

# Roll Call of Deaths and Tragedies

Journalists and Media Staff  
Killed in **2019**



Noori · Shafiq Arya · Rahimullah Rahmani · Sultan Mohan  
Shah · Nader Shah Shebzadeh · Robson Giorno · Romario da  
s · Obed Nangbatna · Libardo Montenegro · Ahmed Mehana · A  
sein Suale · Rospide Petion · Néhémie Joseph · Leonardo  
nández · Edgar Joel Aguilar · Mohamed Ben Khalifa · Rafael  
nriquez · Jesús Ramos Rodriguez · Samir Flores · Santiago  
aro · Telésforo Santiago Enríquez · Francisco Romero Diaz  
arabia Garduza · Rogelio Barragan Pérez · Celestino Jorge Rui  
Nevith Condés Jaramillo · Precious Owolabi · Aman Ullah C  
sher Rajper · Mirza Waseem Baig · Zafar Abbas · Eduardo Di  
an Bakir · Anas al-Dyab · Saad Ahme  
Yousef · Vadym Komarov · Lyra  
Charles Wandiw  
Parker

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# Roll Call of Deaths and Tragedies

## IFJ General Secretary's Introduction



**ANTHONY  
BELLANGER**  
IFJ GENERAL  
SECRETARY

This report on journalists and media staff killed in 2019, the last of the decade, highlights two major and welcome developments about the safety in media.

On one hand, for the first time since 2000, the journalists' killings dipped below 50 to 49 deaths which were confirmed by the International Federation of Journalists and its affiliates around the world as work-related incidents leading to loss of lives of media professionals.

Latin America recorded the highest death toll of 18 killings, followed by Asia Pacific with 12, Africa on 9, Middle East and Arab World on 8 before Europe posting two fatalities.

There were also six deaths caused by a road accident which killed five media workers in Tanzania while a plane crash in the United States of America claimed the life of one news anchor. As in previous reports, our annual reports are always published with a caveat; we only report cases that are known to us and meet the criteria for this publication.

The sections in this report provide details of these cases in different regions, which confirm the long standing trends of disproportionate targeting of journalists in their own cities, communities and countries over their reporting on abuse of power, corruption and crime.

Notwithstanding the significant drop in the killings, the fact that in a year of waning bloody conflicts, almost 50 killings of journalists were recorded in 18 countries from the four corners of the world stands out as a moment of reckoning in the campaign to end media crisis.

Indeed, there may be some reason to cause further alarm as violence against journalists crept up in places long considered as low risk countries, such as Ghana and Zambia which experienced unprecedented attacks on media professionals there.

On the other hand, there was good news on the issue of impunity from crime against journalists. In the Philippines, the wheel of justice finally turned in the positive direction with guilty verdicts against the masterminds of the Mindanao massacre of 23 November 2009, the single deadliest attack on media with 32 journalists killed in that incident.

***"... many of the victims are our members and we owe it to them, their families and colleagues as well as to the profession they have served so well and for which they paid the ultimate sacrifice."***

After ten years of judicial twists and turns, Ampatuan brothers Datu Andal Jr, Zaldy, and Anwar Sajid were convicted of 57 counts of murder for their role in the massacre and were sentenced to life imprisonment or 40 years without parole. This ruling represented a blow to impunity in a country with one of poorest records for accountability.

There are prospects of breakthrough in other cases, including the killings of the Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in 2017, after the arrests of powerful figures in connection with her murder. There were also arrests and charges against suspects in connection of the killing of Slovakian journalist Jan Kuciak in 2018.

These are all encouraging signs of the political will which is needed to address the issue of impunity for crime targeting journalists. But it often takes the dogged campaign by the International Federation, the Federation of journalists and their affiliates to move governments into action.

Unfortunately, cases of success in this endeavour remain few and far between and there is still a lot of work to do in the face of sustained attack on media safety. As journalists' organisations, we need to stay mobilised and redouble our resolve to overcome this challenge.

After all, many of the victims are our members and we owe it to them, their families and colleagues as well as to the profession they have served so well and for which they paid the ultimate sacrifice.

# We remember ...

## Gender Council Statement



**MARÍA ANGELES SAMPERIO**  
IFJ GENDER COUNCIL CHAIR COUNCIL

As we embark on a new year, we must first look back: to mourn those of our sisters and brothers who have lost their lives in the line of work over the past year and to honour their memory. It is important to record these deaths but also to inform and strengthen our work to combat impunity for all forms of violence against journalists in this most serious of threats to press freedom.

With this in mind, the IFJ and its Gender Council have been investigating and recording acts of violence against women journalists for the past several years, including recording the deaths of our sister journalists.

Last year, we lost five sister journalists and media workers killed in 2019, including two who died in accidents:

On 18 April, **Lyra McKee**, the 29-year-old freelance journalist and author, was shot dead while she was covering the riots at the Creggan housing estate in the city of Londonderry (Derry), Northern Ireland. The riots took place in the run-up to the Easter weekend, which also marks the anniversary of a 1916 uprising British rule. According to media reports, Lyra McKee was killed after a gunman appeared and fired shots towards the police position near which she was standing.

On 11 June, **Norma Sarabia Garduza**, the correspondent for *Tobasco Hoy* newspaper based in Huimanguillo was gunned down outside her home by two unidentified gunmen on a motorbike. The veteran journalist who had worked at the newspaper for 15 years covering violence in Huimanguillo and had received death threats, was shot dead as she was arriving home. According to the Sindicato Nacional de Redactores de la Prensa (SNRP), an IFJ affiliate, Ms Garduza had recently stopped signing most of her reports in her name.

***“It is important to record these deaths but also to inform and strengthen our work to combat impunity for all forms of violence against journalists in this most serious of threats to press freedom.”***

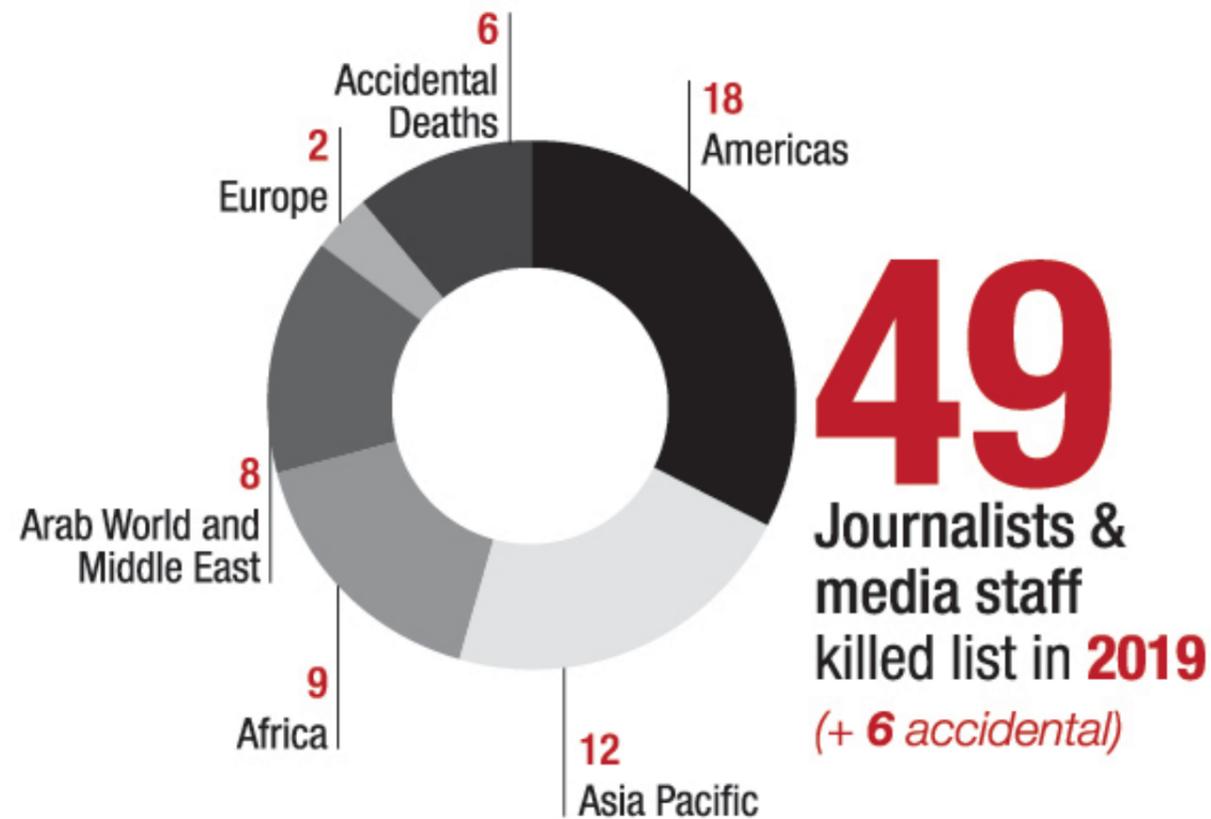
On 12 July, **Hodan Nalayeh**, the 43-year old prominent Somali journalist was killed in a suicide attack on the Media Hotel located in the Somali port city of Kismayo. Ms Nalaye had returned to Somalia from Canada and started an online TV called Integration TV, to promoted Somalia’s transformation.

