an explosive device blew up their car.

The two men were the first media workers killed in Croatia in the post-war period and authorities blamed the mafia and other criminal organisation for the attack.

According to reports, someone had tried to kill Pukanic six months earlier and police provided him protection for a few months after the incident. The protection ended in August at his request, according to Interior Minister Tomislav Karamarko quoted by the Associated Press.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

November ■ 15 Greece

George Koiliaris, a television journalist with the Greek state television, NET, died of wounds he sustained in a road accident while on assignment in Afghanistan.

According to press reports, Koiliaris was injured in October when the vehicle he was travelling in overturned. He was evacuated to a hospital in Dubai before being flown back to Greece. Koiliaris had covered many conflict during his career, including the wars in the Balkans, the Middle East and Darfur.



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Middle East Regional Office

The Middle East continues to provide the most brutal evidence of how media are victims of conflict, even though the region saw a substantial reduction of journalists and media workers killed in 2008. The fall in numbers resulted from a changing situation in Iraq where media have suffered heavily in the years since the American-led invasion of 2003. However, the region is still dangerous for journalists and the outbreak of hostilities in Gaza claimed lives of four journalists in the first days of 2009.

In Iraq, journalists ended the year in the spotlight following the television footage of Muntadar al-Zeidi, the Iraqi correspondent for Iraqi-owned Al-Baghdadiya television, throwing his shoes at US President George Bush to protest at the violent chaos that has prevailed in Iraq since the American-invasion in 2003.

The incident, though misguided and not condoned by the IFJ, was an expression of the frustration and tremendous anger felt by journalists and civilians alike in Iraq at violence which has claimed thousands of lives, including journalists and media staff. In fact, there was a significant fall in killings of media staff

with 16 journalists and other workers killed in 2008, including the President of Iraqi Union of Journalists. This was hardly a third of the annual total of journalists killed recorded in previous years of war in Iraq.

In spite of this positive development, Iraq remains the most dangerous country for journalists where they continue to lose their lives as a result of sectarian violence, political criminal rivalry and indiscriminate military operations by occupation forces.

In this regard, the International Federation of Journalists in collaboration with the International News Institute supported the Iraqi Media Group in organising two training sessions on safety for Iraqi journalists. Forty five journalists, men and women completed the training and the hope is that the acquired skills will stand them in good stead as they continue to report on a very unstable situation in Iraq.

The IFJ is also contributing to humanitarian efforts in favour of Palestinians journalists by providing safety equipment to be used by local journalists in Gaza who are more exposed than ever before as they supply news to foreign media outlets following the Israeli ban on foreign journalists to enter Gaza.



The coffin of Shihab al-Timimi, the head of the Iraqi journalists' union, is carried during his funeral in Baghdad February 28, 2008. © REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud (IRAQ)

January

January 30 ■ Iraq

Alaa Abdul Karim, cameraman and Alaa Assi, a driver both working for Al-Forat TV, an Iraqi television station were killed in a roadside bomb blast in north of Baghdad.

February

February 12 ■ Iraq

Hisham Mijawet Hamdan, a reporter for *Al Akhbar* newspaper and a founder member of the Young Journalists Association was kidnapped in Baghdad on 10 February and his body found two days later. His family had lost contact with him after he failed to return from short trip to the market to but stationery.

According to his colleagues, Hamdan's body displayed signs of torture. Hamdan had been an active campaigner, highlighting the plight of families of killed journalists and calling on government and civil society to support them. Colleagues believe his activities and frequent appearances in Iraqi media made him a target.

February 27 ■ Iraq

Shihab Al-Timimi, President of Iraqi Union of Journalists, was shot several times as he was driving in his car in Baghdad. He was taken to hospital where he later suffered a heart attack and died.

His son Rabei who was with him in the car suffered minor injuries.

March

March 13 ■ Iraq

Qassem Abdul Hussein al-Eqabi, head of public relations and distribution for the *Al-Muwaim*, a local daily political newspaper, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen. He was shot dead near the National Theater in Baghdad.

