IFJ list of journalists & media staff killed in 2016
122 Total journalists & media staff killed in 2016

Targeted, bomb attacks and crossfire killings

Accidents, illness, diseases, natural disasters and related deaths
General Secretary Report

ANTHONY BELLANGER
IFJ GENERAL SECRETARY

Every time a journalist is killed the IFJ publishes a story. Every story requires a quote.

Sometimes it can be hard to find the words to adequately express the horror and pain we feel at the killing of each of our colleagues. Imagine how the families and colleagues are left feeling when their loved one dies simply doing their job.

But our feelings of sympathy, of sadness are just a part of it. Too often the story ends there. Investigations don’t happen. Evidence is misplaced, cover-ups and official obstruction prevent justice being done. In too many cases the killers get away with it.

The fine words of the international community or governments rarely lead to real justice being done.

We will continue to tell the stories and gather the statistic of all our fallen colleagues – those who risked their lives so that the world would be better informed.

But we won’t rest there. Alongside the work of our Safety Fund in providing direct support to threatened journalists and our safety campaign which provides much needed training and advocacy work, this year we launched our Tackling Impunity: Turning Words into Action campaign to bring pressure to bear on the international community to tackle the impunity crisis.

The international community will point to the reduction in the number of journalists killed over the past 12 months as a sign of their success in protecting journalists. It is not. We welcome every fall in the number of our colleagues killed. But the reality is, in the absence of official action, many have resorted to self-censorship to protect their lives. The numbers of journalists threatened and jailed continues to rise.

So there is no room for complacency.

This publication should serve as both a tribute to our colleagues and all those who take the risks to shine the light in the world’s darkest and most dangerous corners and a call to action for the international community and all those who care about press freedom.
Lest We Forget:

MINDY RAN
CO-CHAIR, IFJ GENDER COUNCIL

A Tribute to Female Journalists and Media Staff Killed in 2016

It is our responsibility each year to bear witness, to mourn and to re-member those journalists who have been slain for doing their jobs. While numbers of killings have reduced slightly in 2016, the threats to press freedom – and, therefore – to journalists’ lives appear to be on the rise again. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the horrific numbers of journalists imprisoned and attacked with impunity, including female journalists.

Let us never forget those sisters lost in 2016:

ZAINAB MIRZAAE and MARIAM IBRAHIMI, dubbing artists for TOLO TV, who were killed (along with 5 other colleagues) on a bus targeted by a suicide bomber on January 20 in Afghanistan.

ANABEL FLORES SALAZAR was a reporter for El Sol de Orizaba y El Buen Tono in Mexico. She had been held captive in her home by armed men on 8 February, and found dead the following day, her hands tied and her body showing signs of torture. According to the Spanish News Agency EFE, she had received death threats from Los Zetas, a crime cartel, as a result of investigations against them in the newspaper.

SAGAL SALAD OSMAN, worked for the state broadcaster, Radio Mogadishu as a presenter and producer. She was shot dead in the Somalia capital Mogadishu on 5 June. The AFP quoted colleagues as saying that she was gunned down near a university by unidentified gunmen who fled.

ZAMIRA ESTHER BAUTISTA, a reporter for El Mercurio and and La Verdad newspapers in the Mexican city of Victoria, was gunned down on 20 June as she was driving to work.
## Total 93: Targeted killings, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents

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## Total 29: Accidents, illness, diseases, natural disasters and related deaths

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Relatives and journalists pray during the funeral of Abdiasis Abi Haji, a Somali radio journalist who was killed by unknown gunmen in Somalia’s capital Mogadishu, September 28, 2016. REUTERS/Feisal Omar
The Africa region witnessed a marked reduction in recorded killings of journalists and media staff, from 22 in 2015 to eight fatalities in 2016.

Somalia again tops the continent’s list of the most dangerous countries for journalists with three killings, followed by Libya where two media professionals lost their lives. The other victims were from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and South Sudan.

However, this figure does not tell the whole story as there remain threats to media safety in several hot spots across Africa from political repression and violent extremism. They include forced disappearances such as that of Burundi journalist Jean Bigirimana who has been missing for months and is now widely feared killed at the hands of the regime’s operatives. Many of his Burundi and South Sudanese colleagues were forced to flee their homelands out of fear of meeting the same fate.

The year was also marked by violent clampdowns on media during the elections in Uganda and Gambia, as well as serious attacks on media professionals in Kenya, while political demonstrations also resulted in attacks on journalists in the region.

Therefore, despite the single digit number of journalists and media staff killed during 2016, journalism on the African continent remains in the grip of violence, in part fuelled by the failure on the part of governments to tackle the issue of impunity. There is an urgent need to continue mobilising African journalists and their organisations with a view to engaging their governments and parliaments on readdressing the situation.
In this regard, there are some welcome signs of political engagement at the continental level. In its statement of 2 November 2016 to mark the UN Day against impunity for crimes targeting journalists and media staff, the African Union Commission (AUC) expressed its commitment to the safety of journalists and called on its member states to protect them, and to investigate crimes against journalists.

The African Court of Human and Peoples’ Rights and the regional courts have also engaged in the fight against impunity, and shown a willingness to foster the respect of freedom of expression, safety of journalists and to end impunity. These initiatives provide opportunities for media professionals to address the media safety crisis and the issue of impunity for violence in journalism. The IFJ and its African affiliates stand ready to continue their advocacy work on these issues and take the lead in promoting media protection in Africa.

Targeted killings, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents

FEBRUARY 5 - GUINEA

EL HADJ MOHAMED DIALLO, The reporter who worked for the news websites Guinée7 and Afrik was shot and killed during clashes between rival factions of the West African nation’s main opposition party, according to witnesses and the government quoted in media reports.

“He was shot at point-blank range. I’m here next to the body at the morgue right now,” said Ibrahima Sory Traoré, publishing director of Guinee7.com for which Diallo worked. Reports said El Hadj Mohamed Diallo was killed at the headquarters of the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) in the capital Conakry during violence which broke out after one member, who had been excluded from the party, attempted to force his way in with his supporters to attend a leadership meeting.

It was not immediately clear who killed Diallo, though some witnesses said the shot was fired by a UFDG member involved in the clashes, reports added. In a statement later, the government confirmed it was opening an investigation for voluntary homicide.

JUNE 5 - SOMALIA

SAGAL SALAD OSMAN, the female journalist who worked for the state broadcaster, Radio Mogadishu, was shot dead in the Somali capital, the French news agency AFP, reported quoting the victim’s colleagues.

