



Journalists And Media Staff Killed 1990 -2015;

25 years of contribution towards Safer Journalism

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*REUTERS/Carlos Jasso
Left: REUTERS/Carlo Allegri*

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IFJ 25th Report on Journalists and Media Staff Killed

Key IFJ achievements in the pursuit of safety in media, especially for coverage of wars and violent unrest, over the last 25 years:



Adoption of the IFJ International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism:



Publication of Live News: A Survival Guide for Journalists (2003)



Setting Up of IFJ International Safety Fund (1992)



Founding Member of the International News Safety Institute (2003)



Founding Member of the International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX) (1992)



Successful Campaign for Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006)

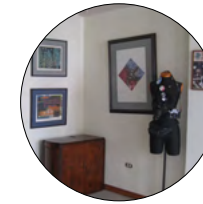


Partner on the Implementation of the UN Action Plan on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (2012)

Collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross



Official Partner on Council of Europe Online Platform for the Promotion of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists (2014)



The IFJ opened solidarity centres in Algeria, Colombia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to address safety crisis in media.

At least 2297 Journalists and Media Staff Killed since 1990: 25 Years of Open Season on Media Professionals

IFJ General Secretary's Introduction

Journalists generally tend to avoid becoming stories themselves and their personal issues rarely make media headlines or command titles of major reports. Unfortunately, the few occasions on which this occurred over the last 25 years have been often for tragic reasons; either to report the killing of journalists or other violations of their rights and freedoms such as cases of arbitrary arrest, intimidation and deportation.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has been publishing annual reports, of which this is the 25th, focusing on killing of journalists and media staff in work-related incidents since 1990. To date, the IFJ has recorded at least 2297 killings of these media professionals in targeted assassinations, cross fire incidents and bomb attacks, including

112 who lost their lives to violence in 2015. There were other deaths due to accidents and natural disasters which are usually presented in a different category in our annual reports.

However, these reports always come with a caveat. The cases we report on are those known to us and we make no pretence of listing every killing that happens in the world. There are also other organisations which publish reports on journalists' killings and their figures may vary from the IFJ's because of criteria applied in recording these killings. But there are two findings which are borne out in all reports on this subject matter. First, the levels of violence on journalists have dramatically increased to reach record levels in recent years. Second, the single biggest contributing factor to violence in journalism remains

These killings span the entire globe, taking in countries from Pakistan to Palestine, Sri Lanka to Somalia and Syria, Russia to Iraq and Mexico to the Philippines, among others.

the impunity enjoyed by those who attack and kill journalists and other media personnel.

These killings span the entire globe, taking in countries from Pakistan to Palestine, Sri Lanka to Somalia and Syria, Russia to Iraq and Mexico to the Philippines, among others. It would be tempting to attribute these grim figures to bloody armed conflicts in many parts of the world, which indeed account for many cases of loss of life in media. Wars are by nature dangerous and journalists who report on them are more exposed to risks of injury or worse. It is also true that nasty things happen in wars, such as violence to civilians to which journalists become unwanted witnesses and targets of those who want to keep their crime from the public domain.

Furthermore, in recent years, a new threat to journalists reporting on conflicts has emerged from extremist and terrorist organisations. For them, attacks on journalists in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya as fair game in their ruthless drive to impose the regime of terror in areas under their control. The horrific attack on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on 7 January took the terrorists' attempt to project their reach and control on media to a whole new dimension, by striking in broad daylight in the heart of a European nation. This massacre, which left ten journalists and staff of the magazine dead, was a brutal attack on press freedom which was unprecedented in the West.

Extremist groups also consider foreign reporters as bargaining chips and have resorted to kidnapping them to gain political concessions or to make money through ransoms. The cases in point were the gruesome beheading of Western and Japanese journalists in Pakistan, Syria and Iraq by Is-

lamists, allegedly in retaliation against foreign policies of countries in these regions.

However, there were other reasons, often removed from the war theatre, for targeting journalists, many of whom are victims of

It is a recurring finding of our reports that there are many more killed in peace time situations that in war-stricken countries.

organised crime barons and corrupt officials in their own communities, cities and countries. It is a recurring finding of our reports that there are many more killed in peace time situations that in war-stricken countries. Regional sections included in this report provide detailed accounts of the loss of journalists' lives in the last 25 years.

Suffice to state here that, during this period, the IFJ and its affiliates across the world have lost some iconic figures in our profession. There are too many to mention and this report, like the 24 others before it, stands as a tribute to the memory of all our colleagues who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for journalism as a public good. Brave journalists like Anna Politkovskya in Russia, Lasantha Wickrematunge in Sri Lanka, Tim Lopez in Brazil, Deyda Hydarra in Gambia and Stephanie Charbonnier (Charb) in France defied authoritarian regimes and terror to champion freedom and human rights in their countries.

There have also been attacks on media which shocked the world journalists'

. . . the IFJ International Safety Fund has paid out over three million euros in assistance to help journalists and their families who have fled threats or have been victims of violence.

community, including the massacre of 32 journalists in the province of Maguindanao in the Philippines, the beheadings of US journalists Daniel Pearl in Pakistan, James Foley and Steven Sotloff in Syria as well as the killing spree at Charlie Hebdo in Paris. Ironically, the most shocking statistic may well be that the number of investigations into journalists' killings and prosecutions of killers and masterminds. The IFJ estimates that only one of ten killings is investigated.

The Federation has always understood that journalism has inherent safety challenges and can never be risk free. But, these reports served the purpose of raising the alarm against violence in media and of promoting protection for journalists and the importance of mitigating risks to their safety and security.

This starts with the understanding that everyone, governments' officials, security and military officers as well as others who come into contact with journalists need to respect their independence. It requires governments to comply with their international obligations by investigating journalists' killings and bringing those responsible to justice, thus deterring future violence. It depends on the willingness of the United Nations and its agencies, as the custodians of international instruments which enshrine the right to physical integrity all human beings, to enforce these guarantees for the benefit of journalists and other media personnel.

Journalists and their employers have responsibility, too, for properly assessing the risks to their safety and avoiding reckless assignments as well as taking all necessary precautions for reporting in dangerous zones. In an age where some news organisations are now advocating against sending journalists to war environments, employers

owe a special duty of care to their staff covering hostile situations. This should cover adequate safety training, proper equipment and social cover. For its part, the IFJ has invested considerable resources in safety training programmes for over 1000 journalists, employed and freelance, in the four corners of the world. The Federation has also produced the first and most comprehensive international code of conduct for the safe practice of journalism. A survival guide 'Live News' with safety top tips for journalists was published at the start of the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and has since served as a reference for war reporting.

Perhaps most importantly, the IFJ has created an International Safety Fund in 1992 to provide practical solidarity among journalists in the work of protecting media staff. Since its inception, the IFJ International Safety Fund has paid out over three million euros in assistance to help journalists and their families who have fled threats or have been victims of violence.

The IFJ also responded to media safety crisis situations by creating solidarity centres in Algeria, Colombia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines to provide timely information and distribute assistance from the Safety Fund. Over all these years, the Federation mobilised its affiliates in its campaign against impunity for crime targeting journalists, an initiative which has recently gained momentum and features high on the international policy agenda.

Indeed, the IFJ has always held the view that protecting media should not be the responsibility of journalists and their organisations, alone. It took the lead to build coalitions for the protection of journalists, and was one of the founder members of IFEX in 1992 with a view to mobilising the press

freedom community for this campaign. The network counts currently 95 member organisations from the four corners of the world which defend and promote freedom of expression as a fundamental human right.

The IFJ's role in helping found the International News Safety Institute (INSI) in 2003 was another landmark in forging networks within the media industry to focus on delivering safety in journalism. INSI is among the leading organisations which specialise in safety training for journalists around the world.

Furthermore, the IFJ spearheaded the campaign to put the crisis of safety in journalism on the international policy agenda. This led to the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of a historic resolu-

tion 1738 (2006) calling on governments to protect journalists in conflict zones.

Overtime, the work of the IFJ on the promotion of the safety of journalists won global recognition, leading to close collaboration with international organisations, including the United Nations and its various institutions. In this regard, the Federation was invited by UNESCO to join, as a partner organisation, the UN Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity which was launched in 2012.

Further collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) followed to facilitate access of journalists in need of urgent assistance to the ICRC Hotline. More recently, the IFJ developed strategic partnerships with regional organisations to advance safety in media, includ-

ing through formal arrangements such as the Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2014 between the IFJ and the Council of Europe. This MoU designates the Federation as one of the five initial bona fide organisations which are collaborating with the Council of Europe on the Online Platform on the promotion of journalism and the safety of journalists. The Platform, which was launched in April 2015, serves as an early warning system to Member States of the Council of Europe of violations of journalists' rights and freedoms for timely action to address them.

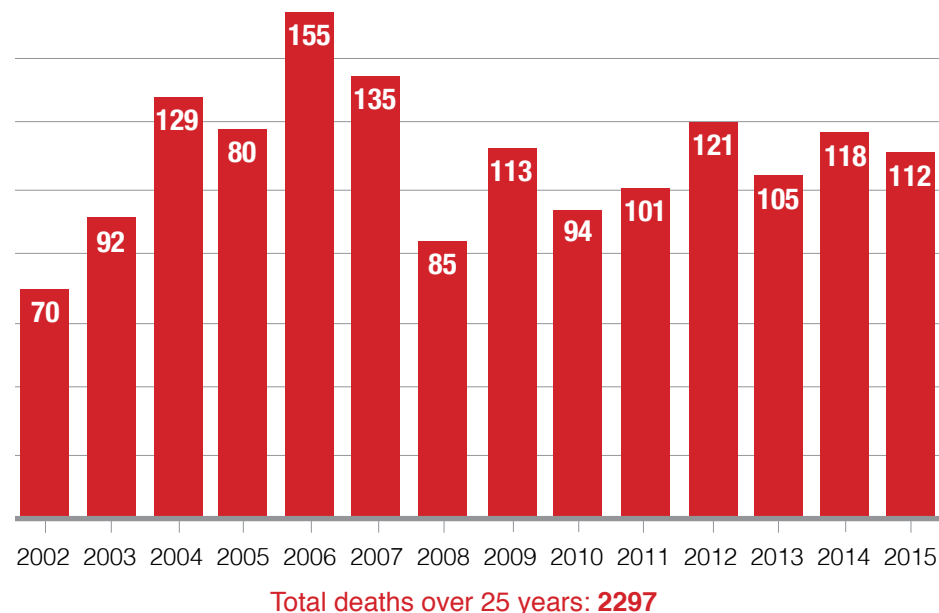
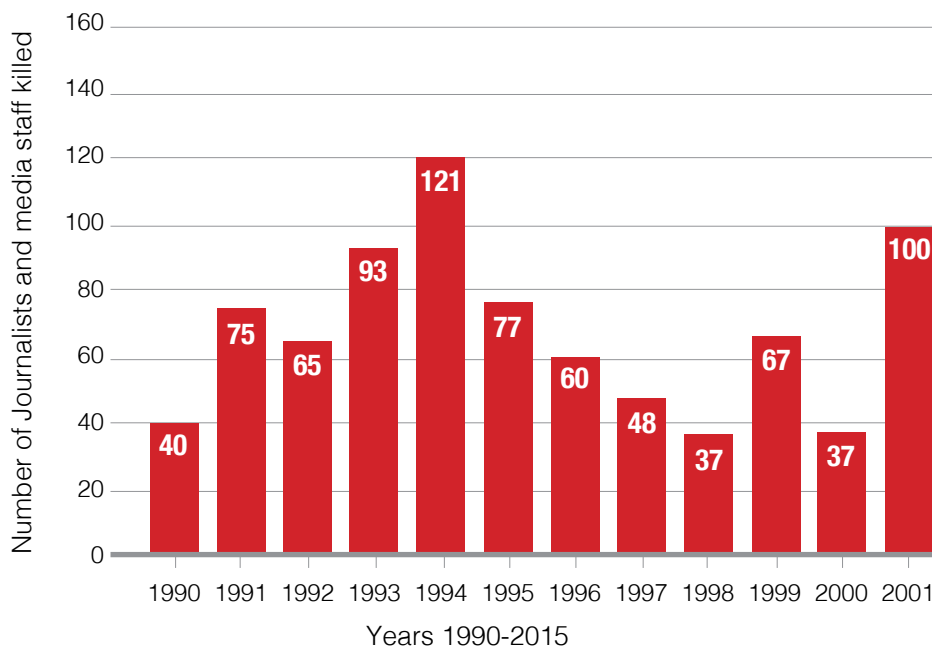
It has been quite a journey travelled over the last years in striving to make journalism safer and a lot has been done. Despite some key achievements along the way; journalism still faces safety challenges and the road

ahead will be long. But, the IFJ, the world's largest organisation of journalists, is committed to working with its affiliates and partners in overcoming them.

