



International Federation of **Journalists**



BUILDING SOLIDARITY TO
MEET GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The global media union

The **International Federation of Journalists** is a worldwide confederation of trade unions and associations of journalists that is building solidarity among journalists and fighting for their rights across the globe.

It was first set up in 1926 and has existed throughout the turbulent years of the 20th Century taking its modern form in 1952.

In the dying days of the Cold War it was a unifying force among journalists, establishing itself as the largest journalists' group representing over half a million journalists worldwide.

The IFJ fights for the social and professional rights of journalists. We believe fairness and social justice alongside professional independence and high-quality ethical journalism are essential for press freedom and the creation of a democratic media culture.

The 21st Century sees the world of journalism changing beyond recognition. Global media have transformed the information landscape as new communications technologies – the Internet and satellite communications – provide a platform for reinvigorated journalism and breaking news around the clock.

Journalists and their unions are at the heart of these changes. They are working in a tough new environment. The industry is competitive, employers are often combative and hostile to unions, jobs are hard to come by and journalists themselves – young and old – are expected to master new skills as technology transforms the nature of journalistic work.

IFJ unions are meeting the challenges of change by organizing campaigns that recruit new members – particularly those working in online media – as well as defending the traditional social and professional rights of staff and freelance. The IFJ is their voice at the regional and international level.

The IFJ is recognized by the United Nations and its agencies and by the Global Union movement. It speaks for journalists wherever and whenever their issues are on the table. Its headquarters are in Brussels and it has regional offices in Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

The IFJ provides a network ensuring that unions in dispute and those promoting journalists' rights get the support they need.



What does it stand for?

The International Federation of Journalists is an independent organisation that supports its member unions in the fight for freedom and justice for journalists across the globe.

Independence: The IFJ has no political affiliation. It is an advocate and resource for the creation of strong, representative and independent national unions for journalists. It promotes editorial independence and defends the moral and material interests of journalists, including their professional training and further education.

Freedom: The IFJ is part of the global press freedom movement. It defends core principles of free expression and strives to improve ethical, intellectual and professional standards of journalism through the creation of a democratic and pluralist media culture.

Justice: The IFJ is part of the global union movement. It demands decent and just working conditions for its members through the promotion of union solidarity. It organises and leads global campaigns with its member unions around key issues such as human rights, conditions of employment and professional freedom. In partnership with others it leads the fight for journalist safety in hostile regions.



There can be no press freedom if journalists exist in conditions of corruption, poverty or fear.

The IFJ motto sums up our philosophy. We give equal priority to the fight for social justice and the fight for freedom of expression. These twin objectives figure large in our missions, interventions and campaigns.

Freedom of speech and freedom of information are the lifeblood of journalistic work. They are of paramount importance to any journalists' union. Equally, journalists and media workers need free, independent and strong trade unions to protect their right to work in decent conditions.

We work on every continent to support these ideals, using a network of regional offices and project programmes. Recent campaigns and actions have been carried out in Iraq, Palestine, Russia, Colombia, Somalia, Ethiopia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Key facts

WHO: The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is a global confederation of journalist unions and associations. It is the world's largest journalists' organization, today* representing over 500,000 journalists in 161 unions in 117 countries.

WHAT: The IFJ is the global voice of journalism, helping journalists to work together for better conditions across communities, countries and continents.

WHEN: Since 1926, the IFJ has been fighting for journalists' rights. When journalists are imprisoned or their rights infringed, the IFJ is there to lobby governments, provide financial and moral support and coordinate solidarity actions with other unions.



WHERE: The IFJ has its headquarters in Brussels and regional offices in Caracas, Dakar and Sydney. The regional offices coordinate and support union activities in their part of the world. We also have a range of safety centres in hostile areas and support offices, such as that in Tokyo.

WHY: Without press freedom and independent journalism, democracy is meaningless. That's why the IFJ fights for the social and professional rights of journalists in all sectors of mass media – newspapers, radio, television, online or agencies. IFJ unions organise them all, whether fully employed staff or working freelance.

HOW: The IFJ speaks for journalists within the United Nations and within the international trade union movement. It is a voice for journalists' rights in national governments and the global media industry.



