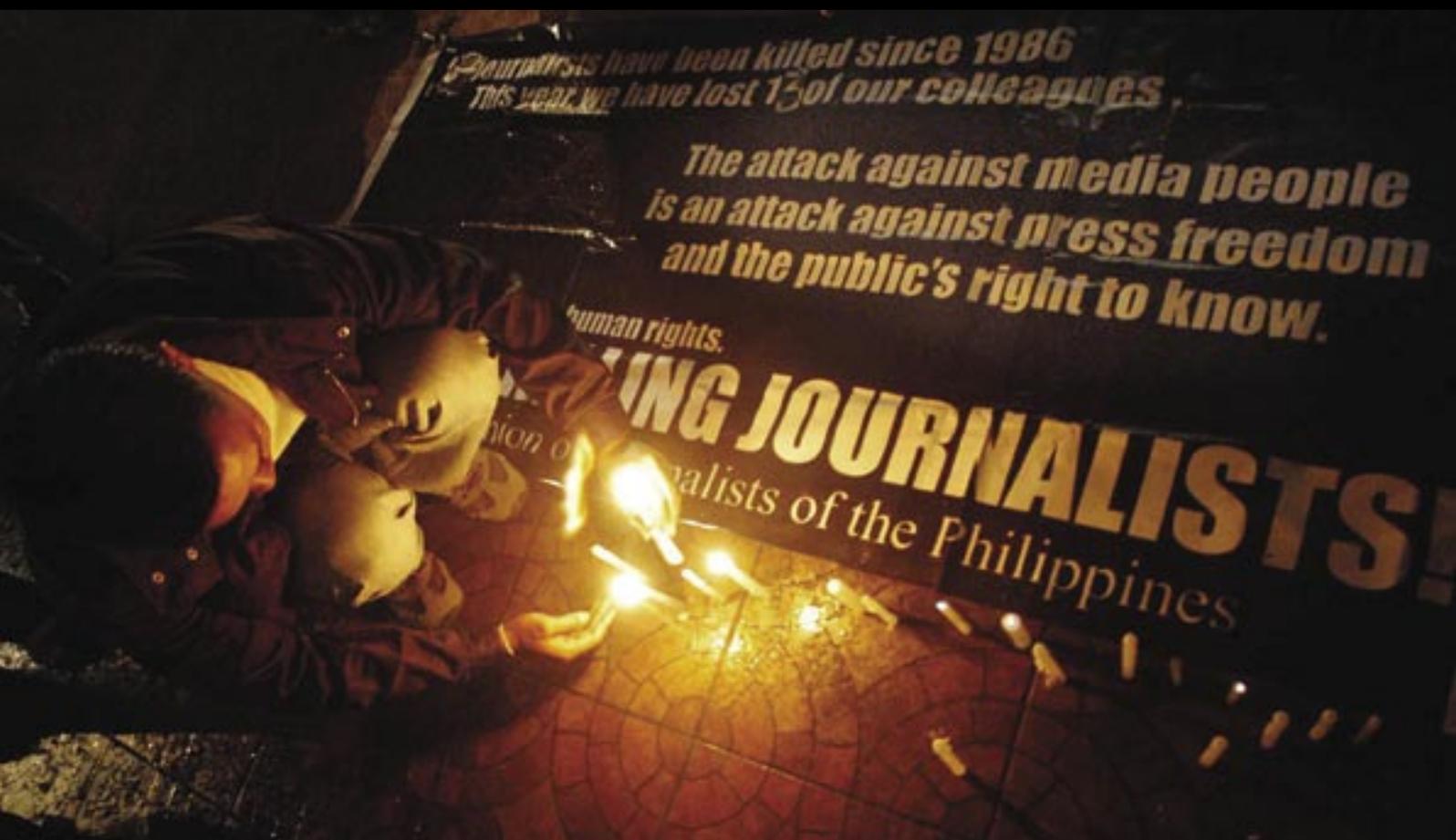




International Federation of Journalists

Journalism Put to the Sword in 2006

THE IFJ REPORT ON JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA STAFF KILLED



INCLUDING SPECIAL IFJ INTERNATIONAL SAFETY FUND REPORT

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Murdered Iraqi journalist Aswan Ahmed Lutfallah. *AP*

Murdered Swedish journalist Martin Adler. *Aftonbladet*

Murdered Mexican journalist Roberto Marcos Garcia. *IFJ Solidarity Center, Colombia*

Murdered Russian Journalist Anna Politkovskaya. *National Union of Journalists of UK and Ireland*

Protestor lights candle at demonstration for murdered Filipino journalists. *National Union of Journalists of the Philippines*

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International Press Centre Residence Palace, Block C

155 rue de la Loi B - 1040 Brussels Belgium

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Journalism Put to the Sword in 2006

During 2006 the IFJ recorded at least 155 murders, assassinations and unexplained deaths of journalists and media workers. Although the numbers are a matter of discussion between press freedom groups, everyone agrees on one undeniable truth – it was the worst year on record.

As this year of tragedy and unprecedented brutality drew to a close there was one positive sign when on 23 December the United Nations, for the first time ever, issued a statement condemning targeting of journalists and calling for prosecution of the killers of media staff.

This intervention could not have been more timely. In recent years the IFJ has witnessed a steady increase in the numbers of media victims. It is the clearest evidence yet that as media have become more powerful and journalism has become more dangerous.

During 2006 the numbers began to accumulate with civil strife and resistance to military occupation in Iraq. Media were prime targets of terror attacks. By the year's end, 69 media staff had been killed, bringing to 171 the number killed in the country since the invasion in April 2003.

Second only to Iraq among the world's hotspots for journalism is the Philippines where 13 journalists died in 2006, bringing to 49 the number of media staff murdered since Gloria Arroyo came to power in 2001 – surpassing the numbers killed under the 14-year Marcos Dictatorship. And in Latin America, where at least 37 deaths are recorded, journalists in Mexico moved ahead of Colombia as the deadliest country for journalists with 10 deaths, many of them investigative reporters.

In Asia relentless attacks in the Philippines and Sri Lanka pushed the total of killings to 34, while in Africa countries wracked by internal conflict also proved to be the most dangerous for journalists. Swedish freelance Martin Adler was shot while filming a demonstration in strife-torn Mogadishu and veteran journalist Mohammed Taha, a Sudanese editor, was kidnapped and killed.

Many of these victims, like the murder of investigative reporter Anna Politkovskaya in Russia, were targeted assassinations with political motives, others were at the hands of gangsters. As this report reveals no corner of the world was untouched by the tragic consequences of the violence against media.

In 2005 the final toll was also high at 154, but this number was inflated by the horrifying accidental deaths of 48 Iranian journalists on a military assignment. In 2006 there were many fewer accidents, just 22 in all, and these are not included in the final figure.

This report also contains a detailed report on the work of the IFJ Safety Fund, which is used to alleviate the distress felt by the victims of violence and their families. During 2006 a special appeal for Iraqi media victims alone raised more than 30,000 Euro from IFJ members.

For the last three years the IFJ has organised a day of protest over impunity in the killing of media staff on April 8 – the day in 2003 when three journalists were killed by US fire in Baghdad. There have been 19 unexplained killings of journalists and media people by US forces in Iraq since March 2003.

In October a judge in the United Kingdom said one of the victims, ITN journalist Terry Lloyd, was unlawfully killed by American soldiers outside Basra. There have been calls for prosecution of US servicemen involved in this and many other cases.

Nevertheless, during 2006 the vast majority of killings have been at the hands of terrorists and sectarian gangs who have made the streets of Baghdad and other major cities no-go areas for many news teams.

But the impunity crisis extends far beyond the conflict zone. In all but a handful of cases the killers of journalists get away unpunished. In many countries there are no serious investigations because of police or judicial corruption or governmental negligence.

The rising death toll has deepened concerns over the injustice of impunity. It was with this mind that the IFJ in 2005 drafted a resolution for the United Nations Security Council which called on governments to protect media staff and to hunt down the killers of journalists, particularly in conflict zones. This was no act of special pleading for media professionals – the killing of journalists threatens everyone's human rights by closing the door to free expression.

The resolution gives journalists' unions and campaigners for press freedom fresh ammunition in their fight to get governments to take action over the killings of journalists. The IFJ campaigned with the International News Safety Institute and the European Broadcasting Union for the resolution which

was eventually submitted to the UN by the Greek government after IFJ lobbying in Athens and was adopted unanimously, despite reticence on the part of the United States, Russia and China.

Just ten days earlier on December 12 another move in the campaign against impunity was taken in London when the IFJ and other international media support groups launched an International Commission of Inquiry into the killings of journalists in Russia. The action follows the assassination of journalist Anna Politkovskaya in Moscow on October 7. Her death was the latest in more than 200 killings of journalists in Russia since 1993. Many of these have been explained, but since President Vladimir Putin came to power around 40 media killings have taken place and few have been satisfactorily explained.

There are plans to host a major conference on impunity immediately before the IFJ Congress in

Moscow at the end of May 2007.

It has been a dreadful year of sacrifice for journalism, but small steps have been taken to confront this media catastrophe. However, much more needs to be done, particularly to help the victims of violence, to build a culture of safety within media and, above all, to end scandal and injustice of impunity



Aidan White
IFJ Secretary General

The IFJ Killed List

The IFJ list of killed journalists is based on information provided by its regional offices, member unions and other media sources.

Our statistics include journalists and media staff - fixers, drivers, technicians, security staff and translators and our figures do include some cases that are still under investigation and where the death remains unexplained, but where colleagues, unions or press freedom groups believe that the killing was related to the journalists' work.

Not included in this list are journalists who are missing and feared dead but whose bodies have not been found.

Separately, the IFJ compiles a list of journalists and media staff killed on the job in automobile, air or other accidents, by natural disasters or by medical problems triggered by strenuous or dangerous work.

We strongly believe that all media employees involved in the support and promotion of journalistic activity should be counted and covered by this report, if not it is impossible to give a full picture of the extent of casualties within media.

Who is included in the IFJ List of Journalists and Media Staff Killed

We recognise that other organisations do not include some of the victims we have identified. We believe that by ensuring all media employees involved in the support and promotion of journalistic activity are covered by this report it is possible to give a fuller picture of the extent of casualties within the media workforce.

JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA STAFF KILLED IN 2006

| | COUNTRY | NAME | PROFESSION | EMPLOYER | DATE KILLED |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Afghanistan | Abdul Qodus | TV Cameraman | Aryana | 22/7/06 |
| | Afghanistan | Karen Fischer | TV Journalist | Deutsche Welle | 7/10/06 |
| | Afghanistan | Christian Struwe, | TV Journalist | Deutsche Welle | 7/10/06 |
| | Argentina | Pablo Federico Mansilla | Producer | Channel 26 TV | 27/2/06 |
| | Bangladesh | Bellal Hossain Dafadar | Correspondent | Janabani Newspaper | 14/9/06 |
| | Brazil | José Késsio | Radio Journalist | Amambay FM | 13/3/06 |
| | Brazil | Manuel Paulino Da Silva | Editor | Hoje Jornal Newspaper | 20/7/06 |
| | Brazil | Ajuricaba Monassa de Paula | Freelance Journalist | Brazilian Press Association | 24/7/06 |
| | China | Wu Xianghu | Deputy Editor | Taizhou Wanbao Newspaper | 2/2/06 |
| | China | Xiao Guopeng | Editor | Ashun Daily Newspaper | 18/7/06 |
| | Colombia | Gustavo Rojas Gabalo | Radio Commentator | Radio Panzenú | 20/3/06 |
| | Colombia | Milton Fabián Sánchez | Radio Journalist | Yumbo Estéreo | 9/8/06 |
| | Colombia | Atilano Segundo Pérez Barrios | Radio Commentator | Radio Vigía de Modelar | 22/8/06 |
| | Colombia | José Bonilla Romero | Journalist | Various | 12/10/06 |
| | Colombia | Marino Pérez Murcia | Correspondent/Contributor | Radio Habana/Le Monde Newspaper/German TV | 26/11/06 |
| IN | Dominican Republic | Johnny Martinez | Magazine Editor/TV Producer | Equilibrio Magazine | 13/4/06 |
| | Dominican Republic | Domingo Disla Florentino | TV Commentator | Sport Visión | 28/8/06 |
| | Dominican Republic | Facundo Labata | Radio Journalist | Freelance | 25/9/06 |
| | DRC | Bapuwa Muamba | Journalist | Freelance | 8/7/06 |
| | Ecuador | José Luis León Desiderio | Presenter | Radio Minutera | 13/2/06 |
| | Ecuador | Raúl Sanchez Sandoval | Freelance Photographer | La Hora Durandéña La Prensa de Durán Newspapers | 14/2/06 |
| | Guatemala | José Azpur | Sports Reporter | Progreso Radio | 4/5/06 |
| | Guatemala | Eduardo Heriberto Maas Bol | Radio Journalist | Radio Punto | 10/9/06 |
| | Guyana | Ronald Waddell | TV Talk Show Host | HBTV Channel 9 | 30/1/06 |
| MS | Guyana | Mark Maikoo | Print Technician | Kaieteur News Newspaper | 8/8/06 |
| MS | Guyana | Chitram Persaud | Print Technician | Kaieteur News Newspaper | 8/8/06 |
| MS | Guyana | Elion Wegman | Print Technician | Kaieteur News Newspaper | 8/8/06 |
| MS | Guyana | Richard Stewart | Print Technician | Kaieteur News Newspaper | 8/8/06 |
| MS | Guyana | Shazim Mohamed | Print Technician | Kaieteur News Newspaper | 14/8/06 |
| | India | Prahlad Goala | Correspondent | Asomiya Khaba Newspaper | 6/1/06 |
| | India | Arun Narayan Dekate | Correspondent | Tarun Bharat Newspaper | 10/6/06 |
| | India | Shabir Ahmad Dar | Photographer | Freelance | 14/9/06 |
| | Indonesia | Herliyanto? | Freelance Journalist | Radar Surabaya, Delta Pos Tabloid Visual Tabloid, Jimber News Newspapers | 29/4/06 |
| | Iran | Ayfer Serce | Journalist | Firat Haber Ajansi (Euphrates News Agency - FHA) | 24/7/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Alin Ghazi Jack | Interpreter | Christian Science Monitor | 7/1/06 |
| | Iraq | Sarmad Salman | Sports Reporter | Freelance | 14/1/06 |
| | Iraq | Hamza Hussein | Sports Reporter | Al-Diyar TV Station | 23/7/06 |
| | Iraq | Mahmoud Za'al | Cameraman/Reporter | Baghdad TV | 24/1/06 |
| | Iraq | Atwar Bahjat | Reporter | Al Arabiya TV | 23/2/06 |