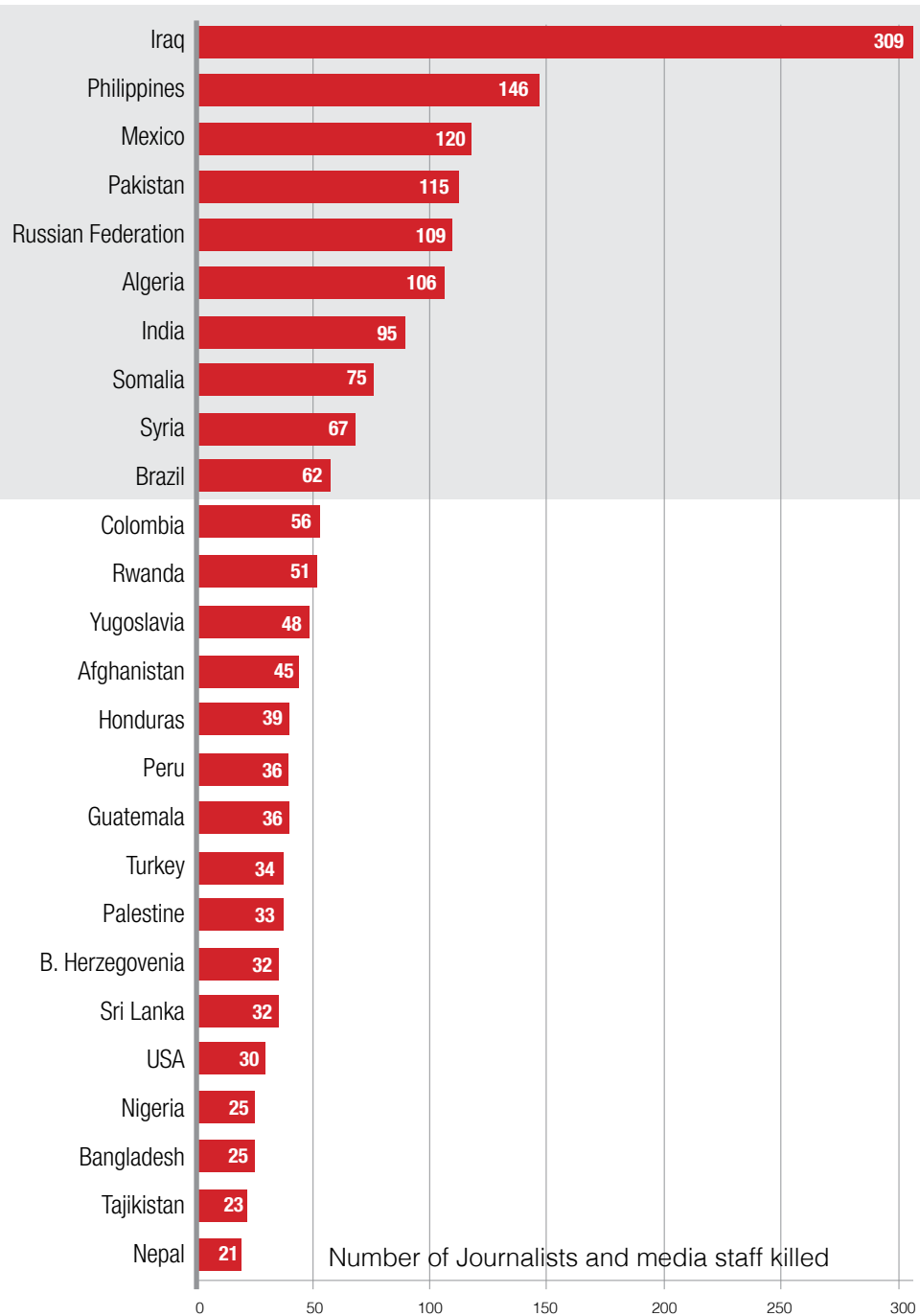
ANTHONY BELLANGER
IFJ GENERAL SECRETARY



Journalists and Media Staff Killed 1990-2015



Most Dangerous Countries for Journalists and Media Staff 1990-2015



A photographer takes a picture of an altar for Day of the Dead in memory of Mexico's killed and disappeared journalists at the Memory and Tolerance Museum in Mexico City October 29, 2015. According to Linda Atach, director of expositions at the museum, the altar is displayed to remember the 89 journalists who have been killed between 2005 and 2015 in the country. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso

We Mourn the Loss

Gender Council Statement

For several years we have kept data on the women journalists killed, sometimes because they were women journalists. We do not say, nor mean, that these deaths are somehow more important or noteworthy than the much larger numbers of male journalists killed, but in recognition of the many years of under-reporting of deaths and violence against women, and women journalists.

It is in that spirit that we mourn the loss of six of our sisters in 2015, from France, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan and the United States.

From the horrific beginning of last year and the massacre in January at Charlie Hebdo in France, where contributor Elsa Cayat was among those murdered when gunmen burst into the office and began the killing spree.

In the Philippines, correspondent

Melinda Magsino-Lubis was gunned down at noon on the 13th of April by assailants on motorbike as she walked down the street. She had been receiving death threats since 2005, when she began reporting on local corruption and after that worked as an investigative journalist.

In Somalia, one of the worst countries for women to be working as journalists and one where we have regularly seen targeted killings, Hindiyo Haji Mohamed was killed by a car bomb in December. Mohamed was a jour-

nalist with the national television station SNTV and had lost her journalist husband to a suicide bomb three years before.

In South Sudan, Dalia Marko and Randa George were among five journalists and six others who were killed in an ambush near the Darfur region in January 2015. In the meanwhile, for the first time in the

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



Munir Uz Zaman AFP: women protesting with torches

United States, 24-year-old broadcast female journalist Alison Parker for WDBJ7 TV station and her cameraman Adam Ward were killed by a gunman, live on television. Eight shots were reportedly fired and footage from the camera as it dropped recorded screams, chaos and the image of the killer.

Looking at the details of these deaths tell us that, while certain areas of the globe remain very dangerous to journalists and feature on the IFJ's lists of killed journalists year after year (Philippines, Somalia and South Sudan), the West is no longer

immune. So, our wish as we start the New Year 2016 remains the same as always, for all journalists: End Targeting. End Killings. End Violence. End Impunity.

MINDY RAN
CO-CHAIR IFJ
GENDER COUNCIL



2015 Killed List

Total deaths: 115

“killing journalists does not kill the truth”

A journalist holds a placard during a protest against the killing of three journalists in Guatemala City, March 15, 2015. Three journalists, Danilo Lopez, of the newspaper Prensa Libre, Federico Salazar, of the radio Nuevo Mundo, and Guido Villatoro, of a local TV, were killed last week in Mazatenango by gunmen. The placard reads, “killing journalists does not kill the truth”. REUTERS/Jorge Dan Lopez

NO SE MATA LA VERDAD
MATANDO PERIODISTAS



Targeted, Bomb Attacks and Cross Fire Killings

112

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Afghanistan	Aqil Mohammad Waqar	Journalist	Speen Ghar Radio	16/01/2015
	Yama Behroz	Journalist	Freelance	18/09/2015
	Amanullah Ataee	Managing Director	Asia TV	29/11/2015
Azerbaijan	Rasim Aliyev	Journalist	Freelance	09/08/2015
Bangladesh	Abu Sayem	Correspondent	Samakal Daily	08/07/2015
	Mashiur Rahman Utsho	Journalist	<i>Juger Alo</i>	23/12/2015
Brazil	Evany José Metzker	Editor-in-chief	<i>Atuação</i>	18/05/2015
	Gerardo Servián	Broadcastger	103.3 FM Radio and Ciudad Nueva	05/03/2015
	Gledyson Carvalho	Broadcastger	Radio Liberdade	06/08/2015
	Luiz Manoel Souza	Radio Host	Rádio Educadora FM 94.5	07/12/2015
Burundi	Christophe Nkezabahizi	Cameraman	RTNB	13/10/2015
Colombia	Edgar Quintin Quintero	Journalist	Radio Luna	02/03/2015
	Luis Antonio Peralta	Editor	Linda Radio	14/02/2015
	Flor Nuñez Alba	Journalist	TV5 and Canal TV Nation	10/09/2015
Democratic Republic of Congo	Soleil Balanga	Journalist	Mokor Community Radio	16/04/2015
Dominican Republic	Blas Olivo	Journalist		13/04/2015
France	Stephane Charbonnier , aka 'Charb'	Editor	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Jean Cabut aka ' Cabu'	Cartoonist	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Bernard Verlhac aka Tignous	Cartoonist	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	George Wolinski	Cartoonist	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Bernard Maris	Journalist	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Frédéric Boisseau	Staff	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Franck Brinsolaro	Protection Officer	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Elsa Cayat	Contributor	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Philippe Honoé	Cartoonist	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Mustapha Ourrad	Staff	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015
	Guillaume Barreau-Decherf	Journalist	<i>Charlie Hebdo</i>	07/01/2015

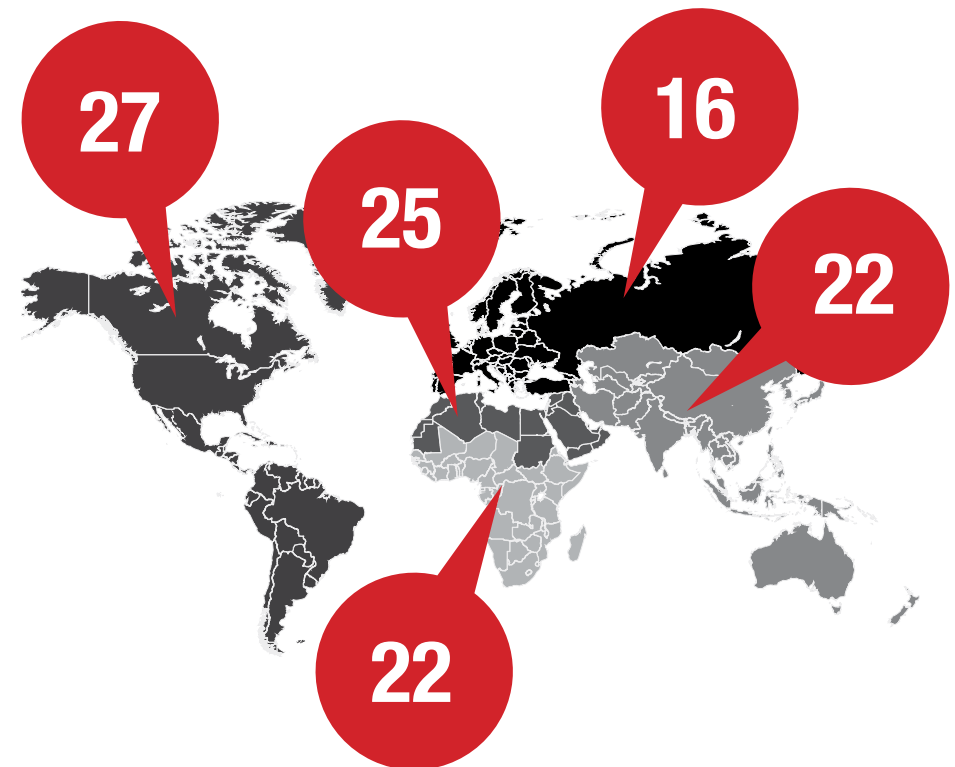
FIJI	Sitiveni Moce	Photojournalist	Fiji Times and Fiji Sun	13/11/2015
Ghana	George Abanga	Journalist	Success FM	16/09/2015
Guatemala	Giovani Villatoro Ramos	Journalist	Intercable News	13/03/2015
	Danilo Zapón López	Journalist	<i>Prensa Libre</i>	10/03/2015
	Federico Salazar	Journalist	Radio Nueve Mundo	10/03/2015
Honduras	Joel Aquiles Torres	Editor	Canal 67	03/07/2015
	Juan Carlos Cruz Andar	Journalist	Teleport TV	23/06/2015
	Jacobo Montaya Ramirez	Journalist		25/06/2015
	Carlos Fernández	Journalist	Canal 27 TV	06/02/2015
	Erick Arriaga	Radio Operator	Radio Globo	23/02/2015
	Adelmo Arturo Cortez Milla	Radio Journalist	Galaxia 21	04/07/2015
India	Jagendra Singh	Journalist	Freelance	06/06/2015
	Sandeep Kothari	Journalist	Freelance	21/06/2015
	Raghavendra Dubey	Editor	Khushboo Ujala	17/07/2015
	Sanjay Pathak	Journalist	Aaj Tak TV	14/08/2015
	Hemant Yadav	Journalist	TV 24	03/10/2015
	Mithilesh Pandey	Journalist	Dainik Jagran	04/10/2015
Iraq	Ali al-Ansari	Journalist	Al-Ghadeer TV	23/01/2015
	Adnan Abdul Razzaq	Photojournalist	Sama Mosul	24/01/2015
	Qais Talal Agha	Journalist	Sama Mossel and Shafak News	17/02/2015
	Thaer Al-Ali	Editor-in-chief	<i>Rai al-Nas</i>	26/04/2015
	Majed Al Rabi'i	Cameraman	Al - Masar TV	05/05/2015
	Hussein Fadel Hassan	Cameraman		24/06/2015
	Jala al-Abadi	Photojournalist	Nineveh Media Network	24/06/2015
	Ghazi Al-Obeidi	Journalist		05/08/2015
	Yahya Al- Khatib	Journalist	Al-Mousoliya	16/08/2015
	Sayab Majid al-Iqabi	Correspondent	Iraq Times	29/10/2015
Kenya	John Kituyi	Editor	The Mirror	30/04/2015
Libya	Khaled Al Sobhi	Media Staff	Al Barka TV	27/04/2015
	Al Mabruk Al Nawfali	Media Staff	Al Barka TV	27/04/2015
	Abdallah Al Karkaai	Media Staff	Al Barka TV	27/04/2015
	Yousef Kader Boh	Media Staff	Al Barka TV	27/04/2015
	Mohamed Jalal	Photojournalist	Al Barka TV	27/04/2015
	Muftah al-Qatrani	Journalist	Al-Anwar	22/04/2015
Mali	Amar Oumar aka Joe	Presenter	Radio Chrétienne de Tombouctou	18/12/2015
Mexico	Moises Sanchez Cerezo	Editor	<i>La Union</i>	02/01/2015
	Armando Saldaña Morales	Journalist	La Ke Buena Radio	04/05/2015
	Abel Manuel Bautista Raymundo	Journalist	Vara 7 Radio Network	22/04/2015
	Ismael Diaz Lopez	Journalist		19/06/2015
	Filadelfo Sánchez Sarmiento	Presenter		02/07/2015
	Juan Mendoza Delgado	Journalist		02/07/2015
	Ruben Espinosa	Photojournalist	Proceso	02/08/2015
	Adrian Martinez Lopez	Photojournalist		04/08/2015
Mozambique	Paulo Machava	Editor	<i>Diário de Notícias</i>	28/08/2015

Accidents, Illness, Diseases And Natural Disasters-Related Deaths

3

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
India	Akshay Singh	Journalist	Aaj Tak TV	05/07/2015
Nepal	Suman Bomjan	Journalist	Gorkhapatra	25/04/2015
Sri Lanka	Priyantha Ratnayake	Journalist		08/09/2015