Unions stand for something

To be eligible for full membership, IFJ members must be committed to the defence of press freedom and professional rights of journalists and be trade unions which represent journalists, do not permit employers into regular membership and are open to all journalists in the national territory.

Groups that do not fulfil all of these conditions but are committed to defence of press freedom can become associate members of the IFJ with the right to attend and to speak, but not vote, at the IFJ Congress.

The IFJ supports member unions in their struggles against employers, governments and armed groups and helps to promote cross-border solidarity between unions.

The IFJ does not admit individual journalists and access to the IFJ Press Card is only available through national groups. The International Press Card can be issued to individual journalists who are members of an affiliated organization. It is a form of accreditation known and respected all over the world.

Ghana Journalists Association

General Secretary Bright Kwame Blewu:

“IFJ support for the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) was timely. It proved a remarkable period of capacity building for the association, founded in August 1949. Coming soon after the promulgation of Ghana’s 1992 Constitution it contributed immensely to the maturing of the GJA into a formidable professional body with an indomitable spirit that rigorously defends press freedom and freedom of expression in Ghana”.



Aallahissem Miangar, journalist from Chad:

“The IFJ is a body which provides concrete protection for the defense and improvement of working conditions for all journalists. When I arrived in Senegal as a refugee from Chad, the IFJ Regional Office in Africa gave me the opportunity to reconstruct my mental integrity and my sense of life. They straight away gave me a roof over my head and food to eat as well as showing deep concern for my family. The IFJ Africa Office rests as a solid shelter for all journalists and is a continuous reminder of the need for the IFJ’s work and future development.

Working around the world

The IFJ works closely with the major agencies of the United Nations and has consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights. The IFJ also represents journalists in contact with regional organizations such as the Council of Europe and the institutions of the European Union.

The IFJ cooperates with a range of organizations in defence of human rights, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, and the coalition of press freedom groups in the International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX) as well as the International News Safety Institute.

The IFJ represents member unions in the world trade union movement as one of 10 global unions associated with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The IFJ promotes cooperation between all groups in the media industry and pioneered structures for cooperation between journalists, on-air workers, broadcast technicians and print technicians.



The IFJ is both politically and financially independent. The core activities of the IFJ are paid for out of the annual membership fees contributed by member organizations. This pays for staff in its headquarters and regional offices.

In addition, IFJ activities include numerous projects that provide training, skills and knowledge essential to creating unity and strength among journalists' groups in some of the world's most dangerous and difficult regions. These may be financed from outside sources such as development agencies or international organizations. However, sponsorship of such work only takes place under controlled conditions, which respect the independence and integrity of the IFJ.

The IFJ acts globally

IFJ regional offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America coordinate local activities with journalists' organisations to build industrial and professional solidarity. The regional organisations identify priorities for activity and help execute programmes in coordination with the IFJ headquarters.

Regional office in Sydney, Australia:

In the Asia-Pacific Region, the IFJ's major initiative has been trade union development. The emphasis is on developing affiliates' capacity to train local journalists in union organisation. It has also led the fight to improve the safety and freedom of journalists in the region and intervenes when governments threaten journalists' rights.

Regional office in Caracas, Venezuela:

In Latin America, the focus has been on bolstering trade union development and collective bargaining, training journalists to protect their personal safety and promoting human rights and freedom of the press. The IFJ regional organisation, the Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Journalists (FEPALC), has also supported specific campaigns to aid journalists in worst-affected crisis areas such as Colombia and Haiti.



...and locally

Regional office in Dakar, Senegal:

In Sub-Saharan Africa, IFJ programmes support journalists' rights and safety, foster regional solidarity, promote union development and gender equality and are creating local networks of journalists' groups to fight for their rights.

Regional Office in Brussels:

The European member unions of the IFJ have their own regional group, the European Federation of Journalists, representing over 200,000 journalists. The EFJ organises expert working groups in key union issues including – labour rights, authors' rights, freelance rights, gender equality and public broadcasting. The EFJ lobbies the European institutions and national governments and organises solidarity actions in the defence of journalists' rights. The EFJ also oversees project activities in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the IFJ runs programmes for safety training, gender equality, trade union development and solidarity actions in support of democracy and press freedom.

