

A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS



*LIVE
NEWS*

**FIVE
FIVE**

Front cover picture:

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

Title page picture (right)

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

LIVE NEWS



A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS

Written and produced for the IFJ by Peter McIntyre
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Preface

Crucial steps on the road to safety

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



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

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

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

Introduction

Over the past 12 years more than 1,100 journalists and media staff have been killed in the line of duty. They died because someone did not like what they wrote or said, because they were investigating what someone did not want to be investigated, because someone did not like journalists or simply because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Every job has its risks, and journalists, whose job is to bring into the open what someone wants hidden, are at greater risk than most. But the risks today are unacceptably high. In some parts of the world harassment, threats and worse have become an unavoidable part of the job. When reporting on war or civil conflict the risks escalate and journalists lose their lives.

In the Balkan conflicts, since the former Yugoslavia began to break up in 1991, about 80 journalists and media workers have been killed. Elsewhere, the list continues to grow with the targeting of journalists in Palestine, Colombia, Chechnya and Sierra Leone, the killing of eight journalists in Afghanistan in 2001 and the murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan in 2002. Little wonder that the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in August 2002 asked: *Is the cost of the conflict story too high?*

Each death is a tragedy for friends and families and a waste of talent and opportunity. And these violent deaths do not tell the whole story, because the official figures focus on those who were killed in wars or civil conflict, or who were otherwise targeted. While they record the deaths of journalists in accidents while on a hazardous assignment, they do not record the deaths of journalists who die in traffic accidents because they are trying to reach a story too fast, or working past the point of exhaustion, or because they put their lives in the hands of drivers who do not know an unlit, dangerous road. They do not tell of those who survive but who are so physically and mentally scarred that they are unable to work effectively again. They do not record the impact of death and injury on other journalists who may be reluctant to probe areas that have proved fatal for their colleagues.

Attacks on journalists have a widespread chilling effect. They sap the ability of journalists to investigate and report and they deprive the public of the right to know. Sometimes this is the objective. Violence against journalists is often a deliberate policy by people

AMONGST THOSE KILLED...

- ◆ **Ramzan Mezhidov, 32**, a freelance cameraman for Moscow's *TV Tsentr*, was killed by a Russian jet attack, while filming civilians in Chechnya on October 29 1999. He was a father of two children.
- ◆ **Chet Duong Daravuth, 30**, was killed in 1997 when a hand grenade was thrown into a political rally in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He had been planning to launch his own newspaper. A further 15 journalists were injured.
- ◆ **Roberto Martinez**, a photographer for the daily *Prensa Libre* was killed on April 27 2000 in Guatemala City, when private security guards opened fire during street protests. Martinez, 37, father of six children, was clearly a photographer, but was shot twice.
- ◆ **Izzet Kezer**, who worked for *Sabah* news agency in Turkey, was shot in the head and killed on March 23 1992 during a government security crackdown in Cizre.

From IFJ list of casualties

- ◆ **Sasa Lazarevic, of RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina, was one of the first reporters to cover the Serbian shelling of Sarajevo from the barricades. He was hit by shrapnel and killed on June 20 1992.**

- ◆ **Gordan Lederer, a Croatian television cameraman, died on August 10 1991 en route to hospital after filming a battle outside Kostajnica. He was hit by a sniper and then by a mortar round, but the Yugoslav army would not allow a helicopter to take him to Zagreb.**

- ◆ **Zoran Amidzic, a camera crew member for Belgrade television, died with three others on October 9 1991 when their car was hit by a mortar round near Petrinja, south of Zagreb. Belgrade radio blamed the attack on Croat forces.**

- ◆ **Kerem Lawton, 30, a British producer for Associated Press television news, was mortally wounded on January 29 2001 in Krivenik, Yugoslavia. Lawton and cameraman, Syllejman Klokoqi, were covering the deployment of NATO peacekeepers along the Kosovo-Macedonia border. Klokoqi got out of the car to film refugees. The car was hit by mortar fire. Lawton's wife was pregnant with their first child.**

who cheat, rob and inflict violence on their communities, so that they can avoid exposure and stay in the shadows.

The deaths of international correspondents such as Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was abducted and murdered in Pakistan in 2002, Raffaele Ciriello, the Italian photographer who was killed by Israeli machine gun fire in central Ramallah in March 2002, and Kurt Schork and Miguel Gil Moreno, who were killed in Sierra Leone in May 2000, become news events themselves. However, it is important to recall that of the 1,192 journalists killed since 1990, more than 90% were born and grew up in the land where they died. Foreign correspondents are the high-profile casualties, but most victims are local. When the victim is a journalist working in his or her own community, the news makes little impact elsewhere. Local journalists are at greater risk because they continue to live in the areas from where they report. When the story is over, they cannot board an aeroplane and fly away.

This manual is primarily aimed, therefore, at journalists and other members of the news gathering team working in their own country or region. Such journalists and camera crews are usually at a disadvantage compared to those who fly in from overseas. Local correspondents, camera crews and photographers may have to take more risks with little or no support for themselves or their families if something goes wrong. They do not have the insurance or equipment or backup of international correspondents working for large media networks, and they are less likely to have been sent on a training course. Some international teams even hire local journalists to take their risks for them, without offering the same level of protection as they provide for their own staff.

Part of the answer lies in the growing campaign for equal rights for staffers and freelancers and for better equipment, training and insurance. This is particularly needed for freelance staff, many of whom are dependent on one title or channel, but who are entitled to none of the protection offered to staff members. One objective of this book is to raise the awareness of journalists, journalists' organisations and media employers for the need for greater protection. It forms part of a general demand that those who own and run the news media take more responsibility for the safety of their journalists and for the welfare of their families. Greater legal protection for freelance journalists should be high on the agenda in all negotiations with employers.

However, there is also much that journalists and other media

workers can do for themselves and for each other to increase safety and reduce risk. Journalists on hazardous assignments can look out for each other, even if they work for 'rival' news organisations. Journalists also need to understand how inflammatory journalism and poor standards of reporting can have consequences for all journalists by souring relations with local groups and institutions. People who target the media with violence do not distinguish between 'good' or 'bad' journalists; they hit out at those they can reach. All journalists have a physical stake in high standards and objective reporting, even if this alone will not guarantee safety.

The importance of safety

Safety is a positive quality, part of getting the job done well and quickly; an asset, not a liability. A good journalist cultivates safety awareness, just as he or she develops interviewing and investigation skills. Safety means thinking ahead, being prepared, observing what is happening and reflecting on its meaning. A good driver reads the road; a fast driver reads the speedometer.

The job of the journalist is to tell the story, not to become the story. A journalist who puts him or herself needlessly at risk is behaving in an unprofessional manner; one that could ultimately prevent the story being told or the picture being seen. Some correspondents, photographers and camera operators in war zones embrace a macho culture and a competitive urge for danger. But good journalism is about delivering reliably, not about getting an adrenaline high. In any case, journalists who adopt an attitude of 'death or glory' usually focus on the glory rather than on death, and hardly think about the serious injury that could end their careers. In the meantime, reckless journalists put at risk the lives of the fixers, drivers and interpreters who make it possible for them to work. And sometimes the risks can be for nothing. Getting closer to the action does not always make for better reporting or more compelling film.

Is any story or picture worth dying for? Even the best stories and pictures only have value when they are read or seen. Moreover, a journalist who is killed or injured cannot file a story or process a picture. A live journalist is infinitely more effective than a dead one. And while nobody can remove all the danger from the profession, journalists can do much to anticipate dangers, reduce risks and come through hazardous assignments safely. Journalists have an individual responsibility to anticipate and reduce dangers, and

a collective responsibility through their professional organisations and trades unions to campaign for safer working conditions. Journalists, their organisations and their employers, all have a critical function in reducing the unacceptable rate of death and injury.

The role of governments

Governments are sometimes directly implicated in attacks on journalists. More commonly, governments have an ambivalent attitude towards journalists, and do not regard it as a prime duty to protect them. Each year, press freedom groups and journalists rage over the lack of concern shown by governments when media staff are attacked. Few killings of journalists are properly investigated. Fewer still are the number of culprits brought to justice. It often seems that killers target journalists and media with impunity. Democracy cannot function while journalists are in fear, but many politicians and state officials believe that a frightened journalist will be a submissive journalist. Even governments who pride themselves on their democratic credentials put journalists at risk when they give the police or courts the right to seize material or pass laws requiring journalists to reveal sources or give up confidential information. Such laws can make journalists appear as quasi forces of the state, so that those involved in riot or civil disturbance believe that being seen by a journalist is equivalent to being observed by a police officer.

An important principle was set when the War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia subpoenaed a former *Washington Post* reporter, Jonathan Randal, to try to compel him to give evidence about an interview with Bosnian Serb Radoslav Brdjanin when he was on assignment in Bosnia. Randal refused to testify and appealed against the subpoena. In December 2002, the Tribunal upheld his appeal and sharply restricted its own powers to compel journalists to testify, accepting that this could have “a significant impact upon their ability to obtain information”. The court added: “If war correspondents were to be perceived as potential witnesses for the Prosecution, they may have difficulties in gathering significant information because the interviewed persons may talk less freely with them, and may deny access to conflict zones. Second, war correspondents may shift from being observers of those committing human rights violations to being their targets, thereby putting their own lives at risk.”

However, the Tribunal did not rule out compelling journalists to

testify in future. It said that this could be done if the journalist's evidence was "of important and direct value in determining a core issue in the case" and "cannot reasonably be obtained elsewhere". Most journalists would argue that they may choose to give evidence, but should never be forced to do so. Where this does happen, governments put journalists at risk and undermine their unique function as independent and neutral observers.

Towards an international safety institute

In 1998, the IFJ and a group of like-minded supporters – including the BBC, Freedom Forum European office, the National Union of Journalists (UK and Ireland) and the media staff union Media Entertainment International – discussed setting up an international body to promote safety. The IFJ issued a Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism (see *Appendix 3*). The Associated Press, the BBC, CNN, ITN and Reuters then developed their own safety code. These media organisations all now require their staff to receive safety training before working in 'risk areas'. Concerns had been growing amongst these multinational media groups, but it was a series of tragic deaths in their own ranks that made the difference. The BBC, for example, was profoundly affected when *World Tonight* reporter John Schofield was killed in Croatia. Reuters and Associated Press were similarly affected by the deaths of Kurt Schork and Miguel Gil Moreno.

These global media groups moved safety up the agenda, and set high standards for their own staff. But this welcome move has also underlined the gulf between those who take safety seriously and provide training, insurance and equipment and those who do not or cannot afford to. Although this code has been taken up by some other broadcasting groups, few newspapers have signed up, and many media groups give the safety of their journalists a low priority. One journalist who works for a prestigious title of a very wealthy global media empire summed up the preparation his employers gave him before they sent him to Afghanistan: "They told me to be careful."

Thankfully, this is beginning to change, and in 2002 and 2003 new actions are being taken to put safety on the news agenda. Nevertheless, in many parts of the world such as south eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia – all areas of high risk – country-based and regional media groups provide little training or protection.

International News Safety Institute

The objectives will be to:

- ◆ Provide support and develop safety assistance programmes for journalists and media staff, including freelancers, particularly in regions of conflict.
- ◆ Encourage agreements on health and safety, including risk-awareness and first aid, between media organisations and their staff; as well as agreements with unions and associations.
- ◆ Disseminate information through training, advisories and books, using Internet and traditional resources.
- ◆ Promote industry best practice for training and assistance.
- ◆ Investigate, develop and promote safety services including affordable insurance for all media staff.
- ◆ Promote existing industry initiatives including Codes and Guidelines.
- ◆ Establish a global network of organisations committed to risk-reduction.
- ◆ Sponsor initiatives to raise awareness at national, regional and international conferences of media professionals and other events.

The IFJ has been campaigning for greater safety for journalists for 20 years and arranged the first ever safety courses for journalists who were not working for large media groups. The IFJ is proposing a number of joint initiatives to train journalists and to ensure that they are protected. The IFJ Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism stresses the responsibility of media organisations to provide equipment, risk-awareness training, social protection and medical cover not only for staff members but also for freelancers.

In November 2002 the IFJ and the International Press Institute with a number of other professional organisations, press freedom groups, international media and journalists' associations agreed to establish an International News Safety Institute to promote good practice in safety training, materials and assistance to journalists and media staff. The Institute – to be launched in 2003 as a network for safety in journalism – will focus on sharing information and materials and will cover freelance journalists as well as staff. It will include regional media networks in a core group of sponsors and will seek funding through donors.

About this book

This book is designed as a practical guide rather than a theoretical work and should be read by journalists who live and work in hazardous conditions and by those who may be assigned to risky areas. Much of the information comes from professional safety trainers, such as AKE Ltd. in Herefordshire in the UK, and from other providers of safety information (although they are not responsible for any shortcomings). There has been a growth in courses that combine the skills of highly trained ex-military personnel with the experiences of journalists on assignment. Some of the best information and advice in this book is distilled from journalists who have returned from risky assignments and who have reflected on what put them at risk and what kept them safe.

- ◆ PART 1 covers preparing for dangerous assignments, physically, psychologically, emotionally and intellectually. What do you need to know, what do you need to take with you, and how can you equip yourself for this experience?
- ◆ PART 2 analyses risks and shows how to reduce dangers in war zones and conflict areas. This includes information about weapons and advice on how journalists and camera operators can avoid being mistaken for combatants. One chapter analyses why riots are especially dangerous. Another looks at the risks of

becoming a kidnap victim and what to do if this happens.

- ◆ PART 3 focuses on medical attention in conditions where there is no easy access to hospitals, clinics or doctors. Journalists need to learn how to keep themselves healthy on assignment, and what they can do to keep a dangerously ill or severely injured person alive until medical help is available. These skills must be practised and this book may help journalists' organisations to set up training courses.
- ◆ PART 4 looks at the role of local and international organisations in arranging safety courses and in campaigning for safety.

Helping journalists to take decisions

This book does not attempt to lay down law about what is safe and unsafe. The aim is to provide journalists with additional information and skills so that they can use their own judgement in a more informed way. The key message is for journalists to think about safety in the same way as they think about camera angles or how to obtain an interview. Whatever else is going on, part of their consciousness should be monitoring their safety and reading the danger signs. As one economics correspondent put it: "It does not matter what story you are doing, you can still get hurt."

The aim of training is to assist journalists to assess risk and act with an intelligent awareness of the dangers. It aims to enhance decision-making ability, not to substitute for it. Journalists have to balance the need for protection with a need for flexibility. They need to be aware that all risks, from food poisoning and road traffic accidents to being kidnapped or shot, increase away from home. Finally, this book should set alarm bells ringing in newsrooms. Media organisations that fail to take safety seriously or to prepare staff for dangerous assignments run the risk of expensive court actions. But it is not enough to be driven by fear of being sued or by the need to reduce insurance costs. Media, big and small, need to embrace a new culture of risk awareness that provides all staff, whether local freelancers or foreign correspondents, with the same inclusive access to training, physical protection and equipment to promote safe and secure journalism. ■



The International News Safety Institute opens in Brussels in 2003.

Part 1

Be Prepared



Journalists on the Surviving Hostile Regions training course run by AKE in Herefordshire, UK.

Photo: Rob Judges

Chapter 1

Preparing to work in hostile environments

The most obvious risks to journalists come during a war when working within range of guns, bombs, mines, rockets or artillery. But hostile environments exist on broader fronts than battlefields. Physical risks to journalists are probably greater when covering riots and civil disturbance than from a traditional war between regular armies. A journalist working away from base without his or her usual support may also be at risk from:

- ◆ Illness
- ◆ Traffic and other accidents
- ◆ Violence, including targeted attacks on media
- ◆ Exposure
- ◆ Exhaustion
- ◆ Emotional distress and low morale

More journalists are laid low by illness or traffic accidents than are killed or injured in wars, and a journalist who is sick with fever or food poisoning cannot function or file copy. Focus on main risks, even if they do not seem to be as colourful as battlefield risks. Violence often comes from unexpected directions, as a demonstration turns violent, or aggrieved members of the public take out frustrations on the media.

It makes sense for journalists covering a wide range of stories and in a variety of situations to prepare for a hostile environment and for the pressures that exist outside the normal routine. The journalist needs to be mentally prepared, physically prepared and properly equipped. The aim is for the journalist to become aware of risks, to take what precautions he or she can, and to retain as much control of the situation as possible, rather than trusting to luck. A journalist is almost never completely in control, and there is no such thing as zero risk, but every journalist can assess the risks and become more aware of the dangers.

Even situations which do not seem especially dangerous can be hazardous for the unprepared reporter or camera crew, while even

the most dangerous situations can be made safer through risk assessment, good preparation and applying your knowledge. Good planning is not only likely to get you there and back safely, but also helps to identify the key elements of your story, gives you background information about your situation and environment and makes you a more knowledgeable and more effective gatherer of news or pictures.

Before you go

a) Ensure you are physically fit for the assignment

Most journalists are reluctant to turn down what appear to be career-enhancing assignments, even when they are dangerous. However, every journalist needs to be honest with themselves. Are you physically fit to a reasonable level? Could you walk all night if you had to, or run for safety? Will you function away from comfortable hotels? Fitness may be important and you should be capable of physical exertion when needed.

b) Improve your knowledge of the local situation

What do you know about the political and social situation you are entering? Who are the main players? Are you sufficiently briefed on recent developments? What languages do they speak? What are their attitudes likely to be towards the media in general and towards you and your media company or title, in particular? Does your ethnicity put you at extra risk? Do any groups have a history of violence towards journalists or a history of atrocities to civilians? Where are the key borders you need to know about? Are there any 'no-go' areas? What permissions do you need and from whom? Will these carry any weight once you are out on the road?

Information about the situation, people and communities you are covering is vital. Journalists can blunder into situations where they have little idea of the culture or language and easily alienate and offend people without even being aware of it. This can even be a problem for nationally based journalists who enter a region with which they are not familiar, where a different dialect or language is spoken. Some journalists adopt a tone that is taken to be arrogance, perhaps to cover their feelings of insecurity or because they are impatient to get the story. In general, the journalist and camera operator who treat people with respect win more co-operation from the local community.

HOW ARE YOU SEEN BY PEOPLE YOU REPORT ON?

How will the main protagonists see you? What is their attitude to journalists? Is there hostility towards your media company? Could you be seen as 'representing' one side or another in a conflict?

PUT YOURSELF ON THE MAP

If you do not know the area well, make sure you have a good-quality up-to-date map.

IN DOUBT? ASK A JOURNALIST

Contact local journalists when travelling to an unfamiliar area. Listen to what they say about the source of local risks.



Pranvera Shema is a journalist now working for FrontLine Television. She worked with international journalists who arrived in her native Kosovo in June 1999.

"The international correspondents do have a problem with their attitude. They think that they are reporting on a hopeless place and that the people are not educated. This was especially true of some of the leading international TV correspondents who tend to say 'don't you know who I am?' That attitude puts everyone at risk, especially the local fixer. I didn't like the way that they treated the people they interviewed, especially the victims. I learned that you should never come to a country or an area without doing any research. International journalists are often arrogant and they don't even recognise the language." ■

Knowledge of languages is a valuable asset. If you are going to be working in a place for some time, learn at least the basics. Journalists are often sent at short notice to cover stories where their own language is not understood, or where it may be regarded with hostility. You cannot learn a language overnight. However, people are usually responsive if you greet them in their own language. Learn key phrases such as: 'I am a journalist,' 'Can you help me?' or 'I need a doctor'.

If this is your first time in a country or region, there is a lot you will not know. Good journalists don't know everything but ask good questions and are quick learners. The reporter who has 'been there and done that' can give you vital information and share experiences that will help you to learn quickly. However, some experienced journalists become reservoirs of cynicism, a corrosive impediment to fresh thinking. Cultivate media professionals who have retained a basic respect for the people they are working amongst. Journalists who routinely describe the places and people on whom they are reporting in insulting and derogatory terms are unlikely to help you to gain an insight into the local situation.

c) Know your rights

Fire fighters do not go into blazing buildings without a sound knowledge of what is facing them and how to deal with it, but journalists still travel (and are sent) without understanding the ground

DON'T BE LOST FOR WORDS

Even if travelling in your own country, learn about local customs, languages and ways of thinking. If you can greet people in their own language it helps to break the ice. Also learn how to ask for help.

TRAVEL WITH A COLLEAGUE — DON'T RISK IT ALONE

Journalists who travel in hazardous areas should avoid travelling alone. It is better to travel with a 'rival' and look out for each other, then travel alone and put yourself at risk.

rules for the conflict on which they are to report. Many journalists travel with little or no knowledge of the region or of the application of local or international law, and without an awareness of their own rights as independent, neutral observers. Few staff are able to quote the relevant protocols of the Geneva Conventions and humanitarian law that define the rights of non-combatants.

Journalists should be briefed on the political and legal conditions of the region. They should know about the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations agencies and regional political bodies before they leave home.

Geneva Conventions

The Geneva Conventions define the murder or ill-treatment of journalists in times of war or major civil unrest as a war crime. The Geneva Conventions give journalists the same rights as civilians in armed conflicts, whether between nations or in situations of widespread civil conflict. A piece of paper cannot stop someone with a gun who is determined to kill or mistreat you, but increasingly people see war criminals brought to justice and soldiers and militia all over the world are familiar with the concept of a war crime. Journalists must build on this knowledge. If you are covering a conflict, carry a copy of the Geneva Convention and in particular the Clauses which say that journalists must be treated as non-combatants. Get them translated into all relevant languages. Remember, however, that journalists lose this status if they take part in the conflict, carry a firearm or act as spies. If they do any of these things, they are no longer acting as journalists.

d) Social protection

What if something goes wrong? What insurance do you have and what will happen to your family? The most immediate need may be medical care and rehabilitation. There may also be a longer term need for rehabilitation from physical injury or psychological scars. Journalists need to know that their income will continue undiminished if they are unable to work, and that their families will be provided for if they are killed. Media groups may plead that they do not have the resources for this kind of insurance, but someone has to carry the cost and it should not be the individual. Journalists' organisations need to ensure that this essential demand is met. Insurance and medical cover should apply equally to freelance journalists and staff members and cover the whole team.

SUMMARY OF GENEVA CONVENTIONS

For a summary of the Geneva Conventions as they apply to journalists, see pages 16 & 17.

BULLETINS NOT BULLETS

Never carry a firearm. You will put yourself outside the protection of the Geneva Conventions, and put your own safety and that of your colleagues at risk.

MEDICAL PREPARATION

Sources of medical information are listed in Appendix 1.

Media organisations in many areas receive their news at a cut price when they use local staff members or freelancers without extending insurance and social rights to the journalists and camera crews who put their lives on the line. This practice must be eliminated as pressure for reform within media is applied by journalists and media trade unions.

e) Learn about the risks of disease

What is the prevalence of disease where you will be reporting? Do you need any special immunisation, or to take any medicines with you? The World Health Organization International Travel and Health Site at <http://www.who.int/ith/countrylist01.html> is a good place to start.

f) Clarify lines of communication with your newsdesk

When away from your office, communication with the newsdesk or producer may be problematic. People who manage news gatherers in the field are often frustrated if they cannot reach their staff day and night. Remember also that you are at risk in many situations if nobody knows where you are and what you are doing. In all dangerous situations journalists should ensure that they keep a responsible person fully informed of their movements.

Agree a time frame when you will call in and explore with the newsdesk problems that are likely to arise. Those who are waiting for your film or copy to arrive have their own frustrations and may forget how long it can take to get even simple things done in the field. There is a depressing tendency for those in the office to ignore what they are being offered by their own reporters or camera crews in favour of what has been put out by the opposition or the agencies — one reason why news looks the same. Too often, newsdesks forget that diversity of news implies variety of news. So one piece of advice for newsdesk staff is to trust what you are receiving from your own reporters and camera people on the ground. It is absurd for a journalist to put himself/herself and crew at risk to get a story that the rival channel has already shown, and that may be weaker than the story or pictures that they have already filed.

The authority to make difficult calls on day-to-day operational decisions involving your own and others' safety rests with people in the field. Never be bullied by over enthusiastic newsdesks into taking foolish risks. By the same token newsdesks/producers will

TRUST BETWEEN NEWSDESK AND FIELD STAFF

Newsdesks: Trust your reporters, and camera crews — they are your eyes and ears.

Reporters and camera staff:

Make and keep agreements with your newsdesk, about checking in, and prior approval.

News teams: build a set of guidelines based on experience.

Keep it up to date and allow all staff an input.

'In this war, local journalists were unprotected'

Miodrop Miljkovic, a freelance journalist working from Vranje in Serbia close to the borders with Kosovo and Macedonia, told an IFJ delegation: "During the war period being a journalist in this place was very dangerous. I have no work agreement and I have no social security. Most local journalists were unprotected. "Foreign radio and TV use their work but do not give them contracts and in the case of misfortune take no responsibility for them. We need something to protect journalists."

Radoman Iric worked for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty during the Kosovo conflict, and agrees more should be done for freelancers. He received an award for journalistic courage after interviewing KLA leaders at their headquarters. Since he left his staff post to work as a freelance Radoman Iric has had no pension rights or health insurance. ■

rightly want an agreement that there are certain things (e.g. crossing a border, or going with a guerrilla force to conduct an interview) that require prior approval. Reporters, photographers and camera crews should make such agreements and stick to them.

All field staff should be involved in a discussion resulting in agreements on risks and decision-making. These agreements should be recorded and, if a conflict or hazardous situation is likely to continue for some time, be updated in the light of experience in the field. This will gradually become a useful diary of experience. As protocols are updated, information about contacts, special areas of risk and sources of help should be recorded or shared. Journalists must be willing to share information that could save lives. Journalists returning from the field should debrief so that the information kept in the office is as up to date as possible.

One important part of these protocols is an agreement on what will happen if the journalist or crew has not been in touch for a specified period of time. If a journalist knows what steps their organisation will take, it will help them to make decisions if they are detained or in trouble. Every protocol should cover plans for evacuation in case of injury, illness or deteriorating conditions.

g) Take the right equipment

There is almost no limit to the equipment that might come in useful, from an armoured vehicle, a satellite phone, waterproof matches, to bars of chocolate for barter. Journalists, photographers and camera crews already have a large amount of equipment they need to carry. How much equipment you can take will depend on where you are and your resources. Here are some of the most important:

Press card

A press card clearly identifies you and carries your photograph. It can be distributed by your professional organisation or trade union or by your employer. The strength of an 'industry standard' card issued by a professional organisation is that it reinforces the concept that journalists belong to a collective profession. The card of your specific news organisation may help or hinder, depending on its reputation among participants in a conflict. You may also carry letters or passes signed by military or police officers accepting you as a journalist and asking their forces to give you reasonable co-operation. You need to weigh up the value of such material against

the possible dangers. A laissez-passer issued by a rebel commander could lead to your detention by Government forces. Think about what information you are carrying that could show you or others in a bad light. Even cuttings critical of one or other parties to a conflict may lead to problems at a checkpoint.

Emergency numbers

Carry a list of emergency telephone numbers with a note of who is to be called in the event of injury. If you are doing sensitive interviews which could lead to trouble for those being interviewed, take steps to maintain confidentiality. Separate names and copy or disguise names. Be careful that your system for disguising names does not look like a code.

A dummy wallet

Your money and essential documents should be tucked away safely out of sight. However, you need easy access to small sums of money and something to hand over if you are robbed. Carry a spare wallet with modest amounts of money and some old credit cards. If you are being robbed, hand this over.

Water

In situations of conflict, normally reliable sources of clean water may stop working or become contaminated. You can survive many days without food, but you will be in a crisis without a daily supply of clean water. Carry bottles of water where possible or filters and chemical purifiers.

First aid kit

A first aid kit is vital for any journalist who is likely to be out of range of mainstream health care services. If possible carry two kits – one on your person and a more comprehensive kit in the vehicle. Chapter 5 covers this in more detail.

Long lenses

One way for camera operators and photographers to improve their safety is to carry long lenses, putting them closer to the action. Less powerful lenses require operators to take greater risks for the same shots. Again the under-resourced local journalist is at a disadvantage. Ensure that your news organisation is aware of the safety benefits of investing in long lenses and lightweight cameras.

The Geneva Conventions

The Geneva Conventions demand respect for human beings in time of armed conflict, and that includes respect for the human rights of journalists, who are classified as civilians entitled to protection from violence, threats, murder, imprisonment and torture. These legally binding treaties date from 1949 and have been ratified or acceded to by most countries. They form part of international humanitarian law. Violation makes a soldier or militia member guilty of a war crime. Journalists need to know and to assert these rights.

Summary

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says that states must:

- Care for friends and enemies alike;
- Respect every human being, his or her honour, family rights, religious convictions and the special rights of the child;
- Prohibit inhuman or degrading treatment, the taking of hostages, mass extermination, torture, summary executions, deportations, pillage and wanton destruction of property.

Protection for wounded combatants, prisoners of war and civilians

The first two Conventions cover the treatment of wounded and sick members of the armed forces and medical personnel on the battlefield and at sea. **The Third Convention** covers prisoners of war. All three refer to journalists only in the case of accredited war correspondents. **The Fourth Geneva Convention** covers the rights of civilians in enemy or occupied territory.

Of most significance is **Article 3** which applies to all the Conventions, and says:

1. Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat* by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria. The following acts are prohibited at any time and in any place with respect to the above-mentioned persons:
 - a) Violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;
 - b) Taking of hostages;
 - c) Outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;
 - d) The passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognised as indispensable by civilised peoples.
2. The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for.

Journalists must be protected as civilians: Article 79 is the key

Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions (which came into force in 1978) says in Article 79:

1. Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians within the meaning of Article 50, paragraph 1.
2. They shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this Protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians, and without prejudice to the right of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces to the status provided for in Article 4A 4) of the Third Convention.
3. They may obtain an identity card similar to the model in Annex II of this Protocol. This card, which shall be issued by the government of the State of which the journalist is a national or in whose territory he/she resides or in which the news medium employing him/her is located, shall attest to his/her status as a journalist.

Conventions cover civil war but not riots

Protocol 2 extends the Geneva Conventions to internal armed conflicts between the armed forces of a State and dissident armed forces or other organised armed groups on its territory. It effectively extends the Conventions to large scale civil conflicts. However, it specifically excludes from the Conventions “situations of internal disturbances and tensions, such as riots, isolated and sporadic acts of violence and other acts of a similar nature, as not being armed conflicts.”

How civilians must, and must not, be treated

Article 4 of Protocol 2 describes how parties must extend humane treatment to civilians:

1. All persons who do not take a direct part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, are entitled to respect for their person, honour and convictions and religious practices. They shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction. It is prohibited to order that there shall be no survivors.
2. The following acts against these persons are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever:
 - a) Violence to the life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular murder as well as cruel treatment such as torture, mutilation or any corporal punishment;
 - b) Collective punishments;
 - c) Taking of hostages;
 - d) Acts of terrorism;
 - e) Outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault;
 - f) Slavery and the slave trade in all their forms;
 - g) Pillage;
 - h) Threats to commit any of the foregoing acts.



Emergency alert

Carry a whistle, in case you need to attract attention or give warnings. Wear a Medic-alert bracelet indicating your blood type and any medical conditions or allergies.

Personal comfort

If you will be working away from base and lodgings, ensure you take personal belongings to keep clean and keep your morale up. Take soap and a flannel, and wipes. Take toilet paper and a small trowel for sanitary use. Look after your teeth and your feet.

h) Prepare your vehicle

When away from base for a long period you should, wherever possible, have your own vehicle. This is not just for faster travel and to get you to safety, but because you also need a base where you can keep material that is difficult to carry. Wherever possible, the driver should be a dedicated member of your team.

The condition and quality of the car and driver are critical. International correspondents may have access to armoured vehicles. The cost of one of these vehicles would probably exceed the entire budget of a small TV station for six months. However, you can at least ensure that your vehicle is in good mechanical condition, that it has a good-quality spare tyre, and carries reserves of fuel and water.

Consider whether to mark your vehicle PRESS or MEDIA in large letters. In some circumstances this will protect you; in others it will make you a target for sniper fire. If you do use these markings, place them on top of the vehicle as well as on the sides, so that they are visible from the air. However, ensure that the signs are removable at short notice. In isolated areas and where you may go off-road, your vehicle should also have a means of being towed, dug or winched out of trouble. Every vehicle should carry a good-quality first aid kit and a fire extinguisher.

The driver should be someone who has experience, who is calm and who drives safely. Even if you don't have an accident, spending days being driven by someone you do not trust saps morale and interferes with rest. If you hire a car and driver for the long term, make the driver a full member of your team entitled to the same protection. If the driver is not of the same ethnic or national background as those being driven, be aware that the driver may face different risks at checkpoints.

CAN YOUR VEHICLE TAKE THE PRESSURE?

Ensure that your vehicle is in good condition. Check tyre pressures regularly, especially in extremes of temperature. In very hot conditions blow-outs are more likely. Make sure you have a good-quality spare tyre.

The closer you go, the greater the danger

Miomir Serafinovic reported daily for TV A1 on the conflict in Macedonia in 2001. He says: "I felt in most danger when we were very near to the place where there was shooting in both directions. If we were with the foreign journalists we could see that they were using body armour and we were not. They parked their armoured vehicle where it would protect us. They had personal armour and small cameras and armoured vehicles. We had big heavy equipment and no armour.

"If you do have to go, then learn about how close you can safely be and do not go into areas where there is shooting.

There are always idiots challenging each other to go closer. You need good equipment and long lenses. Without them we had to go closer and faced greater danger. Some foreign journalists hired a local TV team to shoot their footage while they stayed in their hotels." ■



Miomir Serafinovic reporting on the conflict in Macedonia.

i) Take the right clothing

The clothing you need will depend on the climate, season and length of time away from base.

Footwear

It is important to retain mobility and be able to walk for long periods of time if necessary. A pair of lightweight, waterproof boots is best. They should be comfortable – do not buy them new just before you leave for assignment. They should be big enough for you to wear two pairs of cotton socks, which will keep your feet warm and reduce friction. Footwear could be your most important piece of clothing.