On 15 July, **Florence Ndibalema**, the sound technician for Azam Media Group in Tanzania was among five media professionals who died in a road accident when the vehicle they were travelling in collided with a lorry in Kizonzo, between Igunga (Tabora) and Shelui (Singida) on their way to cover an event in Chato to be presided over by President Pombe Magufuli.

On 18 August, **Nancy Parker**, the 53-year-old veteran anchor of Fox affiliated WVUE (Fox 8) in New Orleans, United States of America, died when a small stunt plane in which she was shooting a story crashed, killing her and the pilot. Investigators said the plane was planning to land when it crashed in an open field. Ms Parker had worked at the station for 23 years, according to media reports.

# Targeted, Bomb Attacks and Cross Fire Killings

List **49**



| COUNTRY        | NAME                         | POSITION                  | EMPLOYER                         | DATE       |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| AFGHANISTAN    | Javid Noori                  | Journalist                | Radio Neshat                     | 05/01/2019 |
|                | Shafiq Arya                  | News Editor               | Radio Hamsada                    | 05/02/2019 |
|                | Rahimullah Rahmani           | Presenter                 | Radio Hamsada                    | 05/02/2019 |
|                | Sultan Mohammad Kairkhah     | Journalist                | Zhman TV                         | 17/03/2019 |
|                | Nader Shah Shebzadeh         | Talk show host            | Radio Garder Ghar                | 07/13/2019 |
| BRAZIL         | Robson Giorno                | Journalist                | Jornal O Marica                  | 25/05/2019 |
|                | Romario da Silva Barros      | Founder and director      | Lei Secca Maricá                 | 20/06/2019 |
| CHAD           | Obed Nangbatna               | Cameraman                 | Télé Tchad                       | 26/05/2019 |
| COLOMBIA       | Libardo Montenegro           | Presenter                 | Estéreo Radio                    | 12/06/2019 |
| CONGO          | Papy Mumbere Mahamba         | Journalist                | Community radio of Lwebma        | 02/11/2019 |
| INDIA          | K Satyanarayana              | Reporter                  | Andhra Jyothi                    | 17/10/2019 |
| IRAQ           | Ahmed Mehana                 | Photojournalist           | Iraqi Media Network              | 06/12/2019 |
| GHANA          | Ahmed Hussein Suale          | Investigative journalist  | Tiger Eye Private Investigations | 16/01/2019 |
| HAITI          | Rospide Petion               | Radio Journalist          | Le Nouvelliste newspaper         | 10/06/2019 |
|                | Néhémie Joseph               | Radio Journalist          | Radio Panique                    | 10/10/2019 |
| HONDURAS       | Leonardo Gabriel Hernández   | Journalist                | Valle TV                         | 17/03/2019 |
|                | Edgar Joel Aguilar           | Correspondent             | Canal Seis                       | 08/31/2019 |
|                | José Arita                   | Presenter                 | La Hora de la Verdad             | 26/11/2019 |
|                | Mohamed Ben Khalifa          | Photojournalist           | Associated Press                 | 19/01/2019 |
|                | Rafael Murua Manriquez       | Director                  | Radiokashana                     | 20/01/2019 |
| MEXICO         | Jesús Ramos Rodriguez        | Presenter                 | Radio Oye 99.9 FM                | 09/02/2019 |
|                | Samir Flores                 | Founder and presenter     | Amiltzinko                       | 20/02/2019 |
|                | Santiago Barroso Alfaro      | Journalist                |                                  | 16/03/2019 |
|                | Telésforo Santiago Enríquez  | Founder                   | El Cafetal                       | 02/05/2019 |
|                | Francisco Romero Diaz        | Reporter                  | Quinta Roo Hoy                   | 16/05/2019 |
|                | Norma Sarabia Garduza        | Correspondent             | Tabasco Hoy                      | 11/06/2019 |
|                | Rogelio Barragan Pérez       | Journalist                | Guerrero Al Instante             | 30/07/2019 |
|                | Celestino Jorge Ruiz Vazquez | Reporter                  | El Grafico de Xalapa             | 02/08/2019 |
|                | Nevith Condés Jaramillo      | Journalist                | El Observatorio del Sur          | 24/08/2019 |
|                | Precious Owolabi             | Reporter                  | Channels Television              | 07/22/2019 |
| NIGERIA        | Aman Ullah Gharro            | Journalist                | Janbaz and Meezan-e-Adal         | 30/04/2019 |
|                | Ali Sher Rajper              | Journalist                | Awami Awaz                       | 05/04/2019 |
| PAKISTAN       | Mirza Waseem Baig            | Journalist                | 92 News                          | 08/30/2019 |
|                | Zafar Abbas                  | Journalist                | DAWN                             | 09/12/2019 |
|                | Eduardo Dizon                | Anchor/Presenter          | Brigada News FM radio            | 07/10/2019 |
| PHILIPPINES    | Dindo Generoso               | Radio Broadcaster         | DYEM 96.7 Bai Radio              | 07/11/2019 |
|                | Mohamed Omar Sahal           | Correspondent             | SBC TV                           | 07/12/2019 |
| SOMALIA        | Hodan Nalayeh                | TV Journalist             | SBC TV                           | 07/12/2019 |
|                | Abdinasir Abdulle Ga'al      | Cameraman                 | Government-controlled            | 08/14/2019 |
|                |                              |                           | Radio-Somali National Army       |            |
| SYRIA          | Amjad Hassan Bakir           | Freelance Photojournalist |                                  | 18/06/2019 |
|                | Anas al-Dyab                 | Photojournalist           | Agence France Presse             | 21/07/2019 |
|                | Saad Ahmed                   | Journalist                | Hawar Anha News Agency           | 13/10/2019 |
|                | Mohamed Hussein              | Correspondent             | Çira TV                          | 14/10/2019 |
|                | Abdul Hameed al-Yousef       | Photojournalist           | Kafr Rumah                       | 10/11/2019 |
| UKRAINE        | Vadym Komarov                | Investigative journalist  | Dzvin                            | 06/20/2019 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | Lyra McKee                   | Freelance journalist      |                                  | 18/04/2019 |
| YEMEN          | Ziad al-Sharaabi             | Cameraman                 | Abu Dhabi TV                     | 28/01/2019 |
|                | Ghalib Belhash               | Freelance Photojournalist |                                  | 05/05/2019 |
| ZAMBIA         | Humphery Nkonde              | Investigative Journalist  | Catholic run Mission Press       | 02/10/2019 |

