



# the last dispatch

JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA STAFF KILLED IN 2011

INCLUDES IFJ INTERNATIONAL SAFETY FUND REPORT

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Cover image: A BBC television crew reports from the front line on the northern outskirts of Ivory Coast's main city Abidjan April 8, 2011. © REUTERS/Emmanuel Braun

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# Introduction

**E**ach year the IFJ pays tribute to those journalists and media workers who have lost their lives because of their work. Each year we search for new ways of saying that these deaths and killings must end. And as we put together this annual report, we hope that next year the publication will be a little thinner; a few pages shorter.

Sadly that has not proven to be the case for 2011.

The targeted killings of journalists continue: our report shows that at least 106 were killed in this way or in crossfire incidents, up from 94 in 2010.

There is also little change in the list of those countries that are the world's most dangerous places in which to work as a journalist.

It is a sad fact that there is little change at the top, or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say bottom, of the list. In Mexico the appointment of a special prosecutor for crimes against journalists is a positive step but is yet to show dividends. There is no sign of action against the threats faced by journalists in Pakistan and violence in Iraq continues to claim the lives of media workers trying to bring us the story of a country in turmoil. Despite moves to prosecute some of those responsible for the horrendous Maguindanao massacre that claimed the lives of 32 journalists in 2009, our colleagues are still losing their lives in The Philippines.

The impact of the biggest news event of 2011, the Arab Spring, can be seen in this year's report. All eyes have been on this part of the world and journalists have been crucial in ensuring that stories from the streets of Cairo, Tunis and a host of other cities have been told. But a Journalist's role in bringing us news of conflict and revolt is a hazardous one, and many media workers in the region have been killed, injured or have simply disappeared.

While the international media will often sit up and take notice when a foreign reporter is the target of violence, it is clear from this report that the majority of journalists

affected are local, and sadly news of these attacks are rarely given the same profile.

Lists such as this will naturally focus on those cases of journalists who have been killed because of the stories they have broken, the articles they have written or the programmes they have broadcast.

However, the IFJ makes a point of including in this document the names of those people killed in accidents and disasters while they are undertaking journalistic work. These are also men and women who have lost their lives because their journalism has put them in the path of danger or disaster.

At least 20 people died in these circumstances in 2011, including one single disaster that led to the loss of seven media workers' lives. They were among the 115 people killed when an earthquake resulted in the collapse of the Canterbury Television building in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Unlike many of the cases in this report, accidental deaths such as these are not part of a campaign of political intimidation or an attempt to silence unwelcome public scrutiny. But these incidents still leave holes in the lives of the families, loved ones and colleagues of those who have died.

While some of these tragedies may be about being in the wrong place at the wrong time, the investigation of deaths in these circumstances is just as important for the safety of journalists as those that have clearer political motivations.

Journalism will never be a risk-free profession. But as trade unions, we must ensure that employers take seriously their responsibility for the safety of the people who work for them. We must learn from these cases to ensure that, where steps can be taken to reduce the risks – while still allowing journalists to do their work – action is taken. And we must remind employers that their responsibility covers not just their staff journalists, but also the stringers and fixers on whom they rely to get the story.



A man holds up a poster of Al Jazeera news network cameraman, **Ali Hassan al-Jaber**, during his funeral in Doha. © REUTERS

It is not just employers who have a responsibility for the safety of journalists. The failure of governments to take steps to protect media workers is a theme running through this document. Time and again governments fail to take action to protect journalists under threat or, when the worst has happened, to send a clear signal that violence against our profession will not be tolerated.

In the vast majority of cases contained in this and preceding reports, those people responsible for the killings of journalists have not been brought to justice. Just a glance through our regional reports and the scale of the problem becomes clear. We learn that 98 per cent of media killings in Mexico remain unsolved; in Iraq more than 300 journalists and media workers have lost their lives since 2003, but there has not been a single prosecution or trial.

Faced with this situation, journalists and their unions have launched initiatives to lead the fight against the culture of impunity and compel governments and the international community to take journalists' protection seriously.

The first international day against impunity was held on 23 November 2011 to raise awareness of the scandalous failure of governments to bring killers to justice and to pledge to do more to find ways of making journalism safer.

IFJ members are also waging campaigns against impunity in their countries and regions across the globe. In Africa,

a campaign by the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) led to the adoption in May 2011 of a resolution by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) on the safety of journalists. It will now be used to put pressure on governments to protect journalists under threat.

The IFJ is also leading the way with concrete action. It has joined the family of murdered Gambian journalist Deyda Hydara in their petition before the Ecowas Court of Human Rights to request the Government of the Gambia to carry out an investigation into his murder. This is the first time the IFJ seeks to join a lawsuit as an applicant and if the outcome is successful, we intend to take on more cases in all the regions as part of our campaign against impunity.

There are positive developments elsewhere, such as in Russia where the monitoring of violence against journalists is probably the best in the world, following the establishment of a database (<http://journalists-in-russia.org/>) recording all forms of violence against journalists. The project by our Russian colleagues in partnership with the IFJ and the Glasnost Defence Foundation means that when our colleagues come under attack, we know about it and are able to take necessary steps to alert the authorities who can no longer claim ignorance as an excuse to avoid taking action.

As we mark yet another torrid year for the safety of journalists, let us hope that in the years to come we will look back on 2011 as the beginning of the end of impunity for the killers of journalists.

So rather than hoping for a slimmer document this time next year, we should be planning for a great doorstopper of a publication. A dossier packed full of the action that has so far been lacking: a catalogue of the investigations, the prosecutions and the trials.

Of course what we hope for and what we expect are not always the same. It would be naive to assume that days of action and high profile campaigns – or even action by the UN or well-meaning governments – will bring an overnight end to the killing.

But we must recognise that we have a part to play. Day in, day out, journalists trade unions are standing up for their members under threat. And they do so not alone, but with the solidarity and support of an international network that will campaign to ensure that the names of those responsible are exposed – and to ensure the names of those lost are not forgotten.

# TOTAL: 106 killings and 20 accidental deaths

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Afghanistan	Ahmad Omid Khpolwak	Reporter	BBC Pashto Service/ Radio Television Afghanistan	28.7.2011
Afghanistan	Farhad Taqaddosi	Cameraman	Iran's Press TV	20.09.2011
Algeria	Ahmed Nezar	Journalist	Freelance	06.05.2011
Azerbaijan	Rafiq Tagi	Journalist	Radio Azadlyq	23.11.2011
Bahrain	Karim Fakhrawi	Publisher	Al-Wasat	05.04.2011
Brazil	Luciano Leitao Pedrosa	Journalist	Metro FM and Vitoria TV	09.04.2011
Brazil	Edinaldo Figueira	Editor	O Serrano	15.06.2011
Brazil	Vanderlei Canuto Leandro	Presenter	Radio Frontera	01.09.2011
Brazil	Gelson Domingos da Silva	Cameraman	Bandeirantes TV	06.11.2011
Brazil	Valerio Nacimiento	Owner	Panorama Geral	05.05.2011
Bolivia	David Nino de Guzman	News Director	Agencia de Noticias Fides	20.04.2011
China	Li Xiang	Journalist	Luoyang TV	19.09.2011
Colombia	Luis Eduardo Gomez	Journalist		30.06.2011
Dem. Rep. of Congo	Kambale Musonia	Journalist	South Lubero Community Radio	21.06.2011
Dominican Republic	Jose Silvestre	Presenter	Cana TV	01.08.2011
Egypt	Ahmed Mohammed Mahmoud	Journalist	Al Ahram	31.01.2011
Egypt	Wael Michael Yunna	Cameraman	Coptic TV	09.10.2011
El Salvador	Alfredo Hurtado	Cameraman	Channel 33	26.04.2011
Guatemala	Yensi Roberto Ordoñez Galdámez	Journalist	Channel 14 TV	20.05.2011
Honduras	Francisco Medina	TV journalist		10.05.2011
Honduras	Luis Mendoza	Director	Canal 24 TV	19.05.2011
Honduras	Adán Benítez	Journalist and TV producer	La Ceiba TV	04.07.2011
Honduras	Nery Jeremias Orellana	Director	Radio Joconguera de Candelaria	14.07.2011
Honduras	Medardo Flores	Journalist	Radio Uno	08.09.2011
Honduras	Luz Marina Paz Villalobos	Journalist	Honduras News Channel (CHN)	07.12.2011
Honduras	Delmer Osmar Canales Gutiérrez	Driver	Honduras News Channel (CHN)	07.12.2011
India	Umesh Rajput	Correspondent	Naidunia	23.01.2011
India	Babur Khaler	Journalist		17.07.2011
India	Jyotirmoy Dey	Editor	Midday	11.06.2011
India	Akram Latif	Editor	TV Urdhu	05.08.2011
India	Ramesh Singla	Reporter	Dainik Jagran/Freelance	04.10.2011
Iran	Hoda Saber	Journalist	Iran-e-Farda	10.06.2011
Iraq	Wajdan Asaad Majid Al Jabouri	Managing Editor	Iraquna	20.01.2011
Iraq	Hilal Al Ahmadi	Journalist	Mosul Echo and Iraqiyoun	17.02.2011
Iraq	Mohamed al-Hamdani	Correspondent	Al-Itaijah satellite TV	24.02.2011
Iraq	Faisal Omar	Presenter	Al Mowselya TV	01.03.2011
Iraq	Muammar al-Khadir Abdul Wahid	Reporter	Eye Media News	29.03.2011
Iraq	Sabah Al-Bazee	Journalist	Freelance/Reuters contributor	29.03.2011
Iraq	Salem Alwan Al-Gharabi	Cameraman	Afaq TV	21.06.2011
Iraq	Taha Hamid	Director	Al-Massa TV	08.04.2011
Iraq	Hadi Al Mahdi	Journalist	Tamuz Radio	08.09.2011
Iraq	Ahmad Sabih Fakher	Cameraman	Al Rashid TV	16.09.2011
Iraq	Ali Abdel Hakim Zaaan	TV Reporter	Al Rashid TV	16.09.2011

