



**The following Projects are being run in the Middle East, and Arab World region through the IFJ Brussels project office during 2010 / 2011**

- Ethical Journalism Initiative Middle East and Arab World
- Media for Democracy in Iraq
- European Neighbourhood Policy Initiative Journalism Training and Networking Programme
- Capacity-building for Journalists in the Middle East and Arab World
- Ethical Journalism as a Key to Middle East Peace: A Journalists' Response to the Professional Crisis in Media
- Supporting Independent and Free Media in Yemen
- Building a Culture of Safety for Journalists in the Middle East

**Title: Ethical Journalism Initiative: Middle East and Arab World**

**Location:** Middle East/ Arab World: With focus target countries: Sudan, Gulf, Bahrain, Kuwait and UAE, and Tunisia

**Dates:** Jan. 2010 – Sept. 2011

### **Background**

This programme is a follow up from the regional 'Professional Solidarity for Journalists' programme supported by IMS since 2005.

This third phase builds on the Ethical Journalism Initiative campaign that was developed during 2009 becoming one of the IFJ's key campaign activities in the region. Building on this success it focuses on three key regions, the Gulf, Sudan and Tunisia

It builds on the role of the representative journalists' union as the leading voice for journalists on professional issues and best placed to lead and moderate national debates on the journalistic values of independence and ethics in a rapidly changing media landscape.

**Overall Objective:** Capacity of union to defend media freedom and improve ethical standards of journalism strengthened.

### **Immediate Objectives**

- Capacities of national journalists unions to defend journalist's professional and labour rights and to lead debates on professional standards in media strengthened.
- Quality of journalism, editorial independence and ethics in the MENA regions strengthened.
- Best practices and knowledge between Danish and MENA journalist unions and professionals exchanged.

### **Activities**

Each focus country will organise the following:

- National conference to launch the in-country EJI campaign.
- the establishment of national EJI committees from within the media industry and broader civil society



- Develop an 18-month EJI action plan around three national meetings and three working groups to develop:
  - National code of ethics
  - Proposals for self-regulation and media accountability systems
  - Develop national EJI training programmes
- Engagement of a co-ordinator to run the campaign activities.
- One collective bargaining workshop with trainers provided by an expert from the DJ.
- Research into media ownership and controls over editorial policy.
- Two professional training seminars conducted in co-operation with the AFP training unit, on topics proposed by the EJI initiative such as reporting on minorities and marginalized groups, reporting on women, conflict reporting, election reporting and reporting corruption.

In addition there will be one regional EJI delegation to Copenhagen to meet with the Danish Journalists union, the Danish Press Council and others to discuss media accountability issues.

### **Partners**

The Danish Union of Journalists has been closely involved in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the programme. Journalists' unions in the Gulf States of Bahrain, Kuwait and UAE, in Sudan and Tunisia will be responsible for the implementation of the programme nationally.

### **Expected Results**

- Production of one national EJI campaign action plan by national EJI coalitions in each target country
- One national "media accountability system" proposal drafted by the EJI committee in each target country
- One research report on media ownership produced and disseminated in each target country.
- Up to 90 activists trained on collective bargaining in target countries
- Regional EJI training module developed and tested with 180 journalists in target countries
- Regional EJI campaign website developed in Arabic
- Best practices and knowledge between Danish and MENA journalist unions and professionals exchanged.

**Donors:** International Media Support

<b>Title: Media for Democracy in Iraq</b>
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**Location:** Iraq

**Dates:** 2010 - 2012

### **Background**

The IFJ has been working in Iraq since 2004 to give support to the creation of a strong and independent journalists union institutions. The work has been organised against a backdrop of extreme violence and targeting of journalists that has severely traumatised the whole society as well as the journalists' community and putting on hold any serious programmes of reform.

The drop in violence during 2008 has enabled the media to return to a form of normality but while still facing enormous reform challenges in every sector. The two IFJ affiliates have survived remarkably well. The Iraqi Journalists Syndicate (IJS), while having lost up to 300 members in the violence including their President to a drive by shooting, has held together. Moreover it has managed a successful reform process through three congresses held since 2004 enabling it to cast aside its former association with the Saddam Hussein's regime. It is now recognised as the leading and effective force for the defence of journalists' rights. The Kurdistan Journalists' Syndicate (KJS) is also very well established and has considerable influence on the conditions of their members and well placed to negotiate relatively progressive media legislation. The two organisations also boast an excellent record of co-operation.