AFP quoted colleagues of Sagal Salad Osman, a presenter and producer at Radio Mogadishu, as saying that she was gunned down near a university in Hodon district by unidentified gunmen who then fled afterwards.

JULY 21 - LIBYA

ABDELQADIR FASSOUK, the 28-year-old correspondent for Arraedd television was killed whilst filming forces allied with the government as they circled Islamic State bases on the outskirts of the Libyan coastal city of Sirte, according to media reports. He was shot in the head and died instantly.
NOVEMBER 15 - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
MARCEL LUBALA, the reporter for the state-TV, Radiotélévision Nationale Congolaise (RTNC) was killed in Mbuji-Mayi, the third largest city of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Reports said that armed men forced their way into his home in the early hours of the morning as he slept with his family. He was shot several times as he tried to escape. His murder was believed to have been a targeted killing as his killers first called out his name before breaking down his housedoor. They also reportedly shouted “we finally got him”, after killing him.

Marcel, who presented a programme on hygiene and environment, had worked at the RTNC for 15 years. The authorities announced an investigation into his killing and five people had been arrested in relation to the murder.

SEPTEMBER 27 - SOMALIA
ABDIASIS MOHAMED ALI, the reporter with Radio Shabelle, was shot five times in the chest and the neck by two gunmen in the capital Mogadishu, according to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), an IFJ affiliate. The attack took place in the Jiiro-garoob neighbourhood of Yaqshid district in northern Mogadishu as the journalist left the radio station.

SEPTEMBER 27 - SOUTH SUDAN
ISSAC VUNI, the veteran South Sudanese journalist who went missing with his brother in June, after unknown gunmen took them from his home, was found dead in a neighbour’s farm in his village.

According to reports published by the Sudan Tribune, Vuni’s wife confirmed that “he was kidnapped in June at gunpoint and never returned home.”

OCTOBER 2 - LIBYA
JEROEN OERLEMANS, the Dutch photographer was killed by sniper fire after being shot in the chest while covering clashes in the Libyan coastal city of Sirte between the so-called Islamic State (IS) and government forces.

According to media reports, the photographer was working for a number of news organisations, including the Belgian weekly Knack magazine.

NOVEMBER 6 - SOMALIA
MAHAD ALI MOHAMED, the journalist for Radio Codka Mudug (Voice of Mudug Radio) was seriously wounded in the head after a stray bullet hit him as he was leaving his house for work, according to NUSOJ. He was rushed to Galkayo Hospital where he was pronounced dead.
A woman takes photos of images of murdered journalists during a demonstration against the murder of a journalist, Anabel Flores outside the Government of Veracruz building in Mexico City, 11 February, 2016. A Mexican journalist was kidnapped in the violent state of Veracruz and found dead on 9 February, 2016, the prosecutors’ office in neighboring Puebla state said, the latest victim of a wave of attacks on reporters in the country. Anabel Flores had been violently dragged from her home in Veracruz early on Monday morning by a group of armed men. Her body was found on a highway in Puebla and later identified by her family, Veracruz prosecutors said. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY
With the tally of 44 journalists killed in 2016, the situation of journalists’ safety in the Americas is a story of two tales.

The death toll is bloated by the 20 Brazilian media professionals who lost their lives in the tragic plane crash near the town of Medellin in Colombia. But the fact that even more journalists and media staff died in violent incidents speaks to the prevailing media safety crisis in the region.

While there was a decrease in killings of journalists from last year in countries like Colombia and Honduras, the levels of violence rose in others such as Mexico and Guatemala. Furthermore, the spectre of deadly violence in journalism spread to Peru and Venezuela, raising new fears for the safety of our colleagues in more parts of the region.

Most of the killings occurred in countries with an environment characterized by systematic abuse of power blamed on security forces as well as by the criminal gangs and drug traffickers’ entrenched reign of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Indeed, the decrease in attacks on journalists and media staff is only due to the fact that journalists in some countries resort to self-censorship and are forced into exile to stay out of trouble and spare their lives.

These phenomena take place within an environment of exclusion, inequality and the consequent rupture of the social fabric.
This panorama, in addition to the lack of political will to prevent, investigate and punish attacks on journalists and other media staff, conjures up a gloomy picture for independent and safe journalism in the region. It creates the perfect storm where impunity holds sway and contributes to further violence and severely threatens the right to freedom of expression and access to the information of society as a whole.

Faced with this desperate situation, journalists and other media staff in the Americas look to the International Federation of Journalists and its affiliates in the region, to lead the fight against impunity for crimes against media professionals.

**Targeted killings, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents**

**JANUARY 20 - VENEZUELA**
RICARDO DURÁN, the Director of Venezuela TV and a member of the journalists’ organisation in Venezuela the Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Prensa (SNTP), was killed outside his home by people who have not been identified.

**JANUARY 21 - MEXICO**
MARCOS HERNÁNDEZ BAUTISTA, the journalist who worked for Noticias Voz in Oaxaca, was found dead near his car with a gunshot wound in the town of San Andrés Huaxpaltepec.

Bautista reported on the precarious situations of community and indigenous radio stations in the region. In particular, he had covered the closing down of a cultural radio station for the indigenous community, XEJAM by the National Commission for the development of indigenous people. Furthermore, the journalist had spoken of fear in his newsroom as a result of their reporting on local and national politics.

**JANUARY 22 - MEXICO**
REINEL MARTÍNEZ CERQUEDA, the 43-year-old media worker for the community radio El Manantial was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the municipality of Santiago Laollaga, Oaxaca state. According to media reports, the journalist’s colleague said that the killing was in connection with the victim’s professional activity.

**FEBRUARY 06 - HONDURAS**
MARLON DAVID MARTÍNEZ, the host at TopMusic, part of of Invosa Group which also owns Radio Cadena Voices (RCV) and Love 98 Radio, was shot dead alongside three friends by unidentified gunmen in San Pedro Sula. Martínez, also known as El Socio was known for his comments and strong views about local politics. On the day of the shooting, Martínez had spoken out against the appointment of a Supreme Court judge following a secret vote, demanding transparency in the process to appoint judges to ensure the independence of the judiciary, according to the RCV news Director.

**FEBRUARY 09 - MEXICO**
ANABEL FLORES SALAZAR, the reporter for El Sol de Orizaba y El Buen Tono who was held captive in her home by armed men on 8 February, was found dead the following day with her hands tied and her body showing signs of torture. According to the Spanish News Agency EFE, staff at the El Bueno Tono had reported death threats from the crime cartel called Los Zetas because of the investigations reported in the newspaper. Credit: REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

**FEBRUARY 20 - MEXICO**
MOISÉS DAGDUG LUTZOW, the Director of the radio programme La Grande de Tabasco on Radio XEVX since 1980, was gunned down at his home by unidentified attackers. The 65-year-old media executive and former Member of Parliament had reported receiving death threats over his criticism of the federal government in the state of Tabasco.