Loose clothing – and plenty of layers

In most conditions, wear several layers of clothing, so that you can take clothing off if you are too hot. Outer layers should be loose fitting. Inner layers should be cotton or other natural fabrics. Take care that you cannot be mistaken for a soldier – particularly if you are wearing a flak jacket. Try to wear contrasting colours top and bottom so that you are clearly not in uniform. Do not wear bright colours that will make you a target. However, carry in a bag something bright that could be waved to attract attention, or white clothing to use as a white flag. Take a good hat to protect you from the sun and to keep your head warm in the cold.

Protective clothing

If you may come under fire you will need robust protection. The best protection comes from body armour combat jackets which have protectors for neck, collar and groin and which have flaps into which armour plates can be inserted. Ceramic armour plates are lighter and better than metal plates, but need to be looked after. A combat jacket will protect to some extent against low-velocity small arms fire and mine fragments. Armour plates will protect against high-velocity rifles and sniper fire. However, the jacket with two armour plates (one front and one back) weighs about 12 kilos (26 pounds). With this equipment and a helmet it is impossible to run for long periods. There is protective equipment made for women, although this tends to be even more expensive.

Camera operators should wear jackets with extra protection for the arms as they hold up the camera. All jackets should be waterproof. The cost is high and your media organisation may say it cannot afford it. Urge them to investigate ways of cost sharing or seeking a subsidy from pro-media organisations. There is no reason why local journalists should be at higher risk.

When you choose to wear such equipment is a tactical question, depending on your need for mobility and your need for protection. Remember that a 12-mm (half inch) high-velocity bullet can pierce metal at 1,500 metres. The use of protective clothing and armour plating is controversial. It slows journalists down. As a result, some journalists break the rules agreed with their own newsdesks by wearing protective kit during their pieces to camera but discarding it afterwards. Local journalists rarely have the luxury of choosing whether or not to wear protective kit and this protection should be available. Armoured plates that are not being worn can be placed inside a car to extend protection to passengers. ■

Part 2

The Danger Zone



A cameraman jumps at the explosion of a stun grenade in the besieged West Bank city of Ramallah on April 5 2002. Journalists attempting to cover a meeting between Yasser Arafat and US envoy Anthony Zinni were turned back by Israeli soldiers.

Photo: AP / Nasser Nasser

Chapter 2

War zones and conflict areas

When bullets start flying there is no guaranteed way of staying safe from harm, and journalists may become targets, in error or deliberately. Front-line media workers have been wounded or killed by bullets, shells and mortar fired from a distance. Stray bullets and ricochets cause many fatalities. Journalists have been targeted by snipers and killed in ambushes. In situations where there are several different forces involved in a conflict and where front lines shift rapidly, it is difficult to know where an area of conflict begins and ends. However, a journalist who stays aware of the dangers and who thinks ahead has a good prospect of staying alive and uninjured.

The best defence a journalist has is his or her own awareness. By trying to understand the mind-set of the combatants in a war zone and the potential of weapons being used, a journalist can reduce his or her chances of getting hurt or killed. Journalists need to be able to assess risks, including which of their own actions can put them in the firing line, and the quickest way out of a danger area. They need to keep a mental map of the geography and the military state of affairs. Like others in combat areas, a journalist needs to assess the least bad option, because no option is totally safe.

The attitude of combatants to journalists

Journalists and military forces have different aims and objectives. Journalists want access so that they can report what is happening. Military forces wish to maintain control of the military situation and to win their battles. They believe that journalists should cover those aspects of an operation that commanders want to show them.

Soldiers and other military forces are often suspicious of journalists. Front-line troops may be happy to talk or to have pictures taken, because this records and validates their role. However, the media are an additional and usually unwelcome factor for military commanders in the field. Senior commanders often see journalists

as a nuisance and a security risk. Depending on the situation, they may also associate all or some of the media with the propaganda of the other side, and therefore as a potential enemy, and an enemy they are not supposed to shoot.

Wherever possible, military forces will try to influence coverage of a conflict in their favour. Friendly commanders seek to manage journalists, using liaison officers to feed them propaganda and misinformation and to lead them away from what they are not supposed to know. Hostile military commanders will refuse to cooperate, and may obstruct or even shoot at journalists. Militia may see media as a source of revenue, and offer them services and protection in exchange for money.

Senior commanders have an awareness of the importance of favourable publicity and the need to avoid being blamed for civilian deaths or atrocities. However, checkpoints are often staffed by young, poorly equipped, poorly trained, tired and frightened young men who may take a more subjective and short-term view of events. It may – from their point of view – seem rational and justified to threaten, steal from or even shoot at the media. Before entering a danger area, the journalist needs to gain an understanding of the conflict from the point of view of the different forces involved. Journalists need to have good knowledge about the morale, discipline and attitude of the fighting forces on the ground. They also need to have good inter-personal skills to take the heat out of confrontations when they arise.

Travelling with the military or without escort

The military can offer access to the front line, and travelling with them may be the only way to get to areas where you want to work. However, also be aware of drawbacks. In some countries, if you travel with the military you will be associated with the military and become a target. If you travel with the military you have to do what the military tells you to do. If a unit comes under fire, their first responsibility is to themselves, their comrades and your safety, rather than to your pictures or copy. Junior soldiers or officers have little decision-making power. If you are allocated to a soldier, try to ensure that it is one of senior rank. Helicopter pilots can give you an overview of trouble areas and allow you to take pictures from the air.

If travelling ‘unsupervised’ in a conflict zone, you need to be especially aware of where you are and where various forces are sit-

YOU MAY BE TARGETED AS ‘ONE OF THEM’

If you travel with the military or with one side in a conflict you risk becoming a target, either because you are mistaken for a soldier or because you are considered to be associated with the enemy.

DON'T BE MISTAKEN FOR A TARGET

- ◆ Make sure your clothing is not military style. Do not wear camouflage.
- ◆ Remember that cameras can be mistaken for guns.
- ◆ Flash photography may be taken as weapon flash.
- ◆ Camera lenses, glasses, buckles on belts, shiny patent leather, watches (turn them around) can flash in sunlight.
- ◆ Camera lights attract attention from a long way off, particularly at night.
- ◆ Lit cigarettes can be seen from a long distance and may attract snipers.

uated. Travel with someone who is experienced in the area and only when you are confident that you will not become a target. Identify yourself as media. Some journalists paint MEDIA or PRESS in large letters on the side and top of the vehicle. Before you do this, check that it really is an effective deterrent. In some contexts this will make you a target. If challenged, identify yourself as a journalist.

Try to ensure that you can tell the difference between opposing forces, by uniform or type of vehicle or equipment being used. In some situations this is not easy. Poorly equipped forces may have no clear identity markings. In some conflicts soldiers even take uniforms from dead or captured soldiers if they are better than their own.

If you video or photograph military forces or sites without approval, you are likely to be stopped and have your equipment and film confiscated. You could also be detained or worse.

Becoming a target

You may be targeted for one of three reasons:

- ◆ Because you are in the wrong place at the wrong time (bad luck),

Croats 'mistook BBC team for Serb soldiers'

A BBC team covering the expulsion of Serb families from their homes in Croatia, in August 1995, was fired on by Croat soldiers because they were mistaken for Serb paramilitaries.

Radio 4 *World Tonight* correspondent John Schofield, 29, was shot and fatally wounded. Arabic service reporter Oma Ansawi was shot in the leg. Cameraman Adam Kelliher was hit on the wrist.

A Croatian military report in 2001 said that their troops had mistaken the BBC team standing next to their armoured vehicle for Serb paramilitaries. The BBC team, which also included TV correspondent Jonathan Birchall, had stopped to take pictures of burning houses.

Col. Dusan Viro, a Croatian Defence Ministry spokesman, said that an active operation was under way to flush out Serb paramilitaries. "The area was out of bounds to all journalists. In fact, I am very surprised to hear that any journalists made it into the area at all, because it was off limits."

An unidentified former soldier on duty at the time said: "There was no time to ask questions and we couldn't take any chances. We had a military objective and any unauthorised personnel deemed to be enemy forces had to be dealt with."

Cameraman Adam Kelliher said that he accepted that the Croatian troops had made a mistake and did not deliberately target them as journalists. But he strongly denied a claim in the official report that warnings had been shouted to the BBC team before the shooting started.

Source: Report by Jane Kokan for the Freedom Forum

<http://www.balkanpeace.org/hed/archive/sept01/hed4114.shtml>

- ◆ Because you are wrongly perceived to be a military threat,
- ◆ Because you are a journalist.

You can reduce your chances of being mistaken for a military target by avoiding looking like one. Wear non-military clothing in bland colours, and with different shades top and bottom. Be careful when filming because a camera can appear as a weapon, and your posture may appear threatening. In some circumstances a video camera and a SAM 7 missile launcher may appear similar. The sun flashing off a camera lens may be mistaken for an anti-tank weapon or the muzzle flash from a firearm. You may also be targeted because you are close to a strategic target. This could put you at risk from artillery attack or from attack by aircraft.

Weapons awareness

War correspondents need to develop basic awareness of the different kinds of weapons, their range and capacity. This may help you to make life and death decisions. The accuracy of pistols and rifles is mainly determined by the type of weapon and quality of manufacture, by weather conditions, and the ability (and state of mind, tiredness etc.) of the person firing. At 1,000 metres even a 16 km/h wind will divert a bullet four metres from its target.

- ◆ Low-velocity weapons are pistols or small rifles which fire a bullet below the speed of sound. Body armour will protect against these.
- ◆ Semi-automatic weapons capture some of the energy from the ignition to re-cock the revolver. Automatic and semi-automatic pistols and rifles have a tendency to fire high and to the right. With a pistol, a well-trained soldier would expect to consistently hit a human target at no more than 20 metres. A poorly trained soldier would be highly inaccurate at that distance. This information may help you to decide whether to withdraw from a situation that looks hostile.
- ◆ High-velocity weapons (rifles or machine guns) fire bullets faster than the speed of sound. If you hear the bullet, it has already missed you. If it sounds like a sharp distinct crack, the rounds are very close.

In the hands of a trained soldier, a sub-machine gun is accurate at 70-100 metres, while a high-velocity assault rifle is accurate at 200-300 metres. In untrained hands all guns are highly inaccurate. However, a poorly trained soldier may hit you by mistake.

The main battlefield weapons are the American made M-16, and



From the top, Sterling 9 mm sub-machine gun, Sterling 5.56 light machine gun and an AK47.

Photo: Rob Judges



From the top, left to right: disposable 66mm anti-tank rocket launcher, Colt 45 pistol, 9 mm Sig pistol, Mach 10 Ingram 9 mm sub-machine gun, Russian Tokarev 9 mm pistol, SR6 respirator and 5 kg Yugoslav anti-tank mine.

Photo: Rob Judges



Bullets come in all shapes and sizes. Most are lead with a hardened metal jacket. At the top is a drill round used for practice. The pointed bullets are standard 7.62 copper-coated rounds, the round-headed bullets are 9 mm ball ammunition for handguns and sub-machine guns. The small silver round is a blank cartridge.

Photo: Rob Judges

the (ex-Soviet) AK47, which is made everywhere and is famous for functioning even when in poor condition. Bullets from either weapon will pierce a steel helmet at more than 1,000 metres. You are at risk within 1,500 metres.

A sniper rifle has a longer, thicker barrel and is fitted with telescopic sights. Depending on the ability of the sniper, it is accurate up to 600 metres. Snipers often work in pairs to harass troops and civilians and to destroy morale (as in Sarajevo). They may shoot one victim and then target those who come to the rescue. Some snipers claim to have killed more than 100 people.

Soldiers using automatic weapons are trained to fire no more than two or three shots at a time. Anyone firing long bursts is probably ill-trained. Bullets may go high, so you should stay low.

Most bullets are made from metal, either lead with a copper jacket or, for armour piercing, lead with a hard steel jacket. 'Rubber' bullets are usually plastic coated. They can kill if they hit a vulnerable area. Dum-dum bullets are normal bullets that have been altered by soldiers. They are illegal and are adapted so that they fragment on impact and do the maximum damage to internal organs. Incendiary bullets set fire to targets. Tracer bullets are used to illuminate and to direct fire towards a target. Be concerned if tracer is fired in your direction.

- ◆ Tank shells have a range of 2-4 kilometres. If you are close to tanks you need ear-protectors.
- ◆ Light artillery has a range of 17 kilometres, medium artillery 24 kilometres, and heavy artillery 30 kilometres.
- ◆ Multi-launch rockets have a range of almost 30 kilometres and can drop 8,000 shells on an area the size of a football field. Some artillery or aircraft fire missiles with 'secondary missiles' that scatter shrapnel over a 500-metre radius of the main explosion.

Artillery commanders achieve accuracy by 'bracketing' a target, using single rounds as sighters, by firing one shell in front and one behind, and then working out range and direction. Pay attention to single rounds, even if they land on open ground where there is no obvious target. If shells fall on either side, you may be being bracketed and should move out – fast.

Safety on the move

It is crucial to consider how and with whom to travel within a conflict area. No journalist should travel alone. There should always be someone who will look out for you, and who will take some respon-

sibility for getting help if you are hit. Avoid travelling with companions who are full of bravado. Their over-confidence could cost your life.

Assess risks thoroughly. Travelling from one base to another will often take you over roads that are risky, and yesterday's information may already be out of date. You need to retain your own sense of where you are going, in case you become separated. Co-operate with others but maintain responsibility for yourself.

Make sure that someone outside the party knows where you are going and when you expect to arrive. They should know when to raise the alarm if you do not check in.

Ride inside the vehicle rather than on it. Use a vehicle with four doors so that you do not get trapped in the back. Three journalists killed in an ambush in Afghanistan in 2001 were among a group of reporters hitching a ride on top of an armoured personnel carrier. Some journalists do not wear a seat belt because they believe it will impede their escape if their vehicle comes under attack. But seat belts are designed to be easily released, and they protect drivers and passengers from serious injuries. The number one risk in a car — even in a battle zone — is still a road accident. Wear the belt.

Convoys

Convoys can give a false sense of security. Military convoys have strict rules and discipline. Vehicles are in communication with each other, immediately aware of any attack, and armed. Convoys of journalists are often lines of cars travelling in the same direction, with a vague feeling there is safety in numbers. If travelling with a military or UN escort, observe their rules. If you are in a convoy of non-military vehicles, be aware that you may attract attention from hostile forces. Make sure you have your own map and a good awareness of where you are going and where you have come from. Keep visual contact and have a radio or telephone link between cars. Military personnel do not like to travel at the front or the back of convoys. The front vehicle is sometimes attacked to block the road and bring the rest of the convoy to a halt.

Checkpoints

Passing through checkpoints can be a time of tension and potential danger. They may be staffed by militias, guerrilla forces or regular soldiers who have lost morale and discipline. Your objective is to pass through safely. Always be polite. Avoid confrontation.

FATAL CONVOY

In Afghanistan in 2001, a car containing four journalists (Afghan, Australian, Spanish and Italian) was stopped and all four journalists were killed. The convoy in which they were travelling was too dispersed to be effective.

Kurt Schork was one of the most highly regarded war correspondents. He covered the Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq at the beginning of the Gulf War, and became known in the 1990s, for his coverage of the Balkan conflicts. He also reported from East Timor. In 2000, at the age of 53, when Reuters sent him to Sierra Leone, he was widely regarded as one of the most competent and safest war correspondents.

Miguel Gil Moreno, 32, who worked for Associated Press television news, was hardly less experienced. In 1999 he stayed inside Kosovo after most Western journalists left, and later was one of the few Western correspondents in Grozny when Russian forces attacked the Chechen capital. Despite his courage and experience, he had, according to colleagues, been expressing concern about the situation in Sierra Leone. A few days before the ambush that killed him and Kurt Schork, he told Reuters cameraman, Mark Chisholm: "One of two things will happen on this story. One of us will get the big scoop of fighting pictures, or one of us will get killed."

The poorly equipped Sierra Leone army was fighting the guerrilla RUF. In an interview with TVnewsweb, Mark Chisholm recalls: "You would have 200-300 soldiers walking down a main road, firing left and right into the bush. They walked down a road until they met some resistance and then there would be a firefight.

"We were aware that, if we had advanced with the soldiers, then the rebels could come out of the bush behind us and attack us. So that was why we never advanced with the soldiers."

The whole AP team in Sierra Leone was feeling under pressure because the Reuters team had recently had two successes. They had filmed a gun battle which broke out unexpectedly on Sunday May 21 at Rogberi Junction. Only a week earlier Reuters had also filmed the arrest of the rebel leader Sankoh in Freetown. AP strongly asserts that it would never criticise a crew working under dangerous conditions, or pressure them to do anything unsafe, but it is likely that Moreno was anxious to produce some strong footage.

For whatever reason, two days before he died, Moreno broke his own rule about being cautious and made a journey to the front line.

Going beyond the front line was a judgement call — it cost the lives of two experienced war reporters

*The pressures on front line journalists became a subject of debate after the killing of two experienced war correspondents in Sierra Leone in May 2000. **Kurt Schork** (Reuters) and **Miguel Gil Moreno** (Associated Press) were killed in an ambush by the Revolutionary United Front while driving on a road near Rogberi Junction, 90 kilometres from the capital Freetown.*



Kurt Schork reports from a trench in Vitez, central Bosnia, in September 1993. He was killed in an ambush in Sierra Leone on May 24 2000.

Then came reports that the bodies of seven UN Peacekeepers had been found in trenches. On Wednesday May 24 the Reuters team and Miguel met by chance at Rogberi Junction. The army had launched a push along the road to Lunsar, close to the diamond mines, and an officer told them they could film the advance. The drivers did not want to go, so the journalists drove themselves, Kurt driving the Reuters team in one car, with Miguel driving the other. A lieutenant and other soldiers travelled with them to provide some protection and to help them to get past checkpoints.

Mark Chisholm, who was sitting next to Kurt, says that the 'rival' teams had great respect for one another and would not take extra risks to outdo each other. He told Tvnewsweb: "The four of us agreed that it sounded like a good story. There was no argument or discussion. It was the first time we had decided to go beyond the front line, but we were all happy with the decision."

They were ambushed three kilometres down the road in an explosion of gunfire. Kurt Schork was hit by one of the first bullets and was killed instantly. Miguel was shot and killed. Four soldiers were also killed in the attack. Mark Chisholm was hit in the hand as he escaped from the car. He and Reuters photographer Yannis Behrakis fled separately into the bush and hid, each unsure whether anyone was left alive. They emerged later to be rescued by an army patrol.

The deaths of Kurt Schork and Miguel Gil Moreno caused anguish amongst other reporters and colleagues, and not only because both were well liked and respected. The four journalists who had set off on this assignment were amongst the most experienced of war zone journalists and if two of them could die, then so could anyone. Of course, the deaths could be put down to bad luck and to the unavoidable risks of the job. There remains, however, the uncomfortable fact that they were breaking their own unwritten rules by making that journey, albeit on an informed judgement call. Perhaps the Reuters team would have gone anyway, since there were three of them, and they had been told that the road was clear. It seems doubtful that Miguel would have gone alone. Sometimes even the best journalists find it difficult to balance their instincts for survival with their wish to do their job.

Mark Chisholm told TVnewsweb: "At no point did Reuters say to me 'Why did you go down that road?' They understood we were all experienced journalists and they trusted our judgement. What they did say was 'What could we have done better?'" ■

*(Sources: Reuters website, BBC online, Mark Chisholm's account to TVnewsweb — www.ksmemorial.com/chisTVNW.htm — and *Deadly Competition*, by Peter Maass in Brill's Content September 2000. Read Peter Maass' article online at www.petermaass.com and click on magazine articles.)*

SEE YOURSELF THROUGH THE EYES OF THE SOLDIER

“Put yourselves in other people’s shoes. The soldier may be a 17- or 18-year-old kid who is poorly trained and frightened. What someone does may be rational in the context of a hostile environment.”

Andy Kain, AKE training



In this image taken from television, a German journalist lies on the road after being shot on June 13 1999, near Dulje, 25 miles south of the Kosovo capital Pristina. Unidentified men opened fire on a car carrying two German journalists, killing one and wounding another.

Photo: AP/Czech TV

Approach a checkpoint with nothing in your hands except for necessary papers. Identify yourself as a journalist. If it is a routine crossing and they raise no objection, be polite, but don’t volunteer more information than you are asked and do not appear too curious. Never try to film without permission.

If there are problems and the soldiers appear hostile or obstructive, try to calm the situation. Offer a cigarette or a sweet. If you and the soldiers have a language in common, start a conversation about something other than the conflict, such as sport or family. Tell them your name. Make it clear that you know where you are and that others also know where you are.

You are at greater danger from ill-trained and ill-disciplined militia. Be concerned if soldiers appear listless, do not look you in the face and show no feeling. They may no longer feel the value of human life. Be alarmed if a soldier’s pupils are unusually small. He may be on drugs, and drugs reduce inhibitions.

When showing your credentials, you can also show a picture of a husband or wife, or children — something to humanise you. Make it clear that people are expecting you and know where you are and will look for you if you do not arrive. You want them to understand that you pose no threat to them, but that you have rights and that there may be consequences in the event of you being hurt or harassed. Stay polite.

Taking cover

Distinguish between taking cover from view (not being seen) and taking cover from fire (protection from bullets).

Cover from view

You may be seen because of your shape, shine, silhouette or movement. If you do not want to be seen, do not wear anything bright. Allow shiny equipment to become muddy or dirty. Think about the effect of the sun on lenses.

Cover from fire

Do not take cover in a place from where someone has recently been firing. This area will be an active target. To be effective, cover must stop a bullet, not just protect you from line of sight. A small tree, a wooden fence or a car body will not protect you. Only in TV cop series does a car door protect against firearms. Earth is excellent at absorbing bullets, which is why it is used to fill sandbags. A hole or

a dip in the ground gives cover from view and cover from fire. If journalists have an armoured vehicle, use this for cover. If you have to hide behind an ordinary car, try to get the engine block between you and the point of fire. Avoid the petrol tank. Brick walls appear to provide protection, but are little use against modern weapons. In a building, find a room without exterior walls — a hotel bathroom may provide this protection.

Don't stick your head above cover. If you have to look, do so around the side as near to ground level as possible rather than over the top. Even if you are behind a wall, lie flat on the ground, offering the smallest target area. When you take cover, immediately assess your position and plan your withdrawal to a safer place. When you withdraw, run and keep low. If there are several of you, move through the danger area at unpredictable intervals. Don't go all at once. Try to put surrounding ground, vegetation and buildings between you and the firer. Retain reserves of energy. If you are struggling, leave equipment behind to escape with your life.

If you are in a building that may come under fire, remove glass from the window and unnecessary clutter from the room. Anything that is not fixed down will fly about from the force of a blast. If possible, soak mattresses and put them against the walls and doors to impede bullets and shrapnel. Keep water in covered buckets so that you have clean water for drinking and washing.

Common sense in the battle zone

Do you know where the combatants are? Where is firing likely to come from? Take your bearings and try to keep a sense of how you would get out in an emergency.

- ◆ Do not be overconfident. Know your own limitations.
- ◆ Take responsibility for your own decisions. Do not be drawn into lethal situations by other journalists, against your instincts.
- ◆ Closer is not always better. Think about a higher, more distant, position. Explicit images are rarely broadcast.
- ◆ Never pick up a souvenir. Mines can be disguised as all sorts of attractive objects.
- ◆ Never carry a firearm or weapon — you lose your civilian status.
- ◆ Keep yourself clean and your morale high. Pay attention to your physical condition. Remember you may have to run for your life.
- ◆ Be aware of the potential for error if observing artillery, bombs or missiles on nearby positions. You are at risk of being hit by so-called 'friendly fire'.

Training helped Snezana stay cool under pressure

TV correspondent, **Snezana Lupevska** took part in the first safety training course in Macedonia, set up by the IFJ and the Macedonian Press Centre in October 2000.

Four months later she went with her A1 TV news crew to the Macedonian village of Tanusevci on the border with Kosovo. Snezana and her crew were held and interrogated by Albanian militia, some wearing Kosovo Liberation Army badges.

Snezana said: "They were armed, shot in the air and surrounded us. The thing that was very positive for me and my team was that we stayed cool, and tried to sound as friendly as possible, and to talk with the members of KLA. Fortunately they did not harm us.

"The security seminar was of great help for me. Unfortunately everything I learned I put into practice in my own country." ■

When Alex Perry and his translator entered the fort at Qala-i-Jangi, they stayed behind a wall with members of the Red Cross while the battle was raging. Later they got closer access to the Northern Alliance commanders, the SAS, American Special Forces and the CIA.

"The Taliban had the southwest quadrant of the fort and at the southeast end was the Northern Alliance command post. There was a gun battle all day. We were behind 20-metre walls but you could see people coming back shot. This was a big struggle. I had to be there.

"A Special Forces translator ran away and they co-opted mine. I sat with the Special Forces as they called in bomb strikes. I put myself in their hands. I did feel quite safe as I told myself that the Northern Alliance and Special Forces did not want to die. For that day it worked, but the next day they moved position to the northeast tower.

"My translator wanted us to leave but I felt we could not. He asked an Afghani commander to order us out. I and three other colleagues left under duress. Half an hour later a 2,000lb laser-guided bomb hit where we had been sitting, killing more than ten people."

Alex stayed for a week, putting together an authoritative report on the Taliban uprising for *Time*. However, he is very aware of how close he came to losing his life. "Over three days the battle got closer and closer and the Taliban had got hold of mortars. One night I came out of the fort too late – 100 yards away from the Northern Alliance who thought in the dark that we were escaping Taliban and started shooting at us. We just ran until they gave up chasing us."

ITN reporter Andrea Catherwood was wounded at the same fort when a Taliban prisoner exploded a hidden hand grenade.

Alex has since been on a safety course, and is very grateful for that. "I think the course has been fantastic. I feel I have the confidence to make better decisions. Even simple stuff like the range of the guns is useful information and good background." ■

Translator's concerns saved reporter from lethal 'friendly fire'

Reporter **Alex Perry**, from *Time* magazine, was the first Western journalist to reach Qala-i-Jangi fort in Afghanistan, in December 2001, when Taliban prisoners took over part of the fort. He was the only journalist present for the whole three day uprising. He learned that being close to the action may be necessary, but sometimes your life depends on knowing when to listen to a colleague and back off.



Photo: Time magazine



Photographers in Orahovac, Kosovo, passing destroyed cars and houses after Albanian rebels withdrew in July 1998. Photo: AP / Srdjan Ilic

- ◆ If other journalists start leaving, they might know something you do not. Pay attention to civilians. If busy streets suddenly empty, perhaps you should consider a rapid withdrawal.

After the battle

- ◆ If you visit the scene of a battle, be aware that there may be mines or unexploded shells and that buildings may be unsafe.
- ◆ What goes up must come down. Militia often celebrate the end of battle by firing into the air. These bullets descend at terminal velocity, around 190km/h (120mph). Many people have been killed or injured during burst of celebratory fire.

Minefields

The UN estimated there were 120 million landmines worldwide when the campaign to ban landmines began in 1995. Since then, the 1997 Ottawa Treaty has led to the *Convention on the Prohibition of*

IN THE BATTLE ZONE

- ◆ Do not be overconfident. Respect your own limitations.
- ◆ Take responsibility for your own decisions.
- ◆ Closer is not always better.
- ◆ Never carry a weapon.
- ◆ Keep yourself clean and your morale high.
- ◆ Don't get too close to shelling — even if the fire is 'friendly'.
- ◆ Pay attention to what others are doing.
- ◆ Don't pick up battle souvenirs — they may explode.
- ◆ What goes up must come down. Beware of celebratory fire.

INFORMATION ABOUT MINES

You can find information about mines on the International Committee for the Red Cross website — <http://www.icrc.org>



A 'butterfly' mine — attractive to children, but lethal.



A Claymore type mine, filled with pellets and laid against a tree. If triggered, it will shoot the projectiles at high-velocity towards the viewer.

the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, which came into force on March 1 1999 and has now (January 2003) been signed by 133 states and ratified by 131. Afghanistan and Angola, two of the world's most mine-affected countries, have ratified the Convention but, at the time of writing, Iraq and the USA have not.

Anti-tank mines (which are not covered by the Convention) will destroy your car and the occupants if you drive over one. An anti-personnel mine is an explosive device designed to maim or kill the person who triggers it. They kill and maim soldiers and civilians, adults and children for decades after fighting has ended.

In the five years following the Dayton Agreement, more than 1,250 Bosnians — mainly civilians — were killed or injured by landmines. In Afghanistan, between April 1998 and December 2000, the International Committee for the Red Cross registered 2,686 victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance; that is, three people a day. Half the victims were children under 18.

Anti-personnel mines can be as simple as a box of explosives detonated by a trip wire. Fragmentation mines contain ball bearings or shrapnel, designed to kill and maim over a wide area. A bounding fragmentation mine jumps a metre above ground when activated, and sends lethal fragments 200 metres. Mines can be small and lightweight and can be thrown from helicopters. Butterfly mines are notorious for being attractive to children.

Take a look at the type of mines being used in the area you will visit, and how they look when hidden. One journalist being inducted by a colleague into a war zone remarked on the number of hub-caps littering the side of the road. Do not enter areas that are known to have been mined.

Targeted as a journalist

The presence of journalists, and especially a camera, influences events and combatants. Be alert to signs of hostility. If you have witnessed an act of murder or violence by military forces or have seen evidence of an atrocity, then appear calm and natural, hide your film and keep your cameras covered. Soldiers are increasingly aware of prosecutions for war crimes, and, if they feel compromised, will want to eradicate evidence, and in extreme cases, witnesses, especially those with cameras and tape recorders. Give the impression that you have seen nothing and move away as soon as possible.

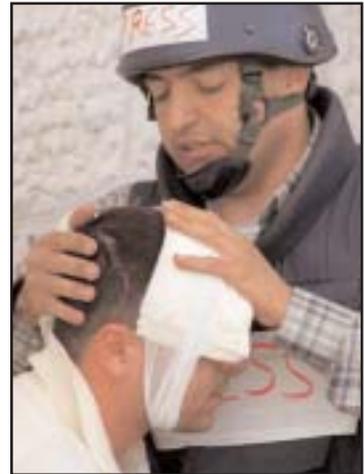
The Israeli Palestinian conflict: media in the firing line

Media are at extra risk in long-running and deep-seated conflicts, where the images that are projected around the world come to be seen as part of the struggle for power. Nowhere has this struggle for control of the images of a conflict been more evident, and proved more dangerous for journalists, than in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is estimated that 2,645 people were killed in the first 25 months of the Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip between late September 2000 and early November 2002. Of those killed, 1,957 (74%) were Palestinians and 639 (24%) were Israelis.

This is not a war in a conventional sense. The violence mainly takes place in Palestinian areas in confrontations between stone throwing youth and a heavily armed Israeli army. In Israel, killings have been by suicide bombers, where journalists are only present after the event. Confrontations in Palestinian areas often begin as riots. However, the targeting of journalists has been so consistent and the dangers faced by photographers, camera operators and correspondents are so severe that they are effectively working in a war zone. Many injuries are from live ammunition, fired by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). At times journalists have also been threatened by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) who try to suppress 'unfavourable' images to the Palestinian cause.

The Israeli authorities have tried to control journalists, and particularly Palestinian journalists working for international media, by withdrawing press cards and permits to travel. They have also acted physically against Palestinian media, blowing up transmitters and buildings. Although the IDF consistently says it does not target journalists, numerous shootings, beatings and harassment add up to a policy, deliberate or by default. Soldiers who see the journalists as 'on the side of' Palestinian stone throwers know that they will face few repercussions if they shoot at the photographers, camera operators or correspondents.

The International Press Institute, representing editors, media executives and senior journalists, published a report detailing attacks on journalists covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the 20 months from September 2000 to April 2002. It concluded that 81% of press freedom violations were perpetrated by Israelis, mostly by the IDF. The majority of victimised journalists were Palestinian. There were also violations by Palestinian authorities.



A television cameraman helps a fellow Palestinian journalist, injured by a bullet in Ramallah, October 2000. Photo: AP/Nasser Nasser

Sources for the IPI Report

The IPI report, *Press Freedom Violations in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Areas September 28 2000 — April 20 2002*, drew on information from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Associated Press (AP), Reuters, Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW), Abu Dhabi TV, Wattan TV, Miftah: The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy, Addameer: Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association, B'tselem: The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and a number of media organisations. The full report is available on the IPI web site at <http://www.freemedia.at/index1.html>

The IPI concluded that since the beginning of the violent crisis in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on September 28, 2000, journalists have repeatedly been targeted, shot, beaten, arrested, threatened and intimidated by Israeli soldiers, police, politicians, settlers and civilians, as well as by Palestinian police, politicians and civilians. Out of a total of 220 incidents, there were six deaths. Journalists and media workers have been injured by live ammunition, shrapnel or rubber-coated bullets, and were harassed and physically assaulted in other ways.

At least 165 press freedom violations were carried out by Israeli authorities. Twelve violations were committed by Israeli settlers. One was perpetrated jointly by soldiers and settlers. Another fifteen violations were carried out by the Palestinian authorities, four by Palestinian paramilitaries, and five by Palestinian civilians. Fifty-two Palestinian media workers have been attacked, 17 beaten, 29 shot, and a further eight shot at. Five of the journalists who were killed were Palestinian, one Italian. Four were killed by Israelis and one by Palestinian paramilitaries; the sixth is disputed.

On December 17 2001, the IDF released a report on shootings of journalists by IDF soldiers. Only one soldier was found guilty of shooting a journalist. His commanding officer was reprimanded. The report only found seven cases worth investigating; none involving Palestinian journalists.

On the day of the first Intifada deaths, September 29 2000, freelance journalist Khaled al-Zeghary was beaten by Israeli soldiers and shot in the leg with a rubber-coated metal bullet while covering clashes at the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. Zeghari said: "I was filming while lying down on the ground. All of a sudden the soldiers approached and began beating me with bats and sticks on my head and shoulders." Zeghari did not realise until doctors examined him that he had also been hit by a rubber bullet. He said it was the 20th time he had been attacked by Israeli soldiers.

On October 21, Ibrahim Al Husary, working for Al Wattan TV; Jamal Ismail Al-Arouri, a photographer with Agence France Presse (AFP); and Jacques-Marie Bourget, working for *Paris Match*, were shot by an Israeli sniper while covering clashes in Al Bireh, on the outskirts of Ramallah. Al Husary said they were clearly identifiable as press because of their cameras. Bourget was flown to France for surgery. His deputy editor said: "A 57-year-old man can't easily be mistaken for a 15-year-old rock thrower."