| | COUNTRY | NAME | PROFESSION | EMPLOYER | DATE KILLED |
|----|---------|--|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Iraq | Adnan Khairallah | Cameraman | Al Arabiya TV | 23/2/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Khaled Mohsen | Sound Technician | Al Arabiya TV | 23/2/06 |
| | Iraq | Munsuf Abdallah Al-Khaldi | TV Presenter | Baghdad TV | 7/3/06 |
| | Iraq | Amjad Hameed | Editor | Al Iraqiya TV | 11/3/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Anwar Turki | Driver | Al Iraqiya TV | 11/3/06 |
| | Iraq | Muhsin Khudayyir | Editor | Alif Ba Magazine | 13/3/06 |
| | Iraq | Kamal Manahi Anbar | Trainee | Institute for War and Peace Reporting | 26/3/06 |
| | Iraq | Koussai Kahdban | Journalist | Al-Bilad Radio Station | 22/4/06 |
| | Iraq | Abdel Majdi al-Mehmedawi | Reporter | Freelance | 5/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Sa' d Shammari | TV Journalist | Al Iraqiya TV | 5/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Sa'ud M'Zahim Al Hidaythi | TV Journalist | Baghdadiyah TV | 5/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Laith Mashaan | TV Journalist | Nahrein TV | 7/5/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Muazaz Ahmed | Technician | Nahrein TV | 7/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Abid Shakir Al Dulaymi | Freelance Journalist | Al Jumhuriyah Newspaper/Al Qadisiyah Newspaper/Reuters | 7/5/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Ismail Muhammad Khalaf | Printshop Worker | Al Sabah Newspaper | 7/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Abbas Ahmed Kadhem | Reporter | Al Adaalha Newspaper | 10/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Sadek Al Shammari | Journalist | Iraqi News Network | 18/5/06 |
| MS | Iraq | James Brolan | Sound Technician | CBS Television | 29/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Paul Douglas | Cameraman | CBS Television | 29/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Jaafar Ali | TV Sports Presenter | Al Iraqiya TV | 31/5/06 |
| | Iraq | Ibrahim Seneid | Editor | Al Bashara Newspaper | 14/6/06 |
| IN | Iraq | Alaa Hassan | Journalist | Inter Press Service | 28/6/06 |
| | Iraq | Osama Qadeer | Freelance Cameraman | Fox News | 29/6/06 |
| | Iraq | Adel Naji Al Mansouri | Correspondent | Al Alam TV | 29/7/06 |
| | Iraq | Riyad Muhammad Ali | Reporter | Talafar Al Yawm Newspaper | 30/7/06 |
| | Iraq | Abdul Wahab Abdul Razeq Ahmad Al Qaisie | Editor/Freelance Journalist | Kol A Dounia Magazine/Various European Newspapers | 31/7/06 |
| | Iraq | Mohammad Abbas Al Hamad | Editor | Al Bayannah Al Jadida | 7/8/06 |
| | Iraq | Ismail Amin Ali | Freelance Journalist | Al Sabah/Al Qarar Newspapers | 7/8/06 |
| | Iraq | Abdel Karim Al-Roubai | Design Editor | Al Sabah Newspaper | 9/9/06 |
| | Iraq | Hadi Anawi Al Joubouri | Freelance Journalist | Various Iraqi Newspapers | 12/9/06 |
| | Iraq | Safaa Ismail Inad | Photographer | Al Watan Newspaper | 13/9/06 |
| | Iraq | Ahmed Riyadh Al Karbouli | Correspondent | Baghdad TV | 18/9/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Jassem Halad Ibrahim | Driver | Al Iraqiya TV | 4/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Azad Muhammad Hussein | Reporter | Radio Dar Al Salam | 10/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Mohammed Abdul Rahman | Announcer | Radio Dijala | 12/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Abdul Rahim Nasrallah Al Shimari | General Manager | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Ali Jabber | Bodyguard | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Noufel Al Shilari | Deputy General Manager | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Thaker Al Shousili | Presenter | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |

| | COUNTRY | NAME | PROFESSION | EMPLOYER | DATE KILLED |
|----|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Iraq | Ahmad Sha'ban | Presenter | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Sami Nasrallah Al Shimari | Administrative Manager | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Hussein Ali | Video Mixer | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Maher (Last Name Unkown) | Guard | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Ahmad (Last Name Unkown) | Guard | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Hassan (Last Name Unkown) | Guard | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Unknown | Generator Operator | Al Shaabiya TV | 12/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Raed Qais Al Shammari | Correspondent | Sout Al Iraq (Voice of Iraq) TV | 14/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Ali Halil | Guard | Al Iraqiya TV | 16/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Saed Mahdi Shalash | Journalist | Rayat Al Arab Newspaper | 26/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Sherin Hamid | TV Presenter | Al Iraqiya TV | 29/10/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Annas Kassim Nejm | Driver | Al Iraqiya TV | 29/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Abdelmajid Isma'il Khalil | Journalist | Freelance | 31/10/06 |
| | Iraq | Ahmed Al Rasheed | Reporter | Al Sharqiya TV | 1/11/06 |
| | Iraq | Qussai Abass | Journalist | Tariq Al Shaab Newspaper | 2/11/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Unknown | Driver | Tariq Al Shaab Newspaper | 2/11/06 |
| | Iraq | Mohammaed Al Ban | Cameraman | Al Sharqiya TV | 13/11/06 |
| | Iraq | Fadia Mohammed Abid | Journalist | Al Masar Newspaper | 15/11/06 |
| MS | Iraq | Unknown | Driver | Al Masar Newspaper | 15/11/06 |
| | Iraq | Luma Mohammad Reyad | Reporter | Al Dustoor Newspaper | 17/11/06 |
| | Iraq | Waleed Hassan | TV Broadcaster | Al Sharqiya TV | 20/11/06 |
| | Iraq | Ra'ad Jafar Hamadi | Journalist | Al Sabah Newspaper | 21/11/06 |
| | Iraq | Nabil Ibrahim al-Dulaimi | Radio Journalist | Radio Dijla | 4/12/06 |
| | Iraq | Aswan Ahmed Lutfallah | Cameraman | Associated Press | 12/12/06 |
| | Iraq | Akhil Sarhan | Sports Journalist | Al-Riyadia | 29/12/06 |
| MS | Lebanon | Sleiman Chidia | Technician | Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation | 22/7/06 |
| | Lebanon | Layal Nagib | Photographer | Al Jarass Magazine | 23/7/06 |
| | Mexico | Jaime Arturo Olvera Bravo | Photographer | Freelance | 9/3/06 |
| | Mexico | Ramiro Téllez Contreras | Radio Commentator | Exa 95.7 FM | 10/3/06 |
| | Mexico | Rosendo Pardo Ozuna | Journalist | La Voz del Sureste Newspaper | 29/3/06 |
| | Mexico | Enrique Perea Quintanilla | Editor | Dos Caras, Una Verdad Magazine | 9/8/06 |
| | Mexico | Bradley Roland Will | Reporter/Documentary Filmmaker | IndyMedia | 28/10/06 |
| | Mexico | Misael Tamayo Hernandez | Editor | El Despertar de la Costa Newspaper | 10/11/06 |
| | Mexico | José Manuel Nava Sánchez | Editor | Excelsior Newspaper | 16/11/06 |
| | Mexico | Roberto Marcos Garcia | Reporter | Testimonio Magazine | 21/11/06 |
| IN | Mexico | Adolfo Sanchez Guzman | Reporter | Televisa | 30/11/06 |
| IN | Mexico | Raul Marcial Perez | Journalist | El Gráfico Newspaper | 8/12/06 |
| | Nigeria | Godwin Agbroko | Columnist | This Day Newspaper | 22/12/06 |
| | Pakistan | Munir Ahmed Sangi | Cameraman | Kawaish Television Network | 29/5/06 |
| | Pakistan | Hayatullah Khan | Reporter/Photographer | Ausuf Newspaper/European Pressphoto Agency | 16/6/06 |
| | Pakistan | Maqbool Hussain Sail | Correspondent | On Line News Agency | 15/9/06 |

| | COUNTRY | NAME | PROFESSION | EMPLOYER | DATE KILLED |
|----|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Pakistan | Mohammad Ismail | Bureau Chief | Pakistan Press International | 1/11/06 |
| | Philippines | Rolly Canete | Radio Journalist | Various Radio Stations | 20/1/06 |
| | Philippines | Graciano Aquino | Columnist | Central Luzon Forum Newspaper | 21/1/06 |
| | Philippines | Orlando Mendoza | Editor/Contributor | Tarlac Patrol Newspaper/Tarlac Profile Newspaper | 2/4/06 |
| | Philippines | Nicholas Cervantes | Columnist | Surigao Daily Newspaper | 2/5/06 |
| IN | Philippines | Albert Orsolino? | Photographer | Saksi Ngayon Newspaper | 16/5/06 |
| | Philippines | Fernando "Dong" Batul | TV Journalist | DYPR | 22/5/06 |
| IN | Philippines | George Vigo | Contributor | Union of Catholic Asian News | 19/6/06 |
| IN | Philippines | Macel Alave-Vigo | Radio Host | dxND | 19/6/06 |
| | Philippines | Armando "Racman" Pace | Radio Presenter | Radyo Ukay Digos | 18/7/06 |
| | Philippines | Ralph Runez | TV Cameraman | RPN-9 | 28/7/06 |
| | Philippines | Prudencio "Sonny" Melendrez | Photographer | Tanod Newspaper | 31/7/06 |
| IN | Philippines | Ponciano Grande | Columnist/Radio Host | Nueva Ecija Newspaper | 7/12/06 |
| | Philippines | Andres "Andy" Acosta | Reporter | DZJC Radio Station | 20/12/06 |
| | Russia | Vagif Kochetkov | Correspondent | Trud, Tulsii Molodoi Kommunar Newspapers | 8/1/06 |
| | Russia | Yevgeny Gerasimenko | Journalist | Saratovsky Rasklad Newspaper | 26/7/06 |
| | Russia | Anna Politkovskaya | Reporter | Novaya Gazeta Newspaper | 7/10/06 |
| MS | Russia | Anatoly Voronin | Business Manager | Itar-Tass News Agency | 16/10/06 |
| | Somalia | Martin Adler | Cameraman | Freelance | 23/6/06 |
| MS | Somalia | Madey Garas | Driver | National Union of Somali Journalists | 4/8/06 |
| | Sri Lanka | Subramaniam Sugirdharajan | Journalist | Sudarorli Newspaper | 24/1/06 |
| MS | Sri Lanka | Ranjit Kumar | Newspaper Machine Operator | Udyan Newspaper | 2/5/06 |
| MS | Sri Lanka | Suresh | Newspaper Marketing Manager | Udyan Newspaper | 2/5/06 |
| | Sri Lanka | Sampath Lakmal de Silva | Journalist | Freelance | 2/7/06 |
| MS | Sri Lanka | Mariathas Manojanraj | Distributor | Yarl Thinakural and Veerakesari Newspapers | 27/7/06 |
| MS | Sri Lanka | Sathasivam Baskaram | Driver/Distributor | Uthayan Newspaper | 15/8/06 |
| MS | Sri Lanka | Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah | Managing Director | Namathu Eelanad Newspaper | 21/8/06 |
| | Sudan | Mohammed Taha | Editor | Al-Wifaq Newspaper | 6/9/06 |
| | Turkey | Ilyas Aktas | Student Journalist | Devrimci Demokrasi Newspaper | 14/4/06 |
| | Turkmenistan | Ogulsapar Muradova | Correspondent | Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | 14/09/2006* |
| | Venezuela | Enis Garmendia de Ortiz | Journalist | Diario La Nación Newspaper | 4/1/00 |
| | Venezuela | Jorge Aguirre | Photographer | El Mundo Newspaper | 5/4/06 |
| | Venezuela | José Joaquin Tovar | Editor | Ahora Newspaper | 17/6/06 |
| | Venezuela | Jesús Flores Rojas | Co-director | Región Newspaper | 23/8/06 |
| | Venezuela | Pedro Bastardo | Journalist | Bolivar Press Office | 7/10/06 |
| | Yemen | Abed Al Usaili | Journalist | Al Nahar Newspaper | 2/7/06 |

MS= Media Staff

IN=Under Investigation

*Exact date of death unknown

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN 2006

| | COUNTRY | NAME | PROFESSION | EMPLOYER | DATE OF DEATH |
|----|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Argentina | Miguel Facundo Duran | Journalist | Patricios FM Radio Station | 19/5/06 |
| | Argentina | Walter Ariel Gonzalez | Journalist | Patricios FM Radio Station | 19/5/06 |
| | Argentina | Carlos Alberto Siguenza | Journalist | Patricios FM Radio Station | 19/5/06 |
| | Argentina | Carlos Cesar Fernandez | Journalist | Patricios FM Radio Station | 19/5/06 |
| MS | Brazil | Osman De Oliveira | Radio employee | Radio Bras | 2/10/06 |
| MS | Brazil | Francisco Alves De Oliveira | Radio employee | Radio Bras | 2/10/06 |
| | Cameroon | Mathieu Kisito Ngalamou | Correspondent | La Nouvelle Expression Newspaper | 9/10/06 |
| | Colombia | Jairo Munoz | Reporter | Telecinco TV Station | 14/4/06 |
| | Cuba | Ignacio Insua Penville | Photographer | Reuters | 6/9/06 |
| | India | Gulam Khwaja | Reporter | Gulam Khwaja Newspaper | 4/4/06 |
| | India | Satish Tripathi | Journalist | Navbharat Times Newspaper | 22/7/06 |
| | Nepal | Hem Bandari | Journalist | NTV TV Station | 23/9/06 |
| | Nepal | Sunil Singh | Cameraman | NTV TV Station | 23/9/06 |
| | Nigeria | Fred Agwu | Photojournalist | Freelancer | 11/4/06 |
| | Peru | Victor Hugo Olave Rosales | Cameraman | Chromos Productions | 5/4/06 |
| | Philippines | Ismael Cabugayan | Cameraman | ABC-5 TV | 13/8/06 |
| | Philippines | Arnel Guiao | Cameraman | ABC-5 TV | 13/8/06 |
| | Philippines | Hazel Recheta | Reporter | ABC-5 TV | 13/8/06 |
| | Tanzania | Theresia Nyantori | Photographer | Government News Agency | 16/12/06 |
| | Thailand | Thanarat Saengthien | Correspondent | Channel 7 | 29/4/06 |
| | USA | Gordon Davis | Cameraman | WJLA-TV | 19/12/06 |
| | Zambia | Jack Situma | Journalist | Freelancer filming for Kenyan Airways | 8/4/06 |

MS= Media Staff



Journalists practice first-aid techniques at an INSI safety training course in Bali. INSI

Killed Journalists in Each Region

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Africa | 5 |
| DRC | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| Somalia | 2 |
| Sudan | 1 |
| Americas | 37 |
| Argentina | 1 |
| Brazil | 3 |
| Colombia | 5 |
| Dominican Republic | 3 |
| Ecuador | 2 |
| Guatemala | 2 |
| Guyana | 6 |
| Mexico | 10 |
| Venezuela | 5 |
| Asia Pacific | 34 |
| Afghanistan | 3 |
| Bangladesh | 1 |
| China | 2 |
| India | 3 |
| Indonesia | 1 |
| Pakistan | 4 |
| Philippines | 13 |
| Sri Lanka | 7 |
| Europe | 6 |
| Russia | 4 |
| Turkey | 1 |
| Turkmenistan | 1 |
| Middle East | 73 |
| Iraq | 69 |
| Iran | 1 |
| Lebanon | 2 |
| Yemen | 1 |
| Total | 155 |

Accidental Deaths By Region

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| AFRICA | 4 |
| Cameroon | 1 |
| Tanzania | 1 |
| Zambia | 1 |
| AMERICAS | 10 |
| Argentina | 4 |
| Brazil | 2 |
| Colombia | 1 |
| Cuba | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| USA | 1 |
| ASIA | 8 |
| India | 2 |
| Nepal | 2 |
| Philippines | 3 |
| Thailand | 1 |
| TOTAL | 22 |



An employee of Shaabiya cries outside his Baghdad office on October 12, 2006 after gunmen raided the offices of the new Iraqi satellite channel and killed seven guards and employees. REUTERS/Atef Hassan (IRAQ)

The Year in Focus

IFJ Africa Regional Office

Too many murders of journalists on the African continent have gone unsolved in recent years as various state security forces, militia groups and non-state actors believe that independent reporting is something that they can control through violence and intimidation. In 2005, six journalists were killed in Africa, prompting the hope that the many of the protests and condemnations by numerous media organisations all over the world would make 2006 less deadly for journalists. Sadly, 2006 brought little relief, as four of our colleagues were killed with impunity in Somalia, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Somalia has once again featured as a country where journalists continue to fall from assassins' bullets without any hope that those who committed these heinous crimes will be brought to justice. In 2005, journalist **Duniya Muhyadin Nur** was brutally gunned down in Somalia. Her killers are still at large. **Kate Peyton**, a BBC producer, was also shot dead by masked gunmen in Somalia in 2005.