# Accidental Deaths

## List 6

| COUNTRY                  | NAME               | POSITION                | EMPLOYER          | DATE       |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| TANZANIA                 | Said Haji          | Cameraman               | Azam Media Group  | 15/07/2019 |
|                          | Charles Wandwi     | Cameraman               | Azam Media Group  | 15/07/2019 |
|                          | Salim Mhando       | Vision mixer            | Azam Media Group  | 15/07/2019 |
|                          | Florence Ndibalema | Sound Technician        | Azama Media Group | 15/07/2019 |
|                          | Silvanus Kasongo   | Broadcasting Technician | Azam Media Group  | 15/07/2019 |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | Nancy Parker       | Journalist              | WVUE FOX 8        | 18/08/2019 |

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# Journalists Killed by Region

## AFRICA

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Chad                         | 1 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 1 |
| Ghana                        | 1 |
| Libya                        | 1 |
| Nigeria                      | 1 |
| Somalia                      | 3 |
| Tanzania                     | 5 |
| Zambia                       | 1 |

## AMERICAS

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Brazil                   | 2  |
| Colombia                 | 1  |
| Haiti                    | 2  |
| Honduras                 | 3  |
| Mexico                   | 10 |
| United States of America | 1  |

## ASIA-PACIFIC

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Afghanistan | 5 |
| India       | 1 |
| Pakistan    | 4 |
| Philippines | 2 |

## EUROPE

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Ukraine        | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 1 |

## MIDDLE EAST & ARAB WORLD

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Iraq  | 1 |
| Syria | 5 |
| Yemen | 2 |



# Africa

## Regional overview

9

Targeted,  
bomb attacks  
and cross  
fire killings

5

Accidental  
deaths

The situation of journalists' safety in Africa during 2019 reflects the global outlook, with a slight decrease in killings from 12 last year to nine recorded in seven countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Chad, Somalia and Zambia). But violence on journalists still lurks from different sources on the continent.

Two journalists in Somalia, **Hodan Nalayeh** and **Mohamed Salah Omar**, were victims of a bomb attack by Al-Shabaab militants at a hotel in the Somali port city of Kismayo. Another, cameraman **Abdinasir Ga' al**, died in another attack targeting a military base in Shabelle region, making the country top the list once again of the most dangerous country for journalists in Africa. However, violence by extremists' groups was not confined to the Horn of Africa as an embedded cameraman for the Chadian public broadcaster service was also killed along with four Chadian soldiers when their vehicle hit a road mine in the east of the country.

Two more journalists were killed in cross fire incidents, one of shelling in the Libyan capital Tripoli which killed AP photojournalist **Mohamed Ben Khalifa**, who was covering clashes between militia groups. In Nigeria, Channel Television reporter **Precious Owolabi**, who was covering protests by members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) in Abuja, was hit by a stray bullet.

The year also saw attacks on investigative journalists from countries which had hitherto been considered friendly to journalists, Ghana and Zambia. **Ahmed Hussien Suale Divelan**, the 34-year old Ghanaian investigative journalist and a member of the award-winning journalists' team which exposed corruption in African football, was shot dead in a suburb of Accra by men on a motorbike shortly after a prominent politician had appeared on a private television, showing the journalist's photograph and offering "payment supporters who take retribution against him."

The fate of his Zambian colleague, **Humphery Nkonde**, was of a rather obscure nature and shrouded in suspicious handling by the authorities. The journalist had gone missing the day before he was due to travel to Germany for training in investigative journalism. His body was found floating on a lake, ten days after his disappearance. The police hastily arranged for his burial, without informing his family even though there were ID documents found on his body.

These cases are a reminder of the persisting risks facing investigative journalists in Africa and elsewhere from those seeking to prevent their wrong doings being exposed. But it seems as though the open season on journalists got somewhat worse in 2019, with the killing of **Papy Mumbere Mahamba**, a Congolese journalist in the northeastern province of Ituri. The victim was targeted by suspected members of a local armed group who fatally attacked him, injured his wife and burned down the family home because of his programme on a community radio which campaigned against the Ebola epidemic.

***"There are still too many crimes against journalists which go unpunished, entrenching further the scourge of impunity. This remains the main challenge to overcome, which is the top priority for African journalists."***

But, the story about journalism on the continent is not all about doom and gloom. A lot of work has been done by media organisations on the continent through their engagements with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights. This close collaboration between journalists' organisations and the Commission has ensured there is a consensus to consider attacks such as murders of journalists and other media workers as serious obstacles that undermine "independent journalism, freedom of expression and the free flow of information to the public". However, African Governments are yet to demonstrate a genuine political will to bring the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice. There are still too many crimes against journalists which go unpunished, entrenching further the scourge of impunity. This remains the main challenge to overcome, which is the top priority for African journalists.



# Africa Narrative

## Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings

### JANUARY 16 – GHANA

**Ahmed Hussein Suale**, a 34-year-old investigative journalist was shot and killed in his car by unknown assailants riding a motorbike in Medina, a suburb of the capital, Accra. He was shot three times in the chest and neck and died on the spot. Hussein was a member of the team led by award-winning journalist Anas Aremeyaw that exposed corruption in African football. According to AFP, Suale had lodged a complaint with the police shortly before his killing, after Ghanaian politician Kennedy Agyapong had showed his photograph on a private television channel promising “payment for supporters who took retribution against Hussein”.

### JANUARY 19 – LIBYA

**Mohamed Ben Khalifa**, a 35-year-old Libyan photographer who worked for Associated Press news agency was killed Saturday south of Libyan capital Tripoli, where he was covering militia clashes, a medical source and family said, according to French news agency AFP. Mohamed Ben Khalifa was killed by shellfire that hit the positions of a Tripoli militia that he was accompanying, security sources said. Khalifa had been a photographer and cameraman for AP since 2014, was married and father to a six-month-old baby.

### MAY 26 – CHAD

**Obed Nagbatna**, a cameraman for the Chadian public broadcaster service was killed along with four Chadian soldiers when their vehicle hit a road mine in the east of the country. According to media reports, they were in the military convoy on its way to an army position which had been attacked by militants of Boko Haram group in the locality of Ngounboua, in Lake Chad province. Nangbatna was seriously injured in the attack and died, reports added.



Libyan journalists hold a portrait of fellow reporter Mohammed bin Khalifa. Credits: MAHMUD TURKIA / AFP



### JULY 12 – SOMALIA

**Mohamed Omar Sahal**, **Hodan Nalayeh**, the two TV journalists were killed in a suicide attack on the Media Hotel located in the Somali port city of Kismayo. 35-year-old Sahal was the correspondent of SBC TV in Kismayo and 43-year-old Ms Nalaye was a prominent TV journalist. She had returned to Somalia from Canada and started an online TV called Integration TV, to promote Somalia's transformation. After the car blast, gunmen forced their way in the hotel and went on a shooting spree, which left 26 people killed and 53 others injured, according to media reports.



### JULY 22 – NIGERIA

**Precious Owolabi**, a reporter for Channels Television was shot dead on 22 July while covering a protest by members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) in Abuja. According to the National Union of Journalists in Nigeria (NUJ), an IFJ affiliate, Owolabi was covering the protest when he was hit by a stray bullet that killed him instantly. The NUJ was not able to confirm who fired the fatal shot. He was among at least 13 other people, including a police officer, who were killed and several others injured during clashes between protesters and security officers, local media reports say. Violence broke out during a march organised by the members of IMN to demand for the release of their leader, Sheik Ibrahim El-Zakzaky.