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Ivory Coast	Marcel Legré	Employee	La Refondation	28.02.2011
Ivory Coast	Sylvian Gagnetau Lago	Journalist	Yopugon Radio	08.05.2011
Libya	Hassan Al Jaber	Reporter	Al Jazeera	12.03.2011
Libya	Mohammad Nabbous	Director	Libya al-Hurra TV	19.03.2011
Libya	Anton Hammerl	Photojournalist	Freelance	05.04.2011
Libya	Tim Hetherington	Photojournalist	Freelance/Vanity fair Contributor	20.04.2011
Libya	Chris Hondros	Photojournalist	Getty Agency	20.04.2011
Libya	Qais El Halali	Cartoonist	Freelance	25.03.2011
Mexico	José Luis Cerda Meléndez	Presenter	Televisa	29.03.2011
Mexico	Luis Emanuel Ruíz Carrillo	Reporter	La Prensa	29.03.2011
Mexico	Noel Lopez Olguin	Journalist	La Verdad de Jáltipan	31.05.2011
Mexico	Pablo Ruelas Barraza	Reporter	del Yaqui and El Regional	13.06.2011
Mexico	Miguel Angel Lopez Velasco	Editor	Notiver	6.20.2012
Mexico	Lopez Solana	Photojournalist	Notiver	20.06.2011
Mexico	Angel Castillo Corona	Reporter	Puntual and Diario de México	03.07.2011
Mexico	Yolanda Ordaz de la Cruz	Reporter	Notiver	26.07.2011
Mexico	Humberto Millan Salazar	Journalist	A-Discusion	25.08.2011
Mexico	Maria Elizabeth Macias Castro	Editor	Primera Hora	23.09.2011
Mexico	Rodolpho Ochoa	Engineer	Radio Rama Laguna	09.02.2011
Nigeria	Zakariyya Isa	Reporter	Nigerian Television Authority (NTA),	22.10.2011
Pakistan	Ilyas Nazar	Editor	Darwanth	05.01.2011
Pakistan	Wali Khan Babar	Journalist	Geo News TV	13.01.2011
Pakistan	Abdost Rind	Journalist	Daily Eagle	18.02.2011
Pakistan	Zaman Ali	Journalist	Extra News	02.04.2011
Pakistan	Nasrullah Afridi	Journalist	Pakistan National TV	11.05.2011
Pakistan	Syed Saleem Shahzad	Journalist	Asia Times and Adnkronos International	31.05.2011
Pakistan	Asfandiyar Abid Naveed	Journalist	Akhbar-e-Khyber	11.06.2011
Pakistan	Asfandiyar Khan	Journalist	Akhbar-e-Khyber	13.06.2011
Pakistan	Shafiullah Khan	Journalist	The News International	13.06.2011
Pakistan	Muneer Shakir	Correspondent	Balochi TV Sabzbagh	14.08.2011
Pakistan	Javed Naseer Rind	Editor	Daily Tawar	05.11.2011
Peru	Julio Cesar Castillo	Journalist	Noticiero Ollantay	04.05.2011
Peru	José Oquendo Reyes	Journalist	BTV Canal 45	14.09.2011
Panama	Dario Fernandez Jaen	Radio owner	MI Favorita Radio Station	06.11.2011
Philippines	Gerry/Gerardo Ortega	Presenter	DWAR Palawan	24.01.2011
Philippines	Maria Len Flores Somera	Presenter	DZME Radio	24.03.2011
Philippines	Cirilo Gallardo	Journalist	dzPA	30.01.2011
Philippines	Romeo Olea	Journalist	DWEB Radio	13.06.2011
Philippines	Johnson Pascual	Editor in chief	Prime News	07.10.2011
Philippines	Datu Roy Bagtikan Gallego	Block-time' Broadcaster	92.7 Smile FM San Francisco	14.10.2011
Russia	Yakhya Magomedov	Editor	As-Salam	08.05.2011
Russia	Anatoliy Bitkov	Editor	Kolya Plyus TV channel	21.06.2011
Russia	Khadzhimurad Kamalov	Founder	Chernovik	16.12.2011

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Sierra Leone	Ibrahim Foday	Journalist	The Exclusive	12.06.2011
Somalia	Farah Hasan Sahel	Manager	Radio Simba	04.08.2011
Somalia	Noramfaizul Mohd Nor	Cameraman	Bernamea TV	02.09.2011
Somalia	Abdiaziz Ahmed Aden	Journalist	Radio Markabley	04.10.2011
Somalia	Abdisalan Sheik Hassan	Journalist	HornCable	18.12.2011
Syria	Ferzat Jarban	Freelance Cameraman		20.11.2011
Thailand	Phamon Phonphanit	Reporter	Sue Samut Atyakam	24.09.2011
Tunisia	Lucas Mebrouk Dolega	Photojournalist	European Pressphoto Agency	17.01.2011
Uganda	Charles Ingabire	Editor	Online publications Inyenyezi News	30.11.2011
Venezuela	Wilfred Ojeda	Columnist/Political activist	El Claron	19.05.2011
Yemen	Jamal Al-Sharabi	Photographer	Al-Masdar	18.03.2011
Yemen	Hassan al-Wadhaf	Cameraman	Freelance	24.09.2011
Yemen	Abdel Hakim Al-Nour	Cameraman	Masproduction	03.10.2011
Yemen	Abdel Majid Al-Samawi	Reporter	Al-Saida TV	03.10.2011
Yemen	Fouad Abdel Jabbar Elshamiri	Accountant	Al-Saida TV	27.10.2011

## Accidents, Diseases and Natural Disasters Related Incidents

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Australia	Paul Lockyer	Journalist	ABC News	14.08.2011
Australia	John Bean	Cameraman	ABC News	14.08.2011
Australia	Gary Ticehurst	Pilot	ABC News	14.08.2011
Chile	Felipe Camiroaga	Presenter	Chile NTV	02.09.2011
Chile	Roberto Bruce	Reporter	Chile NTV	02.09.2011
Chile	Sylvia Slier	Journalist	Chile NTV	02.09.2011
Chile	Carolina Gatica	Assistant Producer	Chile NTV	02.09.2011
Chile	Rodrigo Cabezón	Cameraman	Chile NTV	02.09.2011
Egypt	Khaled Abdel Hady	Deputy editor	Nile Sector	12.10.2011
Japan	Yukio Kumada	Journalist	Fukushima Sousou	23.04.2011
Libya	Yoshihisa Nomura	Cairo Bureau Chief	TV Asahi Corp	21.10.2011
Libya	Shima'a Sami	Assistant	TV Asahi Corp	21.10.2011
New Zealand	Rhys Frank Brookbanks	Reporter	Cantebury TV	22.02.2011
New Zealand	Joanne May Giles	Presenter	Cantebury TV	22.02.2011
New Zealand	Murray John Wood	Managing Director	Cantebury TV	05.03.2011
New Zealand	Samuel Reese Gibb	Producer	Cantebury TV	11.03.2011
New Zealand	Donna Merrie Manning	Presenter	Cantebury TV	11.03.2011
New Zealand	Shawn Charles Lucas	Production Manager	Cantebury TV	16.05.2011
New Zealand	Matthew Lyle Beaumont	Presenter	Cantebury TV	01.06.2011
Russia	Pavel Balakirev	Cameraman		05.05.2011
Turkey	Cem Emir	Journalist	Dogan News Agency	12.11.2011
Turkey	Sebahattin Yilmaz	Journalist	Dogan News Agency	12.11.2011
United Kingdom	Cyril Benford	Sound Recordist	BBC	16.01.2011

# KILLED by region

## AFRICA KILLED

10

Democratic Republic of Congo	1
Ivory Coast	2
Nigeria	1
Sierra Leone	1
Somalia	4
Uganda	1

## AMERICAS KILLED

32

Brazil	5
Bolivia	1
Colombia	1
Dominican Republic	1
El Salvador	1
Guatemala	1
Honduras	7
Mexico	11
Peru	2
Panama	1
Venezuela	1

### Accidental Deaths

5

Chile	5
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## ASIA PACIFIC KILLED

26

Afghanistan	2
China	1
India	5
Pakistan	11
Philippines	6
Thailand	1

### Accidental Deaths

11

Australia	3
Japan	1
New Zealand	7

## EUROPE KILLED

5

Azerbaijan	1
Russia	3

### Accidental Deaths

2

Turkey	2
Russia	1
United Kingdom	1



A member of the press looks on as a vehicle carrying the bodies of Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros is driven out of Greek ferry "Ionian Spirit" at the port of Benghazi. © REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh

## MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD KILLED

29

Algeria	1
Bahrain	1
Egypt	2
Iran	1
Iraq	11
Libya	6
Syria	1
Tunisia	1
Yemen	5

### Accidental Deaths

3

Egypt	1
Libya	2



# AFRICA

**OMAR FARUK OSMAN, President of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ)**

## **T**HE MURDER OF A SOMALI JOURNALIST

shot dead at close range in Mogadishu on 18 December brought the total of media killings in Africa to 20, making 2011 one of the deadliest years in recent memory. The violence, which was sparked by popular uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia as well as the civil war in Libya, accounted for the majority of the journalists' killings, the details of which are available in the Arab World section of this report.

But there was no respite for journalists elsewhere on the continent and their safety remained elusive in many countries where risks to their lives was never far away. Four were killed in Somalia, two of whom were allegedly gunned down in shooting incidents involving soldiers of the African Union's Peacekeeping Force in the country.

Post-election violence in Ivory Coast claimed the lives of two journalists while another was killed amid political tension ahead of Presidential poll in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The murder of an exiled Rwandan journalist in Uganda and the killing of a Nigerian reporter added to this year's death toll.

Two Swedish journalists were lucky to escape with their lives after they came under fire from Ethiopian military in the Ogaden region on the border with Somalia. They sustained light injuries and are now serving an 11-year jail term each following their conviction for "supporting terrorism" after a trial which drew widespread criticism.



African journalists and their organisations can reflect on bold efforts in their drive to make journalism safer over the last twelve months.



Despite these unrelenting threats, African journalists and their organisations can reflect on bold efforts in their drive to make journalism safer over the last twelve months, including successful advocacy to put the safety of journalist at the top of the political agenda of the African Union and its specialised institutions.

The International Federation and its African group, the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) have waged a robust campaign for the safety of journalists which led, for the first time in the African history, to the adoption in May 2011 by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) of a Resolution on the protection of safety of journalists. This is a milestone achievement, which will considerably boost FAJ's push with strong support from trade union movements and press freedom community for safe journalism.