Algerian National Syndicate General Secretary Rabah Abdellah:

“[The IFJ Solidarity Centre in Alger] strengthens indisputably the representation in Algiers and in the Maghreb of the biggest journalist organization in the world. Its contribution to trade union development in the country and in the region is immeasurable. It has been a key supporter of actions to defend press freedom and freedom of expression.”

Projects, campaigns and actions

The IFJ Projects' Division, established in 1998, is responsible for implementing project activities from Brussels and the regional offices. It is tasked with raising extra resources to implement the IFJ working programme, support key campaigns and provide IFJ affiliates with the capacity to defend their members' interests. The IFJ global project strategy focuses on three main areas – safety, globalization and capacity building for member unions. It is designed to help affiliates face new and demanding challenges in a profession that is changing rapidly.

► **Safety and Protection of Journalists**

Over the past 10 years, more than a 1000 journalists and media staff have been killed in the line of duty. Every occupation has its risks, and journalists, whose job is to bring into the open what has been hidden, are at greater risk than most. The risks today are unacceptably high. The creation of the International Safety Institute (INSI) in 2003 on the initiative of the IFJ represents a major step forward. The IFJ works with other INSI members to provide safety training, informational materials and assistance to journalists and media staff.



► Globalisation

The IFJ works with its affiliates to address the impact of globalisation. At stake is the quality of journalism and the conditions in which journalists work. The excessive concentration of media ownership into a handful of global players threatens to squeeze out competition and alternative news sources, to undermine editorial independence and compromise professional standards in exchange for higher revenues. Commercial broadcasters are also lobbying aggressively against public service broadcasting.

To defend their conditions and their rights, unions need to respond to globalisation by organising globally.

The main work of the IFJ and its member unions are:

1 To foster international solidarity by linking journalists' unions in different countries to strengthen organising within global media companies and to promote editorial independence and quality journalism;

2 To campaign vigorously for journalists' rights at work and professionally and to seek recognition for minimum international standards of professional and social rights;



3 To campaign for pluralism through limits on media ownership and the defence of public service values in broadcasting and all forms of media — including the Internet.

4 To demand that journalists' authors' rights are protected in a new media environment. Authors' rights have become central to demands for decent standards of pay and professional rights.

5 To demand decent employment conditions in media for all including the growing army of freelance workers as well as employed staff and new media players.

**Newspaper Guild-CWA President,
IFJ Vice-President Linda Foley:**

“The IFJ is a unified voice for working journalists in a world that has become increasingly dominated by global media conglomerates and their agendas. The IFJ speaks for journalists and journalistic values without taint that comes from corporate or political mandates.”

► **Union Building**

The right to investigate and report freely lies at the core of quality journalism. New pressures on editorial independence are hampering journalists' abilities to address their professional and social responsibilities. Journalists are also seeing their rights as workers erode as collective bargaining and other union rights are under attack around the world.

By supporting union building, the IFJ is:

- 1 Promoting professional rights** including, editorial independence, authors' rights, the protection of sources and improving the quality of journalism;
- 2 Supporting trade union rights**, including collective bargaining, freedom of association and support for unified national union structures;
- 3 Fighting for equality.** Through its international gender council, the IFJ has put the fight for gender equality at the heart of its programmes. The issue of discrimination in the workplace, both in terms of pay and conditions, as well as the fight for equality in society remains a key issue for IFJ unions.

Journalists and media workers need the capacity and skills to defend their professional and social rights and improve their working conditions. The IFJ strives to provide the necessary training and resources to journalists' organisations all around the world in a spirit of professional solidarity and with a strong emphasis on the defence of quality journalism, professionalism, democracy and pluralism.

Solidarity in action

Protecting Journalists in Nepal

In Nepal, journalists facing loss of income, ongoing intimidation, arbitrary arrest and violent attacks from both insurgent and government factions in the wake of a royal coup in early 2005 have received the full support of the IFJ and its network in the Asia-Pacific region. The IFJ, working with local organisations like the Federation of Nepalese Journalists, took part in negotiating the release of arrested journalists and drew international attention to the government's strangle-hold on the media and strict censorship.