On November 11, Yola Monakhov, an American photographer

working for AP, was struck by a live round fired by an Israeli soldier in the West Bank town of Bethlehem. She sustained serious injuries to her bladder, internal organs and pelvis. Monakhov had been with a small group of Palestinian youth who were breaking up stones to use in their slingshots. Some were hurling stones. When an Israeli soldier appeared and took aim, Monakhov fled with the youths, who took shelter in a small recess. Her backpack prevented her from taking proper cover. The Israeli army at first denied that a journalist had been shot, but later apologised to Monakhov. Their report said that the soldier had violated IDF rules of engagement, but had not targeted the journalist intentionally.

On November 12 2000, Israeli soldiers stopped Reuters cameraman Mazen Dana near the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, and prevented him from entering Hebron. Dana was travelling with Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. After Robinson protested, Dana was allowed to proceed. Jewish settlers attacked Dana's car with stones and metal bars. The journalist was taken to the local police station and questioned.

Palestinian authorities have also harassed and threatened journalists. On October 12 2000, in the West Bank town of Ramallah, an Italian RAI television crew filmed the killing of two Israelis by Palestinian civilians who forced their way into a police station. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) tried to confiscate the film, beating the cameraman and assaulting crew members. RAI pulled its staff out of the Middle East after threats.

On November 15, PNA security forces raided the Bethlehem-based television station Al-Roa', beat station director Hamdi Farraj and threatened to shoot staff members. Soldiers locked the station's doors and confiscated the keys. The station was issued with a banning order, but was later allowed to resume broadcasting. In January 2001, the PNA detained Majdi al-Arbid, a cameraman who owns a production company in the Gaza Strip, in connection with video footage of a PNA execution aired on Israel's Channel 2 .

On January 17 2001, masked gunmen in the Gaza Strip assassinated Hisham Mekki, head of the official Palestinian radio and television stations and member of the Fatah movement. 'Palestinian Al Aqsa Brigades' claimed responsibility.

Throughout 2001 and 2002 the majority of attacks on media continued to be by members of the IDF. Al Wattan TV cameraman Ashraf Kutkut and reporters Mas'adah 'Uthman and Duha Al Shami, were attacked by Israeli troops on January 28 2001, at Ein

Freelance 'could not afford flack jacket or insurance'

Roddy Scott, a freelance journalist with Frontline Television News, was killed while making a film about the independence struggle in Chechnya.

He was filming a battle between Chechen and Russian forces in September 2000 in Ingushetia when he died. Scott, 31, was working on a long-term freelance project to document the Chechen campaign. Writing in *Guardian Media*, Vaughan Smith, director of Frontline, said that freelancers like Roddy spent months making films at their own expense. "Roddy had to wait for a £500 payment before he could make his trip, and did not have insurance or a flack jacket. "Roddy made his own assessment of the dangers involved and decided that they were worth taking. He felt the international media was in dereliction of its duty in failing to take the necessary risks to cover Chechnya." ■

Kenia, a village near Ramallah, although they all had valid press cards. Al Shami was beaten and cameras and cassettes were retrieved only after they had been inspected by Israeli authorities.

Khalid Jahshan, a Palestine Television photographer; Husam Abu-Allan, an AFP photographer; and Lu'ay Abu-Haykal, a Reuters photographer were beaten by Israeli troops while covering clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli soldiers in Hebron on February 11. When the journalists tried to defend themselves an Israeli soldier struck one with a rifle butt, while another pointed a rifle at a journalist's head. ID cards were temporarily confiscated.

Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based television station, is widely watched by Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and in Israel. Its staff have been harassed by both Israeli and Palestinian authorities. In December 2001 Al-Jazeera correspondent Saif Shahin was beaten by Palestinian Security Forces while leaving his office in Gaza City. In March 2002, the Ramallah offices of Al-Jazeera were hit by machine gun fire from an Israeli tank shortly after correspondents had finished an interview with a Palestinian minister.

On April 20, Israeli troops shot Laila Odeh, Abu Dhabi TV Bureau Chief, in the leg, while her crew was filming at the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza. Odeh identified herself as a journalist to Israeli soldiers nearby, and left the area immediately when ordered to do so. She was shot by an IDF soldier as she was fleeing. After criticism, the IDF stated that "the presence of journalists among rioters and at friction points represents a danger to their well-being".

French television TF1 reporter, Bertrand Aguirre, was shot while covering clashes near Ramallah in the West Bank on May 15 with a group of TV cameramen. An AP television news video showed an Israeli border guard, cigarette dangling from his mouth, jump out of a dark green jeep, calmly aim his M-16 rifle in the direction of the TV crews, and fire a single shot. "If I had not been wearing this jacket, I would be dead now," Aguirre said afterwards. Israeli police decided not to prosecute, "due to a lack of evidence".

In July 2001, Israeli military authorities ordered field commanders to protect journalists who cover street clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Days later, Israeli soldiers attacked seven journalists covering confrontations as a religious Jewish group laid claim to the Temple Mount under the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Reuters photographer Ammar Awad said that a soldier kicked him in the mouth and continued to attack after he ran away.

Mohammad Al Bishawi, 27, a photographer for *Al Hayat Al Jadida*,

and Othman Ibrahim Qatanani, 24, a journalist for the daily *Al Quds*, were killed with six other people as they interviewed Hamas political leaders in central Nablus on July 13. An Israeli helicopter gunship fired two missiles through the apartment windows.

On August 13, Israeli soldiers attacked Egypt's MENA news agency cameraman Abdel-Nasser Abdoun and reporter Tarek Abdel-Gaber reporting Palestinian protests at the Qalandia checkpoint. The Israeli army said journalists 'provoked' the soldiers. After a formal protest, one Israeli soldier was placed under arrest.

Mohamad Al Razem, a photographer for Al-Amal TV in Hebron, was detained on August 29. Israeli soldiers stopped his car, which had a 'Press' sign, broke his camera and confiscated his film. Although a security check was negative, soldiers followed him home and ordered all male residents of seven apartments outside. They searched Al Razem's flat and locked his family into one room. He was interrogated until 2pm the following day. Razem has been stopped repeatedly since, but no charges have ever been laid.

Following the attacks in New York and Washington on September 11 2001, Palestinian authorities tried to prevent media images of Palestinians 'celebrating'. PNA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said that the PNA "[could] not guarantee the life" of an AP cameraman if his film was broadcast. Palestinian police also detained five journalists covering a demonstration at Nusseirat refugee camp in memory of a suicide bomber. Police instructed the media not to broadcast calls for a general strike, nationalist activities, demonstrations or security news without explicit permission from security services. For the tenth time, Palestinian police ordered Al-Roa TV in Bethlehem to cease broadcasting.

Israel has repeatedly attacked the Voice of Palestine Radio and Television. In December 2001 Israeli missiles hit the main transmitter in Ramallah and bulldozers flattened the building. In 2002, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned a second such attack.

In December 2001, IFJ and LAW condemned Israel's decision to replace press cards for Palestinians working for foreign networks with an orange card designating them as escorts to foreign journalists. In effect, 450 Palestinian media workers were prevented from covering news in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as this is the only card security forces recognise.

In February 2002, Sagui Bashan, a journalist for Israel's Channel Two, challenged an Israeli military decision to declare Karni crossing "closed military territory". When Israeli soldiers could not pro-

“A blue Star of David flew over an earthen wall bulldozed to a height of three meters. In front of the wall about 100 Palestinian kids were tossing rocks and Molotov cocktails toward the Israeli forces. Behind the wall Israeli tanks and cars were parked. We had been there only five minutes, when long bursts of machine gun fire from a tank sent us sprawling for cover.

“Palestinian kids were playing a lethal variant of Cowboys and Indians, daring each other to get as close as they could to the Israeli soldiers and then tossing rocks and Molotov cocktails at them. We videotaped one of the kids sprinting up to the Israeli perimeter fence with a Palestinian flag, which he hung on the barbed wire, as several Israeli soldiers took aim at him. When the stone throwing got too rough, the Israeli soldiers responded with rubber bullets, and less often, with real bullets.

“Karni Crossing had a reputation for being a particularly deadly spot, where live ammunition was fired frequently, and several Palestinian boys were wounded and killed each day. The Israeli army was on constant alert because of earlier roadside bombs and sniper incidents. I had been in the Gaza for two weeks, and CNN’s Cairo Bureau Chief and fluent Arabic-speaker Ben Wedeman had just been sent down to us to strengthen our team. The previous two days it had been relatively calm, and we went in for a quick reconnoitre to familiarise Ben with the territory.

“We wore our protective armour and took a lot of good-natured ribbing from the completely unprotected Palestinian kids crouching next to us behind bushes and walls. The equipment is hot and cumbersome, but even a rubber bullet can be deadly if it hits you in a vulnerable spot. Suddenly, both sides began using more live ammunition. The Palestinian kids stopped ribbing us and started taking cover behind journalists wearing flack jackets. It was clear that we were in the middle of what had turned into a fully-fledged war zone with .50-calibre machine gun fire spraying our location and rocket grenades being fired very close to us. From our vantage point, we looked out onto a wide road, which ran up a hill toward the Israeli position. We could see that the Palestinian kids were retreating down the hill and away from the outpost. The firing was almost continuous at that point, and I saw one of the kids pitch to the ground at a full run, clutching his leg and crying for help.

Saved by protective armour after being shot in the back by a sniper

*CNN Producer **Bruce Conover** and colleague **Ben Wedeman** were reporting from Karni Crossing in the Gaza strip in October 2000, when a riot erupted into a deadly war zone. Bruce Conover was pinned down as his colleague was shot and wounded.*

Re-edited and reprinted from IPI Global Journalist First Quarter 2001

"At a lull in the shooting, I raised my head to see where the firing was coming from. To my horror, I witnessed small dust-cloud explosions as one of the Israeli soldiers sent rocket grenades toward a small olive grove 50 feet ahead of where my cameraman, Dave Albritton, and I were lying, toward the place where Ben and cameraman Mohammed Ali were hidden behind some tree branches. Mohammed, who had been in the Jordanian army in his younger days, understood instantly that they had been seen and targeted and immediately jumped up and ran, yelling for Ben to follow. Ben decided to stay put and picked up the camera that Mohammed had left behind, intending to try and videotape some of the action.

"The worst nightmare of any journalist in a war zone became reality, as I heard a single, distinct shot and screams for help from the olive grove. Ben had been shot in the back as he jumped with the carrier and tried to run. He fell back and lay there, calling for help. Dave ran to Ben, and after the shooting seemed to have stopped, helped him walk to a Palestinian ambulance. I was pinned down for 15 minutes before I stumbled through olive orchards, found Mohammed, and we drove to the hospital. Amazingly, though the entry wound was almost right in the middle of Ben's back, the bullet had circled the outside of his body. Ballistics experts think the flack jacket, changed its direction so that it became a moderately serious flesh wound instead of a deadly injury.

"The army said they only returned fire on points where they were receiving fire from Palestinian gunmen. They denied using rocket-propelled grenades. But I saw them being fired and confirmed this by watching the videotape. The grenades contributed to Ben's decision to run and led directly to his being shot by what CNN concluded was most likely an Israeli sniper.

"We learned many lessons. Where people are carrying and using guns, there is no excuse for not wearing protective body armour. It only saves lives if worn and should not be left in the back seat of the car. There were opposed schools of thought about whether to use an armoured vehicle. Some CNN journalists feel the artificial security can lead journalists to drive into situations and places where they ought not go. Bored militia are likely to take a pot shot at an armoured car, just to see how well it holds up. Others hold that armoured vehicles are lifesavers. Some vehicles protect only against automatic weapons, while others can protect against machine gun fire. Armoured vehicles available to the non-military are useless against mines. I personally am convinced that in a place like Israel, where the army is well-trained and not likely to fire on journalists, an armoured vehicle can provide a protected escape route." ■



Palestinians carry Hussam Abu Alan, Palestinian photographer for Agence France Presse, who was shot in the head with a rubber bullet fired by Israeli troops while covering clashes in Hebron on October 8 1998.

Photo: AP/ Nasser Shiuoukhi

duce a written order, he told them he would proceed in his marked 'Press'. After he had driven a few metres, the soldiers opened fire, wounding Bashan in the shoulder and leg.

Raffaele Ciriello, an Italian freelance photographer, was killed by Israeli gunfire on March 13 in Ramallah. Ciriello, on assignment for the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, was apparently mistaken for a gunman. When a tank emerged at one end of the street Ciriello left a building and pointed his camera at the tank. He was shot six times and died soon afterwards.

NBC correspondent Dana Lewis and a camera crew came under fire in Ramallah in a clearly identified press armoured car. An initial burst of gunfire hit the car. A lone IDF soldier opened fire with a second burst from 15 to 30 metres. The journalists stopped, turned on an interior light to make themselves visible, and placed their hands on the windshield. The soldier fired a third burst, hitting the windshield. The crew escaped in reverse gear.

On April 4, Israeli forces fired a pepper gas canister at 30 journalists covering a standoff between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The next day they threw stun grenades to turn back foreign journalists on their way to cover US envoy Anthony Zinni's meeting with Yasser Arafat in the West Bank (picture page 21). As the convoy turned back, some journalists fled on foot. Israeli border guards gave chase, and confiscated ID cards. Bullet holes were discovered in the CNN car.

Injuries and deaths did not cease at the end of the period studied in the IPI report. In July 2002, Palestinian freelance photographer Imad Abu Zahra was photographing an Israeli armoured personnel carrier that had run into an electricity pole in Ramallah, when two Israeli tanks opened fire from a range of 40 metres. The tanks continued to fire after Zahra, who was hit in the thigh, and a wounded colleague took shelter in a nearby building. Zahra died the following day in hospital. The army said they were responding to a mob attack, but witnesses and photographs support the view that there were no clashes until the tanks opened fire.

An international mission by the IFJ in June 2002 concluded that conditions for journalists in the region had deteriorated to the point where the safety and livelihoods of many Palestinian journalists were at risk. The delegation said that more needed to be done by the IFJ, the Palestine Journalists Syndicate (PJS) and others to build the professional respect and independence of journalists. The IFJ report says: "Palestinian journalists believe strongly that

the primary responsibility for their troubles lies with Israeli military personnel and authorities. However, some Palestinian colleagues also question the actions and decisions of Palestinian officials concerning media that add to their difficulties."

The withdrawal of the Israeli Government Press Office card from all Palestinian journalists has major implications for international coverage in the area. The IFJ report says: "Until now international correspondents have been able to use the services of Palestinian media support staff, such as camera crews and freelance stills photographers who generally live in Palestinian areas around Jerusalem. These colleagues often possess precious local knowledge and expertise that is essential to the security and efficiency of media work in the Palestinian areas. They are no longer able to safely hire these colleagues."

In Ramallah: "There was extensive discussion of the appalling conditions in which journalists find themselves: poor wages and working conditions, constant dangers of targeting or victimisation while covering the conflict, a lack of material resources with which to work. ... The photographers and camera people underline the danger of filming from distances, because a person holding a camera on his/her shoulder can easily be mistaken for a sniper and shot at." In Gaza journalists said they felt very isolated.

Daniel Seaman, Director of the Israeli Government Press Office, told the mission that although he knew of "perhaps three dozen genuine professionals", the Palestinian media was guilty of incitement to murder Israelis, and that press vehicles were used to smuggle arms. The IFJ mission found no independent evidence for this.

The IFJ plans to open a media safety centre in the area and to increase its training and supply of protective equipment. However, it sees little prospect for safe and comprehensive coverage so long as Palestinian journalists are discriminated against. The mission concluded: "Working conditions for many journalists working both in the West Bank and Gaza areas are already intolerable because of widespread restrictions on freedom of movement caused by Israeli occupation. The consequences for journalistic coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are also dire. Inevitably, when journalists are forced to rely upon telecommunications or other forms of second-hand eyewitness accounts of events, the quality of coverage suffers and the reliability of reporting is severely compromised." ■

SURVIVAL TIPS

- ◆ Carry press ID ... but only show it when safe.
- ◆ Set your cell-phone to rapid dial to an emergency number.
- ◆ Stay upwind of tear gas.
- ◆ Take wet towel, water, and some citrus fruit.
- ◆ Consider wearing goggles.
- ◆ Consider protective clothing if firearms may be used.
- ◆ Carry first aid kits ... and learn how to use them.
- ◆ Wear loose clothing, made of natural fibres.
- ◆ Cover arms, legs and neck.
- ◆ Carry a day's food and water.



Paul Banoti, from the Public Media Center news agency (San Francisco) explains to fellow journalists in Lima, Peru, how he was injured. Banoti was reporting anti-government protests in July 2000 when he was hit in the eye by a tear gas canister. Thousands of protesters clashed with police in riots that killed at least six people. Banoti believes that riot police deliberately targeted him, as no protesters were nearby when he was shot.

Photo: Reuters / Pilar Olivares

Chapter 3 Riots and civil disorder

Riots, violent civil unrest and even demonstrations in your local town centre can be as dangerous as a battle zone. Some events are unpredictable, the dangers are unseen and the situation can escalate at frightening speed. Even non-violent crowds can become dangerous when people become frightened or angry. Peaceful demonstrations can quickly become dangerous riots. Where there is ethnic conflict or a divided community, journalists need to know about safe and unsafe areas, and about safe and unsafe behaviour patterns. Terror campaigns often include civilian targets, and in some countries target media and journalists. Camera crews, reporters and photographers who cover terrorist attacks need to be aware of the risk of revenge or secondary attacks at the scene immediately afterwards.

The aim of the journalist is the same in these situations as in war zones – to achieve good coverage at minimal risk. The same principles of planning ahead and retaining control apply. The greatest risk is to news teams who are sent into situations where they are unaware of the safe and unsafe areas, the pattern of previous risks and the extent to which they themselves may become targets. Journalists may be at extra risk if their media organisation is, in the minds of those involved in civil disturbance, identified with one party to the conflict or other. Journalists, or media teams, may consider removing any stickers or logos that place them with one media company or another.

Security forces and police often claim that the presence of cameras induces or escalates riots, and therefore try to prevent cameras recording their activities. Journalists can become a target of rioters or the police if either believes that coverage will identify them as perpetrators of violence. Photographers and camera operators are at extra risk if those involved in a riot believe that film will be handed over to the police.



People in a crowd who are expecting to be filmed and fear being identified may wear balaclavas or motorcycle helmets to cover their faces. Special police or military forces who are prepared for riot also wear helmets and face masks and may remove numbers that can lead to their identification. There is evidence that once people believe they cannot be identified, they have a low level of accountability for their actions and are more likely to use violence.

Violence may begin because of anger within the crowd. At other times it may begin because police decide to disperse a crowd by force. Neither side is likely to give much warning. Security forces may quickly escalate their response from batons and shields to tear gas and rubber bullets, and even live rounds. If you get caught in a large mass of people it may be difficult to reach colleagues and a place of safety quickly.

*A press photographer stands in a cloud of teargas as an injured demonstrator is carried off during an anti-Fujimori riot in Lima, Peru, on May 25 2000. Protesters and riot police fought a running battle following a march protesting at the presidential run-off election.
Photo: AP / Martin Mejia*

PHOTOGRAPHER KILLED IN VENEZUELA CLASHES

Photographer Jorge Tortoza, 48, was shot and killed while covering clashes in Caracas during political upheaval in Venezuela in April 2002.

Although wearing a press vest, Tortoza was shot by gunmen on nearby buildings believed to be members of the security forces.

STUDENT JOURNALIST SHOT COVERING RALLY

Journalism student Jimmy Higenyi was killed instantly in Uganda when police opened fire on a rally he had been sent to cover as part of his course.

Tutors at United Media Consultants and Trainers assigned Jimmy to cover a rally organised by the Uganda People's Congress in Kampala on January 12 2002.

The Government banned the rally and when a large number of people gathered, police fired into the crowd. Jimmy was hit and killed instantly.

Source: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

IMPROVISE

- ◆ A magazine/newspaper can be inserted under a jumper as a make-shift anti-stab vest.
- ◆ A hardened baseball hat can protect your head.

'The riot got out of hand... it started to get difficult to breathe'

Ram Ramgopal was the producer of a TV crew reporting riots in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, in April 2002. He learned valuable lessons about how to prepare for problems.

"At 10.30pm we received a call that a riot had broken out in Gomtipur. Four of us, camera, producer, correspondent and sound, went in the car wearing body armour and military style helmets. The police and the state police were there including the Rapid Action Force.

"We set up in the middle of a little area close to the police and fire station. There were a lot of alleyways. As long as we were together we felt pretty safe. The riot was in front of us and behind us was a town square. The real problem was when the riot got out of hand and the police began to use tear gas. It started to get pretty difficult to breathe.

"We had left our towels and water back in the car and I said I would go back one kilometre and get them. There were no lights. There were police posts every 50 metres. The police were there in a patrol car but they were being pelted with stones and they moved away. I realised I was moving too slowly and I came out and made a dash for it. I was struck by a stone or a rock. I had a superficial wound.

"I was cut and swollen. I told the driver to go in but he was very reluctant. There were acid bottles being thrown. We pushed in with the car and met up with the others.

"In retrospect I would definitely have had all of us take our medical kits with us. We needed to carry water to deal with tear gas so that we did not need to split up. The correspondent was really retching.

"As a new father I found myself thinking 'Is it worth it?' ■

Plan in advance

When covering a planned event, such as a demonstration, gather intelligence in advance about the likely crowd movements, flash points and safety routes. Reconnoitre the scene in advance to select vantage points and alternative ways out. Knowing where people belonging to different ethnic or religious communities live may determine your travel routes in and out of an area.

- ◆ If your team is separating, pre-arrange contact points and times and try to have a direct means of communication.
- ◆ Carry press identification. However, if you think that this may attract unwanted attention, conceal it.
- ◆ Carry a cell phone with an emergency number pre-loaded on the speed dial facility of your phone in case of emergencies.
- ◆ If tear gas is a possibility try to position yourself upwind, and have a wet towel and water available to cover your face. If you cannot carry a gas mask, then citrus fruit such as a lime or lemon, squeezed over the affected area, will help to neutralise the effects of irritants.
- ◆ You also need a means of extinguishing the flames if you are splashed with petrol from a Molotov cocktail.
- ◆ In an environment where tear gas is likely to be used, eye protection should be considered. Swimming goggles or industrial eye protection should be sufficient.
- ◆ If firearms are likely to be used, wear the same protective clothing as in war zones.
- ◆ Carry first aid kits and know how to use this equipment.
- ◆ Wear loose natural fabric clothing, this will not burn as readily as synthetic material. Wear long sleeves, long trousers and a high collar. This will expose as little of your body as possible to the effects of irritants in tear gas.
- ◆ Carry a small backpack with sufficient food, water and materials to last you for at least a day in case the unrest spreads and you have difficulty in getting back to your office.

Positioning

Think about how to position cameras and reporters to get an overall view of the scene. Higher up is better. There should be more than one way to leave a position. If you are filming, it can be a positive disadvantage to get into the crowd and be too close to the action. If you are a reporter who is not filming or taking pictures you do not need to be in the crowd, so long as you have a clear line

'I should have backed out sooner...'

Gary Thomas
covered riots
in Peshawar,
Pakistan for
*Voice of
America radio*



"I was the only journalist around and the streets were saturated with people. The mob came running towards me. They started shouting into the microphone and started pushing me around and punching and kicking me. I was wearing a photo-journalist's vest and it was ripped to shreds. "Two people pulled me out the crowd and said 'run'. They saved my life. "I should have backed off sooner. I started taping when they were coming towards me and I did not plan an escape route. We do not have to take the risk the camera people do. You can be out of sight and still record sound."

Even peaceful gatherings can be dangerous

Newsweek correspondent Babak Dehghanpisheh was reporting on the arrival of refugees at Maslakh Afghanistan, in November 2001.



"It was cold and people were desperate for water. More were arriving every day. Most aid agencies had not returned yet. I had become separated from other journalists.

"I was talking to people in the crowd — since I spoke Farsi they could relate to me. Then the crowd turned into a mob and people started grabbing my clothes, fighting to get at me. I felt panicked. The guards beat people away with AKs. After half an hour I finally made it to the car. I was very scared and physically over-powered.

"I should have stayed closer to the car and tried to get individuals to come to talk to me there. I should have liaised with the NGOs and let them bring someone to the car."

of sight and can catch the sounds. You can do interviews with participants before and afterwards, but at the time you need an overview of what is happening.

During the event

If you are part of a team, work with the team. Stay together or withdraw together. Withdraw too early rather than too late. If you are working as an individual, ensure that you have good means of communication with someone who can get help if need be. Set up your phone so that 'last number redial' is to a source of instant help.

Try to keep a mental map of the main exit routes, prominent locations, security force locations and the nearest hospital facility, and occasionally stop and check that they are still clear.

If you fear film or tape will be seized, carry dud exposed film or tape in your pocket and hide your used material as soon as you take it from the camera. If using digital equipment, have a dummy disc in case you are forced to hand one over. In high-risk situations, team up with another photographer so that you can look out for each other. You may be rivals — but you are also colleagues.

If you are working alone, either as a reporter or a photographer, try to remain aware of when you are becoming the focus of a crowd, rather than just part of it. You may be at risk even if the crowd is not hostile. Do not be tempted into taking unreasonable risks just to obtain the same pictures or film that someone else has already shown.

After the event

Debrief in the newsroom so that lessons are learned for the next occasion.

Protect the integrity of your material. What is the law in your country about the right of security forces to demand film and video material? You must understand the legal implications for you as a journalist working within the area, region or country that you are operating in. What is the policy of your news organisation? If it is not possible to protect material within the country, is it possible to set up a system so that film of civil disturbance is archived outside the country?

Remember that your ability to do your job safely is adversely affected if the police are given access to your material after demonstrations and civil unrest. You are put at serious risk, if those taking part in a riot see you as part of the evidence gathering process.



Freelance photographer Juan Castillo received a blow and had camera equipment taken by riot police officers while covering a protest in Mexico City on December 11 1999. Students were demanding the release of demonstrators arrested during World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle. Rocks and rockets flew from the crowd, setting off a clash with riot police in the Zona Rosa district. At least three photographers were injured by rocks or by police and 40 people were detained.

Photo: AP /David de la Paz

Terrorists attacks

Journalists face the same risks as all civilians from terrorist attacks and face extra risks when media offices and staff themselves become targets for bombs or shootings. Attending the scene of a killing or a bombing also carries risks. Grieving crowds may turn on photographers and camera operators because they believe them to be callous, or to try to prevent whoever carried out the attack gaining publicity. Sometimes an initial incident is set up so that police or military forces can be ambushed when they arrive. One bomb may be set off to bring the emergency services to the scene, when a bigger bomb is detonated. All those who operate behind police cordons, whether police officers, paramedics or journalists, are at risk of being killed or injured by secondary bombs. ■

'Knowledge is the most valuable safety material'

In 2001 **Peter Williams** covered riots in Bradford, UK, for CNN.

"We arrived in Bradford after the riot had moved from the city centre. We were having to make decisions late at night in the dark about going off the beaten track.

"As a cameraman you always want to produce worthwhile material and not come back empty handed. We entered an area where they were looting a shop. As a team we decided it would not be safe to approach closer. I think it was the right decision.

"I always look behind me and see where I have come from so if it gets out of control you know where to run. If you are going into a riot you do not want to get lost!

"The safety course made me think about a lot of things. I learned that knowledge is the most valuable safety material we can have. The more briefings and the more people we liaise with, the more we can be in control." ■

“My car was at a traffic light when I heard a huge bang and I asked the driver to go towards the sound. We came to a narrow lane off a main market street. Someone had thrown a grenade into a car in the ditch. There were four other correspondents as well as me. We looked at the remains of the grenade. Slowly police started to arrive – the local police and the army bomb squad. The car door was unlocked so it was suspicious, but we thought the danger had passed. The police moved us back about 20 metres from the car.

‘Everything stopped around me... then the car blew up ten metres in front of us’

Suhasini Haidar, a Delhi-based freelance reporter working for CNN, travelled to Srinagar in Kashmir in August 2000. She arrived one day after a fragile ceasefire had fallen apart.



“I went with other journalists to try to get a quote from the police. Everything stopped around me. I tried to say ‘hey’ and the car blew up ten metres in front of us. The cop pushed me down and said ‘stay down’ — there was silence and then a volley of glass and incredible heat. Gas cylinders had exploded in the boot of the car. I saw the guy to my right go down. There were 19 people killed and you could see the blood. Most of it is cloudy in my mind. The next thing was we heard bullets go off and the cops started to fire all over the place. Me and the stringer got up and I realised that I was hit. I could not use my arm to get up. I had a few cuts in my head. I called my cameraman and told him I was going to get treatment. I went to the army base where I was treated. I had a severely dislocated arm — it came right out of its socket. I was in ITU and it was very scary. It was some time before the rest of the casualties arrived. Their injuries were very bad.

“You need to do your homework. Double bombs are quite common – the first one draws the police and a crowd; then the second one goes off. I should have moved back from the car. If I had not been moved back I would have definitely have died. I am more jumpy now, and I am a little more anxious around parked cars. I go to places of danger if it is an assignment, but not because I like to go to dangerous places. Bombs are things you cannot predict.” ■

Chapter 4

Abductions, hostage taking and targeting journalists

Hostage taking is still a relatively rare, albeit dramatic and traumatic, event. Most abductions are short term, lasting only a few hours, and most people who are taken hostage survive the experience. Being taken hostage is a frightening and highly dangerous event, in which you lose control of your person and your future. Once someone has taken you hostage they can physically do with you what they will. About 80% of hostages are released unharmed, but as a hostage, you are likely to be marginal to the negotiating process and depend on others to ensure that you are released safely. The level of violence following abductions is probably increasing.

This section focuses on what journalists can do to reduce the risk of being abducted, and to increase their chances of survival in the event that abduction takes place. Some of the advice about how to retain hope and dignity while forcibly detained applies also to detention by army or police, events that are very common in countries where press freedoms are marginalised or non-existent.

Why hostages are taken

People are taken hostage because the hostage taker wants:

A political commodity

The abduction of a high-profile journalist or someone working for a high-profile news organisation attracts widespread publicity. Kidnappers may demand the release of prisoners associated with their cause.

An economic commodity

Kidnappers may abduct a journalist employed by an organisation, or belonging to a family, that the kidnappers believe can and will pay large sums of money to secure their safe release.



Nebojsa Radosevic, a reporter with the Yugoslav state Tanjug news agency, surrounded by hooded Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) fighters prior to his release in the village of Dragobilj on November 27 1998. Radosevic was one of two Serb reporters kidnapped and then released as a 'goodwill gesture'. Photo: Reuters / Oleg Popov

WHY HOSTAGES ARE TAKEN

Hostages are taken because:

- ◆ They are believed to be a political commodity,
- ◆ They are believed to be an economic commodity,
- ◆ For revenge,
- ◆ As an insurance policy, or
- ◆ Because of mistaken identity.

Revenge

You are associated with a country or a group seen by the abductors as their enemy. Bargaining for your release may not be what the abductors have in mind.

An insurance policy

You are held to ensure that the abductors can safely leave an area, or during a period of tension or negotiation.

Mistaken identity

You are taken because of mistaken identity or your abductors wrongly think you fall into one of the above categories.

Assessing risk

Hostage taking often follows a pattern. Is the area where you are working one where hostage taking is practised? Is there a history of journalists being taken hostage?

You need to ask yourself, and check with others, whether you have a high or medium risk of being a target as a potential hostage. You are at greater risk if you work for a well-known media organisation or one identified with a government that the potential abductors do not like.

When making a risk assessment, look at the situation from the point of view of the hostage takers. Your news organisation may have no influence over government policy or access to large sums of cash, but do potential abductors know that? Many people have an instinct to 'shoot the messenger' and blame the media for events they dislike. An individual journalist may also become a target because of the work he or she has done, but this is a rare event. In most cases the journalist is held as a symbol of what they are believed to represent.

Reducing risk

If you fall into a target group, consider how easy it would be for an abductor to take you hostage. Usually, abductors take the easiest target. They need a period of reconnaissance, during which they are looking for a pattern of events and situations where you are most vulnerable. They will watch your home, hotel or place of work. The more predictably you behave, the greater the risk. Leave your base at a different time each day, or by a different route. Try not to develop predictable travel routes, or at least be aware that

REDUCE RISKS

- ◆ Avoid routine and predictable behaviour.
- ◆ Assess risks before unusual assignments.
- ◆ Lock doors in vehicles. Be aware of risk situations on the road.
- ◆ Think about settings for meetings.
- ◆ Inform colleagues of your movements and plans.

this is the time you are at greatest risk. If you live in a rented house or compound, check that the security arrangements are adequate. You are safer with a press pack and at greater risk if alone or travelling as a single crew.

By the nature of their work, journalists cannot limit themselves to protected safe places, and often interview people who may be hostile to their news organisation. You need to make a fresh assessment of risk before each such assignment, and adopt common sense security measures. When making arrangements do not call from a hotel room phone. Use an individual mobile/cell phone or a public call box, selected at random. Remember that all electronic communications can be intercepted.

When travelling in your own vehicle, make sure the doors are locked at all times. You are vulnerable in towns when you stop at lights, or in rural areas when forced to stop by a road-block or an accident. An accident that blocks the road may be a trap. If you cannot proceed, stop some distance away to assess the situation and try to keep one avenue of escape clear.

If you are making arrangements to meet someone where you have concerns for your safety, make sure that you meet on your own terms. Pick a public place, such as a café, at random, and a table in an area where people are already sitting. Be particularly suspicious of last minute changes to arrangements, especially those where you are given little time or opportunity to disagree.

The process of abduction

Abduction is usually sudden. You must make a rapid assessment of what is going on and act quickly. If the abductor is armed you may have no alternative to doing what you are told to do. If the abductor is not armed you may decide to make a lot of noise, scream and draw attention to yourself. Some people advocate pretending to faint, to make it more difficult for the abductor to get you into a car. In a surprise attack the abductor depends on their target being bewildered and unprepared. Shouting will raise your adrenaline level and this makes it easier to resist. There is obvious risk in resisting, but the risk to your person does not decrease once you have been taken.

Abduction by degrees

However, abduction is not always a sudden, violent, event where it is clear that you are being taken somewhere against your will.

Surprise attack

"I didn't know when it was going to hit me. When it did, it happened in an instant. A car darted in front of us blocking our path. A gunman shot my driver. Four masked men yanked me out of the car, dragged me to the ground, blindfolded me, and hauled me into the back of a waiting van."

Abductee

RISKY INTERVIEWS

Assess risks with a colleague, and consider:

- ◆ the previous practice of interviewee,
- ◆ how well you know your contact,
- ◆ why you have been chosen for the interview.

Do not be tempted into taking reckless risks.

Many abductions are of a different nature, one where the psychology of the journalist is used to entrap them. It may be that this is what happened to Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was abducted and murdered in Pakistan in early 2002.

The journalist may be offered a very desirable interview and offered a safe passage to meet someone who may be a guerrilla leader or wanted by the police. The arrangements may be complex and subject to many changes, ‘for security reasons’. The journalist feels relatively safe so long as they are with an intermediary they trust and have promises of safe conduct. Then the intermediary hands the journalist on to a ‘friend’, with a plausible explanation, perhaps as they are changing cars. The journalist is now in a car with people they do not know, in a place they do not know and with a destination they can only guess at. They have lost all control of the situation and whether they become a hostage or return with their interview is largely a matter of luck.

Nobody can make the judgements for you – you have to balance the desire to get the interview against the risk. A journalist who takes no risks at all will only do routine work, and will never achieve the interview they are seeking. However, it is foolish to press ahead on the basis that abduction cannot happen to you. Amongst the things that you will need to take into account are:

The previous record of the person you wish to interview

Have they given interviews before? Have they kept to their word? To whom do they usually give interviews? If the individual or group rarely gives interviews, why now, and why you? One cause for concern would be if you were selected to do an interview for no apparent reason. Be aware that your natural desire to get the interview may distort your judgement. This is not a decision to take alone.

The real strength of your contact and their influence

Is your intermediary someone you have known for years, or someone you met last week? A sudden friendship is no guarantee of security. The new friend may be reporting back to potential abductors, to the police or to security forces. If they are in good faith, do they have real influence with the target of the interview?

How easy will it be for others to find you?

Who knows where you are going and whom you are going with? What procedures are in place if you do not arrive back or call in

Daniel Pearl, South Asia correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*, was kidnapped on January 23 2002 on his way to an interview at the Village Restaurant in Karachi, Pakistan. The *Wall Street Journal* said that Pearl had been researching the background to Richard Reid, 'the shoe bomber' who had tried to blow up a transatlantic flight. In February his kidnappers sent officials a videotape showing Pearl being killed. His remains were discovered in May 2002 at a building owned by the Al-Rashid Trust on the outskirts of the port city of Karachi.

Pearl was murdered as he investigated background of 'shoe bomber'

Wall Street Journal correspondent **Daniel Pearl** was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi, Pakistan, in 2002. It appears that he was offered an interview that would link 'shoe bomber' Richard Reid to Al-Qaeda, but was then abducted and accused of being a spy.

Four days after his disappearance, a group calling itself 'The National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty' sent an e-mail to news organisations claiming responsibility for the kidnap and accusing Pearl of being an American spy. They included a series of demands, including the repatriation of Pakistani detainees held by the US Army in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Another e-mail on January 30 accused Pearl of being a Mossad agent, and said he would be killed within 24 hours unless the group's demands were met.

In April 2002, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, Salman Saqib, Fahad Naseem, and Shaikh Adil were charged with Pearl's kidnapping and murder before Pakistan's special anti-terrorism court. After a trial closed to journalists and the public, on July 15 the court found all four men guilty of kidnapping and murder. Saeed, who was accused of masterminding the crime, was sentenced to death by hanging; Saqib, Naseem, and Adil each received 25-year prison sentences. Their appeal was still pending as this book went to press (January 2003).

In August, investigators told the Associated Press that, according to three people held in custody, Pearl was shot and wounded on the sixth day of his capture when he tried to escape, and was murdered on the ninth day. A former US intelligence officer, Robert Baer, told the United Press International news agency that he had given Pearl information about Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, whom US intelligence officials have named as head of al-Qaeda's military operations, and believes that the journalist's investigations of Mohammed may have cost him his life. ■

Source: Committee to Protect Journalists <http://www.cpj.org>

safe within a certain time frame? Will they be able to follow your trail. Abductors work inside areas they know well and where they feel safe. The evidence is that hostages can be moved easily and frequently without much risk of discovery.

If you decide to go ahead with a potentially hazardous arrangement, leave clear instructions about where you are going. Agree code words that you can use in a phone conversation to let the other person know whether you are safe, and an alert time at which people start to look for you. Code words should be words you insert to show that you are safe, rather than unsafe. If you have been abducted you will probably be speaking from a script, and have no opportunity to insert code words.

If you are being taken somewhere by an intermediary, discuss in advance with colleagues the point beyond which you will not go; at which point you will try to abort the process and return to safety. This may, for example, be if your contact tries to leave the car. Obviously, it may not be possible to put such a change of plan into effect, so if you do have such a 'no go' point, you must be prepared to put an attempt to escape into action with speed and an element of surprise.

Surviving the experience

If you have been abducted, you will be frightened and unsure whether you will survive the next minute, hour or day. Remind yourself that most people survive the experience and return safely. Experience of those who have survived being taken hostage suggests that there are some things you can do to help your chances of survival and to allow you to endure the intervening period.

You have lost physical but not mental control. You need to prepare to endure a period of mental and physical stress, and to survive this you will need a positive mental attitude. So far as possible, try not to show your emotions. Use your feelings positively to plan how you will act. There are things that you should do both in the short term and in the longer term.

- ◆ Make it difficult for your captors to treat you inhumanely. If you can develop a relationship, you may reduce the risk of being physically harmed. Talk about your family. If they do not remove personal possessions, put pictures of your family where you can look at them and talk to them.
- ◆ Do as you are told. Behave politely and do not antagonise your captors.

SURVIVING ABDUCTION

- ◆ Retain mental alertness and a positive attitude.
- ◆ Try to build a relationship with your abductor.
- ◆ Do what you are told — do not antagonise your captors.
- ◆ Adopt a positive routine.
- ◆ Seek improvements in your conditions.
- ◆ Talk to someone in your mind. Make plans with them.
- ◆ Do not believe promises of release, until it happens.

Shampsa's mental control helped to save her life

Her abductors probably noticed Shampsa Paybuck's camera and notebook as she walked along the road with her uncle and his family. They asked for her by name, and started to drag her off by her hair. When her family tried to intervene, they were pushed, shoved and hit with rifle butts.

Shampsa was taken to the water's edge and made to kneel with a plastic bag over her head. It was difficult to breathe and the bag was dirty and smelly. Her uncle and her sister tried to release her, but were beaten back. Other people nearby were frightened to get involved. Shampsa could hear her abductors — angry about a report she had written — shouting: "Let's rape her."

Her training had covered this kind of situation. Course instructors had advised her to stay calm, and not to do anything to antagonise her captors. She tried to control her breathing, while abductors argued whether to kill her or rape her. The ordeal lasted an hour and a quarter during which time she doubted she would see her family again.

Then someone said: "We've got to let her go." As they took the bag from her head, she mentally replaced the hostile faces she would see with the friendly faces of her course instructors, so she could cope with the shock if she saw a rifle pointing at her and behave calmly.

The abductors took all her equipment. However, they freed her, and she had survived.

Later, Shampsa returned to the Centurion safety course and relived her experience. She told the other journalists that her training had allowed her to think about how to react to the situation and had helped to keep her alive. ■

Shampsa Paybuck worked for the BBC World Service in Somalia. Three months after the BBC sent her on a safety training course, she was abducted...

Source: Centurion Risk Assessment Services (where Shampsa Paybuck did her training).

- ◆ Do not, on the other hand, attempt to appease your captors. Even if you are sympathetic to a cause, you are not 'on their side'; you are their captive. If you are able to talk to your captors, your key message should be that as a journalist you are a non-combatant in their conflict, but that journalists have a key role to play in ensuring that all sides get a fair hearing.
- ◆ You do not know if you will be held for a long period of time, so behave as if you will be. As soon as possible, adopt a positive routine. Do not allow yourself to slump in the corner and fester.
- ◆ Use whatever methods you have for relaxation. Plan what you will do when you return home. Plan a holiday with friends or family. Write a letter in your head. Try to remember scraps of poetry.
- ◆ If you are being held for more than a day or two, start to make requests to win what may appear to be petty concessions. Ask for better conditions, for example that you are not kept chained, or you are given soap to wash with, or you can write a letter to your daughter, or that hostages are kept together. Keep in mind the need not to antagonise your captors, but within the bounds of what is permissible in the circumstances, be persistent. Make it a daily request. If it is one that your captors can meet without risk, they may acquiesce. If you win a concession you have won a little mental victory. Be grateful and thank them. Then wait a little and make another request.
- ◆ If you are on your own, particularly if being treated with brutality, try to lessen your loneliness in your mind. If you are a religious person talk to your God, or pray. If not, hold conversations with a loved one or trusted friend. Ask them for advice. Tell them how you are going to survive.
- ◆ Do not allow yourself to believe promises that you are about to be released. If negotiations are being held, then they may be protracted. Your captors may feel false optimism, or they may be playing mind games. Behave as if you were going to remain captive for a considerable time to come. This will help you to maintain self discipline and soften any disappointment. The dashing of false hope is one of the quickest ways to break someone's will.

Escaping?

Should you try to escape? If your captors are competent, they will take great pains with your security. Any escape attempt on your part is likely to fail unless there are outside factors or you have an

element of surprise. The question of whether you try to escape depends on your physical condition, your mental strength and the circumstances. If you are held captive and you are in reasonable physical shape you should always be looking out for failures of security in your incarceration. However, the results of a failed escape attempt could be to leave you worse off than before. On the other hand, if you feel that your life is in serious jeopardy then you have nothing to lose. Signs that you are at extra peril could be that:

- ◆ other hostages, perhaps employed by different organisations, are being released, but there are no signs that your release is imminent;
- ◆ your guards adopt a different attitude to you, treating you more harshly and ‘dehumanising’ you;
- ◆ your captors cease to feed you and your physical conditions deteriorate.

People have escaped captivity when the attention of captors is diverted, perhaps because they have come under attack. If several of you are held together, it is obviously important that you reach agreement on any strategy on escape. If you do decide that your life is in immediate peril and you decide to make an attempt, then you must follow it with your utmost strength of will and physical effort to the end. Bear in mind that if you have been kept in a confined space for any length of time you will find it more difficult to run and your endurance will be weaker. If you can succeed in escaping from your immediate prison, your options are to head for the nearest public space where there are many people and make as much noise as possible, or to hide and try to reach safety by degrees. This will depend on how safe the neighbourhood is where you are being held.

Targeting journalists

Journalists may be targeted in the heat of the moment or, as in the cases of Daniel Pearl in Pakistan, Martin O’Hagan in Belfast, and Tim Lopes in Brazil, they may be victims of cold-blooded murder. The objective may be to seize material or to silence, frighten or even kill journalists. The perpetrators may be guerrilla or terrorist groups. All too often, however, paramilitary forces of the state are implicated in attacks on journalists and murders. Often the very existence of a terrorist threat is used as an excuse to repress journalists, and a cover under which they can be attacked. The war against terrorism often turns into a war against media freedom.

Award winning journalist murdered in Brazil

Award winning Brazilian journalist, **Tim Lopes**, was abducted and murdered while investigating drug crime in Rio de Janeiro. His body was found in a cave near the suburb Vila do Cruzeiro. He had been shot, tortured and killed with a sword.

Lopes, a reporter for TV Globo, was investigating drug sales to minors. On June 2 2002, he disappeared.

Press reports said that Lopes was kidnapped and taken to a local drug trafficker. Lopes was beaten and shot in the feet to prevent his escape.

After a mock ‘trial’ he was sentenced to death.

The trafficker allegedly killed Lopes with a sword before his body was burned and dumped. The trafficker was awaiting trial as this book went to press. In December 2001, Lopes had received a prestigious journalism award for a TV Globo report, filmed with a hidden camera, on drug trafficking. ■

Source: IFJ

The murder of Daniel Pearl of the *Wall Street Journal* was as revolting as it was outrageous. But why was he killed? Because he was a Westerner, a Kaffir? Because he was an American? Or because he was a journalist? And if he was killed because he was a reporter, what has happened to the protection that we in our craft used to enjoy?

When journalists became targets

Robert Fisk *if foreign correspondent for the Independent (UK). In December 2001, he was beaten up by Afghan refugees whose relatives had died in an air raid. In the Independent he asked why journalists have become targets.*

In Pakistan and Afghanistan we can be seen as Kaffirs, as unbelievers. Our faces, our hair, even our spectacles, mark us out as Westerners. The Muslim cleric who wished to talk to me in an Afghan refugee village outside Peshawar last October was stopped by a man who pointed at me and asked: "Why are you taking this Kaffir into our mosque?" Weeks later, a crowd of Afghan refugees, grief stricken at the slaughter of their relatives in a US B-52 bomber air raid, tried to kill me because they thought I was an American.

But over the past quarter century I have witnessed the slow, painful erosion of respect for our work. We used to risk our lives in wars — we still do — but journalists were rarely deliberate targets. We were impartial witnesses to conflict, often the only witnesses, the first writers of history. Even the nastiest militias understood this. "Protect him, look after him, he is a journalist," I recall a Palestinian guerrilla ordering when I entered the burning Lebanese town of Bhamdoun in 1983.

But in Lebanon, in Algeria, and then in Bosnia, the protection began to disintegrate. Reporters in Beirut were taken hostage — the Associated Press's Terry Anderson disappeared for almost seven years — while Algerian journalists were hunted down and beheaded by Islamist groups throughout the 1990s. Olivier Quemener, a French cameraman, was cruelly shot down in the Casbah area of Algiers as his wounded colleague lay weeping by his side. Pasting 'TV' stickers on your car in Sarajevo was as much an invitation to the Serb snipers above the city to shoot at journalists as it was a (form of) protection.

Where did we go wrong? I suspect the rot started in Vietnam. Reporters have identified themselves with armies for decades. In both World Wars, journalists worked in uniform. Dropping behind enemy lines with US commandos did not spare an Associated Press reporter from a Nazi firing squad. But these were countries in open conflict, reporters whose nations had officially declared war. Wearing a uniform enabled journalists to claim the protection of the Geneva Convention; in civilian clothes they could be shot as spies. It was in Vietnam that

reporters started wearing uniforms and carrying weapons — and shooting those weapons at America's enemies — even though their country was not officially at war and even when they could have carried out their duties without wearing soldiers' clothes. In Vietnam, reporters were murdered because they were reporters.

This odd habit of journalists to be part of the story, to play an almost theatrical role in wars slowly took hold. When the Palestinians evacuated Beirut in 1982, I noticed several French reporters wearing Palestinian kaffiyeh scarves. Israeli reporters turned up in occupied southern Lebanon with pistols. Then in the 1991 Gulf war, American and British television reporters started dressing up in military costumes, appeared on screen — complete with helmets and military camouflage fatigues — as if they were members of the 82nd Airborne or the Hussars. One American journalist even arrived in boots camouflaged with painted leaves, although a glance at any desert suggests this would not have served much purpose.

In the Kurdish flight into the mountains of northern Iraq, more reporters could be found wearing Kurdish clothes. In Pakistan and Afghanistan last year, the same phenomenon occurred. Reporters in Peshawar could be seen wearing Pashtun hats. Why? No one could ever supply me with an explanation. What on earth was CNN's Walter Rodgers doing in US Marine costume at the American camp outside Kandahar? Mercifully, someone told him to take it off after his first broadcast. Then Geraldo Rivera of Fox News arrived in Jalalabad with a gun. He fully intended, he said, to kill Osama bin Laden. It was the last straw. The reporter had now become combatant.

Perhaps we no longer care about our profession. Maybe we're all too quick to demean our own jobs, to sneer at each other, to adopt the ridiculous title of 'hacks' when we should regard the job of foreign correspondent as a decent, honourable profession. I was astounded last December when an American newspaper headline announced that I had deserved the beating I received at the hands of that Afghan crowd. I had almost died, but the article carried a headline, 'Multiculturalist (me) Gets His Due'. My sin was to explain that the crowd had lost relatives in American B-52 raids, that I would have done the same in their place. That shameful, unethical headline appeared in Daniel Pearl's own newspaper, the *Wall Street Journal*.

Can we do better? I think so. It's not that reporters in military costume — Rodgers in his silly Marine helmet, Rivera clowning around with a gun, or even me in my gas cape a decade ago helped to kill Daniel Pearl. He was murdered by vicious men. But we are all of us — dressing up in combatant's clothes or adopting the national dress of people — helping to erode the shield of neutrality and decency that saved our lives in the past. If we don't stop now, how can we protest when next our colleagues are seized by ruthless men who claim we are spies? ■

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Journalists are often targeted because they are seen as being on the 'wrong' side. Here a protester smashes the windshield of a television station vehicle during riots at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, Canada, April 20 2001. Photo: AP/CP, Paul Chiasson

Dangers in individual countries change with the political and social climate. At some times the distinction between a battlefield and civil unrest is marginal; as has been the case on the West Bank and Gaza (*see Chapter 2*).

Algeria

Algeria was especially dangerous between 1993 and 1996, when 108 reporters or editors were killed. 'Black lists' were circulated with the names of journalists whose killing had been ordered by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). This group saw the media as closely allied with the Government, which had refused to accept the results of an Islamic election victory. The GIA issued a statement saying: "Those who fight by the pen shall die by the sword."

However the state is suspected of complicity in some killings. There have been few arrests and the Government resisted an independent inquiry. Some journalists said they were offered false witnesses to interview after assassinations, while others were harassed when they tried to report on massacres. During the era of the killings, hundreds of journalists and their families lived for several years in hotels under the protection of armed guards, living and working in constant fear.

Colombia

In Colombia, journalism is at risk from domestic armed conflict, and 84 journalists have been murdered over the last decade. Álvaro Uribe Vélez was elected in August 2002 on a platform of getting tough with the Revolutionary Armed Force of Colombia (FARC) and other guerrilla groups. Journalists have been put at risk through the various guerrilla groups, 'self-defence groups', and corrupt politicians. Right-wing forces have acknowledged murdering several journalists and have accused the press of having 'poisonous spirits'. On the other hand guerrilla groups have stated that the 'media are our target'. Journalists are murdered with impunity — in just 5% of cases have those who carried out or ordered the killings been convicted. The President has said: "It is uncomfortable to know that journalists can reach places where terrorists hide out, when the Government cannot reach those places. It is uncomfortable to know that a journalist has advance knowledge of a terrorist act, which takes the Government by surprise." However, in January 2003, he promised that his Government would not impose restrictions on press freedom.

Sierra, a deputy editor and columnist for *La Patria* newspaper in Manizales, a town in Colombia's coffee-growing region, was shot while walking to work on January 30 2002 and died two days later. In his column for the 80-year-old newspaper, Sierra frequently highlighted political corruption and human rights abuses by leftist guerrillas, a rival right-wing paramilitary army and state security agents. Police told the Committee to Protect Journalists in December 2002 that they were working on the theory that one of the local politicians Sierra had denounced in his columns hired an assassin to kill the journalist. Sierra had accused local Liberal and Conservative politicians of nepotism, vote buying, looting public coffers and 'running the department like a feudal colony'. The boss of a gang of hit men has been charged with his murder.

Héctor Sandoval, RCN Televisión cameraman, and Wálter López, who was driving the TV crew, both died after an army helicopter attacked their marked vehicle on April 12 2002, outside Cali. The team was covering an army pursuit of fighters from the FARC, who had kidnapped provincial politicians. The letters 'RCN' were marked in large, bright colours on the roof and both sides of the vehicle. The crew had just decided to leave when the army helicopter hovering above them opened fire. López was fatally wounded. His colleagues were trying to apply a tourniquet when the army helicopter resumed fire. They took cover in a nearby ravine, and waved white T-shirts at the helicopter. However, it fired again and hit Sandoval in the leg. It was two hours before other journalists could take them to hospital where Sandoval died from loss of blood. The army has opened an investigation.

In June 2002, Efraín Varela Noriega, the owner of Radio Meridiano-70, was shot and killed in northeastern Colombia. He hosted two polemical news and opinion programmes which criticised all sides in Colombia's conflict, but had lately been highlighting the presence of fighters from the paramilitary United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC), who were patrolling the streets of Arauca, on the border with Venezuela. Noriega was driving home when gunmen pulled him from his car and shot him in the face and chest.

In July 2002, two technicians and two drivers employed by Radio RCN and Radio Caracol stations were abducted by kidnappers wearing army fatigues. Four days later, after a series of long night marches, they were released, without their vehicles and transmission equipment. The following month a news crew from *El Tiempo* newspaper was kidnapped by FARC guerrillas and held overnight before being released the next morning.

Philippines

In some countries kidnappings have become common as a source of revenue raising through ransom payments. In the year 2000, the IFJ called for more action by the Government of the Philippines to protect journalists after a spate of kidnappings on the island of Jolo in the southern Philippines. "These kidnappings are striking at the heart of democratic rights and they are making the Philippines a no-go area for news media," said Aidan White, General Secretary of the IFJ.

Rebels campaigning for an independent Muslim state adopted a

tactic of abducting and holding tourists for long periods of time, demanding huge ransoms for their release. The targeting of journalists began in May 2000 when eight French and one Norwegian were held hostage for over 24 hours by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on the Island of Jolo. They were robbed and forced to pay a ransom. Later that month, ten journalists — German, French, Australian and Danish — were taken hostage while they were following a Government medical convoy to a camp where the Western tourists were being held. Four journalists were forced to return to Jolo and to obtain €25,000 (euro), under threat of seeing their six colleagues decapitated. The latter were finally released the next day after being robbed of their money, cell phones, watches and shoes by the men of Commander Robot, one of the five leaders of Abu Sayyaf. The Philippine authorities subsequently asked Western journalists to refrain from trying to meet hostages, to avoid compromising their chances of securing their release.

On July 2 of that year, Andreas Lorenz, a reporter with the German weekly *Der Spiegel*, was kidnapped for the second time by the same group while he was again trying to establish contact with the hostages. He was held for 25 days. The Abu Sayyaf group said that journalists would no longer be authorised to visit hostages. On July 9, rebels demanded a ransom in exchange for the release of three journalists from France-2 TV network.

Later that month Agence France Presse quoted local sources as saying that since no foreign journalists remained on the island, rebels were considering kidnapping local journalists. A few days later two journalists from ABS-CBN, the largest television network in the Philippines, were kidnapped near the town of Patikul. Cameraman Val Cuenca and researcher/writer Maan Macapagal were on Jolo to cover the hostage crisis.

National Filipino journalists continued to be targets. In January 2002, Arlyn de la Cruz, a reporter for Manila's Net 25 cable TV, and a contributor to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, was held for more than three months before being released, after a sponsor reportedly stepped in to pay a ransom. De la Cruz was abducted on January 19 by former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) guerrillas who by then had become part of the Philippine Armed Forces ('integrees'). She was in Basilan to conduct interviews with the Abu Sayyaf Group, which had been holding two Americans and one Filipino captive (*see box*) since May 2001.

De la Cruz said the group that had taken her hostage thought

The Abu Sayyaf Group abducted tourists from Palawan Island in May 2001 and took more hostages in escaping a military attempt to free them. Several hostages, including American Guillermo Sobero, were killed, but most were released. From November 2001 only New Tribes Mission couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap remained in captivity. On June 7 2002, the Philippine military tried to free them. Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap were killed. Gracia Burnham was wounded but was freed.

she had brought ransom money for the release of the remaining three hostages. Finding no ransom money, they transferred her from one group to another until her release. Armed forces officials denied that members of the military were involved in de la Cruz's abduction, despite her allegations that her captors were still on active duty. De la Cruz was released after the intervention of a university professor and Senator Loren Legarda, a former television broadcaster. Both denied a report that Peso 2 million (approx. US\$39,500) in ransom money had been paid for her release.

In September 2002, two more journalists were kidnapped after going to meet MNLF representatives on the island of Jolo. Reporter Carol Lorenzo and cameraman Gilbert Ordiales, of the privately owned TV station GMA, were abducted on September 28 and held for six days. After they were released, police charged a woman who was working with the army disarming rebels and who was with the journalists. She in turn has accused members of the MNLF who are now part of the Philippine army. The IFJ wrote to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo urging a full investigation into the kidnappings. Christopher Warren, IFJ President, said in his letter: "Journalists must be able to report in the Philippines without fear of intimidation."

Since the restoration of democracy in the Philippines in 1986, 38 journalists have been killed and none of the killers has ever been convicted. In May 2002, Edgar Damalerio, editor of the weekly newspaper *Zamboanga Scribe* and a reporter for DXKP Radio, was shot and killed as he was driving home from a press conference in Pagadian City. The Manila-based Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility says that Damalerio had frequently criticised senior police officers. A police officer was detained following the killing.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka journalists were banned from reporting on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who were fighting for an independent homeland for the country's ethnic Tamil minority. The civil war has dragged on for nearly 20 years. Although the ban was lifted in 2001, and there were signs in 2002 that the conflict could be coming to an end, the Government still enforced a policy of non-contact between the media and the LTTE.

In April 2001 Marie Colvin, an American journalist working for the British *Sunday Times*, was hit by shrapnel from a grenade fired by the Sri Lankan army, while returning with a group of unarmed

civilians from a meeting with the LTTE. She received wounds in her head, chest, and arms, and was blinded in one eye. Colvin shouted that she was a journalist but soldiers continued to fire. According to her account, soldiers pushed her down on the ground and began kicking her. The Sri Lanka Department of Information said that Colvin did not have clearance to travel to the rebel-held Wanni region, where she had spent two weeks with LTTE guerrilla forces. The statement contended that Colvin “had her own secret agenda with the LTTE”.

In October 2000, veteran Jaffna-based journalist Mylvaganam Nimalarajan, who reported for BBC’s Tamil and Sinhala-language services, the Tamil-language daily *Virakesari*, and the Sinhala-language weekly *Ravaya*, among others, was killed in his home in Jaffna. Unidentified gunmen approached Nimalarajan’s home, shot him through the window of his study, where he was working, and threw a grenade into the house. Journalists suspect that Nimalarajan’s reports on vote-rigging and intimidation in Jaffna during the parliamentary elections may have led to his murder. His parents and his 11-year-old nephew were seriously injured by the grenade. No satisfactory inquiry has been carried out.

In August 2002 a group of five men forcibly entered the offices of the Tamil *Thinakkathir* newspaper, tied up office staff and took away equipment. The IFJ urged the government to protect *Thinakkathir* and all journalists working in Sri Lanka. Christopher Warren, President of the IFJ, wrote to the President of Sri Lanka, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, saying: “Attacks on journalists and the media are one of worst forms of attack on press freedom and civil society. There is no more serious form of censorship than violence.”

Other countries

Many journalists are attacked or killed because they write about crime or corruption.

In **Bangladesh**, Harunur Rashid, a reporter for the Bengali-language newspaper *Dainik Purbanchal*, was ambushed and shot while riding his motorcycle to work in Khulna. Three men took Rashid to hospital, told staff he had been injured in a car accident, and disappeared. Rashid was a crime reporter who had written on corruption and links between crime syndicates and guerrilla groups. The reporter had received death threats and had been provided with police protection.

Nava Raj Sharma, editor of the Nepali-language weekly *Kadam*, was kidnapped by Maoist rebels on June 1 2002 in Kalikot, **Nepal**, and later brutally killed. Sharma, known for his independence, had reportedly resisted attempts to make his paper more friendly to the Maoist fighters who control parts of Kalikot. Police recovered Sharma's badly mutilated body in mid-August. Rebels had gouged out his eyes, severed his hands and legs, and shot him in the chest, police told the National Human Rights Commission.

In **Russia** and some other countries of the former Soviet Union, journalists who investigate corruption have been at high risk. Natalya Skryl, a business reporter for *Nashe Vremya* newspaper in Rostov-on-Don, was attacked and repeatedly struck on the head with a blunt object as she returned home late on March 8. She died the next day. Before her death Skryl, 29, had told colleagues that she had new information about a struggle to control Tagmet, a local metallurgical plant. The prosecutor's office has tried to play down this angle, although Skryl was carrying jewelry and a large sum of cash that were not taken at the time of her murder.

In the **Ukraine**, one of the most notorious killings of a journalist remains 'unsolved' more than two years after 31-year-old journalist Georgy Gongadze, publisher of the Internet journal *Ukrainska Pravda* disappeared on September 16 2000. His headless body was found in a ditch in a suburb of Kiev. Gongadze had been investigating corruption at the heart of Ukraine's government. Audio tapes released by a former bodyguard of Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma apparently implicate Kuchma and other senior ministers in a plot to harm Gongadze. Mykhailo Kolomiets, founder and director of *Ukrainsky Novyny*, an agency specialising in objective economic news, disappeared on October 21 2002. "Journalists are rightly worried that Kolomiets disappearance has an echo of the Gongadze case," said IFJ General Secretary Aidan White.

In **Chechnya**, many journalists have been held for months before being released in exchange for ransom or swapped for Chechen prisoners. Chechen rebels have also killed several journalists. Vladimir Yatsina, a photographer with the Russian news agency *Itar-Tass* was held in July 1999 and eventually killed the following year because his wounds slowed down the Chechen group that was holding him. Freelance photographer Brice Fleutiaux was held hostage in Chechnya from October 1999 to June 12 2000, having been abducted almost as soon as he arrived in the Chechen capital of Grozny. During his abduction he was treated with callousness



and kindness, at one time being kept chained, and at another being allowed to work and to phone home. When he was released it seemed like a happy outcome. But Fleutiaux, who wrote a book about his period in captivity, was disturbed by his experience, conscious of the huge contrast between day to day life in Europe and in Chechnya. As often seems to happen following such enforced periods of separation, his marriage to Dana, who had travelled to Chechnya to campaign for his release, ended.

In April 2001, just ten months after he returned home, Brice Fleutiaux committed suicide. ■

Released hostage Brice Fleutiaux hugs his daughter Sarah, 4, and his mother Monique, on arrival at Villacoublay airport, south of Paris, on June 13 2000, one day after his release. Seen right is French Minister for Cooperation Charles Josselin.

Photo: AP / Michel Lipchitz

Part 3

The Recovery Zone



Photographer Susana Gonzalez is helped by media colleagues after being hit by a rock thrown during riots between soccer fans and riot police in Mexico City in 1998. What started as a celebration of Mexico advancing to the second round of the Cup quickly turned into a full-scale riot.

Photo: AP/Jose Luis Magana

Chapter 5

Emergency medical aid

Journalists working away from their bases or in hazardous areas need to know when and how to provide emergency aid to a colleague who is ill or injured. Journalists need to know how to deliver emergency aid rather than first aid.

First aid is designed to maintain a patient until he or she gets to a hospital or clinic, on the assumption that these are available reasonably quickly. In hostile environments, a place of safety may be many hours away. Journalists should aim to provide emergency care that can help a casualty to survive for several hours, and perhaps longer. The overall aim is to stabilise a casualty's condition until they receive medical aid from trained staff.

Such knowledge requires more than can be learned from a manual. A first aid or medical emergency course allows a journalist to practise placing splints, bandages and tourniquets and to learn procedures about clearing airways, resuscitation techniques and placing someone in a recovery position.

For your own safety you should not only insist that you learn these skills, but that all journalists working in the field are sent on such courses and refresher courses. The more journalists there are who know what to do in an emergency, the better.

Your ability to help will also depend on the quality of the emergency medical equipment that you carry. Journalists on potentially hazardous assignments should carry a good medical kit and know how to use it. Journalists should also know how to improvise in the absence of splints or stretchers.

This chapter will cover injuries from traumatic events such as gunshots and explosions, but it begins with advice on the most likely need for medical assistance – how to help someone who has fallen ill or to stabilise someone following a road accident.

Illness

The most likely (and least glamorous) conditions that may put a journalist at risk in a hostile region are illnesses, food poisoning



Above: Part of the medical kit carried by journalists in hostile areas. This includes large sterile bandages, 'fractstrap' splinting materials, and a stretcher.

Below: The smaller medical kit issued on IFJ short courses. This includes sterile bandages, a resuscitation device, gloves and apron, cleansing wipes and a bandage to use as a sling.

Photos: Rob Judges



and the effects of climatic conditions such as hypothermia, heat stroke or altitude sickness. Part of the preparation for an assignment should be to become familiar with the most common infectious diseases in the region and those that can be passed on through insect bites, or through infected water or food. Take with you the right medicines for the most common conditions. In tropical areas, for example, the risk from malaria is likely to be much greater than the risk of being shot or shelled.

A journalist on assignment should become a hypochondriac. Pay attention to ensure every minor niggle is seen to before it turns into a major problem that could slow you down and put you at risk. Wash regularly, whatever the conditions (use a flannel and water if nothing else is available), and give your body regular inspections. Treat 'minor' conditions such as athlete's foot immediately.

Food and drink

Clean water and food is crucial to your well-being and ability to function. You need a minimum of two litres of clean drinking water daily, and in extreme conditions four to six litres. You also need approximately 2,000 calories a day, depending on your size, the amount of walking and running you are doing, and climatic conditions. In extremes of heat or cold you will use more calories.

Take responsibility for your own food and water. Where water is suspect, be careful of water brought to a table in restaurants, unless the seal is unbroken. It is best to avoid ice cubes in drinks, unless you are sure they were made with sterilised water. Be sure that hot drinks were properly boiled.

Where water is suspect, buy carbonated water, checking that the seals are not broken (still water is easier to 'fake'). You can reduce the fizzyness by adding a teaspoon of sugar to the water. You can make water safe with chemicals (iodine or chlorine), but make sure you leave them in for 10-20 minutes before drinking. Another method is to boil the water for eight to ten minutes. There are good-quality but expensive water filters on the market that will filter out material down to 0.2 microns – the smallest bacteria are 0.5 microns. The cost of such filters is coming down, making them more affordable.

The most common food-borne infections are from e-coli bacteria, which live in the gut and can cause 'traveller's diarrhoea' and salmonella, which is common in chickens and other meats, but is killed by thorough cooking. Avoid bloody meats and overcook

MASLOW'S LAW

Remember the rule of 3s
Your body will survive:

- ◆ 3 minutes without oxygen – after which you suffer brain damage and death.
- ◆ 3 days without water – after which you suffer serious dehydration.
- ◆ 3 weeks without food – after which your survival begins to be in doubt.

SURVIVAL TIP

In an emergency, use ultra violet rays from the sun to purify water. Filter the water and leave it in bright sunlight in a plastic or glass bottle for four hours.

rather than undercook all meat foods. If you are preparing your own food, thoroughly wash or disinfect any knife or chopping board that was used to prepare meats before using it again.

In areas where typhoid or other water-borne infections are common, be careful about eating quick-growing vegetables unless they are well cooked. Lettuce may be suspect; cooked vegetables are probably OK if they have been thoroughly boiled. Peel fruit or wash it in clean water.

If you are not confident about the quality of the food, the general rule is:

Cook, peel or chlorinate.

Traumatic injuries

The general approach to administering medical aid in a hostile environment is to stay calm and assess the situation before acting. Taking a few seconds will help you to focus on the most life-threatening conditions and to recall what you know and to focus on what you can do. Try not to worry about what you cannot do. A calm approach will save lives, while panic can spread quickly through a group of frightened people.

1. Assess the danger to you — if someone has been shot and is lying in the open, will you be shot if you go to them? If you are also injured you cease to be any help in this emergency and become part of the problem.
2. Assess the danger to the casualty. What is their most urgent life-threatening condition? Is the car they are in about to catch fire? Are they still in the open and being shot at? Assess the risks of leaving them where they are against the risks of moving them.
3. Act to remove the casualty from the danger, or the danger from the casualty. If you can remove the danger — by putting out a fire or persuading someone to stop shooting — so much the better. It is better not to move the casualty until you have stabilised their condition, but you may have to choose the least worst option.
4. Use your skills and knowledge to stabilise any life-threatening conditions; then get the casualty to a medical centre for treatment as quickly as possible. What you do for the casualty will depend on how long it will take to reach professional help.

Examining the casualty

Wherever possible, you should wear gloves when approaching a casualty. There should be a pair in your first aid kit.



Remove the danger from the casualty or the casualty from the danger.

Photo: Rob Judges

“By pulling someone out you may kill him, but if you leave him there he will almost certainly die. These are sometimes the choices you have to make.”

Paul Brown, Medical Director,
AKE training



Tip the head back so the jaw is at right angles to the ground to open the airway. Photos: Rob Judges

“If they talk back to you, their airway is clear. If they are screaming, their airway is excellent. The one to be concerned about is the quiet one in the corner, who is not calling for help.”

Paul Brown, Medical Director,
AKE training



A Guedel airway will help an unconscious casualty to breathe.



Remember a simple phrase to remind you what to do:
Dr ABC

D is for Danger – covered in points 1-4 above.

r is for Responses: Talk to the casualty. Your two aims are to find out what they can tell you about their condition and to give reassurance. If the patient is conscious, ask them what hurts. If what they say does not match what you can see, there may be hidden injuries. If they feel cold, and the outside temperature is not cold, they may be losing blood. At all times reassure the patient. Convince them that you know what you are doing, that they are going to be all right and that they will help by staying awake and co-operating. In extreme cases, comfort and reassurance may be the only things you can offer. Do it anyway.

Even if a casualty seems not to be responding, continue to give reassurance as you make your checks. A casualty may be semi-conscious (with a limited response to a voice or to pain) or unconscious (no responses). Hearing is the last sense to go, and they may still be aware of what you are saying.

A is for Airway: Check that the airway is clear. Sweep a finger around the inside of the mouth and as far down the throat as you can reach to remove any obstacles. Very noisy breathing may be a sign that something is wrong with the airway – there could be a blockage or blood entering the airway. Unconscious casualties may asphyxiate. Tip the head back so that the jaw line points upward at a right angle to the ground. The body has an automatic reaction to breathe and this should start. If the patient is unconscious or is having trouble breathing, insert a (number 3 or 4) plastic Guedel airway (*see picture*), with the curved tube going towards the windpipe. This will hold the tongue down and keep the airway open. The patient cannot swallow the airway. You should practise this on your first aid course.

B is for Breathing: If the airway is clear and the patient is still not breathing, the heart may be in irregular beat or have stopped. Attempt cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The normal number of breaths is around 16-18 a minute, but expect this to rise to around 20, because the patient is in an excited state. Rapid shallow breathing can be a sign that there is a puncture to the lung,



CPR: Above: kneeling next to the casualty with crossed hands over the chest. Above right: Finding the right place on the chest. Right: How the hands are positioned when delivering 15 pumps to the chest. Below: Hold the nose closed while delivering two long breaths through the mouth.
Photos: Rob Judges

- ◆ Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is also known as mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- ◆ Place the casualty on a solid surface.
- ◆ Blow two breaths through the mouth, holding the nose closed.
- ◆ Find the compression point two finger widths above the start of the breast bone.
- ◆ Give the chest 15 steady pumps with crossed palms over the heart.
- ◆ Continue this pattern of two breaths followed by 15 pumps for as long as there is hope.



REASONS WHY A CASUALTY STOPS BREATHING

The five main reasons why a casualty may stop breathing are:

- ◆ a blockage in the airway,
- ◆ heart attack,
- ◆ electric shock,
- ◆ gas or smoke inhalation,
- ◆ near drowning.

or that the patient is in ‘hypovolemic shock’ – shock that is due to loss of blood volume internally or externally.

CPR – also known as mouth-to-mouth resuscitation – involves blowing air into the lungs (mouth to mouth), followed by chest compressions (*see pictures on previous page*). Blow two breaths through the mouth holding the nose closed and then give the chest 15 steady pumps with crossed palms over the heart. Continue this pattern of two breaths followed by 15 pumps for as long as there is hope. With CPR you can resuscitate about 10% of those whose heart has stopped; a skilled paramedic with a defibrillation machine can achieve a 50% success rate.

C is for Circulation: If the patient is breathing, then the heart should be sending blood around the body. If the pulse is poor or erratic this indicates a problem with the heart beat or with the circulation. Pulse can be taken anywhere where an artery is close to the surface. The best place is at the neck (at the side below the jaw bone), at the wrist or on the inside of the elbow or knee. Assess the strength of the pulse and the timing. A normal pulse rate is around 60-90 beats per minute. This will slow when someone is at rest, and speed up when they are agitated or excited. A fast and weak pulse can be a sign of major blood loss, while an irregular pulse suggests something is wrong. Take the pulse close to an affected limb to check the blood supply to that limb.

TAKING A PULSE

The best place to take a pulse is at the neck.

Use four fingers flat against the point of the pulse.

Do not use your thumb. It has its own pulse and will confuse your reading.

Photo: Rob Judges



During these checks and during subsequent emergency treatment, make sure that you record everything you do, including the time, the condition of the casualty (pulse rate, breathing, etc.), action taken and medication given.

Use a simple sketch of a body to indicate wounds or burns. Note the time when a tourniquet was applied. If you are in a group, give one person this recording role. These notes must stay with the casualty and be sent on with them.

Check the condition of the casualty every 15 minutes and record whether they are alert, drowsy, semi-conscious or unconscious.

When you hand over the casualty for transmission to hospital etc. send someone with them who can tell the medical team what happened and what has been done. Make sure that the notes you have made travel with the patient. They will help the medical team to decide what to do next.

Penetrating wounds

Major fractures and penetrating wounds are life-threatening conditions that often result from traffic accidents or from bullet or shrapnel wounds. The most common cause of death is from loss of blood. The most important emergency treatment is to stop or slow loss of blood, and to immobilise any major broken limbs.

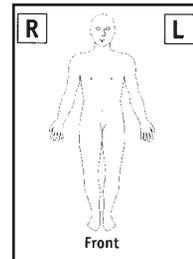
During your first examination of the casualty, check for all penetrating wounds. Take care that an obvious wound does not disguise a less obvious but potentially more dangerous one. Look for dark wet stains on the clothing, and be sure to check the innermost layer. Internal bleeding is dangerous. A fractured pelvis or femur (thigh bone) can bleed up to two litres of blood.

If it is safe to leave a casualty in position, do not move them until you have checked that they do not have a fractured spine. Ask a conscious casualty to wiggle the toes, and check that the casualty can feel it when you tickle their feet. A semi-conscious casualty will react to pain or to your voice. Rub their breastbone or pinch them to see if they respond.

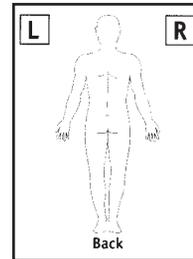
If a patient is unconscious, behave as if they have a fractured spine and move them only when you have immobilised the neck and placed the casualty on a stretcher (*see below*).

In your first examination, use your (gloved) hands as well as your eyes. Check down the head, body and legs from top to bottom, checking for reaction to pain that could indicate broken bones or internal injuries. Cut away any clothing that obscures your vision

Record the condition of the casualty



Use a simple sketch to indicate wounds or burns



Drawings: AKE Ltd

◆ Record what you do and the time you do it.

◆ Check the casualty every 15 minutes.

◆ Make sure that notes go with the casualty to hospital or clinic.



After stopping the bleeding, raise the limb to reduce the blood pressure at the wound point.



If you cannot stop the bleeding before moving the casualty, and do not have access to a purpose made tourniquet, improvise one using a belt or — as seen here — using a cloth and pen. The strapping for the tourniquet should be 2.5 cm to 5 cm (1 inch to 2 inches) wide.

Photos: Rob Judges

— but take care not to pull cloth from a non-bleeding wound and so allow bleeding to restart.

Stopping loss of blood

One of your most urgent tasks is to stop the casualty losing blood. The principle is to apply pressure to the wound for long enough for the blood to clot. This should take about ten minutes. In your medical kit you should have large sterile bandages (there is little reason to carry small bandages). Open the bandage and apply to the wound with both hands, applying pressure with your body weight for a minimum of ten minutes. Your aim is to stop the bleeding, not to cover the wound. Do not pull the bandage off as this will break the clotting. Leave it in position. However, if the wound bleeds through, the process has not worked and you will have to try again. If possible, raise the limb to reduce the blood pressure at the wound point.

- ◆ If there is a very large open wound — such as made by a shotgun or explosion, then pack the wound with bandages and then apply pressure over the top.
- ◆ Leave the pressure dressing in position to stop bleeding and to reduce the chances of infection. Bullets and shrapnel are not sterile and are likely to infect a wound. Make sure that the dressings you carry are weather-proof.

There are other methods for stopping blood loss. One is to apply pressure to the pressure points where the large arteries cross bone structure, such as the collarbone. Again the pressure should be applied for ten minutes. The other is to apply a tourniquet, most suitable when a wound is in a limb. The tourniquet (essentially a belt, strap or cloth, tightened to stop the flow of blood) is applied above the joint that is above the wound. If the wound is to the forearm, the tourniquet is applied to the upper arm; if the casualty has a gaping foot wound, the tourniquet is applied above the knee. Apply the tourniquet by wrapping the strapping around the limb and using a stick to turn it more tightly until the bleeding stops. You can improvise a tourniquet with a belt. If you do not have a stick, use a pen to tighten it. The strapping should be 2.5 cm to 5 cm (1 to 2 inches) broad to avoid damage where it is tightened.

Once you succeed in stopping the loss of blood, you are depriving the limb of oxygen. This will cause damage if the tourniquet is applied for too long a period. Record the time at which it is applied

and, after 15-20 minutes, gradually release the tourniquet over a two to three minute period. If the wound begins to bleed again you will have to reapply the tourniquet, again recording the time. In general, use a tourniquet only when other methods fail or you are overwhelmed by casualties and need to put some on hold. However, if you need to move someone out of a danger situation quickly, and know you can give more considered aid in a few minutes, a tourniquet can be the first choice.

Falling blood pressure is a sign of blood loss. Blood pressure is measured twice — on the beat of the pulse and at the relaxing stage. The higher rate (on the pulse) should be roughly 100 plus your age and the lower rate should be 60-80. If the relaxed rate is above 100, there may be internal bleeding. You will probably not have the equipment to take blood pressure, but there is a good rough test. Press the casualty's thumbnail until it goes white, and then release it. If it turns pink quickly, then the blood pressure is good. If it stays white for several seconds, there could be a problem, as the blood is not returning quickly. A sign of loss of blood pressure is a faint bluish tinge on the lips or ear lobes in white-skinned people (cyanosis) or a faint greying of the lips or ear lobes in black- or brown-skinned people.

Wound to the lung

A bullet wound or other hole in the lung will cause air to leak, compress the lung and eventually put extra pressure on the heart. If you can see where the wound is, cut a 6-cm square of airtight material and tape it to the chest above the wound on three sides, leaving the bottom open. This 'flutter valve' will tend to seal when the casualty breathes in, and release air when they breathe out. Beta Cam tape can be used to secure the material. Put the casualty in a semi-sitting position.

Secondary survey

Once you have stemmed the blood flow, you will have time for a secondary examination of the casualty. This time go more thoroughly over the head and body (carefully so you do not disturb any treatment you have given). Feel the scalp for unusual bumps or depressions, indicating fracture. Check the ears for signs of blood or fluid — fluid from the ear may indicate a skull injury. Check that the jaws close together, and that limbs move freely in their usual way. Flex the foot and push the toes back towards the body

APPLYING A TOURNIQUET

- ◆ Use a tourniquet to stop bleeding when a casualty has to be moved quickly or other methods have failed.
- ◆ Tighten a belt, strap or broad cloth above the joint that is above the wound.
- ◆ You can improvise a tourniquet and use a pen to tighten it.
- ◆ Ensure that the strapping is 2.5-5 cm (1-2 inches) wide.
- ◆ Release the tourniquet slowly after 15-20 minutes.
- ◆ Even if bleeding does not stop, only apply a tourniquet for 20 minutes at a time.
- ◆ Record what you have done and the time when you did it.



A flutter valve covers a wound causing a hole in the lung. The home-made valve of plastic is held in position by tape on three sides. The bottom is left open.

Photo: Rob Judges



Recovery position: roll the casualty onto the side. Place one of the casualty's hands under the head and pull the other out to the side. The casualty's head should rest on their own palm.



Bend the top leg and hook the foot over the other leg.

Photos: Rob Judges



and ask the casualty to resist the pressure. Look out for any instinctive protection of parts of the body that may indicate a concealed fracture or other hidden injury. If the casualty can feel you pinch their foot, then their spinal cord is intact.

Recovery position

If a casualty is unconscious, semi-conscious or drowsy, leave them in the recovery position, on their side, with one arm pulled up and one leg tucked under so they will not roll. This position will maintain their airway and prevent them choking should they be sick.

Painkillers

Give what painkillers you have. Make sure that you carry the strongest painkillers you can get, but make sure they are legal in the country where you are working. Break up pills into a powder, mix with water, swill around the mouth and swallow.

Carry a letter from a doctor with your first aid kit, naming the drugs that you are carrying and confirming that these are provided for medical emergencies. The more official looking the letter, the better.

Alcohol is not recommended for casualties because it dilates the peripheral circulation and encourages bleeding. It does make a good emergency antiseptic.

Bullets and missiles

You will probably not be able to remove a bullet, or shrapnel. If a wooden missile (such as a large splinter) pierces the casualty, it is usually better to leave it in position.

Fractures

A fracture is a chip, crack or break in a bone. A closed (simple) fracture is internal. An open (compound) fracture has a bone coming through the skin, or a wound reaching to the fracture site. Complex fractures can interfere with an internal organ, cause internal bleeding or damage nerve structures. Pain, tenderness, loss of movement, abnormal movement, deformity, swelling and/or shock can be a sign of a hidden fracture.

Immobilising and stabilising broken major bones should be done wherever possible before moving the casualty. The joints above and below the fracture site must be immobilised. If you suspect a fracture to the neck or backbone (or if the patient is uncon-

scious), then apply a cervical collar from your first aid kit. This will prevent the neck from tilting or moving. If you do not have a cervical collar fold a broadsheet (large-format) newspaper longways into half and half again, and fit it around the neck.

Where there are open fractures to major limbs, decide whether to immobilise them as they are, or to pull them into shape first. A limb with the fracture should be elevated to prevent excessive blood pressure. Use bandages to tie upper limbs (arms and shoulders) in a sling. If you do not have a triangular bandage to hold an arm across the chest, tear one from a shirt.

A splint keeps the leg immobile to prevent a fracture doing further damage. The splint must extend beyond the joint above and below the injured limb. If the break is in the lower leg, the splint should extend from the foot to the calf. If the break is in the upper leg, extend the splint from below the knee to above the hip. A comprehensive first aid kit contains ‘fracstraps’ or ‘Sam-splints’, flexible splints that can be shaped to the limb and tied so as to create an immobile support. However, a splint can be improvised from a broomstick, camera tripod or anything that will keep the limb rigid. Pad it to make it more comfortable and use belts or clothing to tie it into position.



A cervical collar (above) will protect the neck from tilting or moving. Many medical kits contain a purpose made collar (left). If not, make a cervical collar using a broadsheet newspaper (below).



Fracstraps can be shaped into a splint. If you do not have a fracstrap, improvise a splint from a broomstick or a camera tripod.

Photos: Rob Judges

Emergency medical aid

One leg can be strapped to the other to form a splint support. Once this is done, the casualty will not be able to hop or walk, even with support.

half over (two or more people acting together). Pull the stretcher under the body and roll the casualty back. The stretcher can now be tightened up to provide a secure platform. To improvise a stretcher, place two coats on the ground with the head ends facing in opposite directions. Push a pole through two armholes, and another pole through the other two.



A flexible stretcher can be pulled tight and will provide a firm support if there are enough people to carry. Stretchers can be improvised with broomsticks or poles, pushed through the arms of two coats.

One leg can provide a rough splint for the other. Hook the fractured leg over the good leg, and strap the legs together in at least three places. Bear in the mind that, if you strap the legs together, the casualty will not be able to hop or walk, even with your support, and you will need to carry them on a stretcher.

If the casualty cannot walk, place a stretcher on the ground and roll the casualty



When splinting the leg, take a flexible support around the foot to anchor the splint.



Bandage around the bottom of the foot, to make the splint secure and to prevent the foot from flexing.



With a leg splinted in this fashion the casualty can walk on one leg with support.

Photos: Rob Judges

Evacuate the patient

Once the casualty is stabilised, evacuate them to a safer place and then to a hospital or clinic. Go with them and give a full account of what you have done. The casualty will appreciate a friendly face. Give painkillers and plasma (to replace lost blood).

Burns

Burns can be caused by dry heat (flame and blast), wet heat (scalding), acid or alkali chemicals, electric shock, friction (being dragged across the ground) or by irradiation, (which is outside the scope of this manual).

Superficial burns penetrate less than the full thickness of the inner skin (corium) and are intensely painful. Deep burns cause charring below the full depth of the skin. They look very bad. The nerve ends are destroyed by deep burns, but the casualty will probably also have superficial burns and thus be in pain. Deep burns cause internal swelling that can block arteries. If 20% or more of the body has superficial burns or 10% has deep burns, this constitutes a very serious risk. Burned casualties leak plasma and may go into hypovolemic shock from loss of blood fluid (plasma).

Action in the event of burns

The first priority is to prevent further damage. If someone is burning, bring them to the ground and roll them to extinguish flames. Use a blanket or otherwise deprive the flames of oxygen. Then cool the burn. Use soaked sheets or soak the casualty in water for ten minutes. Cut away loose clothing but leave clothing that adheres to the burn, in case of causing more damage. The casualty may complain of being cold. Get them to drink copious amounts to replace lost liquid. Make up rehydration solution with ½ teaspoon of salt and ½ teaspoon of baking powder to a litre of water.

Immerse a scald in cold water. It takes at least ten minutes to neutralise the burning effect.

For chemical burns, caused by ammonia, car battery acid, etc. remove all contaminated clothing, and soak affected area in copious amounts of water for at least ten minutes. If you have CAP anti-burn solution, use it to neutralise acid or alkali.

Exposure or heat stroke

Away from your base, perhaps in an unfamiliar setting or climate, journalists on assignments are at risk in extremes of weather, par-

IMPROVISE A SPLINT

Improvise a splint with anything that holds the limb rigid. In the top picture the splint is a metal rod. The bottom picture shows a splint improvised from a camera tripod. Both splints are held in place using belts.

Photos: Rob Judges



Bengt Stenvall and Stefan Borg entered Goma on foot on November 2 1996. With other reporters, they stopped to interview local people who told them the area was controlled by Tutsi rebels.

Suddenly, a hand grenade exploded. They turned and ran. Stefan reached one side of the road. Bengt and the others ran

to the other. As Bengt reached the corner he felt a burning sensation. He had been hit below the left knee — probably by a high-velocity AK47 bullet.

Bengt kept the camera rolling while Stefan ran to his side. As firing continued, the other journalists were frozen with terror, but Stefan and Bengt's training cut in. The tape transcript reveals Stefan's shock when he saw an exit wound half the size of a tennis ball and tissue hanging out. However, he told Bengt: "It is not too bad. I will fix it." Despite his pain, Bengt was able to discuss his treatment. Stefan put a tourniquet above Bengt's knee and covered the exit wound. He and Bengt confirmed that they should keep the tourniquet on for 20 minutes.

Exactly 3 minutes 57 seconds after Bengt was hit, Stefan was able to tell him: "You are not bleeding any more." They were still under fire and decided to run, leaving non-essential equipment behind. Bengt ran 50 metres before he collapsed. Stefan and another journalist helped him the rest of the way. The rebels let them pass.

Halfway to the border, they stopped to fit a new tourniquet. At the border an ambulance took them to a local hospital, arriving 35 minutes after the shooting. Stefan reported on what he had done. A surgeon cut the exit wound clean. The next day Bengt was taken another three hours by ambulance to the German Embassy in Kigali, where a Belgian doctor operated. A Swiss Air Ambulance evacuated him to Sweden, where he had a further two operations. He was released from hospital on December 13 and is now working again.

Stefan Borg said: "It is my opinion that Bengt would not have survived if I did not have the skills from the course. We were both mentally prepared for a serious situation. We both had belt packs with bandages, trauma dressing, syringes, needles and surgical gloves. We prepared the belt packs the same morning."

Bengt Stenvall said: "The incident in Goma proves that the situation can shift totally in a second. The evacuation was a marathon for everyone involved. I was totally exhausted after half the distance, possibly because of blood loss and stress.

"It is no fun being shot. My advice: bring really strong painkillers. Stefan saved my life. Maybe he would have done it without the course, but personally I am convinced that this course strongly contributed to the result." ■

Source: AKE Ltd (Testimony of Borg and Stenvall).

Medical training pays off as Swedish camera crew comes under fire

*Swedish cameraman **Bengt Stenvall** and reporter **Stefan Borg** attended a *Surviving Hostile Regions* course. Five months later, they crossed into Zaire to cover the conflict.*

ticularly if they are not prepared. Exposure is the condition where the body temperature falls below its normal level. It affects not only the ability to perform physically, but also the ability to make judgements and to think rationally about your situation.

Signs that someone is suffering from exposure include prolonged shivering, a pale appearance and personality changes, including becoming unresponsive and withdrawn. There may be occasional short-lived bursts of energy. If these symptoms continue and the shivering stops, this may be a sign that someone is close to collapse, coma and possible death.

Your aim should be to ensure that the casualty is dry and warm and has food and drink. Remove wet clothes, replacing them with dry clothes. Place the casualty in a sleeping bag or similar, and add a hot water bottle (beware of scalding). If this is not possible use the buddy system — get into the sleeping bag with them and use your body heat. If you can still joke about this — things are not yet completely desperate.

Monitor vital signs and, if the casualty is conscious, give high-carbohydrate food and hot drinks. Getting enough to eat and drink is important in cold conditions, and in general it does not matter if the food is hot or cold (although hot food and warm drinks feel more comforting).

In extreme heat or arid conditions you may be at risk of heat exhaustion, through loss of fluids and vital salts, or heat stroke where the brain can no longer regulate body temperature. Someone suffering from heat exhaustion will sweat a lot. The skin of someone with heat stroke is more likely to feel hot and dry.

In extreme conditions, look out for signs that your colleagues are losing interest in their physical condition.

In cold weather, listlessness, loss of morale and a lack of interest in what is happening around them could be a sign that hypothermia is setting in.

Heat Exhaustion

has a slow onset

Pulse	Rapid and weak
Temperature	Slightly raised
Colour (Caucasian)	Pale
Skin	Sweating
Condition	Semi-conscious or conscious

Treatment:

Replace fluids.

Give oral rehydration solution (mix one litre of water with a pinch of salt and a spoon of sugar).

Drink little and often.

Heat Stroke

has a rapid onset

Pulse	Slow
Temperature	40°+
Colour (Caucasian)	Bright red
Skin	Hot and dry
Condition	Semi-conscious or unconscious

Treatment: Move into shade.

Remove clothing. Fan casualty.

Reduce temperature with wet flannel. If body reaches 40°C (104°F) the body regulator is beginning to fail. At 43°C (109.4°F) the patient is at risk of death.

Altitude sickness

Some journalists arriving to cover the conflict in Kashmir have had symptoms of altitude sickness. Altitude sickness or acute mountain sickness (AMS) results from travelling to 2,500 metres (8,000 feet) or more, without acclimatising. The body will eventually become accustomed to the reduced density of air and reduced oxygen. Most people notice fast breathing (hyperventilation), shortness of breath during exercise, frequent urination especially at night, changed breathing patterns at night and vivid dreams.

Altitude sickness consists of a headache with one or more of a number of other symptoms. These include loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting, fatigue or weakness, dizziness, difficulty sleeping and staggering when walking. If you do not go higher, this should pass in a few days. If you go higher when suffering symptoms, you put yourself at risk of one of two dangerous forms of AMS.

High-altitude cerebral edema (HACE) can be fatal within a few hours. It is accompanied by mental confusion and an inability to walk in a straight line, as if drunk.

High-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) is due to fluid in the lungs. Symptoms include: exhaustion, breathlessness, cough, sometimes with frothy or pink sputum, gurgling or rattling breath, tight chest, and blue or grey lips and fingernails (cyanosis).

Both HACE and HAPE must be treated with immediate descent. Both conditions are very dangerous. Accompany the casualty to a lower altitude. Do not leave them alone.

When travelling to altitude avoid alcohol, sleeping pills or narcotics. Acetazolamide can help those suffering from altitude sickness to acclimatise more quickly.

Snakebite

As part of your preparation, check whether there are venomous snakes in the region. Most snakes are non-poisonous and prefer to move away from danger and hide. They only bite when frightened, cornered or trodden on. The only effective treatment for snakebite is to give the casualty the anti-venom as quickly as possible. If you are working in remote areas where there are venomous snakes, you should carry the correct anti-venom and know how to administer it. If you do not carry anti-venom, do not suck out the venom or cut the site of the bite. The aim should be to try to prevent venom spreading while the casualty is moved to where anti-venom is available as quickly as possible. Keep the casualty calm. Place them flat

Check out altitude sickness at
<http://www.high-altitude-medicine.com/>

and restrict movement as much as possible. Try to keep the limb just below the level of the heart. Wrap a large crepe bandage around the bitten limb, starting at the site of the bite and working up the limb. The bandage should be as tight as for a sprained ankle, but NOT a tourniquet. The aim is to restrict the blood flow, but not to stop it. Place a splint on the bandaged limb to keep it as rigid as possible. Try to keep the casualty calm and still while moving them. The less exertion the better. Do not remove splint or bandages until anti-venom can be given. ■

Chapter 6

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

When it's all over, there's more trouble...

- ◆ People who live through horrific events are all affected in some way — including journalists.
- ◆ Many have short-term reactions, which ease as they talk through issues with colleagues or families.
- ◆ Some need more help — often if feelings of helplessness and fear have been suppressed.
- ◆ About a quarter of journalists with extensive experience of conflict and war reporting suffer symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- ◆ Changes are needed to the macho culture that makes journalists try to cope alone.
- ◆ Journalists should routinely debrief after hazardous assignments.
- ◆ There should be voluntary access to independent and knowledgeable counselling.
- ◆ Journalists with symptoms need an easy route to treatment.
- ◆ Journalists must be confident they will not suffer loss of position, opportunity or prestige.
- ◆ Local and freelance journalists are at risk of being left without support.

Those who live through horrific events are inevitably affected in some way. Journalists may photograph, film or report on events where people are wounded or killed, and where they are helpless to save them. None of us is unaffected by seeing other human beings terrorised, wounded or killed. Moreover, journalists may be put at personal risk and made to feel afraid. Most people 'deal with' the issues that arise, and recover. Some have short-term reactions, such as a heightened awareness of danger or hyper-sensitivity to sudden noise. Others may be desensitised, and become callous about death and suffering. Some are left with long-term problems which damage their lives.

Journalists who report on wars and conflicts may be distanced by the fact that they have a job to do, and by individual skills in dealing with issues. However, they are also expected to focus on the horror. Photographers and camera operators may spend time analysing the best angles from which to photograph or film people in fear or who are dead or dying. Nobody who reports on wars and conflicts can be entirely unaffected. This is probably also true of those who report train or plane crashes, gruesome killings or long murder trials. At times of war, journalists who cannot leave a conflict area because they are reporting on their own communities are particularly likely to be affected.

While support networks have long been in place for police officers or firefighters, several factors make it more difficult for journalists to recognise and deal with trauma. Too often, a macho culture encourages journalists to believe that they can cope with any disaster and that personal feelings should not get in the way of the job.

Journalists are also reluctant to shift the focus of attention from people whose lives are ended or torn apart by conflict, to those who report on them. Journalists and camera operators want to report the story, and do not want to see themselves as part of the story, as victims.

The BBC World Service and the European arm of the US-based Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma hosted a conference in London in January 2002, entitled *Emotions, Trauma and Good Journalism*. One of the speakers was Wilma Goudappel who was wounded while working in Albania in the late 1990s and who now provides training dealing with post-traumatic stress for the UK-based safety-training provider Centurion Risk Assessment Services. She believes that it is difficult for journalists to admit to post-trauma anger or depression. She said: “There is an enormous fear that, if they even begin to think about taking a course of action, be that some kind of therapy, be that putting their hand up and saying, ‘I can’t do this assignment,’ they will actually be sidelined ... that they won’t have a career.”

Over the past 20 years there has been increasing recognition of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in people who survive horrific events, and amongst the emergency crews who respond to them. It has more recently been recognised that reporters, photographers and camera operators can also suffer similar disorders with symptoms that make it difficult to function in everyday life (*see panel*). A journalist may only begin to experience these reactions after the conflict is over or they leave the area, when the need to do the job is gone and they are overwhelmed by their hidden feelings. Symptoms are often short term — the term Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is only applied when severe symptoms continue for more than a month. A ‘disorder’ suggests that the natural human reaction has gone deep and that the mental wounds are not healing on their own. Symptoms over a shorter period are sometimes categorised as ‘acute stress disorder’.

Gabrielle Rifkind, a psychotherapist from the Institute of Group Analysis, told the same London conference that journalists often have a need to repress their feelings while they are working. “We see terrible things that have actually affected us but we say, ‘I can’t bear to think about it at the moment’. And of course, the nature of being a journalist feeds that, because you have deadlines ... The only problem is that finally, it may catch up with you. And so when you suddenly start getting panic attacks, or terrible headaches or even physical symptoms that appear disconnected, it suddenly leads you into a world where you think, ‘I don’t know what’s happening to me’.”

Experience alone does not seem to protect against these reactions. Indeed, there is some evidence that more experienced

SYMPTOMS THAT AFFECT EVERYDAY LIFE

- ◆ Involuntary flashbacks to events.
- ◆ Being overwhelmed by feelings of anger, helplessness, sorrow or guilt.
- ◆ Repeated nightmares.
- ◆ Avoiding thinking about the incidents that most disturb.
- ◆ Impatience with ‘normal’ social or family life.
- ◆ Feeling emotionally numb.
- ◆ Loss of sexual desire.
- ◆ Short attention span.

'I wanted to swap places and be the one who was dead'

"What hit me like a sledgehammer was when I was working with somebody who was killed and I wasn't — I didn't know how to handle that at all.

"I thought it was my fault, and was convinced everybody else thought it was my fault, and I wanted to swap places and be the one who was dead.

"I'd heard of post-traumatic stress disorder, but thought it was an indulgent, 'Nancy boy' thing. It was a terrible experience and I became very moody and paranoid, socially dysfunctional and unable to work, and it was to do with being alive. The only way I could get out of it was to go and get help.

"It was one of my bosses – significantly a woman – who said to me: 'You look like shit. You're in a state, and I've made an appointment for you to go and see somebody.'" ■

Allan Little, BBC reporter, Freedom Forum panel 2001

reporters and crews are at greater risk. Jeremy Bowen, a BBC correspondent for 15 years, has covered around a dozen wars and conflicts. He told the conference how one finally got past his defences.

"The thing that was qualitatively different for me was in Lebanon, when the Israelis were withdrawing, when a valued friend and colleague of mine was killed in front of my eyes by the Israelis. He was in his car and they blew it up with a tank shell. I was very close by. I was stuck there on the scene for a couple of hours, unable to get out. It was appalling. It was the worst day of my life.

"Afterwards my response was different to the way it had been in covering other conflicts. I had some of the classic symptoms of stress. I had bad dreams. I was hyper-vigilant. I later discovered what that was. I kept thinking something would fall on my head, or I'd start at sudden noises. I knew about the BBC counselling service. I thought I'd try it out and I found it really helpful. I only had one really long session with the guy and spoke to him on the phone as well. He said, 'Look here, your response is normal and you should just be a bit concerned if it continues'. I found that helpful. It wasn't magic. But it certainly was helpful."

Research commissioned by the Freedom Forum at the University of Toronto suggests that international correspondents who report on wars and conflicts have almost the same risk of PTSD and depression as army combat veterans. Dr Anthony Feinstein and his team at the University of Toronto compared 140 war journalists working for North American or international media with a control group of 69 journalists working on other kinds of stories. They asked about sadness, lack of enjoyment, loss of sleep, loss of self-worth and suicidal thoughts. They also asked about the extent to which the journalists:

- ◆ re-experience traumatic events through dreams, flashbacks or intrusive and often unwelcome recollections,
- ◆ stay away from reminders of the trauma,
- ◆ suffer physiological arousal such as increased heart rate, sweating and anxiety.

The team found that:

- ◆ War journalists were three times more likely than the control group to suffer post-traumatic stress symptoms.
- ◆ An astonishing 53% were either single or divorced – a very big difference from the control group.
- ◆ They drank more than the control group – men drank twice as

much as control group men, while women war journalists drank five times as much as control group women.

- ◆ There was an increased use of recreational drugs amongst the war journalists.
- ◆ There was significantly more depression amongst war journalists than in the control group, and war journalists also rated themselves as having greater social dysfunction.

Dr Feinstein and his team concluded that journalists who regularly report from conflict zones have a greater than one in four chance of suffering from PTSD over the course of a lifetime. That is more than twice the incidence in police officers and only slightly less than military combat veterans.

Dr Feinstein accepts that most of those who report from conflict areas do not suffer long-term problems. He says: “Our study was not an attempt to pathologise an industry. Three quarters of the journalists I surveyed did not have psychological difficulties. The majority go off to war for a 15-year period and generally end up doing OK.”

But he warns that those with problems often fail to receive treatment. “In some of the journalists, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is chronic. It hasn’t got any better, and they’re very unhappy as a result of it. Their depression may be quite intractable, and depression carries with it a significant morbidity — it affects your quality of life. It also has a significant mortality, in that it is the one condition within psychiatry that has the highest suicide rate — 15%. In many of the journalists, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder was being missed, and they were not getting treatment. The depression and the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder can affect families in terms of quality of life and physical well-being.”

Reporting conflict in your own country

Dr Feinstein’s research focused on international correspondents. There has been no equivalent research on journalists reporting in their own or neighbouring communities. There is every reason to believe that the stress would be significantly greater for such journalists, and this is backed by anecdotal evidence.

One of the best attended post-conflict media conferences in the Balkans was organised by the Media Diversity Institute and *Vijesti* daily newspaper at Igalo, Montenegro, in September 2001. After the NATO bombing of Serbia and the conflict in Kosovo, journalists

from across the region came together to discuss investigative journalism and reporting on corruption. The most successful session was on post-conflict stress. In an atmosphere where professionals felt safe to speak, hard-boiled correspondents who had covered the conflicts of the previous decade were able to recognise in themselves, and talk about, symptoms that indicated ‘unfinished business’.

The Media Diversity Institute reported on the Igalo conference, saying: “To everybody’s surprise, the participants from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro and Kosovo opened up with such honesty and a clear need to contribute to the topic, that we required additional time to wrap up the session. It included a number of eyewitness accounts of war crimes, some related only with great difficulty. Some of the participants had reported from the most notorious Balkans killing fields. How to do so and not be affected? In this session the macho sentiments that prevail in Balkans journalism appeals had been stripped to the level of touchy confessions. Our participants discovered PTSD symptoms in themselves, and began to look more closely at relations with families and friends. They emphasised the unbridgeable gap dividing the indigenous journalists and ‘professional’ war reporters. They talked about my country’s and other country’s wars, sometimes with resignation, often with disappointment. Those who contributed expressed their need for appropriate training in emotional awareness. (Counselling, group work, workshops, and therapy). They asked questions about how to deal with emotions and why they mattered. In general terms participants agreed that the main goal surrounding the protection of journalists should be to serve the betterment of journalism – most importantly to create more balanced journalism.”

Vedat Spahovic, a freelance journalist who reported from Sarajevo before leaving to study PTSD, confirmed from his own perspective that journalists from within each country had a worse time of it because they were seeing their own people being killed, they had not chosen to be war reporters and they could not leave the area. “I don’t know what is good about being a war reporter. I never liked being shot at. It is very different being a home war reporter than being a war reporter coming in from outside.”

When Dr Feinstein presented his research at the Freedom Forum panel in 2001, Priyath Liyanage from the BBC World Service called for more work on the impact on local journalists. He noted that a

BBC stringer, paid £12.50 a story, had recently been killed in Africa. “Today my children have got a father and his haven’t. What study have you or anybody done about the trauma of these people?”

The International Center for Education of Journalists in Opatija, Croatia, organised a conference, *Aftermath of Covering Conflict: Dealing with the Emotional Impact*, in January 2002 co-sponsored by the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, and the Indiana University School of Journalism. Here too it was clear that local journalists are under the greatest stress. Elza Radulic told the conference how her son clung to her shivering with fear as mortar shells pounded their hometown of Zadar on the Adriatic Coast in 1991. But as a journalist she had to remove his hand and go out to do her job. She not only had to worry about her own safety, but about whether her family would be alive when she got home. She said: “It was a terrible time. All of us who did this work are suffering the consequences.”

What can journalist organisations and employers do to help?

Most journalists who report on conflict do not suffer from PTSD, but all journalists are affected to a greater or lesser extent. The first step must be to encourage journalists to talk about their experiences as a routine procedure after returning from a harrowing assignment. Journalists need to recognise that owning up to feelings of depression or sadness is not an expression of weakness. These feelings are part of the body’s coping mechanism.

Chris Cramer refused counselling when, while working for the BBC, he was held hostage in the Iranian Embassy siege in April 1980. Now President of CNN International Networks, Cramer has changed his attitude towards counselling (*see panel*).

The best way to come to terms with a traumatic experience will vary from journalist to journalist. Some may be able to talk to families and loved ones. Others only feel comfortable talking to people who have shared their experiences. Going out for a drink with colleagues to talk about traumatic events may be enough to release the tension. However, there are obvious dangers in relying on the alcohol rather than the colleagues. Going for a drink can become staying in with a drink, while alcohol can become a problem, rather than a support. Support can be given through such schemes as the free external counselling made available to all staff at the

Counselling
'should be just
like doing your
laundry after
a trip'

“The issue of post-traumatic stress counselling in the media profession for me is no different at all from the introduction of safety training.

“When you come back from an assignment, you unpack and you do your laundry. My submission ... is that this type of counselling should be no different than having your laundry done, except it’s your head laundry. Some people might choose to have it done, others won’t. I wish to Christ I had done it 20 years ago.”

Chris Cramer, *President of CNN International, speaking at the seminar, Conflicts and War Crimes: Challenges for Coverage, May 2000.*

BBC. However, there is evidence that some journalists are reluctant to use such a service because they fear damage to their careers.

Any journalist who goes through counselling must be sure they will not lose their job, miss out on key assignments or suffer loss of prestige because they admit to depression or nightmares. Any counselling system for staff must therefore be confidential and should allow journalists to refer themselves without having to go through a management structure. However, there may be a case for a more directed service when journalists are clearly suffering. It is important, also, that journalists learn to recognise symptoms in each other, so that they can offer support and suggest intervention.

Journalist organisations should press managements to ensure that all journalists are offered an opportunity for confidential counselling after traumatic assignments. Journalists' organisations themselves should consider setting up self-help groups where journalists who have covered conflict can talk through their experiences. Such groups must create a feeling of safety where what is said in a meeting does not become the subject of gossip outside.

The evidence is that there will be personal breakdowns or near breakdowns after a prolonged conflict. Employers must provide for 'no-stigma' treatment for journalists with prolonged symptoms. Treating the mental wounds left by reporting on such issues should be no different from ensuring that a reporter who is shot in the arm receives medical treatment before returning to work.

The people most likely to miss out on any treatment on offer are freelance journalists. Journalists' organisations have a specific role to play in ensuring that managements extend the same facilities to freelance journalists and stringers after traumatic assignments as they provide for their own staff. A service set up by a large media organisation could also be made available to freelance journalists at no charge to them, with the costs covered by media groups jointly, or by journalists' organisations.

Quality of support

The quality of support offered to journalists has been identified as an important issue. Journalists do not want their human reactions to be 'medicalised' and, even when they want help, they are fearful that they will enter into a world of 'psychobabble'. The people offering counselling need to know about the pressures of journalism as well as about the horror of war and killings.

David Loyn, a BBC reporter who sought counselling after seeing

someone summarily executed, warned at the London conference: “I know there are other people who do offer this kind of counselling and I would appeal to the psychotherapeutic community to make sure that it’s the right kind of counselling and that it’s very specific and very tightly targeted. Otherwise, it’s going to get a bad name in the journalism business.”

Psychotherapist Gabrielle Rifkind also cautioned against ‘quick fix-it’ solutions, calling instead for efforts to build an emotionally literate culture. “It’s not the level of trauma that’s the problem,” said Rifkind, “it’s the question of how that trauma is processed, and that’s why self-awareness becomes important.”

International moves to improve knowledge

A number of initiatives are under way to improve knowledge of post-conflict stress. The London conference, *Emotions, Trauma and Good Journalism*, called for a European Centre for Journalism and Trauma to be established with a brief to offer life skills training and therapy, to campaign and to organise research. Just such a Centre is now being set up in partnership between the BBC and the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, based at the University of Washington in Seattle in the United States. Dart Europe is directed by Mark Brayne, who was for 20 years a foreign correspondent for Reuters and the BBC, with postings in Moscow, Berlin, Vienna and Beijing. Amongst other assignments, he covered the build-up to the killings in Tiananmen Square in 1989, the revolution in Romania and beginnings of war in Yugoslavia.

In the 1990s, Mark Brayne trained as a psychotherapist, graduating in 2000 with a Masters degree and a research thesis into the Personal Experience of the Foreign Correspondent. As editor with the European languages sections of the BBC World Service, Mark Brayne has been a driving force behind the provision of compulsory survival training for reporters and producers working in hostile environments and areas of natural disaster. He helped to establish the BBC’s first confidential counselling service in the early 1990s.

The Media Diversity Institute is planning events in Central and Eastern Europe to promote a climate of understanding about how trauma affects news gatherers. The aims are to build PTSD into existing programmes for journalists’ education about working with victims of violence and trauma, and to promote a climate of understanding about how trauma affects news people. ■

‘Ultimately this is about better journalism’

“Ultimately this is about better journalism. This is about enabling journalists to present a better picture of the world back to those they serve. It’s about changing the culture within organisations where we can encourage journalists to recognise that they do have an emotional response to what they’re doing and it’s okay to talk about it.

Perhaps, ultimately, with the aim that journalists will be so healthy in their approach, that they won’t need to take their problems to specialists because they’ll be able to process it as they go along, with their colleagues.

“My understanding of this is that if I am more self-aware as a journalist, if I have a greater emotional armoury within myself, and an awareness of that armoury, I can use those internal tools to tell a better story; and a more authentic story. ■

Mark Brayne, speaking at the London conference, Emotions, Trauma and Good Journalism.

More information

Edited transcripts of the London conference **Emotions, Trauma and Good Journalism** can be found at the Dart Centre website www.dartcentre.org, under Articles and Info, <http://www.coldasfire.com/dartcentre/conftrans1.htm>

Research by Anthony Feinstein and his team is published as **A Hazardous Profession: War, Journalists and Psychopathology** in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* 159:1570-1575, September 2002.

The Crimes of War Project is a collaboration of journalists, lawyers and scholars to promote understanding of international humanitarian law, to prevent breaches of the law and to encourage punishment of those who commit them. <http://www.crimesofwar.org/>

A report of **Conflicts and War Crimes: Challenges for Coverage** (Washington May 2000) can be found at <http://www.crimesofwar.org/seminars/seminars.html> The psychological effects session was on day 2.

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, currently based at the University of Washington School of Communications, in Seattle, USA, is a global network of journalists, journalism educators and health professionals dedicated to improving media coverage of trauma, conflict and tragedy. It looks at the impact of the reporting process on those who view and read it and on news professionals. <http://www.dartcenter.org/>

Dart Centre Europe has its own website at <http://www.dartcentre.org/> The seminar in Opatija, Croatia, **Aftermath of Covering Conflict: Dealing with the Emotional Impact**, held in January 2002 is described by Sherry Ricchiardi at <http://www.dartcenter.org/newscenters/seeurope/>

The Freedom Forum has closed its international offices and discontinued international programmes. <http://www.freedomforum.org/>

The Media Diversity Institute (MDI) was set up to promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution through diversity reporting. The London based organisation facilitates the **Reporting Diversity Network** of media centres in central and south eastern Europe and in Africa. It works to achieve fair, accurate, sympathetic and in-depth reporting primarily through education, training and co-operation with practising journalists, academics, media owners and decision-makers, and media, human rights and minority organisations. <http://www.media-diversity.org/>

Part 4

The Campaign Zone



Macedonian journalists protest to police about attacks on their colleagues. They marched to the Ministry of the Interior in September 2002 under the slogan — Here we are — Beat us! (See Page 106)

Photo: Association of Journalists of Macedonia

Chapter 7

Fighting back: what the IFJ and journalists' organisations can do

When ruthless and determined enemies of press freedom set out to do harm to journalists, there is often little to stop them. Each year scores of journalists are targeted, assaulted and even assassinated. But this does not mean that journalists, their unions and media organisations are powerless to defend themselves. Far from it. Over the past 15 years a sophisticated and increasingly effective resistance movement has evolved to minimise the risks to media staff, to isolate the killers and those directly responsible for attacks on media, and to hold governments to account when they neglect their responsibilities to protect media or when they create political conditions that endanger the work of journalists. This chapter looks at what is being done, what more journalists can do and what developments are taking place to put safety of journalists at the top of the media agenda.

Simple acts of solidarity are often the most effective antidote to persecution of reporters. Take the case of Viokan Ristic, a freelance journalist from Serbia. In 1999 Ristic was covering the conflict in Kosovo for a number of clients, including BETA News Agency, Danas and Deutsche Welle Radio. As an independent Serbian journalist, he was targeted by the Milosevic regime, and when the NATO bombing began he was arrested and put in jail.

After 30 days his jailors released him. They also gave him a message from Aidan White, General Secretary of the IFJ. It was a copy of a telegram that had been sent to the then President Milosevic calling on him to set Ristic free. Ristic has no doubt that international pressure played its part in securing his release. It made those who had arrested him and imprisoned him without trial realise that there were people outside the country who knew he was in detention and who were taking an interest in his welfare.

The telegram was part of the routine campaigning practiced by the IFJ, by individual journalists' trade unions and by a network of



Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo lights a memorial in Uchuraccay, Ayacucho, Peru, for eight journalists and their guide, who were murdered in 1983. For 20 years the memory was kept alive of Jorge Sedano Falcón from *La República* newspaper, Eduardo de la Piniella Palao, Pedro Sánchez Gavidia and Félix Gavilán Huamán from *El Diario de Marka*, Willy Retto Torres and Jorge Luis Mendivil Trelles from *El Observador*, Amador García Yanque from *Oiga*, and Octavio Infante García from *Panorama*. The journalists and their guide, Juan Argumedo García, were murdered while investigating killings in Peru's internal conflict. A commission of inquiry accused 17 local people, and three of them were eventually were convicted of murder. The people behind the killings were never revealed. Some blamed guerrillas from the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso); others blamed the military. Several witnesses and some of those accused died mysteriously during investigations. The murders came to symbolise pain and division in Peruvian society. In April 2002, Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission held public hearings in Ayacucho. President Toledo lit the memorial on October 3 2002 and named January 26 as National Martyrs Day for Peruvian journalism.

Photo: AP / Oscar Paredes / Prensa Palacio

Fighting back: What the IFJ and journalists' organisations can do

Put a stop to harassment of this editor

To: Mr Nisar A. Memon
Federal Minister for
Information and Media
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
30 July 2002

The International Federation of Journalists is deeply concerned over the recent interrogation and threats against Jasarat editor, Muzaffar Ejaz.

According to our sources, Ejaz was abducted by members of the Inter-Services Intelligence as he left his office on July 25, 2002 at 11pm. He was interrogated and released at 4am the next morning. His abduction and interrogation was the culmination of weeks of harassment that followed the publication of a controversial story. ...

The IFJ urges you to put a stop to the harassment of Muzaffar Ejaz and to ensure that all journalists working in Pakistan are able to continue their work free from persecution and intimidation.

Christopher Warren
President, IFJ

Extract from an IFJ protest.

press freedom organisations, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute, Reporters sans Frontières, Article 19 and others. Each week faxes, e-mails and letters are sent to leaders around the world asking for assurances about the safety of a journalist who has been detained, demanding the release of those who have been imprisoned or asking for a high-level investigation into the one of the numerous attacks on journalists. These acts of solidarity remind imprisoned journalists, or those who have been attacked, that they will not be forgotten.

Journalists' organisations around the world actively seek ways to protect journalists from intimidation and violence. Where a local union or association cannot make its voice heard on its own behalf, international organisations, such as the IFJ, must speak for them.

The IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists, representing 500,000 reporters, editors, photojournalists and broadcasters in over 100 countries, and has been campaigning for 20 years for better standards of safety. The IFJ is part of the global International Freedom of Expression eXchange network, and can also take action at the level of the United Nations (UN) to remind Governments of their duties to promote media freedom and protect journalists. In recognition of its expertise in representing journalists, UNESCO recently granted the IFJ Associate Relations status, the highest level of accreditation for a non governmental organisation (NGO). The IFJ has called on the UN, not only to condemn murders of media workers, but to insist that governments end impunity, by giving details of such events and taking steps to apprehend the killers.

Sharing know-how and experience

The IFJ advises its affiliates to adopt a standard approach to assist any journalist who gets into trouble or experiences hostile interference. The IFJ recommends that each affiliate designates an officer to co-ordinate work and to prepare in three important ways:

- ◆ to increase members' awareness of the problems and dangers,
- ◆ to make advance arrangements with relevant ministries on procedures to be adopted in emergencies, and
- ◆ to make arrangements with employers covering who will be responsible for what, in a crisis.

To support journalists in difficult situations, it is essential to obtain accurate information without minimising problems or exaggerating them (exaggerated claims cause unnecessary fear and



Pakistani photojournalists in Lahore on May 1 2000 protest over the death of one of their colleagues, Mehraj-ud-Din Hafiz, in Kashmir. Indian journalists have also protested at attacks on colleagues, some of whom have been killed and injured in terrorist attacks.

Photo: Reuters / Mohsin Raza

undermine future protests). The first hours of a crisis are hectic and it is important to establish accurate facts to reduce the risks of misunderstandings.

The IFJ has developed a standard system for gathering information and reporting on each case. The first step is gathering facts. Once these are known, the board of the union or its representative can take a decision on initiating practical support for the member in trouble.

Experience shows that governments are sensitive about incidents involving journalists, and are concerned to avoid adverse media exposure. The media, therefore, can put pressure on those who are abusing press freedom and journalists. However, there are risks if media protests are seen as special pleading, or as exaggerating risks. Once international organisations become involved, governments may try to present the issue as an attack on the country

IFJ ACTION PLAN

The IFJ Action Plan is divided into six phases:

- ◆ Non-public contact and pressure in the country concerned.
- ◆ International non-public contact and pressure.
- ◆ Non-public protest.
- ◆ Public protest.
- ◆ Fact-finding mission.
- ◆ Diplomatic action.

Fighting back: What the IFJ and journalists' organisations can do

Nepal journalists rely on unity

Training was delivered in Nepal to help journalists who have been facing a state of emergency since November 2001.

More than 150 journalists have been arrested and many have been tortured or physically abused. Journalists have also been targeted by Maoist rebels. Three were killed in 2002.

The struggle against both legal and brutal censorship has been spearheaded by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNL) through a unified front of all journalists' organisations. Strikes and demonstrations have been jointly organised and dialogue opened with the Government on press freedom and journalists' rights, thanks to this unity.

FIRST COURSE IN 24 YEARS AS A JOURNALIST

"I have been a journalist for 24 years. For the past two years I have been working as an NGO. During those two years I have attended 12 seminars. In my 24 years as a journalist, this is the first course I have attended specifically for journalists. In the past we have been ignored."

Samiullah Taza, who works for an Afghan weekly newspaper

by outsiders, so it is important to present facts accurately.

The IFJ Action Plan is divided into a graduated series of responses, starting with behind the scenes contact within the country. This is, in the first place, carried out by a union or association within the country. This can be followed up with non-public contact and pressure at an international level, for example by involving the IFJ officially, in a non-public manner. This can escalate into a formal protest, still without publicity. Where this is not working, or is not appropriate because of the seriousness of the case, public protests are made by the IFJ and other press freedom groups.

Where there is a consistent disregard of press freedom or threats against journalists, the IFJ often carries out fact finding missions, bringing in outside representatives to take evidence from those within the country and to publish a report.

In the most serious cases, the IFJ tries to co-ordinate diplomatic action by, for example, the European Union, the Council of Europe or other appropriate bodies.

The IFJ provides member unions with the addresses of other affiliates and organisations which can help, and supplies examples of letters that can be sent. The IFJ Safety Fund is available to provide assistance to journalists who are prevented, either technically or physically, from carrying out their normal professional work and who are threatened by, or suffer from, official action on account of their professional journalism.

Safety training for in-country journalists

The IFJ plays a leading role, in partnership with a variety of organisations, in providing hands-on training for in-country journalists who do not have access to the safety training routinely offered to international war reporters. The training includes shorter courses which can be repeated over several days, so reaching as many journalists as possible. The courses can be adapted to address specific problems in covering each conflict.

The first IFJ course was held in Ohrid, Macedonia, in September 2000 for 23 journalists in the region. It was organised with the Macedonia Press Centre with funding from the Council of Europe. A second workshop, supported by the Council of Europe and the Freedom Forum, was jointly organised with the Centre for Independent Journalism in Bucharest, Romania, in March 2001, for journalists from Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Romania. The three-day training course covered

a wide range of topics including weapons and their effects, emergency medical training, military press relationships, public disorder, mines and booby-traps and personal protection.

In 2002, the IFJ and partners stepped up the programme of safety training with a series of courses in regional hotspots. This included the first safety training for indigenous journalists covering the conflict in Afghanistan. Training seminars were jointly organised with International Media Support (IMS), working with the Afghan Media Resource Centre (AMRC) and the Afghan Centre for the Promotion of Communication, and were delivered by AKE over the border in Peshawar, Pakistan. A special one-day course focusing on the basics of safety awareness was repeated over four days, and medical kits were distributed to 103 Afghan journalists who attended, including 19 women journalists. Each one-day seminar followed a five-part programme, covering:

- ◆ personal security,
- ◆ mines and booby-traps,
- ◆ hostage situations,
- ◆ medical aid,
- ◆ public disorder and riots.

Similar issues were addressed in the Palestinian Territories in February 2002, where the IFJ worked with the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate (PJS) with the support of IMS and the European Commission. A modified one-day course was delivered to more than 100 Palestinian journalists in Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus, Gaza and Jerusalem. The course was adapted for journalists working under the particular conditions of the Palestinian Territories, where many Palestinian journalists are not recognised by the Israeli army. Journalists lack physical protection and feel very isolated because of what they see as a lack of solidarity from journalists in other countries. The risks in the West Bank are not the same as in Gaza, and the course was adapted for each territory.

In September 2002, similar training was carried out for 25 journalists in Nepal, and, shortly afterwards, for 40 journalists during a fragile ceasefire in Ivory Coast, West Africa. In Nepal, journalists were concerned about the danger from mines and from ambush, and the course was adapted to cover these topics.

A worldwide protection programme: The International News Safety Institute

This rapid expansion in safety training prompted the IFJ to start to press for the creation of an international body to provide information, training and assistance to journalists and media organisa-

Training aimed to build on ceasefire

Training in the Ivory Coast was designed to take advantage of a ceasefire in a civil war that had seen hundreds of people killed. Despite a tradition of objective journalism in the Ivory Coast, there were grave concerns about the safety of journalists and deteriorating press freedom.

Journalists covering demonstrations were attacked and some newspapers had to suspend publication.

In November 2002, an emergency aid programme was launched with a seminar on reporting conflict, and two days of safety training. The key message was to be extra attentive to accuracy and balance, and to highlight the true effects of violence. Journalists showed a high level of interest in the safety training.

The ceasefire later broke down, putting the conflict back on the daily newsround.

- ◆ The programme was put together by the IFJ, the Communication Assistance Foundation (CAF Holland), International Media Support (IMS, Denmark) and Media Assistance International (MAI, Geneva), with support from the Union Nationale des Journalistes de Côte d'Ivoire (UNJCI) and the West African Journalists Association.

Fighting back: What the IFJ and journalists' organisations can do

International News Safety Institute

Organisations supporting the INSI include the following

News organisations

ABC News, USA
 AFP
 ARD, Germany
 BBC, UK
 CBC, Canada
 CNN
 Frontline TV
 Global Radio News
 NOS, Netherlands
 NRK, Norway
 Radio France Internationale
 Reuters TV
 RTV Slovenia
 SKY News, UK
 SVT, Sweden
The Statesman, India
 TV 2, Norway
 TV4, Sweden
 VRT, Belgium
 VTM, Belgium
Wall Street Journal Europe

Journalists', media support and press freedom institutions

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
 Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations, Russia
 Committee to Protect Journalists
 Dart Centre Europe
 European Broadcasting Union
 European Journalism Centre
 Freedom of Expression Institute, (South Africa)

tions. The IFJ was concerned about journalists without access to courses run by international media corporations, and about the failure of print media to follow the lead of broadcasters. In May 2000 the IFJ approached the International Press Institute (IPI) and identified four problems:

- ◆ Safety training and equipment is very expensive;
- ◆ Many journalists most in need are freelance;
- ◆ Most victims of violence are local, and have no opportunity to receive basic training on safety issues in their own languages;
- ◆ There is very little information about how to set up a health and safety programme for media staff, embracing risk awareness, stress and trauma counselling, etc.;

The IFJ proposed that professional organisations, employers and trade unions together establish an independent institution to:

- ◆ Publish information in relevant languages on health and safety issues for journalists and media staff;
- ◆ Promote training programmes for journalists and media staff;
- ◆ Create a rapid-response unit that could set up a safety unit for journalists and media staff in any region where conflict arises, working with national and intergovernmental institutions and appropriate armed forces;
- ◆ Provide access to materials such as medical kits, flak jackets and helmets for distribution at local level;
- ◆ Campaign within the International Community (International Labour Organization, UNESCO, Red Cross, NATO, etc.) for action on news safety.

In November 2002, a coalition of professional organisations, press freedom groups, international media and journalists' associations agreed to establish the International News Safety Institute. The Brussels-based Institute was being set up as this book went to press and looked set to revolutionise co-operation and collaboration between different organisations concerned with safety. The move has the support of more than 80 organisations, including ABC News, BBC, CNN, Reuters, the world's largest network of regional broadcasters, the European Broadcasting Union, and press freedom groups. The Institute is also supported by all 148 journalists' unions and associations affiliated to the IFJ in 106 countries around the world.

Aidan White, General Secretary of the IFJ, said: "This is a unique network of solidarity that that will provide practical assistance to journalists and media staff most in need anywhere in the world."

Richard Tait, Vice President of the IPI and former Editor in Chief of ITN, said the Institute will forge a unified approach by broadcast and print media. “We need to dispel the attitude that safety is optional. It must be taken seriously by everyone, including managers,” he said. “We need to change the culture of indifference.”

Chris Cramer, President of CNN International Networks, is the first Honorary President of the Institute. The objectives will be to:

- ◆ Provide support and develop safety assistance programmes for journalists and media staff, including freelancers, particularly those who work in conflict regions or who are regularly engaged in potentially dangerous assignments;
- ◆ Encourage agreements covering health and safety, risk-awareness training and first aid courses, between media organisations and staff; including agreements with unions and associations;
- ◆ Disseminate (using Internet and traditional resources) information through training manuals, updated advisories and handbooks for journalists and media staff in dangerous areas;
- ◆ Promote industry best practice using examples of training and assistance being developed within the media and journalism;
- ◆ Investigate, develop and promote safety services, including affordable insurance arrangements, for all journalists and media staff;
- ◆ Promote industry initiatives including codes and guidelines;
- ◆ Establish a global network of organisations, working in all regions of the world, committed to working towards risk-reduction in the work of media;
- ◆ Sponsor awareness-raising initiatives at major media and journalistic events, including conferences of media professionals at national, regional and international level.

The IFJ and the IPI have established an advisory council consisting of representatives of professional groups and industry leaders in the field of safety, with additional support from press freedom groups, media educators and organisations committed to the development of media in open, democratic and peaceful societies.

The role of national organisations

Most campaign work is done by local journalists’ unions and associations in their own countries as part of their everyday work. The local union or association plays a critical role in defending journalists. This section gives some examples of how these campaigns make a real difference to the lives and welfare of journalists.

Organisations supporting the INSI (continued)

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (UK)
 International Media Support
 International Press Association, (Belgium)
 International Press Institute
 Internews Europe
 Media Action International
 Media Diversity Institute
 Media Foundation for Western Africa
 Media Watch (Bangladesh)
 Media Institute of Southern Africa
 NewsXchange
 News World Asia
 Open Society Institute
 Pascal Decroos Foundation
 Reporters Sans Frontières
 Rory Peck Trust
 Southern Africa Journalists’ Association
 West African Journalists Association
 World Association of Newspapers

Journalists’ unions and associations

The INSI is also supported by all 148 unions and associations, who are affiliated to the IFJ in 106 countries.

Fighting back: What the IFJ and journalists' organisations can do



The Association of Journalists of Macedonia protest against violence in September 2002. The journalists wore T-shirts reading 'I am a journalist' on the front, and 'Here we are— beat us!' on the back. The larger placard proclaims 'Journalists from Tetovo, Kicevo, Ohrid' while the smaller placard says 'Get Lost', words allegedly used by the (now former) Minister of Internal affairs Ljube Boshkovski, the day before the protest.

Photo: Association of Journalists of Macedonia

Macedonia

On September 30 2002 journalists in Macedonia took to the streets to protest at more than 40 attacks on journalists in recent years. Under the ironic slogan 'Here we are, beat us!' the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) led a freedom of expression march to the Ministry of the Interior. The trigger for the protest was an attack on journalist Zoran Bozinovski while he was working. One of his attackers, allegedly a member of a special police unit, was taken into custody, but the Association said that 40 colleagues had been victims of violence over the previous few years, and most of the attackers had never been arrested. The journalists demanded that the then Minister of the Interior, Ljube Boshkovski, meet them publicly to report his investigations. However, the Minister waited for the demonstration to be over before making a statement.

The AJM said: "The goal of those who beat the journalists is to cause silence. The Association of Journalists of Macedonia is rais-

ing its voice through this protest against all types of pressure and stands in defence of the dignity of journalism as a profession. Therefore, dear colleagues, instead of silence we call on you loudly to express our revolt. Because Macedonia journalism must not be kept silent! If you want to beat someone up, here we are, beat us!”

Slovenia

On February 28 2001, Miro Petek parked his car outside his home near the northern city of Slovenj Gradec in Slovenia. As he walked the few steps from his car to his house he was attacked and savagely beaten. His nose and both cheekbones were crushed, his jawbone was broken and there were several cracks to his skull. He lost his sense of smell and his eyesight was damaged. He later wrote: “It was like a classic gangster film. I tried to shield my head with my arms; I saw nothing but the legs kicking me. The attack was executed brutally, the way professionals do it — quietly without saying a word.”

Miro Petek is an investigative reporter for the leading Slovene newspaper, *Vecer*. He had exposed wrong doings in companies in the Korosko region of Slovenia and had written about a criminal investigation into tax evasion on a grand scale. From the nature of the attack it was clear that he had been targeted as a journalist, and immediately after the attack took place, the Director General of the Slovene Police, Marko Pogorevc, said that they were “breathing down the necks” of the perpetrators. However, two years later no arrests had been made.

The investigation was criticised. The crime scene had not been well secured and vital clues could have been trampled under foot. There was evidence that some of the people whose homes were raided seemed to be well prepared for the event, and speculation that they had connections with staff at the prosecutor’s office or at the court. Despite the high-profile of the case, the investigation was left in the hands of local prosecutors and police, although the General Director of Police was kept informed and he reported

Miro Petek is transferred to hospital following the attack that left him seriously injured outside his home in February 2001.



Fighting back: What the IFJ and journalists' organisations can do



Alexander Sami (right) with Miro Petek in Slovenia, during Sami's inquiry on behalf of the IFJ.

regularly to the Minister of the Interior.

The Slovene Association of Journalists pressed the police for more action, in particular the transfer of the case from local to specialist national investigators. They asked for an explanation of the lack of progress.

The IFJ commissioned an inquiry into the case, carried out by Alexander Sami, a lawyer who is General Secretary of the Swiss Federation of Journalists. He went to Slovenia and interviewed senior officials including the General State Prosecutor, the Director General of Police and the Director of the Criminal Investigation Sector. He met local police investigators and the local prosecutor in charge of the Miro Petek case, as well the Minister of the Interior, the chief of the cabinet.

Alexander Sami described the failure to find the culprits as 'very alarming'. His report to the IFJ said: "An attack on journalists is a form of censorship, and this is exactly what the broader and more dramatic implication of the attack against Petek is. Ironically, the freedom of the press in Korosko and the rest of Slovenia is in the hands of the police. Should the police fail to do its job properly in the Petek case, smashing the heads of journalists could well become routine procedure of Slovene criminals. This however should not be possible in a country mentioned as a likely candidate for admission to the European Union in the near future."

The inquiry and the subsequent press conference held by the IFJ in Brussels raised the question of whether Slovene police should be seeking outside help. Following publication of Sami report, IFJ General Secretary, Aidan White, wrote to Milan Kucan, the President of the Republic of Slovenia, calling for an independent team of investigators to be appointed. He said: "Unless these measures are taken, confidence in the ability of the Slovenian political institutions to respond to attacks on press freedom and its democracy will be severely damaged."

Although Petek's attackers had not been arrested when this book went to press, the campaign to find them had become a voice for press freedom and a way of standing up for independent journalism and investigative reporting inside and outside Slovenia.

Ukraine

A strong national response linked to international support is central to the campaign to bring to justice the killers of Georgy Gongadze in Ukraine. Gongadze disappeared in September 2000,

and two months later his headless body was found in a wood near Kiev. A former bodyguard produced a tape recording implicating Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, who dismissed the tape as a forgery. Despite Ukraine's refusal to work with an independent international inquiry, international pressure has been brought to bear. A Ukrainian parliamentary ad-hoc commission in 2002 even suggested that the President and other senior state officials might be arrested and charged.