### AUGUST 14 – SOMALIA

**Abdinasir Abdulle Ga'al**, a 24-year-old cameraman working for government-controlled Radio Station, Somali National Army, was killed Mogadishu in a bomb attack targeting the local military base located in Awdheegle of the Lower Shabelle region 70 kilometers southwest of capital Mogadishu. The blast was one of the two attacks carried out by the militants of Al-Shabaab group.

Members of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Congolese Red Cross go door-to-door in the Beni neighbourhoods, northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, to listen to families about their fear of the Ebola virus and the response teams. Photo credit: Alexis Huguet / AFP



## July 15 - Tanzania

### Accidental Deaths

Five media professionals from Azam Media Group, a privately owned news organisation in Tanzania, died in a road accident when the vehicle they were travelling in collided with a lorry in Kizonzo, between Igunga (Tabora) and Shelui (Singida) on their way to cover an event in Chato to be presided over by President Pombe Magufuli.

The Azam Media Group named the five victims as cameramen **Said Haji**, vision mixer **Charles Wandwi**, sound technicians **Salim Mhando** and **Florence Ndibalema** and broadcasting technician **Silvanus Kasongo**.



## OCTOBER 2 – ZAMBIA

**Humphery Nkonde**, the investigative journalist and assistant editor at the Catholic run Mission Press, in the northern town of Ndola, was found dead under mysterious circumstances. His body was found floating on a lake in the rural district of Masaiti, exactly ten days after he had gone missing. He was hastily buried by the police at Kantulomba Cemetery in Ndola in the absence of his family, even though there were some identification documents that were found on him. Humphery went missing on 22 September, a day before he was due to travel to Germany for a journalism training programme.

## NOVEMBER 2 – DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**Papy Mumbere Mahamba**, a journalist for the community radio of Lwebma in Ituri province, north east of the country, was killed by unidentified attackers at his home after he had presented a programme on Ebola epidemic. His wife was also injured by attackers who burned down the family house. Media reports said that Mahamba had not received threats but the Mai Mai, a local armed group had warned against any role in fighting Ebola disease. According to l'Observatoire africain de la liberté de la presse (OALP), many radio stations in Mambasa area had stopped broadcasting programmes on Ebola since September because of the open hostility from the majority of the local population and out of fear for reprisals.



# The Americas

## Regional overview

18

Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings

2019 was marked by a continuous trend in violence against journalists and communicators in Latin America and the Caribbean. The region recorded the highest death toll in the world, with 18 confirmed killings.

1

Accidental deaths

Mexico was the most dangerous country in the region and the world with ten killings of media professionals in an attempt to reduce them to silence. Unfortunately, now as in previous years, there is no end in sight to the situation of violence against media professionals. The killings of 2019 add to the list of dozens of deaths that have been accumulating since 2000 in total impunity.

Indeed, there was another hot spot in the region for journalists as violence targeting them erupted in Haiti, a conflict-stricken country. Two journalists were murdered and three others were attacked with firearms. In one of these cases, the aggressor was a senator who opened fire on the press covering a vote in the National Congress.

In fact, Mexico and Haiti offer two study cases for the safety crisis in media across the Latin American and Caribbean region. Journalism is under threat from both organised crime cartels in Mexico and by the political establishment that seeks to undermine the free flow of information in Haiti. In both situations, the consequence of these threats is the curtailing of democracy and the denial of the people's right to be informed.

It is also important to emphasize the risk of the resurgence of risks from the darkest times in the region, when journalists suffered under dictatorial regimes often arising from bloody coups d'état.

In this sense, it is worth mentioning the blatant violations of human rights of Chileans at the hands of the army and the state police while carrying out their professional work in covering social protests that have spread throughout the country. Arbitrary detentions, aggressions and intimidation are counted by the dozens, in a situation of tension that at the time of writing this report shows no perspective of abetting.

Una activista exige defender la libertad de prensa en Ciudad de México. CRÉDITOS: ALFREDO ESTRELLA / AFP



Similarly, the political crisis in Bolivia which was sparked by the disputed Presidential election and the subsequent resignation of former President Morales in November, resulted in various forms of harassment, threats of imprisonment by the de facto authorities, direct physical attacks by the military and security forces, accusations of sedition, and other human rights violations.

**“...the consequence of these threats is the curtailing of democracy and the denial of the people's right to be informed.”**



# The Americas

## Narrative

### Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings

#### FEBRUARY 2 – MEXICO

**Jesús Ramos Rodríguez**, a presenter at Radio Oye 99.9 FM where he hosted a News programme entitled 'Nuestra Región Hoy' based in the city of Emiliano Zapata was shot dead by unidentified gunman while he was having breakfast in a local hotel. According to local media, the gunman walked in and headed to the place where the journalist was before opening fire from close range.

#### FEBRUARY 11 – MEXICO

**Rafael Murua Manriquez**, a 34-year-old director of Radio Kashana, a community radio station in the town of Mulege in Baja California Sur, was found dead inside his car after he was reported missing the day before. According to local reports, the journalist's body showed signs of violence. Murua had received death threats at the end of 2018 from local officials and was admitted into the programme for the protection of journalists, media reports added.

#### FEBRUARY 20 – MEXICO

**Samir Flores**, a presenter for Amiltzinko, a community radio which he founded, was gunned down on his way to anchor his morning programme. A day before his killing, Flores who was also a vocal critic of a thermoelectric installation in Huexca and a pipeline which crosses tribal area in the state of Morelos, had attended a public consultation over these projects following protests related to their adverse impact on the environment.

#### MARCH 16 – MEXICO

**Santiago Barroso Alfaro**, a radio journalist, who presented a programme entitled "San Luis Hoy" was killed in his home, a day after he had denounced the string of people linked to human and drug trafficking in Sonora. Santiago Barroso Alfaro also edited an online news outlet Red 635 and collaborated with Contraseña, a local weekly where, in his

last column, he had reported that the corridor San Luis Rio Colorado in Sonora, México, was used for illegal human and drug trafficking. He had warned that it would be a grave error to focus on destroying the empire built by the convicted drug patron Joaquín Guzmán Loera, without also addressing the San Luis Rio Colorado corridor.

#### MARCH 17 – HONDURAS

**Leonardo Gabriel Hernandez**, the journalist, and an outspoken critic of the local administration officials and the national government, was shot dead by unidentified gunman. Hernández, who presented the programme "El Pueblo Habla" broadcast on Valle TV, based in south of Honduras dedicated himself to reporting on local politics and social issues.

#### MAY 2 – MEXICO

**Telésforo Santiago Enríquez**, the founder of community radio El Cafetal de San Augustin Loxicha based in Oaxaca, was shot dead by unknown gunmen while he was driving to work. Enrique was known for his defence of rights of indigenous people and he was open critic of local administration's officials.

#### MAY 16 – MEXICO

**Francis Romero Diaz**, the body of the photojournalist, who had received death threats and was admitted into the national mechanism for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders of the Interior Ministry, was found lifeless with gunshot wounds and blows to the face in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo Hoy State. Francisco Romero Diaz was also a crime reporter in the city of Playa del Carmen and collaborated with various media including Playa News whose founder Rubén Prat was murdered in July 2018.

#### MAY 25 – BRAZIL

**Robson Giorno**, the founder of *Jornal O Maricá*, a news website based in the coastal town of Maricá in Rio de Janeiro, was shot dead outside his home by unidentified gunmen who knocked on his door and shot him six times from their car, according to media reports.

Giorno covered local news and politics, often reportedly denouncing corruption. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) quoted one of Giorno's friends as saying that the journalist had received threats and bought a bullet-proof car, days before his killing.