The IFJ and its African group, FAJ, are also committed to pursuing justice for killed journalists and combating impunity in Africa. The federations are considering petitioning continental and regional courts when governments fail to prevent and punish perpetrators of abuses of journalists' rights to life and physical safety.

FAJ members also took part in the activities marking the first International Day against Impunity for crimes against journalists on 23 November 2011. This global event provided an opportunity to remind African governments of their international obligations towards journalists.

Colleagues carry slain journalist Abdisalan Sheikh Hasan. ©REUTERS/Feisal Omar

# 2011 IN FOCUS AFRICA

## FEBRUARY 28 IVORY COAST

**Marcel Legré**, an employee of La Refondation SA, the publisher of *Notre Voie* newspaper was dragged from his home in Koumassi by supporters of Alassane Ouattara who beat him to death in broad day light. Reports say that Legré, a machine tool operator, was targeted because the newspaper he worked for supported former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo who was locked in a vicious fight after losing the Presidential election to his arch rival Alassane Ouattara.

## MAY 8 IVORY COAST

**Sylvain Gagnetau Lago** (30), assistant editor-in-chief at the Yopougon Community Radio Station was killed by the pro Alassane Ouattara's Republican Forces of Ivory Coast (FRCI) on 8 May, 2011. Sylvain, was specifically targeted for murder because of his support for the regime of ex leader Laurent Gbagbo.

According to local journalists, Sylvain was summarily executed by the FRCI and buried in a mass grave. He is survived by two children.

## AUGUST 4 SOMALIA

**Farah Hassan Salah** (24), who worked with Simba Radio Station in Mogadishu, was killed by a shot fired by a soldier of the African Peacekeeping Force in Somalia (AMISOM) on 4 August 2011. Farah Hassan Salah was shot while trying to pick up a transmission equipment from a repairer at the main market of Bakara.

## SEPTEMBER 2 SOMALIA

**Noramfaizul Mohd Nor**, a Malaysian cameraman for Bernama, was killed in Mogadishu by a sniper while covering an aid mission of Putera 1 Malaysia, a humanitarian organisation tied to UMNO, the largest party in Malaysia's governing coalition. The African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia said that its investigation found four Burundian soldiers responsible for shooting Nor.

## OCTOBER 4 SOMALIA

**Abidaziz Ahmed Aden** (22) was killed by a ghastly suicide bomb attack which killed about 70 other people in Mogadishu on 4 October, 2011. Aden was working with Radio Markabley as a reporter and presenter in the Bardhere District of the Gedo region. He was assigned to cover the military operations against Al-Shabaab militants.

## OCTOBER 22 NIGERIA

**Alhaji Kakariya Isa** (41), a reporter and cameraman of the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), was shot several times and killed at his home in Maiduguri,



Protesters stand near burning tyres at a road block in Abobo, Abidjan February 19, 2011. Ivorian security forces fired live bullets and teargas on Saturday to disperse protesters in Abidjan calling for incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo to step down © REUTERS/Luc Gnago



Somali journalists carry the dead body of their colleague Abdisalan Sheikh Hasan in southern Mogadishu, December 18, 2011. Witnesses said Hasan was shot dead in the capital on Sunday by a man wearing a government soldier's uniform. ©REUTERS/Feisal Omar

Borno State, Northern Nigeria, by the Nigerian Islamist sect “Boko Haram” on Saturday, 22 October, 2011. The sect accused him of being an informant of the Nigeria security services. He is survived by his wife and two children.

## DECEMBER 1 UGANDA

**Charles Ingabire**, an outspoken critic of the Rwandan government and editor of the *Inyenyeri News* website, was gunned down in the early hours of 1 December in Kampala, where he had lived in exile since 2007. Ingabire was shot at point-blank range by an unidentified

person in a car at around 2 a.m. as he left a bar in Kampala. He was hit in the chest and died on the spot.

## DECEMBER 18 SOMALIA

**Abdisalan Sheik Hassan** (38), a freelance journalist with Horncable Television and Hamar Radio Voice of Democracy (VOD) was killed on Sunday 18 December 2011 in Mogadishu.

According to eye witnesses, Abdisalan was shot in the head by a man in military uniform. He was said to have received numerous death threats prior to his brutal murder. He is survived by his wife and four children.



# ASIA-PACIFIC

**JACQUI PARK, Director of IFJ Asia-Pacific Office**

## **I** N A YEAR MARKED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

and continuing hostilities toward journalists, more than 34 journalists and media workers lost their lives in Asia-Pacific.

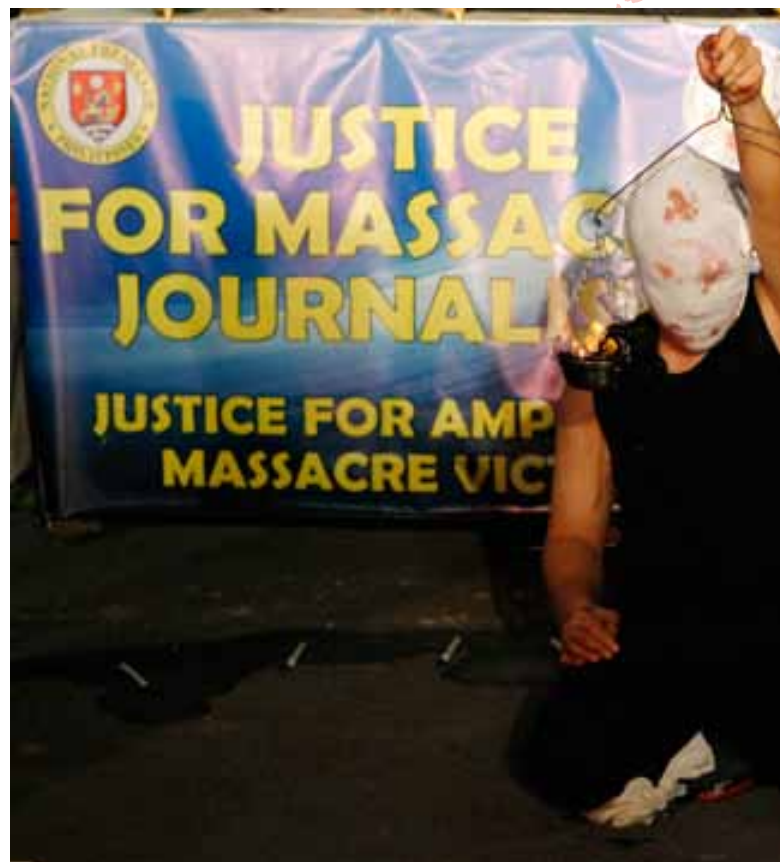
In New Zealand, the collapse of the Canterbury Television (CTV) building during the Christchurch earthquake on February 22 led to the accidental deaths of 115 people, seven of whom were editorial staff of CTV. Media workers were among the masses killed in Japan as a result of the tsunami and earthquake which hit the country's north-east on March 11, and another journalist was found dead after he disappeared while reporting on the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. At least 47 newspaper delivery workers working for the Shimbun Joho Company died when their offices were flooded during the tsunami.

Media workers in both countries overcame great adversity to continue to publish and broadcast news. CTV resumed broadcasting less than two months after the Christchurch earthquake, *The Press* newspaper went to print one day after the partial collapse of its office and death of a staff member, and despite evacuations and blackouts in Fukushima, local newspapers continued to produce news in the days immediately after the disaster.

In Pakistan, the safety crisis which claimed the lives of 16 journalists in 2010 deepened, continuing the country's lamentable ranking as the world's most dangerous country for journalists for the second year running. 11

deaths were recorded this year, three of these having occurred in the southern province of Balochistan.

Targeted killings of media workers have also been noted in China. One journalist was killed as 2010 came to a close following a report on government corruption, and



## Impunity continues to be a major impediment to press freedom and journalists' safety in many countries in Asia-Pacific.

another was stabbed to death in September 2011 after an investigative story he had produced led to the arrests of 32 people.

Impunity continues to be a major impediment to press freedom and journalists' safety in many countries in

Asia-Pacific. The ongoing campaign for justice for the victims of the Ampatuan Town Massacre in the Philippines in 2009, continued in a year in which targeted attacks on media workers worsened, with 6 journalists killed, up from four in 2010.

In India, eleven people were arrested in connection with a journalist's murder in Mumbai. Two other cases of targeted killings were recorded in India this year, the first in Haryana and the second in Chhattisgarh.

In Afghanistan, a journalist was killed by International Security Assistance Force troops, who later admitted to mistaking the journalist for a suicide bomber during a skirmish with insurgents in the capital Kabul. Another journalist was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade.

The need for safety training and equipment was reinforced when a journalist in Thailand died after suffering severe burns in a triple-bomb blast. Two Pakistani journalists were also killed by additional bomb blasts while reporting on a previous blast, one of them a trainee journalist one week into his career.

Safety precautions failed to prevent the accidental deaths of three journalists in Australia who died in a helicopter accident in August.

A masked Filipino artist commemorates the second anniversary of the "Maguindanao Massacre" at the National Press Club compound in Manila November 23, 2011. © REUTERS/Erik De Castro



# 2011 IN FOCUS ASIA-PACIFIC

## JANUARY 5 PAKISTAN

**Ilyas Nazar**, a journalist for *Darwanth*, was found dead in Pidarak alongside the body of Baloch Students' Organisation (Azad) Central Executive Committee member Qambar Chakar, who had disappeared from his home in Turbat on 27 November 2010. Nazar was abducted on 28 December 2010 while travelling from Balochistan's capital, Quetta, to his home in Turbat.

## JANUARY 13 PAKISTAN

**Wali Khan Babar**, a reporter for Geo TV, was shot and killed near a bus stop in Karachi. He had covered gang violence in the city, and on the day of his death had reported on a police operation against a drug dealer in the suburbs of Karachi. Babar was one of 16 journalists whose names were on a "hit-list" of journalists that was reportedly circulating in Pakistan.

## JANUARY 23 INDIA

**Umesh Rajput**, a reporter for *NaiDunia* newspaper, was shot dead outside his home in Chhattisgarh by two masked men on a motorcycle. Police recovered a letter written in red ink threatening Rajput with death if he did not stop publishing news from the area, but investigators saw this as an attempt to mislead police and pass it off as a case involving Naxalite-Maoist insurgents active in the state.