Again in 2006, Somalia had two media killings. In June, a Swedish freelance cameraman, **Martin Adler**, was shot and killed by an unknown assailant as he filmed a demonstration in the capital Mogadishu. Six months later, no one has yet been charged for his murder. In August, **Madey Garas**, the driver of a car carrying officials from the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), was killed when unknown gunmen fired on the vehicle he was driving.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, freelance journalist **Bapuwa Muamba**, was shot by unknown assailants who broke into his home in Kinshasa.



Gabriel Baglo, Africa Regional Office Director

In Sudan, veteran journalist **Mohammed Taha**, editor-in-chief of Sudanese newspaper Al-Wifaq, was kidnapped and killed by unknown men.

While the details of these cases are different, they show all too clearly that journalists in Africa have been specifically targeted and murdered because of their work. Those who perpetrated these heinous crimes against journalists are still walking freely on the streets, sending a signal that impunity over the killing of journalists continues to reign supreme.

We must continue to reiterate that the wilful killing of journalists by various government security

We once again call on the governments concerned to conduct **credible and independent investigations** into the deaths of these journalists and to ensure that their killers are brought to justice.

agents and other non-state actors must be seen as nothing less than a crime against humanity. The killing of journalists with impunity cannot just be allowed to continue unabated. Impunity has no place in any civilised democracy.

Thus, we once again call on the governments concerned to conduct credible and independent investigations into the deaths of these journalists and to ensure that their killers are brought to justice.

Along with the journalists who were brutally murdered, 2006 also witnessed the deaths of three journalists who died in accidents while on duty. These cases also illustrate the dangers journalists face, not only from those who wish to control and censor them, but also from the difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions which are considered part of their normal working environment.

JUNE

23 June – Somalia

Martin Adler, a freelance Swedish cameraman, was shot and killed by an unknown assailant as he filmed a demonstration in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Adler, 47, was filming a demonstration organised by the Islamic Courts Union in the Somali capital when he was shot in the heart. He died instantly.

Adler spent his award-winning career covering news in the world's conflict zones, uncovering the human stories and exposing human rights abuses, devastating poverty and genocide. His work took him around the world from El Salvador to Sierra Leone to Chechnya to Afghanistan to over two dozen other war zones.

He won numerous awards including the 2004 Rory Peck Award for Hard News for his piece "On Patrol with Charlie Company" in Iraq. In 2001 he won the Amnesty International Media Award for his story on the kidnapping and sale of women in China.

Somalia has been an extremely dangerous place for journalists to



Martin Adler. Aftonbladet.

work. In 2005, two journalists, BBC correspondent Kate Peyton and Duniya Muhyadin were both killed in Somalia.

JULY

July 8 – Democratic Republic of Congo

Bapuwa Muamba, a freelance journalist, was shot by unknown assailants in his home in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Muamba, 64, was killed 48 hours after the release of an article in *Le Phare*, in which he criticised the electoral process. Muamba was shot at around 3 a.m. on July 8 by unidentified gunmen who broke into his home. His nephew fled the house and then returned with police but was too late to stop the murder. In the weeks before his death, Muamba told some of his colleagues that he was receiving telephone death threats.

Muamba had been the victim of two other attacks in DRC before he was killed, according to the Congolese media watchdog Journalistes En Danger. Muamba had been in DRC for nine months and was freelancing with independent newspapers, including *Le Potentiel* and *Le Phare*. He had worked for the national news agency and pan-African magazine *Jeune Afrique Economie*.

The IFJ has called on the DRC government to fully investigate this murder and other acts of violence against journalists. The killers of journalist Franck Kangundu and his wife, who were killed in 2005 in DRC, have still not been caught.

AUGUST

4 August – Somalia

Madey Garas, the driver of a car carrying officials of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), was killed when unknown gunmen fired on the car.

Garas and two executive members of NUSOJ were attacked by three gunmen about 45 kilometres outside of Baidoa as they drove to Mogadishu on a Friday morning. Garas was killed immediately. NUSOJ Vice Chairperson Fahad Mohammed Abukar was injured by a bullet that first struck Garas. NUSOJ's Secretary General Omar Faruk was also in the car but was not injured.

The gunmen were never caught.

SEPTEMBER

6 September – Sudan

Mohammed Taha, editor-in chief of Sudanese newspaper *Al-Wifaq*, was kidnapped and killed by unknown men.

Taha, 50, was found beheaded on 6 September in Khartoum just hours after he was abducted by unknown men. The killing is said to be related to controversial articles Taha wrote last year on the lineage of the Prophet Muhammad.

According to an IFJ source in Sudan, Taha left his office for home at midnight on 5 September. At about 12:30 am someone knocked on his door. When he opened the door, he was seized by men who forced him into a car and drove away. His remains were found on the morning of 6 September and

buried on 7 September, prompting some to speculate that the burial was done too quickly to allow for proper examination of the body.

In May 2005, Taha was tried for blasphemy because of articles published in his newspapers raising doubts about the lineage of the Prophet Muhammad. The prosecution, some local extremist groups and a huge crowd that demonstrated during the trial sought the death penalty for Taha. They claimed he had insulted The

Prophet. At the conclusion of the trial, Taha was fined about 3,000 US dollars and his newspaper was closed for three months. He also apologized in print media.

His killing is still unsolved.

DECEMBER

22 December – Nigeria

Godwin Agbroko, columnist and chairman of the editorial board of

This Day newspaper, was found dead at the wheel of his car on the road to the Daleko bridge in the Lagos district of Isolo at around 10 p.m., shortly after he left his office. He had been shot in the throat. The window of the driver's door, which was locked shut, was shattered. His safety-belt was still fastened. None of his belongings had been taken. The shooting is still under investigation but some of his colleagues and family member suspect he was shot in a targeted killing.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

APRIL

8 April - Zambia

Jack Situma, a Kenyan journalist in his 40s, was filming for an in-flight video for Kenyan Airways in Zambia when the banana boat he was in, along with 14 others, capsized. Situma was a seasoned reporter specialising in tourism. His body was found in the Zambezi River.

11 April – Nigeria

Fred Agwu, a freelance photojournalist covering the Gateway Games, died after he was knocked down by an vehicle. The incident happened outside the MKO Abiola Stadium while Agwu was looking for a ride to his hotel. Eyewitness accounts said Agwu and another colleague, Akpan Williams of the Pan African Magazine, *Lagos*, were standing in front of the stadium when the driver of the truck lost control and ran into them. Williams was seriously injured but survived.

OCTOBER

9 October - Cameroon

Mathieu Kisito Ngalamou, the correspondent in Western Cameroon of the private newspaper *La Nouvelle Expression* died in a traffic accident. Kisito, 28, was also working with the online sport newspaper Camfoot.com.

He was returning from an assignment for the football game between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea in Yaoundé. According to sources the accident occurred when a car wanted to overtake the one the journalist was in.

DECEMBER

16 December – Tanzania

Theresia Nyantori, a photographer working with the government news agency, was killed when the small plane she was in crashed through the roof of a house in northern Tanzania.

She was riding in the plane with Juma Akukweti, Tanzania's minister for emergency matters, who was undergoing surgery for burns.

The Year in Focus

IFJ Americas Regional Office

A region where the social watchdogs are killed with impunity at a rate of close to three per month clearly shelters serious imbalances, institutional uncertainty and social unrest of the most varied kind. There is no other way to explain how such levels of violence can be aimed at those whom, by essence and definition, are serving their communities, the people and democratic values.

The cruel situation described above is the case for journalists in Latin America, where thirty-eight of them were killed during 2006 and where two more remain missing.

It is not an exaggeration to say that in some Latin American countries, where journalists perform their professional work defenceless, insecure and harassed by organized crime — especially drug traffickers — and every kind of fanatical political activist, their assassins walk freely in the streets and enjoy the disgraceful protection of impunity.

This concern was vehemently expressed by the Latin American journalists union leaders members of FEPALC, in a statement from their meeting in Caracas in November where they affirmed that “governments have demonstrated their inability and lack of political will for guarantying the right to life and the journalistic exercise, as demonstrated by the fact that most of the killings have remained unpunished, and those who are materially and intellectually responsible have remained immune, unidentified and have never been brought to justice.”

After 2004, when twenty-three journalists and media worker were killed, fatalities among journalists in 2005 fell to fourteen and the expectation was

that this tally could continue to fall, but, painfully, in 2006 the escalation of violence against our colleagues jumped to thirty-eight.

Mexico (10) and Colombia (5) were again near the top of this infamous statistic where the correlation between the social conflict and the attacks on journalists is clear. The killing of journalist by assassins paid by drug traffickers has become endemic in Mexico, but the outburst this year of the long lasting social conflict in Oaxaca State set free a dynamic of aggressions against reporters, reaching its peak when an American IndyMedia cameraman, **Bradley Roland Will**, was shot at the end of October. And in Colombia, despite the efforts coordinated of several organizations of journalists and advocates of freedom of expressions and human rights, the murders of press workers continue to increase. The International News Safety Institute (INSI) has carried out three training workshops in the country since 2005.

Brazil is another Latin American country that every year sees the spilling of journalists' blood. The border area with Paraguay is traditionally very insecure but as crime is on the rise and criminals grow bolder every day and challenge the authorities, journalists become more vulnerable in the big cities like Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Both deserve the attention of INSI, which trained local journalists in both cities to work in violent environments.

It was in the State of Rio de Janeiro that one of the most atrocious attacks took place when a councilman trained in karate beat to death seventy-three-year-old journalist **Ajuricaba Monassa de Paula**

It is not an exaggeration to say that in some Latin American countries, where journalists perform their professional work defenceless, insecure and harassed by organized crime and every kind of fanatical political activist, their assassins walk freely in the streets and enjoy the disgraceful protection of impunity.

in a public square of Guapimirim. Town councillor Osvaldo Vivas, known as a specialist in martial arts, was identified as the killer.

During the elections in Haiti, the conditions for journalistic work ostensibly improved and no journalists were killed. In Guyana, however, there were six murders of press workers this year, five of them on the same day, when the country's main newspaper, *Kaieteur News*, was assaulted by a mob that riddled workers in the printing room with bullets.

Likewise, the situation in Venezuela and the Dominican Republic continues to be very serious because of the continuous attacks and high degree of violence against journalists.

In the face of this dramatic scenario, the journalist unions of Latin America have affirmed their commitment to double their efforts to make governments and society aware of the increasing dangers challenging their colleagues in the development of their work, as well as enhancing their solidarity, facing impunity and maintaining support for colleagues with the valuable back up of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and INSI.

Gregorio Salazar
Regional Co-ordinator IFJ/LA



JANUARY

4 January – Venezuela

Enis Garmendia de Ortiz, a journalist for *Diario La Nación*, was killed by unknown gunmen in front of her house in San Cristóbal in the Táchira region.

The 63-year-old reporter was shot twice. She had worked for the newspaper since 1980 covering education. Her colleagues were shocked by her killing. Investigators ruled out theft as a motive.

30 January – Guyana

Ronald Wadell, 57, a former talk-show host on HBTV Channel 9, was gunned down outside his home in the Georgetown suburb of Subryanville. Waddell was getting into his car in the garage of his home at about 8 p.m. when two men armed with .38 and .32 calibre pistols emerged from a car parked on the other side of the street and shot him 13 times. Hit in the head, back and chest, Waddell died in a Georgetown hospital.

A former reporter with the *Stabroek News* daily newspaper, Waddell had been hosting a talk-show on HBTV Channel 9 since 2001. He was also an active member of the People's National Congress, which is strongly backed by Afro-Guyanese, and was a fierce critic of President Bharrat Jagdeo, who is of Asian descent.

FEBRUARY

13 February – Ecuador

José Luis León Desiderio, a present on Radio Minutera, was shot in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Leon Desiderio, 43, was shot three times by a group of individuals who intercepted him near his home in Bastion Popular, a poor urban area of northern Guayaquil.

Leon Desiderio was a well-known journalist who began his career with the newspaper *El Telegrafo* 22 years ago and later worked for a number of radio stations, including Z1 and Radio Minutera, where he presented the show *Opinion*, on which, according to Hugo Asencio, a friend and colleague of the victim at Z1 Radio, allegations were made and “he would speak out against crime, which in Guayaquil is unstoppable and no official is doing anything about it”, Asencio said.

The journalist said that this could be the motive for his colleague's murder, as his belongings were found next to his body at the scene of the crime.

“They didn't steal anything, his things were there. The murder was unquestionably an act of revenge and nothing more”, Asencio said.

14 February – Ecuador

Raúl Sanchez Sandoval, a freelance photographer who contributed to the dailies *La Hora Durandena* and *La Prensa de Durán*, was shot dead in Durán, a suburb of Guayaquil in southwestern Ecuador.

Witnesses, quoted by several Ecuadorian dailies, saw Sanchez Sandoval being approached by a man in a car and the two men exchanging a few words. The driver then pulled out a gun and opened fire. The journalist was hit by two bullets in the spine, a third

in the right leg and a fourth in the abdomen. Sanchez Sandoval, 43 died shortly after arrival at the Luis Vernaza hospital in Guayaquil.

The dead man's brother, Héctor Suárez, stressed that nothing had been stolen from him and that the murder may be linked to his profession. His brother had apparently told him that he was being followed for several days.

27 February – Argentina

Pablo Federico Mansilla, a producer for Channel 26 TV and their news web site, was shot and killed when he returned to his home in the La Matanza neighbourhood in the eastern part of Buenos Aires.

It was first thought that Mansilla, 21, was killed during a robbery because his shoes and mobile phone were missing but his colleagues think the motive might have been related to his work because his killers encountered him two blocks from his office. It seems that Mansilla recognized his



Brazilian journalists cover face-off between police and residents in one of Rio de Janeiro's favelas. INSI

attackers and that was the reason that they decided to kill him.