#### JUNE 10 – HAITI

**Rospide Petion**, a journalist for Radio Sin Fin (RsF), a private radio based in Port-au-Prince was attacked by armed men and shot dead while driving home after presenting a radio programme. His death occurred in the context of an escalation of violence in the Caribbean country, where police are harshly repressing demonstrations against President Jovenel Moïse. Radio Sin Fin (RsF) focuses on political analysis of the situation in the Caribbean nation.

## JUNE 11 – MEXICO

**Norma Sarabia Garduza**, the correspondent for *Tobasco Hoy* newspaper based in Huimanguillo, was gunned down outside her home by two unidentified gunmen on a motorbike. The veteran journalist who had worked at the newspaper for 15 years covering violence in Huimanguillo and had received death threats, was shot dead as she was arriving home. According to the Sindicato Nacional de Redactores de la Prensa (SNRP), an IFJ affiliate, Ms Garduza had recently stopped signing most of her reports in her name.

## JUNE 12 – COLUMBIA

**Libardo Montenegro**, the 20-year-old veteran journalist who presented the morning program *El Despertador* of the *Samaniego Estéreo* radio station *Estéreo*, based in the department of Nariño, was murdered by hired assassins. The community radio station where Montenegro worked is part of the initiative *Radios Para la Paz*, a platform that seeks to strengthen the presence of community media through proposals linked to peace and culture. The crime took place in the context of an upsurge in violence in the department, where 18 social leaders and human rights defenders were murdered in 2019.

## JUNE 20 – BRAZIL

**Romario da Silva Barros**, the founder and director of the local news outlet *Lei Secca Maricá* was shot three times by at least two unidentified gunmen as he was in his car, killing him on the spot. According to police sources quoted in the *O Dia* newspaper, the motive for the journalist's killing might have been ordered due to his work.

## JULY 30 – MEXICO

**Rogelio Barragán Pérez**, the body of 49-year-old online journalist was found in the trunk of his own car in the town of Zacatepec of central Morelos state, according to local media reports. Pérez was a veteran local journalist who worked for two news organisations, *Ecos de Guerrero* and *Agencia Informativa Guerrero*. He later founded an online news website, *Guerrero Al Instante*, focusing police and court matters, reports added.

Reporters Without Borders quoted Pérez's friends as saying that the journalist had ceased signing his articles, out of fear for his safety.

## AUGUST 2 – MEXICO

**Celestino Jorge Ruiz Vázquez**, the journalist who worked for *El Gráfico* newspaper and had state protection ordered by the Special Prosecutor's Office for Election Crimes and Crimes against Freedom of Expression following death threats received in 2018, was shot dead in the municipality of Actopan in Veracruz State. Last year, he had survived an attempt on his life when gunmen opened fire on his car. According to media reports, Vázquez had no security detail when he was shot and killed. He had accused the mayor of Actopan, José Paulino Domínguez reports added.

## AUGUST 24 – MEXICO

**Nevith Condés Jaramillo**, the 42-year-old journalist for *El Observatorio del Sur*, Nevith Condés Jaramillo, was murdered in the municipality of Tejupilco, south of the State of Mexico. Media reports quoted the Office of the Attorney General's Office of Justice of the State of Mexico (FGJEM), as saying that his body was found in the Cerro de Cacalotepec, with wounds from sharp objects which would have caused his death.

## AUGUST 31 – HONDURAS

**Edgar Joel Aguilar**, the correspondent for *Canal Seis*, a TV news channel based in the department of Copán, was gunned down in the town of La Entrada, western Honduras. Media reports said that unidentified gunmen shot dead Aguilar, having singled him out inside a barbershop.

## OCTOBER 10 – HAITI

**Néhémie Joseph**, a radio journalist and correspondent was found murdered with two gunshot wounds inside his car in Mirebalais department. His killing took place against a backdrop of escalating violence and insecurity since the beginning of popular demonstrations against President Jovenel. Néhémie Joseph worked for *Radio Panique de Mirebalais* and was a permanent correspondent of *Radio Méga* in the area of the Central Department of Haiti. He had covered anti-government protests and had publicly denounced threats against him by members of the ruling party.

## NOVEMBER 26 – HONDURAS

**José Arita**, the presenter of the TV programme called "La Hora de la Verdad" broadcast on channel 12 of Puerto Cortés, was ambushed on the way to work and shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

## AUGUST 18 – UNITED STATES

**Nancy Parker** - The 53-year-old veteran anchor of Fox affiliated WVUE (Fox 8) in New Orleans died when a small stunt plane in which she was shooting a story crashed, killing her and the pilot. Investigators said the plane was planning to land when it crashed in an open field. Ms Parker had worked at the station for 23 years, according to media reports.

### Accidental Deaths



# Asia Pacific

## Regional overview

# 12

Targeted,  
bomb attacks  
and cross  
fire killings

It is hard to measure success in the campaign to stop journalist killings, but the year presented some breakthroughs in the Asia-Pacific region and some pause to consider just how far we've possibly come.

In 2019, we witnessed a significant reduction in journalist deaths in the region, down from 32 in 2018 to 12 – a death toll cut by more than half is certainly worth noting. It also gives us some hope that the hard work by our affiliate unions and our media safety networks and their campaigns is helping to make a dent in the horrendous death toll.

But then there is the other side – that murder is murder, and any death is one too many when we consider the impact on colleagues, the media fraternity and the victims' families. So we persist.

Afghanistan remained the region's most deadly country for media again in 2019, starting with the execution of **Javid Noori** by suspected Taliban insurgents on January 5, 2019. Noori was travelling in a car when it was stopped at a checkpoint in the Farah province. Once identified as a journalist, he was taken aside and summarily killed. His body was not found for three days.

We are all too aware through incidents like Noori's execution - for simply being a journalist - why Afghanistan remains one of the worst killing fields for our industry.

In all, five journalists lost their lives in Afghanistan. Editor-in-chief for Radio Gardez Ghar, **Nader Shah Sahebzadeh**, disappeared after leaving his home to visit a friend on the evening of July 12, his lifeless body found the next day. Female journalist and former television presenter for Tolo TV and Shamshad TV, **Mina Managal** was shot dead in broad daylight in Kabul on May 11. She had reportedly been receiving death threat messages a week up to her death. And journalists Rahimullah Rahman and Shafiq Aria, both of Radio Hasmada, were both working in the radio station when two unidentified gunmen entered the building and shot them.

**Mirza Waseem Baig** was one of the four journalists killed in Pakistan. Baig, a 40-year-old reporter for Urdu language channel 92 News, was gunned down outside his home in Punjab province when three criminals riddled his body with bullets on August 30. He died en route to hospital.

Baig had been investigating a story of a local criminal gang known for extorting government officials.

Local police later confirmed that it was Baig's investigative reporting uncovering the dirty business of local corruption that precipitated his death. But the violence didn't end there. His wife and family were also forced to move after receiving continuous threats even after they had so brutally eliminated the source of their ire.

What we know from these stories is that there too many journalists who consistently receive threats, we know that too many of these threats are not logged or adequately investigated. And we know that too many crimes against media workers go unpunished.

It is clear that, despite the best efforts by journalist unions and other support agencies, to strengthen journalist awareness and advocacy on safety and security, systematic violence against the media persists in our region. The precise problem these efforts cannot control or adequately address is the brutal mindset of the perpetrators and the climate of impunity that continues to protect them.

In the last decade, 321 journalists have been murdered in the Asia Pacific. The majority of journalists lost their lives as a result of targeted shootings. Eight of the 12 journalists, including Baig and Noori, lost their lives in targeted shootings. One journalist who is not recorded in our statistics this year is female Pakistani journalist Urooj Iqbal who was shot by her husband in Lahore. Iqbal had filed a complaint to police earlier in 2019, alleging torture at the hands of her husband. While a clear motive for the murder remains unknown, it is reported Urooj had made repeated demands for her to quit journalism prior to her killing. If only her complaint had been adequately investigated, she might be still among us.