In the spring of 2009 the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate hosted the first international conference since the 2003 invasion in the country where journalists unions from around the world met to support and strengthen the efforts of their colleagues in Iraq.

### **Objectives**

The *Overall objective* is an improvement in the performance of media and the provision of independent, objective, honest journalism that exposes corruption, abuse of power and human rights violations and provides society with the information necessary to make informed decisions.

*Specific objectives include:*

- Raise safety consciousness and risk reduction strategies among journalists and media.
- Raise editorial independence and consolidate standards of ethical journalism.
- Improve capacity of journalists' unions to campaign for better working conditions for media workers and basic labour rights.
- Raise number of women joining the profession and journalists' unions.
- Improve the legal environment for journalists and access to information; enhance the capacity of the unions' lawyers and advisors to inform journalists and defend their rights.

### **Activities**

- safety campaign, training, equipment and support for Iraqi Media Safety Group (IMSG)
- national campaign on editorial independence and ethical journalism
- trade union building programme and gender equality campaign
- legal training programme for journalists union lawyers and media advisors

**Partners** The Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate (IJS) and the Kurdistan Journalists' Syndicate (KJS) (informal partners). Article 19 (associate partner);

### **Expected Results**

- Safety – improved security environment - reduced death rates, 150 journalists trained in risk awareness and security– government commitment to journalists' safety and ending impunity.
- Editorial-independence – improved rights of journalists. Principles of the profession endorsed through the self–regulation, code of ethics, editorial statutes and national manifesto
- Trade Union Development / Labour Rights - strengthened IJS/KJS capacity through trained activists; greater right to association / union membership; established union reps in media to negotiate with owners; better journalists' contracts based on draft collective contract – raised membership, capacity and effectiveness of the two unions
- Gender equality – increased number of women journalists, improved equality in media and enhancing of women journalists' leadership skills in the media and in the unions.
- Media Law – IJS / KJS better positioned to lobby for free media environment.

**Donors:** European Union / LOTCO

**Title: European Neighbourhood Policy Initiative Journalism Training and Networking Programme**

**Location:** Mediterranean and Eastern Europe

**Dates:** Jan 2008 – Dec. 2009 Extended September 2011

### **Background**

The EU launched a journalism training programme to increase the coverage of the EU relations with the neighbouring countries. It is a broadening of the earlier programme in the Mediterranean designed to raise awareness about the EU Mediterranean process.



### **Objectives**

- To increase skills of journalists in the ENPI region
- To increase coverage of EU relations with neighbouring countries
- To develop a network of journalists within the ENPI region to promote professional journalists' issues

### **Activities**

The IFJ is part of the networking component of the programme advising on the content of a range of thematic seminars and conferences for journalists from the ENPI region. In particular the IFJ programme is focused on a launch of the Ethical Journalism Initiative, Gender Equality, Press Freedom and terrorism reporting,

The contract was extended to develop and expand activities in the ENPI region with an emphasis to the East.

### **Partners**

Thompson Foundation, Management Partners, BBJ, European Journalism Centre

**Donors:** European Commission

<b>Title: Capacity Building for Journalists in the Middle East and Arab World</b>
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**Location:** Mauritania, Sudan, Morocco

**Dates:** 2010 - 2012

### **Background**

The problems facing women journalists in their workplace and unions have been extensively examined by the IFJ, with women in journalism facing an extensive list of obstacles, including lack of equal pay, of access to training, of fair promotion procedures, and of access to decision-making positions.

The media sector has seen a rapid growth in numbers of women journalists often at rates above 50%. However, few women are found in key positions as editors, directors, or members of syndicate's national boards. Yet, being represented in these spheres is crucial in defending women professional rights.