## JANUARY 24 PHILIPPINES

**Dr Gerardo Ortega**, anchor and commentator for dwAR, was shot while shopping in the San Pedro district of Puerto Princesa City, the capital of Palawan province. Police immediately arrested the gunman. The shooting occurred shortly after Ortega finished a daily morning radio broadcast, which he regularly used to criticise illegal mining and other environmental abuses in Palawan.



Dozens of protesters gathered to protest against the killing of a journalist Saleem Shahzad in Karachi. © REUTERS/Mohsin Raza



Police, rescue workers and relatives carry the casket of Pakistani journalist Saleem Shahzad © REUTERS/Athar Hussain

## JANUARY 30 PHILIPPINES

**Cirilo Gallardo**, a broadcast journalist for dzPA, was found dead inside his room at the transmitter site of the radio station where he was working. He had been stabbed 13 times.

## MARCH 24 PHILIPPINES

**Maria Len Flores Somera**, anchor for dzME, was shot dead near her home in Malabon, a district of Manila. Somera was on her way to host her daily program, *Arangkada Kinse*, when she was ambushed by a man. Somera's radio broadcasts covered the conditions of disadvantaged people in the Philippines, and frequently criticised officials for failing to provide adequate public services.

## MAY 10 PAKISTAN

**Nasrullah Afridi**, a reporter for Pakistan Television (PTV) and Mashriq, was killed when a remote-control device planted in his car exploded near Khyber Super Market in Peshawar. He had previously asserted that provincial authorities failed to provide him with security despite being aware of threats from militant groups.

## MAY 31 PAKISTAN

**Syed Saleem Shahzad**, Pakistan bureau chief for *Asia Times Online* and a reporter with *Adnkronos*, was found dead in a canal about 150km southeast of Islamabad, with his body badly beaten. He went missing the day before while heading to the office of Dunya TV to record a programme. Shahzad had previously reported on alleged links between the Pakistani military and Al-Qaeda.

## JUNE 11 INDIA

**Jyotirmoy Dey**, special investigations editor for *Midday*, was shot dead by four assailants on motorbikes in the suburb of Powai, Mumbai as he drove home on his scooter. His death was allegedly ordered by crime syndicate leader Chhota Rajan after Dey wrote a number of news reports on the illegal sale of petroleum products. Seven people allegedly hired by Rajan were immediately arrested in connection with the killing, and one journalist was later arrested for providing information to Dey's killers.



Son of slain broadcaster Romeo Olea cries as he touches his father's coffin at a public cemetery in Iriga City. © REUTERS/Rhaydz Barcia

## JUNE 11 PAKISTAN

**Asfandiyar Khan**, a journalist for *Akhbar-i-Khyber*, was killed in a suicide blast at Khyber supermarket in Peshawar as media teams went to investigate a low-intensity blast eight minutes earlier.

## JUNE 13 PHILIPPINES

**Romeo Olea**, a commentator for dwEB-FM, was shot dead by three gunmen on the outskirts of Iriga as he was driving his motorcycle to work.

## JUNE 16 PAKISTAN

**Shafiullah Khan** was the second journalist to be killed by a twin-blast in Peshawar on June 11, having gone to report on the first blast and fallen victim to the second. Khan was a trainee journalist for *The News International* and died in a hospital at Wah Cantonment, near Rawalpindi, where he was being treated for severe burns.

## JULY 28 AFGHANISTAN

**Ahmad Omid Khpalwak**, a stringer for BBC Pashto Service and reporter for *Pajhwok*, was killed after being shot by International Security Assistance Force troops, led by

NATO. ISAF has admitted mistaking Khpalwak for a suicide bomber and shooting him while battling insurgents during a Taliban-coordinated triple bomb blast and shooting attack in Tarin Kowt, the capital of Uruzgan province.

## AUGUST 14 PAKISTAN

**Muneer Shakir**, a journalist for Online News Network, TV One and Sabzbat Balochistan, died at District Headquarters Hospital in Khuzdar after being shot by two men on motorcycles as he headed home from the Khuzdar Press Club shortly after midday.

## SEPTEMBER 19 CHINA

**Li Xiang**, a journalist for Luoyang City Television, was killed and his portable computer stolen after he was stabbed more than ten times while walking home. Li's colleagues maintain his death was work-related due to his stories on illegally reprocessed waste cooking oil that led to the arrests of 32 people. Two suspects were arrested a few days after his death.

## SEPTEMBER 20 AFGHANISTAN

**Farhad Taqaddosi**, an Iranian cameraman for Press TV, died after sustaining serious injuries from the explosion of a rocket-propelled grenade on 13 September. The grenade was fired by Taliban militants during an attack, when gunmen attacked buildings near the US Embassy and NATO headquarters. Taqaddosi's condition progressively deteriorated and he died in a hospital in Kabul a week following the attack.

## SEPTEMBER 24 THAILAND

**Phamon Phonpanit**, a reporter for *Sue Samut Atyakam*, died at Yala Central Hospital after suffering severe burns as a result of a triple bomb blast in the Sungai Kolok district of Narathiwat province, southern Thailand. Phonpanit was covering two blasts when a third one went off, killing him.

## OCTOBER 4 INDIA

**Ramesh Singla**, a reporter for *Dainik Jagran*, died after being hit by a heavy vehicle on a main arterial road in Mewat, Haryana, while riding a motorcycle. Police in Mewat are inclined to treat the death as accidental, but it is alleged the death may be work-related due to Singla's articles about illegal mining in Mewat and Gurgaon in the days before his death.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS ASIA-PACIFIC

### FEBRUARY 22 NEW ZEALAND

Seven journalists were among 115 people who died as a result of the deadly Christchurch earthquake when the Canterbury Television (CTV) building collapsed and caught fire. Those media and editorial staff who lost their lives were:

**Rhys Brookbanks**, reporter

**Donna Merrie Manning**, presenter and producer

**Joanne May Giles**, presenter

**Samuel Reese Gibb**, producer

**Shawn Charles Lucas**, a production manager

**Matthew Lyle Beaumont**, presenter

**Murray John Wood**, managing director

### APRIL 23 JAPAN

**Yukio Kumada**, a journalist for Fukushima Newspaper Bureau, was found dead 23 days after he went missing while reporting on the nuclear plant disaster in Fukushima. He was drowned by the tsunami on March 3.

### AUGUST 18 AUSTRALIA

**Paul Lockyer**, **John Bean** and **Gary Ticehurst**, a reporting team consisting of a senior journalist, cameraman and helicopter pilot respectively for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), were killed when their helicopter crashed near Lake Eyre in a remote part of outback Australia.



### OCTOBER 7 PHILIPPINES

**Johnson Pascual**, editor-in-chief of *Prime News* and a columnist with several other newspapers, was killed by two unidentified men on a motorcycle who shot him in the head and torso while he was driving in Alicia, Isabela province. He died after losing control of his vehicle and crashing into a ravine.

### OCTOBER 14 PHILIPPINES

**Datu Roy Bagtikan Gallego**, due to start work as a radio commentator for 92.7 Smile FM San Francisco, was shot dead in an ambush on the national highway in Sitio Mamprasanon, Barangay Banahaw in Lianga town. Gallego was also a tribal leader of the Manobo tribe and

had led the fight against small and large-scale mining operators that he claimed violated the rights of indigenous people in the region.

### NOVEMBER 5 PAKISTAN

**Javed Naseer Rind**, a senior sub-editor and columnist for *Daily Tawar*, was found dead almost two months after he was abducted from IT Chowk Hub in the Khuzdar district of central Balochistan. His body was found near Ghazi Chowk in Khuzdar, with visible marks of torture and bullet marks in the head and chest. Police, quoting eyewitnesses, said that abductors held him at gun-point and bundled him into a car. Relatives alleged intelligence agencies were behind his abduction.



# EUROPE

**ARNE KÖNIG, President, The European Federation of Journalists**

**O**ne. But one too many. Hadjimurad Kamalov, founder of *Chernovik*, a reputable newspaper in Dagestan was shot dead on 15 December in Makhachkala in a clear case of assassination, the ultimate form of censorship.

While he was not the only journalist killed in Russia, his killing indicates that violence against Russian journalists is perhaps the worst in Europe and his was one assassination too many.

There were other colleagues who died in non work-related killings in Russia. Anatoliy Biktov, editor of Kolyma Plyus TV channel, was stabbed to death in his home and Yakhya Magomedov, editor of the Avar-language version of *As-Salam*, was gunned down in what is believed to be a case of mistaken identity.

Cameraman Pavel Balakirev also drowned in the wild river of Neva while filming a raid by Russia's Nature Conservation Agency when he fell off the boat into the main current of the river, a flow so strong and dangerous that it was not safe for divers to search for him.

There are also concerns over the safety of our colleague Magomed Khanmanmagov in Derbent, who was attacked on more than one occasion in 2010. He recently told authorities he feared for his life and needed protection.

But there are positive developments in Russia where the monitoring of violence against journalists is probably the best in the world, due to the database (<http://journalists-in-russia.org/>) established by our Russian colleagues in partnership with the IFJ and Glasnost

Defence Foundation. This database records all forms of violence against journalists in the country, whether verbal or physical. It is updated on a daily basis and provides information on the authorities' reaction and details on the progress of court action involving attacks on journalists. Sometimes, the database is more reliable than the authorities' announcements as it is ahead of them in making information available to the public.

We hope the project will be a model for journalists in other countries to follow.

2011 was also the year where we all over the world remembered the terrorist attacks in the USA on 11 September 2001. We believe that the anti-terror laws that were introduced after 9/11 have had a chilling effect on the practice of journalism which journalists experience every day and in many respects.

European journalists had hoped for a lift of the shadow of terror on journalism following the Reykjavik Declaration of May 2009 when, following representation from the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), the Council of European ministers declared that the anti-terror legislation hinders free media and freedom of speech and called for a review every year to redress the balance towards more freedom of speech and press freedom.

Sadly, nothing has happened and it seems that the Council of Europe is not even ready to remind its members of their obligations under the Declaration.