In this grim light, we also quietly and painfully ended the year by solemnly welcoming the long-awaited verdict against the masterminds of 2009's horrendous Ampatuan massacre in the Philippines.

In December 2019, Ampatuan brothers Datu Andal Jr, Zaldy, were at last found guilty and convicted of 57 counts of murder in the largest single massacre of journalists in history. The massacre which has left a permanent wound in the psyche of our Filipino colleagues claimed the lives of 58 people, including 32 journalists, who were attacked in a political convoy in Maguindanao.

After ten years of judicial twists and turns, the judge in the case sentenced the ring leaders in this unprecedented assault to life imprisonment or 40 years without parole. It was a bitter victory and a painful struggle, but a victory nevertheless. For this we commend our colleagues in the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) for their tireless struggle and determination. They never gave up in this mightiest of fights.

Sadly, in the Philippines and elsewhere, the continued apathy by governments to act on journalist killings remains a stain - on justice, democracy and journalism. But little by little, through solidarity and collective actions that tackle systems that threaten journalist safety, there is perhaps some glimmer of hope.



# Asia Pacific Narrative

## Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings

### JANUARY 5 – AFGHANISTAN

**Javid Noori**, a local radio host, was executed by suspected Taliban insurgents in an attack in the Nadarabad district of Farah province in south-western Afghanistan. Noori was travelling in a car when he was stopped at a checkpoint. After being identified as a journalist, he was taken aside and killed. His body was found three days later.

### FEBRUARY 5 – AFGHANISTAN

**Shafiq Arya, Rahimullah Rahmani**, a news editor and a presenter for radio Hamsada in northeast Afghanistan were shot dead by two unidentified gunmen who stormed the station's studios and opened fire on journalists during a live broadcast. The victims both in their 20s, died on the spot, media reports added.

### MARCH 17 – AFGHANISTAN

**Sultan Mohammad Khairkhal**, the journalist who worked for the Afghan National TV channel and hosted several social programs, was shot and killed near a police checkpoint in Khost, south eastern Afghanistan as he drove to work. He died in hospital from his injuries.

### APRIL 30 – PAKISTAN

**Aman Ullah Gharro**, the senior journalist was gunned down by unidentified gunmen on bikes in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, situated in the north-western region of the country. Aman Ullah Gharro was working for Janbaz, a local television based in Dera Ismail Khan located about 300 kilometers south of the provincial capital Peshawar. He was also the correspondent for a local newspaper Meezan-e-Adal. He had filed a report about non-state actors allegedly involved in terrorism.



### MAY 4 – PAKISTAN

**Ali Sher Rajper**, a reporter for *Awami Awaz*, a Sindhi daily newspaper, and chairman of the Padidan Press Club, was killed by unknown assailants who opened fire outside the Padidan Press Club. Rajper had reportedly sought police protection following threats due to his investigative reporting which exposed corruption within the local administration.



### JULY 10 – THE PHILIPPINES

**Eduardo Dizon**, the anchor working for the Brigada News FM radio was shot dead when he was driving home in Kidapawan City, in the southern Philippines island of Mindanao after hosting his daily news commentary show when two men riding a motorcycle assaulted and shot him five times. He managed to steer his car to one side of the road but he died a few minutes after due to the gunshot wounds. A few days before his assassination, Dizon reported to the Kidapawan police that he had been challenged to a "duel". In addition, Brigada News FM radio had received a threatening message from an unidentified sender saying "Watch out Brigada because you will die, just wait someone will shoot you".



### JULY 13 – AFGHANISTAN

**Nader Shah Sahebzadeh**, the talk show host for Radio Ghar, was found dead in Gardez, the capital of Paktia province in east of Afghanistan. Aminullah Amiri, editor-in-chief of Radio Gardez Ghar, told Afghan Independent Journalists' Association (AIJA), an IFJ affiliate, that Sahebzadeh went missing after leaving his home for a friend's house on the evening of Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. Nader Shah Sahebzadeh was employed by Radio Gardez Ghar for three years.



### AUGUST 30 – PAKISTAN

**Mirza Waseem Baig**, the journalist working for 92 News was killed by unidentified assailants in Punjab, a province of eastern Pakistan, following his reporting on local gangs' activities. The journalist was shot six times outside his home and died on the way to the hospital while the unidentified gunmen escaped from the scene, according to news reports.



### SEPTEMBER 12 – PAKISTAN

**Zafar Abbas**, the lifeless body of the journalist who worked for DAWN was found in a dry well at Mauza Kali Shah of Punjab, Eastern Pakistan, five days after he was kidnapped by unidentified people on his way home from work late at night. According to media reports, the kidnapping was reported to the local police station, but the police did not investigate the matter. Following the protest from the IFJ member Pakistani Federation Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and its affiliate Vehari Union condemning the authorities' unwillingness to investigate, the Chief Minister of Punjab Province ordered an investigation and five suspects were identified in connection with the kidnapping and the murder of Abbas.



## OCTOBER 17 – INDIA

**K Satyanarayana**, a reporter for Andhra Jyothi was hacked to death by unknown attackers in Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. A month before his death, Satyanarayana had filed a report with police concerning an earlier attack.



## NOVEMBER 07 – THE PHILIPPINES

**Dindo Generoso**, a radio broadcaster for DYEM 96.7 Bai Radio, was shot dead in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental by unidentified gunmen. Generoso, who presented the programme “Konsencia sa Provincia”, was shot by armed men on motorcycles as he was driving to the radio station and died on the spot. According to police reports, two suspects are in custody, including a retired police officer.



Photo credit:  
Nadir Senhadji

# En-GAJE:

## A Support Network for Exiled Journalists in Belgium



***“Together, Defending Right to Inform of those who were deprived of it”***

Across the globe, media workers are killed, jailed and harassed simply for exercising their right to free expression as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to inform the public.

Journalists are often forced to quit everything; their families, friends and country to escape these dangerous situations. All they are left with are dreams of their important professional mission back home.

Several dozens of them came to Belgium for their security. The En-GAJE association provides a network to support them in the new country of residence, help them meet and get to know each other regardless of their residence status.

The Association was set up in January 2019 by some journalists and representatives of organisations which are active in the defence of human rights, including the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).



# Europe

## Regional overview

# 2

Targeted,  
bomb attacks  
and cross  
fire killings

The results of the year in Europe are less gloomy than in previous years.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) recorded two murders of journalists in 2019 on the European continent: **Lyra McKee**, 29, shot dead on 19 April while covering a riot in Derry, Northern Ireland, and journalist **Vadym Komarov**, who died on 20 June following a violent attack on 4 May by unidentified individuals in central Cherkassy, Ukraine. The journalist was beaten to death one day after he posted on Facebook that he was working on alleged corruption in sports schools. After the sad record of 12 deaths in 2015, mainly as a result of the massacre which decimated the editorial staff of the weekly “Charlie-Hebdo” in Paris, France, the situation has since stabilised in Europe: three deaths in 2016, five in 2017, four in 2018 and two in 2019. On the other hand, the number of cases of impunity for the murder of journalists in Europe is on the rise.

The Council of Europe’s Platform for the Protection of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists officially records 38 cases of impunity in Europe, including 14 murders and disappearances of Serb and Albanian journalists in Kosovo. With the support of the IFJ and the EFJ, journalists’ organisations in Kosovo and Serbia renewed their call in December for international bodies and national public authorities to relaunch criminal investigations and compensate the victims’ families.

The IFJ and EFJ have also increased calls for justice for the family of investigative journalist **Daphne Caruana Galizia**, who was brutally murdered in a car bomb attack in Malta on 16 October 2017. The masterminds of her murder have not been identified and held accountable.