MARCH

9 March – Mexico

Jaime Arturo Olvera Bravo, a freelance photographer and former correspondent for the Morelia-based daily *La Voz de Michoacán*, was shot to death outside his home in La Piedad in the central state of Michoacán.

Olvera Bravo left his home around 8 p.m. with his 5-year-old son. While they were waiting at a bus stop, an unknown assailant approached Olvera Bravo and fired at close range, according to local press reports. A bullet struck Olvera Bravo in the neck, and he died at the scene. His son was unharmed.

Olvera Bravo worked for *La Voz de Michoacán* until April 2002 when he resigned to become a salesman for a processed meat company, the paper reported. But he continued working as a freelancer, providing photographs and crime tips to local media, the Mexico City-based *El Universal* said.

The special prosecutor for crimes against journalists opened a preliminary investigation and said it would formally take the case if it finds evidence that Olvera Bravo's murder was related to his journalism.

10 March – Mexico

Ramiro Téllez Contreras, 45, a radio commentator for Nuevo Laredo's Exa 95.7 FM, was shot as he was driving to work.

13 March – Brazil

José Kessio, who worked for Amambay FM on the border with Paraguay was shot 10 times while at work. The reporter was also a producer at the station's offices in Ponta Porá, Brasil.

20 March – Colombia

Gustavo Rojas Gabalo died after a lengthy struggle to survive injuries inflicted during an attempt on his life in Montería. On 4 February, a man approached and shot Rojas Gabalo twice, once in the head and once in the collarbone. The assailant then fled on a motorcycle with another unidentified person who had been waiting nearby.

Rojas Gabalo, 56, had nine children. His first programme was "Este es Córdoba". His second programme, "Sinfonía de Acordeones", later renamed "El Show de Gaba", was on air for 25 years. It combined music and social commentary, including criticisms of successive municipal governments and Córdoba department politicians.

29 March – Mexico

Rosendo Pardo Ozuna, a journalist for the newspaper *La Voz del Sureste*, was shot and killed while riding his bicycle in Chiapas.

His colleagues believe that because of the political situation in the region it will be very difficult to solve his murder. Pardo had been a fierce critic of the municipal government in Tuxtla Gutiérrez led by mayor Juan Sabines Guerrero.



Rosendo Pardo Ozuna

APRIL

05 April – Venezuela

Jorge Aguirre, Venezuelan photographer working for *El Mundo* newspaper, was fatally shot while covering protests of the kidnapping and murders of three Canadian boys and their driver.

The photographer was driving his car to the Central University of Venezuela where the protests were taking place, when "an apparent police officer on a motorcycle without license plates stopped him."

When Aguirre got out of his car, which was clearly marked as a press vehicle, the supposed officer fired three times, once in Aguirre's thorax, and fled.

13 April – Dominican Republic

Johnny Martínez, a magazine editor and television producer, was stabbed 23 times and his body was left near the Nigua River.

Martínez, 30, was the editor of the magazine *Equilibrio* and the producer of a television programme of the same name in the city of San Cristóbal.

On 23 October, Martínez's killers were sentenced to 30 years in jail, the maximum penalty. The killers, national police officers Octaviano Pérez Féliz and Anthony Candelario, admitted that they committed the crime and that their motive was to steal Martínez's possessions. Nevertheless, Martínez's parents believe he was killed for reports he had done revealing cases of corruption.

MAY

4 May – Guatemala

José Azpur, better known as Chepito, a radio sports journalist, was found murdered in his home in downtown Guatemala City. The motive for his murder is not clear. The Association of Guatemalan Journalists (APG in Spanish) has called authorities for an immediate inquiry. Azpur worked for the

programme “Mundo Rojo” on the Progreso radio station.

JUNE

17 June – Venezuela

José Joaquín Tovar, the editor of the weekly *Ahora*, was shot 11 times in Caracas.

It is still not clear whether the motive for his murder was related to his work or not. A relative said the murder could be linked to a column he wrote for *Ahora* in which “he criticised both the government and the opposition.”

JULY

20 July – Brazil

Manuel Paulino Da Silva, the editor of *Hoje Jornal*, was shot while he was driving his car in

Guarujá. His car crashed into a wall and caught fire.

24 July – Brazil

Ajuricaba Monassa de Paula, a 73-year-old freelance journalist and member of the local opposition, was beaten to death in public in Guapirimim by a municipal councillor he had criticised. Monassa de Paula was affiliated to the Brazilian Press Association (ABI).

The attack took place when Monassa de Paula was on a central square in the town of Guapirimim having an argument with a close relative of Osvaldo Vivas, a municipal councillor he had accused of questionable administrative practices. A martial arts black belt, Vivas himself then intervened and began hitting Monassa de Paula until he collapsed. He was rushed to the intensive care unit of a nearby hospital where he died of his injuries.

AUGUST

8 August – Guyana

Mark Maikoo, **Chitram Persaud**, **Eon Wigman** and **Richard Stuart**, print technicians for the newspaper *Kaieteur News*, were shot dead on 8 August by an armed gang that stormed the newspaper's printing press in Bagotstown, a suburb of the capital city of Georgetown. The gunmen reportedly forced the men to lie face down on the ground before shooting them in the head. All four died instantly. Their colleague **Shazim Mohamed**



Journalists practice helping wounded colleagues through a minefield at an INSI Safety Training Course in Popayan, Colombia. CESO-FIP

died from his injuries on 14 August. The motive for the attack is unknown.

The attack, in which other people were injured, was one of the most violent in Latin America. Investigators are looking into possible motives, including threats that were made against coverage of a series of rapes in the city as well as protests against poor prison conditions and coverage of the upcoming presidential elections in the country.

9 August – Colombia

Milton Fabián Sánchez, who worked for community radio station Yumbo Estéreo, was shot by two men on motorcycles in the industrial city of Yumbo.

Sánchez, 37, was shot twice as he was on his way home at 10:30 pm. He was taken to hospital but died later in the evening from his injuries.

Sánchez was known for his commentary on the show *Notas de Gestión*. His colleagues said he had not received any threats before he was killed.

9 August – Mexico

The body of **Enrique Perea Quintanilla**, a longtime police reporter who became editor of a crime magazine, was found at 2 p.m. on the side of a road south of Chihuahua.

Perea Quintanilla, 50, was shot once in the head and once in the back with a .45-caliber gun. There were also signs that he had been tortured. Perea was editor of a monthly magazine, *Dos Caras, Una Verdad* (Two Sides, One Truth), which specialized in

reporting on closed murder cases and local drug trafficking. He had worked for 20 years as a police reporter for the dailies *El Heraldo de Chihuahua* and *El Diario de Chihuahua* until becoming the magazine's editor in 2005.

The state prosecutor's office believes the murder is the work of organized crime. While the motive was not immediately clear, Perea Quintanilla's journalism work was one of the investigators' main leads.

22 August – Colombia

Atilano Segundo Perez Barrios, the creator of a radio programme, was killed outside his home in Los Alpes neighbourhood by unknown gunmen on motorcycles in the city of Cartagena.

Perez Barrios, 52, founded an informative programme for Radio Vigía de Modelar called *El Diario de Marialabaja* (Marialabaja Daily). On the programme, he discussed different events and news regarding Marialabaja, located in Montes de María region. The radio programme was well known for denouncing corruption, including naming names on the air.

On his last broadcast, Pérez Barrios discussed the developing influence of paramilitary groups in different establishments in Marialabaja. He pointed out these illegal groups sponsored some candidates running for mayor.

Bolívar had also served as representative in the provincial assembly in Bolívar.

23 August – Venezuela

Jesús Flores Rojas, co-director of the daily paper *Región*, in



Enrique Perea Quintanilla

the northwestern province of Anzoátegui, was stopped in his car by a gunman in El Tigre. He was prepared to hand over the car but the gunman refused the offer and shot him in the head eight times before escaping in a waiting vehicle.

The journalist's daughter said her father had often criticised the region's politicians in print. He had not had any death threats, but since nothing was stolen in the attack, officials speculated it was an act of revenge.

Provincial governor Tarek William Saab paid tribute to Flores Rojas, who was widely respected, and ordered an investigation. Nine agents were assigned to the police enquiry.

28 August – Dominican Republic

Domingo Disla Florentino, a commentator on radio and televisión, was shot in the tourist village of Boca Chica, 30 km east of Santo Domingo.

He was killed in front of his wife and two young children. Disla Florentino, a father of five, produced a tv programme called "Domingo Disla TV" on channel 35 Sport Visión. He was also a lawyer.



From top: Roberto Marcos Garcia, Misael Tamayo Hernandez, and Jose Bonilla Romero.

was an active member of the Alta Verapaz Journalists' Association.

A month earlier, a radio reporter had been shot in the face during a botched assassination attempt by motorcycle gunmen in Guatemala City, and four journalists in the nearby town of Antigua received death threats after reporting on corruption.

A few hours after his death, another journalist, **Angel Martín Tax**, received a threatening phone call telling him that he was next on a list of journalists that would be killed.

25 September – Dominican Republic

Facundo Labata, a radio journalist, was shot by unidentified men while he was playing dominos with friends in Santo Domingo.

Labata, 54, was correspondent for several radio stations and a freelance journalist.

The motive for the killing is still not clear but Labata's daughter said her father had been reporting on drug trafficking in his neighbourhood in recent months and she believed that those reports were the cause of his murder.

months in the press office of the municipality of Bolívar. According to witnesses, the killer spoke with the victim before shooting him. There are no leads in the case but it is not believed that robbery was the cause as nothing was taken from Bastardo.

12 October – Colombia

Jose Bonilla Romero was shot dead in Cali while he was at the home of some friends. Unknown men stormed the house and shot him as he was leaving. He died immediately. Bonilla Romero, 64, is the founder of the association of foreign correspondents in Bogota. He also worked in public relations.

28 October – Mexico

Bradley Roland Will, a documentary filmmaker and reporter for Indymedia New York in Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil, died of a gunshot wound to the chest when plainclothes paramilitary police reportedly opened fire on a crowd of protesters.

Will, 36, had been on assignment in Mexico for IndyMedia. Two others died in the shooting and Will's photographer Oswaldo Ramirez was among the injured.

Oaxaca has been filled with protesters for the past five months after the governor Ulises Ruiz tried to face down a protest by teachers. After the incident Mexican President Vicente Fox ordered in federal riot police. Critics accuse Ruiz of corruption and repressive tactics against dissenters, whose roadblocks have driven tourism from the city and hurt business.

SEPTEMBER

10 September – Guatemala

Eduardo Maas Bol, a radio reporter and human rights activist, was found shot dead in his car, during a wave of attacks and death threats against journalists in the country.

Maas Bol, 58, was found dead from multiple gunshot wounds in the central town of Coban. He

OCTOBER

7 October – Venezuela

Journalist **Pedro Bastardo** died after he was shot multiple times in the head by an unknown gunman in Cumaná.

Bastardo was entering a store when he was shot by the gunman, who was in a vehicle. Bastardo had been working for eight

These latest killings once again push Latin America into the ranks of the world's most dangerous regions for journalists. Only the Middle East and Iraq are worse in a year that is proving to be another deadly chapter in the story of journalists under fire.

-IFJ GENERAL SECRETARY AIDAN WHITE

NOVEMBER

10 November – Mexico

Misael Tamayo Hernandez, editor of *El Despertar de la Costa* newspaper, was found dead early Friday, with his hands tied behind his back, in a hotel room in Zihuatanejo.

Tamayo was found lying on a bed, covered only with a sheet. Investigators found three puncture marks on his body, one in his right hand and two others in a forearm. The cause of death was a heart attack, forensic investigators said.

Tamayo Hernandez, who was well-respected in the local journalism community, had published a day before a story alleging that city officials gave illegal discounts on water services to individuals and businesses. The same edition also contained stories on organized crime.

16 November – Mexico

Newspaper editor **José Manuel Nava Sánchez** was found stabbed



Speaker leads session of a CESO-FIP/INSI course in Barranquilla, Colombia, for journalists on dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. CESO-FIP

to death in his apartment in Mexico City.

Nava Sánchez, 53, was the former editor of the Mexican newspaper *Excélsior*. He was found dead by his cleaning lady in his living room. There were no signs of a break-in or robbery,

according to the preliminary investigation.

21 November – Mexico

Reporter **Roberto Marcos Garcia** died near Veracruz after he was pushed off his motorcycle, run



A journalist practices bandaging a leg wound at an INSI Safety Training Course in Bucaramanga, Colombia. CESO-FIP

over and then shot four times. The 50-year-old investigative reporter wrote for a weekly magazine called *Testimonio*, where he covered topics ranging from drug trafficking and car theft to corruption among local officials.

26 November – Colombia

Journalist **Marino Pérez Murcia** was shot in the head and

abandoned in the Galerías neighbourhood, where his body was found by local residents.

Pérez Murcia, 58, was a correspondent for Radio Habana, a contributor to *Le Monde* and worked on news reports for a German television channel. He had worked as correspondent for Colombian radio networks Caracol and Todelar and covered the Persian Gulf War.

José Dario Pérez, the journalist's brother said the motive for the murder is unclear, as Marino's belongings were found and robbery was ruled out as a motive.

According to statements made by his nephew and journalist Harold Pérez, Pérez Murcia was working on the release of three North American military advisors, abducted by FARC guerrilla on February 2003 when their aircraft was gunned down in the Amazon department of Caquetá.

"He was focused on getting an exclusive interview with guerrilla commander Simón Trinidad, imprisoned in the United States and used some

contacts he had in the FBI to get it", they explained.

30 November – Mexico

According to press reports, the body of **Adolfo Sanchez Guzman**, who worked for a Televisa affiliate and reported for a radio station and an Internet news site, was found with two shots in the back of the head. Sanchez Guzman, 32, was found with the body of a second man, apparently a friend who had also been shot.

8 December – Mexico

Raul Marcial Perez, a columnist for *El Gráfico* Newspaper and an indigenous activist, was shot dead in the state of Oaxaca, where there have been many protests against alleged corruption by the governor.

Marcial Perez's body was found riddled with bullets on a road near the Mixtec Indian community of Agua Fria. He had been shot earlier in the day. He had been involved in disputes involving two rival Triqui Indian rights groups, but the reason for his slaying is still under investigation.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

APRIL

05 April – Peru

Victor Hugo Olave Rosales, a Chilean cameraman, was killed when his plane crashed. He was filming at the time.

14 April – Colombia

Jairo Munoz, a reporter for Columbia TV station Telecinco, was covering deadly flooding and mudslides on the highway between Cali and the Pacific port of Buenaventura when he was killed in a mudslide. He was 42.

MAY

19 May - Argentina

The sport journalists, **Miguel Facundo Durán**, **Walter Ariel González**, **Carlos Alberto Sigüenza** and **Carlos César Fernández** died in a car accident as they were driving back from covering a soccer game close to San Luis in western Argentina. The 4 journalists worked for the radio station Patricios FM in Buenos Aires.

SEPTEMBER

6 September – Cuba

Ignacio Insua Penville, a photographer, died after a car accident on the main highway close to Gaspar.

Insua, 57, who worked for Reuters, was still alive when he arrived at hospital in Morón but later died from his injuries. He was following Hurricane Ernesto along the eastern end of the island.