Challenging Impunity in the Philippines

The perilous conditions faced by Filipino journalists made their country the second-most dangerous for journalists (topped only by Iraq) in 2006. In response to the rising death toll, the IFJ organised an international solidarity mission to the Philippines and a safety workshop for journalists. The IFJ is continuing long-term support for journalists in the Philippines by opening a safety office and launching a campaign promoting alternative grievance procedures for the public.

Humanity and Solidarity in Iraq

In 2006 the IFJ raised about 25,000 euros to help Iraqi journalists who organised solidarity actions and have become the world's most targeted media community.

“The IFJ came to us when we most needed help. The nightmare facing journalists in our country would be even worse without the support of our colleagues around the world through the IFJ,” said Shihab Al Tammimy, IJS President.

Union Building and Campaigning in Ukraine

In November 2004, Ukrainian journalists used the strength of workplace solidarity to launch the string of protests that brought a sudden end to the censorship imposed on national broadcasters during the Presidential election campaign. This was the culmination of much hard work. The IFJ contributed to this by helping develop the local and national structures and by leading international demands for the prosecution of the killers of Georgy Gongadze. Since then it has helped to further strengthen the national union movement by preparing it for the challenges of transition.



Sergey Guz, Chair of the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine

“IFJ provided crucial support to strengthening the national union and our campaigns against censorship and impunity. The IFJ monitoring mission helped negotiations with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to guarantee free speech during the Presidential election campaigns. Participation in IFJ conferences has enabled us to share our experiences and learn much from others who have faced the problems we will face.”

Maintaining Authors' Rights in France

The campaign for author's rights has been a core battle for the IFJ for many years and this commitment was tested after the French government commissioned an investigation of authors' rights when they proposed assigning all French authors' rights to their employers. The proposal sparked an outcry among EFJ affiliates, who said the transfer of authors' rights under an employment contract would contradict the International Berne Convention on authors' rights (to which France is a signatory) and could pave the way for the introduction of the Anglo-American copyright system in France. In the wake of a co-ordinated EFJ protest, the plan was reversed and French journalists maintain their rights.

Protecting European Union Journalists from Harsh Defamation Laws

In 2006 the IFJ led a chorus of protest over attacks by governments on journalists in the Netherlands, Denmark, the UK, Germany and Italy, where, under the guise of combating terrorism, authorities have been trying – legally

and illegally – to intimidate journalists by seeking to find their sources of information with unjustified surveillance of their activities.

Fighting the Intimidation and Murder of Journalists in Colombia

The IFJ has had a decade-long campaign against the killing of journalists in Latin America and all over the world. One of the most dangerous countries for working journalists is Colombia, where perilous conditions for journalists have existed for decades. The IFJ has opened a Solidarity Center in Columbia, which fights to protect and promote press freedom and the human rights of journalists.

West African Unions Band Together for Collective Bargaining

The IFJ Africa office has been working in tandem with journalists unions and other regional groups to lobby for better working conditions. In 2004, under the initiative of the West African Journalist Association and with the support of other groups, the IFJ Africa office played a significant role in the creation and adoption of a Standard Framework Collective Agreement for West Africa.

Challenging Restrictive Media Laws in Sierra Leone

In the past decade, many African countries have passed restrictive media laws that have led to the arrest, jailing and killing of many journalists. The IFJ Africa office has supported numerous legal challenges to these laws including a recent case in Sierra Leone, where it has fought harsh laws that have endangered journalists and restricted their freedom.

Changing the Face of Journalism in the Crisis-Torn Middle East

The IFJ has been in the forefront of efforts to support journalists in Palestine and Iraq who work in one of the world's most dangerous regions. Safety training programmes, a raft of Arabic texts supporting union and professional freedom and direct support action to journalists caught in the crossfire of conflict have increased confidence among journalists in the area who strive for unity and democracy in a landscape scarred by decades of autocratic rule and oppression.

Protecting Journalists on the Firing Line

The IFJ has been campaigning for 20 years to improve safety standards for journalists. Simple acts of solidarity have often been the most effective antidotes to the persecution of reporters.

The IFJ:

- ▷ Created safety offices in Algeria, Colombia, Iraq, Nepal and Palestine. These offices provide a physical presence in dangerous areas and a base for projects development.
- ▷ Starts and supports campaigns directed at world leaders that demand the release of those who have been imprisoned, seek assurances of the safety of detained journalists or ask for high-level investigations into attacks on journalists.
- ▷ Compiles an annual list of casualties, tracking the killings of journalists all over the globe. The goal is to honour colleagues who have lost their lives in the struggle for free expression and to fight the growing culture of impunity that leads to more and more targeted killings.



The IFJ was one of the founding members of the International News Safety Institute (INSI) in 2003. INSI is a coalition of media organisations, press freedom groups, unions and humanitarian campaigners dedicated to the safety of journalists and media staff and committed to fighting the persecution of journalists. The working programme of the Institute provides an information service covering all aspects of news safety and includes an extensive programme of risk-awareness training for media staff in poorer regions where news gatherers are routinely under pressure but where economic and social conditions deny them access to even the most basic safety services.

The IFJ also administers the Safety Fund, which awards grants to journalists who are being persecuted or are in danger or in exile because of stories they have written.

The Safety Fund supports journalists

GAMBIA

The IFJ Safety Fund supported in total three Gambian journalists who were forced to flee the country in 2006. After officials at the Gambian Press Union were tortured, one official and another journalist fled the country. Later in 2006, the IFJ Safety Fund also gave support for a Gambian newspaper journalist forced to flee the country after hearing that intelligence services were looking for him.

IRAQ

In 2006, the IFJ started a special fund for Iraqi journalists who have faced shocking violence as the security situation in the country has deteriorated. The fund was launched on June 15, 2006, with a day of international solidarity with Iraqi journalists.

PALESTINE

In 2006, the Fund made a one-time €10,000 grant to families of 9 Palestinian journalists who were killed in recent years in the region. The grant was to help them cover some of the families' basic needs.

COLOMBIA

The fund provided assistance to two Colombian journalists who received threats and were forced to leave the country. A third threatened journalist received support while he stayed in Colombia in 2006. A fourth journalist received funding to reopen his newspaper, which had been closed after an assassination attempt against him by a far-right paramilitary group.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Safety Fund provided support in 2006 to the family of a murdered Congolese journalist. It also helped two journalists who received threats move out of Kinshasa with their families.

INDONESIA

The Safety Fund sent more funds to victims of the Tsunami, for which it started a special fund in 2005.

IRAN

In early 2006, the Fund gave support to the families of up to 48 Iranian colleagues who died in a tragic air crash outside Tehran in December 2005.

TUNISIA

The Fund provided assistance to a Tunisian journalist in 2006 after the government prevented media outlets from hiring him after he wrote articles about human rights abuses in Tunisia.

IRAN/TURKEY

The Fund provided money for travel costs for an Iranian journalist seeking asylum in Turkey in 2006.

Declaration of principles on the conduct of journalists

“This international Declaration is proclaimed as a standard of professional conduct for journalists engaged in gathering, transmitting, disseminating and commenting on news and information in describing events.

1 Respect for truth and for the right of the public to truth is the first duty of the journalist.

2 In pursuance of this duty, the journalist shall at all times defend the principles of freedom in the honest collection and publication of news, and of the right of fair comment and criticism.

3 The journalist shall report only in accordance with facts of which he/she knows the origin. The journalist shall not suppress essential information or falsify documents.

4 The journalist shall use only fair methods to obtain news, photographs and documents.

5 The journalist shall do the utmost to rectify any published information which is found to be harmfully inaccurate.

6 The journalist shall observe professional secrecy regarding the source of information obtained in confidence.



7 The journalist shall be aware of the danger of discrimination being furthered by the media, and shall do the utmost to avoid facilitating such discrimination based on, among other things, race, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinions, and national or social origins.

8 The journalist shall regard as grave professional offences the following:

Plagiarism: malicious misrepresentation:

Calumny: slander, libel, unfounded accusations;

Acceptance of a bribe in any form in consideration of either publication or suppression.

9 Journalists worthy of the name shall deem it their duty to observe faithfully the principles stated above. Within the general law of each country the journalist shall recognise in professional matters the jurisdiction of colleagues only, to the exclusion of every kind of interference by governments or others.”

(Adopted by the 1954 World Congress of the IFJ.
Amended by the 1986 World Congress.)

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