In 2002, a new general prosecutor was appointed and in September 2002 protests were held in Kiev and in many countries around the world to mark the second anniversary of Gongadze's disappearance. The Ukrainian chargé d'affaires in London was one of several to meet delegations of journalists pressing for more action. He told the National Union of Journalists of the UK and Ireland: "The issue is at the top of our agenda, too. Gyorgy Gongadze is remembered by our people." Jeremy Dear, General Secretary of the NUJ, said afterwards: "Institutions are moving because people are protesting. Let's step up the pressure."

Southern Caucasus

An IFJ report *Promoting Independent and Ethical Journalism in the Southern Caucasus*, produced with the support of the Council of Europe, detailed violence and intimidation against journalists in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. The report also highlighted examples where journalists had stood together for their rights.

In Azerbaijan, in 2001, three papers were closed by the courts and the editors were imprisoned under Article 19 of the Press Law. The editors were released after a united campaign by journalists' associations and the Union of Journalists, backed by international pressure. The law used to close the papers was later rescinded.

In March 2002, police beat demonstrators and journalists at an opposition rally — not an unusual event. After protests and a discussion with a minister, the government agreed to an investigation. The minister suggested journalists send a lawyer to represent them on a monitoring group. Further demonstrations are to be videotaped, and the Baku Press Club and the Yeni Nesil Journalists Union will issue fluorescent jackets to journalists.

Freelance journalist Ronan Brady, who wrote the IFJ report, said: "The conditions under which Azeri journalists work are deeply disheartening. Everything the government could do to divide and isolate them, it has done. ...But it seems to me that the sense of soli-

Union presses police for action

Representatives of India's National Union of Journalists and the president of the regional journalists' group met the Director General of Police in the northern state of Haryana to press for a thorough investigation into the killing of Chaterpatti, editor of the Hindi *Poora Sach* newspaper. Chaterpatti died in New Delhi in November 2002, a month after he was shot in Sirsa, in Haryana. The shooting was thought to be linked to Chaterpatti's investigations into sexual abuse at the headquarters of a religious sect in Sirsa.

darity among Azeri journalists has won out against the odds, every time it has been tested.

“...External pressure especially from the Council of Europe has been vital in securing change. But, in my opinion, almost equally vital has been the way in which the various journalistic associations and unions work together for a common goal, such as the creation of a press council or protection of journalists from police assault. ... I have observed a high degree of collaboration and coordination between the two groups (Journalists' Trade Union – JuHI – and the Yeni Nesil Journalists Union of Azerbaijan) on the issue of the press council and on other matters.”

Georgia has the most liberal press laws in the region, but the most dangerous conditions for journalists. In July 2000, Giorgi Sanaia, the host of a political talk show, was shot dead by an unknown assailant. In September, Antonio Russo from the Italian station Radio Radicale was murdered. Some journalists believe the murder was a reprisal for his coverage of the Chechnya war.

Threats and attacks on journalists are common, and one result has been self-censorship. But, it is possible to stand up against the thugs. When Akaki Gogichaishvili, host of the *60 Minutes* news programme, exposed corruption in the Union of Writers of Georgia, he was summoned to the Deputy State Prosecutor's office, where he was advised to consult with his parents about the dangers of such broadcasts. The next day he received a death threat. Instead of withdrawing, he held a press conference and a public protest. After three days, the President ordered protection for Gogichaishvili.

Colombia

The risks to journalists in Colombia were highlighted in Chapter 4. Following a mission to Colombia in 2002, the IFJ Executive supported the creation of a Colombian Journalists' Solidarity Centre. This IFJ project is designed to organise humanitarian support and assistance to journalists and media staff and their families, monitor attacks, improve risk awareness and raise awareness of the importance of safe journalism and the need to defend freedom of expression.

The centre will offer emergency aid with the support of the IFJ Safety Fund through an agreement with Fundación para la Libertad de la Prensa (FLIP) – a Colombian NGO which is a member of IFEX (International Freedom of Expression eXchange) and has a countrywide alert network with a system of investigation, verifica-

tion and follow-up when journalists are threatened or harmed. The IFJ initiative is not so much a physical place as a project that will develop its objectives through campaigns. It will disseminate information to journalists and their organisations and work with Colombian NGOs, IFJ offices and affiliates in Latin America and the IFJ in Brussels.

The first initiative of the Solidarity Centre, launched on Colombia's National Day for Journalists, February 9 2003, was a campaign to highlight safety. The campaign, supported by FLIP and local journalists' associations, focused on press freedom and on violations of freedom of expression. It urged warring sides in the Colombian armed conflict and those involved in corruption to stop assassinating journalists. It presented as its key message: "No more media victims of the armed conflict and corruption: we are not the target; we are the foundation of democracy."

Northern Ireland

This ability to see a common interest across a conflict has been a factor in Northern Ireland, an intractable struggle which has led to the deaths of thousands of people, but where journalists have rarely been targeted. Despite decades of armed conflict, it was not until September 28 2001, when all the paramilitary organisations were supposedly on a ceasefire, that a journalist was targeted and killed.

Martin O'Hagan, 51, a reporter for the *Sunday World* who wrote about loyalist paramilitaries, was shot in his home town of Lurgan, County Armagh, as he walked home from a pub with his wife. Responsibility for O'Hagan's murder was claimed by the Red Hand Defenders, a name used by the Loyalist Volunteer Force. Other journalists had been threatened and another *Sunday World* journalist, Jim Campbell, was seriously wounded by the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) in 1984. However, it is remarkable that journalists have been able to work throughout the conflict in relative safety, facing more or less the same risks as other members of the population plus the extra risks for reporters and photographers who work at the scene of riots and explosions.

Africa

Journalists in many African countries have been attacked, jailed or killed, and many continue to be at risk. Where press freedom is fragile, and where newspapers, TV and radio channels are often

DON'T WORK ALONE OR WITHOUT BACKUP...

In an article written following the murder of Martin O'Hagan, NUJ executive member Kevin Cooper gave the following advice. Anyone offered work in Northern Ireland should not take it on unless:

- ◆ you have previous experience of working in conflict;
- ◆ the media organisation is providing backup; and
- ◆ you will not be asked to work alone — one of the most dangerous things you can do in a conflict.

Many years ago I was travelling with a Belfast journalist through the city when we were stopped by armed men in balaclavas and told to get out of the car. My driver was outraged. "How dare you. I am a journalist," he said as he waved an NUJ card. "If you don't let us through I will report you

to Danny Morrison," (the then Sinn Fein press officer). The armed man mumbled an apology and waved to his comrades to let us through.

The story illustrates the 'unwritten rule' that journalists were not shot and is one of the reasons why so many were shocked, even puzzled, at the shooting of the *Sunday World's* Martin O'Hagan. But what is not examined is the unwritten rule itself. How was it that Martin O'Hagan was the first journalist to be killed? How was it that journalists, some working for sectarian media outlets, worked as if their press card was a shield?

Martin O'Hagan was not the first journalist to be shot. That distinction belongs to his former colleague, Jim Campbell, who was seriously wounded by the UVF in 1984. Covering events in Northern Ireland is dangerous and journalists have been hit by baton rounds and other missiles while working. He was the first journalist to die, other media workers have died as a direct result of the political violence in Northern Ireland.

In conflicts from Yugoslavia to Sierra Leone and beyond, to work as a journalist often meant drawing fire, not so in Northern Ireland, why so? Northern Ireland civil society never collapsed. Institutions from schools, to health services, libraries, social security and so on functioned. Throughout the period of direct rule, elections were contested. From local authorities to Westminster and the European Parliament, elections were fought with enthusiasm and passion and were covered with the same commitment by journalists obsessed with politics.

Northern Ireland was never totally without a democratic culture, albeit an imperfect one, and the media had a place. Throughout 30 years of conflict there was never a period when someone was not working on some sort of peace initiative, or politicians seeking to influence public opinion; and in that a media is necessary. Journalists, especially print journalists, had a special position because of the divided nature of Northern Ireland. Newspapers are not required to be impartial and balanced. In a divided society, nationalists need the *Irish News* and loyalists the *Newsletter* or the *Derry Journal* and the *Londonderry Sentinel*. It has made Northern Ireland one of the great newspaper reading cultures.

Journalists in Northern Ireland work 'as if the press card was a shield'

Michael Foley, a member of the Irish Executive Council of the NUJ and a lecturer in journalism at the Dublin Institute of Technology, explains why journalists were able to work throughout decades of conflict in Northern Ireland without becoming targets — until Martin O'Hagan was shot and killed in September 2001.

Another factor was the National Union of Journalists, covering the United Kingdom and Ireland. Journalists in Northern Ireland were involved in a union that offered solidarity and a bridge across the sectarian divide. Journalists were NUJ members regardless of the editorial stance of their newspapers. They stood together, loyalist and nationalists, in opposition to censorship. They carried one press card, which gave no indication who employed them; just that they were journalists.

British colleagues, who called for 'Troops Out' would find their motions opposed by Northern Ireland members, mindful of the delicate solidarity.

Journalists were necessary in a society where there was limited forum for debate but where public opinion was always an important ingredient. Taoiseach (Republic of Ireland), Prime Minister (UK and Northern Ireland), Loyalist or Nationalist, SDLP or DUP: all needed journalists to influence public opinion, speak to their own side or the other. Journalists, even if working for sectarian outlets, demonstrated a professional detachment that allowed them to be viewed as somewhere between a necessary evil and a trusted conduit.

That never made working in Northern Ireland easy. Journalists learned a form of tradecraft. Covering loyalist events meant contacting whoever was the big man in an area. Journalists, especially photographers, learned how to cover funerals, marches and demonstrations in ways that would allow them to get the picture without getting thumped. When emotions were running high, journalists were often very scared, but they always had that press card as a shield.

So why was Martin O'Hagan killed? One reason put forward was that it was due to lack of leadership and the inability of paramilitary organisations to impose military discipline. Many are solely involved in criminal activities and have only contempt for public opinion (to do with developments within Northern Ireland, especially within working class loyalist communities). However unique Martin O'Hagan's death was in Northern Ireland, it does conform to a world-wide trend. Veronica Guerin, an Irish *Sunday Independent* investigative reporter, was shot and killed on June 26 1996, as she waited in her car at a traffic light just outside Dublin. She had exposed links between organised crime and drug dealers in the Republic of Ireland.

The most vulnerable journalist is a local journalist, not a star foreign correspondent, wearing the designer fatigues and the body armour. The journalist most likely to be killed for what they write or broadcast is one whose work is read by those most affected by the stories covered, not by an audience half a world away. It is they who are our profession's great heroes. They write for ordinary people, they tell people what is happening in their own communities and challenge criminals and people of violence at great risk to themselves. ■



Martin O'Hagan carrying the NUJ banner at a May Day parade four months before his murder.

Photo: Photoline / Kevin Cooper

Fighting back: What the IFJ and journalists' organisations can do

IFJ AFRICA ON LINE

The IFJ maintains a special web site on African issues in English, French and Portuguese.

<http://www.ifjafrique.org/english/index.htm>

<http://www.ifjafrique.org/francais/index.htm>

<http://www.ifjafrique.org/portugues/index.htm>

associated either with the ruling party or with an opposition politician, then journalists can too easily become enemies to be silenced, rather than part of a political or social debate.

The campaigns that many associations and unions in Africa run against violence against journalists are linked to a broader campaign for press and media freedom, and for professional standards. Both the West African Journalists Association and the Southern Africa Journalists Association link local associations and unions and bring these campaigns into sharper focus.

The IFJ has about 30 member organisations on the African continent and opened a regional office in Dakar, Senegal, in December 2001. Since 1994, the IFJ has been running the Media for Democracy in Africa Programme, in which hundreds of journalists and editors have participated. The programme is built on the principle that public scrutiny of the exercise of power is essential in a democracy, and campaigns for laws related to media should be consistent with international standards and only elaborated after the fullest consultation with journalists. It believes that independent organisations of journalists are best able to defend media freedom, and that media professionals have a duty to work to the highest standards and should set up structures for effective self-regulation.

Journalists' organisations see one of their main functions as relieving pressure on individual journalists.

When Liberian journalist Throble Suah of the daily *Inquirer* was beaten by men believed to be officers of the Presidential elite force, the Anti-Terrorist Unit, the Press Union of Liberia called for urgent action "to bring the perpetrators of this uncivilised, bestial and barbaric act to justice".

As in other parts of the world, other media freedom groups also monitor threats of violence and attacks, and a co-ordinated response is often possible. For example, in September 2002, the Kinshasa based group *Journaliste en Danger* protested at the detention of *Radio Okapi* journalist Franklin Moliba-Sese by the Movement for the Liberation of Congo. The MLC had objected to reports about the conditions of former child soldiers who had been demobilised. Following the protests, the public prosecutor reasserted control and Moliba-Sese was released after nine days.

Indonesia

During the time when an authoritarian 'New Order' regime was in power in Indonesia, violence towards journalists was mainly from

Bankers who ordered murder of investigative journalist jailed for 23 years

Six men were jailed in February 2003 for 23 to 28 years for the murder of Mozambique's top investigative journalist Carlos Cardoso in November 2000 and the attempted murder of his driver, Carlos Manjate, who was severely injured in the ambush. The six comprised three assassins and the three who ordered the crime: loan-shark Momade Assife Abdul Satar ("Nini"), his brother, Ayob Abdul Satar, owner of the Unicambios foreign exchange bureau, and former bank manager Vicente Ramaya.

The court found that the Abdul Satar brothers and Ramaya wanted to eliminate Cardoso because he had investigated the massive fraud in which the country's largest bank, the BCM, lost US \$14 million during its privatisation. The money was stolen at Ramaya's BCM branch, through accounts opened by members of the Abdul Satar family.

The trial was the culmination of pressure by all those who want corruption cleared up in Mozambique. Journalists and their organisations were amongst those who pressed for the full truth to come out.

Cardoso, a former editor of the official Mozambique news agency, AIM, had set up and was editing an independent faxed daily newspaper, *Metical*, to investigate financial scandals. He was followed as he left the office and gunned down in his car.

Although the court decided that these three businessmen had ordered the killing, they left open the possibility that others would also be charged, including the President's son, Nyimpine Chissano. Judges said that meetings to discuss the killings had also included "individuals other than the defendants". Some meetings had taken place at Expresso Tours, the company owned by Chissano, the oldest son of President Joaquim Chissano.

These meetings, at which Nyimpine Chissano was allegedly present, were reported to Antonio Frangoulis, the then head of the Maputo branch of the Criminal Investigation Police (PIC). Frangoulis reported this to his superiors, following which he was sacked.

Anibal dos Santos Junior ("Anibalzinho"), who recruited the assassination team and drove the car, received the longest sentence. However, he did not give evidence at his trial and could not be questioned about his links with Chissano, because he was mysteriously released from the Maputo top security prison before the trial started. South African police arrested him in Pretoria as the trial closed, and he was returned to jail in Mozambique on the day his sentence was announced.

The court ordered the six to pay compensation of US \$588,000 to Cardoso's children, aged 13 and seven, and to pay compensation to the driver. ■

the security apparatus, with police and military agents suspected of torture and abductions. Now, in a 'reform' era, attacks on journalists are predominantly from non-state forces of various backgrounds. The Alliance of Independent Journalists Indonesia (AJI) says that those most often identified as attackers are affiliated with the ruling political party. Militant members of some religious-based organisations are also reported as threatening journalists. Lasykar Jihad (Holy War Forces) and the Islamic Defender Front (FPI) are two examples of religious groups that have threatened journalists or media they consider as violating their beliefs. In addition, groups suspected of being paid by unscrupulous businessmen also threaten journalists' safety.

The AJI recorded 104 attacks on journalists in the year May 2000 to May 2001, from psychological pressure to physical force. About half were carried out by people in crowds or mobs. The following year, the incidence of violence towards journalists increased to 118 cases. The AJI says there is a strong impression that the ruling elite considers mass violence as reasonable revenge on a careless media that offends public sensitivity, especially when the violence comes from their own fanatical supporters.

The journalists' alliance provides legal services for members who have been attacked, and has launched a public awareness campaign to end attacks. AJI reminds the public that any action that prevents a journalist from obtaining and disseminating information is an attack on human freedom in general. AJI reminds its own members of the need for the highest professional standards.

The organisation provided safety training for its members in August 2002. The two-day course covered legal support, labour regulations, trade union support and safety in conflict areas, drawing on the experience of freelance journalists. In areas where electricity may fail and contact with base is difficult, journalists agreed on the need to have emergency plans to fall back on and innovative ways of filing copy – one journalist suggested carrier pigeons! The importance of independence and careful preparation was stressed as was the need to know the geography, culture and people.

Summary

Campaigning may be as spectacular as the mass demonstration organised in Macedonia, or the strikes organised in Nepal, or it may be as unglamorous as writing a letter of protest or seeking a meeting with a parliamentarian. There is evidence that whenever

journalists get together and act collectively they are able to make a difference. Acts of solidarity increase the self-confidence of journalists, and this helps them to work professionally. Even simple acts of collective solidarity, such as fundraising for the families of journalists who have been injured or detained, brings people together and helps them to see their strengths rather than their weaknesses.

Organisations in many countries are working for the unity that makes this work possible. However, this understanding has not been reached everywhere. The ability of journalists to campaign is more difficult if their organisations are divided and do not work together. Journalists who campaign together, despite political or ethnic differences, can construct a shield of solidarity that will help to protect them all. ■

TO THE REPORTER

This poem was found in the pocket of Egon Scotland, a reporter for the Munich-based newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, after he was ambushed and killed by Serb guerrillas in the early days of the conflict in Croatia in 1991.

*Take as many notes and shots
as you can,
My friend.*

*But do not report to the world
that only a number was killed.*

*In the golden fields
of Slavonia.*

*As no number has any given name
or any taken future.*

*Do report to the world that
It was Johann and William
And Victor and Francesco
That was killed*

*In the heart of Slavonia
And that Gabriel and Gyorgy
And your name, too
Will be killed tomorrow*

*Take as many notes and shots
as you can,*

My friend.

*But do not report to the world
that only a number was killed.*

*In the bleeding fields
of Slavonia.*

Anonymous

Appendix 1

Key contacts

Campaign groups

International Federation of Journalists

Represents 500,000 journalists in more than 100 countries. Campaigns on professional and industrial issues in close communication with journalists' unions and associations. Long-time campaigner on safety for journalists.

<http://www.ifj.org/>

Direct link to IFJ Human Rights and Safety Issues

<http://www.ifj.org/hrights/hrights.html>

Contact Human Rights and Safety Officer on safety@ifj.org

Article 19

Named after Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Works worldwide to combat censorship and promote freedom of expression and access to information

<http://www.article19.org/>

Committee to Protect Journalists

Founded in 1981 to monitor abuses against the press and promote press freedom around the world.

<http://www.cpj.org/>

EPN World Reporter

Online magazine for journalists, editors and photographers. Pools news about press freedom and safety issues.

<http://www.epnworld-reporter.com>

IFEX — International Freedom of Expression eXchange

Global network that links freedom of expression groups and highlights abuses of media freedom and journalists.

<http://www.ifex.org/>

Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Provides training for local journalists in areas of conflict, facilitates dialogue and provides reliable information.

http://www.iwpr.net/home_index_new.html

International Media Support

Promotes press freedom, journalism and improved working conditions for local journalists in conflict threatened areas.

<http://www.i-m-s.dk>

International Press Institute (IPI)

Global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists, dedicated to freedom of the press and improving the standards and practices of journalism.

<http://www.freemedia.at>

Reporters sans Frontières

Campaigns for media freedom and to protect journalists under threat or in prison.

<http://www.rsfr/>

Information sites

Crimes of War Project

Information and debate about war crimes, and role of journalists in conflicts.

<http://www.crimesofwar.org/>

International Committee of the Red Cross

Information about Geneva Conventions and related topics.

☎ +41 22 734 60001

<http://www.icrc.org/> e-mail: press.gva@icrc.org

International Criminal Court

Information about the Court with links to the International Court of Justice and to the International Criminal Tribunals for Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

<http://www.un.org/law/icc/>

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

Get your bearings before you go. Browse and print maps from the University of Texas collection, including many compiled by the CIA.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>

Stanfords, London

You cannot browse these maps, but you can buy on-line. <http://www.stanfords.co.uk>

Global Security

Latest news and intelligence about hotspots. Aims for a realistic assessment of situation and risk.

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/>

Currency Converter

What one currency is worth in another.

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Everything Else Converters

Distance, temperature, speed, weight, etc.

<http://www.onlineconversion.com/>

World Calendar

Find out about civil and religious holidays before you travel.

<http://www.world-calendar.com/>

The Media Safety Net

Information on safety for journalists from the newsletter of training provider Centurion Risk. You can browse the newsletter even if you have not done the training.

<http://www.centurion-riskservices.com/mediasafetynet/>

Kurt Schork

Memorial site to Kurt Schork (killed in Sierra Leone in 2000). Memories of Kurt and interesting links to articles about war reporting.

Rory Peck Trust

Campaigns for safety for freelance journalists. Has set up a fund, supported by some big UK media groups, to finance up to 75% of training courses for freelancers worldwide about to face hazardous situations. Limited funds distributed first come first served for bona fide freelancers.

☎: +44 20 7262 5272

rptrpa@dial.pipex.com

<http://www.oneworld.org/rorypeck/>

Medical Information**International Travel & Health**

Information from the World Health Organization.

<http://www.who.int/ith/countrylist01.html>

International SOS

Provides rescue and advice. Gets you home — from the nearest safe airport.

<http://www.internationalsos.com/contact/>

MEDEX

International medical support

<http://www.medexassist.com/index.html>

VitalLink

Helps journalists who fall ill via a satellite phone. You have to carry a support pack.

<http://tvz.tv/vitalink/vitalink.shtml>

The High Altitude Medicine Guide

If you are heading for conflict at high altitude, check this site first.

<http://www.high-altitude-medicine.com/>

Post-Traumatic Stress**Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma (USA)**

Pioneered work on post-trauma stress in journalists.

<http://www.dartcenter.org/>

Newscoverage Unlimited

Offshoot of the Dart Center — discussion forum.

<http://www.newscoverage.org/>

Dart Centre Europe for Journalism & Trauma Europe

European Dart site, now developing its own work and information sources.

<http://www.dart europe.org/>

Safety Training Organisations**AKE Ltd, Hereford, UK**

☎ +44 1432 267 111

<http://www.akegroup.com>

Bruhn Newtech Ltd, Salisbury, UK

Chemical and Biological Risk Awareness

☎ +44 1980 611 776

<http://www.bruhn-newtech.co.uk/>

Also Denmark ☎ +45 3955 8000

<http://www.newtech.dk>

and USA (Colombia) ☎ +1 410 884 1700

<http://www.bruhn-newtech.com>

Centurion Risk Assessment Services, Hampshire, UK

☎ +44 1264 355 255

<http://www.centurion-riskservices.co.uk/>

Key Contacts

Chiron Resources, Plymouth, UK

Information gathering, security and logistical support as well as training.

<http://www.chiron-resources.com/>

Global Risk Awareness & Safety Programs

Sydney, Australia

☎ +61 2 92526575

<http://www.globalriskawareness.com/>

Objective Team Ltd, Daventry, UK

☎ +44 1788 899029

<http://www.objectiveteam.com/>

Pilgrims Specialist Training Ltd, UK

☎ +44 1932 339 187

<http://www.pilgrimsgroup.com/>

Safety Equipment

Craig International Ballistics (Australia)

<http://www.ballistics.com.au/>

Seyntex (Belgium)

<http://www.seyntex.com/>

Sikkerhedsraadgiverne (Denmark)

<http://www.seyntex.com/>

SEMA (France)

<http://www.sema-france.com/>

BSST (Germany)

<http://www.bsstgmbh.de/BSSTV20/html/default.htm>

WWDC Group (Israel)

<http://wwdcgroup.com/>

Hagor Industries (Israel)

<http://www.hagor.co.il/hagor/english1.html>

BodySafe (Netherlands)

<http://www.bodysafe.com/old/nederlands/>

Body Armour (South Africa)

<http://www.bodyarmour.co.za/>

Swedish Body Armour

<http://www.body-armour.se/>

Protective Equipment NP-Aerospace (UK)

(Specialised helmets for camera operators)

<http://www.np-aerospace.co.uk/>

Lorica Armour Vest (UK)

<http://www.armorvest.co.uk/>

VestGuard (UK)

<http://www.vestguard.com/>

Black Armor (USA)

<http://www.blackarmor.com/>

TG Faust (USA)

<http://www.tgfaust.com/>

Lifetek Armor (USA)

<http://www.lifetekarmorinc.com/>

Chemical/Biological Protection

Duram Products (Australia)

<http://www.duramproducts.com.au/>

Seyntex (Belgium)

<http://www.seyntex.com/>

Paul Boyé (France)

<http://www.paulboye.fr/index.html>

Bruhn Newtech

(See under training for Denmark, UK and USA sites)

Aramsco (USA)

<http://www.aramsco.com/>

Risk Insurance

Crisis Insurance, UK

<http://www.crisis-insurance.com/index2.htm>

Aviabel, Belgium

<http://www.aviabel.be/>

Appendix 2

Statistics on deaths of journalists and media workers 1990-2002

The IFJ attempts to collect and record the names and circumstances of all journalists and media workers who are killed, and has compiled a list of 1,192 who have been killed over the past 12 years. No list can be entirely accurate – and this one comes with a number of qualifications. There are difficulties in collecting these data due to a combination of lack of information and difficulty with definitions, such as who is a journalist, and were they killed because of their work?

Moreover, it can be argued that looking only at those who die in the course of their work does not give an accurate picture of the risks. What about those who are injured, or whose confidence or mental health is destroyed, rendering them unable to work? These are all good questions, that will not be answered by looking at these charts and figures. However, the charts do give a broad overall picture that reinforces many of the key messages in this book. They show patterns of risk, that allow us to learn important and potentially life-saving lessons. One way to ensure that these journalists did not die in vain, is to learn from their deaths, and to reduce this waste of talent and commitment.

The IFJ list differs from that of other organisations in one important respect, in that the IFJ includes all media workers. This must be the right approach. It would seem wrong if, when a car carrying a driver, translator, reporter, camera operator and technician is blown up, only some of the people count as media casualties. The IFJ list also includes journalists wherever it seems likely they were targeted because of their work. It includes journalists who are known to have died as a result of an accident in the line of their work (although this information is limited, since the death of a journalist in a road traffic accident on their way to a routine job is unlikely to be recorded).

There are some instructive lessons, not least from statistics on deaths from accidents. The number of journalists killed in helicopter accidents, for example, is significant. The figures, unbalanced though they may be from two large-scale incidents, also show that photographing volcanoes appears to be an especially dangerous line of work. One of the biggest single journalistic losses in recent years came when 16 Japanese journalists died along with 40 scien-

Deaths of journalists and media workers**1990-2002**

tists and onlookers, on June 2 1991. They had been recording a long-running eruption at Mount Unzen, Japan, when a spurt of molten lava rushed down on them before they had time to escape. In the same year, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines killed about 750 people, including some journalists stationed at a supposedly safe distance. Lack of information, uncertainty over future events and competition to get closer are all factors that push journalists closer to a volcano edge, literally and metaphorically.

The charts give a breakdown of deaths according to where they happened in the world, and what kind of journalist or media worker was killed. Again, there are problems with definitions. Is someone who owns a radio station, but occasionally goes on air, an executive or a reporter? On small newspapers editors are hands-on working journalists. On large newspapers they may be remote executives. Some people are listed as freelances, while others doing the same work may be described as photographers. Again, we need to be careful with the figures. However, they give a fairly robust guide to the pattern of deaths.

We print one specialised list covering 274 of the 1,192 deaths — those journalists who died in what can be called ‘war zones’. This underlines some key messages from the book: how many media workers die in their own countries, how many freelances are killed, how many people are shot, bombed, blown-up and ambushed. More than 70% of those killed were working in their ‘home’ country (depending on the definition of home). Of the 274 people listed here, at least 15 are women (gender was not always recorded).

This list does not include those who are murdered or targeted outside conflict zones, and clearly this is a matter of debatable definition. Journalists so brutally murdered in Algeria, Sri Lanka, Colombia, or the Ukraine could all be on this list. The line was drawn where there was an identifiable war zone.

For various reasons we included only one name for each journalist on this list. No disrespect is intended. There are also bound to be some errors in this list, and, as every journalist knows, the most offensive place to make a mistake is in an obituary. One piece of information that can be sensitive is a journalist’s nationality, and in many cases the records do not show this. Where we have made an assumption as to nationality we have placed that in italics and in brackets. The IFJ would welcome any corrections. Please notify safety@ifj.org.

Peter McIntyre

Figure 1: Who has been killed? 1990-2002

Due to lack of information in some cases, not all the 1,192 journalists killed between 1990 and 2002 are included in these charts. However, Figure 1 includes 75% of all deaths and Figure 2 covers more than 85%.