OCTOBER

2 October – Brazil

Osman De Oliveira Mello and **Francisco Alves De Oliveira**, employees of the Brazilian Radio Agency Radio Bras, were coming back from work in the Gol flight that crashed on Para State. They were inspecting a radio station in Tabatinga.

DECEMBER

19 December - United States of America

Gordon Davis, a television cameraman had just finished covering a strip mall fire a little after 2:30 in the morning and was returning to his vehicle when he was hit by a car. The driver stopped, summoned help and the photographer was taken to a hospital where he died a short time later. Davis had reportedly worked the overnight shift to give him more daytime hours with his wife and 14-year-old daughter.

The Year in Focus

IFJ Asia-Pacific Regional Office

Asia continues to be one of the most dangerous regions in the world to work as a journalist, with an overwhelming 38 journalists and media workers losing their lives this year. Targeted murders of journalists in the region have surpassed 2005 figures, with premeditated shootings — fuelled by political conflict and unrest — frequently taking the lives of our colleagues. Often these courageous reporters were intimidated and harassed for many weeks before their deaths, in their struggle to uncover corruption and truth. The brutal accounts listed in this report highlight the dangers journalists face everyday in the Asia-Pacific region.

The worsening conflict in Sri Lanka has created an unsafe and fragile environment for media workers. Danger surrounds media persons attempting to report on the conflict and in turn catastrophically stifles freedom of speech. Tamil media have been predominantly targeted, particularly Jaffna-based Tamil language dailies which have faced various harassments and attacks, with four media workers killed, newspaper warehouses set on fire, and one newspaper forced to close down after its managing editor was murdered. Hate speech and vituperative attacks pervades the culture of fear in Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lankan government has been worryingly inactive in finding the perpetrators of these crimes against press freedom. The silencing of alternative voices in Sri Lankan society is further widening the divide between communities, jeopardising the chance for sustainable peace in Sri Lanka.



Jacqui Park, Director Asia Pacific Regional Office Director

Devastating numbers of journalists continue to be killed in the Philippines, and it is again ranked second, only to war-torn Iraq, as the most dangerous place for journalists in the world. Ten journalists have been killed in the Philippines just this year, equalling last year's horrifically high toll, and substantially higher than any other country in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region. This brings the total to 45 media workers killed since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001, surpassing the number killed under the 14-year Marcos dictatorship. Even more concerning than these shocking statistics, is the near zero prosecution rate for journalists' murders. President Arroyo has asked the Melo Commission to investigate the numerous deaths of journalists, so we will have to wait and see if 2007 brings an end, once and for all, to the

Hope came this year in the form of strength and solidarity, as affiliates throughout the Asia-Pacific banded together to support their colleagues in various campaigns, and demonstrations of unity, from Pakistan's quest for wage justice for journalists, to Afghanistan's protest on journalist safety after two years of democracy.

culture of impunity for those who attack, maim and murder journalists in the Philippines. In response to the safety crisis facing Filipino journalists the IFJ established a Safety Office in Manila in November 2005, supported by the Norwegian Journalists' Union and the Media Alliance (Australia).

A new deeply disturbing trend emerged in Pakistan this year, which saw two child relatives of journalists murdered in less than one month. Bashir Khan, the young brother of slain journalist Hayatullah Khan, was brutally murdered on September 26, in what was apparently a message to his family who had been active in trying to expose Hayatullah's killers. On August 31, the 16-year-old brother of BBC correspondent Dilawar Khan was found tortured and murdered in volatile South Waziristan, a tribal-ruled region along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The murder of Taimur Khan, who was kidnapped two days earlier, may have been to get a message to Dilawar who has been under threat for the past two years for his reporting. These dreadful crimes, now targeting family members of journalists, have been part of a rapid disintegration of press freedoms and journalist safety in Pakistan this year, with four journalists murdered (all unsolved cases), journalists detained and tortured by intelligence agencies, and scores of other violent incidents and threats to journalists.

Afghanistan remains an extremely dangerous country for journalists to work. The continuing deteriorating security situation and conflict in Afghanistan, and the appalling record of press freedom violations and physical attacks on journalists for merely doing their job, are further indications of the dire conditions the Afghan media face. October 9, 2006 marked two years since the first democratic elections in Afghanistan, a period that has been marred by violence and targeted attacks against

journalists, with four journalists murdered.

Elsewhere in South Asia, the brutal murders of two journalists in India further highlighted how democracy does not necessarily guarantee journalists' safety, and in Bangladesh another murdered journalist underlined the region's struggle for security and freedom.

China's human rights record did not improve this year, with an editor beaten to death by a police officer and another dying from injuries sustained after police assaulted him for exposing local police corruption. Reporting on local corruption also resulted in the murder of one Indonesian journalist this year, and in January 2007 the IFJ is engaging with our local affiliate to conduct safety training for Indonesian journalists who work in insecure regional areas.

The coup in Thailand proved to be, on the whole, bloodless; however the censorship imposed on the local and foreign media has contributed to a climate of uncertainty regarding the new administration and the future for press freedom in Thailand.

Nevertheless, hope came this year in the form of strength and solidarity, as affiliates throughout the Asia-Pacific banded together to support their colleagues in various campaigns, and demonstrations of unity, from Pakistan's quest for wage justice for journalists, to Afghanistan's protest on journalist safety after two years of democracy. Our colleagues have stood together and bravely risen to the challenges thrown at them from all sides.

The IFJ sends its unconditional support to the tireless efforts and unfading determination of IFJ affiliates and press freedom organisations throughout the Asia-Pacific region who remain committed to providing balanced, independent news, and refuse to bow to intimidation in their struggle for freedom of expression and protections for media workers.

JANUARY

January 6 – India

Prahlad Goala, the Golaghat district correspondent of the daily *Asomiya Khabar*, was killed by unidentified assailants who waylaid him at Thuramukh, about 10 kms from Golaghat town, when he was returning home from work. Goala, travelling on a motorbike, was most probably hit by a vehicle, after which he was attacked with steel rods, wooden sticks and an axe. Goala, 32, had exposed the illegal felling of trees in the Nambor reserved forest and had reportedly attracted the ire of the ranger in charge, KZ Zaman Jinnah. Goala had received threats from the forest ranger in the weeks leading up to his murder.

January 20 – Philippines

Rolly Cañete, a part-time radio-journalist was shot three times in the back with a .45 calibre pistol whilst he was walking home at Purok Bakaw in Barangay Kawit, by unidentified assailants riding motorcycles. Cañete, 40, was the spokesperson for both Zamboanga del Sur Representative Antonio Cerilles and his wife, Aurora Cerilles, who is the provincial governor. The Cerilles also control two of the three radio stations on which Cañete broadcast daily radio programmes.

January 21 – Philippines

Former radio newsman, **Graciano Aquino** was shot in a cockfight arena in Sitio Panibatuan in Barangay (village) Poblacion, Morong town, Bataan province.



Filipino journalists march in Olongapo City in Central Luzon to protest the killings of journalists.

Armed attackers, reportedly members of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines-Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, approached Aquino, 40, and shot him at close range in the nape of the neck. Aquino, columnist of the local newspaper Central Luzon Forum, had also formerly been a reporter of radio station, dzRH.

January 24 – Sri Lanka

Subramaniam Sugirdharajan was shot and killed by assailants riding motorcycles at approximately 6.00am. Commonly referred to as SSR, the 35-year-old father of two worked for the Tamil language daily newspaper, Sudarorli, as a part-time provincial journalist. His murder followed a pattern of violence directed towards Sudaroli including two grenade attacks on the newspaper offices in 2005.

FEBRUARY

February 2 – China

Wu Xianghu, deputy editor of *Taizhou Wanbao*, died from serious injuries sustained in October 2005 when police in Taizhou, Zhejiang province, attacked him after he wrote an expose on high fee collections for electric bicycle licenses. Wu, 41, died of liver and kidney failure after months of hospitalisation. The police assault damaged his liver, which was already compromised due to a previously existing medical condition.

APRIL

April 2 – Philippines

Orlando Mendoza, 58, of Tarlac province, was gunned down while driving his jeep home from his farm. Mendoza was a contributor

for the *Tarlac Profile*, editor-in-chief of the *Tarlac Patrol*, vice-president of the Camp Macabulos Press Club (Philippines National Police's Tarlac camp) and director of the Tarlac chapter of the Central Luzon Media Association. He sustained fatal wounds to his head and body after men appeared from a grassy spot and shot him several times. It remains unclear if Mendoza's death was in connection with his work as a journalist or connected to his involvement in several land disputes linked to his prior employment at the municipal office of the Department of Agrarian Reform. Mendoza was charged with libel in March 2006 for angering a local faction of the Philippine Guardian Brotherhood, a military fraternity. The charge was dismissed in late March.

April 29 – Indonesia

Herliyanto, 38, a freelance journalist for the regional paper *Radar Surabaya* and tabloids such as the *Delta Pos Tabloid of Sidoarjo*, the *Visual Tabloid of Jakarta* and *Jimber News*, was found brutally

stabbed to death in a forest near the village of Takoran, in the Probolinggo district of East Java. His motorcycle was not stolen but his camera and notebook were reported missing. Herliyanto actively reported on corrupt local authorities. He exposed the head of the Tulupari village for manipulating a subsidised rice rationing programme and uncovered the misuse of funding for the Compensations of the Poor and the Funds for School Operation and fresh water trafficking in a village in the province.

MAY

May 2 – Sri Lanka

Two unidentified armed attackers entered into the offices of the Tamil daily nationalist newspaper, *Udyan*, killing **Ranjit Kumar**, a machine operator and **Suresh Kumar** a marketing manager. Three journalists were also badly injured in the attack, with two in critical condition. The exact circumstances of the attack remain unknown, with

the Sri Lankan government security forces denying any involvement in the killings. The incident took place during a one-year anniversary vigil held to honor murdered Tamil journalist Dharmeratnam "Taraki" Sivaram, the editor of the Tamilnet news website and columnist for the *Sri Lankan Daily Mirror* newspaper.

May 2 – Philippines

Nicolas Cervantes, a hard-hitting columnist for *Surigao Daily* in Mindanao who reportedly went after suspected tax evaders, was killed by unidentified gunmen. Cervantes, 66, worked undercover as the National Director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Confidential Information Group.

May 16 – Philippines

Unidentified attackers reportedly ambushed and opened fire on **Albert Orsolino**, a 43-year-old photojournalist with *Saksi Ngayon* and former president of the Camanava Press Corps. It remains unclear if Orsolino's murder was in connection with his work as a photojournalist.

May 22 – Philippines

The Palawan broadcaster **Fernando "Dong" Batul**, 36, was murdered on May 22, 2006, on his way to anchor his regular programme called *Bastonero* on DYPR in Puerto Princesa.

May 29 – Pakistan

Munir Ahmed Sangi, cameraman for the Sindhi-language Kawaish Television Network (KTN), was covering a story on a gunfight



Protestors light candles at a vigil for slain Filipino journalists in Baguio City in Northern Luzon.



From the top: Herliyanto and Fernando Batul.

between members of the Unar and Abro tribes in the town of Larkana, in South East Pakistan's Sinh district when he was fatally shot. KTN had already broadcast the fight. Sangi, 30, may have been targeted because of reports by KTN and the Sindi newspaper *Kawaish* of the punishment of a boy and girl by the Jirga tribal council. The Jirga has been proclaimed illegal by Pakistani courts, however in this case the Jirga was allegedly held at the home of Sindh Minister Altaf Unar's house. Unar denies these allegations. Sangi had previously covered similar stories and had received threats in the past because of his work. Journalists staged protests and demonstrations in Larkana in response to Sangi's death.

Urdu language daily Ausuf and photographer for the European Pressphoto Agency (EPA) was kidnapped by masked assailants armed with AK-47 assault rifles near North Wazirton. It is alleged that the kidnapping was in relation to Khan's report on the account of the killing of senior Al Qaeda militant on December 1, which cast doubt on the official version of events and raised sensitive issues regarding the US military's involvement in the fight against terrorism in Pakistan. In September 2006, Bashir Kahn, the child brother of Hayatullah, was murdered in what appeared to be an attempt to intimidate the family who had been calling for a full investigation into Hayatullah's murder. A single Judge Judicial Commission in Peshawar has completed its inquiry into Hayatullah's death and submitted the report to the federal government in October. Despite promises from the government, the report has not yet been released.

The fact authorities have failed to solve a single journalist murder case, combined with the repression of inquiry reports, indicates a deeply concerning development of a culture of impunity in Pakistan.

– Christopher Warren, IFJ President

JUNE

June 10 – India

Arun Narayan Dekate died on June 10 in hospital in Nagpur, India, from injuries he sustained after he was attacked with stones on his way home two days earlier. Dekate, 30, a rural correspondent with Marathi daily *Tarun Bharat*, had recently exposed an illegal gambling racket and his recent tip-off to police about the activities of alleged gambling boss Dhampal Bhagat had resulted in several arrests.

June 16 – Pakistan

Hayatullah Khan's body was discovered, six months after his abduction. On Monday December 6, 2005, Khan a reporter for the

June 19 – Philippines

Married journalists **George Vigo** and **Macel Alave-Vigo** were shot and killed by unidentified attackers in the Sandawa district of the Philippines. George Vigo was a contributor to the *Union of Catholic Asian News*, and executive director of the People's Kauyahan Foundation Inc, an NGO organising peace dialogues and forums. His wife, Macel Alave-Vigo hosted a programme at the local radio station, dxND. It is unclear whether the murder was motivated by their journalistic work. The couple had five children.

JULY

July 2 – Sri Lanka

Freelance journalist **Sampath Lakmal de Silva**, 24, was shot dead by unknown gunmen. He was abducted at 5:00 a.m. from his parents' home in Borallasgamuwa, south of Colombo. He was found shot dead three kilometres away from his home.

July 18 – Philippines

Two motorcycle-riding assassins in the southern city of Digos shot broadcaster **Armando "Racman" Pace**, 51, as he was on his way home. Pace, 51, worked for Radyo Ukay Digos.

July 18 – China

Editor of the *Ashun Daily* **Xiao Guopeng** was attacked outside his offices by a uniformed police officer in the province of Guizhou. He died the next day in a local hospital from severe head injuries. A police officer, Pan Dengfeng, has been arrested in connection with the murder and a criminal investigation is now underway. Xiao, 39, was the second journalist to die this year in China from an attack by a police officer.

July 22 – Afghanistan

Abdul Qodus, from Kabul based private television network Aryana, arrived at the scene of a suicide car bomb to cover the aftermath when a second attacker with explosives strapped to their body blew themselves up. Qodus died of head injuries at a local hospital.

July 24 – Iran

Ayfer Serçe, a young Kurdish journalist and militant, was killed during an army operation against Kurdish rebels in Keleres, in the northeastern province of Azarbayjan. Serçe worked for the Firat Haber Ajansi (Euphrates News Agency – FHA) using the pseudonym of Silan Aras. She had gone to Azarbayjan in early July to investigate suicides by women in the region, which has a large Kurdish population.

The FHA has accused the Iranian military of killing Serçe.

July 27 – Sri Lanka

Newspaper vendor **Mariathas Manojanraj**, 23, a distributor of *Yarl Thinakural* and *Veerakesari*, was killed by a mine that was set off as he was going to Jaffna to collect newspapers for distribution. The attack came as death threats are being made against the distributors of Tamil-language newspapers.

