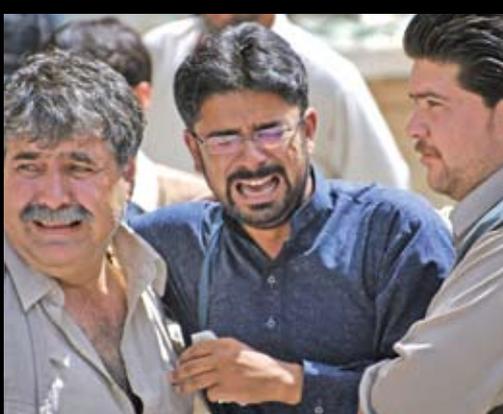


Free Speech in Peril

PRESS FREEDOM IN SOUTH ASIA 2010-11

ANNEX: INCIDENTS OF PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS BY COUNTRY, MAY 2010 – APRIL 2011



May 2011

This document has been produced by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) on behalf of the South Asia Media Solidarity Network (SAMSAN):

Afghan Independent Journalists' Association
 All India Newspapers Employees' Federation
 Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum
 Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
 Federation of Nepali Journalists
 Free Media Movement, Sri Lanka
 Indian Journalists' Union
 Maldives Journalists' Association
 Massline Media Centre, Bangladesh
 Media Watch, Bangladesh
 National Union of Journalists, India
 National Union of Journalists, Nepal
 Nepal Press Union
 Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists
 Sri Lanka Working Journalists' Association

The cover illustrations show (from left to right, starting top row.): Abdul Hameed Hayatan, killed in Balochistan province of Pakistan; Ejazul Haq, killed in Lahore, Pakistan; Hem Chandra Pandey, killed in Andhra Pradesh state in India; Prabin Mahajan, grievously injured while covering street violence in Kathmandu, Nepal; Journalists protest the muzzling of the press as rampant civil unrest engulfs Kashmir valley in India; Vijay Pratap Singh, killed as "collateral damage" while interviewing a minister in Uttar Pradesh, India; Journalist knocked down by excessive use of force by police seeking to restrain coverage of anti-government demonstration in the Maldives; friends and colleagues of Malik Arif break down after they learn of his death in a suicide bombing in Quetta, Pakistan; Hojatallah Mojadadi, Afghan journalist detained for months and discharged unconditionally by the court after national security authorities failed to make out the case against him.

AFGHANISTAN

Media Workers Killed 2010

18 June: Sgt James P. Hunter, 25, a journalist with the US Army, was killed when a patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar. Hunter was the first US Army journalist killed in the Afghan conflict.

5 September: Sayed Hamid Noori, 45, a former anchor with Radio Television Afghanistan, was found with multiple stab wounds. He had left his home late at night after receiving a phone call. The caller's identity is unknown.

Abduction, physical harm, threats and intimidation 2010

27 June: Reporter with Al-Jazeera TV, Taj Gul, was wounded in the crossfire between Afghan soldiers and insurgents in the southern Ghazni province. Gul was treated in hospital.

29 June: Veteran South Asia reporter with *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *National Geographic*, Jere Van Dyk received more than 40 threatening phone calls and emails from people connected with the Taliban. Van Dyk is now in New York but was held captive by the Taliban for 45 days in 2009.

29 June: Reporter Michael Parkin and cameraman Blair Martin from ONE News in New Zealand came under fire while filming a bomb-clearing mission near Khost town. No one was injured.

6 September: Japanese freelance journalist Kosuke Tsuneoka, 40, was released from kidnappers after being held since April 1. Tsuneoka used Twitter to post his whereabouts to his followers. His kidnappers were from factions in Kunduz and Takhar provinces who posed as Taliban to extort the Japanese government. The group's commander was close to the Afghan government.

24 September: French forces spoke to the two journalists of TV France 3, Hervé Ghesquière and Stéphane Taponier, pleading for the French government's help. The journalists and three Afghan colleagues Mohammed Reza, Ghulam and Satar, were abducted on December 29, 2009 and all five remain captive.

24 October: Award winning war photographer with *The New York Times* João Silva was severely wounded after stepping on a mine in southern Afghanistan. He was embedded with the US Army near the town of Arghandab. Silva lost his legs and suffered internal injuries and is recovering in Washington.

2011

18 January: A masked attacker sprayed founder of Bost-e-Bastan Razaq Mamoon in the face with acid as he was walking home in Kabul. He was hospitalised with serious burn injuries to his face, though his vision was unimpaired. Mamoon recently wrote a controversial book on Iran's role destabilising Afghanistan. Mamoon blamed Iran for the attack and said his publisher was threatened by officials of the Iranian Embassy. These claims remain unverified.

31 January: Radio Payam in the northern Afghanistan province of Baghlan was attacked by seven unidentified men. Equipment worth USD 30,000 was stolen and some facilities damaged. The station is located a mere 500m from a police checkpoint.

11 February: British freelance photographer Giles Duley suffered serious injuries in a roadside blast while accompanying US troops in southern Afghanistan. He underwent a triple amputation at the UN hospital in Kandahar.

Arrest and Detention

2010

18 September: Station manager of Radio-Television Afghanistan Hojatallah Mojadadi was arrested by National Directorate of Security agents in the Kapisa valley while covering the parliament election.

20 September: Al-Jazeera correspondent Rahmatullah Naikzad was attacked by foreign troops in Ghazni, southern Afghanistan and arrested. Naikzad's family said the foreign troops ransacked their house and robbed them. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) accused Naikzad of being a Taliban propaganda expert. Naikzad was released on September 24.

22 September: Mohammad Nadir, a cameraman and correspondent for Al-Jazeera in Kandahar was arrested by ISAF. The force trashed his home and stole jewellery. He was accused of filming insurgent attacks on parliamentary election day. Nadir was released on September 24.

6 October: Three family members of Abdul Majid Arif, a journalist with Al-Jazeera, were released by NATO soldiers. Arif's three brothers and nephew were arrested after soldiers raided the family's home in the Khost province.

2011

10 January: Chief editor of *Sarnawisht Daily* Asadullah Wahidi was released after being held for 30 hours in the Attorney General's detention cell in Kabul. Wahidi believed he was arrested because of an article he published about a former member of the Wolesi Jirga, the Afghan lower house of Parliament.

20 February: Reporters Syed Abdullah Nezami of the Al Jazeera Arabic news channel and Sadullah Sahil and Zabihullah of the Afghan TV News Service, were detained by US-led NATO forces in Kunar province. NATO claimed they were not carrying media credentials. The reporters were investigating a recent NATO air strike that allegedly killed 50 civilians. All three reporters had their identity cards at the time. They were released on February 22.

BANGLADESH

Media Workers Killed

2010

3 May: Foteh Osmani, correspondent for *Shaptahik 2000* in Sylhet, died two weeks he was ambushed by unidentified armed assailants while riding his motorcycle.

10 May: Shafiqul Islam Mithu, 40, a senior cameraman for ATN Bangala was found dead on an embankment at Rustampur. He was on his way home from the office.

2011

15 January: Farhad Khan, Senior Sub-Editor of *Dainik Janata*, and his wife were tortured and killed by miscreants in their Dhaka city home.

Abduction, physical harm, threats and intimidation

2010

27 April: Private television broadcaster Channel One was forcibly shut down by the Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC) on the grounds that it handed over imported equipment to another user without proper authorisation.

16 May: Correspondent with *Kaler Kantha* and Treasurer of Jahangirnagar University's Journalists' Association Emon Rahaman was assaulted by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at the university. The BCL aimed to drive Rahaman and four other journalists off the campus after they published stories which implicated the BCL negatively. The other journalists were Sanaullah Sakib Tanu of *Samakal*, Golam Mujtaba Dhrubo of *Jugantar*, Bammu Alamin of *Daily Shangbad* and Monirul Islam Rohan of *Daily Naya Diganta*.

28 May: Religious groups in Dhaka burnt a Swedish flag during a protest against social networking website Facebook for holding a caricature competition on the Prophet Mohammed. Swedish artist Lars Vilks drew a highly offensive caricature of the Prophet.

30 May: The BTRC blocked Facebook temporarily after it hosted a competition in which users were encouraged to submit cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

8 June: Pro-government activists attacked university Rajshahi University correspondent with the *Financial Express* Belal Hossain while he was reporting on a student protest. He was critically injured and taken to hospital.

17 July: Correspondent of *Janakantha* Soumitra Manab was attacked at Islampur bus stand. Other journalists were also hurt when they came to Manab's aid. The assailants threatened to kill Manab over the publication of illegal sand lifting from the Bangshi River.

Arrest and Detention

2010

1 June: The Bangladesh government cancelled the registration of daily *Amar Desh* and its acting editor Mahmudur Rahman was arrested on fraud charges. He was allegedly tortured and mistreated while he was detained.

23 August: A contempt of court conviction was handed down by the Bangladesh Supreme Court against acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, reporter Waliullah Norman

and publisher Hashmat Ali of daily *Amar Desh*. Raman was sentenced to six months prison, Norman was sentenced to one month and all three were fined.

INDIA

Media Workers Killed

2010

5 May: Ajay Tiwari, 27, a reporter for a Noida-based TV channel in Uttar Pradesh, died when building collapsed on him while he was taking footage near the site of a major fire in south-west Delhi.

2 July: Hem Chandra Pandey, a freelance journalist, was killed in an armed encounter, in which police in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, eliminated a leader of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), Cherukuri Rajkumar, alias Azad.

20 July: Vijay Pratap Singh, a reporter for the *Indian Express*, died ten days after suffering injuries in a bomb blast outside the home of a Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister.

20 December: Sushil Pathak, 35, a journalist with Dainik Bhaskar, was shot at around 2am when he was returning home from work. His body was discovered by a fellow journalist.

2011

23 January: Umesh Rajput, 32, a correspondent for the Hindu daily, *Naidunia*, was shot dead by two masked men at Churra in Chhattisgarh. Family members say he filed a complaint to police about death threats he was received that demanded he cease writing stories about the area.

Abduction, physical harm, threats and intimidation

2010

6 May: Biranjan Mallick, a journalist with *Khabar* in the state of Orissa was brutally beaten after writing an article which exposed financial irregularities in the government-funded National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREGA) scheme. Mallick was allegedly attacked by the elected head of the council involved.

2 July: Authorities in the Jammu region sealed the premises of three publications for allegedly carrying false and misleading news reports that would aggravate religious tensions. The following day, copies of *Greater Kashmir* and *Kashmir Uzma*, were seized as they were being readied for distribution.

6 July: At least 12 local and international photographers and cameramen were assaulted in Srinagar while recording ongoing demonstrations. Police allegedly remarked that demonstrations would lose momentum without media coverage.

7 July: After days of widespread demonstrations, an existing curfew in the Kashmir Valley was extended to cover civilians' movements, binding local journalists to their homes. Text message services were suspended and telephone calls frequently disrupted.

9 July: Senior journalist with the BBC Urdu service Riyaz Masroor was attacked by police in Alocha Bagh while on his way to collect a curfew pass. His press pass was cancelled July 7 following a security clampdown.

16 July: Headlines Today, a television station in Delhi, was attacked by a mob of 3000 people who caused extensive damage to the foyer. A cameraman was assaulted and some workers injured. Zee 24 Taas, a television station in Kolhapur, was also ransacked while a talk show on a border dispute was being aired.

21 July: Correspondent of the *The Sangai Express* S. Singlianmang Guite received threats by a local militant group Hmar Peoples Convention (Democratic). Three men visited Guite's home while he was not there. The militants spoke threateningly to his wife and bullied her into calling Guite so they could demand his retraction of a report published. In protest, state-run media closed down *en mass* July 22.

14 October: Reporter for a local Urdu daily Mohammad Abdul Waheed Chisti, was abused and attacked by supporters of an Islamic cleric in Lucknow after he asked the imam a question about a judicial verdict.

15 October: The Kanpur offices of the HT Media group were raided by a team of local policemen after its newspapers reported the sexual abuse and murder of a nine-year-old girl. Editorial and other staff were detained and the premises sealed, preventing distribution of the *Hindustan Times* and *Hindustan* the following day.

27 October: The All-Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) declared a mass closure of local newspapers after media houses received threats from cadre of the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and a rival KCP faction. The AMWJU held a rally on October 28 and reopened newspapers on October 29 after both factions apologised.

11 December: Vice-president of the Chhattisgarh Shramjeevi Patrakar Sangh (CSPS) N.R.K. Pillay, former district correspondent of *Nai Duniya*, Anil Mishra and journalist with *Deshbandhu*, Yashwant Yadav, were threatened by a vigilante group involved in a covert combat of the Maoist insurgency. The letter threatened the journalists with a "dog's death" if they did not desist from writing on human rights issues.

2011

25 March: Editor of a local journal Bastar Impact Suresh

Mahapatra was part of a group heading to the village of Tarmedla, in the southern part of Chhattisgarh state, which was intercepted by a group which reportedly included police. The driver was assaulted and the journalists were allowed to proceed, but were followed on the return journey.

Arrest and Detention 2010

3 July: Editor of *Crime* magazine T. P. Nandakumar was arrested in Kerala on charges of defamation. A complaint was lodged by an Indian businessman residing in Abu Dhabi. Nandakumar was under a court injunction not to publish any material on the man but still posted an article online. He was released on bail the following day.

4 December: Reporter with *Tehelka* magazine K. K. Shahina was charged by Karnataka police with two counts of criminal intimidation of witnesses in connection to an article she published online. The story cast doubt on the arrest of a prominent Islamic cleric on terrorism charges in 2008. Shahina faces up to seven years prison.

29 December: Editor of *Sanaleibak*, Ahongsangbam Mobi was arrested by police in Imphal for contacting Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), a group banned by the government. Mobi was allegedly lured into a trap by police posing as KCP members.

2011

2 January: Freelance journalist and editor of *Vidrohi* Sudhir Dhawle was arrested for meeting with Maoists.

28 January: One-time columnist for *Mid Day* Anish Trivedi, was sentenced to six months imprisonment by a trial court in Mumbai and fined INR 25,000 (USD 535). Trivedi was convicted for an article he wrote in 2006 which offended communities disadvantaged by India's traditional caste hierarchy. Trivedi had apologised unconditionally and published a retraction in *Mid Day* before formal charges were laid.

MALDIVES

Abduction, physical harm, threats and intimidation 2010

15 March: Four DhiTV employees were assaulted and one *Haveeru* printing employee was stabbed. The attack was allegedly linked to an article printed on the prison release of a high-profile criminal.

16 March: Death threats were published on an online forum asking for the beheading of Ahmed Moosa, the President's envoy for science and technology and Hilath Rasheed, editor of the *Dhivehi Observer* and blogger, for writing stories critical of Islamic fundamentalism and government.

25 August: President of the municipal administration Sarangu Adam Manik attacked a DhiTV cameraman on assignment inside the municipal council premises and snatched his camera.

29 August: Leader of the Maldives Democratic Party (MDP) Reeko Moosa Manik verbally attacked VTV and Dhi TV, alleging they run on "ill-gotten" money and accusing them of character assassination of political figures.

30 August: The offices of privately-owned VTV were vandalised by unknown people.

25 October: Nine print, TV and radio journalists were attacked by police with batons and shackles while reporting on a protest organised by the opposition Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party in Male. Most of the journalists wore press badges.

2011

24 February: Police summoned *Haveeru* journalists Ahmed Hamdhoon and Ismail Naseer for questioning on their story about the circulation of pornography in a blackmail operation that implicated several prominent figures. Police interrogated them on the sources they had used and allegedly attained a warrant to search the *Haveeru* newsroom.

NEPAL

Media Workers Killed 2010

22 July: Devi Prasad Dhital, the Chairman of Tulsipur FM, was assassinated by a group of five men as he emerged from the home of a school teacher and political associate in his home town.

Abduction, physical harm, threats and intimidation 2010

3 March: Bibek Bhattarai, a correspondent for dailies *Aauzar* and *Janabidroha* was hospitalised after a group attacked him as he was leaving his house. Bhattarai suffered severe injuries to his head and body.

10 March: Director of Kantipur Publications Rameshwar Thapa received death threats in two text messages from an unidentified foreign number.

20 March: Police personnel beat up 13 journalists in Janakpur, leaving two critically injured. The journalists were covering a clash between policemen and civilians over an alleged rape case.

18 April: Activists of the Hindu *Yuva Sangh* torched copies of *Kantipur* daily and Annapurna Post claiming the dailies do not voice their issues.

27 April: Photojournalists Bijay Rai with *Republica* and Ashok Maharjan with *Rajdhani*, were injured in a Nepal Students Union protest at Chabahil. Police threw stones at the crowd, injuring the journalists.

5 May: Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) supporters attacked assistant editor of *Shikshak Monthly*, Sudarshan Ghimire, in Kathmandu. *Purbanchal Daily* correspondent Gyanendra Niraula and *RSS Surkhet* correspondent Kashi Ram Sharma were attacked in Jhapa and Birendranagar respectively. Ramesh Chandra Adhikari, Dhankuta correspondent of the *Kantipur Daily*, was threatened by Maoist cadres over a news item he published the same day.

6 May: Journalist and cameraman Sri Krishna Phuyal was attacked by Maoist protesters in Gogabu, in Nepal's Central Region, despite identifying himself as a journalist.

8 May: A group of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) supporters attacked Ajay Agarwal of Himalaya Darpan. Agarwal was hit on the head with a hammer because of articles his newspaper published against the GJM. The Unified CPN (M) made speeches accusing journalists of slandering the Maoist movement and threatened retribution.

9 May: Photojournalist Prabin Mahajan and cameraman of Avenues Television Rabindra Shrestha were seriously injured by Maoist cadres who stole their cameras in Maitighar.

28 May: Pro-Maoist demonstrators burnt copies of the *Nagarik* and *Republica* dailies in Kathmandu, after they published stories alleging Maoists had kidnapped a hospital director. Maoists also disrupted newspaper distribution in sections of the country, according to their publishers.

5 June: President of the Terai Janatantrik Madhesh (TJM) independence party Arjun Singh threatened physical violence against journalists in Nepal's southern Banke region.

1 June: The office of *Janasamsad Daily* in Jhapa, Terai district was vandalised by Raju Karki of Youth Force, a group affiliated to the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist in response to an article published alleging the force's involvement in criminal activity.

3 June: *Republica* journalist Rabindra Pokharel was attacked by an armed group of 10-15 people in his home after he wrote an article on property disputes.

14 June: Unidentified people shot at Mohan Gole, district correspondent for Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) and assistant editor of Sagarmatha Khabar Saptahik while he was riding his motorcycle.

30 June: Keshav Bohara was abducted in Nepal's mid-west. His colleagues received a call from Bohara's phone and his cries for help were audible. Bohara had received death threats over his reporting for Mandavi Radio in the town of Tiram, Pyuthan district. Bohara was released by his captors on July 2 with minor injuries. The identity of the perpetrators remains unknown.

18 July: Director of Radio Janakpur, Pramod Shah was assaulted in his home by 11 people armed with rods and canes. The attack left Shah unconscious and badly injured.

15 August: Lila Nath Ghimire, a journalist with *Fast Times Daily*, was attacked by a gang of youths while reporting on an incident involving Senior Superintendent of Police Mingmar Lama. The youths attacked Ghimire allegedly under the superintendent's orders.

21 August: Correspondent for *Annapurna Post* Damodar Bhandari received a death threat in an email from an alleged representative of underground political group, the Terai Janatantrik Party (Madesh).

27 August: The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu accused journalists of reporting against products manufactured by Indian joint venture companies. The Embassy warned that the media's persecution of these companies would have grave repercussions for investment decisions in Nepal.

29 August: Mohan Basnet of the Nepali Congress, accused several journalists of not supporting him. Basnet threatened the journalists over the phone, hurling insults and threatening to kill them.

30 August: Publisher and editor of *Himalpari Weekly* Bhim Rasaili was assaulted and humiliated by a group who smeared soot on his face and paraded him around the district headquarters of Jomsom in reprisal for an article Rasaili published on prostitution.

2 September: *Kantipur Daily* reporter Parbat Portel was threatened repeatedly via mobile phone by the chairperson of the Federal Limbuwan State Council over an article Portel wrote. Reporter for state-owned Nepal Television received an unrelated threat on the same day.

6 September: The office of the *Gatisheel* daily and *Image* weekly in the district of Nuwakot was attacked by a group of people. Staff were roughed up and vital equipment damaged. The vandalism was revenge for a story published about the group's leader.

15 November: Sushil Dhungana, publisher of *Ghodaghodi* weekly was snatched by five people on motorcycles, taken to a remote location and his fingers slit with blades. His captors told him it was punishment for an article he wrote on smuggling and corruption. He was held for three hours.

2011

10 March: *Kantipur Daily* correspondent Pawan Yadav was allegedly threatened by close aids of the Unified CPN (M) MP Shiva Chandra Kushwaha over articles Yadav had written. *Nepal Samacharpatra* journalist Deepak Gautam was allegedly threatened by Chief District Officer of Parsa, Nagendra Jha over an article that implicated Jha in corrupt activities. Chairman of National Television Nepal Yunus Ansari was shot and injured in the Central Jail in Sundhara.

PAKISTAN

Media Workers Killed

2010

16 April: Malik Arif, a cameraman for Samaa TV, was killed in a suicide attack at a Quetta hospital in the town of Bajaur, which killed nine more people and injured five journalists.

17 April: Azmat Ali Bangash, 34, a reporter for Samaa TV and AAP, killed at a camp for Internally Displaced Peoples near Kohat in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, when militants staged a suicide bombing.

10 May: Ghulam Rasool Birhamani, 30, a reporter for the daily *Sindhu Hyderabad* and President of Dadu Press Club was killed and his body was discovered with torture wounds and fatal injuries to the head. He had reportedly been receiving death threats from the Lashari tribe, in response to an article he published on the marriage of an underage girl.

28 May: Ejazul Haq, 42, a technician for City-42, was killed while reporting through his mobile phone when gunmen armed with grenades attacked two Ahmadi sect mosques in Lahore.

29 May: Imran Ashfaq, 32, a reporter for *Daily Asas* in Karachi was killed at his apartment. The unknown gunmen asked for his name before they shot him.

27 June: Faiz Mohammad Khan Sasoli, a journalist for *Aaj Kal* and the Independent News of Pakistan, was shot in his car as he was driving near Faisal Hotel in Khuzdar District. His car veered into a shop, injuring two other people.

29 July: Abdul Haq, a security guard of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation was killed by unknown attackers in the Khuzdar district of the Balochistan province.

3 September: Mohammad Sarwar, a driver for Aaj TV, was killed when he was caught in a skirmish triggered by a suicide bombing attack on a demonstration in Quetta.

4 September: Ali Raza, a reporter for a local newspaper was severely injured when a triple bomb blast hit the Shia procession he was covering in Lahore. He died in hospital a few days after.

6 September: Ejaz Ahmed Raisani, 30, a cameraman for Samaa TV, died as a result of injuries he sustained in an attack on a rally in Quetta three days earlier.

13 September: Misri Khan, a journalist for *Daily Ausaf* and President of the Hangu Union of Journalists, was shot by unidentified gunmen while entering his office at the Hangu Press Club, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

16 September: Mujeebur Rehman Saddiqui, 39, a senior correspondent for *Daily Pakistan*, was shot dead by gunmen in the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa region, north-west of Pakistan.

16 September: Mehar Mohammad Akmal, a reporter for Punjab TV and correspondent for *Daily Asas* was murdered by nine armed motorcyclists outside his Sialkot office.

18 November: Abdul Hameed Hayatan, a journalist for *Daily Intekhab* and a freelancer, was shot in the head and chest. His body, which showed evidence of torture, was found near Turbat in Baluchistan, two months after security forces allegedly kidnapped him.

5 December: Altaf Chandio, a journalist and bureau chief of private Sindhi language channel, AWAZ, was gunned down outside his house by unidentified attackers. They knocked at his door and shot him as he answered it. He was fatally injured and died on the way to hospital.

6 December: Abdul Wahab, a journalist for Express News, was among 50 people killed in a double bomb blast at a government building in Ghalanai, Mohmand Agency, in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in the country's north-west.

6 December: Pervez Khan, a journalist for Waqt TV was killed in the same bombings that killed Abdul Wahab.

14 December: Mohammad Khan Sasoli, a journalist at Dawn News TV and President of the Khuzdar Press Club was killed instantly by two unidentified motorcyclists as he returned home from the press club.

2011

3 January: Ilyas Nazar, 22, a journalist for *Darwanth*, was found dead alongside Baloch Students' Organisation-Azad central executive committee member Qambar Chakar, six days after his disappearance from Turbat.

4 January: Salman Taseer, owner of the *Daily Times*, *Aaj Kal* and B-Plus, was shot 26 times by his bodyguard, Malik Humtaz Hussain Qadri.

13 January: Wali Khan Babar, 29, a reporter for Geo TV, was shot and killed by a group of unidentified assailants in Karachi, shortly after covering a story on gang violence in

the city. He was among at least eight others killed in a spate of separate, targeted killings.

18 February: Abdost Rind, 27, a reporter with *Daily Eagle*, was shot dead by armed assailants on motorcycles while he returned home from work in the Turbat area Balochistan.

15 March: Rana Ibrar, a correspondent for dailies *Ausaf* and *Ummat* in Chanab Nagar town in Punjab province, was reportedly killed by non-Muslim minority group Ahmadis for his reports against their community.

Abduction, physical harm, threats and intimidation 2010

10 April: Khuzdar Press Club was threatened by militant group Baloch Musallah Difah Tanzeem in response to coverage given to nationalist groups and parties in Balochistan.

23 April: Media organisations received a threatening email from the Taliban warning them to stop working in allegiance with the Pakistani government or face the consequences.

11 May: Azaz Syed of *Dawn* newspaper returned home late from work to find five bullet holes in his gate.

23 May: The Jang Group media offices were attacked by activists of the Sindh National Party who snatched weapons from security guards and fired shots in the air. The offices were ransacked because the Jang Group allegedly slandered Sindh culture.

4 June: Bashir Mohammad of ARY One World, Dawood Mengal of *Daily Zamana*, Ghulam Rasool of *Daily Intekhab* and Mohammad Ibrahim Baloch of *Daily Mashriq* were assaulted and detained by members of the Frontier Corps while covering a strike by the Balochistan National Party.

7 July: Seven people including five women were injured when unidentified men threw grenades at the homes of local journalists Noor Muhammad Binori and Imran Khan.

22 July: Chief reporter of *Daily Ibrat*, Sarfraz Wistro was beaten up by unknown people near his home in Hyderabad. The group stole his mobile phone, cash and beat him until he was unconscious.

24 July: Reporter for Geo TV, Anwar Kamal and his driver Nasim Ahmed were injured when two unknown gunmen opened fire on their vehicle in Hyderabad, Sindh province.

8 August: Television channels Geo TV and ARY News were blocked for two days following their broadcast of a story about a protester throwing shoes at President Asif Ali Zardari.

14 August: The Gwadar station of the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation was attacked with hand grenades.

15 August: Two rockets were fired at premises of a Radio Pakistan Khuzdar transmitter.

29 August: Dunya News TV Correspondent Hafiz Mohammad Imran was injured by an unidentified mob outside his Sialkot home and admitted to a local hospital with fractures to his arms. Imran and his family had received death threats after he shot footage of a lynching.

4 September: Senior correspondent of *The News International* Umar Cheema was picked up by unknown men in police uniform on his way home from his Islamabad office. Cheema was stripped and tortured severely at an undisclosed location for six hours before he was thrown out into the street.

8 September: Editor of *Daily Sitara* and Vice President of Jacobabad Press Club was beaten up by five people allegedly for running news stories on the mismanagement of relief funds for flood victims.

26 September: APPNA TV correspondent Amir Shabbir was brutally tortured by the relatives of a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Member of National Assembly in Jhelum.

1 October: Senior reporter of Geo News Ahmad Fraiz, Geo News cameraman Hanan Younis and Maqsood But of City-42 TV were injured when lawyers attacked them at the district courts in Lahore. They were covering a protest.

4 October: The office of VSH News TV in Hub town, Balochistan province was attacked by Frontier Corps personnel. Staff were harassed and office equipment damaged.

6 October: A team from Express News TV were fired at by unknown men while reporting on a cold drink factory in the Orangi area of Karachi.

29 October: A news team with the Dunya channel was assaulted by security guards at the Lahore Development Authority after it filmed guards manhandling a female former employee. Senior producer Taha Siddiqui suffered a broken rib and their camera was snatched and destroyed.

Arrest and Detention 2010

6 April: Syed Hasan Ali Shah of *Dawn* was detained and manhandled by rangers in Karachi after he took photos of the rangers punishing two youths with sticks on his mobile phone. The rangers held him in their headquarters for an hour and warned him not to publish the pictures.

23 June: Bureau chief of ARY News TV Mustafa Tarin was detained and beaten by police in Quetta for allegedly reporting a police rally negatively.

25 June: Police detained 20 journalists for demonstrating against the police's treatment of Mustafa Tarin.

26 June: Cameraman for Express News Farrukh Asif was brutally assaulted and illegally detained by police after filming a protest in Lahore. He was tortured, his arms fractured and the footage damaged.

19 October: Karachi bureau chief of the Din TV channel Faisal Shoukat Ali Rajput was detained and brutally assaulted while reporting on a fire at the international airport. He was held illegally for more than 20 hours and released in a deserted area.

2011

4 March: Express News cameraman Zahid Hussain was tortured by police and detained for several hours in Peshawar after he was caught filming police torturing people outside a local station.

SRI LANKA

Abduction, physical harm, threats and intimidation

2010

29 May: A journalist campaigning for an arts festival in Moneragala was assaulted. The attack occurred after the journalist took a photo of the attackers' vehicle.

31 May: A group raided the home of *Mawbima* reporter Disnendra Perera in Colombo home and attempted to abduct him. Perera, who was unharmed, is a close colleague of Lanka-e-News journalist Prageeth Eknaligoda, missing since January 2010. He had received repeated death threats from unknown people, demanding he provide documents they claimed had been given to him by Eknaligoda.

2 July: *Lanka-e-News* received a threatening letter which resembled letters sent to Lasantha Wickrematunge three weeks before he was shot dead on January 8, 2009 and two others sent to editors of the *Sunday Leader* Frederica Jansz and Munza Mushtaq in 2009.

22 July: Anthony Mark, a correspondent for the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Times* in Mannar district, was dragged out of a vehicle by unidentified people travelling along the Mannar-Thalaimannar road in a white van. The attackers took documents. Mark sustained minor injuries.

30 July: At least a dozen men invaded Siyatha TV station and radio broadcast facilities of the Voice of Asia Network,

held two journalists at gun point and forced staff to kneel, before throwing petrol bombs into the facility's control room. Two journalists were injured and the control room was destroyed. Siyatha's owner is a known supporter of former Sri Lankan Army Commander Sarath Fonseka.

2 September: Waruni Balasooriya, wife of union secretary of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) Gamini Pushpakumara, was visited by two unknown people on the evenings of July 12 and September 2. They told Balasooriya, they would find and kill her husband. Pushpakumara was dismissed in January after he led union calls to promote greater fairness in election coverage. He has since left his home town of Horana, near Colombo, for safety reasons, but his family remain there.

14 October: Five journalists were attacked at a student demonstration in Colombo after they reported police used undue force to break up the protest. Those injured were Bingun Menaka Gamage of *Lankadeepa*, Sandaruwan Yatikinda of Neth FM, Pradeep Dilrukshan from the *Daily Mirror*, Chamila Karunaratna from *Rivira* and Subramaniam Gunaratnam of Sirasa TV.

7 December: Shantha Wijesuriya, of *Lanka-e-News*, and Prema Lal, of Sirasa TV, were injured in an attack at Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake near Colombo, where they were reporting on the arrival of New Left Front leader Wickramabahu Karunaratne.

2011

31 January: A group of unidentified people broke into the office of *Lanka-e-News* about 2am and set fire to fixtures and equipment. The damage bill was estimated at about USD 135,000. At 2:30am News Editor Bennett Rupasinghe, received a death threat from an unknown caller. Journalists Sanjaya Dasanayake and Shantha Wijesooriya were followed on their way to work following the attack. The *Lanka-e-News* journalists believe Sri Lankan authorities are trying to implicate its staff in the arson.

Arrest and Detention

2010

7 September: Police arrested a printer, his wife, two brothers-in-law and eight staff in a raid of printing shop Sarala Graphics, in Nugegoda, near Colombo. The business was reportedly printing posters which opposed the 18th amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution.

2011

31 March: *Lanka-e-News* news editor Bennett Rupasinghe, was arrested on charges of making threatening phone calls in relation to the January 31 arson attack on the *Lanka-e-News* office. He was detained until April 7 and has denied all charges. Rupasinghe will face another hearing on July 7.



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The IFJ is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that promotes coordinated international action to defend press freedom and social justice through the development of strong, free and independent trade unions of journalists. IFJ Asia-Pacific coordinates IFJ activities in the Asia-Pacific region. The IFJ works closely with the United Nations, particularly UNESCO, the United Nations OHCHR, WIPO and the ILO, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the European Union, the Council for Europe and with a range of international trade union and freedom of expression organisations. The IFJ mandate covers both professional and industrial interests of journalists.