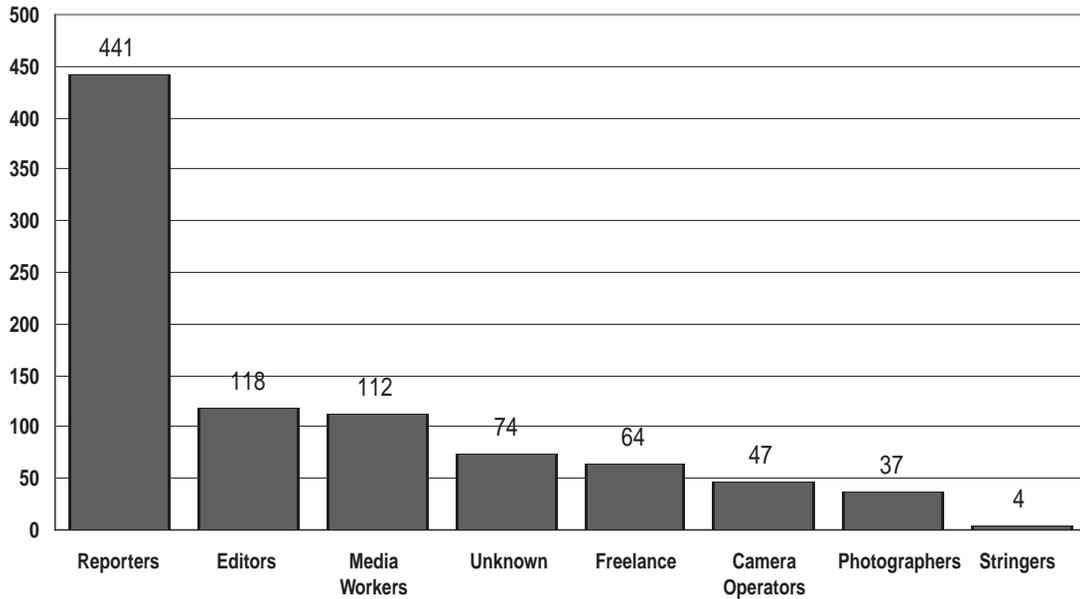
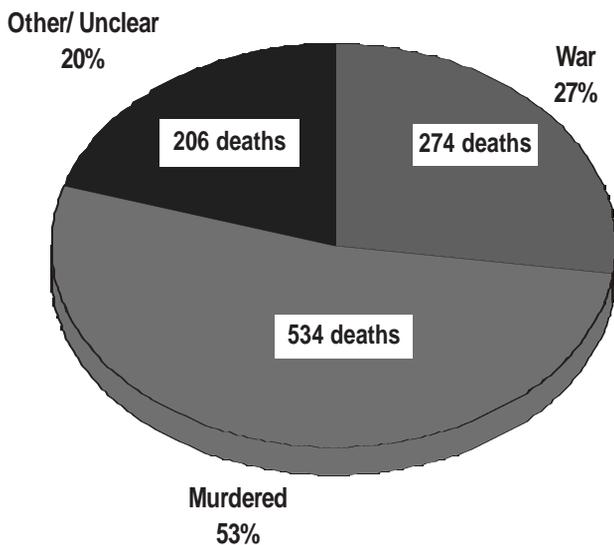


Figure 2: How did they die? 1990-2002



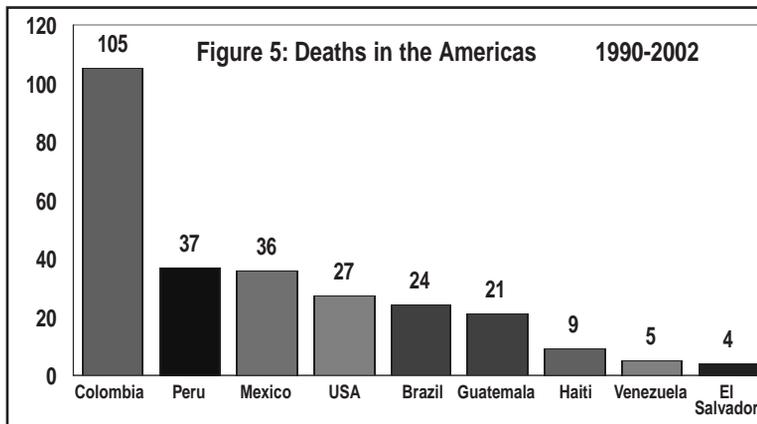
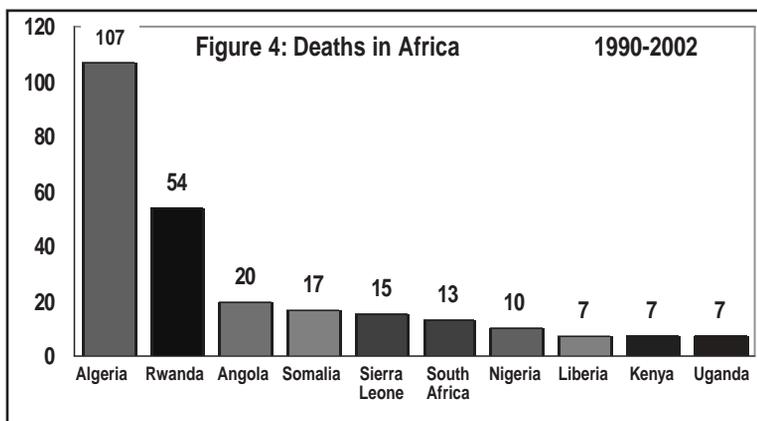
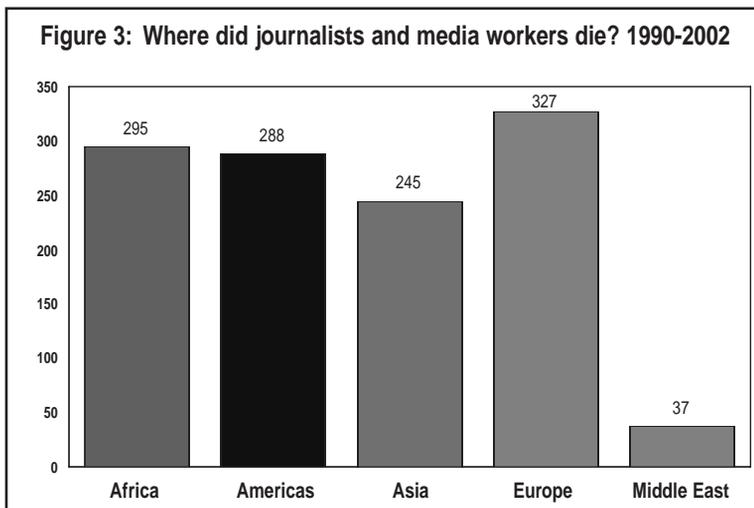
CAUSES OF DEATH

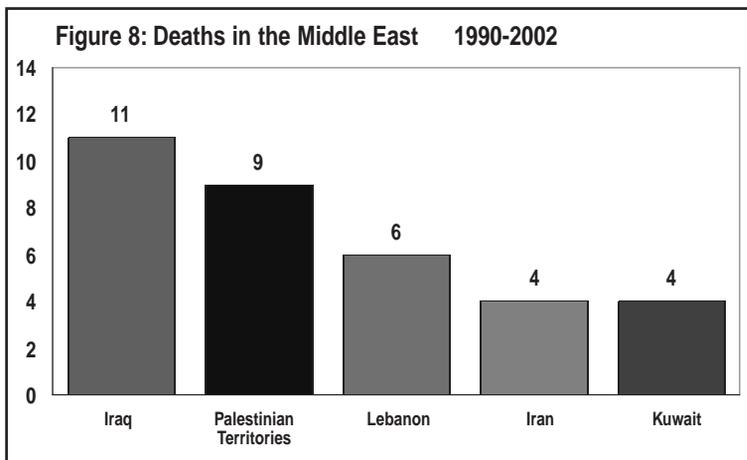
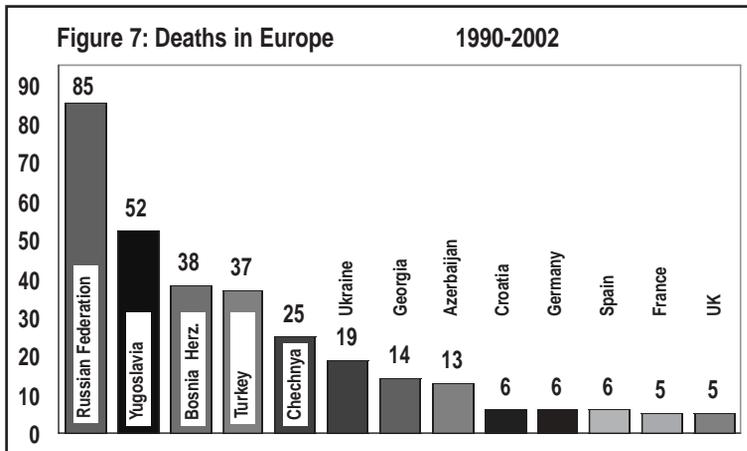
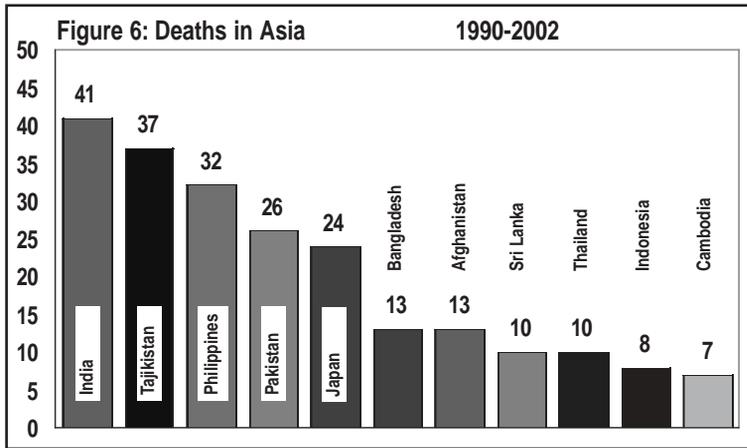
'Other' deaths include circumstances where it is not clear why a journalist or media worker was targeted (as was the case with some deaths in Rwanda in 1994), and deaths as a result of work-related accidents. The chart shows that more than half of the deaths are due to violence and conflict within countries, where there is no open 'war' at the time. Journalists who are murdered or killed because of their work, outnumber those killed in battle zones by nearly two to one.

Deaths of journalists and media workers

1990-2002

These charts show historic rather than current risks. The Africa figures are dominated by Algeria and Rwanda, the Americas by Colombia, and Europe by countries of the former Soviet Union or the former Yugoslavia.





Deaths of journalists and media workers**1990-2002**

Journalists and Media Workers killed in War Zones 1990-2002

Name	Country where killed	Nationality	Circumstances	(f) indicates that the person killed was a woman
1990				
7 journalists and media workers killed in war zones				
(Total killed 1990-2002 = 274)				
1	Dheini	Lebanon	Lebanese	<i>Al Masa</i> reporter shot by sniper's bullet during fighting in Beirut.
2	Imodibie	Liberia	Nigerian	<i>Guardian</i> editor, targeted during civil war.
3	Awotunsin	Liberia	Nigerian	Reporter for <i>Champion</i> , targeted, believed killed with Imodibie.
4	James	Liberia	Liberian	Newspaper reporter targeted during civil war.
5	Woloh	Liberia	Liberian	<i>Standard</i> reporter targeted during civil war.
6	Goll	Liberia	Liberian	<i>Standard</i> reporter targeted during civil war.
7	Raynes	Liberia	Liberian	Liberian broadcasting executive killed in civil war.

1991				
39 journalists and media workers killed in war zones				
8	Mustafayev	Azerbaijan	Azeri	Worked for <i>Azerbaijan TV</i> , one of 23 people killed in helicopter crash. Azerbaijan claimed the aircraft was shot down. Armenia denied it.
9	Mirzayev	Azerbaijan	Azeri	(As above).
10	Huseynzade	Azerbaijan	Azeri	(As above).
11	Shakhbasov	Azerbaijan	Azeri	(As above).
12	Askerova (f)	Azerbaijan	Azeri	Newspaper reporter for <i>Azerbaijan Gencleri</i> , killed by Armenian guerrilla in Nagorno-Karabakh.
13	Dementiev	Azerbaijan	Azeri	Worked for <i>Milistivye Gosudari</i> newspaper — hit by mortar fire.
14	Lazarevich	Azerbaijan	Azeri	<i>Radio Mayak</i> reporter shot by Armenian partisan in Karabakh highlands.
15	Simeon	Haiti	Haitian	<i>Radio Caribes</i> reporter killed by soldiers during coup d'etat.
16	Gross	Iraq	German	Photographer from JB Photos, Germany, working for <i>Newsweek</i> . Shot by Iraqis during an offensive against Kurds.
17	Della Casa	Iraq	British	Agency cameraman working for <i>BBC</i> , presumed shot in Iraq.
18	Della Casa (f)	Iraq	British	Member of agency team working for <i>BBC</i> , presumed shot in Iraq.
19	Maxwell	Iraq	British	<i>BBC</i> soundman last seen with Della Casas in N. Iraq. Presumed shot.
20	Shahine	Israel	Arab Israeli	Radio reporter shot in eastern Jerusalem.
21	Botnik	Latvia	Latvian	Cameraman shot while filming during Soviet troops crackdown.
22	Slapins	Latvia	Latvian	Film crew member (As above).
23	Zvaigzne	Latvia	Latvian	Cameraman and producer (As above).
24	Werner	Yugoslavia*	Austrian	Freelance reporter. Car hit by missile.
25	Vogel	Yugoslavia	Austrian	Killed with Werner (Above).
26	Scotland	Yugoslavia	German	Reporter for <i>Süddeutsche Zeitung</i> , shot while driving marked press car.
27	Penic	Yugoslavia	Croatian	<i>Glas Slavonije</i> radio producer. Abducted by Serbian militia and shot on soccer field. Body left in field for three days and then burned by militia.
28	Lederer	Yugoslavia	Croatian	Cameraman for Croatian TV <i>Hrvatska</i> . Hit by Serbian mortar. Military denied him access to Zagreb for treatment.
29	Kaic	Yugoslavia	Croatian	Worked for Croatian TV, <i>Hrvatska</i> .

* In 1991 Yugoslavia was not yet formally divided. Some of these deaths took place in Croatia or Bosnia.

30	Podboj	Yugoslavia	(Croatian)	Croatian TV technician killed during Serb attack in Beli Manastir.
31	Stojanac	Yugoslavia	Croatian	Technician for Croatian TV, <i>Hrvatska</i> , killed while filming.
32	Blanchet	Yugoslavia	French	Reporter for <i>Nouvel Observateur</i> whose car hit a mine.
33	Ruedin	Yugoslavia	Swiss	Swiss radio reporter killed in mine explosion with Blanchet.
34	Brysky	Yugoslavia	Canadian	Freelance photographer for AP. Killed during mortar attack.
35	Zegarac	Yugoslavia		Reporter for <i>Vecernje Novosti</i> killed in crossfire.
36	Amidzic	Yugoslavia	(Serb)	Television team killed when mortar hit their car.
37	Petrovic	Yugoslavia	(Serb)	Part of the television crew (As above).
38	Milicevic	Yugoslavia	(Serb)	Part of the television crew (As above).
39	Ilic	Yugoslavia	(Serb)	Part of the television crew (As above).
40	Cehajic	Yugoslavia		Reporter for <i>Vecernje Novosti</i> newspaper. Killed by shell explosion.
41	Marjanovic	Yugoslavia		Freelance journalist caught in crossfire.
42	Urban	Yugoslavia		<i>Dubrovnik Vjesnik</i> freelance photographer killed in bombing.
43	Kristicevic	Yugoslavia	Croatian	Television cameraman. Car hit by mortar.
44	Nogin	Yugoslavia	Russian	Soviet Television & Radio. Disappeared Sept 3. Death later confirmed.
45	Kurennoy	Yugoslavia	Russian	Disappeared with Nogin. Death later confirmed.
46	Glavasevic	Yugoslavia	Croatian	<i>Vukovar</i> radio reporter. Taken from Vukovar hospital. Tortured and executed by Serbian forces. Body exhumed from mass grave in 1996.

1992**26 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

47	Mustafayev	Azerbaijan	Azeri	<i>Azeri TV</i> cameraman, killed in Nagorno-Karabakh.
48	Kerimov	Azerbaijan		Freelance journalist killed in Nagorno-Karabakh.
49	Lazarevic	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	<i>RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina</i> reporter, killed by shrapnel from Serb shell.
50	Marinovic	Bosnia-H	Croatian	<i>Croatian Radio</i> abducted by Yugoslav army or armed Serbs.
51	Tepsic	Bosnia-H		<i>SRNA</i> news agency reporter caught in crossfire.
52	Tesanovic	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	<i>RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina</i> reporter, died while covering battle in Sarajevo
53	Tunukovic	Bosnia-H	Croatian	<i>BBC TV</i> cameraman killed by mortar.
54	Pfuhl	Bosnia-H	German	<i>FADMST</i> journalist killed by shrapnel during artillery attack in Mostar.
55	Puyol	Bosnia-H	Spanish	Photographer for <i>AFNE Agency</i> (Madrid). Killed by grenade.
56	Standeker	Bosnia-H	Slovenian	Reporter for <i>Mladina Magazine</i> . Shot. Died on way to hospital.
57	Kaplan	Bosnia-H	American	<i>ABC TV</i> reporter shot by sniper.
58	Hondo	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	Killed by shell while photographing Sarajevo for <i>Oslobodjenje</i> .
59	Smajlovic	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	<i>Oslobodjenje</i> reporter — possibly targeted.
60	Jenks	Croatia	British	Stringer for <i>European Photo Agency</i> . Shot.
61	Hummelvoll	Sudan	Norwegian	Freelance photographer caught in crossfire.
62	Sheraliev	Tajikistan	Tajik	Editor-in-chief of <i>Sadoi Mardum</i> . Shot.
63	Shirind(j)zhon	Tajikistan	Tajik	<i>Tajik Radio</i> reporter shot while covering civil war.
64	Zarobekov	Tajikistan	Tajik	Station executive <i>Tajik National Radio</i> . Shot with Shirind(j)zhon (above).
65	Suyari	Tajikistan	Tajik	Reporter on <i>Tojksan</i> government magazine.
66	Olim	Tajikistan	Tajik	<i>Tajik Radio</i> reporter.
67	Murodullo	Tajikistan	Tajik	Editor-in-chief of <i>Sadoi Mardum</i> newspaper.

Deaths of journalists and media workers**1990-2002**

68	Muborakshoev	Tajikistan	Tajik	<i>Tajikistan State TV</i> reporter. Killed by People's Front.
69	Tura	Tajikistan	Tajik	Worked for <i>Bairaki Dusti</i> newspaper. Killed while working.
70	Zarobek	Tajikistan	Tajik	Editor of <i>Sadoi Mardum</i> .
71	Fernandez	Venezuela	Venezuelan	<i>El Universal</i> reporter, killed covering failed coup d'état.
72	Vergara	Venezuela	Venezuelan	Assistant at <i>Coraven Press</i> , killed by aircraft attempting to bomb palace.

1993**44 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

73	Inacio	Angola	Angolan	<i>Televisao Popular de Angola</i> reporter, caught in crossfire.
74	Vujovic	Bosnia-H	Serb	Reporter for <i>Radio Ilidza</i> , hit by mortar.
75	Begic	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	Worked for <i>RTV Bosnia-H</i> . Killed by sniper in Sarajevo.
76	Filipovic	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	<i>Srpsko Slovo</i> photographer, killed by mortar.
77	Ruzicic	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	<i>Radio Sarajevo</i> reporter, killed by bomb.
78	Sipovac	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	<i>RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina</i> cameraman.
79	Sojanovic (f)	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	<i>Oslobodjenje</i> reporter, killed by sniper.
80	Puletti	Bosnia-H	Italian	Freelance for <i>Mondo Economico & Brescia Oggi</i> , shot in ambush.
81	Lonneux	Bosnia-H	Belgian	Cameraman for <i>Mexican TV</i> . Shot.
82	Ramic	Bosnia-H	(Serb)	Worked for <i>RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina</i> .
83	Elez	Bosnia-H	(Serb)	<i>Radio Foca</i> reporter killed on front line.
84	Tasar	Bosnia-H	Turkish	Reporter for <i>Mili Gazette</i> . Shot.
85	Goskel	Bosnia-H	British	Freelance reporter. Shot.
86	Novalic	Bosnia-H		Worked for <i>Press So</i> .
87	Bodnaruk	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	Worked for <i>Oslobodjenje</i> newspaper.
88	Arifhodzic	Bosnia-H		Worked for <i>Privredne Novine</i> newspaper.
89	Karapetian	Georgia	Armenian	Newspaper reporter.
90	Ezugbaya	Georgia		TV reporter.
91	Popiashvili	Georgia		Newspaper reporter.
92	Gordelazde	Georgia		TV reporter.
93	Adanaya	Georgia	Georgian	<i>The Press Reporter</i> . Ninth journalist killed in Georgia in a year.
94	(Unknown)	Georgia	Spanish	One of 22 victims when plane was hit by a rocket.
95	Tuttle (f)	Georgia	American	<i>Wall Street Journal</i> reporter killed in same plane.
96	Soloviev	Georgia	Russian	Award-winning freelance photographer. Killed taking photos for <i>AP</i> .
97	Haidar	Lebanon	Lebanese	<i>Al-Manar TV</i> cameraman hit by shell while covering Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon.
98	Belozеров	Russia	Russian	Video engineer for National TV <i>Ostankin</i> . Hit in crossfire outside Moscow <i>Ostankin</i> TV centre during October coup attempt.
99	Peck	Russia	British	Freelance, killed filming fighting outside <i>Ostankin</i> centre.
100	Krasilnikov	Russia	(Russian)	TV cameraman, killed covering fighting outside television centre.
101	Drobyshev	Russia	(Russian)	Reporter for <i>Priroda i Chelovek</i> , killed reporting fighting in Moscow.
102	Sidelnikov	Russia	Russian	Cameraman for <i>Lennauchfilm Studio</i> , killed reporting fighting in Moscow.
103	Smirnov	Russia	(Russian)	Reporter for <i>Molodeshny Kuriyer</i> , killed reporting fighting in Moscow.
104	Skopan	Russia	French	French TV Network <i>TF1</i> cameraman, killed reporting fighting in Moscow.

105	Evariste	Rwanda	Rwandan	Photographer. Body found in a military barracks.
106	Jumel	Somalia	French	Sound technician, shot by sniper.
107	Macharia	Somalia	Kenyan	<i>Reuters</i> sound technicians, beaten, stoned and stabbed by mob.
108	Mursal	Somalia	Somali	<i>AP</i> stringer. Shot while trying to defend a colleague.
109	Eldon	Somalia	American	<i>Reuters</i> photographer, beaten, stoned and stabbed by mob.
110	Krauss	Somalia	German	<i>AP</i> photographer, beaten, stoned, stabbed by mob.
111	Maina	Somalia	Kenyan	Freelance photographer for <i>Reuters</i> , beaten, stoned, stabbed by mob.
112-116		Somalia	5 Somalis	Somalis working as journalists for <i>CNN</i> ; car attacked; they were killed.

NB: The IFJ does not have the names of the five members of the Somali television crew who were killed when their car was hit during heavy fighting.

1994

60 journalists and media workers killed in war zones

117	Gilela	Angola	Angolan	Sound engineer for <i>Radio Nacional de Angola</i> , caught in crossfire.
118	Hasek	Bosnia-H	Canadian	<i>Washington Inquirer</i> reporter, died in hospital after vehicle blown up.
119	Ota	Bosnia-H	Italian	TV cameraman for <i>RAI</i> , killed by mortar.
120	D'Angelo	Bosnia-H	Italian	TV technician for <i>RAI</i> , killed by mortar.
121	Luchetta	Bosnia-H	Italian	TV reporter for <i>RAI</i> , killed by mortar.
122	Brinton	Bosnia-H	American	Freelance photographer for <i>Magnolia News</i> . Car hit mine.
123	Tomasic	Bosnia-H	American	Translator killed when car hit mine (see above).
124	Bandyatuyaga	Burundi	Burundian	TV reporter arrested by army and murdered in public in stadium.
125	Elbaum (f)	Chechnya	American	Freelance photographer killed in bomb-blast.
126	Seruvumba	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Reporter for <i>Imbaga</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
127	Mukamusoni	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Director of opposition newspaper, <i>Le Soleil</i> , killed in civil war.
128	Kameya	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Editor-in-chief of <i>Rwanda Rushya</i> , killed in civil war.
129	Ruhatana	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Editor-in-chief Kanyarwanda, killed in civil war.
130	Rukondo	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	President of Association of Newspaper Owners, stripped and murdered.
131	Mukamana (f)	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Owner of <i>Reba Videwo</i> video production company, killed in civil war.
132	Ntawucikayenda	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	TV camera operator, killed by bomb at state TV station.
133	Rwabukwizi	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Former director of <i>Kanguka</i> newspaper, shot in civil war.
134	Karinganire	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Reporter for <i>Le Flambeau</i> , cut to pieces at home.
135	Rutsindura	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Editor-in-chief of <i>Amakuruki i Butare</i> , killed by militia with machetes with his wife, children and parents.
136	Bazimaziki	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Flambeau</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
137	Bideri-Munyangabe	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Messenger-Intumwa</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
138	Burasa	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Partisan</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
139	Gatera	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kanyarwanda</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
140	Habineza-Sibo	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Partisan</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
141	Habinshuti	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Umurwandashyaka</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
142	Hategekimana	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Tribune du peuple</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
143	Kalinda	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Radio Rwanda</i> , killed in civil war.
144	Kamanayo	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kibernika</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.

Deaths of journalists and media workers**1990-2002**

145	Karambizi	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Imbaga</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
146	Kayiranga	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kanguka</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
147	Mbunda	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>TV Rwanda</i> , killed in civil war.
148	Mudatsikira	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Rwanda Rushya</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
149	Mukama	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Tribune du peuple</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
150	Munyakazi	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>L'Observateur</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
151	Mureramanzi	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>L'emancipation</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
152	Mutesa	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kanyarwanda</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
153	Nkundimana	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kanyarwanda</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
154	Nkubiri	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kinyamateka</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
155	Nsabimana	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Orinfor</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
156	Nshimiryoy	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>TV Rwanda</i> , killed in civil war.
157	Nyimbuzi	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>L'Observateur</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
158	Rubwiriza	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Orinfor</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
159	Rudahangarwa	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>La Releve</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
160	Rugaju	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Tribune du peuple</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
161	Shabakaka	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kibernika</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
162	Twagiramungu	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Iwacu</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
163	Funga	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Dialogue</i> newspaper, killed by militia.
164	Gakwaya	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Tribune du peuple</i> newspaper, killed by militia.
165	Kamurase	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Rwanda Rushya</i> newspaper, killed by militia at home.
166	Kanamugire	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>La Griffes</i> newspaper, killed by militia.
167	Kanyabugoyi	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Kanyarwanda</i> newspaper, killed in civil war at Interahamwe.
168	Mbuguje	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Imbaga</i> newspaper, killed by militia.
169	Munana	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Le Rambeau</i> newspaper, killed in civil war at Interahamwe.
170	Munyarigoga	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Orinfor</i> newspaper, killed at home in Interahamwe.
171	Ntaganzwa	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Rafiki</i> newspaper, killed in civil war.
172	Semusambi	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Unuranga</i> newspaper, killed by FPR.
173	Sibomana	Rwanda	(<i>Rwandan</i>)	Worked for <i>Isibo</i> newspaper. Details of death unknown.
174	Alpi (f)	Somalia	Italian	Reporting Italian military departure for <i>TV RAI 3</i> . Murdered by militia.
175	Krovatin	Somalia	Slovene	<i>TV RAI 3</i> reporter, deliberately shot by militia with Alpi (see above).
176	Anceaux	Somalia	Swiss	Reporter for <i>Caritas News</i> , shot by Somali soldiers.

1995**20 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

177	Bunyadov	Azerbaijan	Azeri	<i>Reuters/Turan News Agency</i> cameraman. Shot in throat while filming.
178	Kolevski	Bosnia-H	Bosnian	Cameraman for <i>Bosnian Serb TV</i> , killed in crossfire.
179	Schofield	Croatia	British	<i>BBC</i> radio reporter, shot by Croat soldier. Mistaken for Serb military.
180	Zaimovic	Bosnia	Bosnian	Reporter on Sarajevo-based <i>Dani</i> magazine, died after grenade blast.
181	Alyakina (f)	Chechnya	Russian/German	Reporter for <i>Focus</i> magazine and <i>RUFA</i> radio news. Had permission to pass checkpoint in Budyonnovsk, but was shot by Russian soldier.
182	Kagirov	Chechnya	Russian	Reporter for <i>Rossiiskaya Gazeta</i> & <i>Vozrozhdeniye</i> newspaper, shot.

183	Piest	Chechnya	German	<i>Stern</i> magazine reporter, shot.
184	Molchanov	Chechnya	Russian	<i>NTV</i> cameraman, killed in car accident.
185	Shumack	Chechnya	American	Photographer for <i>Bethlehem Star</i> , disappeared in Grozny, July 24.
186	Titov	Chechnya	Russian	Photographer for <i>Nevskoye Vremya</i> . Forced off bus by Chechen fighters. Russian news reported Titov and colleague (<i>below</i>) shot.
187	Shabalin	Chechnya	Russian	Reporter for St. Petersburg daily newspaper shot with Titov (<i>above</i>).
188	Zhitarenko	Chechnya	Russian	Army colonel and correspondent for <i>Krasnaya Zvezda</i> newspaper (Russian armed forces daily). Shot near Grozny while covering fighting.
189	Yanus	Chechnya	Russian	Channel 5 cameraman, shot by sniper while reporting in Grozny.
190	Ivanov	Chechnya	Russian	<i>Nevskoye Vremya</i> reporter. Went in search of colleagues Felix Titov and Maxim Shabalin. Not seen again.
191	Kerimov	Chechnya	Azeri	AP freelance cameraman. Shot.
192	Suleymanova	Chechnya	(<i>Chechen</i>)	Reporter for <i>Ichkeriya</i> newspaper.
193	Palmisano	Somalia	Italian	Cameraman for <i>RAI</i> . Shot while filming withdrawal of UN troops.
194	Weerasinghe	Sri Lanka	(<i>Sri Lankan</i>)	Newspaper reporter for <i>Silumina Sinhala</i> . One of three killed in Tamil missile attack on plane.
195	Saputhanthri	Sri Lanka	(<i>Sri Lankan</i>)	Newspaper reporter killed in missile attack on plane (see above).
196	Piyasoma	Sri Lanka	(<i>Sri Lankan</i>)	Newspaper reporter killed in missile attack on plane (see above).

1996 **5 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

197	Chaikova (f)	Chechnya	Russian	<i>Obshchaya Gazeta</i> newspaper reporter. Blindfolded, beaten & shot.
198	Yagodin	Chechnya		Reporter for <i>Na Boevon Postu</i> . Ambushed & killed by Chechen fighters.
199	Pimenov	Chechnya	Chechen	Cameraman for <i>Vaynakh TV</i> . Shot by sniper in Grozny.
200	Yefimova (f)	Chechnya	Chechen	<i>Vozrozhdeniye</i> newspaper reporter. Kidnapped with mother and shot.
201	Khadzhiyev	Chechnya	Chechen	<i>ORT</i> reporter, shot by Russian military while travelling with his wife and 4-year-old child.

1997 **2 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

202	Bekir Dogan	Iraq	Turkish	Worked for <i>MED TV</i> . Disappeared in Irbil in May while covering fighting.
203	Jalloh	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	Freelance for <i>Punch, Storm & Vision</i> . Died of wounds reporting battle.

1998 **3 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

204	Chanya	Georgia	Georgian	Reporter for <i>Rezonats</i> newspaper. Body mutilated by Abkhaz rebels.
205	Mashtakova (f)	(Chechnya)	Russian	Died in Russia of wounds sustained covering Chechen conflict in 1997.
206	Smith	Sierra Leone	S.Leonean	<i>BBC TV</i> reporter, killed in ambush.

1999 **40 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

207	Ependiyev	Chechnya	Chechen	Editor-in-chief <i>Groznensky Rabochy</i> , mortally wounded by rocket fire.
208	Mezhidov	Chechnya		Cameraman for <i>TV Tsentr</i> , killed filming air attack on refugee convoy.
209	Gegayev	Chechnya	Chechen	Cameraman for <i>TV Nokh Cho</i> , killed filming air attack on refugee convoy.
210	Motta (f)	Colombia	Colombian	Shot while filming FARC attack on town for <i>TV Garzon</i> .

Deaths of journalists and media workers**1990-2002**

211	Thoenes	East Timor	Dutch	<i>Financial Times</i> reporter. Ambushed, killed and body mutilated.
212	Muliawan	East Timor	Indonesian	<i>Asia International Press</i> TV reporter ambushed & killed with 7 civilians.
213	Mitrovic	FRY*	Serb	Programme Director killed in NATO missile attack on Radio Television Serbia (RTS).
214	Stukalo	FRY	Serb	Foreign programmer killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
215	Stevanovic	FRY	Serb	Foreign programmer killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
216	Bancovic	FRY	Serb	Video mixer killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
217	Munitlak	FRY	Serb	Make-up artist killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
218	Jankovic	FRY	Serb	TV technician killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
219	Tasic	FRY	Serb	TV technician killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
220	Deletic	FRY	Serb	Cameraman killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
221	Stoimenovski	FRY	Serb	TV technician killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
222	Stojanovic	FRY	Serb	TV technician killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
223	Jontic	FRY	Serb	Technician killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
224	Markovic	FRY	Serb	TV security staff killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
225	Joksimovic	FRY	Serb	TV security staff killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
226	Jovanovic	FRY	Serb	Programme operator killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
227	Medic	FRY	Serb	Programme designer killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
228	Dragojevic	FRY	Serb	TV security staff killed in NATO missile attack on RTS.
229	Ying	FRY	Chinese	Reporter killed in NATO bombing of Chinese embassy.
230	Yuhuan	FRY	Chinese	Reporter killed in NATO bombing of Chinese embassy.
231	Xinghu	FRY	Chinese	Reporter killed in NATO bombing of Chinese embassy.
232	Gruener	FRY	German	<i>Stern</i> Magazine reporter, shot by sniper.
233	Kraemer	FRY	German	<i>Stern</i> photographer, shot by sniper.
234	Alit	FRY		Interpreter, shot by sniper with above.
235	Stojkovic	FRY		Working with <i>Stern</i> team. Shot by sniper.
236	Supriadi	Indonesia	Indonesian	Reporter for <i>Medan Pos</i> newspaper. Abducted in Aceh. Hacked to death.
237	Roeh	Lebanon	Israeli	Reporter for <i>Radio Kol Israel</i> , killed during terrorist attack in Lebanon.
238	Cole	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	<i>SKY-FM 106</i> radio reporter, killed by Revolutionary United Front (RUF).
239	Oguogo	Sierra Leone	Nigerian	Deputy Editor, <i>Concord Times</i> , shot by RUF.
240	Kamara	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	Reporter for <i>Radio Kiss 104 FM</i> , shot dead by RUF.
241	Mansaray	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	Editor of <i>Standard Times</i> , died with entire family when house set on fire.
242	Tierney	Sierra Leone	American	<i>AP</i> TV producer, shot by rebels while travelling in ECOMOG convoy.
243	Juma Jalloh	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	Editor of <i>African Champion</i> . Mistaken for rebel. Killed by soldier from ECOMOG (West African monitoring group).
244	Bah Bah	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	Freelance journalist, shot and stabbed by rebels in front of his family.
245	Kamara	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	Freelance for <i>Vision</i> newspaper. Abducted and killed by rebels.
246	Turay	Sierra Leone		Reporter for <i>Punch, Daily Mail, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service</i> . Shot.

2000**9 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

247 Yatsina Chechnya Russian Agency photographer, kidnapped and executed by Chechen fighters.

* By 1999 Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had become the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

248	Yefremov	Chechnya	Russian	Newspaper reporter, killed when his Jeep was blown up.
249	Tepsurgayev	Chechnya	Chechen	Freelance cameraman, killed by armed men who burst into his house.
250	Gallego (f)	Colombia	Colombian	Body found next to (ELN) guerrillas killed during battle with army.
251	Kandolo	Dem. Rep. Congo	Congolese	UNESCO TV cameraman, killed in ambush. Body burned.
252	Takoush	Lebanon	Lebanese	Driver for <i>BBC</i> . Missile from Israeli tank hit his car.
253	Conteh	Sierra Leone	S. Leonean	Shot dead while covering demonstration.
254	Gil Moreno	Sierra Leone	Spanish	<i>AP</i> reporter, killed in rebel ambush.
255	Schork	Sierra Leone	American	<i>Reuters</i> reporter killed in rebel ambush.

2001**11 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

256	Lawton	Macedonia	British	<i>AP</i> reporter, killed when car was shelled.
257	Al Bashawi	Palestine	Palestinian	Newspaper photographer, died in Israeli helicopter missile attack while interviewing Hamas leaders in Nablus
258	Al Qatanani	Palestine	Palestinian	Newspaper reporter died in same missile attack as above.
259	Sutton (f)	Afghanistan	French	Radio reporter, 'executed' by Taliban after falling off armoured vehicle.
260	Billaud	Afghanistan	French	Radio reporter, 'executed' in same incident.
261	Handloik	Afghanistan	German	Magazine reporter, 'executed' in same incident.
262	Burton	Afghanistan	Australian	Cameraman, killed in Taliban ambush on convoy.
263	Haidari	Afghanistan	Afghan	Photographer, killed in same ambush.
264	Fuentes	Afghanistan	Spanish	Reporter, killed in same ambush.
265	Cutuli (f)	Afghanistan	Italian	Reporter, killed in same ambush.
266	Stromberg	Afghanistan	Swedish	TV cameraman, killed during armed robbery on rented house in war zone.

2002**8 journalists and media workers killed in war zones**

267	Ciriello	Palestine	Italian	Freelance photographer. Shot by Israeli military. Mistaken for gunman.
268	Al Alami	Palestine	Palestinian	TV cameraman, killed by Israeli gunfire.
269	Lopez	Colombia	Colombian	Driver for radio station, killed when car attacked by military helicopter.
270	Sandoval	Colombia	Colombian	<i>RCN</i> TV cameraman died of injuries in same helicopter attack on car.
271	Abu Zahra	Palestine	Palestinian	Freelance cameraman. Died of injuries after he was shot by Israeli tank.
272	McLeod	Afghanistan	N-Zealander	Freelance reporter, killed in car crash.
273	Tellawi	Palestine	Palestinian	Shot while covering demonstration.
274	Scott	Russia	British	Freelance film maker, killed in battle while filming Chechen fighters.

Appendix 3

International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism

The dangers posed to journalists and media staff working in dangerous situations and conflict zones are the subject of extensive record. 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 pre-meditated 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.

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 commercial advantage, and should promote co-operation among journalists whenever conditions exist which are potentially hazardous.

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

People must keep their hands off media. Everyone should respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff at work. Physical interference with filming or other journalistic work must be prohibited.

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

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