Total: 3



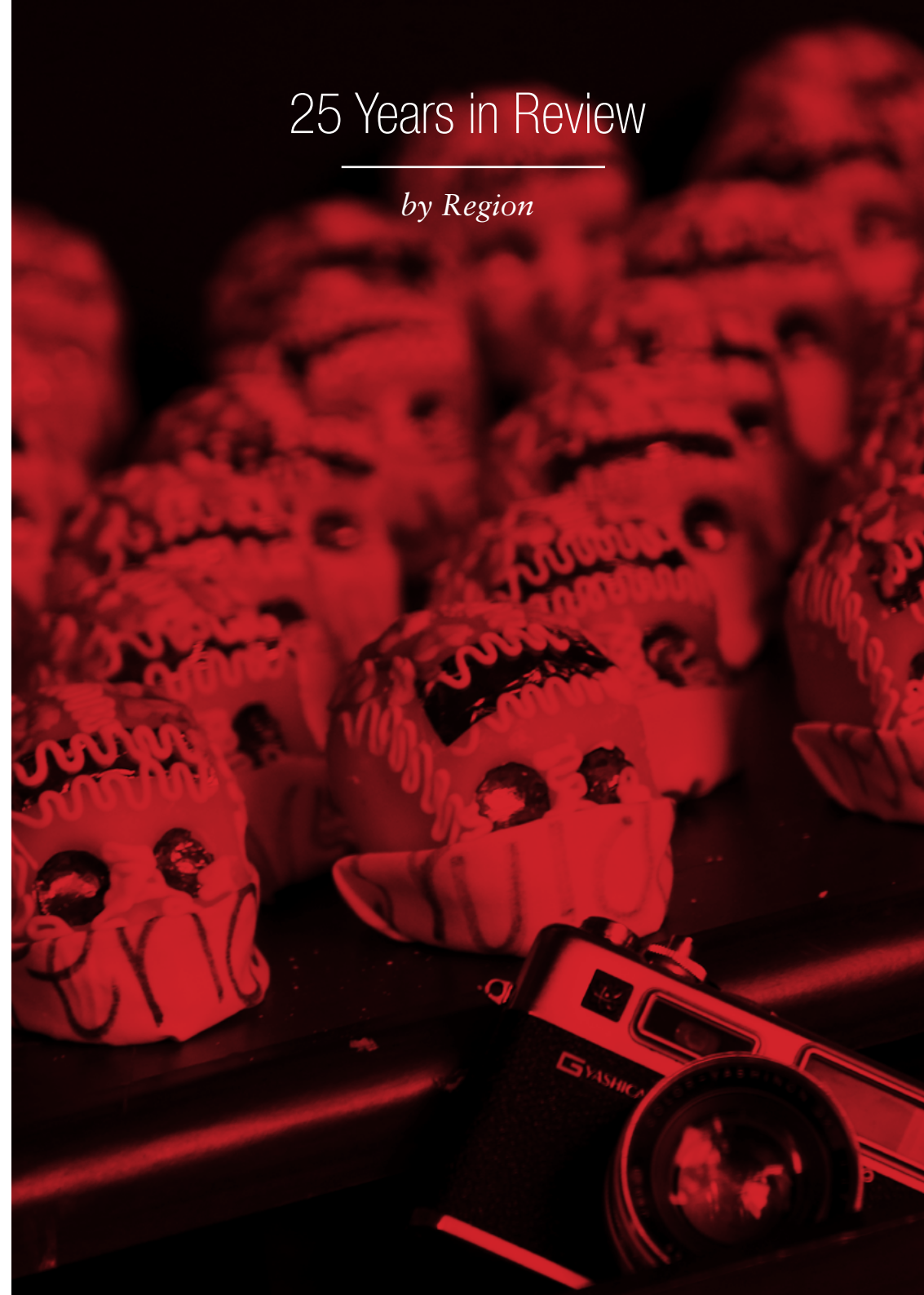
Total: 112

Pakistan	Arshad Ali Jaffery	Media worker	DSNG	08/09/2015
	Aftab Alam	Journalist	Geo TV	09/09/2015
	Zaman Mehsud	Journalist	<i>Daily Umat</i>	03/11/2015
Philippines	Alberto 'Pastor' Martine	Journalist	Ratsada	20/01/2015
	Maurito Lim	Radio Host	Radio station dyRD	14/02/2015
	Melinda Magsino-Lubis	Correspondent	<i>Inquirer</i>	13/04/2015
	Jonathan Oldan	Cameraman	CNN Philippines	24/06/2015
	Gregorio Ybanez	Journalist	Bagting Sa Katilingban	18/08/2015
	Cosme Diez Maestrado	Radio Anchor	Radio Mindanao Network's DXOC	27/08/2015
	Jose Bernardo	Journalist	dwIZ Radio and Banderang Pilipino	31/10/2015
Poland	Lukasz Masiak	Editor	<i>NaszaMlawa.pl</i>	14/06/2015
Somalia	Daud Ali Omar	Journalist	Radio Baidoa	30/04/2015
	Mustafa Abdi Nur	Cameraman	Freelance	
	Hindiyo Haji Mohamed	Journalist	SNTV	03/12/2015
	Abdullah Al Hussein	Editor	Waagacusub news website	08/09/2015
Syria	Kenji Goto	Journalist	Freelance	01/02/2015
	Mohammed Al-Asfer	Cameraman	Al Jazeera	26/06/2015
	Thaer al-Ajlani	Journalist	Sham FM	27/07/2015
	Saleh Mahmoud Laila	Photojournalist	<i>Anadolu News Agency</i>	08/10/2015
	Zakaria Inrahim	Cameraman	Al Jazeera	07/12/2015
Turkey	Naji Jerf	Editor-in-chief	<i>Hentah</i>	27/12/2015
Ukraine	Sergii Nikolaiev	Photojournalist	<i>Segodnya</i>	28/02/2015
	Oles Buzyna	Journalist		16/04/2015
United States	Alison Parker	TV Reporter	WDBJ7 TV	26/08/2015
	Adam Ward	Cameraman	WDBJ7 TV	26/08/2015
Yemen	Khalid Mohammed al-Washli	Correspondent	Al-Masirah TV	04/01/2015
	Abdel-Karim al-Khewani	Senior journalist		17/03/2015
	Mohammed Rajah	Presenter	Yemen Today TV	20/04/2015
	Amin Yehia	Media Staff	Yemen Today TV	20/04/2015
	Monir Aklan	Media Staff	Yemen Today TV	20/04/2015
	Hazzam Mohamed Zeid	Media Staff	Yemen Today TV	20/04/2015
	Abdulkareem Ali Muthna	Manager	Radio Marib	22/04/2015
	Abdullah Kabil	Correspondent	Shabab TV	21/05/2015
	Yosef Alaizry	Correspondent	Shabab TV	21/05/2015
	Bilal Sharaf al-Din	Cameraman	Al Massira TV	17/09/2015

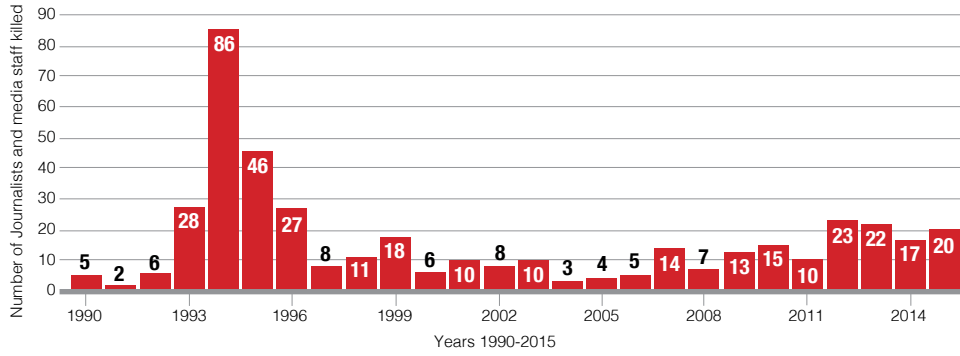
25 Years in Review

by Region

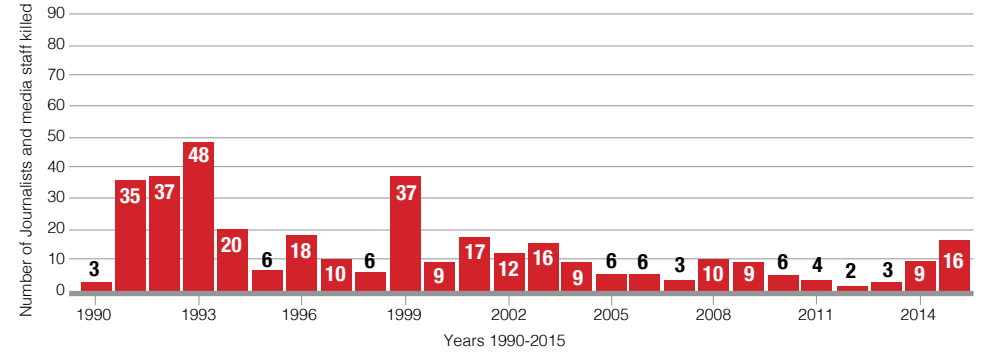
Sugar skulls with journalists' names are seen as part of an altar for Day of the Dead in memory of Mexico's killed and disappeared journalists at the Memory and Tolerance Museum in Mexico City October 29, 2015. According to Linda Atach, director of expositions at the museum, the altar is displayed to remember the 89 journalists who have been killed between 2005 and 2015 in the country. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



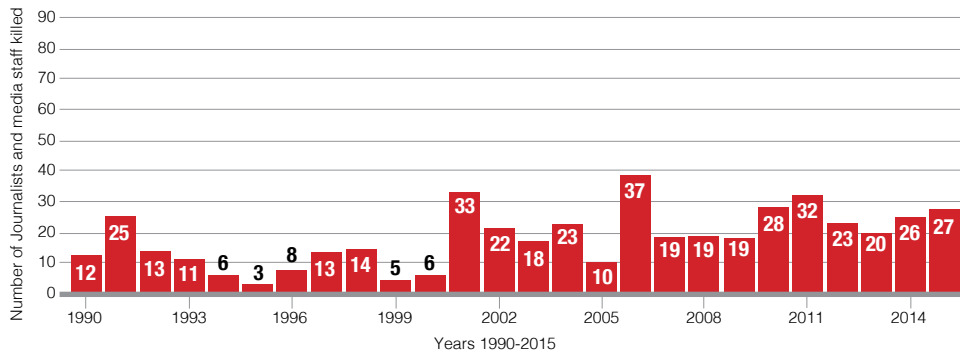
Africa 1990-2015



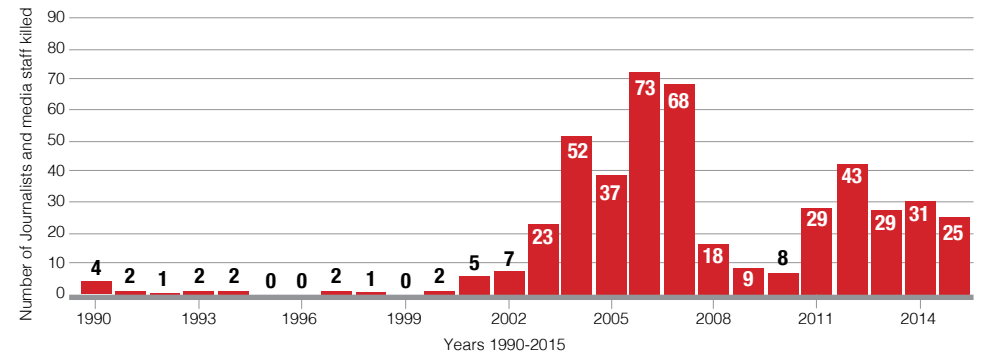
Europe 1990-2015



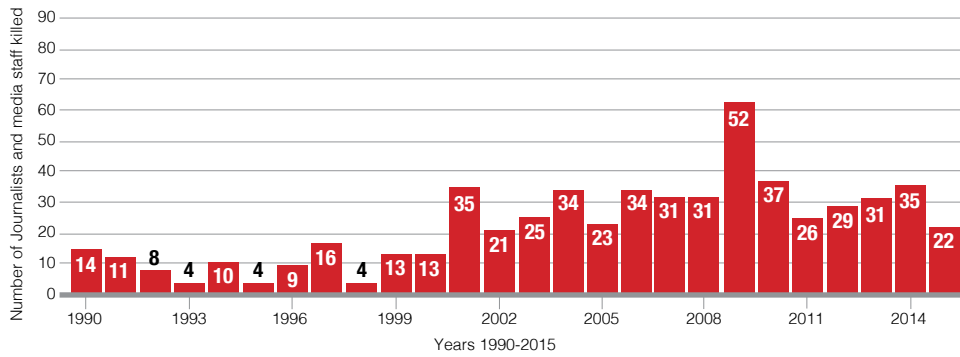
The Americas 1990-2015



Middle East and Arab World 1990-2015



Asia-Pacific 1990-2015



Feeling the Heat

Africa



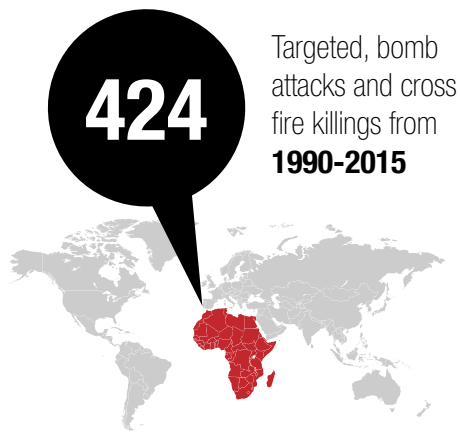
Relatives and friends carry the coffin of Kenyan journalist Rubila Adatia Sood, who was killed in the Westgate shopping mall attack, during her funeral in Kenya's capital Nairobi September 26, 2013. U.S., British and Israeli agencies are helping Kenya investigate the attack claimed by Somali Islamist militants on the Nairobi shopping mall that killed at least 72 people and destroyed part of the complex, officials said on Wednesday. REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya

2015 has been another year in which the toxic mix of violent extremism, political upheaval and intolerance to media scrutiny claimed 22 lives of journalists in Africa. Six were killed in Libya, where Islamic extremism and lawlessness have created a hostile environment for journalists. The same number of victims was recorded in South Sudan, the youngest nation on the continent which plunged into a bloody civil war since December 2013, so soon after gaining its independence from Sudan in 2011. In the meanwhile, Somalia remains in the grip of violence targeting mainly media professionals, four of whom were killed in 2015.

Their colleagues in Burundi barely fared better during the political crisis which saw attacks with heavy weapons on media buildings, shutting down the entire independent media and sending more than a hundred independent journalists scrambling for safety in exile. In an incident which perhaps illustrates best the open season on Burundi media, a veteran cameraman working for the state television was killed by security forces

at his home in the capital Bujumbura along with his wife and two daughters. There were other killings of journalists elsewhere including in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana.

In this regard, 2015 has followed the trend of the last 25 years where violence in journalism has been a key feature, because of – rather than despite the political, social and economic changes on the conti-



ment over the last 25 years for a number of reasons. The ideological shockwave caused by the end of communism made landfall in Africa, breaking the grip on power of mostly one party regimes dating back to independence times in the 1960's with the help of their old superpower allies. At the same time, rebel movements sprang up across the continent, all claiming to put right real or perceived wrongs and to restore rule of law and democracy.