The assassination of Saudi journalist **Jamal Khashoggi**, on 2 October 2018 at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, is another major case of impunity in Europe. An investigation by UN Special Rapporteur concluded that Khashoggi’s murder “constituted an extrajudicial killing for which the state of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is responsible.” Again, although there were convictions of some Saudi officials who were involved in this appalling crime, those who ordered the murder remain unpunished.

While the number of murders on European soil has decreased, cases of physical violence continued to increase. In 2019, the IFJ and EFJ recorded 137 serious violations of press freedom on the Council of Europe Platform, including nearly 80 cases of violations of the safety and physical integrity of journalists (mainly in France, as part of the police crackdown on “yellow vest” demonstrations, and in Spain, as part of the demonstrations linked to the Catalan crisis).

**“...the number of cases of impunity  
for the murder of journalists in  
Europe is on the rise.”**



# Europe Narrative

## Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings

### APRIL 18 – UNITED KINGDOM

**Lyra McKee**, the 29-year-old freelance journalist and author was shot dead while she was covering the riots at the Creggan housing estate in the city of Londonderry (Derry), Northern Ireland. The riots took place in the run-up to the Easter weekend, which also marks the anniversary of a 1916 uprising British rule. According to media reports, Lyra McKee was killed after a gunman appeared and fired shots towards the police position near which she was standing.

### JUNE 20 – UKRAINE

**Vadym Komarov**, a journalist who was attacked in the city of Cherkasy, Ukraine, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019, died in the early hours of 20 June. After the brutal assault, the 57-year-old journalist fell into a coma at a local hospital where he was admitted into an emergency ward. He never regained conscience and died one month and a half after the attack. The police have not so far identified his attackers. Komarov was known for his investigations and his hard hitting reporting on local authorities. The journalist who knew Vadym Komarov are convinced that the attack on him was motivated by his professional activity.

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# Middle East and Arab World

## Regional overview

**8** Targeted,  
bomb attacks  
and cross  
fire killings

This is the second year in a row we are witnessing much welcomed information regarding the drop in the numbers of journalists and media workers killed in the Middle East and the Arab World. A total of nine killed was recorded in the region according to the reports we received this year. Our thoughts are with their families, friends and colleagues. This is a sharp drop from the 20 who were killed during 2018 and 25 during 2017.

For over a decade, the IFJ and its affiliates in the region have been running a campaign to promote the culture of safety among journalists and the media sector. Through this campaign, we supported journalists' unions in organising safety trainings for journalists; members and non-members, fulltime and freelance journalists all benefited from these trainings. This year journalists from Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Yemen benefited from these trainings. The campaign also emphasized the 'duty of care of employers.' That media owners and management are responsible for providing adequate training, equipment and insurances for their crews and field reporters. The third focus of the campaign concerns the responsibility of the state to provide protection for journalists and bring those who attack and threaten journalists to justice.

Although the IFJ and its unions in the region are doing their best to defend and protect journalists, nobody can claim that the sector is getting safer and the threats have been reduced. It is unfortunate that we cannot attribute the drop in the number of casualties to improved safety conditions, end of violence and threats against journalists.

After years of sustained threats and violence against journalists especially in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Palestine and Yemen by states and non-state actors, thousands of journalists have been driven from their homes and even their countries while thousands more either gave up their work or stopped their critical coverage to stay safe.

***“It is unfortunate that we cannot attribute the drop in the number of casualties to improved safety conditions, end of violence and threats against journalists. ”***

Journalists have the right to work in safety, especially in conflict zones and failure to do so deprives societies of access to reliable information about events affecting their lives and undermines their ability to contribute to end the conflict. The IFJ has always been open to work with all the organisations in the region to improve the safety and working conditions of the journalists and will continue to that in the future.



# Middle East and Arab World Narrative

## Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings

### JANUARY 28 – YEMEN

**Ziad al-Sharaabi**, the cameraman working for Abu Dhabi TV, was killed in a bomb attack on a restaurant located in Yemen's port city of Mokha. Faisal al-Dhahbani, a reporter from the same network, was wounded in the attack. Both journalists were on a mission to cover clashes in the Al-Mokha and the West coast areas of Yemen. Faisal al-Dhahbani told the YJS that he and his colleague Ziad went to a restaurant in a local market to have dinner. After a few minutes, a motorcycle that was next to the restaurant exploded killing Ziad and six other civilians, injuring many and causing widespread damage.

### MAY 5 – YEMEN

**Ghalib Belhash**, the independent photojournalist, was killed in al-Dhalea while covering clashes between Houthis militants and their rivals in the civil war in Yemen. Labhash had worked as a videographer for a number of local and international media outlets.

### JUNE 18 – SYRIA

**Amjad Hassan Bakir**, a Syrian freelance photojournalist and cameraman, was killed in a suspected regime missile strike which hit a truck containing fighters from the Free Idlib Army, an opposition group, and Bakir, who was embedded with the group.

### JULY 21 – SYRIA

**Anas al-Dyab**, a photographer and videographer, was killed during airstrikes on Khan Sheikhun in the northwestern Syrian Governorate of Idlib. Al-Dyab, a citizen journalist and contributor to Agence France Press (AFP), died while filming air strikes on his hometown, which claimed at least ten other civilian lives. The photographer was also a volunteer rescue worker with the White Helmets group.

Smoke rises from  
the Syrian town of  
Ras al-Ain. Credit:  
Ozan KOSE / AFP



### OCTOBER 13 – SYRIA

**Saad Ahmed**, the reporter for Hawar Anha news agency was killed in an explosion in the city of Ras-al-Ain, located in northern Syria. He was travelling in a civilian convoy with other journalists on the way to cover fighting between Turkish and Kurdish forces when the blast happened. At least four other journalists were injured in the attack, including Mohamed Akinji correspondent for Hawar ANHA agency, Arsin Jaksou, correspondent for Alfurat News Amel Younes of Stêrk TV and Delsous Dildar, a correspondent for North Press Agency.

### OCTOBER 14 – SYRIA

**Mohamed Hussein**, the correspondent for Çira TV was finally injured in the explosion which killed Saad Ahmed in the city of Ras al-Ain. Hussein died the following day as a result of the serious injuries he had sustained in the explosion.

### NOVEMBER 10 – SYRIA

**Abdul Hameed al-Yousef**, the photographer and image reporter in the Kafr Rumah media office in Idlib province, was killed by artillery fire with at least six other civilians, according to a UNESCO's statement.

# INTERNATIONAL safety FUND

When a journalist is helped to overcome intimidation and violence, it strikes a blow for press freedom and our rights which are of benefit to the whole community.

In 2019, the International Safety Fund continued to provide assistance to journalists and media staff as well as their family members from the four corners of the globe to meet multiple needs. The IFJ International Safety Fund paid more than **74.000 Euros** in relief to help them relocate to safety, receive medical treatment or pay for legal assistance.

Fortunately, the year also continued to see support from IFJ affiliates to the Safety Fund which raised over **15.000 Euro** in donations. These generous contributions enable the Fund to continue its unique model of solidarity among journalists, since its inception in 1992, with the Fund paying over **three million euros** in humanitarian and emergency assistance and making the Safety Fund a vital lifeline for journalists.

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

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

The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily to provide assistance for journalists and media staff injured in the line of duty, often in the so-called "hot-spots" of the world and in cases where the media employing the journalist/media staffer are unable to cover such costs. This assistance can be in the form of travel, medical or subsistence costs.

The Safety Fund can also be used on a case by-case limited basis to assist in legal fees for journalists/media staff that again cannot find sufficient support from their employer.

Finally, the Safety Fund can provide immediate assistance for the families of journalists and media staff whose 'bread-winner' has been killed and who have no means to sustain themselves.