**MARCH 10 - BRAZIL**
JOAO VALDECIR DE BORBA, the 51-year-old presenter at Radio Difusora AM in Sao Jorge do Oeste, a town in the southern state of Parana around 140 kilometers (87 miles) from the border with Argentina, was shot dead by gunmen live on air. In a statement, the station said that the attackers had knocked on the door and been allowed in before shooting Joao Valdecir de Borba in the abdomen after locking one of the presenter’s colleagues in the restroom. The suspect subsequently fled in a dark-colored Fiat Strada, according to witnesses quoted in the local daily Gazeta do Povo. The journalist had worked at Radio Difusora AM for a decade, where he hosted several music programs, according to the station’s statement.
MARCH 17 - GUATEMALA
MARIO ROBERTO SALAZAR BARAHONA, the 32-year-old Director of Radio Estéreo Azúcar was shot dead in Asunción Mita, located in southern Jutiapa Department. Gunmen on a motorbike opened fire on the journalist as he was sitting in his car.

APRIL 25 - MEXICO
FRANCISCO PACHECO BELTRÁN, the correspondent of El Sol de Acapulco and columnist of El Foro de Taxco newspapers was shot dead outside his home in Taxco, a town of Guerrero state, one of the most dangerous areas in Mexico. While he had not reported any threats in recent days, it is believed that Beltrán was investigating corruption and insecurity in his city.

APRIL 30 - GUATEMALA
DIEGO SALOMÓN ESTEBAN GASPAR, the 22-year-old staff of Radio Sembrador, a community radio in Playa Grande, was murdered by gunmen as he was riding his motorbike. The radio station had been receiving threats since 2015.

MAY 14 - MEXICO
MANUEL TORRES, the editor and founder of the web site Noticias MT was killed by a single gunshot in the head in Poza Rica, located in the state of Veracruz. Reports said that Torres had previously contributed to Aztéca Veracruz TV, the local newspaper Noreste as well as to another news website Radiover de Xalapa.

JUNE 07 - GUATEMALA
VÍCTOR HUGO VALDÉS CARDONA, the 65-year-old veteran TV presenter at Chiquimula de Visión was shot and killed by people on a motorbike near his home in the municipality of Chiquimula, in the east of the country while he was out exercising.

JUNE 19 - MEXICO
ELIDIO RAMOS ZÁRATE, the reporter for El Sur newspaper was murdered in the state of Oaxaca while covering teachers’ protests against the education reform in the state, according to the Federation of Journalists in Latin America and Caribbean (FEPALC).

The journalist had reportedly received threats, warning him against reporting on violent incidents during days of mobilisation in Oaxaca state, Fepalc added, quoting the El Sur’s Managing Editor.

JUNE 19 - HONDURAS
ELMER CRUZ, the body of the journalist who worked as a presenter for Tele Morazán 10 and Max TV 22 was found in the municipality of Morazan in the north of country. His belongings were left intact, removing robbery as a motive.

JUNE 20 - MEXICO
ZAMIRA ESTHER BAUTISTA, the female reporter for El Mercurio and La Verdad newspapers in the Mexican city of Victoria, Tamaulipas state, was gunned down in the morning as she was driving to work. She became the second Mexican journalist killed in as many days following the murder of journalist Elido Ramos Zárate on 19 June.

According to the Federation of Journalists in Latin America and Caribbean (FEPALC), 15 journalists have been killed and 17 others disappeared in the state of Tamaulipas since 2010.

JUNE 26 - GUATEMALA
ÁLVARO ALFREDO ACEITUNO LÓPEZ, the Director of a local radio ‘Illusion’ was gunned down in the municipality of Coatepeque located in the Department of Quetzaltenango. According to media reports quoting eye witnesses, the journalist was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on a motorbike who opened fire on him a few meters from his home as he was waiting for a bus. He was hit in the head and taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Media organisations in Guatemala condemned the targeted killing of López, who also presented a programme called “Acontecer Coatepecano” which discussed various issues including health, security, education and justice.

JULY 20 - MEXICO
PEDRO TAMAYO ROSAS, the journalist for El Piñero de la Cuenca newspaper and Al Calor Político website was gunned down on the doorstep of his home at night as he was with his family. Since January 2016, Rosas who was known for his reporting on violence in the locality of Tierra Blanca in his native state of Veracruz, had received numerous threats from drug lords and was granted police protection.
JULY 24 - BRAZIL
JOÃO MIRANDA DO CARMO, the editor of SAD Sin Censura, an online media outlet, was shot dead in Santo Antônio do Descoberto in an attack colleagues believed was linked to his reporting on local administration. The authorities subsequently arrested a suspect named Rooney da Silva Morais who is accused of having shot the journalist several times.

AUGUST 17 - BRAZIL
MAURÍCIO CAMPOS ROSA, the 64-year-old veteran photo-journalist who had worked for various news outlets in Brazil and published in O Grito magazine for the last two decades, was shot five times in the back as he was walking to his car after leaving a friend’s house in Santa Luzia, a district of Belo Horizonte, the capital city of the Minas Gerais state. He was taken to hospital that evening but died shortly before midnight.

SEPTEMBER 04 - GUATEMALA
FELIPE DAVID MUNGUIÁ JIMÉNEZ, the 35-year-old cameraman for Canal 21 was gunned down in the municipality of Santa Maria Xalapán, Jalapa Department. The victim was shot near a community assembly where he was a participant.

Jiménez had received death threats one day before the shooting. The police arrested Raúl Antonio Jiménez Cruz, who had been released from prison after serving ten years for another murder, as a suspect in the media worker’s killing.

SEPTEMBER 14 - MEXICO
AURELIO CABRERA CAMPOS, the Director of El Gráfico de la Sierra, a regional weekly, was killed in the municipality of Huauchinango, Puebla State after being shot several times while he was driving his car. He was taken to hospital for treatment but died shortly afterwards. The 56-year-old covered crime in La Sierra Norte, focusing on abductions and homicides.

The authorities claimed the killing may be linked to personal problems but the General Secretary of the Sindicato Nacional de Redactores de Prensa (SNRP), an IFJ affiliate, accused the federal, state and local officials of trying to dismiss the journalistic activity of the victim as the prime motive for the crime.

NOVEMBER 06 - GUATEMALA
HAMILTON HERNÁNDEZ, the 28-year-old TV presenter at Canal 5 of the show called Punto Rojo, was shot dead with his wife in the city of Coatepeque, south west of Guatemala. Unidentified gunmen opened fire on the couple who were riding a motorbike.

NOVEMBER 20 - PERU
HERNÁN CHOQUEPATA ORDONEZ, the radio presented for La Ribereña, also known by his pseudonym ‘Randy’ was attacked by unidentified assailants during the show he hosted called “Hablan los pueblos” (The villages speak) in the province of Camana, Peru. He suffered severe head injuries and was taken to hospital but died before arriving there. The journalist and his colleagues, who were often critical of the local authorities, had been receiving threats for more than a month and had reported them to the security authorities.

DECEMBER 10 - MEXICO
JESÚS ADRIÁN RODRÍGUEZ SAMANIEGO, the journalist for a local radio was shot dead outside his home in the Mexican district of Chihuahua. According to media reports, Samaniego worked in his station’s political service and at times was a crime reporter, investigating drug trafficking. His last investigations on record concerned the alleged torture of two indigenous brothers who were accused of attacking a governmental caravan in 2009.
Accidents

**November 30 - COLOMBIA**

20 sport journalists from Brazil were among the 75 victims of the ill-fated plane carrying the players of the Brazilian football team Chapecoense which crashed near the Colombian city of Medellin. Chapecoense was flying to Colombia to play the final match of Copa Sur Americana against Atlético Nacional de Colombia. The plane took off in Sao Paulo, stopped in Bolivia on the way to its final destination in Medellin. The journalists who died in the plane crash are:

- **VICTORINO CHERMONT** (Fox Sports Brasil), **RODRIGO SANTANA GONÇALVES** (Fox Sports Brasil), **DEVAIR PASCHOALON** (Fox Sports Brasil), **LILACIO PEREIRA JR.** (Fox Sports Brasil), **PAULO CLEMENT** (Fox Sports Brasil), **MARIO SERGIO** (Fox Sports Brasil), **GUILHERME MARQUES** (Globo), **ARI DE ARAÚJO JR.** (Globo), **GUILHERME LAARS** (Globo), **GIOVANE KLEIN VICTÓRIA** (RBS), **BRUNO MAURI DA SILVA** (RBS), **DJALMA ARAÚJO NETO** (RBS), **ANDRÉ PODIACKI** (RBS), **LAION ESPÍNDOLA** (Globo Esporte), **RENNAN AGNOLIN** (Radio West Capital), **GELSON GALIOTTO** (Radio Super Conda), **DOUGLAS DORNELES** (Radio de Chapecó), **FERNANDO SCHARDONG** (Rádio Chapecó), **EDSON EBELINY** (Rádio Super Condá) and **JACIR BIAVATTI** (Rádio Vang FM).

According to reports, there were six survivors, journalist Rafael Henzel of Radio Oeste, three football players and two members of the crew.

Credits: (top to bottom)

Football Soccer - 2017 Copa Libertadores draw - CONMEBOL headquarters, Luque, Paraguay - 21/12/2016. Video showing journalist Guilherme van der Laars, one of the victims of the plane crash that killed members of Brazil’s Chapecoense team, is screened before the draw. REUTERS/Jorge Adorno

Relatives of Brazilian journalist Guilherme Marques, who died in a plane accident that crashed into Colombian jungle with Brazilian soccer team Chapecoense onboard near Medellin, mourn during a mass in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 29, 2016. REUTERS/Pilar Olivares

Funeral workers place ribbons with names on the coffins holding the remains of the victims who died in an accident of the plane that crashed into the Colombian jungle with Brazilian soccer team Chapecoense onboard, in Medellin, Colombia December 1, 2016. REUTERS/Jaime Saldarriaga
Afghans take part in a burial ceremony of Afghan journalist Zabihullah Tamanna, in Kabul, Afghanistan June 7, 2016. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani
A look across the IFJ’s map of media workers killed around the world in 2016 shows a deadly pall over South Asia – barely a country in this challenged sub-region remains untouched from the loss of one of our own by targeted attacks or suicide bombs.

In the last two years, the IFJ Asia-Pacific cautiously noted a marked reduction in media killings in Pakistan where all too many people have lost their lives covering “breaking news” bombing scenarios and for simply doing their jobs. But while actions in Pakistan to tackle journalist fatalities and shocking impunity levels finally seem to be making some difference to stem the tide, the situation in neighbouring Afghanistan and India shows a worrying trajectory.

In Afghanistan, it was a brutal year from the outset which began with the loss of seven media workers from Tolo TV in a grisly suicide bomb attack on their transport van as they left work on January 20. The incident followed sustained threats by the Taliban on the news outlet for its media coverage of the Taliban takeover of Kunduz the year before. Another 25 civilians were wounded in the same attack.

Sadly, more deaths followed: Afghanistan is now our region’s frontline. By the year’s end, 13 journalists and media workers were dead and the country is now ranked second in the IFJ figures as the most dangerous for journalists globally, after Iraq.
Across the Asia Pacific region, 28 journalists and media workers lost their lives to their profession in 2016 – accounting for a quarter of all media deaths recorded by the IFJ globally in the year. Most were gunned down in direct attacks. Many of them were reporting on the toughest issues: illegal mining and forestry, corruption, black market activities, political and criminal mafia operations.

What is becoming clear in the case of India is that despite being the world’s biggest democracy, freedom of expression and critical reporting increasingly has a murderous price. Five more media killings were recorded in 2016, taking the total death count to 40 in the last five years alone – most of them murders.

In November, the Asia-Pacific affiliates issued a statement to the Indian government, calling for the immediate enactment of a journalists’ Protection Act at the national level and other mechanisms to address the suffering of families of slain and attacked journalists.

The reopening of investigations into murdered Sri Lankan editor Lasantha Wikremetunge and convictions in the murders of Ayub Khattak in Pakistan and Desiderio Camangyan in the Philippines were hard-fought wins achieved in 2016 and should not go without mention.

But as long as these are the exception rather than the rule and we continue to lose a journalist to murder every 13 days, then we still have the greatest challenges before us.

Targeted killings, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents

JANUARY 16 - PAKISTAN
MUHAMMAD UMAR, the correspondent for a local newspaper was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near Niazi Chowk, Dera Ismail Khan, a town in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. Umar sustained critical injuries and died on arrival at the District Headquarters Hospital.