Today, two Swedish journalists are serving an 11 year jail term in Ethiopia as a result of the country's

... there are positive developments in Russia where the monitoring of violence against journalists is probably the best in the world ...

tough anti-terror laws. In Turkey 97 colleagues are in prison, facing trials with long sentences, if convicted on terror charges.

The jailing and killing of journalists are caused by a lack of support for journalism itself from leading politicians, from the rulers of our societies. The objective to put free journalism under control is growing and Europe is no exception.

That is the reason we are witnessing the kind of repressive legislation being introduced in Europe such as the authoritarian Hungarian media law which journalists fiercely oppose.

There is also a crucial fight for decent working conditions in countries like Macedonia where journalists are forced to sign their letter of resignation – with dates left blank – when they sign their employment contract.

These practices and attacks on journalists' independence and rights represent a fight for power over information, of who decides what the citizens should know or not know.

We have a lot of work ahead of us in 2012. So let's get to it.

Arne König, *President*  
The European Federation of Journalists



Nikita Tikhonov and Yevgeniya Khasis listen to their sentence in a courtroom in Moscow. Khasis was sentenced to 18 years in prison and Tikhonov to life imprisonment for the killing of lawyer Stanislav Markelov and journalist Anastasia Baburova. © REUTERS/Mikhail Voskresensky

# 2011 IN FOCUS EUROPE

## MAY 8 RUSSIA

**Yakhya Magomedov**, editor of the Avar-language version of *As-Salam*, a bi-monthly magazine that promotes a moderate version of traditional Islam, was shot four times as he was leaving his brother's home in Kokrek, near the northern city of Khasavyurt, at around 10.30 p.m. Police reportedly suspected Magomedov was mistaken for his brother, a policer officer, who may have been the main target. But some analysts pointed out that the journalist's murder may be linked to Muslim extremism because of his publications which were considered as anti-Wahhabi doctrine.

## JUNE 21 RUSSIA

**Anatoliy Bitkov**, the editor in chief of the Kolyma Plyus TV channel, was killed in Magadan province. His body with multiple stab wounds was found in his flat, according to local officials. Investigators were said to be investigating several leads and were not ruling out a link to his journalistic work as a motive for the killing.

## NOVEMBER 23 AZERBAIJAN

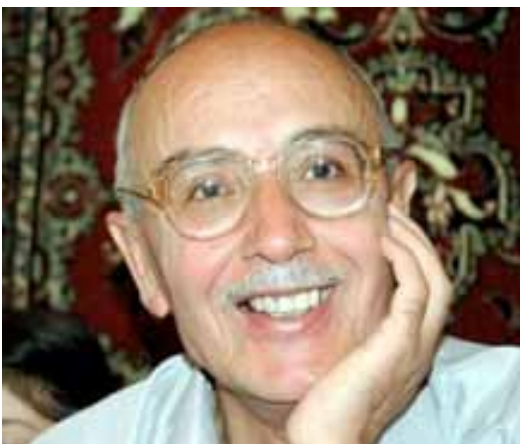
**Rafiq Tagi**, a prominent Azerbaijan journalist, died after being fatally stabbed by unidentified attackers in the capital, Baku. Media reports said that Tagi, a critic of

Azerbaijan and Iranian governments, was attacked and stabbed several times. He underwent surgery and, although his condition was initially considered stable, died four days later.

The police launched an investigation into this attack which many journalists and observers of Azerbaijan politics believed was linked to criticism of Azerbaijan and Iranian governments. The journalist told Radio Free Europe on 21 November that the attack might have been linked to an article he had published earlier in the month which was critical of the Iranian government and "ridiculed Tehran's threats against Azerbaijan". But Teheran's envoy in Azerbaijan denied any involvement in Tagi's murder, according to the radio station.

## DECEMBER 16 RUSSIA

**Khadzhimurad Kamalov**, a leading journalist and founder of *Chernovik*, a respected publication in Dagestan, was gunned down in Makhachkala in what analysts described as a clear and unequivocal targeted killing linked to his work. The journalist was shot dead as he left his office late at night. His newspaper was constantly harassed by the local administration because of its robust reporting on government corruption.



Left: Rafiq Tagi; Right: Khadzhimurad Kamalov

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS EUROPE

### JANUARY 16 UNITED KINGDOM

**Cyril Benford**, a sound engineer for the BBC, died 27 years after inhaling mustard gas while covering the war between Iran and Iraq. Benford had been with colleagues in 1984 when an Iranian soldier opened a shell releasing the gas. At the time of his death, changes in his lungs were reportedly consistent with mustard gas damage. Benford, who had worked as a sound recordist and cameraman for the BBC for 38 years, had gone to Iran in 1984 for Newsnight. As well as being near the shell that released the gas, he had also sat next to an Iranian soldier on a plane journey who was holding a jar of mustard gas, according to reports.

### MAY 5 RUSSIA

**Pavel Balakirev**, a cameraman drowned in the Neva, St Petersburg. He was filming a raid by Russia's Nature Conservation Agency when he

fell off the boat into the main current of the river, a flow so strong and dangerous that it was not safe for divers to search for him, according to IFJ Russia analyst John Crowfoot. Investigators said that the crew of the small vessel had almost certainly not been following safety regulations.

### NOVEMBER 12 TURKEY

**Cem Emir** and **Sebahattin Yilmaz**, reporters for Turkey's *Dogan News Agency* died after being trapped under the rubble of a hotel in Van which collapsed during last Wednesday's earthquake in the east of the country. Witnesses say 26-year-old Cem Emir and 58-year-old Sebahattin Yilmaz were transmitting a news story in the lobby of the Bayram hotel when the quake hit. They had been covering the aftermath of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the area of Van, killing more than 600 people.



# AMERICAS

**CELSO SCHRODER, FEPALC President**

**L**ATIN AMERICA SAYS FAREWELL to a year which was marked by unprecedented levels of violence and systematic attacks on social and labour rights of journalists. A record toll of 32 media casualties were recorded in the region, representing almost a third of the casualties worldwide. México occupies the first place on the list with 11 journalists killed ahead of Honduras (6), Brazil (5), Peru (2), Colombia (1), El Salvador (1), Guatemala (1), Haiti (1), Panama (1), Paraguay (1) and Dominican Republic (1).

The intolerance to the exercise of free journalism is made worse by the dire working conditions, alarming media concentration and other types of pressures faced by media workers, including allegations of criminal defamation, extortion through state advertisement and campaigns against union's members. However, unions have been spearheading the fight against impunity and media concentration and for decent conditions at the workplace.

During 2011 Mexico remained the deadliest country for journalists with 11 killings recorded. The drug trafficking related violence that has laid to waste parts of the country continues to claim lives of thousands of citizens. In this lawless environment, journalists have become the prime targets. Despite the establishment of the Special Prosecutor's Office to investigate and prosecute those responsible for crimes against journalists, over 98% of media killings remain unresolved. The authorities tend to claim delinquency as the reason for crimes against journalists. In the meantime, the Mexican Government is yet to implement its promises to protect journalists.

The war against drug cartels as well as in-fighting among organised crime groups for territorial control has also

affected Central America and may be linked to the killings of journalists in Honduras. The government has yet to complete its investigations into the deaths and attacks against journalists and media installations such as the one against *La Tribuna* newspaper in which a bodyguard was injured.

In Brazil, four journalists and a media owner were killed. The footage of the fatal shooting of TV Bandeirantes cameraman Gelson Domingos in a slum in Rio de Janeiro during an operation of the military police highlighted the urgent need for media protection. Following his death, journalists are issued flak jackets to provide greater protection and extra measures, including life insurance, are also taken for journalists who are on dangerous assignments.

In Peru two journalists were killed, José Oquendo Reyes, Director of the program "Sin Fronteras" of *BTV Channel 45*, and journalist Julio Cesar Castillo who worked for *Noticiero Ollantay*. Both had investigated corruption in local administrations.

In Colombia, reporter Luis Eduardo Gómez, contributor to *El Heraldo de Urabá* and *Urabá al Día* newspapers was shot dead by two unidentified men in front of his wife. Gomez was investigating the expenditure of the local administration and the death of his son.

The promotion of quality journalism and freedom of expression depends on the real political will to fight against impunity. FEPALC is committed to achieving genuine implementation of national, regional and international legal frameworks and treaties that protect the exercise of journalism. This is not just in the interest of journalism but also of democratic rule in the region.

# 2011 IN FOCUS AMERICAS

## FEBRUARY 9 MEXICO

**Rodolfo Ochoa Moreno** (27), a sound operator for Grupo Multimedios in the city of Torreón, Coahuila, was shot eight times when he was on night shift at Canal 9 Milenio TV which is part of the Grupo Multimedios. He died immediately.

## MARCH 29 MEXICO

**Luis Emmanuel Ruiz Carrillo** (20), an award winning photojournalist for *Monclova Diario La Prensa* newspaper in Monterrey, and **José Luis Cerda Meléndez** (33), a presenter of Televisa TV channel, were kidnapped and

later found murdered. A group linked to the drug trade was believed to have carried out the killings. Their bodies were later found along with that of Meléndez's cousin, Juan Roberto Gómez Meléndez.

## APRIL 9 BRAZIL

**Luciano Leita Pedrosa** (46), a journalist for Metro FM and Victoria TV, was shot dead inside a restaurant in Bela Vista district of Pernambuco by an unidentified gunman. He had published articles denouncing several corruption cases and he was a well-known critic of the local government.



Relatives and friends carry the coffin of David Nino de Guzman in La Paz. © REUTERS/Gaston Brito

## APRIL 20 BOLIVIA

**David Niño de Guzmán Velasco** (41), news director for La Paz-based *Agencia de Noticias Fides*, was found dead, the victim of an explosive device, after being reported missing two days earlier. His body was discovered in La Paz's Retamanis neighborhood near the Orkojahuira River, reports said. An autopsy report indicated that an explosive device had destroyed the journalist's abdomen, according to media reports. Bolivian press organisations believed the killing was linked to his work and the victim's wife, Sandra Flores, maintained that her husband had been murdered, saying that he had been anxious in the days leading up to his death.

## APRIL 26 EL SALVADOR

**Alfredo Antonio Hurtado** (39), cameraman and editor of Canal 33, was killed on his way to work when he was attacked by members of a gang operating in his neighbourhood. Police reportedly said that his attackers shot him several times. His family told reporters that the victim had received death threats from the gang members. The journalist, along with other journalists, had sometimes accompanied the police to cover night-time raids in an area plagued with turf wars between the so-called Salvatrucha and the Mara 18 gangs.