Attacks on media must be considered as attacks on the right of people to accurate information about the handling of public affairs on their behalf.

Often, these lofty ideals did not materialise after vicious civil wars which only brought in their own brand of repression and a catalogue of human rights violations. However, the new cash strapped governments had to agree conditions for financial assistance, including opening political space to the opposition and respect for fundamental rights such as freedom of expression. The new situation made the emergence and development of private media possible, providing a serious competition to state media which had long guaranteed the monopoly of information to ruling elites.

The scene was then set for a hot pursuit

for political power between governments and opposition, whether armed or not, with journalists caught up in the cross fire trying to scrutinise and hold each side to account. This proved to be deadly work as those vying for political domination and control of wealth and resources would not brook media scrutiny or independent reporting. Thus, during the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda of 1994, over 40 Rwandan journalists were murdered in the space of three months only while their colleagues in Algeria were caught up in the midst of the terror campaign which left scores killed and many more forced into exile.

Elsewhere, journalists have been in the sights of extremists in countries like Somalia with at least three journalists killed each year in the last decade. A major clampdown on independent media in Eritrea led to the disappearance of a dozen journalists since 2001. Since then, about 20 journalists have been jailed, and the whereabouts of a number of them are unknown. They have been held incommunicado for the last 15 years, without ever being charged and with no news of their whereabouts they are feared dead.

Throughout all these years, many journalists gave their lives in the defence of professional journalism and public service across Africa. Names like Norbert Zongo, Carlos Cardoso, Deyda Hydara, Tesfaye Tadesse, Tunde Oladepo, Derek Rodney, Omar Barrow, Mohammed Kamara, Coletane Markham, Duniya Muhiyadin Nur, Frank Kangundu and Peter Julius Moi among many others stand as true heroes whose ultimate sacrifice cannot be forgotten.

In a way, the IFJ annual reports on journalists and media staff killed in the line of duty represent a tribute to the victims by

recalling their contribution to journalism in Africa, ensuring that their memory does not fall into oblivion. But they do much more, including informing the campaign to end impunity for crime targeting media professionals, in Africa.

Since its inception, the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) - the African Group of the IFJ - has waged this campaign at all levels of governance on the continent and at the African Union organs to ensure that the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity for crime targeting them are put high on the policy agenda. In this regard, FAJ has successfully engaged the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights which adopted on 12 May 2011 the "Resolution on the Safety of Journalists and Media Practitioners in Africa". The Pan-African Parliament also passed a resolution on media protection on 18 October 2012. Discussions have been on-going since September 2010 with the African Union Commission on a binding Decision on the safety of journalists to be adopted by the Summit of African Heads of State.

In the meanwhile, working with the IFJ Africa Office, FAJ has put governments which don't protect journalists on notice that inaction is no longer an option. The two organisations have petitioned regional courts for cases of journalists' killings which had remained unresolved for too long. To this end, the IFJ and the family of Gambian journalist Deyda Hydara lodged an application against the Gambian government over failure to investigate the journalist's murder in 2004 before the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States. In 2014, the court found in the applicants' favour and ordered the government to re-open the investigation.

There can be no magic solution to the

issue of safety of journalists, nor can it be a matter of journalists and their organisations alone. Attacks on media must be considered as attacks on the right of people to accurate information about the handling of public affairs on their behalf. However, FAJ believes that this is primarily the responsibility of journalists to mobilise the public into a broad coalition to deliver lasting safety in journalism across Africa.

MARIA LUISA ROGERIO
FAJ VICE-PRESIDENT



Left: Relatives and friends carry the coffin of Kenyan journalist Rubila Adatia Sood, who was killed in the Westgate shopping mall attack, during her funeral in Kenya's capital Nairobi September 26, 2013. U.S., British and Israeli agencies are helping Kenya investigate the attack claimed by Somali Islamist militants on the Nairobi shopping mall that killed at least 72 people and destroyed part of the complex, officials said on Wednesday. REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya

Killed List 2015

Africa



JANUARY 27 SOUTH SUDAN

Gunmen ambushed the convoy of South Sudan's Commissioner James Benjamin killing at least 11 people, including five journalists, in South Sudan's Western Bahr el Ghazal State. **MUSA MOHAMMED DAHIYA**, Director of Radio Raja and three of its journalists **RANDA GEORGE**, **ADAMA JUMA ADAM** and **DALIA MARKO** together with **BOUTROS MARTIN**, cameraman of South Sudan Television were all killed in the incident.

According to the *South Sudan Tribune*, the incident occurred along the Wau – Raja road, where gunmen, suspected to be rebels, fired upon the convoy.

APRIL 16 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SOLEIL BALANGA, a journalist working for Radio Okapi, was brutally murdered with his throat slit in Monkoto, in the northern province of Equateur. According to Radio Okapi, Balanga was attacked by the son of Monkoto General Hospital supervisor, while returning from work. His killer was subsequently arrested by the police, according to media reports.

APRIL 22 LIBYA

MUFTAH AL-QATRANI

The journalist and manager of the private production company Al-Anwar, was found dead on Wednesday in his office located in the centre of the second Libyan city, Benghazi. He was killed by a gunshot to the head, according to AFP quoting a Libyan Interior Ministry official.

Al-Qatrani covered fighting between Islamist militias and pro-government forces in the second city of Benghazi. He was found on a chair, covered in blood, officials told AFP.

APRIL 27 LIBYA

The bodies of five media staff were discovered near the city of Bayda in the southern Al Akhdar Mountain, east of Libya with their throats slit, according to Sky News Arabic quoting security sources. The five victims, **KHALED AL SOBHI**, **YOUNES AL MABRUK AL NAWFALI**, **ABDALLAH AL KARKAAI**, **YUSEF KADER BOH** and Egyptian photographer **MOHAMED JALAL** worked for Al Barka TV, a Libyan broadcaster.

They went missing in August 2014 as they were returning from covering the opening session of the Libyan Parliament. Reports said that they were kidnapped at a check-point near the Darna City which is under the control of the group "Ansar Sharia", claiming to belong to the national army.

The sister of Mohamed Jalal, Nevin Jalal, reportedly claimed that her brother had been used by ISIS to film the beheadings of Egyptian Coptic Christians who were slaughtered in Libya earlier this year.

APRIL 30 SOMALIA

DAUD ALI OMAR, the 35-year-old journalist for Radio Baidoa, was killed together with his wife at their home in the Bardaale neighbourhood in the south central city of Baidoa by unidentified gunmen.

According to the statement issued by the radio station and quoted in local media, the killers broke into the house of Daud Ali and shot him and his wife, Hawo Abdi Aden, while they were sleeping.

APRIL 30 KENYA

JOHN KITUYI, the 63-year-old veteran founder and editor of *The Mirror*, was "bludgeoned" to death by unknown assailants while walking home from his office in Eldoret, Western Kenya.

According to newspaper reports from Kenya, Kituyi struggled with his killers who took away his mobile but did not take his money before escaping on a motorbike, leaving Kituyi in a pool of blood just a few meters away from his house. Many journalists in Kenya suspected that Kituyi was murdered because of stories published by his newspaper about criminal investigations concerning senior politicians.



AUGUST 28 MOZAMBIQUE

PAULO MACHAVA, the founder and publisher of the online newspaper, *Diario de Noticias*, was shot dead in a drive-by shooting while jogging along the streets of the capital, Maputo.

Armed men in a white pick-up truck fired several shots, hitting Paulo Machava four times before speeding away. Machava, the founder of the Journalists Association in Mozambique in 1978—an IFJ affiliate in 1978—died on the spot.

SEPTEMBER 8 SOMALIA

ABDULLAH AL HUSSEIN, the English editor of Waagacusub news website and a sports reporter, was followed by two gunmen from the mosque after night prayers and shot four times in the head and chest near his home in Dharkeneley district, southwest Mogadishu, according to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) - an IFJ affiliate - quoting witness and family sources. The journalist died on the spot and the killers escaped from the crime scene.

Hussein was a well-known journalist who had previously received death threats and calls following critical reports on terrorism published by Waagacusub news website, NUSOJ added.

SEPTEMBER 10 GHANA

KING GEORGE, the broadcast journalist was shot dead in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana on the Mamefo-Sankore road. According to sources who spoke to Citi FM in the Ghanaian Capital, Accra, nothing was taken from him after he was shot, so the motive was not robbery. No one has been arrested for the murder of King George.

SEPTEMBER 19 SOUTH SUDAN

PETER JULIUS MOI, the journalist for the *New Nation*, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen after leaving his office in the capital Juba.

According to the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS), Moi was killed only a few days after South Sudan's President, Salva Kiir, had threatened to kill journalists "Who report against the country". No suspect has been arrested or charged in relation to Moi's murder.

OCTOBER 13 BURUNDI

CHRISTOPHE NKEZABAHIZI, the veteran cameraman for Radio Télévision Nationale du Burundi (RTNB), was shot dead with his wife and two children (a 16-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy) by the security forces at their home in the capital, Bujumbura.

Christophe Nkezabahizi and his family were killed during the political violence that engulfed Burundi following President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third term, which the opposition parties and members of civil society denounced as a violation of the Constitution.

NOVEMBER 1 SOMALIA

MUSTAF ABDI NOOR, the Al Jazeera contributor in Somalia, Mustaf Abdi Noor - commonly called Shafana - was killed when gunmen believed to be from the Al-Shabab Islamist militia stormed and bombed the Sahafi Hotel in Mogadishu. Mustaf rushed to the scene after the first explosion in order to cover the event and was killed when a second car exploded close to the place where he had taken cover to report on the initial blast.

DECEMBER 3 SOMALIA

HINDIA HAJI MOHAMED NUR, the reporter for Radio Mogadishu and Somali National Television, was killed in a car bomb blast in the capital Mogadishu. According to media reports from Somalia, a bomb was planted under Hindia's car and detonated through an electronic device. She was critically injured and was pronounced dead some few hours later at a local hospital.

Hindia's late husband, Liban Ali Nur, who also worked for Radio Mogadishu and Somali National Television was killed in 2012. Hindia left behind 7 children.



War on Messenger over Message

The Americas

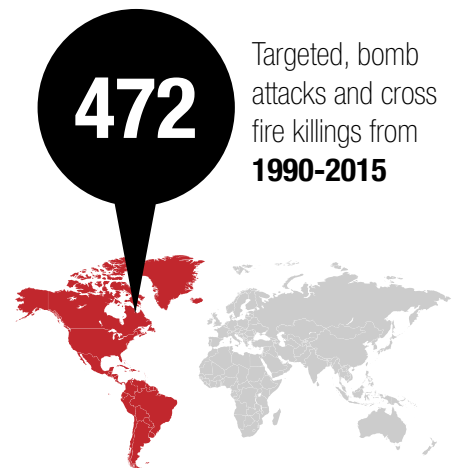
High rates of violence against journalists have been a constant feature in the region over the past 25 years, during which over 800 journalists were killed. In these two and a half decades, the most dangerous countries for the exercise of journalism have been Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

During 2015, violations of human rights worsened, particularly in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay and Dominican Republic, countries with a total of twenty-five journalists killed for exercising their profession. Governments have been responsible for negligence in providing effective protection to journalists. They also have failed in their obligation to conduct investigations and prosecutions, thus denying justice to victims and shielding from punishment those responsible for the crimes.

At the height of the armed conflict in Colombia during the 90s, the country had turned into a killing field, when journalists who dared report independently were targeted by paramilitary groups, the rebels and even the government's own security

forces which went to extreme lengths in their attempts to silence press freedom. This included producing a handbook with tips on how to intimidate and threaten journalists, both Colombian and foreign reporters, who were subjected to intense surveillance well beyond Colombian borders.

In recent years, Mexico has dominated the list of dangerous countries in the region for journalists as the country fell into the grip of violence from organised crime, drug



barons and their accomplices with states' administrations. Eight media professionals were killed in 2015 alone.

Meanwhile, since the coup of 2009 in Honduras, men of violence have set their sights on journalists and media staff as the political climate became dramatically tense and aggressive. As in 2014, Honduras is in second place in the Latin American ranking of murders of media workers, with a total of five killings.

Throughout these decades of violence and killings, the IFJ worked with its regional organisation FEPALC and their affiliates to address the safety crisis in a number of ways. In 2001, the IFJ set up a solidarity centre in Bogota to monitor and report on the safety of journalists and process the assistance provided by the IFJ International Safety Fund for Colombian journalists and their families.

The Federation also confronted the issue of impunity and, together with FEPALC, launched in Mexico City the campaign against impunity for crime targeting journalists under the slogan of *'Protecting the messenger to get the message across'*. This work continued with a joint IFJ FEPALC mission in 2014 to Mexico to raise awareness of the safety crisis in media and engaged all stakeholders to address the issue of impunity.

The two organisations believe that violence against journalists is also violence against society and must be confronted in the name of freedom.

It is not just the safety of journalists which took a turn for worse in the region as their working conditions were also hard hit. The escalation of precarious work in journalism increased markedly during the '90s, a decade in which Latin America became the world's laboratory for neoliberal policies. Under the guise of "labour flexibility", governments deregulated labour relations and weakened the union structure in most of the continent. Meanwhile, there was also a spike in media concentration with monopoly practices and a high penetration of foreign capital, protected by regulatory frameworks designed to encourage private investment.

In many countries, this situation worked against working journalists who are the victims of close ties between the ruling elites and the big media owners. This seriously undermines the free exercise of the profession, as media companies collude with the political and economic establishment to push their own political and economic agendas. They enjoy a privileged position to determine income levels and conditions of employment of their employees.

The case in point is the situation in countries like Paraguay, Panama and Costa Rica. According to IFJ national affiliates in those countries and FEPALC, there has been a dramatic increase of concentration of media ownership in the hands of large economic groups in 2015. In Paraguay, media companies were reportedly bought by



Governments have been responsible for negligence in providing effective protection to journalists and human rights defenders.

the business group Grupo Cartes, which belongs to the family of the president.

If employers showed as much interest for the safety of their staff as they do for their profits, the deaths of journalists would likely fall substantially.

CELSO SCHRODER
FEPALC PRESIDENT



A demonstrator yells slogans as she holds a picture of Colombian citizen Mile Virginia, who was murdered along photojournalist Ruben Espinosa and three other women, during a protest in Mexico City, August 16, 2015. Espinosa, a prominent Mexican news photographer, was among five people found dead in a middle-class neighborhood of the capital on July 31, 2015. Espinosa, who worked for the weekly magazine Proceso and the photo agency Cuartoscuro, had sought shelter in Mexico City earlier this summer saying he had been followed and threatened in the eastern state of Veracruz.

REUTERS/Tomas Bravo



Page 15: Photojournalists wear T-shirts to form the word "Justice for Ruben" during a protest against the murder of photojournalist Ruben Espinosa and four other women, at the Angel of Independence monument in Mexico City, August 16, 2015. Espinosa, a prominent Mexican news photographer, was among five people found dead in a middle-class neighborhood of the capital on July 31, 2015. Espinosa, who worked for the weekly magazine Proceso and the photo agency Cuartoscuro, had sought shelter in Mexico City earlier this summer saying he had been followed and threatened in the eastern state of Veracruz.
REUTERS/Tomas Bravo

Killed List 2015

The Americas

JANUARY 2 MEXICO

MOISES SANCHEZ CEREZO, the director of *La Union* newspaper, was found dead with a deep cut in his throat after 24 days without news of his whereabouts.

On the eve of his disappearance, Sánchez had received threats from the mayor of Medellín, Omar Cruz Reyes, after reporting about insecurity in his municipality and corruption of some local authorities.

FEBRUARY 6 HONDURAS

CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ, the 54-year-old journalist for Canal 27 TV was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at his home. According to media reports, Fernandez had returned home after presenting his programme when the attackers called as his home and shot him three times. He was also an active member of the Alert and Protection Net for Journalists and Social Communicators (Rapcos).

FEBRUARY 14 COLOMBIA

LUIS ANTONIO PERALTA, the owner and manager of Linda Stereo station in El Doncello, Department of Caquetá, was shot three times by two men on a motorcycle. His wife, Sofia Quintero, was also injured in the attack.

The journalist reported on the impact of mining, energy and oil companies' activities on the community. He also wrote about investments in infrastructure, denouncing alleged corruption of local government officials and managers of public utilities.

FEBRUARY 23 HONDURAS

ERICK ARRIAGA, the journalist for Radio Globo, was gunned down as he was making his way home. Mr. Arriaga had reportedly received death threats before his murder.

MARCH 2 COLOMBIA

EDGAR QUINTÍN QUINTERO, who presented a programme called Noticias y Algo Más on Radio Luna based in Palmira, South Eastern Colombia, was shot dead in a bakery by a gunman shortly after 19.00 pm. Witnesses said that the attacker shot him six times, before fleeing the scene.

Quintero, aka Quintin, was one of the eight journalists who received death threats back in 2004, allegedly for their revelations about corruption involving a former mayor. One journalist reportedly said that Quintero was not afraid of exposing abuses and irregularities in the local administration.

MARCH 5 BRAZIL

GERARDO SERVIÁN, the journalist for Ciudad Nueva, 103.3 FM Radio based in the town of Zanja Pytã of Amambay Department, Paraguay, was shot dead by two gunmen in the Brazilian border town of Ponta Porã. Media reports said that Servián, an outspoken critic of the local administration led by Mayor Marcelino Rolón, was shot several times by his attackers. The Federation of Journalists in Latin America and Caribbean (FEPALC) has called on the authorities in Paraguay and Brazil not to rule out the possibility that the murder was linked to the journalist's profession.

MARCH 11 GUATEMALA

FEDERICO SALAZAR (RIGHT), the Radio New World worker, and **DANILO LOPEZ (LEFT)**, Prensa Libre worker, were shot dead by two persons riding a motorcycle, while they were covering an event for International Women's Day in Mazatenango, Suchitepequez department.

Lopez had previously filed a complaint against the Mayor of the municipality of San Lorenzo, whom he accused of threatening him.

MARCH 13 GUATEMALA

GIOVANNI VILLATORO RAMOS, the 42-year-old cameraman and host of a local cable television show in Suchitepequez, a province located 150 kilometers (93 miles) east of Guatemala City, was gunned down by a group of armed men.



REUTERS/
Jorge Dan Lopez

Media report said that his murder was part of an extortion scheme targeting the company he worked for, Noticiero de Inter-cable (Servicable). Eyewitnesses told investigators they saw the two suspects open fire on Villatoro Ramos and flee from the scene, prosecutors reportedly said.

The authorities later announced the arrests of four suspects in the journalist's murder, including one minor, according to prosecutors quoted in media.

APRIL 12 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BLAS OLIVO, the journalist who had gone missing as he was travelling in his vehicle from Bonao to Santga Domingo, was discovered murdered on the Duarte Highway near Piedra Blanca with four gunshot wounds in his body, according to police sources quoted in media. His car was recovered in the town of Palero, his relatives were quoted as saying. Blas Olivo was also the press director of the Dominican Agribusiness Board (JAD) in the Dominican Republic.

APRIL 22 MEXICO

ABEL MANUEL BAUTISTA RAYMUNDO, the journalist who also headed the Association of Community radios called "Vara 7", was shot dead by unidentified gunmen who opened fire on him as he was leaving the studios of Radio Spacio 96.1 in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. He became the second Mexican journalist to be killed in 2015.

MAY 5 MEXICO

ARMANDO MORALES SALDAÑA, the journalist of La Ke Buena radio station and former contributor to other media of Veracruz such as El Mundo de Córdoba, El Sol de Córdoba, La Crónica de Tierra Blanca and Radio Max, was found dead with four shots wounds to the head on a path hedge in Oaxaca. His body showed signs of torture.

MAY 18 BRAZIL

EVANY JOSÉ METZKER, the editor-in -chief of a blog specialising in investigative journalism, was found dead with his hands tied in the locality of Minas Gerais. The body of the journalist, who had been missing for four days, showed signs of violence. Media reports said that Metzker was investigating drug trafficking cases and child prostitution for which he had be warned about risks to his life.

His profession as a journalist began in 2004, when he founded a news magazine *Atuação* in Montes Claros in which he reported on the city administration. He reportedly often denounced the lack of investment in road infrastructure and health.

JUNE 19 MEXICO

ISMAEL DIAZ LOPEZ was killed by unknown attackers at his home in Tabasco, Southeast Mexico. He was the fourth journalist to be killed in Mexico in 2015.

JUNE 23 HONDURAS

The body of **JUAN CARLOS CRUZ ANDARA**, the journalist with Teleport TV, was found inside his home in the northern city of Puerto Cortés. He had been stabbed to death. In February, he filed a report with the police about a death threat but had continued working, media and press freedom organisations said.

JUNE 25 HONDURAS

JACOBO MONTOYA RAMÍREZ, the broadcast journalist in Copan, was gunned down by suspected contract killers in his home in the western town of Copán Ruinas. Witnesses said the gunmen shot him once at the door of his home and then followed him inside to finish him off as his mother looked on, according to Reporters Without Borders.

JUNE 30 MEXICO

JUAN MENDOZA DELGADO, the director of the news website "Writing the Truth" of the Veracruz town of Medellin de Bravo, was found dead under circumstances that judicial authorities considered as a run-over, although there where no traces of shock to sustain that theory.

JULY 2 MEXICO

FILADELFO SÁNCHEZ SARMIENTO, the presenter of the main news programme at a local station located in the state of Oaxaca, was shot at least seven times outside the station's studios.

JULY 4 HONDURAS

AQUILES JOEL TORRES, the manager of Canal 67, a local TV channel, was shot dead by suspected contract killers on a motorcycle while driving his car in Taulabe, in the central department of Comayagua. The police said 29 bullet impacts were found in his

car and that the motorcycle used by the hitmen was found abandoned 3 km from the scene, according to the Reporters Without Borders.

JULY 22 HONDURAS

ADELMO ARTURO CORTEZ MILLA, the radio broadcaster in Galaxia 21, was gunned down by an unidentified gunman on the door of his residence in Gracias, Lempira, when returning from work.



REUTERS/
Henry Romero

AUGUST 2 MEXICO

RUBEN ESPINOSA, the photojournalist who worked for the investigative magazine *Proceso*, was found dead along with four other people in a flat in Mexico City, according to media reports. Ruben Espinosa had reportedly recently moved to the city from the eastern state of Veracruz where he said he had been threatened and harassed. *Proceso* was quoted by media as saying that the killings were discovered in the Narvarte neighbourhood of Mexico City, a day after Mr Espinosa's family lost contact with him. The other four victims were all women. Three of them had lived in the apartment and the fourth was a domestic employee, the city prosecutor's office said. Mr. Espinosa had suffered two gunshot wounds, reports added.

AUGUST 4 MEXICO

ADRIAN MARTINEZ LOPEZ, the photojournalist was found murdered by the road side in his native Tabasco. Reports said his body showed signs of torture, with his hands tied. The photojournalist who contributed to the daily *Presente* and owned a photo studio, went missing on Monday night after he was abducted from his office, reports added.

AUGUST 6 BRAZIL

GLEYDSON CARVALHO, a journalist for Radio Liberdade in the town of Camocim in the northeastern state of Ceara, was shot and killed in his studio at Radio Liberdade. Media reports quoted local authorities as saying that the journalist was shot five times at point blank range by gunmen who fled the scene on a motor bike driven by an accomplice.

Police chief Hebert Silva told AFP that gunmen "arrived at the radio door. They said they wanted to announce something. Someone opened the door for them. They said it was an attack and asked who

was in the studio." "Immediately after that, the individuals entered and executed Gleydson with three bullets to the head and two to the stomach."

A sound engineer present at the time of the shooting at Radio Liberdade was unharmed, media reports added while several Brazilian media outlets have reported that Carvalho had received threats because of his work.

AUGUST 26 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

24-year-old **ALISON PARKER** and 26-year-old cameraman **ADAM WARD**, both working for WDBJ7 US TV station affiliated to the CBS, were killed by a gunman as they were conducting a live interview in a shopping center in Moneta in the US State of Virginia.

According to reports, the shooter opened fire on the crew during a live reporting live from the Bridgewater Plaza, a lakeside shopping and recreational sports centre near Smith Mountain Lake in Moneta, Bedford County (Virginia). Eight shots were reportedly fired and footage from the camera as it spun and dropped after Ward got shot recorded screams and chaos as well as the image of the killer.



Top: REUTERS/
Chris Keane

Bottom:
REUTERS/
Jason Miczek

SEPTEMBER 10 COLOMBIA

FLOR ALBA NÚÑEZ, the correspondent of TV5 and Canal TV Nation, was killed by gunfire from gunmen in Pitalito, Huila, as he entered the studios of the station he worked for. The journalist, who was also a, had previously received anonymous threats for articles he published on criminal activity.

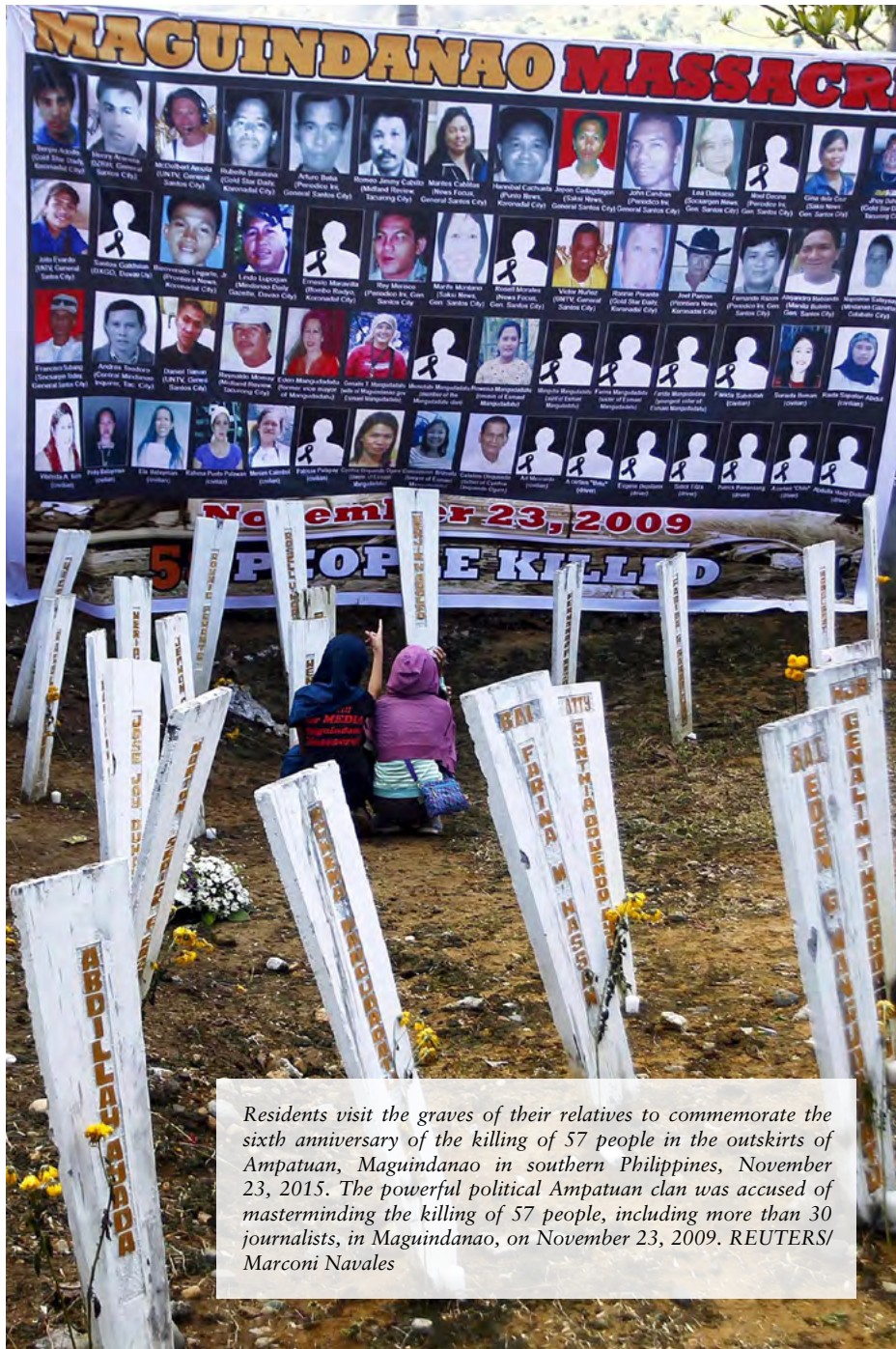
DECEMBER 07 BRAZIL

LOUIS MANOUEL SOUZA, the 48-year-old radio host at Rádio Educadora FM 94.5 was shot dead in a rural area by gunmen, according to media reports. The attackers, some of them driving in a truck, first confronted him as he was in his car. They shot at his car and tires, forcing Souza to flee to a wooded area, where he was shot, reports added.

The radio host had reportedly been threatened for his criticism on radio for violations of environment legislation. He himself spoke about the reaction to his reporting in a Facebook posting shortly before his killing, in which he vowed not to give in to pressure from his critics.

From Single to Double Digits, Violence Casts Deadly Shadow over Journalism

Asia-Pacific



Residents visit the graves of their relatives to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the killing of 57 people in the outskirts of Ampatuan, Maguindanao in southern Philippines, November 23, 2015. The powerful political Ampatuan clan was accused of masterminding the killing of 57 people, including more than 30 journalists, in Maguindanao, on November 23, 2009. REUTERS/Marconi Navales

When the IFJ began collecting records on journalist casualties 25 years ago, one could be mistaken for thinking the Asia-Pacific was a relatively safe place for media. In those early years, the official record of journalists killed each year made single digit figures – incredible for such an enormous region, comprising more than 40 politically, culturally and economically diverse nations.

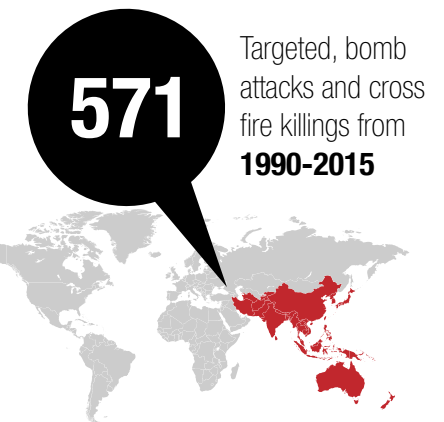
Since then, a huge amount has changed; for better and worse.

The struggle for democracy and freedom of expression has witnessed a massive expansion of independent media in the region and, with that, a growth in journalist unions. The IFJ now has 33 affiliates in 23 countries. This extended reach and representation has meant closer monitoring on the ground by affiliates nearest to those affected.

Sadly, here is where the story changes. As I write, the region ranks as one of the most lethal places globally to work as a journalist. Between 2000 and 2010, killings in the region spiked. The single digits moved to double digits and have remained that way,

with a regional average of around 33 deaths a year. Today, the most likely cause of death for a media worker in the Asia-Pacific is shooting; followed by explosions, vehicle accidents, stabbings and beatings.

In the past decade, Pakistan and the Philippines have been among the world's worst for journalist deaths, rivalled only by Iraq and Syria. While three of those were technically at war during this period, the Philippines was supposedly enjoying peaceful



democracy. It has been far from that. Since 1986, upwards of 180 media workers have been killed; most of them in targeted assassinations. India and Afghanistan are also serial offenders. In India, a disturbing spike in brutal killings this year gives new cause for concern, including three vicious attacks in the state of Uttar Pradesh alone.

The challenges for South Asia are complicated by ongoing armed and political regional conflicts. A common thread is the impact on media workers caught up in the cross-fire in places like Balochistan with 29 killed since 2007, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and the tribal areas in Pakistan with 27 killed from 2003 to 2014. In India's Kashmir region, 19 have been killed since 2003; while in Sri Lanka's north-east province at least 13 have died since 1989.

In 2015, 25 media workers died as a result of targeted killings or accidents – a reduction from the 39 lost in 2014. Certainly any reduction is welcome, but more work is needed to arrest the shocking consistency of attacks on journalists, and increasingly bloggers in the Asia-Pacific.*

The 'worst offender' list shows that when a government fails to stamp out impunity, it becomes embedded and normalised in the national psyche. The Philippines is the key case in point. The 2009 Ampatuan massacre in Maguindanao remains the single largest slaying of journalists in history with 32 journalists among the 58 killed on 23 November, 2009. Last year, as we marked the 6th anniversary of the massacre, we were also cognisant of the fact that there have now been more journalists killed in the years since (40 and counting) than in the massacre itself. To date, not a single perpetrator has been found guilty.

This year, we also remember two journalists – Alberto Martinez in the Philippines and Sitiveni Moce in Fiji – who tragically died from severe injuries and, in both cases, paralysis sustained from separate attacks a decade ago. Sadly, justice eluded them both.

Some potential optimism comes from Pakistan where only three killings were recorded in 2015 – the lowest number since 2006. Pakistan has begun to lead the way in the battle against impunity, not only through judicial action, but also in institutionalising mechanisms to tackle impunity through the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

What is clear as we look back over 25 years of IFJ monitoring in this region is that journalists and media workers in our region remain as vulnerable as ever. Let's hope Pakistan is signalling long-awaited change.

JANE WORTHINGTON
DIRECTOR – PROGRAM
& DEVELOPMENT,
ASIA-PACIFIC OFFICE



The 'worst offender' list shows that when a government fails to stamp out impunity, it becomes embedded and normalised in the national psyche.

**Note: Five bloggers in Bangladesh have been killed by religious extremists for their writing in 2015. The IFJ official figures in 2015 do not cover these deaths.*

Killed List 2015

Asia-Pacific



JANUARY 16 AFGHANISTAN

AQIL MOHAMMAD WAQAR, the 20-year-old radio journalist for privately-owned Speen Ghar Radio, was shot dead by unknown gunmen while attending a wedding party in Nangarhar province, eastern Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA) stated that Waqar was killed by the Taliban and that he had been threatened over his radio work prior to his death. Director of Speen Ghar, Shir Bahadur Himat, said the journalist had no personal enmity, but was simply reporting the reality of life in Afghanistan.

JANUARY 20 PHILIPPINES

ALBERTO 'PASTOR' MARTINEZ, the well-known broadcast journalist from North Cotabato in Mindanao in southern Philippines, was shot and seriously wounded in an attack on April 10, 2005. Almost ten years on, Martinez died as a result of the severe and ongoing injuries sustained in the attack. He was shot just 200 metres from his radio station in Barangay Osias. The bullet pierced his spine and lodged in his liver, leaving him paralysed from the waist down. Prior to the shooting, the 57-year-old broadcaster had received a number of death threats as a result of his work. As a radio block-timer, he hosted a weekly, hard-hitting Sunday night radio program. Martinez later identified two alleged assailants and the gunman and filed charges. To date, the case is yet to be resolved. Martinez and his family were subsequently forced to abandon their home and live separately as he was forced into permanent care. He is survived by his wife and two children.



FEBRUARY 14 PHILIPPINES

MAURITO LIM, the 71-year-old host of the daily program *Chairman Mao on Board* was shot dead while getting out of his car at radio station dyRD in Tagbilaran City on the island province of Bohol. Lim was shot in the face by a lone gunman riding a motorcycle. On his program prior to his death, Lim had been discussing local officials allegedly linked to the drug trade. In response to the murder the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) challenged the government to act on the death and end the culture of impunity.



APRIL 13 PHILIPPINES

MELINDA 'MEI' MAGSINO-LUBIS, the 41-year-old former correspondent with the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* was gunned down in the street in the suburb of Barangay Balagtas in Batangas City, south of Manila. She died from a gunshot wound to the head. In 2005, Magsino had received death threats following her reports on local corruption. Her family claimed the killing was the result of her reporting on alleged irregularities in the local government of Bauan town in Batangas.



JUNE 8 INDIA

JAGENDRA SINGH, the 42-year-old social media journalist, was known for investigating corruption in Uttar Pradesh. Prior to his death, he had posted on his Facebook news page allegations of land grabbing, illegal mining as well as a rape by Uttar Pradesh minister Ram Murti Verma. On May 22, Singh expressed fear on social media that Verma would have him killed. The circumstances around his death remain contentious. On June 1, local police visited Jagendra Singh at his home relating to a separate allegation against him. During the visit, Singh was doused in kerosene and set alight. He was taken to hospital with burns to 60% of his body. He died on June 8. In a widely-shared online video taken shortly before he died Singh stated: "Why did they have to burn me? If the ministers and his goondas had a grudge, they could have beaten me instead of pouring kerosene and burning me". Local media reports said that Singh informed a police officer in a statement prior to his death that he was doused with petrol by the police officer Sriprakash Rai and set alight. Initial statements by a witness (the alleged Verma rape victim) and the family supported Singh's claim, however, were subsequently altered to state the journalist actually doused and set himself alight. Police also asserted that Singh had set himself alight, but stood down at least four officers pending

investigations. For nine days, from June 14 to June 23, the family of the journalist undertook a *dharna* (protest) demanding justice. The protest ended after the family agreed to a material settlement. It has been reported that the family was given some combination of 30 lakh rupee (approx. USD \$45,000), arms licenses, title over illegally acquired land and/or government jobs.



JUNE 21 INDIA

SANDEEP KOTHARI, the 40-year-old journalist who worked for several Jabalpur-based newspapers in the Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, was abducted after an accident between his motorcycle and a car on June 19. On June 21, Kathari's half-burnt body was found near Nagpur in Maharashtra in west central India. According to reports, prior to his death Kothari had reported extensively on illegal mining in the area and had filed a case against an illegal mining gang. Police said they suspected that the journalist was killed for refusing to withdraw the case in the local court. Following the discovery of Kothari's body, police arrested three people in connection with the murder, identified as Rakesh Nasvani, Vishal Dandi and Brijesh Duharwal. The trio were allegedly engaged in an illegal mining operation in the area. The Indian Journalist's Union (IJU) said that it was "shocking" to see journalists die in the country within a fortnight.



JUNE 25 PHILIPPINES

JONATHAN OLDAN, the 29-year-old driver and assistant cameraman with CNN Philippines was shot dead in Imus in the province of Cavite, Luzon. Oldan was sighted running from a shop, where he had stopped to buy cigarettes, when he was shot four times in the head by unidentified gunmen. At the time of his death, Oldan was covering the Department of Justice and Supreme Court news beats in the local area.



JULY 8 BANGLADESH

ABU SAYEM, the 35-year-old correspondent of the Bangla-language *Samakal Daily*, was critically injured in a stabbing attack at his home on July 7. He died from his injuries at a hospital in Dhaka the next day. Two men were arrested in relation to the murder. Sayem worked in Jibannagar Upazila, near the Bangla-India border. The region is known for arms and drug smuggling and Sayem wrote regularly about the trade as a crime reporter. He had previously received a number of threats for his reporting.

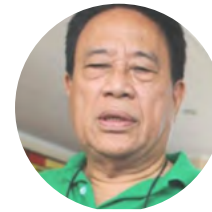


JULY 17 INDIA

RAGHAVENDRA DUBEY, the editor of Maharashtra local weekly *Khushboo Ujala*, was found on the side of a road with fatal injuries within hours of leaving a local police station in greater Mumbai. The editor was being questioned by police in relation to a recent attack on three journalists and had allegedly left the police station on his motorbike in Kashmiri, Bhayander, at 4am. His body was found a few hours later, but his motorbike was missing. Police were questioning Dubey about a number of journalists who were covering a late night police raid on a local bar when the bar's owners and employees allegedly attacked them for tipping off police about the bar's activities.

AUGUST 14 INDIA

SANJAY PATHAK, the 42-year-old part-time journalist for a local Hindi daily in Uttar Pradesh, was last seen talking to friends near his home in Faridpur of the Bareilly district on 13 August. In the early hours of the next morning, three people were seen carrying his body along Station Road. Two of the three were apprehended at the scene, while the third fled. Investigations revealed Pathak had been hit several times on the head with a heavy object. A few months before his death, Pathak was attacked allegedly by the mining mafia in the Chitrakoot district in retaliation for his reports.



AUGUST 18 PHILIPPINES

GREGORIO YBAÑEZ, the 65-year-old veteran journalist for local newspaper *Bagting sa Katilingban*, was shot three times in the chest and once in the arm by unidentified assailants as he stood in front of his house in Davao City, Mindanao. Ybanez was the president of the Davao del Norte Press and Radio-TV Club (DNPRC) and was also a member on the board of directors of the Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative. He was rushed to Bishop Joseph Regan Memorial Hospital following the attack, but died the following morning.

AUGUST 27 PHILIPPINES

COSME DIEZ MAESTRADO, the 48-year-old anchor of the *Ratsada* radio program for Radio Mindanao Network's DXOC, was shot ten times in a fatal attack by unidentified assailants. Maestrado, who was known for his strong commentary on air, had survived an earlier assassination attempt in November 2011. He frequently discussed issues of corruption and had the word tattooed on his arm. The government ordered an investigation into his death and confiscated two motorcycles believed to have been used by the attackers.



SEPTEMBER 8 PAKISTAN

ARSHAD ALI JAFFREY, the 45-year-old Geo TV satellite engineer was killed when three unknown gunmen opened fire at a Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG) van belonging to Geo TV in Bahadurabad, Karachi. The van's driver was also injured in the attack but two other Geo TV staff outside the van escaped injury. The assailants fled the scene on motorbikes. Jaffrey was taken to the Aga Khan Hospital but died from his injuries. Geo TV has come under attack in recent years, with journalists been threatened and attacked, as well as attacks on field equipment and offices. According to PFUJ police have registered the case and investigations continue to find those responsible.



SEPTEMBER 9 PAKISTAN

AFTAB ALAM, the 42-year-old senior journalist for Geo TV, was killed when a number of assailants opened fire on him near his Karachi home. Alam was on sabbatical leave from Geo TV due to health issues and had also previously worked for Saama TV. Four people were arrested in connection with the murder. The men were reported to have been contracted for the killing, but police did not comment on these reports.



SEPTEMBER 18 AFGHANISTAN

YAMA BEHROZ, the freelance journalist was killed in an explosion at his home in Faizabad in Northern Afghanistan. According to the Afghanistan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA), Behroz was targeted for his journalism. The reported circumstances of the incident was that a grenade was fixed to the gate of Behroz's house when an attacker called for him to come outside at which time the grenade was detonated.



OCTOBER 3 INDIA

HERMANT YADAV, the 45-year-old journalist for television channel TV 24 was travelling home on his motorcycle from Kamalpur market in the Chandauli district when he was confronted by two other motorcyclists. After a dispute broke out, Yadav was shot twice in the chest. He was taken to the district hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Yadav was known for taking local cases and advocating for them in his journalism. Police reports suggested that the murder could have been in retaliation for his reporting.



OCTOBER 24 INDIA

MITHILESH PANDEY, the 40-year-old reporter with online Hindi newspaper *Dainik Jagran*, was killed in his home in Kashta village in the Gaya district of Bihar state, bordering Nepal. According to police reports, Pandey was killed when up to three masked intruders stormed his house and opened fire on him while he slept. Pandey's family said that prior to his murder he had been receiving death threats and had informed police of the threats to his life.