JANUARY 19 - PAKISTAN
MEHBOOB SHAH AFRIDI, the 33-year-old Aaj TV journalist was killed in a suicide bomb attack on the outskirts of Peshawar at the Jamrud Check Point, in Khyber area. The blast also killed at least a dozen others at the scene. Credit: PFUJ

JANUARY 20 - AFGHANISTAN
According to reports, seven members of Kaboora Production, which produces content for TOLO TV, Lemar TV, Arman FM, Arakozia FM and TOLO News of the MOBY Media Group, were killed when their bus was targeted in a bomb attack in south western Kabul. Reports said that a suicide bomber rammed a motorcycle into the bus before detonating a bomb. The victims included: MOHAMMAD JAWAD HUSSAINI, video editor, ZAINAB MIRZAEE, dubbing artist, MEHRI AZIZI, graphic designer, MARIAM IBRAHIMI, dubbing artist, MOHAMMAD ALI MOHAMMADI, dubbing artist, HUSSAIN AMIRI, and MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN, who was driving the vehicle. 25 civilians were also reportedly wounded in the attack.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. They had previously threatened TOLO TV in October 2015 saying they no longer considered TOLO TV as a media outlet but a military target. “No employee, anchor, office, news team and reporter of these TV channels holds any immunity,” the group said.

JANUARY 19 - AFGHANISTAN
HAJI MOHAMMAD ZUBAIR KHAKSAR, the correspondent for the government-run Nangarhar TV and Radio network, in the Afghan district of Surkhrod, was shot dead by unidentified assailants as he was returning home from a private gathering. According to reports, Khaksar had received threats from Daesh.
FEBRUARY 14 - INDIA
TARUN MISHRA, the bureau chief of the Jan Sandesh Times, a Hindi newspaper in Sultanpur, in eastern Uttar Pradesh, was driving to Sultanpur with his uncle when two unidentified people on a motorcycle stopped the car and opened fire. Mishra was rushed to hospital but died on the way. According to the Uttar Pradesh journalists’ union, Mishra was potentially targeted for his writings about illegal market activities in Uttar Pradesh, sometimes referred to as the ‘mud mafia’.

FEBRUARY 16 - PHILIPPINES
ELVIS ORDANIZA, the 49-year-old reporter for radio station dxWO Power99 FM was killed when he was shot twice in the chest at his home in Zamboanga del Sur as he was preparing dinner. He was rushed to hospital but died on arrival. According to Ordaniza’s colleagues, he had been reporting about the problem of illegal drugs and gambling in the town of Pitogo where he worked. Credit: NUJP

APRIL 25 - BANGLADESH
ZULHAZ MANNAN, the 40 year-old editor of Bangladesh's first LGBTIQ magazine Roopbaan and local staffer of USAID, was hacked to death along with his friend, Tanay Fahim, at his residence in Dhaka’s Kalabagan area. Both victims were well-known LGBTIQ activists in Bangladesh. Mannan and Fahim were attacked by a gang of six men posing as couriers. Mannan had received a number of threats online from radical Islamists in the lead up to the third annual Rainbow Rally, which was to be held on Bengali New Year.

MAY 07 - PAKISTAN
KHURRAM ZAKI, the 40-year-old editor of the website Let Us Build Pakistan was gunned down in a restaurant in Karachi by four unidentified gunmen riding motorcycles. Zaki’s friend, who was having dinner with, and an innocent bystander were also injured in the attack.

The website Let Us Build Pakistan promotes “a progressive, inclusive and democratic Pakistan.” Previously, Zaki had worked as current affairs editor for News One TV and was responsible for infotainment and religious programming. Credit: Zaki_Twitter
OCTOBER 16 - AFGHANISTAN
YAQUB SHARAFAT, the senior provincial reporter for the state-run Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) was shot dead by unknown armed men in Rasala area of the provincial capital Qalat, Zabul province. He sustained serious gunshot injuries and died on the way to the hospital. The police began investigations but is yet to arrest anyone. No group has claimed responsibility for the killing. Credit: AIJA

NOVEMBER 04 - AFGHANISTAN
NEMATULLAH ZAHIR, the local reporter for Kabul-based Ariana TV, was killed in a bomb blast when he was on a reporting trip with two other colleagues near Lashkargah city. AIJA Helmand president Zainullah Stanekzai and a reporter of Zwandon TV survived the explosion. Stanikzai reportedly said: “We were on our way to the 2nd police district where fighting was underway when the vehicle we were traveling in hit a roadside bomb. One reporter was killed another wounded and the blast left an impact on me as well.” Credit: AIJA

NOVEMBER 12 - INDIA
DHARMENDRA SINGH, the 35-year-old correspondent from Hindi daily Dainik Bhaskar at Rohtas in Bihar was shot by three unidentified gunman on motorbikes who opened fire on him at point-blank range while he was drinking tea at a stall near his home in Sasaram. He was hit in the stomach and died on the way to hospital. His colleagues believe the incident may be linked to his reporting on illegal stone mining. His murder, six months after the killing of Rajdeo Ranjan in May which is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), throws a spotlight on the abysmal law and order situation in Bihar.

DECEMBER 13 - BURMA (MYANMAR)
SOE MOE TUN, the 35-year-old crime reporter with Daily Eleven was found dead on the side of the road in Monywa, in northwestern Sagaing. The journalist was found with facial and head injuries, indicating murder. Soe was reporting on illegal logging in Sagaing at the time of his death.
DECEMBER 19 - PHILIPPINES

LARRY QUE, the publisher of Catadunanes News Now was shot in the head as he was entering his offices, in Virac, Catadunanes, in central Philippines. He died from his injuries the following day in hospital. Que’s murder came after he published his column, which criticised local officials over their alleged negligence in allowing the setting up on the island-province of a recently raided shabu laboratory that authorities claimed was the “biggest” so far discovered in the country.

According to the NUJP, a second journalist, broadcaster Jinky Tabor, who was a witness to the raids that discovered the lab also received death threats. Credit: NUJP

DECEMBER 16 - AFGHANISTAN

MOHAMMAD NASIR MUDASI, the 53-year-old station manager and senior program organiser for Mili Payam (National Message) Afghan radio station in MuhamedAgha District of Logar Province in southern Kabul, was gunned down by two unidentified gunmen as he was leaving his workplace. Mudasir, founding member of the Afghan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA), died on the spot. According to the AIJA, Mudasir and other workers at the station had received persistent threats over the past two years. Photo: Funeral of Madasi

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People place candles in memory of passengers and crew members of Russian military Tu-154 plane, which crashed into the Black Sea, at the Russian embassy in Minsk, Belarus December 25, 2016. REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko
European journalists are still reeling from the carnage which decimated the newsroom of the satirical weekly “Charlie Hebdo” in 2015.