## MAY 3 PERU

**Julio César Castillo Narváez** (40), a journalist of *Noticiero Ollantay*, was shot dead by four gunmen as he was having lunch in a restaurant in the city of Viru, 400 kilometres from Lima. He had received before several death threats for exposing corruption in the local administration. He left behind a wife and six children.

## MAY 5 BRAZIL

**Valério Nascimento**, owner of Panorama Geral which was critical of local authorities in San Paolo State, was killed by unidentified gunmen who shot him in the head and in the back, the Associated Press reported, quoting police sources. Local media said police were investigating the possibility that Nascimento's death might have been connected to criticism in his paper accusing the city of Bananal of failing to invest in health and sewage treatment centres. The paper had published only four editions and Nascimento was also reportedly active in local politics.

## MAY 10 HONDURAS

**Héctor Francisco Medina Polanco** (35), a journalist of TV Omega Visión, was murdered on his way home by two gunmen on a motorbike. His assassination was directly linked to his work in defense of human rights, in particular his reports on corruption in the local administration. Medina Polanco had denounced some illegal actions of cattle ranchers in his region in relation to property deals.

## MAY 19 VENEZUELA

**Wilfred Iván Ojeda Peralta** (56), a columnist of *El Clarín* newspaper and political leader of Acción Cristiana in the town of La Victoria, was found murdered with signs of torture. The body was dumped on wasteland with a hood over his head, according to reports quoting prosecution sources. He left behind a wife and two children.

## MAY 19 HONDURAS

**Luis Ernesto Mendoza Cerrato** (38), Director of Canal 24 TV, was gunned down by three masked men who shot him in front of the Channel's offices in the city of Danli, El Paraíso, according to press reports. Criminal groups in the region were blamed for the killing.

## MAY 20 GUATEMALA

**Yensi Roberto Ordoñez Galdámez** (24), a journalist with local channel Canal 14 TV Municipal, was shot dead in the southern province of Escuintla. According to press reports, his body was discovered in a vehicle outside the primary school where he taught. He had knife wounds in the neck and chest, according to the volunteer firefighters who found him. Local media *Prensa Libre* quoted the station's director, Roberto Santizo, as saying that Ordoñez had received threats in relation to his reporting. According to the journalist's family members, Ordoñez had told them he was being extorted for 25,000 Guatemalan Quetzales (about US\$ 3,250), *Prensa Libre* reported.

## MAY 31 MEXICO

**Noel López Olguín**, a journalist with *La Verdad de Jaltipan* newspaper in the city of Veracruz, was found dead, three months after he had been kidnapped in March. Lopez, who wrote for a daily newspaper and two weekly publications in the town of Acayucan, went missing

on March 8, his wife told authorities. His body, in an advanced state of decomposition, was dumped in front of the local motel Marbella. He had been shot several times, his arms and legs had been bound and his body showed obvious signs of torture. A message found next to his body read: “This is going to happen to those who don’t understand. The message is for everyone,” according to local press reports. Valdes’ colleagues believe his murder was in retaliation for an article he had written about a leader of the notoriously violent Zetas cartel. He left behind a wife and three children.

## JUNE 13 MEXICO

**Pablo Ruelas Barraza** (38), a reporter for “Diario del Yaqui” and “El Regional” newspapers in the city of Sonora, was killed by two gunmen who attempted to kidnap him. He was a crime reporter and had received several death threats prior to his killing. Although the authorities had agreed to provide media staff at risks with protection in November 2010, Barraza had no security detail at the time of his murder.

## JUNE 15 BRAZIL

**Edinaldo Figueira**, editor of *Jornal Da Serra* newspaper in the State of Rio Grande do Norte, was killed by three gunmen who shot him dead in the municipality of Serra do Mel. He was attacked as he was on his way to work. Figueira had published an article criticising the local authorities and had started receiving death threats immediately afterwards.

## JUNE 20 MEXICO

**Miguel Ángel López Velasco** (55), a crime reporter with *Diario Notiver* newspaper in the city of Veracruz, his wife and his 21-year-old son Misael López Solana, a photographer with the same newspaper were killed in their home. Velasco, also known as Milo Vela, wrote a column called *Va de Nuez* on public security, kidnapping, drug trafficking, corruption cases and abuses of authority in his region.

## JUNE 30 COLOMBIA

**Luis Eduardo Gómez** (70), a journalist who worked for *El Heraldo de Urabá* and *Urabá al Día* newspapers, was killed in front of his wife near his home by two gunmen riding a motorbike. Gómez investigated the killing of



Journalists carry crosses wrapped in newspaper in Ciudad Juárez to protest unsolved murders of journalists. © REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez

his son in 2009 as well as the management of public accounts by the local government. He was also a witness in judiciary investigations related to paramilitary groups and local politicians.

## JULY 3 MEXICO

**Angel Castillo Corona**, a journalist with *Puntual* and *Diario de México*, newspapers was killed by attackers who beat him to death and run over his 16-year-old son several times, killing them both. Police told reporters that the attack happened on the Mexico-Santiago-Chalma road. The local media said the killing was linked to Corona’s journalistic work.

## JULY 4 HONDURAS

**Adán Benítez**, a journalist and producer with La Ceiba TV, was shot dead in La Ceiba, Atlántida department in northern Honduras. According to police, the journalist was heading home when he was stopped by two individuals who robbed him and shot him in the head. The police believed that robbery was the motive for the incident but journalists in La Ceiba explained that just a week earlier, Benítez had called into the ‘Diario de la Mañana’ morning programme on Channel 45 to denounce a car theft ring, even noting that he knew some of the criminals.

## JULY 14 HONDURAS

**Nery Jeremías Orellana** (26), Director of the community radio station, Jocondera de Candelaria, was killed by unidentified gunmen on motorbike. Police said that the gunmen pulled level with the journalist and shot him in the head. He died later at the hospital where he was taken for treatment.

## JULY 26 MEXICO

**Yolanda Ordaz de la Cruz**, a reporter with *Notiver* newspaper in the city of Veracruz, was kidnapped by armed men as she left home and his body found decapitated two days later near the offices of *Imagen* newspaper. Local media in Veracruz said the gruesome killing and the placement of the body of the crime reporter appeared to be an ominous warning to the press.

## AUGUST 2 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**José Agustín Silvestre de los Santos**, a presenter of the programme on Cana TV and a columnist with *La Voz*

de la Verdad magazine, was kidnapped in the city of La Romana and later found murdered. He had been shot twice in the stomach. Silvestre had said on his programme that the local prosecutor Jose Polanco Ramirez.

## AUGUST 25 MEXICO

**Humberto Millán Salazar**, the Director of an online publication called *A-Discussion*, was killed in the city of Culiacan with one shot to the head and his body dumped in a farm building. Witness said that Salazar had been snatched from his vehicle by at least four men on 24 August.

## SEPTEMBER 1 BRAZIL

**Vanderlei Canuto Leandro** (32), the presenter of the program *Sinal Verde* (Green Light) on Radio Frontera, was killed by unidentified gunmen who ambushed him near his home and shot him several times. Canuto, who had reportedly accused the Tabatinga municipal government of illegal purchases and misappropriating school food, died on the spot.



Forensic workers carry the body of journalist Luz Marina Paz in Tegucigalpa December 6, 2011. © REUTERS/Danny Ramirez

## SEPTEMBER 8 HONDURAS

**Medardo Flores**, a journalist with Radio Uno, was killed in the northern city of Puerto Cortés as he was driving to his ranch. Reports said that at least two gunmen pulled up along his car before spraying his car with bullets. He was hit nine times and died instantly.

## SEPTEMBER 14 MEXICO

**José Oquendo Reyes**, an investigative journalist with BTV Canal 45 who specialised in local corruption, was gunned down as he was about to enter his home in Chíncha, in the southern region of Ica. Oquendo, who produced and presented the programme *Without Borders* on BTV Canal 45, was shot five times at close range by a man on a motorcycle. He was rushed to hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

## SEPTEMBER 23 MEXICO

**Maria Elizabeth Macías Castro** (39), editor-in-chief of *Primera Hora* newspaper, was found dead with her body decapitated in the northern Tamaulipas State, reports said. A message was left on her body and local officials blamed the organised crime groups for the her gruesome murder.

## NOVEMBER 6 BRAZIL

**Gelson Domingos da Silva** (46), a cameraman who worked for several TV stations, including Andeirantes TV, was shot while covering the police operation against drug dealers in Antares, a slum in Rio de Janeiro. Media reports say the fatal shooting came when elements of the Special Operations Battalion of the federal police in City of Rio were pursuing armed groups involved in the drug trade deep inside the slum of Antares. A firefight broke up and Gelson was hit in the chest by a bullet which pierced his flak jacket as he stood filming behind the police.

## NOVEMBER 6 PANAMA

**Darío Fernández Jaen**, the owner of the radio station Mi Favorita, was killed in the city of Penonomé. Local media reports said that Jaen hosted a political commentary program on his radio station.

## DECEMBER 7 HONDURAS

**Luz Marina Paz Villalobos**, director of *Three in the News* on the Honduras News Channel (CHN), was killed on her way to work in the capital, Tegucigalpa, according to media reports. Two men on a motorbike blocked her car and fired several shots, killing the journalist and the driver, Delmer Osmar Canales Gutiérrez, who was also her cousin. The victims were believed to have been followed before the attack.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS AMERICAS

### SEPTEMBER 2 CHILE

Five employees of the Televisión Nacional de Chile (TVN) died in an accident involving a Chilean Air Force plane in the Juan Fernández archipelago, approximately 420 miles from Santiago. According to the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, the host of the

morning show “Buenos días a todos,” **Felipe Camiroaga**; reporter **Roberto Bruce**; journalist **Sylvia Slier**; assistant producer **Carolina Gatica** and cameraman **Rodrigo Cabezón** were all on their way to the archipelago to film a report on the reconstruction of the places most devastated by the 27 February 2010 earthquake and tsunami.