Whenever the IFJ gives assistance there is a monitoring and reporting process to ensure that the money goes to where it is intended. In 2010 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ secretariat.

Over the years the IFJ Safety Fund has been used to produce publications as part of the IFJ Safety Programme. These have included the IFJ Safety Fund brochures produced in English, French Japanese and Spanish and the IFJ Safety Manual, Live News for journalists travelling to conflict areas.

Live News has been produced in Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian and Spanish. These publications provide basic guidelines on the dangers which may occur, and what measures journalists can take to minimise risks. They are distributed to journalists, free of charge.

When a journalist is attacked, everyone in journalism is affected. When a journalist is helped to overcome intimidation and violence, it strikes a blow for press freedom and our rights which are of benefit to the whole community.

The Safety Fund is not just a practical source of aid and comfort; it is also a symbol of international goodwill that encourages journalists to carry on even in times of struggle and distress.

The type of relief provided by the IFJ Safety Fund, the speed with which it can be used, and the flexibility built into the system means that it is a unique source of solidarity for journalists.

The IFJ does not try to duplicate work that is being done by others. We are in regular contact with other organisations working in the field of journalists' safety and freedom of expression. These include the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute, Reporters Without Borders, the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, the Writers in Prison Committee, the Rory Peck Trust and the World Association of Newspapers.

***"You are not alone  
– the IFJ Safety fund is here to help."***

Information is exchanged, and, where necessary, an individual may receive coordinated assistance from more than one source.

Nonetheless, without the IFJ Fund, many would have gone unaided. Some may have suffered unnecessarily, others might have died.

The IFJ Safety Fund can only continue to assist journalists if its future is secured. In order to go out, money must come in. But, most importantly, it is a Fund that must provide help to those who need it most. Since the launch of the IFJ safety dedicated website, it is now possible to make secure online donations.

Please visit <http://ifj-safety.org/en> and donate to ensure that we get the message out to those who have suffered and face a bleak future: you are not alone – the IFJ Safety fund is here to help.

# Solidarity in Action

## AFRICA

### BURUNDI:

The Safety Fund provided a journalist with financial assistance for living expenses and family support while another journalist received assistance for family support in exile. Another journalist was given financial support to meet his needs in exile and the Safety Fund provided financial help for medical treatment to another exiled journalist. The Safety Fund also contributed to the legal assistance of a group of journalists arrested and charged with supporting rebel groups.

### CAMEROUN:

The IFJ's International Safety Fund gave assistance for living expenses to a journalist in hiding after he had received death threats over his publications.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:

A journalist who fled his country after receiving threats over his work received assistance for living expenses.

### ETHIOPIA:

The Safety fund gave assistance to a journalist in exile for living expenses.

### GUINEA:

The Safety Fund provided assistance for legal aid to a journalist seeking political asylum in a foreign country.

### RWANDA:

The Safety Fund gave financial assistance with living expenses to an exiled journalist.

### SOMALIA:

The IFJ's International Safety Fund provided support to a journalist in exile for living expenses.

### SOUTH SUDAN:

The Safety Fund provided humanitarian assistance to a journalist who lost a family member in exile and needed to pay for funeral costs, while another exiled journalist was granted family support.

### SUDAN:

The Safety Fund gave assistance to a journalist who fled into exile, fearing arrest over his publications on corruption involving governments' officials. Another journalist was granted relief for living expenses in exile.

### UGANDA:

The Safety Fund paid legal assistance to a journalist defending a defamation case brought against him retaliation for his publications.

## AMERICAS

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The Safety Fund gave assistance to a journalist who suffered ill health and mental issues due to covering armed conflicts and had to take time off work to receive treatment and recover.

### PERU:

Another journalist received support for legal representation while defending a case over his work as a journalist.

### GUATEMALA:

The Safety Fund contributed to travels costs for an observer at the case involving a journalist in Colombia.

## ASIA PACIFIC

### UZBEKISTAN:

The International Safety Fund provided exiled journalist assistance for living expenses.

## EUROPE

### BULGARIA:

The IFJ's International Safety Fund provided assistance to an exiled journalist for living expenses.

### TURKEY:

The Safety Fund helped another exiled journalist for living expenses while the family of another media professional killed while covering clashes received humanitarian assistance for funeral costs.

### UKRAINE:

Another journalist living in hiding due to threats of arrest was awarded a grant for living expenses.

### UNITED KINGDOM:

The Safety Fund contributed to funeral costs of a journalist killed while covering violent riots and helped another financially for legal permit application.

## MIDDLE EAST

### EGYPT:

The Safety Fund provided assistance for medical treatment to a journalist who suffered ill health as a result of her imprisonment.

### PALESTINE:

The Safety Fund provided assistance to six journalists and media professionals for medical treatment in relation to injuries sustained at work, living expenses and family support in exile.

### PALESTINE:

The IFJ Safety Fund provided financial assistance for living expenses to a journalist living in exile.

### SYRIA:

The IFJ Safety Fund gave financial assistance to three Syrian journalists for living expenses in exile and travel costs while seeking safety.

### YEMEN:

The Safety Fund provided assistance to five journalists seeking help with travel costs for safety reasons, family support and medical treatment. The Fund also contributed to costs for burial costs, visa applications and compilation of cases of torture towards international advocacy.



**SECURITY IS  
A PRIORITY,  
NOT AN  
OPTION**

**INSURANCE FOR JOURNALISTS**



# 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. The IFJ has recorded the deaths of more than 1000 journalists and media staff over the past ten years.

***“People Must Keep Their Hands Off Media.”***

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.

Many journalists are killed, injured or harassed in war zones, either targeted by one side or another or caught in the crossfire of violence. Others are the victims of premeditated assault and intimidation either by criminals, terrorists or by agencies of the state – the police, the military or the security forces – acting secretly and illegally.

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

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

- Adequate preparation, training and social protection. It is essential that journalists and media staff be in a state of readiness when difficulties arise. There should be a framework for providing individuals with health care and social protection.
- Media professionals must be informed and inform themselves about the political, physical, and social terrain in which they are working. They must not contribute to the uncertainty and insecurity of their conditions through ignorance or reckless behaviour.
- Media organisations must guard against risk-taking for competitive advantage, and should promote co-operation among journalists whenever conditions exist which are potentially hazardous.
- Governments must remove obstacles to journalism. They must not restrict unnecessarily the freedom of movement of journalists or compromise the right of news media to gather, produce and disseminate information in secure and safe conditions.
- People Must Keep Their Hands Off Media. Everyone should respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff at work. Physical interference with filming or other journalistic work must be prohibited.

# It's the thought that counts

When people think of the IFJ Safety Fund, they remember to raise money for it. Hats only go round at conference where someone thought of the Fund. People only dig in their pockets because they know it exists. Someone has to start the ball rolling. Will you start it next time? Keep the IFJ Safety Fund in mind whenever union members get together.

## HOW TO GIVE

**There are three ways to make a donation:**

- 1.** Please donate to the Safety Fund on the IFJ Safety website <http://ifj-safety.org/en>
- 2.** Please send donations to the IFJ member union in your country; the money will be forwarded in a lump sum and cut the administration costs of the Fund. If there is no IFJ member,
- 3.** Please send your donation to:

### **The Safety Fund**

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

The Safety Fund for Media Translators  
and Interpreters (SFMI)

a/c BE90 3630 4689 8732  
SWIFT CODE: BBRU-BE-BB  
ING Bank  
Rond Point Schuman 8, 1040 Brussels

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The IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists with members in more than 140 countries. Today the IFJ spans the world with a range of programmes and solidarity activities that help to strengthen journalists' trade unions. IFJ Offices around the world highlight the need for safety of journalists. The Federation had in the past offices in Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to provide local support for journalists most in need.



Find out more and about what you can do to help:

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