OCTOBER 31 PHILIPPINES

JOSE BERNARDO, the radio broadcaster for the local station dwIZ and columnist for tabloid newspaper *Bandera Pilipino*, was gunned down outside a restaurant in Quezon City, Mindanao. The 44-year-old was shot twice in the head and died at the scene as the gunman escaped on a waiting motorcycle with an accomplice. As well as being a broadcaster and columnist, Bernardo was the public information officer of the Northern Police District Tri-Media Organization (NPD-TMO), a group of media workers covering the northern Metro Manila police beat. According to witnesses, the assailant appeared to be waiting for Bernardo when he pulled out a handgun and shot him.



NOVEMBER 3 PAKISTAN

ZAMAN MEHSUD, the president and secretary general of the Tribal Union of Journalists' South Waziristan chapter and journalist with *Daily Umat* (Karachi), was travelling from his hometown of Gomel to Tank City in north-western Pakistan when he was attacked by unidentified gunmen. He was shot five times and rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital but died from his injuries. The 38-year-old was a well-respected, veteran journalist and also ran his own twitter news, "Gomel News". According to Reuters, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the murder, stating that they targeted Mehsud for his writings against them.



NOVEMBER 13 FIJI

SITIVENI MOCE, the photojournalist with the *Fiji Times* and *Fiji Sun*, died from injuries sustained while covering Fiji's semi-civilian coup in Suva in 2000 as well as the subsequent military coup in December 2006. According to reports, Moce was beaten and attacked by rebel supporters in the 2000 coup. Later, during the 2006 coup, Moce reported that he was confronted while trying to take pictures of soldiers escorting a person from the Methodist Church in Suva. He described being manhandled before being taken to a

military camp where he was detained and questioned. Moce never fully recovered from injuries to his back. By 2013, he was left paralysed and bedridden. In September 2015, Moce was discharged from the Tamavua Rehabilitation Hospital to be with his family. He is survived by his wife Mili and son. The Pacific Freedom Forum deplored the attack and the inaction by the government to identify those responsible. PFF went on to say: “Without the bravery and dedication of Sitiveni Moce and that of his colleagues, the events surrounding the military takeover would largely remain a mystery.”



NOVEMBER 29 AFGHANISTAN

AMANULLAH ATAEE, the managing director of Asia TV, was shot outside his house in Kabul’s Karta-e-Now region. According to the Afghanistan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA), Ataee was likely targeted because of a popular series of investigative reports into the petroleum industry. According to police, two men were arrested in connection with the case and a weapon was recovered. One of the men is Ataee’s brother-in-law, the other a deputy for the Kabul oil and petroleum department. Ataee’s oldest son told the AIJA that he believes the murder was an attempt to pressure Asia TV into closing down.

DECEMBER 23 BANGLADESH

MASHIUR RAHMAN UTSHO, the staff reporter for the *Juger Alo* daily was hacked to death by unidentified assailants who tied him to a tree in an isolated place in Dharmadas area on Dhaka-Rangpur Highway.

Police officers recovered the body on 24 December and confirmed that the death was the result of a planned murder with killers hitting the journalist with sharp weapons in the head and hands. The police were looking for the cell phone, motorbike and digital camera the killers took away from the slain journalist.

Utsho’s colleagues said he might have been murdered for writing regularly on drug peddling following which law enforcers busted some dens of drug peddlers and traders. On 24 December, Utsho’s newspaper published his report on how narcotics department was struggling to control drug peddlers due to lack of human resources.

ACCIDENTAL



APRIL 25 NEPAL

SUMAN BOMJAN, the sports journalist with the state-owned Nepali daily *Gorkhapatra*, was killed during earthquakes that devastated much of Nepal during April and May 2015. A stringer for the state media for three years, Bomjan had earlier worked for Nepal FM and media in his hometown of Makwanpur, where he also chaired the Nepal Sports Journalists Forum’s district coordination chapter. His body was recovered in Kathmandu on May 2.



JULY 5 INDIA

AKSHAY SINGH, the television journalist and special correspondent of Hindi news channel Aaj Tak, was covering the Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh, India, at the time of his death. The scam involves allegations of bribes made for higher results on the exam required for government jobs in the state. Singh was interviewing family members of Namrata Damor, a woman connected to the scam, when he fell unconscious and died. He was 38 years old. More than 35 people linked to the Indian scam have also died in unclear or suspicious circumstances. An investigation into Singh’s death is underway but the results have not been released.



SEPTEMBER 8 SRI LANKA

PRIYANTHA RATNAYAKE, the 43-year-old provincial journalist, was attacked and killed by a wild elephant while reporting on a story near a national park area in Minneriya, in Sri Lanka’s North Central province. Ratnayake had been reporting on incidents of wild elephant attacks in the area when he himself was attacked. He was taken to a local hospital but died as a result of his injuries.

Lingering Threats to Safety of Journalists despite Drop in Killings

Europe

The 2014 IFJ annual report on journalists and media staff killed was not yet printed when the horrific massacre, which decimated the newsroom of Charlie Hebdo on January 7, happened. Ten journalists and media staff were murdered in a single attack, the worst ever recorded in Europe. This tragic event— a terrifying reminder of the violence many journalists around the world face daily in the course of their work — provoked a series of worrying incidents in Europe.

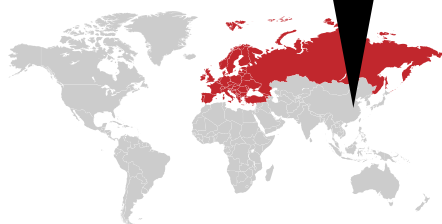
In January, the office of the German daily *Hamburger Morgenpost* was firebombed following the paper's publication of several Charlie Hebdo images. In Turkey, journalists received death threats over the use of images taken from Charlie Hebdo. But many of the most disturbing reactions and the most serious threats to freedom of expression came from governments. The new escalation of anti-terror laws and the widespread hate speech have become great challenges in our profession.

There were 6 more killings of journalists recorded in 2015 on the continent, one in Azerbaijan, two in Ukraine, one in Poland, one in Turkey and a French journalist killed while covering the concert in Bataclan (Paris). The year 2015 ranks as the most murderous year for journalists in Europe since 2000.

But there were far bloodier years in the last two decades and a half, since the IFJ started publishing annual reports on jour-

Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings from **1990-2015**

357



nalists and media staff killed for doing their job.

At least 345 journalists and media staff were killed in Europe since 1990. A third lost their lives in Russia, the country with the highest number of journalists murdered in Europe. 68 journalists were killed between 1990-2000 and 47 murdered between 2000-2015.

Not surprisingly, journalists who exercise their profession during armed conflicts are particularly exposed. Balkan countries saw the number of journalists killed on their territory drop after the end of the Yugoslavia civil war. For instance, there were 39 murders of journalists in Bosnia Herzegovina between 1990-2000 but no journalist killed there since 2000. By contrast, in Ukraine, the number of journalists' killed has more than doubled from - 6 journalists killed between 1990- 2000 against 13 between 2000-2015, eight in of them 2014 alone.

A significant finding can be observed in Turkey where the number of killed journalists killed dropped down from 28 between 1990-2000 to 5 between 2000-2015. However, Turkey has the highest number of journalists in prison. Since the launch of the Council of Europe online platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists in April 2015, 11 out of 33 recorded physical attacks against journalists happened in Turkey.

Still, the overall figures show that killings of journalists have declined in Europe in the last 25 years from 236 who lost their lives between 1990-2000 to 109 killed between 2000- 2015.

But 2015 was a serious setback and, for 2016 we urge all international intergovernmental institutions including UNESCO, the EU, the OSCE and the Council of Europe to carefully monitor the situation and adopt

effective early warnings mechanisms to stop violations and attacks against journalists as well as to end impunity.

As journalists, we will not accept to be threatened and intimidated into silence. We are here to inform the public, thus contributing to the development of our democracies. We urge our governments to bring to justice perpetrators of violence on journalists. The fight for justice to victims of violence in journalism was also addressed during the UNESCO

World Press Freedom Day held in Riga this year.

We welcome the initiative of the Council of Europe to set up the Online platform to promote the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists, in cooperation with the European Federation of Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists and a number of press freedom NGO's. Since the launch of the Platform in April 2015, these organisations have submitted 105 alerts, over 80 of which from the EFJ/IFJ.



Ten journalists and media staff were murdered in a single attack, the worst ever recorded in Europe.

A demonstrator holds newspaper read “Black day of the press” during a protest outside the Cumhuriyet newspaper in Istanbul, Turkey, November 27, 2015. Around 2,000 people protested on Friday over the arrest of two prominent journalists on charges of espionage and terrorist propaganda, a case that has revived long-standing criticism of Turkey's record on press freedom under President Tayyip Erdogan. REUTERS/Osman Orsal



All alerts are followed up by the Council of Europe's Secretary General who forwards them to Member States for information and reaction. However, we do emphasize that we want more than just answers from Member States. We want action taken and we want a new approach based on the respect for journalists' freedoms and safety.

Finally we want to recognise the work of our affiliates in Russia and Ukraine who have spent much of 2014 and 2015 engaged in a joint programme to protect journalists in the conflict zone of Eastern Ukraine that involved campaigning, protesting and providing safety training to several hundred journalists. The OSCE Representative on Media Freedom backed this from the start and hosted a very important conference on journalists' safety in June 2015 where, amongst other things, the IFJ/EFJ launched a handbook with the Russian and Ukraine members on how unions had risen to the challenge to protect their members.

**MOGENS BLICHER
BJERREGÅRD**
EFJ PRESIDENT



Page 23: People hold panels to create the eyes of late Charlie Hebdo editor Stephane Charbonnier, known as “Charb”, as hundreds of thousands of French citizens take part in a solidarity march (Marche Republicaine) in the streets of Paris January 11, 2015. French citizens will be joined by dozens of foreign leaders, among them Arab and Muslim representatives, in a march on Sunday in an unprecedented tribute to this week's victims following the shootings by gunmen at the offices of the satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo, the killing of a police woman in Montrouge, and the hostage taking at a kosher supermarket at the Porte de Vincennes. REUTERS/Charles Platiau

Killed List 2015

Europe

JANUARY 7 FRANCE

Gunmen, later identified as two brothers Saïd and Chérif Kouachi, attacked the offices of the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris and shot dead ten people in the worst terrorist attack on media in Western Europe. The victims were the magazine's editor **STEPHANIE CHARBONNIER**, also known as 'Charb', who had received death threats in the past over the cartoons published by the magazine and was given police protection, three well-known cartoonists **JEAN CABUT AKA CABU**, **BERNARD VERLHAC AKA TIGNOUS** and **GEORGES WOLINSKI** together with the economist and journalist **BERNARD MARIS**. The gunmen also shot dead contributor and **ELSA CAYAT**, cartoonist **PHILIPPE HONORÉ**, editor **MUSTAPHA OURRAD**, protection officer **FRANCK BRINSOLARO** and office **FRÉDÉRIC BOISSEAU**. Following the killings, the gunmen were heard shouting in the streets that they had "avenged the Prophet."



Left to right: Bernard Maris, Georges Wolinsk, Jean Cabut, Stéphane Charbonnier, Bernard Verlhac, Philippe Honoré

FEBRUARY 28 UKRAINE

SERGIY NIKOLAIEV, the senior photographer of *Segodnya* daily Ukrainian newspaper, died of wounds after an artillery attack near the village of Pesky located just 1.5 kilometer from Donetsk airport, in eastern Ukraine. He became the first Ukrainian journalist killed in eastern Ukraine in 2015 and the seventh of the entire journalists' death toll since the start of the war.

APRIL 16 UKRAINE

OLEB BUZYNAN, the TV journalist and former editor-in-chief of the Kiev-based Russian language newspaper *Segodnia*, was shot dead in Shevchenko district, near his house. An official from the Interior Ministry, Anton Herashchenko, reportedly claimed that the gunmen escaped in a dark blue Ford Focus car with a foreign license plate. Buzyna was a controversial figure in Kiev as a journalist, known for his pro-Russia views. In 2012, he had run for a seat in parliament on the Party of the Regions ticket.

JUNE 14 POLAND

LUKASZ MASIAK, the 31-year-old editor of editor of a local online news portal *NaszaMlawa.pl*, was beaten to death on the night of 13 to 14 June 2015 in the city center of Mlawa, a town located in north-central Poland. Masiak, who reported mainly on the local administration in Mlawa, had received death threats because of his journalistic work and an obituary message was sent to his home. Following the first attack in 2014, Masiak told the media "It was certainly not an attack by the robbers. The person attacking me was clearly waiting for me. I'm sure it was about the reports we published on our news portal." Masiak reported every attack and threat he received to the police but the police investigations have produced no results, so far.

AUGUST 9 AZERBAIJAN

RASIM ALIYEV, the 31-year-old independent journalist died of injuries he sustained when supporters of a local soccer player attacked him in retaliation for criticism posted on a Facebook page. After the attack and while in the hospital on August 8, Rasim Aliyev gave an interview to Meydan TV. He said everything started when he criticized the football player Cavid Huseynov for his behavior after his Azerbaijani club team, Qabala FK, played the Cypriot club Apollon in Cyprus in a UEFA Europa League match on July 30. Journalist Aliyev wrote on his Facebook page that he did not want "someone this amoral, impertinent, and unable to control

himself to represent me on European soccer fields.” Following his comment, the journalist received a call from someone claiming to be Huseynov’s cousin, who yelled and swore at him on the phone before inviting him to present his apologies.

After getting out of his car to shake hands, he was suddenly attacked from behind and knocked to the ground, kicked and beaten by six men for about 40 seconds. The perpetrators took his phone and wallet and ran away in different directions. Rasim, who used as director for the Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety (IRFS), one of Azerbaijan’s leading media-freedom organizations until it was forced to shut down last year after its bank account was frozen, died shortly afterwards in the hospital.

The authorities said “a criminal case was launched into the incident and an investigation is underway”. The IRFS office in Baku condemned the attack, saying “We strongly believe that Rasim Aliyev has been targeted due to his work for our organisation.”