# MIDDLE EAST & ARAB WORLD



**MONIR ZAAROUR, Arab World and Middle East Coordinator**

**T**HE MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD HAS BEEN THE CENTRE OF GLOBAL ATTENTION throughout 2011 as hundreds of millions of people turned to the media, traditional and new, to become front row spectators to the mass demonstrations and eventual revolutions unfolding before them. Without the courage and dedication of thousands of professional journalists and ordinary citizens who risked all to upload the raw images of the violence on the street, the global public would never have witnessed history being made by the people of the region.

Unfortunately, this privilege came at a high human price, with more than 30 journalists and media workers paying with their lives, and hundreds of others injured and beaten up on the streets of Tunis, Cairo, Baghdad, Sana and elsewhere to bring to the world the story of the Arab Spring. With events still unfolding, sadly, we need to brace ourselves for more media casualties.

Although the security situation continues to improve in Iraq, it remains the most dangerous country in the region for journalists. At least 11 journalists and media workers were killed in the country this year. There is also an alarming rise in attacks on media in Iraq's Kurdish region by groups associated with political parties, responsible for attacking and setting on fire several media houses. Libya and Yemen follow Iraq in numbers of media casualties with at least five journalists killed in each. Yemen in particular is a cause for concern

because all the registered deaths are the result of sniper attacks. After the Syrian government hunted down international reporters and expelled them from the country at the beginning of the year, it turned on its own journalists. At least one journalist was killed while nine others are missing presumed abducted, in hiding, or dead. The IFJ and its members hold the government fully responsible for their fate. Meanwhile, in Palestine, photojournalists and cameramen documenting civilian protests continue to be singled out and targeted by the Israeli army to prevent coverage of the military treatment of demonstrators.

On 23 November, journalists unions across the Arab World and Middle East, organised a regional day of solidarity to mark the International Day to End Impunity. Journalists' unions and families of killed journalists in Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt and Yemen demanded justice for their colleagues who were killed on duty. In Iraq in particular, more than 380 journalists and media workers lost their lives since the 2003 American-led invasion and there has been not a single prosecution or trial for these crimes.

The political changes that are taking place across the region do not excuse new or transitional governments from their responsibility to create an environment of safety and justice. Establishing independent investigative committees should be considered a priority for the authorities as their people strive for justice.



...independent investigative committees should be considered a priority for the authorities as their people strive for justice.

Journalists are also in desperate need for proper safety training. In response, the IFJ and its affiliates have launched a regional safety training programme and campaign. Last June, it organised the first-ever media safety Training of Trainers in the region, and soon afterwards established safety offices in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen, in cooperation with journalists' unions in these countries.

The IFJ also launched its 'Safety Media Network in the Middle East and the Arab World', that will allow media

safety trainers and experts to work together in providing safety training for hundreds of journalists, raising awareness in the media community about prioritising safety and supporting journalists' unions in their campaigns against impunity. Since the launch of this programme in the summer, more than 220 journalists from eight countries have received safety training and many more will have access to this training in the coming years. The IFJ continues to call on all national and international organisations concerned with the safety of journalists to support this programme.

Photo: Egyptian anti-government demonstrators hold a symbolic funeral for journalist Ahmed Mohammed Mahmoud, killed during clashes with pro-government supporters at Tahrir Square in Cairo February 7, 2011. © REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh

# 2011 IN FOCUS MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD

## JANUARY 16 TUNISIA

**Lucas Mebrouk Dolega**, a French photojournalist died after being hit in the head by a tear-gas canister during clashes between rioters and security forces on Friday in the capital, Tunis, which left him in a coma, media reports say. Lucas Mebrouk Dolega, 32, was in Tunis for the European Pressphoto Agency (EPA), covering the protests that led to the fall of former President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

## JANUARY 20 IRAQ

**Wajdan Asaad Majid Al Jabouri**, the managing director of *Iraquna* newspaper, died in a car bomb attack in the Baguba area in the north of Baghdad. Al Jabouri was interviewing a police officer inside the police station

in the area when a car exploded outside, killing the journalist and two police officers.

## JANUARY 31 EGYPT

**Ahmed Mohammed Mahmoud**, a journalist for *Al Taawon* newspaper, was shot while on duty by a police officer on 29 January and died two days later. Media reports said that Mahmoud was photographing clashes on the streets in Cairo from the balcony of his home, not far from Tahrir Square, when he was “shot by a sniper”.

**Wael Michael Yunna**, a journalist for *Coptic TV*, died in violent clashes which followed an attack on a church in Cairo, Egypt. The journalist was among 20 people who were killed in the unrest.



Protesters in Khartoum hold pictures of Ali Hassan al-Jaber during a rally against the assassination of journalists. © REUTERS/Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah



Egyptian anti-government demonstrators hold a symbolic funeral for journalist Ahmed Mohammed Mahmoud, killed during clashes with pro-government supporters at Tahrir Square in Cairo. © REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh

## FEBRUARY 17 IRAQ

**Hilal Al Ahmadi**, an Iraqi journalist was gunned down in the city of Mosul by unidentified armed men who escaped afterwards, according to the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate (IJS). Ahmadi, a father of four, was shot as he stepped out of his home to go to work. The 50-year old journalist wrote for several newspapers, including the *Mosul Echo*, *Iraqiyoun*, *al Hadba'*, *al Isalah al Jadid* and *al Sawt al Akhar* and was well known for his critical views, says the IJS.

## FEBRUARY 24 IRAQ

**Mohamed al-Hamdani**, a correspondent for Al-Itaijah satellite TV, was killed in the city of Ramadi in Iraq's Al-Anbar province, when a suicide attacker detonated a bomb during religious celebrations, news reports said. Al-Hamdani was covering the celebrations taking place in Ramadi cultural centre.



Jamal Al-Sharabi

## MARCH 1 IRAQ

**Faisal Omar**, a presenter with Al Mowselya TV based in the city of Mosul was gunned down, two months after he had been forced to resign from his post due to death threats.

## MARCH 12 LIBYA

**Hassan Al Jaber**, a reporter for Al Jazeera, was killed as he was returning to Benghazi from a nearby town after filing a report from an opposition protest when unknown fighters opened fire on a car he and his colleagues were travelling in. Two people including Al Jaber were shot. He was rushed to hospital, but died later. Al Jaber was the first media casualty in the fighting to overthrow Colonel Gaddafi.

## MARCH 18 YEMEN

**Jamal Al-Sharabi**, a Yemeni photographer died from the gunshot wounds he sustained when he was shot by a sniper during the deadly attack by government forces on anti-government protesters in Sanaa's Taghier Square. The attack on what was billed as Freedom Friday which Al-Sharabi was covering killed at least 52 people and 126 more were wounded, reports say.

## MARCH 19 LIBYA

**Mohammad Nabbous**, founder of Libya al-Hurra TV, which broadcast from Benghazi, on Livestream, was



Left to right: Iraqi journalist Sabah al-Bazee posing for a picture at the Reuters compound in Baghdad. © REUTERS; People gathered to demand the release of Anton Hammerl, before it was revealed he was killed on 5 April by Gaddafi forces. © REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko.

shot dead in Benghazi by gunmen believed to be Gaddafi's loyalists, according to reports. Nabbous, also known as "Mo" and described as the "face of citizen journalism" in Libya set up Libya al-Hurra TV, which broadcast raw feeds and commentary from Benghazi, on Livestream, media said.

### MARCH 25 LIBYA

**Qais El Halali**, a Libyan cartoonist who became famous in Benghazi for his anti-Gaddafi graffiti and cartoons during the conflict in the country, was killed by gunmen believed to be Gaddafi's agents who stopped the car he was travelling in with friends and shot him several times. Qais had received death threats from the regime in Tripoli and his friends believed he had been watched. He was killed shortly after finishing his last cartoon at the Benghazi's main round-about where he had painted Col Gaddafi being hanged by rebels.

### MARCH 29 IRAQ

**Muammar al-Khadir Abdul Wahid**, a reporter for Eye Media News in Iraq, and **Sabah Al-Bazee**, a freelance journalist

who worked for Reuters, were among more than 50 people killed when gunmen attacked a local government building in Tikrit, the hometown of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. **Sabah al-Bazee**, 30, who had contributed to Reuters in Iraq since 2004 and also worked as cameraman for several other media organisations, suffered shrapnel wounds in an explosion, his cousin Mahmoud Salah who confirmed his death told reporters.

### APRIL 5 BAHRAIN

**Karim Fakhrawi**, founder of leading independent newspaper *Al-Wasat* died in prison after his arrest on 5 April. The authorities claimed his death was due to kidney failure but his family and other observers believe he was tortured to death.

### APRIL 5 LIBYA

**Anton Hammerl**, a South African photojournalist based in the UK was killed by forces of former Libyan leader in a desert location who opened fire on him and four other foreign reporters, two American James Foley and Clare Morgana Gillis, Spanish photographer Manu Brabo

and Nigel Chandler from Britain. Hammerl was critically injured and died later while the other four were detained until their release in May 2011.

#### APRIL 8 IRAQ

**Taha Hamid**, the head of al-Massar TV, was driving with Iraqi human rights activist Abed Farhan Thiyab when they were shot dead by gunmen who attacked their car with small arms, according to CNN report.

#### APRIL 20 LIBYA

**Tim Hetherington** and **Chris Hondros**, photojournalists covering the conflict in Libya, were killed by a mortar attack in the besieged Libyan city of Misrata.

Two other photojournalists, Guy Martin and Michael Christopher Brown, were both seriously injured by the

same mortar fire along Tripoli Street at the heart of the fighting between pro-Gaddafi forces and the rebels for the control of Misrata.

Tim Hetherington had won several distinguished prizes, including the World Press Photo Award in 2007, for his work covering conflicts over the last decade. He was also jointly responsible for the highly acclaimed Afghan war documentary, *Restrepo*.

Chris Hondros, a former nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, also won the 2006 Gold Medal Robert Capa for his “exceptional courage and initiative” in Iraq.

#### MAY 6 ALGERIA

**Ahmed Nezar**, a freelance journalist was shot dead in an area of Algeria where insurgents linked to al Qaeda are active, according to media reports quoting security



Left to right: Photographer and filmmaker Tim Hetherington pictured at a rally in eastern Libya. © REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly; Getty Images photographer Chris Hondros is pictured at his memorial service in New York. © REUTERS/Jeff Zelvansky



Anti-government protesters rush cameraman Hassan al-Wadhaf to a makeshift clinic after he was shot by a sniper while filming clashes between protesters and security forces in Sanaa. © REUTERS/Khaled Abdullah

sources in the country. Nezar was a local freelance correspondent for several French-language newspapers in Algeria.

## JUNE 10 IRAN

**Hoda Saber**, a journalist for *Iran-e-Farda*, died in suspicious circumstances while he was detained in the notorious Evin prison. The authorities claimed that Saber, a critic of the Tehran regime who was arrested in August in 2010, suffered a heart attack but 64 political prisoners sharing Saber's prison dormitory put out a statement disputing the official account. They said that Saber had gone on hunger strike to protest the death of his colleague Haleh Sahabi. On 10 June, Saber was taken to the prison clinic and returned to his cell when he started shouting that he had been beaten instead of receiving medical treatment and that he would file a complaint. A few hours later he was sent to Modares hospital where he died.

## JUNE 21 IRAQ

**Salem Alwan Al-Gharabi**, a cameraman from Iraqi satellite channel Afaq TV, was killed in a double suicide bombing in the southern city of Diwaniya. According to media reports quoting local sources, the first suicide bomber managed to force his way through the checkpoint at the entrance to the compound before setting off the explosives in his car. A suicide bomber in a second car detonated his charge about half an hour later. Al-Gharabi had gone to cover the regional council's weekly meeting. He was at the entrance to the compound when his car was destroyed by the first blast and he died on the spot.

## SEPTEMBER 8 IRAQ

**Hadi Al Mahdi**, a host of a popular programme on Tamuz Radio, was shot dead by gunmen who burst into his house and killed him before escaping. Al Mahdi, a dual national of Iraq and Denmark who had returned to his native Iraq in 2004, focused on exposing corruption cases in his radio programmes.

## SEPTEMBER 16 IRAQ

**Ahmad Fakher** and **Ali Zaalani** died in a car accident on their way from Baghdad to the city of Nasiriyah (340 Km north). They were on assignment to record a show for Al Rashid TV in Nasiriyah. Another cameraman for the TV, Ali Shamkhi, was severely injured in the accident.

## SEPTEMBER 24 YEMEN

**Hassan al-Wadhaf**, a Yemeni cameraman died in a Sana'a hospital, five days after being shot in the face by a sniper while covering an anti-government protest in the capital, according to local and international news reports. Hassan al-Wadhaf, who worked for the Arabic Media Agency, was reportedly the second journalist to be killed in Yemen since demonstrations began in February 2011.

## OCTOBER 3 YEMEN

**Abdel Majid Al-Samawi**, Al-Samawi died in a Sana'a hospital from the injuries he sustained a week earlier when a sniper shot him on 25 September.

## OCTOBER 3 YEMEN

**Abdel Hakim Al-Nour**, a cameraman, was killed during fighting in Taiz province between Yemeni forces and rebels. Al-Nour died in the bombardment of the city which caused many casualties, according to reports.

## OCTOBER 9 EGYPT

**Wael Michael Yunna**, a journalist for Coptic TV, died in violent clashes between Muslims and Christians on the streets of Cairo. The clashes were sparked by attacks on a Coptic church and police were deployed to quell the unrest in which at least 20 people lost their lives.



Medics carry a wounded anti-government protester after clashes with security forces in Sanaa on September 20, 2011. At least six people were killed.  
© REUTERS/Khaled Abdullah

## OCTOBER 27 YEMEN

**Fouad Abdel Jabbar Elshamiri**, an employee of the Al Saida TV channel was shot dead by a government's army sniper and his colleague Mohammad Abd El Ghani Dabouane sustained serious injuries. The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) said in a statement that the two staff members came under fire from snipers as they were leaving the TV Station's building. The station had been also attacked and the YJS accused the attackers of targeting journalists in an attempt to intimidate independent reporting on events taking place in the country.

## NOVEMBER 20 SYRIA

**Ferzat Jarban**, a Syrian cameraman was found dead with his eyes gouged out in the town of al-Qasir, according to news reports. Ferzat Jarban was last seen alive being arrested as he was filming anti-regime protests in the city of Homs, local sources said. His badly mutilated body was found the following morning on the town's high street, media said.

# ACCIDENTAL DEATHS MIDDLE EAST & ARAB WORLD

## OCTOBER 12 EGYPT

**Khaled Abdel Hady**, who worked for *Masreya* newspaper, died of malaria which he had contracted during a visit to South Soudan. Hady did not suffer from any symptoms until a sudden fever. After a medical checkup, he discovered he also had contracted malaria.

## OCTOBER 21 LIBYA

**Yoshihira Nomura**, Cairo bureau chief of Japan's Asahi Corp. TV and his Egyptian assistant Ms. **Shima'a Sami** died in a car accident which also killed their Libyan driver. The group was driving to the city of Sirte to cover the fighting between Gaddafi's forces and former rebels of the NTC when the accident happened. The fourth passenger, an Asahi TV cameraman was injured, according to the network.

# INTERNATIONAL **safety** FUND

## 2011 REPORT

**I**n 2011, solidarity with journalists across the globe was very much in need and the IFJ Safety Fund provided once again a lifeline to many colleagues who became victims of conflicts and political instability, requiring assistance for protection, medical care and legal representation. The situation was much more acute for journalists on the front line during the Arab Spring where they faced the wrath of the region's dictators in the grip of brinkmanship and desperate to stop media reporting on violence they unleashed in their last stand to hold on to power.

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

The Fund has disbursed over €50.000 during 2011 in response to requests for humanitarian assistance resulting from crisis situations affecting many journalists and media staff in need of emergency help. As in previous years, the beneficiaries came from all over the world and show the scope of attacks on journalists — threats, lawsuits, detention and forced exile which remain unacceptably high.

Furthermore, the IFJ contributed to the relief for media in Egypt at the height of the uprising, including the purchase of communications equipment which provided journalists caught up in the violence with a reliable means of contact with the Federation to receive crucial safety advice during the crisis. The Fund also continued to support families of journalists detained in Iran as a result of the media clampdown following the disputed presidential elections of June 2009.

The IFJ provided financial assistance to the National Union of Somali Journalists to help families of journalists murdered in a spate of targeted killings as well those displaced by the fighting in the country. In Latin America, the IFJ Safety Fund helped journalists who needed to get to safety following death threats from armed groups because of their professional activities.

The IFJ, through its Safety Fund, continued to help pay hospital bills of injured journalists, supported exiled journalists and contributed to legal costs in court actions to defend journalists in countries where often poverty and social conflict make it impossible for them to have proper legal representation.

The IFJ International Safety Fund covers the following areas of assistance:

- The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily to provide assistance for journalists and media staff who are 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 a 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.

Whenever the IFJ gives assistance there is a monitoring and reporting process to ensure that the



NUSOJ Puntland Coordinator Abdwell Hassan Gooni hands over Safety Fund payment to radio journalist Hassan Mohamed Anteno to assist with his medical expenses. *Photo courtesy of NUSOJ*

money goes to where it is intended. In 2010 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ headquarters.

Over the years the IFJ Safety Fund has been used to produce publications as part of the IFJ Safety Programme. These have included the IFJ Safety Fund brochures produced in English, French Japanese and Spanish and the IFJ Safety Manual, Live News (see Press Freedom and Safety at [www.ifj.org](http://www.ifj.org)) for journalists travelling to conflict areas.

Live News has been produced 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 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.

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 2012 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

**India:** The Fund provided assistance to a journalist who was forced to move from his city to the capital, Delhi, as a result of death threats he received because of his reporting on corruption.

**Pakistan:** The family of a Pakistani journalist murdered in a car bomb received humanitarian assistance from the Fund to help his widow look after their five young children.

**Sri Lanka:** The IFJ Fund covered part of the travel costs of a Sri Lankan journalist who needed to escape arrest and found refuge in the United States of America.

## AMERICAS

**Colombia:** The Fund provided assistance to three Colombian journalists. One needed help funding a legal case against harassment from state intelligence services while the other two, including a former union leader, were forced to escape to safety after being threatened by criminal organisations in the country.

**Peru:** One journalist received assistance to help with relocation to another part of the country after he was threatened for his reporting.

## AFRICA

**Somalia:** The Fund provided emergency assistance to a journalist and union official who was forced to leave his home due to death threats from Al-Shabab militants. Two journalists wounded in armed attacks also received help towards their medical treatment and the Fund gave financial support to families of two journalists killed in Somalia.

**The Gambia:** The Fund contributed to measures which were taken to ensure the protection of the leader of the Gambian Press Union who faced threats in exile.

**Sierra Leone:** Another Gambian journalist who fled to Freetown in Sierra Leone received humanitarian assistance for living expenses.

**Eritrea:** One journalist who fled to Uganda received assistance from the Fund for living expenses. The Fund also supported another Ugandan journalist who sustained injuries while reporting on anti-government protests and needed medical treatment.

**Rwanda:** The Fund supported one Rwandan journalist who fled to Kenya, fearing for his safety.

**Zimbabwe:** The Fund contributed financially to legal representation provided by the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ) to its members who were defendants in criminal and defamation cases.

## EUROPE

**Croatia:** The IFJ Safety Fund paid for the relocation to Sweden of a journalist for his safety and security.

**Azerbaijan:** The Fund contributed to the appeal for help in favour of the family of a leading journalist who had been held for a long time, leaving his family in destitution.

## MIDDLE EAST

**Bahrain:** The Fund provided emergency assistance to one Bahraini journalist who escaped the media clampdown to Egypt.

**Iran:** The Fund continued to contribute to the support of families of Iranian journalists who are in jail. This support is channelled through officials of the Association of Iranian Journalists (AoIJ).

**Syria:** The Fund supported the family of a dual national of Syria and Norway who was arrested in his native Syria where he was on a media assignment. The assistance was for securing the services of a local lawyer to follow his case while in detention.

**Yemen:** The Fund provided assistance to the family of a jailed journalist to help them through the financial hardship brought about by his long detention as the breadwinner in the family.

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 Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism

**T**he 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.

INTERNATIONAL

# safety

**FUND**

## It's the **thought** that **counts**

**W**hen 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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web: <http://www.ifj.org>

**The IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists with members in more than 130 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 in the past 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:



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