Many are still haunted by the trauma of that dark year in which 16 journalists lost their lives in the exercise of their profession. Fortunately, 2016 proved to be much less deadly: only three journalists were killed on the European continent.

Rohat Aktas was killed in Turkey while covering fighting between the Turkish army and Kurdish separatists in south-eastern Anatolia. Press photographer Mustafa Cambaz, was a victim of the violence which followed the failed military putsch in Istanbul. Prominent Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet was murdered in a cowardly way in a car bomb explosion in Ukraine.

At the European level, the fight against impunity for crimes committed against journalists remains a priority. Thanks to new initiatives, we are now able to keep a record of all forms of violence targeting journalists and to engage the relevant authorities on measures needed to ensure media protection. Since April 2015, the International and European Federations of Journalists (IFJ and EFJ) have been partners of the Council of Europe’s Online Platform for the Promotion of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists.

The database, which is updated in real time, lists, in particular, all journalists killed and enables the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to both officially inform the highest authorities of
He had also worked for Russia’s state Obshestvennoye Televideniye, or Public Television, a channel set up in 2013, but resigned in 2014 in protest at Russia’s stance towards Ukraine, AFP added. Credit: REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko

Accidents

DECEMBER 25 - RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Nine members of the Russian media were aboard the jet which crashed into the Black Sea on 25 December, killing 92 people. The victims included journalists and media staff from Channel One (correspondent DMITRY RUNKOV, cameraman VADIM DENISOV and sound engineer ALEXANDRE SOYDOV), NTV Channel (CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL LUZHETSKY, operator OLEG PESTOV and sound engineer EUGENE TOLSTOV) and Zvezda TV (correspondent PAVEL OBUKHOV, cameraman ALEXANDER SURANOV and assistant cameraman VALERY RZHEVSKY).

Targeted killings, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents

FEBRUARY 24 - TURKEY
ROHAT AKTAŞ, the body of the editor and reporter from Azadiya Welat Newspaper was among bodies recovered from the scene of a massacre in the Turkish southeastern town of Cizre. Rohat Aktaş went missing in the city where he had been injured on the arm while covering the relief effort to help victims of clashes between Kurdish separatists and Turkish forces. He was identified from DNA samples provided by his family.

JULY 16 - TURKEY
MUSTAFA CAMBAZ, the photojournalist with the Turkish daily newspaper Yeni Şafak was killed during the failed coup in Turkey. According to his newspaper, he died of a gunshot to the head when soldiers opened fire on the crowds in the Çengelköy neighborhood of Istanbul.

JULY 20 - UKRAINE
PAVEL SHEREMET, the 44-year-old journalist who worked for Ukrainska Pravda, an independent news site, was killed in car explosion in central Kiev. Media reports quoted Ukrainian officials as saying that the explosion was set off remotely. Sheremet, a Russian national but originally from Belarus, worked for several years at Ukrainska Pravda, whose founder Georgiy Gongadze was also killed in 2000. The newspaper’s editor told the French news agency AFP that he thought Sheremet was killed for his “professional activity.”
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2016 has been yet another year of pain and suffering for the journalists’ community in the Arab World and the Middle East.

The IFJ recorded 30 journalists and media workers killed in the region during the year. However, with the raging wars in Iraq, Yemen and Syria, there may have been incidents we had no knowledge about in which other colleagues lost their lives.

There are several factors contributing to increasing risks to the safety of journalists in the region and the fragility of their working conditions. First, wars in Iraq, Syria and Yemen account for almost all killings this year. What make these deaths more tragic is that most of those killed are under thirty years old, some of them as young as nineteen years old working as freelancers with no work contracts, no protective equipment nor adequate safety training. They risked everything to tell the story or launch their career. The financial crisis in the traditional media is another factor, where reporters are poorly trained and equipped. Employers and owners rarely ensure their staff have a proper safety plan before sending them into war zones. The last important factor is the murderers who target journalists for their work and views. Most often, these crimes come on the back of a wave of incitement against journalism and independent thinking.

The responses to the crises need to be multi-layered. Safety training and promoting the culture of safety within journalism to make journalists become more conscious of their personal safety remain of the utmost importance. The issue of safety has to be mainstreamed through all other aspects of union work and media development support. The IFJ unions this year made progress on different fronts; the right
of journalists to work in a safe environment has included our work to promote the Declaration on Media Freedom in the Arab World adopted in May 2016, which has been signed by three countries so far while several others are considering following suit. Many journalists are discussing with the relevant authorities to introduce a media safety curriculum into journalism schools, and the duty of care of the employer to staff has been recognised by the collective agreement signed this year between the journalists’ union and the public media in Palestine.

Targeted killings, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents

JANUARY 17 - YEMEN
ALMIGDAD MOJALLI, the freelance journalist was killed in a raid by the Saudi-led coalition on the capital city, Sanaa, under Houthi rebels’ control. Mojalli was hit by shrapnel as a missile slammed into the capital’s southern Jaref suburb while he was covering air strikes, according to AFP quoting the victim’s colleague, photojournalist Bahir Hameed. “Planes were hovering above when we were struck,” Hameed said. According to his Twitter account, Mojalli reported for Voice of America and the IRIN humanitarian news agency. IRIN said it was “shocked by this terrible loss”.

JANUARY 22 - YEMEN
HASHEM AL HAMRAN, the cameraman for Al Masirah, a Houthi-owned television channel, was filming bombing raids on 21 January when he was severely injured by an air-strike. He died from his wounds the following day, according to the Yemeni Journalists’ Syndicate, an IFJ affiliate.

FEBRUARY 08 - IRAQ
WATHEK ABDEL WAHAB, the correspondent for Al Mosulia in Hadba’ was killed by the so-called Islamic State (IS) after they had kidnapped him, according to the Iraqi Journalists’ Syndicate (IJS), an IFJ affiliate.

FEBRUARY 16 - YEMEN
AHMED SHAIBANI, the cameraman for Yemen’s Shabab in Taiz was killed by a sniper while covering events in Alhasb city, according to the Yemeni Journalists’ Syndicate (YJS), an IFJ affiliate. The YJS blamed the al Houthi group for the killing, saying the shooting was part of a long series of attacks by the rebels on the press and journalists in Yemen.