The 2005 Rabat Declaration called on the reinforcement of collective agreements by including gender equality provisions and the improvement of women's status in journalists' unions in the region. In this framework, the IFJ launched the *Women Partners in TU Leadership* campaign to encourage women journalists in the MENA region to engage in trade-union work and stand for election to decision-making bodies. The campaign was launched in April 2008, when women journalists' union representatives from 11 countries met in Tunis and adopted the following recommendations:

1. Increase representation of women in unions' leadership positions and consider the introduction of quota systems.
2. Develop trade union work capabilities for women through training.
3. Involve male colleagues in all gender equality related issues
4. Strengthen trade-union policies protecting women's trade-union rights (Charter of Ethics, Constitution, etc.)
5. Ensure safety of women journalists and trade-unionists in conflict areas
6. Protect women journalists against violence and harassment at work
7. Insert gender equality provisions in collective bargaining agreements.
8. Encourage women's solidarity to strengthen their role in the union



### **Objectives**

The **overall objective** is to improve the labour rights and gender equality for journalists in the MENA region

The **Project Objective** is to develop strong union campaigns on gender equality and union rights that

- Improve the skill set and confidence of union activists
- Develop strong membership base in companies to form the basis of the campaigns
- Develop draft collective agreements to form the basis of negotiations with employers
- Develop procedures for complaints and resolution of breaches of contract
- Ensure that gender equality is incorporated into all union actions
- Develop national gender equality work place campaigns.

### **Activities**

Over three years each country will organise

- one national gender surveys
- Three gender equality workshops
- Three trade union workshops

One regional leadership training workshop will also be organised for participating unions.

### **Expected Results**

- Three national surveys of members needs
- Recruitment of new members and potential activists through tours of members in different media:
- 36 newly trained union activists a year on trade union recruitment and organising issues
- Establishment of three gender equality working groups within each of the journalists unions
- Creation of three national gender equality three year strategies for recruitment, equality and leadership campaigning in the unions
- Enhanced regional solidarity and skills exchange through regional leadership meeting

### **Partners**

All IFJ affiliates in the MENA region

**Donors:** LOTCO

<b>Title: Ethical Journalism as a Key to Middle East Peace: A Journalists' Response to the Professional Crisis in Media</b>
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**Location:** Palestine / Israel

**Dates:** 2009 - 2010

### **Background**

This proposal arose from the urgent mission undertaken by the IFJ to Gaza in January 2009 immediately after the ceasefire took hold following the invasion of Gaza by the Israeli Defence Force. The mission met with journalists in Gaza and witnessed the devastation at first hand charging the IDF with the deliberate targeting of Media during the brief conflict.

The immediate response saw the provision of 10.000 euro of humanitarian assistance for the journalist victims and their families and the provision of safety training to Gaza journalists in Egypt two months later.



However, the mission also sought to recommend actions to address the broader challenges of the deeply divided media community. The mission recommendations included:

- Building Solidarity Within Community of Journalists: including efforts to build bridges between the divided communities of journalists and reconciling the West Bank/Gaza membership of the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate as a step towards reform and renewal of the PJS.
- Promotion of Ethical and Professional Development: a programme of training and awareness-raising on need for independent journalism.

#### **Objectives**

- To raise awareness on safety and the targeting of media of media in conflicts and the conclusions of the IFJ Gaza mission report.
- To promote a culture of independence, humanity and solidarity in media through the exercise of ethical journalism.
- To encourage fresh dialogue with media organisations, civil society and political power in support of quality and value-based journalism.
- To support the PJS efforts to promote solidarity between journalists in the West Bank and Gaza

#### **Activities**

- Conference on the Targeting of journalists by military and political factions
- Ethical Journalism Initiative Campaign involving:
  1. Two national conferences
  2. A series of round tables in the West Bank and Gaza on ethical journalism, editorial independence, war and election reporting.
  3. Training seminars on ethics in practice, building trust and structures for dialogue, and media mission statements
- EJI conference in Israel

#### **Expected Results**

- Promoted awareness on role of journalists in conflicts leading to a reduction in the targeting
- Improved structures for independent professional journalism including greater readiness of authorities and civil society to support ethical journalism
- Greater solidarity between and representation of Palestinian journalists and through strengthened PJS

**Partners** Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, National Federation of Israeli Journalists, Norwegian Journalists Union, Unesco Norway

**Donors:** Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<b>Title: Supporting Independent Journalists' Syndicate and Free Media in Yemen</b>
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**Location:** Yemen

**Dates:** 2010/2011

#### **Background**

The project supports the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) to better defend social and professional rights of journalists in Yemen and to enhance media freedom, media standards and ethical journalism. It is a direct follow up to the 2009 country programme and previously in the regional programme since 2005.