July 28 – Philippines

Camera-operator **Ralph Runez**, 35, from the television station RPN-9 was shot dead in front of his house in Caloocan City.

July 31– Philippines

Prudencio "Sonny" Melendrez, a photojournalist from the Manila newspaper *Tanod*, was murdered outside his house in Malabon. Melendrez is reportedly a cousin of Saksi Ngayon photojournalist Albert Orsolino, who was murdered in Caloocan City.



From the top: Munir Ahmed Sangi, George Vigo and Macel Alave-Vigo; Armando Pace; and Albert Orsolino.

AUGUST

August 16 – Sri Lanka

On August 16, **Sathasivam Baskaram**, driver-cum-distributor of the Jaffna based *Uthayan* newspaper, was shot dead. Baskaran, 44, was gunned down in his *Uthayan* delivery vehicle after taking advantage of the temporary lifting of an army curfew to deliver copies of the newspaper. He was shot while driving his clearly marked vehicle in an area controlled by the Sri Lankan armed forces. According to the Tamilnet website, he was killed by soldiers.

August 21 – Sri Lanka

Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah, managing director of Jaffna Tamil daily newspaper *Namathu Eelanad*, was reportedly shot dead at his residence Tellippalai Jaffna. Sivamaharajah, 68, was a former parliamentarian and a senior member of Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK), the main constituent party of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA).

SEPTEMBER

September 14 – India

Police recovered the body of a be-headed photographer **Shabir Ahmad Dar** on September 14. He was abducted by militants in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. His head was recovered from saffron fields in the Chandhara area, while the body was found from Kruenchh village, about a kilometre away.

September 14 – Bangladesh

Bellal Hossain Dafadar, correspondent for the Khulna-based daily newspaper *Janabani*, was stabbed to death by up to five unknown attackers and later died in hospital. Hossain Dafadar, 38, was returning home on a bicycle from a local bazaar at around 7pm when his attackers stopped him at Pinchhlapole and stabbed him, leaving him fatally injured.

September 15 – Pakistan

News agency On Line correspondent **Maqbool Hussain Sail**, died on the way to hospital after being shot by unidentified attackers. Hussain Sail, 32, was reportedly on his way to the house of the local reader of the Pakistan People Party.

OCTOBER

October 7 – Afghanistan

Deutsche Welle journalists **Karen Fischer**, 30, and **Christian Struwe**, 39, were working for on a documentary project when they were murdered by attackers with AK-47 assault weapons in the northern province of Baghlan, about 100 miles northwest of Kabul. They were conducting research for a documentary and were en route to the province of Bamian. The circumstances are still unclear, but according to initial reports no valuables were taken in the attack.

NOVEMBER

November 1 – Pakistan

Senior journalist and bureau chief of Pakistan Press International (PPI), **Mohammad Ismail**, 52, was brutally murdered by unknown assailants in Islamabad on November 1. Ismail's body was found in the early hours of the morning with his head completely smashed open, having been struck with a hard and blunt object.

DECEMBER

7 December – Philippines

Ponciano Grande, a broadcaster and a former newspaper columnist, was shot and killed by two assailants on December 7.

Grande was reportedly shot five times with a .45 caliber pistol just metres from his wife, Annie Liwag-Grande, while visiting his farm in Barangay, Sta. Arcadia, Cabantuan City.

Local reports said the assassins, appearing to be in their teens, chased Liwag-Grande but did not harm her.

The NUJP reported that the couple had jointly hosted a program on radio station dwJJ in Nueva Ecija, and Grande had previously written for the local weeklies *The Recorder* and the *Nueva Ecija Times*.

12 December – Philippines

Andres "Andy" Acosta, a reporter for radio station DZJC in northern Laoag City, died from stabbed wounds minutes after arriving at a hospital where he drove himself on a motorcycle. The 46-year-old had reportedly been receiving threats.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

APRIL

April 4 – India

Gulam Khwaja, a reporter at the Hindi daily *Gulam Khwaja*, was killed in a road accident at Mughalsarai near Varanasi. Khwaja was in his early 30s and was serving as the Mughalsarai correspondent of *Amar Ujala* when he died. The accident occurred while returning by car after attending a function in Varanasi.

April 29 – Thailand

Thanarat Saengthien, a special correspondent for Channel 7, was accidentally shot dead during the performance of a military-style drill by six armed soldiers in Phitsanulok. Their rifles were meant to fire blanks, but investigators said one of them might have been loaded with real bullets. Saengthien was shot while talking with other reporters after filming the closing ceremony of the 2006 Search and Rescue Expo. He died shortly after he was transported to Buddha Shinarat Hospital.

JULY

July 22 – India

Senior journalist **Satish Tripathi** from the Hindi daily *Navbharat Times* in New Delhi died after being crushed by a train. Tripathi was the Vice President of the Delhi Union of Journalists and the Vice President of the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF).

AUGUST

31 August - Philippines

ABC-5 reporter **Hazel Recheta** and cameramen **Arnel Guiao** and **Ismael Cabugayan** died in a car accident in Pamplona, Camarines Sur on their way back to Manila from coverage of Mayon Volcano's activity.

SEPTEMBER

September 23 - Nepal

A World Wildlife Fund chartered helicopter crashed in bad weather and all 24 passengers, including NTV journalist **Hem Bhandari** and NTV cameraman **Sunil Singh**, were killed.

The Year in Focus

The European Federation of Journalists

The October murder of well-known Russian investigative journalist [Anna Politkovskaya](#) brought the world's attention to the attacks on journalists and journalism in Russia. While she may be the most famous victim, Politkovskaya's was sadly not the only targeted killing in her country this year.

Two other reporters and a news agency executive were also killed this year, making Russia the deadliest country for journalists in Europe.

In 2006, four journalists and media staff were the victims of targeted killings in Russia. There was one case each in Turkey and in Turkmenistan. A staggering 211 Russian journalists have been killed since 1992. Thirteen of those journalists have been killed since Putin came to power in 2000.

Politkovskaya's murder has prompted the international community, including the European Federation of Journalists and the International Federation of Journalists to launch an inquiry into her death and the attacks on journalists in Russia in recent years.

These killings have highlighted just how vulnerable journalists and independent journalism are in Russia, the biggest and most populous country in Europe.

The danger facing journalists in Europe is taking many forms. Precarious employment conditions, deterioration of bargaining rights, government prosecution of investigative reporters and confidential sources, and abandonment of public service journalism values are making the lives and livelihoods of journalists extremely uncertain.

This year in Turkey, a student journalist was working without pay when he was killed while covering a protest.

Many media companies in Western Europe hire young journalists as trainees and use them as unpaid



EFJ President Arne König

staff. Journalists who do not get adequate financial compensation may feel too intimidated to demand safety training or protective gear when they are on dangerous assignments.

In Turkmenistan, a country with extremely repressive media policies, a journalist working for US-sponsored Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty died while in jail. She had been arrested with human rights activists and convicted of illegally possessing ammunition. They later claimed she died of natural causes but refused to let her family do an independent autopsy.

These cases illustrate how declining labour and press freedom standards lead to greater personal danger for journalists.

The European Federation of Journalists and the International Federation of Journalists must fight for safety protection, press freedom and labour rights for journalists because not one of them is possible without the other two.

JANUARY

8 January – Russia

Vagif Kochetkov, was the Tula correspondent for the Moscow daily *Trud* and a columnist for the local newspaper *Tulskii Molodoi Kommunar*.

The 31-year-old reporter covered politics and culture as well as writing investigative pieces. An unidentified assailant attacked Kochetkov late the night of December 27 2005 as he was approaching his home in Tula and neighbors found him lying on the ground after the attack. He did not immediately seek medical care for a head injury but was admitted to hospital on December 30 2005. He was released on January 3, but his condition deteriorated and he was re-admitted and underwent surgery two days later before succumbing to his injuries.

He said he never got a good look at his attacker. Some of his colleagues reported that he received some threats related to his work.

APRIL

14 April – Turkey



Ilyas Aktas, 22, a student journalist with the far-left fortnightly newspaper *Devrimci*

Demokrasi (Revolutionary Democracy), two weeks after he was shot in the head during clashes between Turkish security forces and Kurdish protesters in Diyarbakir.

According to witnesses, he was shot in the right eye as he was covering the demonstrations demonstration in support of 14 Kurdish rebels who had been killed a few days earlier by Turkish troops. Cameraman Abdurrahman Bellek, who works for GUN TV, said that he thought shots were coming from the police station when he noticed Aktas was covered in blood.

Aktas had been working as the newspaper's correspondent in the region for two months. The newspaper's editor, Erdal Guler, said witnesses told him Aktas was hit when police opened fire on the crowd of demonstrators.

The government has not announced any investigation into his killing.

JULY

26 July – Russia

Yevgeny Gerasimenko, a correspondent for the independent weekly *Saratovsky Rasklad*, was found dead in his apartment in Saratov in southeastern Russia. Saratov Department of Interior Spokesman Denis Zheltov said forensic evidence indicated that Gerasimenko had been killed around 1 a.m. Gerasimov's mother found the journalist with a plastic bag over his head and multiple bruises on his body. Police found no signs of a forced entry in the apartment, but Gerasimov's computer was missing.

Gerasimenko, 29, had been investigating the corporate takeover of a local commercial enterprise, Saratovsky Rasklad Editor-in-Chief Vladimir Spiryagin told the United Volga news web site. The

name of the company has never been revealed. Spiryagin said Gerasimenko was supposed to file a story on the corporate takeover on July 18 but missed the deadline — something the editor said was very unusual for Gerasimenko.

A 39-year-old bricklayer has been charged with Gerasimenko's murder. According to the charges the killer was trying to rob Gerasimenko.

Colleagues have indicated that Gerasimenko's murder could be connected to his work. Saratovsky Rasklad often publishes business and political analyses and investigations.

SEPTEMBER

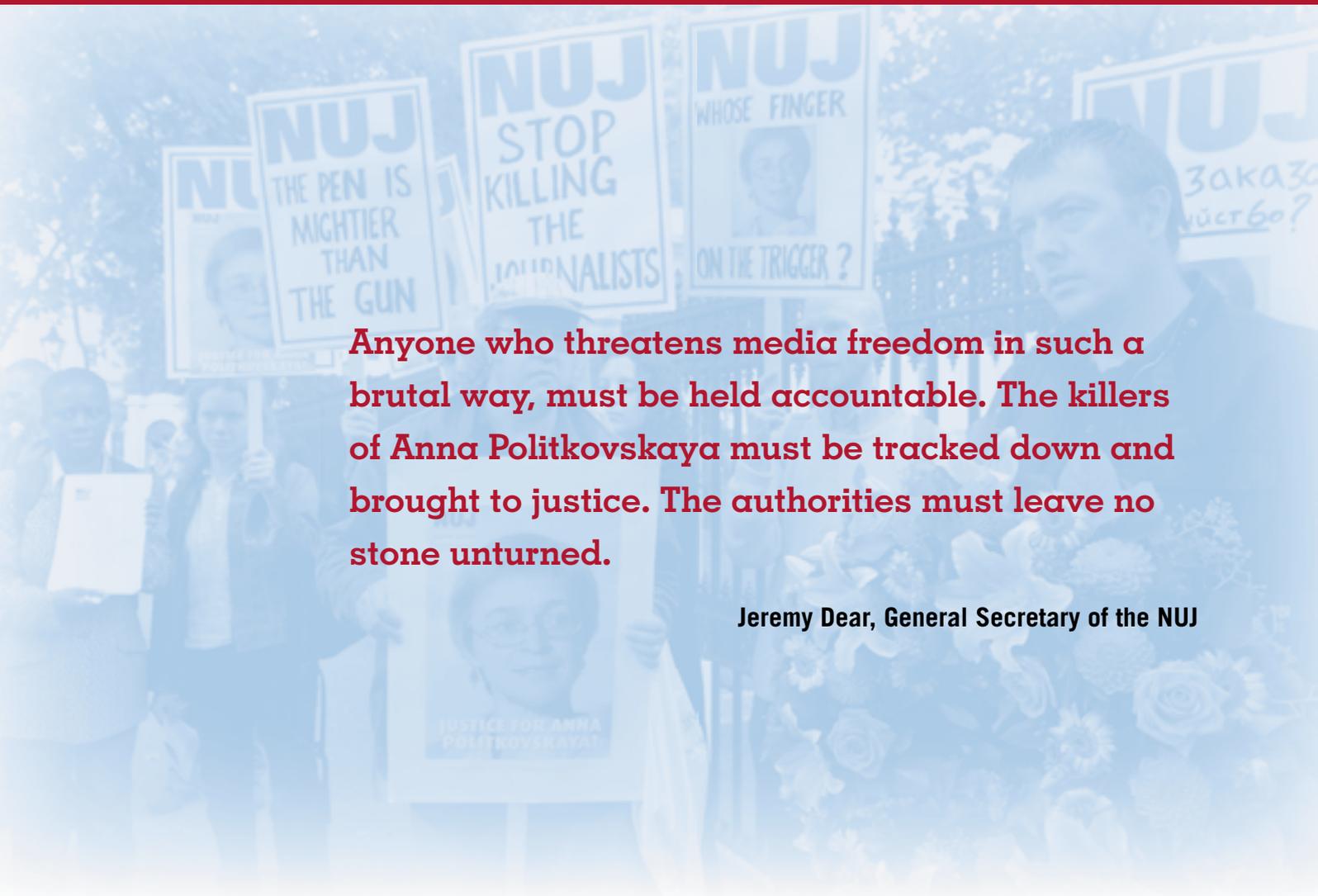
14 September – Turkmenistan

Ogulsapar Muradova a Turkmen Service correspondent for the US Government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), died while in the custody of Turkmen authorities.

Muradova's family members were contacted on 14 September but the exact date of her death as well as its circumstances are unclear.

Security officials claimed Muradova, 58, died of natural causes but when her children viewed her body they saw marks on her neck and a large wound on the head. Relatives demanded an independent doctor be allowed to examine the body but the demands were only met with threats from morgue employees.

Muradova had been detained in mid-June along with several human rights activists. Authorities gave no reason for the arrests at



Anyone who threatens media freedom in such a brutal way, must be held accountable. The killers of Anna Politkovskaya must be tracked down and brought to justice. The authorities must leave no stone unturned.

Jeremy Dear, General Secretary of the NUJ

the time. Muradova and two others were sentenced in August for up to seven years in jail on charges that they illegally possessed ammunition.

Journalists have frequently been detained by the Turkmen police. In March, two other RFE/RL journalists, **Meret Khommatov** and **Jumadurdy Ovezov**, were arrested. The police refused to explain the reason for their arrests or say where they were being held.

OCTOBER

7 October – Russia



the Moscow apartment building

Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian investigative reporter for *Novaya Gazeta*, was shot dead in

where she lived in what appeared to be a contract killing.

Politkovskaya, 48, established her reputation on the back of controversial reports about human rights abuses by Russian troops in Chechnya where she showed remarkable courage in being able to produce challenging journalism from a lawless region where she had to face threats from Chechen bandits and Russian or Chechen government death squads.

Her reputation and trenchant reporting made her a thorn in the side of the Russian government and when she fell seriously ill with food poisoning in 2004 while on her way to report on the Beslan school siege, many observers believed it was an attempt on her life.

Her death raised an international outcry. A suspect has been arrested but his name has not been made public.

16 October – Russia



Anatoly Voronin, the business manager and deputy director of Russian news agency Itar-Tass, was

stabbed to death in his Moscow apartment.

Voronin, 55, was found in his apartment with multiple knife wounds and police are treating the incident as a case of premeditated murder. Voronin was a respected executive who had worked at the news agency for 23 years. Voronin was supposed to return to work after a holiday and his driver waited 3 hours for him outside his block of flats in Moscow before alerting the police.

The Year in Focus

IFJ Work in the Middle East

Incremental increases in press freedom and a growing confidence among journalists to challenge censorship have done nothing to obscure the consequences of conflict that in 2006 made the Middle East once again the world's deadliest region for journalism.

In Iraq the killing of 69 journalists and media staff, many of them targeted by warring factions, symbolised the decline and disintegration of the country into a sectarian bloodbath. In the same period two journalists died in the crossfire of Israeli attacks on Lebanon in July, a conflict that also raised new fears over deliberate military targeting of television networks.

In Palestine the news was mixed. Remarkably, the year ended with the news that no journalists or media staff had died in the West Bank and Gaza, but this was small comfort in a region where the kidnapping of journalists by Muslim extremists and the continued harassment of Arab journalists and media staff by Israeli forces has rendered independent reporting almost impossible.

During the year the IFJ organised meetings of journalists in Beirut, Amman and Rabat and launched new solidarity programmes as journalists' groups, angered by the refusal of governments to bring about reform, demand fresh action to provide more safety and protection to media and an end to arbitrary arrest and prosecution of media staff.

There is fresh determination, signalled by the new spirit of co-operation between the IFJ and the Federation of Arab Journalists, to eliminate the culture of censorship and legal intimidation that has restrained

independent journalism in the region for decades.

Media themselves took centre stage in the political drama of the Middle East at the beginning of the year when controversy over the publication of a series of offensive cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed published in a Danish newspaper led to orchestrated street violence in a number of Arab capitals. Journalists in the both Europe and the Middle East found themselves at the centre of an incendiary discussion about the limits of free expression. Numerous threats of violence against defenders of free expression, some of it from political factions, added to the fearfulness and uncertainty that descended upon media.

The fragile relationship between media and people in power in the region was revealed in Yemen where a journalist and media staffer were shot dead in an attack thought to be inspired by local politicians. But it was in Iraq where the human cost of violent censorship of media cast the longest shadow.

In January, the ordeal of United States journalist **Jill Carroll**, held hostage for 82 days before being released unharmed, made headlines. Less media attention was paid to her interpreter **Alin Ghazi**, fatally wounded by the kidnappers, who lived long enough to tell soldiers of her capture.

The targeted killings in February of **Atwar Bahjat**, **Adnan Khairallah** and **Khaled Mohsen**, members of an Al Arabiya television team set upon by gunmen working for extremist groups set the tone for a year of unremitting intimidation in which journalists were unable to walk the streets of the country's major cities without fear.

In Iraq the killing of 69 journalists and media staff, many of them targeted by warring factions, symbolised the decline and disintegration of the country into a sectarian bloodbath.

Amjad Hameed, a senior editor, and journalists **Sa'ad Shammari** and **Sherin Hamid**, all working for the state television network Al Iraqiya were killed in separate attacks. Three drivers and a security guard at the network were also killed.

One network, Al Shaabiya, a start-up satellite television channel, had not even begun broadcasting when gunmen in October staged a brutal early-morning attack on its studios in Baghdad killing 11 staff. This outrage caused genuine bewilderment in an enterprise that had no political agenda and employed a non-sectarian mix of Sunni, Shia and Kurdish staff.

Waleed Hassan, a distinguished satirist and broadcaster was gunned down on the way to work; union activist **Hadi Anawi al-Joubouri** was ambushed outside of Baghdad and riddled with bullets; the

newspaper *Al-Sabah* was hit by a bomb and its design editor **Abdel Karim Al-Roubai** was threatened and then shot dead.

The media death toll mounted as sectarian conflict worsened and by the year's end Iraq had carved out its place in history — the most dangerous place in the world for journalism with more media killings to its name than any other country in any known conflict.

These grotesque statistics finally led to an unprecedented resolution from the United Nations at the year's end calling for more protection for journalists. Despite this, few observers see little likelihood of an early end to the wave of assaults on media. Instead, if political chaos and armed occupation of the country remains in place, journalists, whether foreign or local, will continue to be in the firing line.

JANUARY

07 January – Iraq

Alin Ghazi Jack, an interpreter, was shot dead during the kidnapping of a US journalist in the Adl district of western Baghdad. He was an interpreter for Jill Carroll, the reporter for the Boston-based Christian Science Monitor who was kidnapped and held for 82 days before her eventual release. Jack was shot dead by the abductors but was able to tell soldiers that a US journalist had been kidnapped before he died.



Alin Ghazi Jack with his baby son in Baghdad, Iraq. REUTERS/Howard LaFranchi-The Christian Science Monitor/Handout

14 January – Iraq

Sarmad Salman, a freelance sports reporter was kidnapped and killed by unknown armed men in Baghdad.

23 January – Iraq

Hamza Hussein, a sport journalist at private TV station Al-Diyar, was killed by a car bomb.

24 January – Iraq

Mahmoud Za'al, 35, a cameraman and reporter for the Iraqi television



An Iraqi policeman stands next to the bullet riddled satellite news-gathering van of the Al Arabiya television on February 23, 2006. REUTERS/Stringer

station Baghdad TV was shot in the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, while working on a social documentary. According to local reports, Za'al was shot in cross-fire between US forces and insurgents and his dead body was hurried to the forensic unit in Baghdad hospital by the security services.

According to Ahmad Rushdi, the director of the Baghdad TV news department, Za'al had been detained by US forces earlier in the week and the TV channel immediately called for the US embassy to react. The embassy contacted Rushdi and told him that Za'al would be released on Wednesday, as they agreed a time and a venue for his release. Rushdi said that he was subsequently "shocked to hear the news of Za'al's death on Tuesday."

Za'al was the fifth Baghdad TV staff to be detained by the US forces. He was with a colleague and they both went their separate ways in the Ramadi district, shooting images for a

social documentary covering the devastating impact of car bombs on the state of the roads, shops, electricity and water supplies in Ramadi. Za'al was in an area that was already surrounded by US soldiers. He had his press ID on him and was carrying his camera.

FEBRUARY

23 February – Iraq

Police found the bodies of kidnapped Al Arabiya reporter **Atwar Bahjat**, 30; her cameraman **Adnan Khairallah**, 36; and soundman **Khaled Mohsen**, 39, on the outskirts of Samarra, had been the scene of sectarian violence.

Bahjat joined Al Arabiya just two months before her death after she received death threats while working for rival network al-Jazeera. The Doha-based network Al Jazeera, which became critical of the Shia leader al-Sistani after the December elections, had been

attracting the threats and anger of extremist groups and Bahjat thought her new appointment at Al Arabaia satellite channel would be safer.

All three victims were Iraqis who had been covering the aftermath of the bombing of a Shi'ite shrine in the city. An Al Arabiya official said the team were targeted and set upon by gunmen.

MARCH

7 March – Iraq

Unidentified gunmen shot **Munsuf Abdallah al-Khalidi**, a Baghdad TV presenter as he was driving from Baghdad to the northern city of Mosul. The attackers stopped the car and fired three shots at al-Khalidi, 35. One passenger was also killed and the other two passengers injured. Baghdad TV is owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party, the biggest Sunni political group. In the last year, two correspondents for the station have been killed.

11 March – Iraq

Gunmen assassinated **Amjad Hameed**, a senior editor for Iraq's



Photographs of Amjad Hameed and his driver are pasted on the coffin of Hameed during his funeral in Baghdad March 11, 2006. REUTERS/Ali Jasim

state television Al Iraqiya, along with his driver as they headed to work in Baghdad. Hameed, 45, had just left his house in central Baghdad when a car blocked his way and gunmen shot him in the head. An Iraqi militant group affiliated to al Qaeda said it was behind the killing. Hameed died instantly. His driver, Anwar Turki, died later in hospital.

13 March – Iraq

Muhsin Khudayyir, also known as Abu Risalah, chief editor of the weekly magazine *Alif Ba*, was assassinated by unidentified persons who attacked him in his home in the Al-Illam district in Baghdad.

26 March – Iraq

Kamal Manahi Anbar, 28, enrolled in a training programme run by the London-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting, was killed during a controversial military raid in northern Baghdad.

Anbar was killed in Baghdad's Shaab neighbourhood where he was conducting interviews for a story. Armoured Humvees arrived in the neighbourhood and a firefright broke out. Anbar was shot through the right cheekbone.

APRIL

09 April – Iraq

An Iraqi contractor working for US military newspaper *Stars and Stripes* was killed by gunmen who ambushed a delivery vehicle after it dropped off newspapers at a U.S. military base near Balad.

The contractor had just completed his daily delivery to the

military complex in Balad and was returning to Baghdad on a well-travelled main road. The vehicle was ambushed by unknown gunmen about 20 minutes from the base.

22 April – Iraq

Koussai Kahdban, an Iraqi journalist with local radio station Al-Bilad, was shot by gunmen on 22 April in Baghdad.

MAY

5 May – Iraq

Sa'd Shammari, a TV journalist who hosted a show on the Al Iraqiya channel, was found wrapped in a blanket and dumped on the side of a road in Baghdad. The journalist had apparently been strangled.

5 May – Iraq

Sa'ud M'Zahim Al-Hudaythi, working for Baghdadiyah TV, was killed. Circumstances are unknown.

5 May – Iraq

Abdel Majid al-Mehmedawi, who had reported on social issues, was murdered by unidentified gunmen in Baghdad's center, according to local sources. The motive for his killing was unknown.

7 May – Iraq

Laith Mashaan, a Nahrein Television correspondent, and **Muazzaz Ahmed**, a technician at the station, were stopped in the south of Baghdad as they were on their way home by people dressed as policemen who asked for their papers. They were then taken away.

After a period of co-ordinated media appeals for their safety and calls to the interior ministry, the bodies of the two men were found near the Al-Wihdah irrigation project in their hometown of Al-Mada'in.

7 May – Iraq

In Basra gunmen shot dead photographer **Abid Shakir al-Dulaymi**. He was an active member of the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate and he worked at Al-Jumhuriyah and Al-Qadisiyah newspapers and was an occasional freelance for Reuters.

7 May – Iraq

Ismail Muhammad Khalaf, a printshop worker, was killed in a car bomb attack in Baghdad. The bomb exploded early in the morning. The target was apparently a police patrol but the explosive blew up near the offices of the state-run *Al Sabah* newspaper.

10 May – Iraq

Abbas Ahmed Kadhem, a newspaper reporter, was found dead in Al-Madaen, the same district where Laith Mashaan and Muazaz Ahmed were murdered three days earlier.

Kadhem, 50, worked for *Al Adaalha* newspaper, the voice of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). He had previously worked for *Babel* newspaper, which was owned by Uday, the son of ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He had also worked as a school teacher.

18 May – Iraq

Sadek al-Shammari, a journalist with the German-based news

These brazen attacks on journalists in Iraq are an outrage. Journalists are being killed with impunity in broad daylight in public places and in their homes. Journalism has become a deadly profession in Iraq and each new attack is not only an attack on an individual but on press freedom as well.

-IFJ GENERAL SECRETARY AIDAN WHITE

organisation Iraqi News Network, was shot dead by insurgents in Jisr Diyala, south of the Iraqi capital.

29 May – Iraq

Paul Douglas and **James Brolan**, members of a CBS television crew, were killed when the US military unit with whom they were based was hit in a car bomb attack.

Douglas, 48, was a cameraman. Brolan, 42, was the soundman. Both men were British citizens. The CBS correspondent **Kimberly Dozier**, aged 39, was seriously injured in the attack. The CBS team was on a patrol with soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division.

31 May – Iraq

Jaafar Ali, a TV sports presenter, was gunned down in Baghdad. Gunmen shot Ali as he left his home in Chora Rabia, a neighbourhood in south Baghdad.

He is the 11th employee of the national TV station Al Iraqiya to be killed since the start of the war in March 2003. Al Iraqiya has had more employees killed than any other media since the start of the war. It is part of the Iraqi Media Network.

14 June – Iraq

Ibrahim Seneid, an editor with the local *Al Bashara* newspaper, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Fallujah.

Insurgents had accused *Al Bashara* of publishing U.S. propaganda. Before Seneid's murder, leaflets were distributed in Fallujah accusing the newspaper of publishing US propaganda and demanding its closure.

28 June – Iraq

Alaa Hassan, who was working as a contributor for Inter Press Service (IPS), was on his way to work in Baghdad when he was fired on by gunmen.

The IPS said that according to their information the attack was not targeted, but that their colleague "was just in the wrong place at the wrong time".

29 June – Iraq

Police found the body of **Osama Qadeer**, a freelance cameraman who worked for the US TV network Fox News, after he had been abducted by an unknown group in Al-Shaab, eastern Baghdad, four days earlier.

JULY

2 July – Yemen

Abed Al-Usaili, a journalist and technical secretary at *Al-Nahar* newspaper was shot dead in the Al-Haima district in Sana'a.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) believes Al-Usaili, 27, was killed for publishing a short article entitled, "The Country of Tribes Suffers," in the newspaper's June 22 issue. The piece criticized Al-Haima district officials for obstructing a water project underway in the area.

Following a dispute about the water project, the tribe to which Al-Usaili belonged had reached a truce with another tribe and under this truce, their dispute was settled via reconciliation.

After the shooting security authorities dispatched 16 police vehicles to the area where the incident occurred, but did not arrest those involved in the crime because they were being harbored by influential Al-Haima officials, the YJS said.

Al-Usaili's murder took place during a calm period that followed a series of threats and violence against Yemeni media personnel.

22 July – Lebanon

Sleiman Chidia, a technician for the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC), was killed during an Israeli air force strike on a telecommunications antenna near Beirut in northern Lebanon.

Chidia was killed during an air strike on the station's installations in Satka. The air strikes mainly targeted LBC, whose broadcasts were interrupted. Two others were

wounded in the strikes when relay stations for Future TV, Hezbollah-run Al-Manar television and LBC, the nation's leading private network, were attacked by Israeli bombs.

23 July – Lebanon

Layal Nagib, a photographer, was killed when a missile exploded near her car on the road between Cana et Siddiqin, not far from the southern city of Tyre.

Nagib, 23, was covering the Israeli bombing of southern Lebanon for the magazine *Al Jarass* (The Bell). Layal also worked with several foreign news agencies, including the French news agency AFP. After graduating from journalism school, she first worked with Newtv as a programme editor. After three years she decided to work as a freelance reporter and photographer.

29 July – Iraq

Adel Naji Al Mansouri a correspondent for the Iranian state-run Arabic language satellite channel Al-Alam, was shot by unidentified gunmen as he was driving in the al-Amariyeh neighbourhood of western Baghdad.

Al-Mansouri, 34, was driving to the station's offices when he was attacked. He died a short time later in hospital.

The gunmen stole Al-Mansouri's mobile phone, satellite phone, press card, and money. The suspected motive for his death is his work as a journalist. Al-Mansouri, a Shiite, received death threats nearly a year ago when he resided with his family in Baghdad.

30 July – Iraq

Riyad Muhammad Ali, a reporter for the weekly *Talafar al-Yawm*, was shot in Mosul's Wadi Aqab area. One local source told the Committee to Protect Journalists that he believed Ali was targeted because he was both a Shiite and a journalist.

31 July – Iraq

Iraqi journalist **Abdul Wahab Abdul Razeq Ahmad Al Qaisie** was found dead, 10 days after he was abducted by masked militiamen in the New Baghdad district, according to the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate. He was the editor-in-chief of Iraqi magazine *Kol Al Dounia* and had



Relatives and friends pray behind the coffin of killed reporter Adel al-Mansouri before his funeral on August 1, 2006. REUTERS/Mushtaq Muhammad (IRAQ)

worked as a freelance for European newspapers for 40 years.

AUGUST

7 August – Iraq

Mohammad Abbas Al Hamad, an editor for the Shiite-owned newspaper *Al-Bayannah Al-Jadida*, was shot as he left his home in the Adil section of western Baghdad to go to work early in the morning.

Mohammad, 28, was highly critical of politicians and Iraqi officials regardless of sect or affiliation. The journalist had received several death threats because he worked for the paper, local journalists said.

7 August – Iraq

The body of freelance journalist **Ismail Amin Ali** was discovered in the late evening by police in the eastern section of Baghdad known as al-Sadr city.

His body was riddled with bullets and Iraqi police said they found signs of torture.

Ali, 30, was abducted while he was at a gas station in al-Shaab neighbourhood of Baghdad two weeks earlier. The kidnappers had demanded a ransom, but his family was unable to pay.

Ali, a well-known Sunni columnist for several Baghdad-based papers, including *Al-Sabah* and *Al-Qarar*, may have been targeted because he was highly critical of the Shiite-dominated security forces.

SEPTEMBER

9 September – Iraq

Abdel Karim Al-Roubai a design editor for *Al Sabah*, was shot



The destroyed office of the state-run *Al-Sabah* newspaper in Baghdad. REUTERS/Ali Jasim (IRAQ)

Saturday morning while travelling to work in the eastern Baghdad neighbourhood known as Camp Sara by several gunmen.

Al-Sabah reported two weeks earlier that it had received a death threat via e-mail against al-Roubai, 40, and his family, signed by the military wing of the Mujahedeen Council, an Al-Qaeda affiliate in Iraq. According to the e-mail, the group was angered by the editor's accusation that they were behind a car bomb attack on *Al Sabah* on August 27, which killed a guard and an unidentified man.

The driver of the car Al-Roubai was in was seriously wounded. This was the third attack on *Al Sabah* employees.

12 September – Iraq

Hadi Anawi al-Joubouri, a journalist and union activist, was ambushed on a road north of Baghdad. His body was found riddled with bullets.

He worked as a freelancer for various Iraqi newspapers and was the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate (IJS) representative for the eastern province of Diyala.

13 September – Iraq

Safaa Ismail Inad, a photographer at *Al Watan* newspaper, was shot in the head near Sadr city in eastern Baghdad. Inad was killed by gunmen who entered a photo print shop in Baghdad, asked for him by name, and shot him.

18 September – Iraq

Ahmed Riyadh Al-Karbouli, a correspondent for Baghdad TV, was shot by six gunmen in two Opel cars as the reporter/cameraman chatted with friends after midday prayers outside a mosque in the town of Ramadi.

Al-Karbouli, 25, had received numerous death threats from insurgents over the past four months warning him to leave the satellite channel. Baghdad TV is owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party, a major Sunni political group. The party joined the U.S.-backed Iraqi government earlier this year.

Al-Karbouli worked at Baghdad TV for two years covering security and the plight of the residents of Ramadi. His features offended some insurgents in Ramadi who felt he

was criticizing them. A month ago, gunmen stormed into his house and threatened him in front of his family.

OCTOBER

4 October – Iraq

Jassem Hamad Ibrahim, a driver for the Iraqi state television channel Al Iraqiya, was shot by unidentified gunmen in Mosul.

The assailants ambushed Ibrahim in the afternoon as he was running errands for the station. His body was found riddled with bullets.

Earlier that day, Ibrahim had driven several camera operators around Mosul to film footage. The assailants ambushed Ibrahim at about 2 p.m. as he was running errands for the station, a source at Nineveh TV, the local affiliate of Al Iraqiya, told the Committee to Protect Journalists. The slaying occurred about 30 minutes after Ibrahim dropped off the camera operators at the station. They later reported that they believed they had been followed during the assignment.

10 October – Iraq

The body of **Azad Muhammad Hussein**, a reporter for the Iraqi Islamic Party-owned Radio Dar Al-Salam, was identified in the Baghdad morgue on 10 October, a week after he had been kidnapped by unidentified gunmen.

His body was found in the Northeast section of Baghdad. The Journalistic Freedoms Observatory, an Iraqi press freedom organisation, said the body showed evident signs of torture. The journalist was kidnapped from al-Shaab neighbourhood in northern Baghdad on October 3. It is not

clear how or when Hussein's body arrived at the morgue.

12 October – Iraq

Gunmen staged a brutal attack on Iraqi satellite television channel Al Shaabiya in Baghdad killing 11 people.

The station manager said employees were staying overnight at the station, a new network which has yet to start regular broadcasting. According to Hassan Kamil, executive manager of Al Shaabiya, masked men killed the victims with shots to the head and chest.

Kamil told Reuters that the station had no political agenda and that the staff had been a mix of Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds. The station had not been threatened previously. According to news reports the gunmen's cars resembled police vehicles.

A local press freedom group, the Journalistic Freedoms Observatory, named the dead as chairman and general manager **Abdul-Rahim Nasrallah al-Shimari**, his bodyguard **Ali Jabber**, deputy general manager **Noufel al-Shimari**, presenters **Thaker al-Shouwili** and



A man hugs his daughter, both employees of Shaabiya satellite television channel, after a raid at their office in Baghdad October 12, 2006. REUTERS/Atef Hassan (IRAQ)

Ahmad Sha'ban, administrative manager **Sami Nasrallah al-Shimari**, video mixer **Hussein Ali** and three guards identified only by their first names: **Maher, Ahmad and Hassan**. The station's generator operator, whose name was not available, was also killed.

Programme manager **Mushtak al-Ma'mouri** and news chief **Muhammad Kathem** were taken to hospital with multiple gunshot wounds.

12 October – Iraq

Mohammad Abdul Rahman, an announcer for Radio Dijala, was kidnapped in the middle of Baghdad by unknown gunmen while he was on his way to the station and later found dead. He had previously worked for Baghdad Radio and Al Jamaheer Voice.

14 October

Raed Qais Al Shammari, a correspondent for Sout Al-Iraq (Voice of Iraq) radio was killed instantly when militants fired at his car.

16 October – Iraq

Ali Halil, a security guard for Al Iraqiya TV, was shot by unknown gunmen in the Baghdad district of Al Hurriye as he was on his way to work.

Halil worked as a security guard for Al Iraqiya and for others in an area in northwest Baghdad, according to the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate.

26 October – Iraq

Journalist **Saed Mahdi Shalash** and his wife were shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in an attack on their home in the Al Ameriya area west of Baghdad.

Shalash worked for the *Rayat Al Arab* newspaper. He had a 20-year career as a journalist working for the Iraqi News Agency. He left the agency in 2003.

29 October – Iraq

Sherin Hamid, an Iraqi state television presenter and her driver, Annas Kassim Nejm, were found dead in Baghdad, a day after they were abducted by unknown gunmen.

Hamid had hosted programmes on the Al Iraqiya station aimed at Iraq's Kurdish and Christian minorities, according to news reports. The programmes could have made Hamid a target of either Sunni insurgents or Shia militias. The two bodies were found in the Haifa Street district close to where they had been abducted, police said.

31 October – Iraq

The body of **Abdelmajid Isma'il Khalil**, a 67-year-old freelance journalist for several local papers, was found dead after his 18 October abduction by unknown gunmen in Baghdad.

NOVEMBER

1 November – Iraq

Ahmed Al-Rasheed, a reporter for the Al Sharqiya television channel, was shot by unknown gunmen.

Al-Rasheed, 29 years, was a former reporter of Addyar satellite channel.

2 November – Iraq

Qussai Abass, a journalist writing for *Tariq Al Shaab*, a newspaper affiliated with the Communist party,

was shot to death while on his way to work, and his driver was also killed in the attack.

13 November – Iraq

Mohammed Al-Ban, a cameraman working for *Al Sharqiya*, was shot and killed outside his home in the central Al-Nur neighbourhood of Mosul.

Al Sharqiya is a Sunni-owned satellite channel which is the main competitor of state-run Al Iraqiya TV.

15 November – Iraq

Gunmen in a car shot and killed **Fadia Mohammed Abid**, a journalist for local daily newspaper *Al Masar*, and her driver in the Tahrir neighbourhood of east Mosul as they were on the way to the office.

17 November – Iraq

Reporter **Luma Mohammad Reyad** was killed in Ba'kouba in the Diyala province northeast of Baghdad.

Reyad worked for the US-funded *Al Dustoor* newspaper. The paper's editor-in-chief, Bassem Al Shiekh, lives in Amman.

20 November – Iraq

Waleed Hassan, one of Iraq's most famous satirists and broadcasters was shot dead on his way to work. Hassan's Caricature sketch show was well-known among Iraqis looking relief in their daily lives in the war-torn country. Hassan, who was in his 40s, was found in west Baghdad with three bullet wounds to the head, according to the Al Sharkiya channel. Hassan was a director of the station and also produced a political interview show for it.

21 November – Iraq

Ra'ad Jafar Hamadi, a journalist working for the *Al Sabah* newspaper, was killed in the al-Washash neighbourhood (Baghdad) by unknown gunmen.

DECEMBER

4 December – Iraq

Nabil Ibrahim al-Dulaimi, a news editor for privately owned Radio Dijla, was shot shortly after he left his home in Baghdad's al-Washash neighborhood.

12 December – Iraq

Iraqi cameraman **Aswan Ahmed Lutfallah** was shot by insurgents who saw him filming their firefight with police. Lutfallah, 35, worked for the Associated Press (AP). According to the news agency, insurgents saw Lutfallah filming, approached him and shot and killed him.

Lutfallah, who was in the northern city of Mosul, was having his car repaired in an industrial area in the eastern part of the city when insurgents and police began fighting nearby and he rushed to cover the clash. Lutfallah had not reported any prior threats against him.

29 December - Iraq

Akil Sarhan, a journalist for sports TV channel al-Riyadia, was killed on his way to work when his car was attacked by unknown gunmen. Sarhan was in a car with 11 other people when he was killed on Haifa Street in the Al Karkh district of Baghdad. He worked in Al Riyadia's archives department.

INTERNATIONAL **safety** FUND

2006 report

In the most violent year on record for journalists, the IFJ International Safety Fund, which provides humanitarian assistance to the victims of violence and their families, has provided more than €55,000 in urgent aid, most of it targeted at the heart of the crisis.

IFJ unions responded to a special appeal in June over the war in Iraq, raising more than €30,000 which was presented to the leaders of the Kurdistan Syndicate of Journalists and the Iraqi Syndicate of Journalists in November to help the families of journalists killed. Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis in Palestine has claimed more media victims and the IFJ Executive Committee, responding to a special appeal from the region, allocated a further €10,000 to the Palestine Syndicate of Journalists for families in need of humanitarian relief.

The Executive Committee has also endorsed a plan to create an international support committee representing the families of those colleagues who are killed and injured which will be put in place and launched at the IFJ Congress to be held in Moscow in 2007

The humanitarian work of the IFJ International Safety Fund was recognised by United States journalists at a special ceremony marking World Press Freedom Day in Washington. The Newspaper Guild-CWA, the union for journalists and media staff in the US, presented the award to the IFJ at the annual journalism prize-giving awards, organised this year to coincide with May 3rd celebrations. As part of the award a donation of 5,000 USD was given to the Fund.

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

1 The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily as a once-off emergency assistance fund for journalists and media staff who are injured in the line of duty,

primarily in the so-called “hot-spots” of the world and in cases where the media employing the journalist/media staffer is not capable of covering such costs. This assistance can be in the form of travel, medical or subsistence costs.

2 The Safety Fund can also be used on 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 2005 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ headquarters.

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 brochure (see image on right) produced in English, French Japanese and Spanish and the IFJ Safety Manual, Live News (see Press Freedom and Safety at www.ifj.org) 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 is 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.

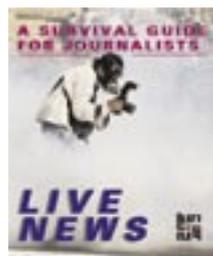
The IFJ does not try to duplicate work that is being done by others. We are in regular contact with other organisations working in the field of journalists safety and freedom of expression. These include the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute, Reporters Without Borders,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

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 starved, 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.

LIVE NEWS **A Survival Guide for Journalists**



In 2003 the IFJ published the media industry's most comprehensive guide to dealing with the risks of reporting in dangerous conditions. It has been translated into thirteen languages and is available

from the IFJ Human Rights and Safety Office.

International News Safety Institute



Launched in 2003, the INSI is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the safety of journalists and media staff. It is a coalition of media, press freedom groups, unions, and humanitarian campaigners

working to create a culture of safety in journalism. More information from www.newssafety.com

Solidarity in Action:

This year the Safety Fund provided assistance to journalists and their families in Gambia, Iraq, Liberia, Palestine, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela.

Gambia

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

Iraq

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

Liberia

The Fund provided assistance for medical and travel costs for a Liberian newspaper journalist who developed health problems after being tortured by former President Charles Taylor's Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) and other incidents.

Palestine

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

Colombia

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

Ethiopia

The Safety Fund provided assistance to an official from the Ethiopian Journalists Association

in exile. The money was used for general support for the journalist and his family.

Indonesia

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

Iran

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

Tunisia

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

Iran/Turkey

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

Venezuela

The fund provided assistance to the family of a journalist killed in Venezuela.

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.

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.

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 riskawareness 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.

INTERNATIONAL

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that **counts**

When people think of the **IFJ Safety Fund**, they remember to raise money for it. Hats only go round at conferences 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

Please send donations to the IFJ member union in your country; the money will be forwarded in a lump sum and will cut the administrative costs of the Fund. If there is no IFJ member, send the money to:

The IFJ Safety Fund

α/c BE64 2100 7857 0052

SWIFT Code: GEBABEBB

Fortis Bank, Rond Point Schuman 10, 1040 Brussels

For more information contact:

Rachel Cohen

tel: +32 2 2352207

email: safety@ifj.org

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

The IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists with members in more than 100 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 has opened offices in Algeria, Colombia and the Philippines to provide local support for journalists most in need.

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

The International Federation of Journalists

Residence Palace, Block C

155 Rue de la Loi

B-1040 Brussels

Belgium

tel. +32 2 2352207

fax. +32 2 2352219

safety@ifj.org

http://www.ifj.org



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