April

April 16 ■ Palestine

Fadel Shana, a cameraman for Reuters was killed by an Israeli tank mortar as he was covering intense fighting between Palestinians and Israelis in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

According to medical sources in Gaza, Shana was killed by shrapnel



Reuters cameraman Fadel Shana is seen holding a camera next to an Israeli tank in the Gaza Strip in this undated handout photo. © REUTERS/Handout (GAZA).

pieces from an Israeli tank shell which exploded in the air, several of which were found Shana's flak jacket, emblazoned with a florescent "Press" sign, and in his vehicle, an unarmoured sport utility vehicle bearing "TV" and "Press" markings.

Several hundred people, mainly local journalists attended Shana's funeral procession. His body was draped in a Palestinian flag and his shattered camera and flak jacket were borne aloft on a separate stretcher.

April 25 ■ Iraq

Jassim al-Batat, a journalist for the local al-Nakhil radio station based in Basra, was killed by unknown gunmen who shot him from a speeding car as he left his home in the town of Qurnan in his car.

May

May 4 ■ Iraq

Tharwat Abdul-Wahab, a female television journalist for al-Din channel based in Tikrit, was

shot dead by unknown gunmen in al-Bakr neighbourhood

Wahab also wrote for a number of newspaper and worked for the elections committee, according to security sources in Iraq.

May 21 ■ Iraq

Wissal Ali Ouda, a reporter for the private television channel, Afaq, was killed by a sniper as he

was heading home in the Al-Obeidi district of north eastern Baghdad, according to the channel's officials quoted by told AFP.

May 22 ■ Iraq

Haidar Hashem al-Husseini, a reporter for *Al-Sharq* newspaper kidnapped and his body found in the town of Baquba in north east of Baghdad two days later.



Journalists take part in a protest, in front of the U.N headquarters in Beirut, April 24, 2008, against the killing of Reuters cameraman Fadel Shana. © REUTERS/Cynthia Karam (LEBANON)

June

June 17 ■ Iraq

Mohey al-Din Abdel Hamid al-Naqeeb, a news presenter for Nineveh, the local affiliate of state-run television Al-Iraqiya was killed by gunmen in a car who shot him as he was leaving his house outside Mosul to work

July

July 22 ■ Iraq

Soran Mamah Hammah, a journalist for *Lafeen*, a Kurdish political magazine, was shot dead by four assailants in a Kurdish neighbourhood of northern city Kirkuk who managed to escape, according to police sources.

It is believed that Hammah had received threats prior to his murder.

September

September 13 ■ Iraq

Musab Mahmoud al-Azawi, Mosul bureau chief and his colleagues **Ahmed Salim**, cameraman, **Ihab ma'ad**, cameraman and **Qieldan Salman**, driver all working for the Iraqi private channel, Sharqiya TV, were abducted and killed as they were preparing to film a programme on charity for the poor during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Mosul, according to the channel.

Police in the city said the victims' bodies bore gunshot wounds.

October

October 10 ■ Iraq

Dyar Abas Ahmed, a correspondent for the online news agency Eye Iraq was killed in Kirkuk by unknown gunmen in the northern city of Kirkuk.

According to police sources, Ahmed was gunned down in the city centre as he was walking with a friend who was not harmed.

December

December 26 ■ Palestine

Hamza Shahin, a photographer with Shehab News Agency, died two weeks after he was wounded in an Israeli air attack on 7 December in northern Gaza.



Photo © REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko (SOUTH AFRICA)

INTERNATIONAL
safety
FUND

Raising the Standard to Help Those in Need

2008 REPORT

BEHIND EVERY INCIDENT AND STATISTIC SET OUT IN THIS REPORT IS AN INEVITABLE PERSONAL TRAGEDY.

The loss of a loved-one, often a bread-winner carries with it the most profound suffering for the families and friends of the victim. That is why the work of the International Federation of Journalists Safety Fund, the only journalist-to-journalist humanitarian fund of its kind, is needed. It provides the most basic assistance to the families of victims and it is a source of support for people facing legal bullying and threats from the authorities.

In 2008 the IFJ Safety Fund channelled 113,000 Euro to media victims of violence, it also launched a pro-active outreach campaign to raise the awareness of the Safety Fund, and it put in place plans during 2009 to establish a new global network of victims families which will give them a voice in defending media staff under fire and fighting injustice and impunity.

The IFJ Fund is made up of money raised by individual journalists and IFJ unions. The Fund has taken up cases all over the world and intervenes to provide special support for the media victims of natural disasters and accidents

The last year has been one of growth and more activity, partly as a result of this campaign and partly because of the unprecedented numbers of journalists' killings recorded in 2007.

The Safety Fund considerably increased the amount of assistance given. The money given in 2008 provided assistance to more than two dozen journalists and their families. As in previous years, the beneficiaries came from all over the world and show the scope of attacks on journalists, whether from threats, lawsuits, detention and forced exile. All of these incidents remain unacceptably high.

The IFJ also renewed its special agreement with the Vintu Foundation, an educational and media support group, which helps to provide financial support to families of killed journalists and media personnel on a regular basis. With the assistance of the Vintu Foundation the Safety Fund provides monthly payments for a year to 10 journalists' families in some of the world's most deprived regions. All of them have lost a relative to violence related to their work as a journalist.

The selected recipients come from all parts of the world: Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (2 families), Russia, Iraq (4 families), Pakistan and Somalia (3 families).

The IFJ Safety Fund also contributed financial support to the campaign against impunity in Latin America, launched in Mexico, one of the most dangerous countries for journalists during 2008, under the slogan — To get the message through, we must protect the messenger.

In 2008 the Fund also took a further step towards helping the broader community of workers who come into harm's way because of their working relationship with journalism. This year we established a new relationship with fellow trades unionists who want to support translators and interpreters working with journalists and who themselves are the victims of violence. The establishment of the Safety Fund for Media Translators and Interpreters (SFMI) on the initiative of a team of interpreters working for the IFJ is being supported initially by colleagues working with other trade union internationals — like the International Transport Workers' Federation. Other interpreters are being asked to back this initiative.

This money, made available through the IFJ Safety Fund, will provide targeted support to the families of these vital media support staff. The IFJ has opened an account for the Safety Fund for Media Translators and Interpreters (SFMI) which is available at the end of this report.

The IFJ Safety Fund is a practical support mechanism. It continues to help to pay the hospital bills of injured journalists, it pays to fly threatened colleagues to safe exile, it supports the creation of safe houses for journalists under serious danger and it contributes to the legal costs in court actions to defend journalists rights in countries where poverty and social conflict makes it impossible for journalists to have proper legal representation.

During 2009 the Fund will be further increasing its work — providing more support for families and helping those working in the regions most affected by the scourge of violence to identify and reach those in need. A major conference of victims' families is planned to further develop this work and in the first days of January an initial meeting was held in London to establish an international network for victims' families in the campaign against impunity as proposed by the IFJ world congress in Moscow in 2007.

The IFJ International Safety Fund works in the following way:

- The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily to provide one-off emergency assistance for

journalists and media staff injured in the line of duty, often in the so-called “hot-spots” of the world and in cases where the media employing the journalist/media staffer are unable to cover such costs. This assistance can be in the form of travel, medical or subsistence costs;

- The Safety Fund can also be used on case by-case limited basis to assist in legal fees for journalists/media staff that again cannot find sufficient support from their employer;
- Finally, the Safety Fund can provide immediate assistance for the families of journalists and media staff whose ‘bread-winner’ has been killed and who have no means to sustain themselves.
- In gathering this assistance, the IFJ Safety Fund will often work with other groups to increase the amount of assistance that can be given in a particular case.

The IFJ does not try to duplicate work that is being done by others. We are in regular contact with other organisations working in the field of journalists’ safety and freedom of expression. These include the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute, Reporters Without Borders, the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, the Writers in Prison Committee, the Rory Peck Trust and the World Association of Newspapers.

Information is exchanged, and, where necessary, an individual may receive coordinated assistance from more than one source. Nonetheless, without the IFJ Fund, many would have gone unaided. Some may have suffered unnecessarily, others might have died.

Whenever the IFJ gives assistance there is a careful monitoring and reporting process to ensure that the money goes to where it is intended. In 2005 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are

available on request from the IFJ headquarters.

Over the years the IFJ Safety Fund has also produced publications as part of the IFJ Safety Programme. These have included the IFJ Safety Fund brochure (see image on right) produced in English, French Japanese and Spanish and the IFJ Safety Manual, Live News (see Press Freedom and Safety at www.ifj.org) for journalists travelling to conflict areas.

Live News is one of the most successful safety manuals ever produced for journalists and is available in Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian and Spanish.

These publications provide basic guidelines on the dangers which may occur, and what measures journalists can take to minimise risks. They are distributed to journalists free of charge.

When a journalist is attacked, everyone in journalism is affected. When a journalist is helped to overcome intimidation and violence it strikes a blow for press freedom and our rights which are of benefit to the whole community.

The Safety Fund is not just a practical source of aid and comfort; it is also a symbol of international goodwill that encourages journalists to carry on even in times of struggle and distress.

The type of relief provided by the IFJ Safety Fund, the speed with which it can be used, and the flexibility built into the system means that it is a unique source of solidarity for journalists.

The IFJ Safety Fund can only continue to assist journalists if its future is secured. In order to go out, money must come in. But, most importantly, it is a Fund that must provide help to those who need it most. During 2009 we intend to make sure that we get the message out to those who have suffered and face a bleak future: you are not alone — the IFJ Safety fund is there to help.

Solidarity in Action

Asia and Pacific

Through the Fund, assistance went to journalists in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Mongolia.

Americas

The Fund provided assistance to journalists in Haiti and Dominican Republic who were victims of hurricanes which devastated those countries.

COLOMBIA

The Fund provided assistance to the family of a journalist who died as a result of an accident

MEXICO

The Fund contributed financial support to the campaign against impunity launched in the country.

Africa

SOMALIA

The Fund provided assistance to a journalist who was forced to flee to Djibouti after he had received threats from Islamic insurgents.

The Fund also assisted four more journalists from Somalia who fled to Uganda to escape persecution in their homeland.

THE GAMBIA

The Fund provided assistance to cover legal costs to a Gambian journalist who was arrested upon return to her country from abroad.

The Fund also provided assistance to three more journalists who had to flee to Senegal because of persecution in their homeland related to their work as journalists.

The Fund also assisted a journalist who chose to return home from exile. He received help for travel and subsistence costs while he settles back home.

SIERRA LEONE

The Fund contributed with other organisations financial assistance to help resettle a journalist who returned from exile with his family.

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

The Fund provided assistance to a group of eight journalists from Ethiopia and Eritrea who fled their respective countries to Nairobi, Kenya for fear of persecution and arrests.

NIGER

The Fund provided assistance to a journalist who sought refuge in Mali, fleeing persecution and arrest back home.

Middle East

YEMEN

The Fund provided assistance to family members of a journalist who were left destitute following difficulties encountered by the journalist at the hands of authorities.

THE IFJ SAFETY FUND VINTU ASSISTANCE WENT TO 13 FAMILIES IN:

Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Russia, Iraq, Pakistan and Somalia .to help them deal with the consequences of losing a major breadwinner in their family.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help the IFJ to continue and strengthen the work of the Safety Fund by sending a donation, no matter how small, to help us to further develop this work.

International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism

The dangers posed to journalists and media staff working in dangerous situations and conflict zones are the subject of extensive record. The IFJ has recorded the deaths of more than 1000 journalists and media staff over the past ten years.

Many journalists are killed, injured or harassed in war zones, either targeted by one side or another or caught in the crossfire of violence. Others are the victims of premeditated assault and intimidation either by criminals, terrorists or by agencies of the state — the police, the military or the security forces — acting secretly and illegally.

Very often there is little that journalists or media organisations can do to avoid casualties. There will, inevitably, be accidents, no matter how much care is taken to provide protection and there is little one can do when those targeting media use ruthless and brutal methods to crush journalistic inquiry.

However, there are steps that journalists and media organisations should take to minimise the risks to staff. In particular, the following are vital considerations in providing protection:

- ▶ **Adequate preparation, training and social protection.** It is essential that journalists and media staff be in a state of readiness when difficulties arise. There should be a framework for providing individuals with health care and social protection.
- ▶ **Media professionals must be informed and inform themselves** about the political, physical, and social terrain in which they are working. They must not contribute to the uncertainty and insecurity of their conditions through ignorance or reckless behaviour.
- ▶ **Media organisations must guard against risk-taking for competitive advantage**, and should promote co-operation among journalists whenever conditions exist which are potentially hazardous.
- ▶ **Governments must remove obstacles to journalism.** They must not restrict unnecessarily the freedom of movement of journalists or compromise the right of news media to gather, produce and disseminate information in secure and safe conditions.
- ▶ **People Must Keep Their Hands Off Media.** Everyone should respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff at work. Physical interference with filming or other journalistic work must be prohibited.

With these considerations in mind, the IFJ calls on journalists groups, media organisations and all relevant public authorities to respect the following International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism:

1 Journalists and other media staff shall be properly equipped for all assignments including the provision of first-aid materials, communication tools, adequate transport facilities and, where necessary, protective clothing;

2 Media organisations and, where appropriate, state authorities shall provide riskawareness training for those journalists and media workers who are likely to be involved in assignments where dangerous conditions prevail or may be reasonably expected;

3 Public authorities shall inform their personnel of the need to respect the rights of journalists and shall instruct them to respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff while at work.

4 Media organisations shall provide social protection for all staff engaged in journalistic activity outside the normal place of work, including life insurance;

5 Media organisations shall provide, free of charge, medical treatment and health care, including costs of recuperation and convalescence, for journalists and media workers who are the victims of injury or illness as a result of their work outside the normal place of work;

6 Media organisations shall protect freelance or part-time employees. They must receive, on an equal basis, the same social protection and access to training and equipment as that made available to fully employed staff.

INTERNATIONAL

safety

FUND

It's the
thought
that **counts**

When people think of the **IFJ Safety Fund**, they remember to raise money for it. Hats only go round at conferences where someone thought of the Fund. People only dig in their pockets because they know it exists. Someone has to start the ball rolling. Will you start it next time? Keep the IFJ Safety Fund in mind whenever union members get together.

How to Give

Please send donations to the IFJ member union in your country; the money will be forwarded in a lump sum and will cut the administrative costs of the Fund. If there is no IFJ member, send the money to:

The IFJ Safety Fund

α/c BE64 2100 7857 0052

SWIFT Code: GEBABEBB

Fortis Bank, Rond Point Schuman 10, 1040 Brussels

The Safety Fund for Media Translators and Interpreters (SFMI)

α/c BE90 3630 4689 8732

SWIFT Code: BBRU-BE-BB

ING Bank, Rond Point Schuman 8, 1040 Brussels

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The IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists with members in more than 100 countries. Today the IFJ spans the world with a range of programmes and solidarity activities that help to strengthen journalists' trade unions. IFJ Offices around the world highlight the need for safety of journalists. The Federation has opened offices in Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to provide local support for journalists most in need.

Find out more and about what you can do to help:

Published by the International Federation of Journalists