Recent years have been hard for Yemeni journalists. Faced with three different conflicts; the Sa'ada war in the north, the separatist movement in the south and the Al Qaeda backed attacks (mostly in the east) the government has responded by seeking to rein in all critical voices tightening its grip on state media removing space for independent reporting. It has closed down several newspapers and websites and held a two month military siege of the Al Ayyam paper in Aden. Meanwhile journalists have been harassed, arrested or disappeared, believed abducted. All the indications suggest that the country's growing political chaos and pressure on media, is likely to deepen before it improves.

They YJS is the most outspoken organization in Yemen in defence of the journalists and it campaigns vigorously toward ending impunity. Under intense pressure the YJS leadership has managed to hold the syndicate together. Its efforts to defend press freedom have been impressive with organised protests and sit-ins, negotiations and confrontations with the government and a successful strike in state media to improve their salaries and conditions.

Previous programmes have focused on capacity building and strengthening the YJS organisational and campaign skills.

### **Objectives**

To improve YJS capacity to represent the interests of its members and lead press freedom campaigns. The project aims to support the YJS in developing its campaigns on

- Trade Union rights and employment conditions
- Ethics and independence in journalism
- Press freedom

### **Activities**

- Trade Union Development and Capacity Building
  - National Conference on social rights
  - Collective bargaining training
  - Gender mainstreaming
- EJI Campaign
  - Conference on Public service media reform
  - Workshops on self regulation
  - EJI seminar
- Press Freedom, Solidarity and Fighting Impunity
  - Workshops on networking and press freedom campaigning

### **Expected Results**

- Trained of union activists on collective bargaining and gender equality
- Raised professional debate on ethical standards
- Annual press freedom report, regular monitoring and lobbying on cases

### **Partners**

Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate

**Donors:** Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs / IMS

**Title: Building a Culture of Safety for Journalists in the Middle East**

**Location:** Middle East and Arab World

**Dates:** 2011 - 2013



## **Background**

Safety has been a key area of work for the IFJ in the Middle East for many years. With major conflicts in Iraq, Palestine, the Lebanon and growing violence in the Yemen the journalists in all these countries continue to face major risks for their work. The IFJ has operated campaigns to raise awareness on safety and lobby the authorities to take responsibility for protecting journalists and investigating the circumstances of their deaths. The IFJ's annual killed list is an essential tool for highlighting the tragedies faced by our colleagues in the region. The IFJ mission to Gaza in 2009 investigated the deliberate targeting of Palestinian Media by the Israeli military. The Iraqi April 8<sup>th</sup> campaign refuses to allow the US and Iraqi authorities to forget their responsibilities in ending the impunity surrounding the over 300 journalists who lost their lives since the occupation.

This programme provides the foundation for a comprehensive safety campaign that demands that all journalists sent to cover conflicts have the appropriate training and equipment, that effectively monitors all violence against journalists so that their national unions can hold the authorities to account and that creates the safety training expertise and resources within the region for the long term.

## **Objectives**

The **overall objective** is to improve the capacity of journalists to report, at minimum risk, the acts, impacts and crimes of war.

The **specific objective** is to address the unacceptable levels of attacks against journalists, to improve journalists' management of risks and minimise the likelihood of attacks, to equip journalists to avoid targeting by military or injury in cross fire. To monitor all violations and to campaign for their respect by the authorities, to expose war crimes, to demand protection of journalists and investigations into deaths and to strengthen the capacity of journalists' unions to provide leadership defence of the rights of journalists

## **Activities**

- Development of at least five Arabic language safety trainers for conflict zones
- 450 journalists trained in safety and risk awareness for conflict zones
- Regional safety handbook based on IFJ, INSI materials and safety films for training activities
- Trained safety officers for unions in 4 countries
- Renewed commitment by governments to Sec Council Res 1738 to protect journalists in conflicts

## **Expected Results**

- Improved levels of safety for journalists with a drop in the level of attacks due to improved response to attacks by journalists, unions and media organisations
- Improved access and safety of journalists covering conflicts and provision of regional safety experts pool for future trainings.
- Strengthened network of journalists unions able to monitor attacks and lobby for investigations
- Improved standards of reporting and exposure of acts of war
- Public support and pressure to open investigations into past deaths of journalists in conflicts

## **Partners**

Iraqi Journalists Syndicate (IJS), Kurdistan Journalists' Syndicate (KJS), Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS), Yemen Journalists Syndicate (YJS) and The Lebanese Editors Syndicate (LES) and Maharat Foundation (informal partners).

**Donors:** European Union / Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs