

Time to End Impunity:

Journalists and Media Staff Killed
in 2017



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Cover images: REUTERS/Alessandro Bianchi & REUTERS/Darrin Zammit Lupi

Publisher: Anthony Bellanger, IFJ General Secretary
Managing Editor: Ernest Sagaga, Head of Human Rights and Safety
Design: © 2018 Emily J Fischer www.emilyjfisher.com

The IFJ would like to thank Reuters, its member unions and individuals who contributed photos to this publication.

Published in Belgium by the International Federation of Journalists

© 2018 International Federation of Journalists
International Press Centre, Résidence Palace, Block C
155 rue de la Loi, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Time to End Impunity

IFJ General Secretary's Introduction

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) published on 31 December 2017 the annual list of 81 media professionals who lost their lives in work-related incidents around the world. This number has since been updated to 82 following confirmation that another Afghan journalist, Sayed Mehdi Hosaini Jomhor News Agency was killed in the bomb attack at a Shia cultural centre in the Afghan capital Kabul on 28 December 2017.

The Federation welcomed the reduction in the number of media fatalities for the third year in a row which recorded the lowest death tally in a decade, but warned against any complacency. This report, which sets out in detail stories of loss and tragedies due to violence in journalism around the world, fully justifies that call for caution.

Despite the fact that 2017 continued the downward trend from 2015, the number of journalists' killings in many parts of the world gives little hope to end the safety crisis in journalism and stop the bloodbath, hurt

and grief. This was the year of two tales in the fate of journalists. While the stalemate in Yemen and the loss of ground to the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq contributed to the reduction of crossfire incidents in these countries, Afghanistan recorded the highest number of suicide attacks and Mexico came first for targeted killings.

The motives for these killings were as wide as regions they occurred in. The methods were dramatic, too, with a clear intent to strike fear and despair among journalists. Thus, in Malta, Investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was blown up in a powerful car explosion which threw her out of the vehicle and into the nearby fields. She had exposed collusion between the murky business and politics fueled by corruption in Malta. Gauri Lankesh, Indian prominent journalist was shot multiple times outside her home following her stand against violent nationalism. Edwin Rivera Paz, a journalist from Honduras, was hunted down and killed in the state Veracruz, Mexico.

In the overwhelming majority of these cases, the killers have not been identified and justice for the victims and their families remain as elusive as ever, another trend which continued in 2017. The purpose of this report, like others before it, is to help the IFJ and its affiliates take stock of the safety crisis in media, size up the challenge of impunity

for crimes against journalists and chart the course to overcome it. This includes constantly reminding governments of their obligation to protect journalists and media professionals.

In this regard, the IFJ has worked with experts in international human rights law to codify legal provisions pertaining to media protection in a text which will be proposed for adoption by members of the United Nations as a new international convention on the safety and independence of journalists and other media professionals. This would be a convention with a difference as it aims at providing a real means to enforcing existing laws in order to hold accountable those who attack journalists.

There were also pro-active initiatives by IFJ affiliates in their campaign to promote the safety of journalists and to fight against impunity. One of them is the establishment of the Iraq National Committee on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity for which the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate (IJS) advocated for. In Asia Pacific, journalists'

... the number of journalists' killings in many parts of the world gives little hope to end the safety crisis in journalism and stop the bloodbath, hurt and grief.

unions in Nepal and The Philippines have established monitoring networks to push for meaningful change within the media environment.

The roll call of tragedy and loss covered in these annual reports are devastating to the journalists' community. However, the best tribute we can pay to the victims is to unrelentingly mobilise and work tirelessly to lift the shadow of impunity which has been over journalism for far too long.



ANTHONY BELLANGER
IFJ GENERAL SECRETARY

We Mourn the Loss

Gender Council Statement

For several years, we have kept data on women journalists specifically targeted and killed. This is not to say that these deaths are somehow more important than the much bigger numbers of male journalists murdered. We do so in recognition of the many years of under-reporting of deaths and violence against women journalists. We continue to strive to ascertain the true scope of violence and murders in order to push back against the almost total impunity afforded to perpetrators.

This year is different from past years, not only because of the stature of some of the women killed (usually it is unknown or local journalists that are at much higher risk), but also because – in one case – there has been three arrests, albeit within a western European context. Additionally, there is a notable increase of killings of women journalists up from last year.

This year we mourn the loss of eight of our sisters, in Denmark, India, Iraq, Malta and Mexico.

End Targeting,
End Killings,
End Violence,
End Impunity.

The murder of Swedish journalist Kim Wall in Denmark hit the headlines around the globe. Wall's mutilated torso was discovered 10 days after she had been reported missing on 10 August, 2017. She had failed to return from a trip aboard a civilian submarine, the Nautilus, with its inventor Peter Madsen. Madsen has now been arrested and charged with her murder. Ms Wall had worked for The Guardian, The New York Times and The South China Morning Post.

In India, Gauri Lankesh, a prominent journalist and an outspoken critic of Hindu nationalists was shot dead outside her home as she returned from work on 5 September,

2017. Lankesh died at the scene, with local officials saying they suspected she had been under surveillance from the gunmen and had reportedly received death threats. Karnataka state's chief minister, Siddaramaiah, has called it an "assassination on democracy", referring to her work on human rights. No arrests have been made, in spite of rewards offered.

Four of our sisters were killed in Iraq in 2017, putting it back among the deadliest countries. Shifa Gardi, was killed on 25 February 2017 in a roadside bomb blast while covering fighting between government forces and jihadists in Mosul. The 30-year-old reporter worked for Iraqi Kurdish channel Rudaw. Tuba Akyilmaz, a female Turkish Kurdish journalist aka ujiyan Arhan, was shot in the head on 3 March while covering clashes between different Kurdish armed groups in Sinjar.

Also fatally injured in Iraq was female journalist Veronique Robert. She died of injuries sustained in a landmine that also killed two of her colleagues and their fixer in Mosul. Another female journalist, Rana Al-Ajeeli, was killed while covering the clashes between the Iraqi Army and ISIS in Al-Anbar on the Iraqi-Syrian border, 16 November 2017. According to media reports, Rana was reporting while embedded with one of the groups of the Popular Mobilization Units and was killed by an IED that targeted the armed group.

In Malta, in another highly reported death, Daphne Caruana Galizia, a female independent journalist specialising in investigative reporting, was murdered by a car bomb on 16 October 2017. TVM reported that Galizia had filed a police report 15 days before her murder saying she was

being threatened. According to the Guardian, 'her murder sent shockwaves through Malta and alarmed the EU, which had already expressed concerns about rule of law on the island.' The article continued; 'The journalist's family are taking legal action against the island's police, saying the investigation into the killing cannot be impartial and independent since Caruana Galizia wrote critical articles about both the senior officer now running it, Silvio Valletta, and his wife, a top government minister.' The investigation continues.

In Mexico, the murder of Miroslava Breach on 23 March 2017 reminds us how deadly the profession remains in countries where freedom of the press is a long awaited goal amidst ceaseless violence. The 54-year-old female correspondent for La Jornada newspaper was shot dead outside her home. Breach covered mainly corruption, organised crime and drug trafficking. She had also worked for the magazine Norte de Ciudad Juárez, which had ceased publication because of the violence.

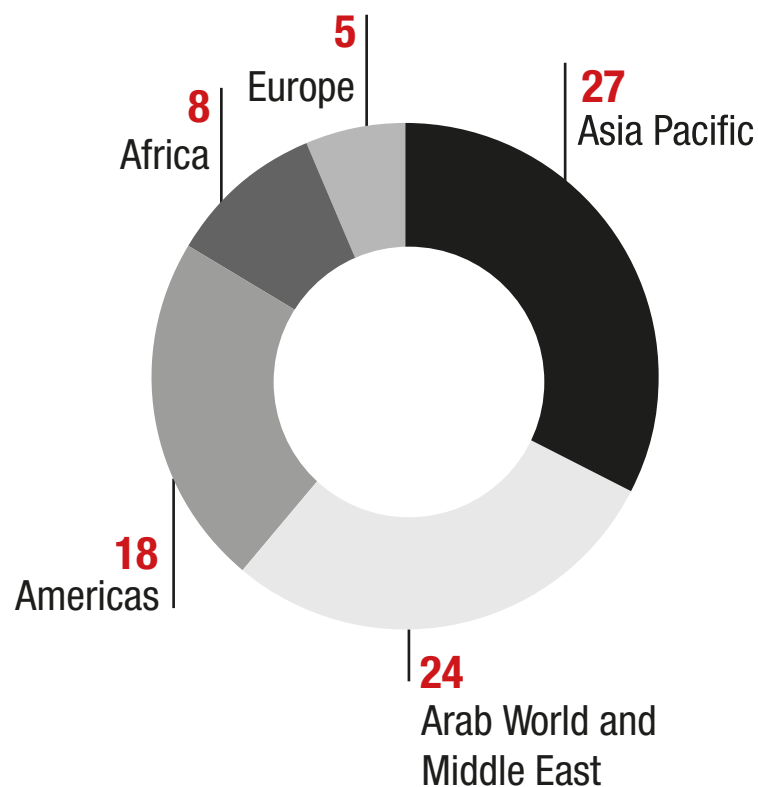
These deaths highlight the implacable impunity that continues to threaten freedom of the press and the lives of journalists everywhere. As killings continue and impunity remains, our New Year wish also remains the same, for all journalists: End Targeting, End Killings, End Violence, End Impunity.



MINDY RAN
CO-CHAIR
IFJ GENDER COUNCIL

Targeted, Bomb Attacks and Cross Fire Killings

82



COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Afghanistan	Asadullah Kuhzad	Reporter	<i>Peshkeswat</i>	07/05/17
	Mohamad Amir Khan	Staff	Public Radio and Television (RTA)	17/05/17
	Zinullah Khan	Staff	Public Radio and Television (RTA)	17/05/17
	Abdul Latif	Staff	Public Radio and Television (RTA)	17/05/17
	Abdul Ghani	Staff	Public Radio and Television (RTA)	17/05/17
	Aziz Naween	Staff	TOLO TV	31/05/17
	Mohammed Hamad Nazir	Driver	BBC	31/05/17
	Habibullah Hassanzada	Staff	Press TV	31/05/17
	Mohammad Omer Uruzgani	Staff	National Radio Television	31/05/17
	Naqibullah	Security Officer	Shamshad Television	07/11/17
	Husain Nazari	Cameraman	<i>Rah-e-Farda</i> TV	17/11/17
	Sayed Mehdi Hosaini	Journalist	Jomhor News Agency	28/12/17
Bangladesh	Abdul Hakin Shimul	Correspondent	<i>Samakal</i> newspaper	03/02/17
Democratic Republic of Congo	Innocent BANGA KARABA	Journalist congolais (RTNC)	Radiotélévision nationale	12/07/17
Honduras	Igor Padilla	TV Presenter	Canal HCH	17/01/17
	Carlos William Juárez	Journalist	Canal 22	13/09/17
	Carlos Oveniel Lara	Journalist	Canal 12	23/10/17
	Domínguez			
India	Shyam Sharma	Journalist	<i>Agniban</i> newspaper	15/05/17
	Kamlesh Jain	Correspondent	<i>Nai Dunia</i> newspaper	31/05/17
	Gauri Lankesh	Senior Journalist (f)	Gauri Lankesh Patrike newspaper	05/09/17
	Santanu Bhowmik	Journalist	Dinraat TV	20/09/17
	Sudip Datta Bhowmik	Journalist	<i>Syandan Patrika</i> and News Vanguard TV	21/11/17
Iraq	Naveen Gupta	Correspondent	<i>The Hindustan</i>	30/11/17
	Shifa Gardi	Reporter (f)	Rudaw TV	25/02/17
	Tuba Akyilmaz aka ujiyan Arhan	Journalist (f)	<i>Roj News and Ozgur Politica</i>	22/03/17
	Suhaib Al-Heeti	Journalist	Asiata TV	30/05/17
	Stephan Villeneuve	Journalist	France Televisions	19/06/17
	Bakhtiyar Addad	Fixer	France Televisions	19/06/17
	Veronique Robert	Journalist (f)	France Televisions	24/06/17
	Harb Hazaa al-Dulaimi	Cameraman	Hona Salaheddin TV	07/07/17
	Sudad al-Duri	Cameraman	Hona Salaheddin TV	07/07/17
	Sijad Najim Ojail	Cameraman	Karbala TV	27/08/17
	Louay Sadiq Meshaal	Cameraman	Al-Nujbaa TV	01/10/17
	Rana Al-Ajeeli	Reporter (f)	PMU media	16/11/17
Malta	Daphne Caruana Galizia	Journalist (f)	Freelance	16/10/17

Mexico	Cecilio Pineda Birto	Editor	La Voz de la Tierra Caliente	02/03/17
	Ricardo Monlui	Director	El Político	19/03/17
	Miroslava Breach	Correspondent (f)	La Jornada newspaper	23/03/17
	Filiberto Álvarez Landeros	Presenter	Jojutla Radio	29/04/17
	Héctor Jonathan Rodríguez	Reporter	El Costeño newspaper	15/05/17
	Maximino Rodríguez Palacios	Freelance Journalist		15/05/17
	Javier Valdez Cárdenas	Editor and Founder	Riodoce newspaper	15/05/17
	Salvador Adame	Director	6TV	14/06/17
	Edwin Rivera Paz	Journalist	Honduras Television	09/07/17
		Broadcaster (HCH)		
	Cándido Ríos	Reporter	Diario de Acayucan	22/08/17
	Juan Carlos Hernández Ríos	Photojournalist	La Bandera Noticias	05/09/17
	Edgar Daniel Esqueda Castro	Photojournalist	Metrópoli San Luis	05/10/17
	Gumaro Pérez	Journalist		19/12/17
Nigeria	Famous Giobaro	Journalist	Radio Glory FM 97.1	16/04/17
	Lawrence Okojie	Journalist	Nigeria Television Authority (NTA)	08/07/17
	Ikechukwu Onobogu	Cameraman	Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS)	15/11/17
Pakistan	Muhammad Jan	Journalist	Qudrat newspaper	12/01/17
	Taimoor Abbas	Cameraman	Samaa TV	12/02/17
	Bakshish Elahi	Bureau Chief	K-2 Times	11/06/17
	Haroon Khan	Journalist	Satch TV	12/10/17
Philippines	Joaquin Brinoes	Columnist	Remate	13/03/17
	Rudy Alicaway	Radio Anchor	DXPB 106.9	06/08/17
	Leo Diaz	Columnist/Reporter	Sapol Newspaper /	07/08/17
			Radio Mindanao	
	Christopher Iban Lozada	Broadcaster	dxBF	24/10/17
Russian	Nikolai Andrushchenko	Founder	Novy Petersburg	19/04/17
Federation	Dimitri Popkov	Editor-in-chief	Ton-M	24/05/17
South Sudan	Christopher Allen	Freelance journalist		26/08/17
Somalia	Abdullahi Osman Moallim	Journalist	Jubbaland TV	13/09/17
	Ali Nur Siad Ahmed	Cameraman	Voice of America (VOA)	14/10/17
	Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed	Journalist	Kalsan TV	11/12/17
Syria	Shaaban Al-Taweel aka Abu Zaid Al-Homsí	Reporter	Al-Arabiyya	20/01/17
	Omar Abu Nabbout	Cameraman	Freelance	13/02/17
	Mohammed Hallaq	Reporter	Al-Jiser Satellite Channel	22/02/17
	Mohamed Abazaid	Correspondent	Syria Media Organisation(SMO)	12/03/17
	Khaled al-Khatib	Correspondent	Russia Today (RT)	30/07/17
	Abdulghafar Al-Badawi	Journalist	Shahid Media Institution	28/08/17
	Dilshan Ibish	Reporter	Hawar Agency	12/10/17
	Hawker Faisal Mohammed	Reporter	Hawar Agency	15/10/17
	Qays al-Qadi	Bureau-chief	Al-Jisr	29/10/17
	Karam Qabisho	Cameraman	Sama TV	29/12/17

Turkey	Saaed Karimian	Founder	GEM TV	29/04/17
Yemen	Taqi-eddin Al-Huzeifi	Photojournalist		26/05/17
	Wael Al-Absi	Photojournalist		26/05/17
	Sa'ad Al-Nadhari	Photojournalist		26/05/17

Journalists Killed by Region

AFRICA KILLED

Democratic Republic of Congo	1
Nigeria	3
Somalia	3
South Sudan	1

AMERICAS KILLED

Dominican Republic	2
Honduras	3
Mexico	13

ASIA-PACIFIC KILLED

Afghanistan	12
Bangladesh	1
India	6
Pakistan	4
Philippines	4

EUROPE KILLED

Denmark	1
Malta	1
Russian Federation	2
Turkey	1

MIDDLE EAST & ARAB WORLD KILLED

Iraq	11
Syria	10
Yemen	3

Africa

Regional Overview

Africa as a continent is still struggling to come to terms with the media's role in exposing corruption and gross human rights abuses. While it is generally accepted that the media is a crucial pillar in every democratic dispensation, with regards to its role in enhancing transparency, accountability and the rule of law, journalists and media workers continue to pay dearly for defending these democratic principles and safeguarding human rights.

Despite the fact that most African governments make clarion calls to strengthen the democratic gains that had been made over the past few years, their commitment to guarantee the safety and security of journalists and media workers in general remains questionable. Africa, like the other regions of the world, had its horrific share on the "Kill List" in 2017 with at least eight journalists killed in relation to their work.

For the first time in decades, Nigeria tops the list with 3 journalists killed in the line of duty, while a fourth died in a ghastly car

accident while returning to his home town. In Somalia, three journalists were killed in 2017 and two others in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in South Sudan. The killings in Nigeria and in the DRC once again highlight the need for African governments to guarantee the safety and security of journalists as it is the responsibility of governments everywhere to protect the



lives and properties of its citizens. All four journalists killed in Nigeria and in the DRC were "shot" and killed by unidentified gunmen. As has often been the case in the continent, the killers are still at large; with no arrests have been made so far.

In African newest state, South Sudan, civil war is taking its toll on the civilian population, including journalists covering the fighting. Indeed, Christopher Allen, the journalist who killed in the country, was embedded with rebel forces fighting government forces. The situation in Somalia also contin-

ues to be extremely explosive for journalists who remain exposed to frequent Al – Shabaab militants' attacks and bombings which claimed the lives of three Somali journalists.

These levels of violence and the lack of action to address the real issue of impunity are ground for African journalists and their organisations to further mobilise support and engage governments towards greater protection for media professionals. The safety of journalists on the continent remains a big challenge as journalists are consistently attacked, threatened and killed at will by those who feel aggrieved by their reports including the state cohorts and its security members. Those who kill journalists with the intent of silencing them must



The blood stained camera of a photojournalist is seen after a secondary explosion in front of Dayah hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, January 25, 2017. REUTERS/Feisal Omar

be made to understand that "killing the journalist does not kill the truth". Such people, irrespective of their political or religious affiliations, must be apprehended and brought to justice.

Africa

Killed List 2017



APRIL 16 NIGERIA

FAMOUS GIOBARO, the journalist who worked for state-owned Radio Glory FM 97.1 as desk editor was killed by two unidentified gunmen who broke into his home in Yenagoa, an area located in the Bayelsa State, and shot him several times in the stomach.



JULY 8 NIGERIA

LAWRENCE OKOJIE, the journalist with the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) in Edo State, was shot and killed while returning home from work by unknown gunmen, according to reports.

JULY 12 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

INNOCENT BANGA KARABA, the journalist for the public broadcast service, RNTC, in the northern eastern city of Bunia was killed at his home by an unidentified assailant who attacked him, fatally injuring the victim. According to the Vice Governor of Ituri Province, Pacifique Keta, Karaba “was hit with a blunt object at his home”. Some people linked his killing to the Hema – Lendu conflict. The father of nine was a 20- year veteran reporter for the RTNC where he presented news programmes.

AUGUST 26 SOUTH SUDAN

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN, the American freelance journalist was killed while covering fighting between the South Sudanese army and the rebels in Kaya, near the South Sudan’s border with Uganda, according to media reports. Christopher Allen was said to have been embedded with the rebel forces when he was killed. He had worked for Al Jazeera, Vice News and also covered the war in Eastern Ukraine.

SEPTEMBER 13 SOMALIA

ABDULLAHI OSMAN MOALLIM, the broadcast journalist who worked with Jubbaland TV, died of injuries that he had sustained during a suicide bombing by the *Al-Shabab* militants in Beledweyne on 10 September. Two other journalists, Abdi Shakur Mohamed Hassan and Abdulkadir Omar Ibrahim, were also injured in the attack when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest outside a restaurant in the Hiiraan region.

OCTOBER 14 SOMALIA

ALI NUR SIAD AHMED, the 31-year- old cameraman was killed in a massive suicide bombing at the busy KM5 junction in Mogadishu when the militants blew up a truck in the capital. The blast was described by media reports as the “deadliest and most powerful single attack” in Somali in recent times. Over 250 civilians, including four journalists were also injured in the bombing.

NOVEMBER 15 NIGERIA

IKECHUKWU ONOBOGU, the 50-year-old cameraman with Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS) based in the state capital, Awka, was found dead four days after he was reported missing by his family. According to *Premium Times* newspaper, Onubogu left home on 12 November after receiving a phone call from an unknown person. After failing to return home or to report at his office the following day, he was reported missing by his family. Police later found his lifeless body with bullet wounds on 15 November at Obosi, Idemile North near Onitsha.

DECEMBER 11 SOMALIA

MOHAMED IBRAHIM MOHAMED

The 28-year-old journalist, also known Gabow, was killed when an explosive device which had been planted underneath his car’s drivers seat blew up in Mogadishu’s Madina district. According to media reports, Ibrahim had taken a break from work in order to spend time with his children. The explosion occurred when he got back into his car. Mohamed Ibrahim was a news anchor working for privately-owned Kalsan TV, reporting primarily on political issues.

The Americas

Regional Overview

In the Americas, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean remains challenging for the exercise of journalism, especially with regard to the safety of media professionals. 17 of them lost their lives in work-related incidents with Mexico recording 13 killings and topping the list of the most dangerous countries in the region. The safety crisis, prevailing in countries plagued by violence and inequality, means that journalists are forced to work in an environment of fear which restricts the right to freedom of expression.

The case in point is Mexico, a country in which journalists are under threat from both groups involved in organised crime and powerful politicians whose rule is based on unfettered violence and protected by total impunity. The figure of 13 Mexican journalists and media staff killed in 2017 adds to hundreds of killings recorded since 2000 which largely continue without accountability.

The situation is similar across the region, despite often different realities for media professionals working in an environment marked by exclusion of wide parts of the population and inequality. These are conditions arising from the current social and economic model of capitalism which has only benefited to the powerful elites.



Furthermore, Journalists face other challenges, including attacks by security forces and harassment by organised criminals and powerful figures from the political and business world. In such a context, to date, governments in the region have shown no ability to provide effective protection for journalists.

The lack of political will and the shortage of answers from the authorities to tackle the crisis, not only worsened the safety situation but also led to censorship and self-censorship with regard to press freedom. This in turn has deprived the society of the right to information, thus undermining democracy in Latin America.



Journalists and activist paint on news papers with fake blood during a protest against the murder of the Mexican journalist Miroslava Breach, outside the Attorney General's Office (PGJ) in Mexico City, Mexico March 25, 2017. Papers reads with fake blood "No More Deaths" REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



Colleges of journalist Salvador Adame Pardo stand with a banner during a protest against the May 18 disappearance of Adame, outside the offices of the Attorney General of the Republic in Mexico City, Mexico June 1, 2017. The banner reads, "Whoever kills journalists threatens society". REUTERS/Carlos Jasso

The Americas

Killed List 2017

JANUARY 17 HONDURAS

IGOR PADILLA, the 36-year-old TV news presenter for Canal HCH and well-known crime reporter, was fatally injured when four unidentified gunmen opened fire on him in Suyapa, an area of San Pedro Sula as he was filming a TV documentary on violence against journalists in the country. According to reports, Padilla received a phone call and stepped on the street to take it when the four attackers, allegedly in police uniform, shot him with high velocity weapons. He was taken to hospital with multiple injuries but died on the way.

18 suspects have been arrested in connection with the journalist's murder and two reportedly confessed to their involvement, reports added. The journalists' colleague said that he had received death threats and some believe that his murder was ordered by members of the criminal group Mara who are currently in prison.

FEBRUARY 14 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

LUÍS MANUEL MEDINA, the presenter of the news programme Milenio Caliente – or Hot Millennium – was killed while on air at the radio station FM 103.5 when gunmen opened fire during a news bulletin which was being broadcast on Facebook Live. Producer and director **LEO MARTÍNEZ** was also shot dead in an adjacent office at the radio station FM 103.5.

Gunfire could be heard during the Facebook Live video, along with a woman yelling “Shots! Shots! Shots!” before the transmission was abruptly cut off. The station secretary Dayaba Garcia was also injured in the attack and taken to hospital where she had to undergo emergency surgery.

Police said the shooting occurred in San Pedro de Macorís, a small city 45 miles east of the capital, Santo Domingo. The radio station is located within a shopping mall. Three men have been arrested, but none has been charged. Police say they do not yet have a motive. Milenio Caliente is a popular local radio programme recognised for its lively political analysis and social campaigns. In weeks prior to his killing, Medina had repeatedly condemned pollution in Laguna Mullen, a protected lake in San Pedro.

MARCH 2 MEXICO

CECILIO PINEDA BIRTO, the editor of La Voz de la Tierra Caliente and contributor to *La Jornada Guerrero* newspaper was shot dead by two youths riding a motorbike in the city of Altamirano, Guerrero State. The crime reporter, who also contributed to El Universo and reportedly received death threats from organised crime groups, had revealed the involvement of a PRI representative in drug trafficking. In September 2015, Birto was attacked by two armed men outside his home and one suspect was detained in 2016 in connection with the attack.

MARCH 19 MEXICO

RICARDO MONLUI, the 57-year-old director of the El Politico magazine and columnist for *El Sol de Córdoba* and *el Diario de Xalapa*, was shot dead in the Mexican state of Veracruz while he was with his family. Monlui served as President of the Association of Journalists and Photographers de Córdoba and was the leader of a national union for sugar cane farmers, whose members have been victims of attacks in recent years.

MARCH 23 MEXICO

MIROSLAVA BREACH, the 54-year-old female correspondent for La Jornada newspaper was shot dead outside her home. Ms Breach, who covered mainly corruption, organised crime and drug traffic, was in her car outside her home when unidentified gunmen in another car shot her. She was taken to hospital but died shortly afterwards.

The journalist had also worked for the magazine *Norte de Ciudad Juárez* which ceased publication because of the climate of violence which made it impossible to practice journalism safely and independently.

APRIL 29 MEXICO

FILIBERTO ÁLVAREZ LANDEROS, the 65-year-old journalist was shot dead in his car by unidentified gunmen in the municipality of Tlaquiltenango. Landeros, who presented a radio programme of poetry and music on Jotulta station, was taken to the nearby hospital where he subsequently died.



REUTERS
Jose Luis
Gonzalez

MAY 15 MEXICO

MAXIMINO RODRÍGUEZ PALACIOS, the 73-year old veteran journalist was shot dead outside a shop in Paz, a town located in the state of Baja California Sur. Local media reports said the journalist, who was with his wife, had parked his car when unidentified gunmen in another vehicle fired up to 15 bullets on the couple, killing the journalist and wounding his wife.

Maximino Rodríguez Palacios was still active in reporting on the activities of organised crime groups and often published details of the gangsters, including their names. He reportedly was aware of the risks to his life and often said he had no fear and was ready for the consequences of his work.

MAY 15 MEXICO

HÉCTOR JONATHAN RODRÍGUEZ, the 26-year-old reporter for *El Costeño*, a weekly publication founded by his father, was shot dead in the locality of Autlán de Navarro, Jalisco. The victim was travelling in a car with his mother Córdova Ocegüera who is also *El Costeño*'s deputy sales manager when the attackers opened fire, killing journalist and injuring his mother in the shoulder. Media reports said that the publication focused on crime in the community and its offices were under police protection.

MAY 15 MEXICO

JAVIER VALDEZ CÁRDENAS, the founder of *Riodoce*, a weekly publication, was shot dead outside his office by unidentified gunmen in Culiacan city in the north-western Mexican state of Sinaloa.

Javier Valdez Cárdenas, who covered extensively drug trafficking, had reportedly received death threats against him and his publication. He reportedly said that, in 2009, there was a grenade attack against his publication but no one was hurt. Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto led the condemnation of Cárdenas' killing which he described as an 'outrageous crime' and pledged to protect journalists in his country.

JUNE 14 MEXICO

SALVADOR ADAME, the body of the director of the local television station 6TV, who had been missing after being abducted on 18 May in the city of Nueva Italia was found in the western state of Michoacán. Media reports quoted state officials as saying that Adame's burnt remains had been located near Nuevo Italia and identified with DNA testing.

Adame reportedly covered local politics but avoided reporting on the criminal activities of the drug barons. He and his wife were detained by

the local police in 2016 for covering a protest outside city hall, according to media reports.

SEPTEMBER 5 MEXICO

JUAN CARLOS HERNÁNDEZ RÍOS, the 29-year-old photojournalist and contributor for *La Bandera Noticias* news website was killed by two unidentified gunmen who fatally shot him outside his home in Guanajato. He was taken to Yuriria hospital where he died of his wounds.

According to *La Bandera Noticias*, Hernández Ríos had received death threats from the local administration. He had also published shortly before his killing a video in which two police officers who accused their superiors were also later murdered.

JULY 9 MEXICO

EDWIN RIVERA PAZ, the Honduran journalist, who worked for his country's national television broadcaster (HCH), was killed in the town of Acayucan, in the Mexican state of Veracruz. In a statement, the UNESCO Director General condemned the murder of Rivera Paz who had fled to Mexico out of fear for his life following the killing in January of 2017 of Igor Padilla, the director and producer of a programme Rivera Paz had worked for on the Honduran national television.

AUGUST 22 MEXICO

CÁNDIDO RÍOS, the 55-year-old crime reporter was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the Mexican state of Veracruz and became the tenth journalist to be killed in the country since the start of the year in work-related incidents. Ríos, who worked for the *Diario de Acayucan*, was shot in the south of Veracruz while he was with two other people, including a former police officer. The journalist had received death threats since 2012, mainly from the local administration officials, for his reporting. He was admitted into the protection programme for human rights defenders and journalists, according to the Comisión Estatal para la Atención y Protección de los Periodistas (CEAPP).

SEPTEMBER 13 HONDURAS

CARLOS WILLIAM JUÁREZ, the journalist of Canal 22 Tegucigalpa was shot by unidentified gunmen in the province of Cortés, north of Honduras while he was with a friend who was also injured. The victims were taken to Puerto Cortés hospital where the journalist later died of his wounds.



REUTERS
Alan Ortega



REUTERS
Daniel Ibarra

OCTOBER 5 MEXICO

EDGAR DANIEL ESQUEDA CASTRO, a photographer who had gone missing after being taken away from his home by men dressed as police officers, was found dead and dumped in an open area near the airport in the northern state of San Luis Potosí. According to media reports, parts of his body were tied and showed signs of torture.

Mr. Esqueda's wife reportedly said armed men broke into the couple's house while they were sleeping and said they were government agents and took the journalist away. But, the state prosecutor's office denied that any of its agents were involved in Mr. Esqueda's abduction. The journalist, who covered crime and social issues, had reported receiving threats from the police in the past, according to a statement released Friday by the federal government's protection office for journalists.

Mr. Esqueda filed a complaint with the state human rights commission, which passed on the information to the federal protection office. Officials with the office, part of Mexico's powerful Interior Ministry, approached Mr. Esqueda, who told them that he had filed a criminal complaint and that he had received no further threats. The state human rights commission then apparently passed Mr. Esqueda's complaint back to the same police agency that had first threatened him, according to the federal statement.

OCTOBER 23 HONDURAS

CARLOS OVENIEL LARA DOMÍNGUEZ, the journalist who worked for Canal 12 was gunned down in Copán department, west of Honduras, by unidentified armed men who opened fire on his vehicle as he was on the way to work. According to local sources, Dominguez had reported receiving death threats in months prior to his killing. He was believed to have accused one person he did not name as being behind the threats.

DECEMBER 19 MEXICO

GUMARO PÉREZ, the 35-year-old reporter, who covered security and narco-trafficking, was shot dead while attending the nativity play at his child's school in the municipality of Acayucan located in Veracruz state. Media reports quoted a witness as saying that a gunman entered the class of Pérez's child and shot directly at the journalist four times. He became the 13th media professional killed in Mexico since the start of 2017.

→ A group of journalist hold placards during a protest outside the National Palace for the slain journalist Salvador Adame in Mexico City, Mexico June 28, 2017. Placards reads "Justice for Adame". REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



Asia Pacific

Regional overview

Gauri Lankesh, Wai Yen Heinn, Rudy Alicaway, Santanu Bhowmick, Yameen Rasheed and Haroon Khan. These are a few of our fallen.

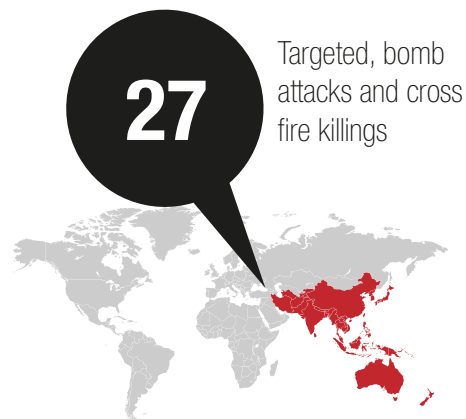
Taimoor Abbas, was just 22 years of age when he took a fatal hit after being caught in the crossfire covering a police assault and shootout in Karachi. Leo Diaz, a 60-year-old columnist and radio reporter, was shot down outside of his home by a passing gunman on a motorcycle in Mindanao.

In all, 27 media workers in the Asia-Pacific lost their lives in 2017. The statistical average is that a media worker is eliminated in our region every ten days. This year the gap widened a little to 14 days, but that's a moot point.

The other all too familiar statistic is that 23 recorded killings will likely go unpunished – in other words 9 out of ten. As our affiliates routinely report, too often there is poor investigation, sluggish follow-up and a culture of political and business sponsored media killing. That has to change.

As we document the cases of those journalists killed in our region both here and in our impunity campaigns, we reflect sombrely on the lives taken and question journalists and their organisations on what more we can do to turn this situation around.

They protest in their towns and cities and online. They release reports offering recommendations for change. They campaign



to draw global attention to the weaknesses and failings of governments, courts and state forces in tracking down and bring perpetrators to justice. They follow cases and hold report cards up to the global spotlight. They look to find solutions out of hard-won victories. They call on governments and their leaders to bear responsibility for the deathly smear that blights countries like Myanmar, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. They try to do more to bring justice to those lost, even when they know they are pushed to their limits.

There is no quick fix. That is all too clear. But because impunity leads to more murders and is a warning to the breakdown of judicial systems, the rule of law and democracy, there is a need for things to change. They must change.

In countries like Nepal and the Philippines, effective media monitoring networks established by the FNJ and NUJP keep tabs on the media environment, condemn and continue to push for meaningful change.

In Pakistan, intensive efforts to strengthen the capabilities of journalists to operate with more preparedness and knowledge on the dangers are beginning to make impact but progress is still painfully slow.

In Afghanistan, efforts by the AIJA are working to bring the government to the table and make meaningful commitments to making journalists safer.

There are still some notable gaping holes. In Bangladesh, India and the Maldives, it sadly seems that media workers' lives carry little regard in the wider state interests. So long as that climate remains, the numbers



People attend a protest in New Delhi against the killing of Gauri Lankesh, a senior Indian journalist who, according to police, was shot dead outside her home on Tuesday by unidentified assailants in the southern city of Bengaluru, India, September 7, 2017.

of attacks on journalists are likely to mount.

Today, the IFJ's members globally support our colleagues where they are under fire. Because when media pool their efforts, share good practices and expand their coverage on attacks against journalists, change is possible.

Furthermore, when media – not just media workers but also media companies – put editorial and political differences aside to act in unison to combat impunity, it makes an impact. Strong unions and associations working together are powerful united voices.

Right now we remember those we have needlessly lost. But we must also remember the ongoing fight ahead.

Asia Pacific

Killed List 2017

JANUARY 12 PAKISTAN

MUHAMMAD JAN, the 37-year-old journalist of *Qudrat*, the local Urdu language newspaper in Pakistan's troubled southwestern Balochistan province, close to Afghan and Iranian border, was gunned down by unidentified gunmen. According to AFP quoting police sources, Jan was shot while riding home on his motorbike in Qalat district, some 160 kilometres south of Quetta, the provincial capital.

"Two attackers on motorcycle opened fire on him, using a pistol and killing him on the spot," senior police officer Muhammad Ali told AFP. Jan also served as a press secretary for the Balochistan media council.

FEBRUARY 3 BANGLADESH

ABDUL HAKIN SHIMUL, the local correspondent of the Bangla-language daily *Samakal*, was shot in the face while covering clashes between two factions of the ruling party, the Awami League, on Thursday 2 February during which gunshots were fired. He was admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition. He died on the way to capital Dhaka, where he was being taken for further treatment. His condition deteriorated mid-way and he was taken to a hospital in Tangail, central Bangladesh, where he succumbed to his injuries.

FEBRUARY 12 PAKISTAN

TAIMOOR ABBAS, the 22-year-old assistant cameraman of privately-owned Samaa TV news channel, was shot in the head and chest when he was traveling in the Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG) van in north Nazimabad to report on an attack on the police. He was

taken to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where he died from his injuries. The unidentified assailants on a motorbike had thrown an explosive device on a police armored personnel carrier, and had started shooting when the Samaa TV van arrived.

MARCH 13 PHILIPPINES

JOAQUIN BRINOES, the columnist for the tabloid *Remate* was killed by assailants on a motorbike who shot him four times in the back. Brinoes, popularly known as 'Dos por Dos' after the radio show he used to host, was a hard-hitting journalist, having also published the local *Masbate Tribune*. In 2000, Brinoes was sentenced to 12 years in jail after being found guilty of six libel charges. He served five years of the sentence, after which he was released on parole in 2005. Following his release, he was harassed and intimidated by the local authorities, including in 2009 when the Masbate provincial vice governor brought a lawsuit against him. The vice governor filed libel allegations against the then editor the *Masbate Tribune*.



Mohamad
Amir Khan

MAY 7 AFGHANISTAN

ASADULLAH KUHZAD, the reporter for *Peshkeswat* newspaper was killed by unknown gunmen in a targeted attack in Pul-u-Khumri in Baghlan province.



Zinullah Khan

MAY 15 INDIA

SHYAM SHARMA, the journalist who worked for *Agniban*, a local evening newspaper, was on his way to Manglia Square in his car when he was stopped in Indore, Madhya Pradesh state, by two assailants on motorbikes. They asked him to wind down his window, then slit his throat and fled the scene. A passer-by saw Sharma bleeding heavily and rushed him to hospital. He was moved to another hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.



Abdul Latif

MAY 17 AFGHANISTAN

MOHAMAD AMIR KHAN, ZINULLAH KHAN, ABDUL LATIF AND GHANI, four media workers for the Afghan Public Radio and Television (RTA) in the city of Jalalabad, Nangrahar province were killed in the suicide attack on the RTA. 17 others staff members were injured in the attack. Media reports said that four attackers, including two suicide bombers, forced their way into the RTA station at around 9:30 am. The two suicide bombers blew themselves up at the front gate and outside the main building while other attackers entered the main building. It took the security forces more than three hours to end the assault.



Ghani



Hussain Nazari

MAY 31 AFGHANISTAN

TOLO TV staff member **AZIZ NAWEEN**, Press TV reporter **HABIBULLAH HASSANZADA**, **MOHAMMAD OMER URUZGANI** who worked for National Radio Television and BBC Afghan driver in Kabul **MOHAMMED NAZIR** were among victims of the explosion in the Zandaj Square in Afghanistan capital, which killed at least 80 people and injured 350. Three more journalists of BBC Kabul and a reporter of TV1 channel were also injured. The office of TV1 is close to the explosion area. The Taliban have denied responsibility of the attack.

In a statement, the BBC said that: “It is with great sadness that the BBC can confirm the death of BBC Afghan driver Mohammed Nazir following the vehicle bomb in Kabul earlier today, as he was driving journalist colleagues to the office.” Four BBC journalists were also injured and were treated in hospital. Their injuries were not thought to be life threatening.”

MAY 31 INDIA

KAMLESH JAIN, the 42-year-old was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne assailants at his office in Pipliya Mandi, 15km from district headquarters Mandsaur. He was shot twice from close range and died on the way to hospital. Jain was reportedly filing stories for Indore-based Hindi daily *Nai Dunia*, with which he was associated for the last 12 years.

Jain’s family said that local illegal liquor sellers had threatened to kill him after he reported their activities to the police a few days earlier. According to a report, the family claimed that Jain had informed the police about the threat.

JUNE 11 PAKISTAN

BAKSHISH ELAHI, the Bureau Chief of *K-2 Times*, an Urdu daily newspaper in Haripur, was shot dead by unknown motorbike-borne gunmen near his home at Lora Chowk, Haripur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The gunmen fled the scene after firing five shots at Elahi, one of which hit him in the head and others in the chest and stomach.

AUGUST 6 PHILIPPINES

RUDY ALICAWAY, the radio anchor with Tigmo-Tigmo program on DXPB 106.9, was shot dead on his way home by two assailants on a motorcycle. According to a police report, the assailant continued to shoot Alicaway as he tried to crawl away.

AUGUST 7 PHILIPPINES

LEO DIAZ, the columnist for *Sapol Newspaper* and a reporter for Radio Mindanao Network, was shot leaving his house in Sultan Kudarat province. He died from multiple gunshots. Mindanao province has been under martial law since 23 May 2017 following violent clashes between locals and alleged IS-supporters in Marawi City.



Journalists and social activists attend a protest against the killing of Gauri Lankesh, a senior Indian journalist who according to police was shot dead outside her home on Tuesday by unidentified assailants in southern city of Bengaluru, in Ahmedabad, India, September 6, 2017. REUTERS/Amit Dave

SEPTEMBER 5 INDIA

GAURI LANKESH, the 55-year-old respected prominent journalist and an outspoken critic of Hindu nationalists, was shot dead outside her home in Rajarajeshwarinagar in northern Bengaluru, Karnataka, as she returned from work. Three unidentified gunmen on a motorbike fired at least four shots at her as she entered through the gate of her home. Lankesh died at the scene after receiving gunshots to the head and chest. The gunmen fled the scene.

Local officials said they suspected she had been under surveillance from the gunmen. Her death has been widely condemned, with Karnataka state’s chief minister Siddaramaiah calling it an “assassination on democracy”. The journalist,

known as Gauri, worked for *The Times of India* and later ran an independent newspaper, Lankesh Patrike, along with her brother Indrajit for several years. The newspaper had been founded by her father, P Lankesh, a left-wing poet and writer. After a split with her brother, she left to start several publications, including her own newspaper Gauri Lankesh Patrike.

SEPTEMBER 20 INDIA

SANTANU BHOWMIK, the 28-year-old journalist who worked for Dinraat, a cable television channel in Tripura state, northeast India was attacked and fatally wounded while he was covering a protest in Mandwai near Agartala, the capital of Tripura. He suffered head injuries from sharp objects during clashes between supporters of the Indigenous People’s Front of Tripura (IPFT), a tribal party agitating for a separate state, and the Ganamukti Parishad, the tribal wing of the Communist Party of India, Marxist (CPI-M), the ruling party in the state. Bhowmik was covering the protest and road blockade by the IPFT when he was attacked, possibly with sticks and rods. The police found him with serious stab injuries and he was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him ‘brought dead’.

OCTOBER 12 PAKISTAN

HAROON KHAN, the journalist with Satch TV and a stringer for local Mashriq Television channel, was gunned down outside his home by unidentified assailants. Khan had returned home when his killers opened fire, hitting him several times before fleeing the scene, according to police sources. He was taken to hospital and declared dead on arrival.

OCTOBER 24 PHILIPPINES

CHRISTOPHER IBAN LOZADA, the 29-year-old operations manager and broadcaster of dxBF Prime Broadcasting Network, was driving home with his girlfriend in Mindanao, south of the Philippines when a gunman in the van drove up and opened fire. Lozada was killed immediately, while his girlfriend was injured and taken to hospital.

Prior to his murder, Lozada had reported receiving several death threats, which he shared on Facebook. The threats were related to his reporting and alleged involvement in filing charges against Bislig mayor, Librado Navarro, over corruption. Navarro was dismissed from his post by the Office of Ombudsman.

NOVEMBER 7 AFGHANISTAN

NAQIBULLAH, the security guard of Shamshad Television was killed when gunmen stormed the TV station's offices in Kabul. Naqibullah was killed as he patrolled the front gates to the building.

NOVEMBER 17 AFGHANISTAN

HUSAIN NAZARI, the cameraman for *Rah-e-Farda* TV was critically wounded in the suicide attack at a political gathering in Kabul on November 16 and succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on November 17. His colleague reporter Taqi Sadid was also injured in the attack and needed treatment. The explosion outside the Qasr-E-Naween Hotel in Kabul claimed the lives of 19 people including eight policemen. Daesh (also known as ISIS) reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack.

NOVEMBER 21 INDIA

SUDIP DATTA BHOWMIK, the 49-year-old senior journalist with the Bengali language *Syandan Patrika* and contributor to local television channel News Vanguard was shot at point-blank range by a trooper at the battalion headquarters of the paramilitary Tripura State Rifles (TSR), near state capital Agartala. Bhowmik had recently exposed financial irregularities in the TSR. He was taken to the hospital only three hours later, where he was declared "brought dead".

NOVEMBER 30 INDIA

NAVEEN GUPTA, the 35-year-old correspondent for the Hindustan, was shot dead by bike-borne assailants as he came out a public lavatory behind his brother's shop. He died on his way to hospital with five bullets to his face and torso.

DECEMBER 28 AFGHANISTAN

SAYED MEHDI HOSAINI, the journalist who worked for *Jomhor News Agency*, was among people killed in the multiple blasts at a Shia cultural centre in the Afghan capital Kabul. According to Afghan media reports, the blast claimed the lives of at least 40 people and left over 80 more injured. The so-called Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.



Shima (in red) mourns next to the body of her husband Sudip Datta Bhowmik, a local journalist, who according to local media was shot dead by a Tripura State Rifles trooper on Tuesday, in Agartala, India, November 22, 2017. REUTERS/Jayanta Dey

Europe

Regional overview

In Europe, the year 2017 was marked by the car bomb attack that killed Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, on 16 October. The journalist was well known for her investigations into the murky politics, which made her many powerful enemies. The brutal assassination was perceived as a message of intimidation targeting the profession as a whole. Three suspects have been arrested in connection to the killing, but none of them had been named in Ms Galizia's reports. This makes many believe that they were only hitmen and the master minds haven't been identified.

On 10 January 2018, the European Federation of Journalists shared a platform with two of Daphne Caruana Galizia's sons, Andrew and Paul at the European Parliament to denounce the passivity of the governments on the Old Continent in the face of journalists' murders. No European country has yet implemented the Council of Europe's recommendation for the Protec-

tion of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists and Other Media Actors, adopted in April 2016.

And yet, on the ground, the situation continues to deteriorate. Five journalists were killed on the European continent, against three last year. The killing of Ms Galizia was a chilling reminder of another car blast which killed Belarusian journalist Pavel



Sheremet on July 20, 2016 in Kiev, Ukraine. There too, to date, the killers have not been caught. The same mafia methods. The same desire to intimidate the press. The same context of impunity.

In both cases, the investigations seem to be conducted without any real desire to identify the sponsors of these killings. That is why IFJ and the EFJ joined the family of Daphne Caruana Galizia in early 2018 in calling for the appointment of a special rapporteur of the Council of Europe to monitor the investigation.

“By not respecting their positive obligation to protect journalists, the public authorities are complicit with the killers,” EFJ General Secretary Ricardo Gutiérrez said.

The European Federation of Journalists recalls that European governments committed in April 2016 to establishing an independent national monitoring body to promote the protection of journalists, with the collaboration of journalists' unions and associations. No European state has yet delivered on that promise.



People attend a ceremony as a coffin of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was murdered in a car bomb attack, leaves the Rotunda Parish Church in Mosta, Malta, November 3, 2017. REUTERS/Alessandro Bianchi

Europe

Killed List 2017

APRIL 19 RUSSIAN FEDERATION

NIKOLAI ANDRUSHCHENKO, the 73-year-old co-founder of the weekly newspaper *Novy Petersburg*, who was attacked in St. Petersburg on 9 March by unidentified assailants and had remained unconscious at the hospital since then, died of his wounds. According to Radio Free Europe, quoting Andrushchenko's colleagues and lawyer, the veteran journalist underwent surgery after the attack and initially connected to a ventilator but was later able to breathe on his own.

However, they said he never regained consciousness and died on April 19. His attackers have not been found. *Novy Petersburg's* editor Denis Usov linked the attack against Andrushchenko to articles that the newspaper had published about corruption in the city, which exposed connections between the administration's officials and organised criminal syndicates.

APRIL 29 TURKEY

SAAED KARIMIAN, the founder and chairman of the Persian-language GEM TV company, and his business partner were shot dead in the Maslak neighbourhood in Istanbul by masked individuals who opened fire on their vehicle. The vehicle and the gun used in the assassination were later found burnt.

GEM TV is known for its entertainment satellite channels that dub foreign films and Western television programs into Farsi for Iranians. The TV has been criticised by Iran for "showing programmes that go against Islamic values" and has been accused of spreading Western culture. The TV is officially banned in Iran but is popular inside the country for movies and Turkish TV shows dubbed into Farsi.

In 2016, a Revolutionary Court in Tehran tried Karimian in absentia and sentenced him to six years in jail on charges of "acting against national security" and "propaganda against the state." According to his relatives, Mr Karimian had been threatened by the Iranian regime and was planning to move to London over these threats.

MAY 24 RUSSIAN FEDERATION

DIMITRI POPKOV, the editor-in-chief of *Ton-M*, a local newspaper, was shot dead in Minusink in the Krasnodarski province, according to Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty. Other reports said that Popkov was found in the sauna in his backyard. He had been shot five times.

Popkov's publication is well known for its hard hitting investigations and he had told Radio Free Europe in a recent interview that his newspaper had become an "obstacle for local officials who are now threatening and intimidating journalists."



Members of the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) (Danish: Beredskabsstyrelsen) assist police at Kalvebod Fælled in search of missing body parts of journalist Kim Wall close to the site where her torso was found, in Copenhagen, Denmark, August 23, 2017. Scanpix Denmark/Martin Sylvest/ via REUTERS

AUGUST 10 DENMARK

KIM WALL, the headless torso of the 30-year-old Swedish journalist was found on a beach south of Copenhagen on 21 August, ten days after she had gone missing. According to media reports, DNA from the torso matched that from Ms Wall's hairbrush and toothbrush.

Ms Wall, a freelance journalist who had written for the Guardian, New York Times and South China Morning Post, disappeared during a trip on a civilian submarine, the Nautilus, with its inventor Peter Madsen. She had been researching a feature about him and the Nautilus he built in 2008 with crowdfunding, reports added.

After failing to return from the trip, police arrested Peter Madsen who first claimed he had dropped her safely near Copenhagen but later said she had died in an accident and he had buried her at sea.

However, investigators revealed that the torso had been weighted down with metal and mutilated in what appeared to be an attempt to ensure that decomposition gases passed out of the body so as to stop it from floating, according to reports.

OCTOBER 16 MALTA

DAPHNE CARUANA GALIZIA, the female independent journalist, specialising in investigative reporting, was killed in a car blast that left her vehicle in several pieces in Bidnija. According to media reports quoting local sources, the extremely powerful explosion left debris from the car, a Peugeot 108, strewn across the road and in a nearby field. Police at the scene said the driver's body was blasted out of the car and into a nearby field. *TVM* reported that Ms Caruana Galizia had filed a police report 15 days before saying she was being threatened, reports added.



Journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia's sons Matthew and Paul carry the coffin of their mother, who was murdered in a car bomb attack, as they leave from the Rotunda Parish Church in Mosta, Malta, November 3, 2017. REUTERS/Alessandro Bianchi

→ A protestor holds a poster with the last published words of assassinated investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was murdered in a car bomb attack last Monday, during a protest in Valletta, Malta, October 22, 2017. REUTERS/Darrin Zammit Lupi



Middle East and Arab World

Regional overview

For most journalists around the world, becoming a war correspondent is a matter of choice, one which often entails a great deal of sacrifice. But for journalists in countries torn by conflicts, the frontline can be at their doorsteps.

This is the case in several Arab countries, where becoming a frontline reporter is not a matter of choice. That is the fate of most journalists in Yemen, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Libya, some of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. For them, the only alternative is to leave the profession altogether.

But many are holding on to their profession and for that they need more than the praise for their courage. The International Federation of Journalists, its affiliates and regional and international partners have been working together to improve the safety conditions for the journalists in the region, including fighting against impunity for crimes targeting them.

Courage in journalism should be much

more than just qualities of individual journalists. Otherwise, it will turn them into tragic heroes, producing their last report before they are killed, locked behind bars for years or forced to flee their homes in perilous journeys. It is the collective strength based on shared values which are defended by strong unions capable of fighting for the safety and the wellbeing of their mem-

Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings

24



bers, exposing murderers, standing up to repressive governments and forcing greedy or careless employers to take their duty of care seriously. Courage also requires cooperation between journalists' unions, media stakeholders, national trade union movements, civil society groups, national human rights centers to strengthen the regional network of journalists' unions.

It takes such a broad coalition to deliver a clear message to the enemies of journalists and indifferent law enforcement authorities; attacks against journalists will not be tolerated.

This message needs to be backed up by action, starting from the promotion of a safety mindset among journalists and their organisations. To this end, in 2017, the IFJ organised safety trainings for hundreds of journalists in Yemen, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Libya. Ten safety trainers from the region, who ran these trainings, received this year an updated training material and new training skills during a refresher course.

We also welcomed this year the breakthrough in the fight against impunity and threats against journalist in Iraq with the establishment of the Iraqi National Committee on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The Iraqi Journalists Syndicate (IJS) played a major role in establishing this official committee and hosted several of its meetings. The IFJ pledged its



Journalists react during the funeral of their colleagues Wael al-Absi and Taqiaddin al-Hudhaifi, who were killed by a shell as they were covering fighting between Houthi fighters and pro-government fighters in Taiz, Yemen May 26, 2017. REUTERS/Anees Mahyoub

commitment to working with the committee which should investigate hundreds of cases of killed journalists in Iraq.

The IFJ also continued its advocacy work to demand protection for threatened journalists and justice for families of killed journalists and those who suffered attacks. In this regard, the Federation met with governments' officials, journalists and their unions in countries across the region, wrote to heads of state and made presentation on their behalf in international fora and gatherings.

Middle East and Arab World

Killed List 2017

JANUARY 20 SYRIA

SHAABAN AL-TAWEEL, also known as Abu Zaid Al-Homsi, was killed by a bomb that was planted by unknown people on a car which he was using in Beit Jinn village of Rural Damascus. The car belonged to Abbas Zuraifa, one of the people who were leading the conciliation process with the Syrian Army in south-west Damascus, and it was believed that Al-Taweel himself took part in the process. Both were killed in the car bomb. Al-Taweel had covered events in Syria since the beginning of the uprising during which he was kidnapped by Al-Nusra Front. He also worked for Al-Arabiyya channel and Al-Khutwa local agency.

FEBRUARY 12 SYRIA

OMAR ABU NABBOUT, the freelance cameraman was killed by a Syrian army sniper while covering the clashes between the opposition and the regime forces in Al-Manshiyya neighborhood of Daraa. The young cameraman also contributed to Nabaa Media Foundation.

FEBRUARY 22 SYRIA

MOHAMMED HALLAQ, the 30-year-old reporter was killed in Russian bombing while covering the events in rural Hama for Al-Jiser Channel. Hallaq was one of the channel's most prominent reporters and had covered different events in various parts of Syria.

FEBRUARY 25 IRAQ

SHIFA GARDI, the 30-year-old female reporter working for Iraqi Kurdish channel Rudaw was killed in the explosion of a roadside bomb while covering fighting between government forces and jihadists in Mosul, the

AFP quoted her channel as saying. Her cameraman was also injured and received treatment at a local hospital.

MARCH 13 SYRIA

MOHAMED ABUZAID, also known as George Samara, was killed while covering clashes between opposition and the Syrian regime forces in Al-Manshiyya area of Daraa in the southeast of Syria. He had been working as a reporter in Darraa for the Syrian Media Organization -an opposition news website- since 2015.

MARCH 22 IRAQ

TUBA AKYILMAZ, the female Turkish Kurdish journalist, also known as Nujiyan Arhan, was shot in the head on 3 March while covering the clashes between different Kurdish armed groups in Sinjar. She was taken to hospital in Al-Hasakah in northern Syria where she died on 22 March of injuries sustained from the gunshot. She had worked in journalism for 12 years in different Kurdish areas and for different media outlets, such as Roj News and Ozgur Politica. She also ran the feminist Kurdish web journal Sujin.

MAY 26 YEMEN

TAQI-EDDIN AL-HUZEIFI, WAEL AL-ABSI, SA'AD AL-NADHARI, the three photojournalists were killed in a rocket attack carried out by the al Houthi rebels in Taiz city, according to the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate, an IFJ affiliate. Two other photojournalists, Waled Al- Qadasi and Salah Al- Wahbani were injured in the incident.



Mourners carry the bodies of journalists Wael al-Absi and Taqiaddin al-Hudhaifi who were killed by a shell as they were covering fighting between Houthi fighters and pro-government fighters in Taiz, Yemen May 26, 2017. REUTERS/Anees Mahyoub

MAY 30 IRAQ

SUHAIB AL-HEETI, the freelance journalist was killed while on a mission to report for them in Hit in the north of Anbar District, according to Asiasat TV network. The suicide bombing was targeting civilians who had gathered to light candles in solidarity with victims of a car bombing that had taken place the night before in Baghdad. Suhaib was among the 17 people who were killed in the bombing.

JUNE 19 IRAQ

STEPHAN VILLENEUVE, the journalist for France Television and his Kurdish journalist and fixer **BAKHTIYAR ADDAD**, were killed in a roadside explosion in the Iraqi city of Mosul.

STEPHAN VILLENEUVE, a video journalist who had covered a number of conflicts across the world, was fatally wounded and died from his wounds at a hospital on a UN military base. He was in Mosul to film a piece on the battle of Mosul for French news programme Envoye Special, aired on public television channel France 2. His colleagues, Véronique Robert and Samuel Forey, were injured in the blast. The journalists were embedded with Iraqi special forces during the battle to reconquer Mosul from the Islamic State (EI) group, AFP reported.

JUNE 24 IRAQ

VERONIQUE ROBERT, the female France Televisions journalist, who was wounded in the same landmine blast that killed two colleagues Stephan Villeneuve and their fixer and Iraqi Kurdish reporter Bakhtiyar Addad in the Iraqi city of Mosul last week, died of her injuries. According to the AFP quoting France Televisions, she had been operated on in Iraq and then flown back for treatment in France but died of her wounds.

JULY 7 IRAQ

HARB HAZAA AL-DULAIMI, a correspondent for the Hona Salaheddin channel, and his cameraman **SUDAD AL-DURI** were killed by the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Imam Gharbi, a village south of Mosul. The journalists along with members of security forces were surrounded by the militant group which ran over the village. The journalists were among the civilians killed during the police raid to dislodge the militants from the village.

JULY 30 SYRIA

KHALED AL-KHATIB, the correspondent for the Russia international broadcaster RT in central Syria, was killed while covering fighting between the Syrian army and the so-called Islamic State group. In a statement, the Kremlin-backed TV station said that Khaled al-Khalid, who worked for RT Arabic-language service, was killed during shelling from the IS in the eastern parts of Homs province which hit a Syrian army's position in Sukhnan, al-Baghaliya.

AUGUST 27 IRAQ

SIJAD NAJIM OJAIL, the Iraqi cameraman for Karbala TV, was killed in an explosion in the town of Tal Afar, the last fiefdom of the so-called Islamic State in the Nineveh province. The cameraman was embedded with Iraqi troops who were fighting the militants in Tal Afar.

AUGUST 28 SYRIA

ABDULGHAFAR AL-BADAWI, the journalist was killed from shrapnel after a rocket launched by the so-called Islamic State exploded near him. This mortar attack took place during fighting between IS and opposition forces as a part of what was called Fateh Al-Futouh battle in Al-Sheikh Saad village of Daraa, which Al-badawi was covering for Shahid Media Institution.

OCTOBER 1 IRAQ

LOUAY SADIQ MESHAAL, the 23-year-old cameraman and photographer was killed by a car bomb while covering the fighting to retake the city of Salahuddin. He was reporting while embedded with Al-Nujabaa movement, which is one of the groups of the Popular Mobilization Forces during the attempt to liberate the Mak-hool mountain in Salahuddin. According to the head of Al-Nujabaa TV station, He was killed in a car bomb attack by ISIS that targeted members of the armed group that he was accompanying in order to cover the events. Meshaal had worked for Al-Nujabaa TV station since 2014, during which he covered many clashes.

OCTOBER 12 SYRIA

DILSHAN IBISH was killed by roadside car bombs in Abu Fas village in the south of Hassakah where he and another journalist Hawker Faisal Mohammed were reporting on the displacement of the village's inhabitants. According to Hawkar News and the Syrian Journalists Association, Ibish died on the same day and Mohammed died 3 days after the attack. Ibish used to work for the radio station Sound of Kobane until she joined Hawar News Agency in 2015.



REUTER
Erik De Castro

OCTOBER 15 SYRIA

HAWKER FAISAL MOHAMMED, the journalist working for Hawar news agency was injured in a roadside car bomb in Abu Fas village in the south of Hassakah on 12 October, where he was reporting with his colleague Dilshan Ibish who died on the same day. Mohammed died three days later. He used to work for the radio station Sound of Kobane until she joined Hawar News Agency in 2015.

OCTOBER 29 SYRIA

QAYS AL-QADI, the bureau-chief of Al-Jisr, an Istanbul based TV channel was killed during shelling in Eastern Ghouta, a town held by Syrian opposition forces. The area, located in the east of Damascus, had been heavily bombed by President Assad's forces for a week. His colleague, cameraman Omar Damashky, was injured and taken to hospital following the attack.

NOVEMBER 16 IRAQ

RANA AL-AJEELI, a female journalist who was reporting while embedded with one of the groups of the Popular Mobilization Units, died in an IED explosion that targeted the armed group. According to media reports, Rana was killed while covering the clashes between the Iraqi Army and ISIS in Al-Anbar on the Iraqi-Syrian border.

DECEMBER 29 SYRIA

KARAM QABISHO, the cameraman working for pro-regime TV network Sama was killed while covering clashes on the edge of the northwestern province of Idlib, the French news agency, AFP, quoted Syrian state news agency SANA as reporting. SANA accused rebels, dominated by Fateh al-Sham, a former Al-Qaeda affiliate, of targeting the Sama satellite crew near the village of Umm Haratain. The channel's Facebook page confirmed Karam Qabisho had died, but it gave no further details on the circumstances of his death.

→ A fighter of Syrian Democratic Forces and other mourners weep over the coffins of a Kurdish fighter and a Syrian journalist killed by the Islamic State militants at the frontline in Deir al-Zour, during a funeral in Kobani, Syria October 14, 2017. REUTERS/Erik De Castro



INTERNATIONAL **safety** **FUND**

2017 was another year in which assistance from the International Safety Fund was in great demand to help journalists and media staff as well as to their family members from the four corners of the globe to meet multiple needs. The IFJ International Safety Fund paid out a total of more than **106.654.51 Euros** in relief to help them relocate to safety, receive medical treatment or pay for secure accommodation.

Fortunately, the year also saw generous support from IFJ affiliates to the Safety Fund which raised **32750,00 Euro** in donations and proceeds from promotion items' sales. This has enabled the Fund to continue its unique model of solidarity among journalists.

This has been the case ever since the inception of the IFJ Safety Fund in 1992 and, over the years, it has proved a vital lifeline for journalists, spending **three million euros** in humanitarian and emergency assistance.

The IFJ Safety Fund is made up of money raised by individual journalists and IFJ unions. It has taken up cases all over the

world and intervened to provide special support for the media victims of natural disasters and accidents.

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

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

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

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

Whenever the IFJ gives assistance there is a monitoring and reporting process to ensure that the money goes to where it is

intended. In 2010 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ secretariat.

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

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

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

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

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

The IFJ does not try to duplicate work that is being done by others. We are in regular contact with other organisations working in the field of journalists' safety and

freedom of expression. These include the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute, Reporters Without Borders, the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, the Writers in Prison Committee, the Rory Peck Trust and the World Association of Newspapers.

It is also a symbol of international goodwill that encourages journalists to carry on even in times of struggle and distress.

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

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

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

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

Solidarity in Action

AFRICA

BURUNDI

The widow of a journalist was awarded assistance for family support after losing her husband who was the family's main breadwinner. The Safety Fund also provided help to another journalist and single mother who was forced to go into exile with her young children. Three more journalists who also fled into exile were awarded support for living expenses.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Safety Fund gave financial help to a veteran journalist for living expenses and funeral costs of a family member. Three other journalists who fled into exile to escape threats were also awarded humanitarian grants for living expenses.

KENYA

The IFJ Safety Fund gave financial support to relocate to safety to a journalist who went into hiding to escape death threats over his articles.

RWANDA

The Safety Fund provided financial assistance to a journalist who needed help with living expenses.

SOMALIA

The Fund provided emergency assistance to six journalists who needed help for living expenses in exile, relocation to safety from their areas of residence and for medical treatment for injuries sustained in suicide bomb attacks. The widow of another journalist killed also received financial help for family support.

SOUTH SUDAN

Two journalists who had fled abroad due to threats against their lives received financial help for living expenses.

SUDAN

The Safety Fund provided assistance for living expense to a journalist who fled country after receiving threats to his safety.

UGANDA

The Safety Fund awarded a humanitarian grant to a journalist to help with accommodation and medical treatment after going into hiding following an assault outside his home. Another journalist, who had been attacked and left needing medical treatment, was awarded financial help for medical expenses.

ZIMBABWE

The Safety Fund gave financial support for living expenses to a journalist who went into hiding after attacks from people believed to be agents of Harare's regime.

AMERICAS

COLOMBIA

The Safety Fund provided support to a journalist involved in a case in which former secret services (DAS) operatives who are on trial for torture and kidnapping of the journalist. This support involved facilitating trial observation by a fellow journalist from Guatemala.

CHILE

The IFJ Safety Fund contributed to legal representation in a case involving 122 journalists and media workers who faced losing their jobs at *El Mercurio de Santiago* through anti-union practices.

VENEZUELA

The IFJ Safety Fund contributed to the purchase of press jerseys for journalists covering anti-government protests to ensure their safety at work.

PERU

The IFJ Safety Fund contributed to legal costs in a defamation case defended by a journalist.

MEXICO

The widow of a journalist killed in Mexico received a small humanitarian grant from the IFJ Safety Fund.

ASIA PACIFIC

THE PHILIPPINES

The IFJ Safety Fund provided financial assistance to Surigao journalists who needed trauma counselling to deal with effects of covering natural disaster.

EUROPE

AZERBAIJAN

The IFJ Safety Fund provided help for legal representation to a journalist who is seeking political asylum abroad.

MONTENEGRO

The investigative journalist who exposed criminal gangs received assistance for legal representation in a case where he is a co-accused with people he had exposed.

POLAND

The IFJ Safety Fund contributed to settling criminal fines handed to Belarussian journalists at Belsat TV for their reporting.

TURKEY

The Fund awarded nine grants to journalists and their families who have been affected by the on-going crackdown following the failed attempt coup in 2016. These grants cover needs including legal representation and family support both in Turkey and abroad where many journalists have fled and settled.

MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD

IRAN

The IFJ Safety Fund awarded a grant to a journalist to help him with medical treatment for a serious illness.

PALESTINE

The IFJ Safety Fund provided financial assistance to a journalist for medical treatment, following an incident in which he was hit by a rubber bullet from Israeli military which left him partially blind. Another journalist received help after he was assaulted by Israeli security forces, and needed medical care. The Safety Fund also helped financially towards legal representation in case brought by a journalist to challenge a travel ban imposed on him.

SYRIA

The journalist who sought political asylum abroad received help from the IFJ Safety Fund for legal representation.

YEMEN

The IFJ Safety Fund made a total of six grants to journalists in order to help them with various needs, including medical care, family reunification and living expenses.

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International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism

With these considerations in mind, the IFJ calls on journalists groups, media organisations and all relevant public authorities to respect the following International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism:

1 Journalists and other media staff shall be properly equipped for all assignments including the provision of first-aid materials, communication tools, adequate transport facilities and, where necessary, protective clothing;

2 Media organisations and, where appropriate, state authorities shall provide risk awareness training for those journalists and media workers who are likely to be involved in assignments where dangerous conditions prevail or may be reasonably expected;

3 Public authorities shall inform their personnel of the need to respect the rights of

journalists and shall instruct them to respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff while at work;

4 Media organisations shall provide social protection for all staff engaged in journalistic activity outside the normal place of work, including life insurance;

5 Media organisations shall provide, free of charge, medical treatment and health care, including costs of recuperation and convalescence, for journalists and media workers who are the victims of injury or illness as a result of their work outside the normal place of work;

6 Media organisations shall protect freelance or part-time employees. They must receive, on an equal basis, the same social protection and access to training and equipment as that made available to fully employed staff.

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 cross-fire 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.

INTERNATIONAL **safety** **FUND**

It's the
thought
that counts

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

HOW TO GIVE

There are three ways to make a donation:

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

THE SAFETY FUND

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

THE SAFETY FUND FOR MEDIA TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS (SFMI)

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

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The IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists with members in more than 130 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 in the past opened offices in Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to provide local support for journalists most in need.



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

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