FEBRUARY 19 - SYRIA
MAJID DIRAN, the 21-year-old freelance photojournalist was killed while covering fighting in the Damascus suburb of Daraya, according to media reports quoting the Anadolu Agency, one of the news outlets he contributed to.

Minas al-Suhail, a colleague from the channel, told AFP that the two journalists were driving some distance behind the commander’s convoy when asked militiamen in three SUVs stopped their vehicle in the village of Abu Saida. They ordered the journalists out of the car and executed them with Kalashnikov assault rifles, Suhail said. Sharqiya TV added that Mr Talal had survived an assassination attempt two years ago. He was badly injured but decided to keep on reporting the events taking place in Diyala province.

A colleague working for Anadolu Agency said that Dirani was killed while photographing the shelling and aerial bombardments of Daraya, which had been under siege by the Syrian army since 2012. He worked as a freelance journalist for Anadolu Agency since December, the media house said, and was also a contributor to a local media group dedicated to reporting news from the district, Darayya Media Center.
MARCH 21 - YEMEN
MOHAMMED AL-YEMENI, the freelance cameraman who contributed to several media outlets in Yemen was killed by a sniper in Taiz, the country’s second most populated city, according to the IFJ affiliated Yemeni Journalists’ Syndicate (YJS). Three other cameramen, Naef Wafi, Haikal al-Uraiki and Abdulqawi al-Azani, were also wounded in the incident, the YJS added.

APRIL 12 - SYRIA
MOHAMMED ZAHER AL-SHURQAT, the 36-year-old journalist was shot and wounded in the Turkish city of Gaziantep on Sunday by a masked gunman, according to reports. He later died from his wounds.

The shooting incident was filmed by security cameras which show the attacker approaching Al-Shurqat from behind before firing at him and escaping, Turkish News Agency Anadolu said. The journalist, who had reportedly received several threats from the so-called Islamic State, was hit in the head and critically injured. He died two days later in hospital.

The militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, accusing the journalist of hosting programmes opposing the IS. According to media reports and pressure groups, Al-Shurqat presented a programme called “Lines of Fire” focusing on the fighting in the Syrian city of Aleppo and had produced reports for another programme ‘From the trenches: the concept of jihad’.

MAY 29 - YEMEN
ABDULLAH AZIZAN, the correspondent of Mareb Press in Shabwa was killed while covering fighting in Bayhan area, according to the Yemeni Journalists’ Syndicate (YJS), an IFJ affiliate.

MAY 30 - IRAQ
TALAL ABU IMAN, a technician working at the Iraqi Media Network in Ninawa was killed by the so-called Islamic State (IS) in the city of Mosul and his beheaded body was handed over to his family. He had been missing for months after his abduction, according to media reports in Iraq.

JUNE 15 - IRAQ
FADIL AL-GARAAWI, the 45-year-old photographer who was employed by Iraq’s Interior Ministry elite forces and contributed to other news outlets, was killed by a mortar round during fighting in Fallujah in the Iraqi province of Al Anbar.

He was killed when a mortar round landed near a group of journalists and members of the security forces in Fallujah, according to media reports. Three armed members of the security forces were also killed.

JUNE 24 - SYRIA
KHALED ISSA, the 25-year-old photojournalist died in a hospital in Turkey of wounds he sustained in a bomb attack on a house in Aleppo he was sharing with another journalist Hadi Al-Abdullah when an explosive device was set off targeting them on 17 June. Abdullah was also injured and taken to hospital in Antakya, Turkey.

Media reports some activists as blaming Al-Qaeda’s affiliate Nusra Front for the targeted killing. According to them, the Nusra Front killed Abdullah for his increased criticism of the group. Both reporters documented crimes against Syrian civilians by the different warring parties in the country. Issa had sustained previous injuries reporting from dangerous conflict zones during the past five years working as a photojournalist.

JULY 11 - SYRIA
IBRAHIM AL-OMAR, the freelance journalist who contributed to the Al-Jazeera Mubasher live channel was killed in air strikes on the town of Termanin in northern Idlib, according to an Al-Jazeera statement quoted by the French news agency AFP. The Doha-based cable news channel added that the air strikes which killed their contributor were launched by Russian forces, supporting Syrian President Bashar.

JULY 13 - IRAQ
ALI MAHMUD, the cameraman for Al-Ghadeer TV was killed in the Qayyarah area to the north of Baghdad when a roadside bomb hit the car he was travelling in with other journalist, media reports said. Two other journalists Ali Jawad and Ali Mufitin of Iraqiya state television were wounded in the incident.
AUGUST 20 - IRAQ
ALI GHANI, the sound engineer for Alahad TV was killed while covering the operation of the Iraqi army to liberate the city of Khalidiya city in the north of al Anbar province.

SEPTEMBER 25 - JORDAN
NAHED HATTAR, the 56-year-old journalist who wrote for the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar was gunned down on the steps of the court in Amman’s central Abdali district, where he was summoned over anti-Islam cartoon. He was hit three times and was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

The gunman, reportedly bearded and dressed as a conservative Muslim, gave himself up to police in Amman where he was arrested and remanded in custody. Hattar’s family said that he had no protection despite having asked for it after receiving death threats on Facebook and by phone.

Credits: REUTERS/Muhammad Hamed

OCTOBER 09 - IRAQ
NABIL MOHAMED, the cameraman and his colleague sound engineer AHMED AL HADIDI both working for Mosulia TV were kidnaped by the so-called Islamic State (IS). They were later executed reportedly after being accused of revealing information about the terrorist group.
OCTOBER 21 - IRAQ
AHMED HAJR OGLO, the journalist working for Turkmen Eli TV channel was killed by a gunshot to the chest from a sniper during the raid of the so-called Islamic State (IS) on the city of Kirkuk in Northern Iraq.

OCTOBER 22 - IRAQ
Ali Resan, the cameraman for Alsoumariya TV, was killed in the south of Mosul while covering the military offensive to take back control of the city from the IS.

NOVEMBER 12 - SYRIA
MOHSEN KHAZAEI
The reporter for Iran’s state television (IRIB) was killed in a mortar attack in the Syrian battlefront city of Aleppo, the broadcaster said. In a statement, the station said Mohsen Khazaei died in the village of Minyan outside the northern city, one of two areas which Syrian government forces had recaptured from rebel fighters. A cameraman was also wounded in the incident, IRIB added.

NOVEMBER 18 - YEMEN
AWAAB AL ZUBAYREI, the Yemeni Journalists’ Syndicate (YJS), and an IFJ affiliate said that the cameraman for Taiz News Network was killed in a mine explosion in the Askary neighbourhood, east of Taiz. Awaab was covering clashes, particularly the destruction of the houses in the area.

DECEMBER 07 - IRAQ
MOHANMED THABET AL-OBEIDI, the 38-year-old al-Obeidi was gunned down by unidentified men driving a car, while on his way to work in the city centre. The station he managed, Baba Gurgur, broadcasts in Arabic, Kurdish and Turkmen, and is part of the Iraqi Media Network, according to media reports.
In 2016, the IFJ’s International Safety Fund continued to provide relief to journalists and media staff as well as to their family members from the four corners of the globe in their hour of need.

Following the trend from previous years, there were many journalists and media support staff, victims of violence or facing threats of violence because of exposing crime, corruption and abuse of power. The IFJ International Safety Fund paid out more than 75,000 Euros in relief to help them relocate to safety, receive medical treatment or pay for secure accommodation.

This has been the case ever since the inception of the IFJ Safety Fund in 1992 and, over the years, it has proved a vital lifeline for journalists, spending over three million euros in humanitarian and emergency assistance.

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

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 money goes to where it is intended. In 2010 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ secretariat.
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 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. Since the launch of the IFJ safety dedicated website, it is now possible to make secure online donations.

Please visit http://ifj-safety.org/en and donate to ensure 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 here to help.
Africa

Burundi
The IFJ Safety Fund supported journalists and their families who were caught up in the media clampdown which followed the outbreak of the political crisis in the country. The assistance helped many to survive life in exile and to meet other humanitarian needs.

Democratic Republic of Congo
The Safety Fund gave financial help to a journalist who was brutally attacked by security forces for his work and left needing long term medical care in a neighbouring country. Two other exiled journalists received financial support for living expenses.

Eritrea
The Fund also provided assistance to a journalist who fled into exile where he remained under threat from his government’s operatives, needing relocating to safer accommodation.

Gambia
A grant was awarded for living expenses to a journalist who fled persecution and went into exile.

Guinea
A journalist who fled into exile, fearing arrest for his work received assistance with living expenses.

Kenya
The Safety Fund provided humanitarian assistance to the family of a journalist killed for his reporting.

Senegal
The widow of a journalist who was left destitute was awarded a humanitarian grant for living expenses and medical care for the family members.

Somalia
The Fund provided emergency assistance to two journalists in exile who lacked means for winter clothing. Two more journalists in exile also received assistance with living expenses while the Fund also contributed to the funeral cost of another journalist who was killed in the capital Mogadishu.
Sudan
The Safety Fund also contributed to the family reunification of a journalist from Sudan who was granted political asylum abroad.

South Sudan
An exiled journalist received assistance with family support.

Uganda
The Safety Fund provided financial help for medical treatment to a journalist who had been left paralysed because of the severe beating at the hands of police.

Americas

Colombia
A journalist who was defending a case for personal and family protection measures was granted assistance to attend sessions considering her request.

Paraguay
The IFJ Safety Fund provided assistance to a journalist who had been injured and needed medical care.

Asia Pacific

Pakistan
The Fund helped a journalist who had to relocate for safety following threats to his life.

Europe

Azerbaijan
The IFJ Safety Fund provided relief to two journalists who fled into exile as a result of harassment due to their reporting.

Croatia
The IFJ Safety Fund awarded a humanitarian grant to a journalist who escaped persecution and threats for his reporting on war crimes committed by powerful individuals during the civil war.

Russia
The local fixer who was attacked and had his van torched as he was working with foreign reporters was given financial assistance for medical treatment.

Turkey
The Fund also contributed to a solidarity mission to observe the trial of Turkish journalists who are persecuted for their professional activities. Moreover, the Fund provided assistance for temporary accommodation to a Turkish journalist who fled to Greece and contributed to legal costs of two journalists on trial after being caught up in the major crackdown on media in the country.

Middle East

Bahrain
A journalist who had fled into exile to escape arrest for allegations of working without a permit was awarded a grant for humanitarian assistance for living expenses, while defending her right to work.

Yemen
A journalist who was shot and injured received assistance for medical treatment outside Yemen. The Safety Fund also supported another journalist who was shot and injured and needed medical treatment outside Yemen. Another journalist was granted emergency humanitarian help in France in June where he is seeking political asylum.

Account Number for Safety Fund for Media Translators and Interpreters (SFMI) (to be put under the details of the IFJ Account Number, please)

a/c BE90 3630 4689 8732
Swift Code: BBRU-BE-BB
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 risk awareness 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.

The dangers posed to journalists and media staff working in dangerous situations and conflict zones are the subject of extensive record. The IFJ has recorded the deaths of more than 1000 journalists and media staff over the past ten years.
Many journalists are killed, injured or harassed in war zones, either targeted by one side or another or caught in the crossfire of violence. Others are the victims of premeditated assault and intimidation either by criminals, terrorists or by agencies of the state — the police, the military or the security forces — acting secretly and illegally.

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

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

- **Adequate preparation, training and social protection.** It is essential that journalists and media staff be in a state of readiness when difficulties arise. There should be a framework for providing individuals with health care and social protection.

- **Media professionals must be informed and inform themselves about the political, physical, and social terrain in which they are working.** They must not contribute to the uncertainty and insecurity of their conditions through ignorance or reckless behaviour.

- **Media organisations must guard against risk-taking for competitive advantage, and should promote co-operation among journalists whenever conditions exist which are potentially hazardous.**

- **Governments must remove obstacles to journalism.** They must not restrict unnecessarily the freedom of movement of journalists or compromise the right of news media to gather, produce and disseminate information in secure and safe conditions.

- **People must keep their hands off media.** Everyone should respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff at work. Physical interference with filming or other journalistic work must be prohibited.
When people think of the IFJ Safety Fund, they remember to raise money for it. Hats only go round at conference 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**

There are three ways to make a donation:


- Please send donations to the IFJ member union in your country; the money will be forwarded in a lump sum and cut the administration costs of the Fund.

- If there is no IFJ member, please send your donation to:

  **The Safety Fund**
  
a/c BE64 2100 7857 0052
  SWIFT CODE: GEBABEBB
  BNP PARIBAS FORTIS BANK
  Rond Point Schuman 10, 1040 Brussels

  **The Safety Fund for Media Translators and Interpreters (SFMI)**
  
a/c BE90 3630 4689 8732
  SWIFT CODE: BBRU-BE-BB
  ING Bank
  Rond Point Schuman 8, 1040 Brussels

  **For more information, please contact:**

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The IFJ is the world’s largest organisation of journalists with members in 140 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.