NOVEMBER 13 FRANCE

GUILLAUME BARREAU-DECHERF, the 43-year-old journalist and music critic for ‘Les Inrocks’ magazine was among the victims of the terrorist attacks at Bataclan in Paris. The French newspaper Libération, where the journalist, aka Guillaume B. Decherf and a fan of metal music began his career in 1999, paid him a moving tribute. He worked as Libération special correspondent in Chicago in 2000 and contributed to Rolling Stone and Metro. He then joined Hard Rock Mag as editor-in-chief before moving to Inrocks in 2008, where his main speciality was Hard Rock. His last publication of 28 October 2015 was on Zipper Down, the latest CD of Eagles of Death Metal group in which he announced their Paris concert at the Bataclan.

DECEMBER 27 TURKEY

NAJI JERF, a prominent Syrian journalist was gunned down by unknown assailants outside the offices of the Syrian opposition news outlets in the Turkish town of Gaziantep, near the Syrian border. Reports said the killers of Naji Jerf, editor-in-chief of the independent monthly *Hentah* and a film -maker who documented the activities of the terrorist group Daesh, used a pistol equipped with a silencer in broad daylight. His family reportedly said that Jerf had obtained a French visa after receiving death threats and he was expected in Paris within days.



A protester holds up a pen as thousands of Montrealers march to the French Consulate, in tribute to the victims of the shootings by gunmen at the offices of the satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris, in downtown Montreal, January 11, 2015. French citizens will be joined by dozens of foreign leaders, among them Arab and Muslim representatives, in a march on Sunday in an unprecedented tribute to this week’s victims, including journalists and policemen, following the shootings by gunmen at the offices of the satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo, the killing of a police woman in Montrouge, and the hostage taking at a kosher supermarket at the Porte de Vincennes. REUTERS/Christinne Muschi

Decades of Impunity - No More!

Middle East and Arab World

At the end of each year, we pull together the details of all the victims in our profession who have been taken from us to establish a mosaic of our loss. Despite the immense pain felt by all those involved; families, friends and colleagues of the victims, and those in the journalists' unions and the IFJ secretariat who witness and process the cases, it is an essential act that helps keep alive the memory of journalists and media workers killed for doing their job. As 2015 marks the 25th occasion where journalists' unions hold their hands together to remember their brothers and sisters who died all over the world, it is appropriate for us to look at our share of pain in the region, and review what we have done and what we still need to do to protect ourselves and future generations from the same fate.

2015 in the Arab World continues the pattern of the last five years of journalists being subjected to shocking and brutal attacks by terrorist organisations and violent extremist groups. This targeted violence has caused the death of at least 25 jour-

nalists and media workers. A significant portion of those killed were at the hands of barbaric extremist groups responsible for executing journalists whether in public squares in Mosul, the streets of Syria or the Libyan countryside. Yemeni journalists meanwhile have been bombed, held hostage and tortured.

The spilling of journalists' blood is not new to our region. We have had to learn

Targeted, bomb attacks and cross fire killings from
1990-2015

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A medic tends to a journalist lying on the ground after inhaling tear gas fired by Israeli troops during a demonstration against the Israeli settlements and demanding for free movement for the Palestinians during Christmas near a checkpoint in the West Bank city of Bethlehem December 23, 2014. REUTERS/ Mussa Qawasma

and adapt to the terrorising and killing journalists conducted for decades by states and terrorist groups.

Since the early 1990s up to 50 journalists have been killed in Palestine by the Israeli army, including four international journalists, according to the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate. Despite this shocking figure, not one investigation conducted into the actions of the Israeli army concluded that there was any wrongdoing or fault, and certainly no one has been held accountable.

During the Algerian civil war of the 1990s, between 100-120 journalists and media workers were killed. The law on "Civil Reconciliation" adopted in 1999 designed to turn the page on the tragedy of the war, pardoned all those who were involved in the killing of civilians including the journalists. It even criminalises any attempt to discuss these issues, and today, families of killed journalists and their colleagues are unable to open up this file and are forced to live a lifetime without answers.

In Iraq, 435 journalists and media workers have been killed, according to the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate (IJS), since the American led invasion in 2003, including Shihab Tamimi, the IJS president, who was gunned down in Baghdad in 2008. Despite numerous commitments, none of the successive

Iraqi governments have published any reports on the investigations of these killings.

And in Syria, journalists have been targeted and killed from different sides. While the intensity and complexity of the conflict makes it hard to gather accurate information on causalities, we can estimate that between 150 and 300 journalists and media workers have been killed in the country since

the start of the civil war. Tens of other journalists are registered as kidnapped or missing.

Impunity for the killers breeds further killings and further victims from our colleagues and loved ones!

Impunity for the killers breeds further killings and further victims from our colleagues and loved ones!

That is why, journalists' unions and the IFJ must focus on the fight to end impunity in the coming years. This fight should take different forms and adopt different tools. Facing up to the killing of Palestinian journalists by the Israeli army, which enjoys political support inside Israel and internationally, will require making better use of remedies available through international law, humanitarian law, and the laws of democratic countries to demand effective investigations and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The unrelentingly dangerous conditions facing Iraqi journalists requires an immediate review for the efforts already made by different stakeholders to improve safety. The IJS has led the way on safety programmes for journalists, it is time for the Iraqi government, the media owners and the management to take up their responsibilities and sit down with the IJS to develop a comprehensive strategy to end the blood-letting in the media.

In Yemen, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) has declared that it would refuse any political agreement to end the current war that involves pardoning the killers of journalists. They want to avoid the situation in Algeria and the IFJ supports the YJS position.

Meanwhile, the IFJ will continue its efforts to develop programmes to strengthen the culture of safety in the media sector in the Arab World, including more safety trainings for journalists. Last October, the IFJ concluded a second Training of Safety Trainers, hosted by the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate, which renews and reinforces our network of qualified safety trainers. Through this regional programme, the IFJ and its affiliates have trained more than 1500 journalists since 2012 of which ap-

proximately 40% were women. The IFJ is also working with UNESCO to develop a safety curriculum for university students in the Arab World. This is the first full educational package to be developed and it will be launched during a regional event at the end of January 2016.

Finally, the IFJ will continue its co-operation with its affiliates and partners to face the crises of impunity in the killing of journalists in our region and around the world.

This is our mission and our duty!

YOUNES MJAHEB
IFJ SENIOR VICE
PRESIDENT



Killed List 2015

Middle East and Arab World

JANUARY 04 YEMEN

KHALID MOHAMMED AL-WASHLI, the correspondent for Al-Masirah TV died of wounds he had sustained in a road side bomb blast which targeted a gathering of Shiite Huthi militiamen, also known as Ansarullah, in the Dhamar, according to AFP quoting security sources. He was the first journalist known to the IFJ to be killed in the world in 2015. Media reports said that Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on jihadist websites.

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS), an IFJ affiliate, said that al-Washli was killed while doing his job in an attack which also claimed the lives of three other people and wounded many more.

JANUARY 23 IRAQ

ALI AL-ANSARI, the journalist for Al-Ghadeer satellite television was killed while covering fighting between the Iraqi security forces and militants of the so-called Islamic State (IS) in the Muqadiyah area north of Baghdad, according to media reports quoting his employers and officials.

Two other journalists, Mustafa Hamid and Qusay Sahib from Iraqiya state television were wounded, the head of its Diyala provincial office, Uday Abdelkarim said. Accounts differed on the incident, with some sources saying shellfire hit Muqadiyah itself, while others reported a bombing and clashes in the north of the town.



JANUARY 24 IRAQ

ADNAN ABDUL RAZZAQ, the photographer for Sama Mosul channel was allegedly shot dead in Mosul by the so-called Islamic State (IS), according to media reports. He was the second journalist killed in the same week after reporter Ali - Ansari was fatally wounded while covering clashes between the Iraqi army and the militants of the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Mykdadyah , north of Baghdad on 23 January.

FEBRUARY 01 SYRIA

The so-called Islamic State (IS) released a video on line showing the beheading of Japanese freelance journalist **KENJI GOTO**. The IS claimed that the journalist, who had gone to Syria in October 2014, was killed because of Japan's support for the countries fighting IS. The group had reportedly previously agreed to free journalist against the release of Iraqi militant Sajida al-Rishawi held in Jordan.

Reports said that 47-year-old Kenji, a respected journalist known for his work covering the suffering of civilians in war zones, went to Syria in October, reportedly to try to secure the release of another Japanese national, Mr Haruna Yukawa, who was also executed by the IS, less than a week before Goto's murder. But his widow, Rinko, said in a message pleading for her husband's life that he had gone to Syria " to show the plight of those who suffer."

FEBRUARY 17 IRAQ

QAIS TALAL AGHA, The journalist, who worked for Sama Mos- sel and Shafak News in Nineveh province, was killed by the so-called ISIS group according to local media. Qais had been detained by the Islamist militants in 2014 for his articles denouncing the ISIS presence in the Iraqi city of Mosul.

MARCH 17 YEMEN

ABDEL-KARIM AL-KHEWANI, the prominent Yemeni journalist was assassinated in front of the family's home in the capital, Sanaa, according to media quoting his relatives. His son Mohammed al-Khewani said that armed men riding on a motorbike opened fire and gunned down his father as he exited the house. Mohammed al-Khewani said the attackers left his father in a pool of blood and sped away. The victim was transferred to a hospital and died there of his wounds.

APRIL 20 YEMEN

MOHAMMED RAJAH SHAMSAN, the presenter of *Yemen Today* TV was killed in an explosion caused by the Saudi-led military coalition's airstrike near the TV headquarters in the capital, Sanaa, according to media reports. Three other staff members of the station also died in the blast. They were security personnel **MONIR AKLAN** and **HAZZAM MOHAMED ZEID**, and accountant **AMIN YEHA**.

APRIL 22 YEMEN

ABDULKAREEM ALI MUTHNA, the manager and editor of a regional state radio Marib, was killed while on assignment covering the fighting between the Huthis rebels and tribal men around Sarwah, a city in the province of Marib (200km east of Sana), according to the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS), an IFJ affiliate.

APRIL 26 IRAQ

THAER AL-ALI, the editor-in-chief of the independent Mosul daily *Rai al-Nas*, was shot dead by ISIS Islamic militants, according to the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate, an IFJ affiliate. Al-Ali was first kidnapped by ISIS militants on 6 April 6, 2015 from a Mosul café, according to reports, which said the militants found contacts for Iraqi government officials in his mobile phone and accused him of being an informant for the Iraqi government and the media.

Twenty days later, militants shot him dead and handed over his body to the medical examiner, according to an unnamed source in the medical examiner's office who spoke to the National Iraqi News Agency.

MAY 21 YEMEN

According to media reports, Yemeni Shabab TV correspondent **ABDULLAH KABIL** and Shuhail TV correspondent **YOUSEF ALAIZRY** were kidnapped by the Houthis rebels while coming back from covering a tribal leaders' meeting against Houthis. Both journalists were arrested and held in a seismic monitoring center in Mount Oran, which had previously been attacked during the Yemeni conflict. The two journalists were among the dead during the bombing of the centre, just one day after their kidnapping, by the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia against the rebels. Some media reported that they had been used as a human shield during the assault. Their bodies were later discovered.

JUNE 24 IRAQ

HUSSEIN FADEL HASSAN, the Iraqi cameraman was killed while covering fighting between ISIS militants and Iraqi forces in the city of Biji, north of Baghdad.

JUNE 26 SYRIA

MOHAMMED AL-ASFER, the 19-year-old cameraman for Al-Jazeera was shot dead in Southern Syria last 26 June by government forces while covering the fighting in Daraa province. A statement by Al-Jazeera said that Al-Asfer had already lost his father and brother in the fighting and had himself been previously injured while covering the clashes as a stringer for the cable TV network. He became the fifth Al Jazeera media worker to be killed in Syria since the outbreak of violence in 2011.

JULY 05 IRAQ

GHAZI AL-OBEIDI, the Iraqi journalist was kidnapped by the so-called Islamic state group because of an article he had published and was later executed, according to the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate, and IFJ affiliate.

JULY 15 IRAQ

JALA AL-ABADI, the photojournalist for *Nineveh Media Network* in Mosul, the capital of Nineveh province in northern Iraq, was shot dead by the so-called Islamic State who accused him of spying.

The father of two, who worked as a cameraman for *Al Mosuliya TV* before joining Nineveh Media Network as a photojournalist, had been abducted from his home on 4 June by the IS, according to the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate (IJS).

JULY 27 SYRIA

THAER AL-AJLANI, the journalist working for Sham FM Radio and was a correspondent for Al-Watan newspaper was killed while reporting on clashes between the Syrian army and rebels in the Jobar area, east of Damascus, state media and a monitoring group were quoted as saying.

A statement by Sham FM said that al-Ajlani was wounded by shrapnel of a mortar shell and he died of his wounds.

AUGUST 16 IRAQ

YAHYA AL-KHATIB, the journalist who worked for two satellite TV channels, Al-Mousoliya and Nineveh Al-Ghad, was kidnapped by extremists from the so-called ISIS group and executed.

SEPTEMBER 17 YEMEN

BILAL SHARAF AL-DIN, the cameraman of Al massira TV was killed in the Saudi-led air strikes in the Al Jaraf neighborhood of the capital of Sana'a. Sharaf al-Din was fatally wounded while covering the bombing of Al Jaraf and died of his injuries.

OCTOBER 08 SYRIA

SALEH MAHMOUD LAILA, the 27-year-old photojournalist who worked for the Turkish news agency *Anadolu*, was killed in a suicide car bomb attack by ISIS in the Syrian town of Huraytan, near the city of Aleppo. The bomb attack which targeted a market place killed at least 20 people, media reports said.

OCTOBER 29 IRAQ

SAYAB MAJID AL-IQABI, the correspondent for *Iraq Times* in Basra went missing on 28 October and his body was found a day later with signs of torture particularly on his head, media reported. Al-Iqabi covered protests calling for reforms and end of corruption in the city. He had reportedly received death threats by telephone and Facebook over his reporting on the protests before being kidnapped near a security post in Basra by unidentified armed men.

DECEMBER 05 IRAQ

MAJED AL-RABI'I, the cameraman for Al Masar TV was injured during an attack on Iraqi security forces with whom he was embedded, according to media reports. The attack came as the troops were on the way to the frontline with the so-called Islamic state (ISIS) in Garma, a town to the east of Fallujah in Anbar province. The Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate (IJS) said that Majed was shot by a sniper. He died of his wounds the following day at the hospital where he had been admitted.

DECEMBER 07 SYRIA

ZAKARIA IBRAHIM, the cameraman for Al-Jazeera Arabic was killed while covering fighting in the Syrian city of Homs, according to the AFP quoting a statement from the Doha-based cable network. Zakaria Ibrahim was injured during shelling in Homs, the statement added. His death was also confirmed by colleagues on social media.

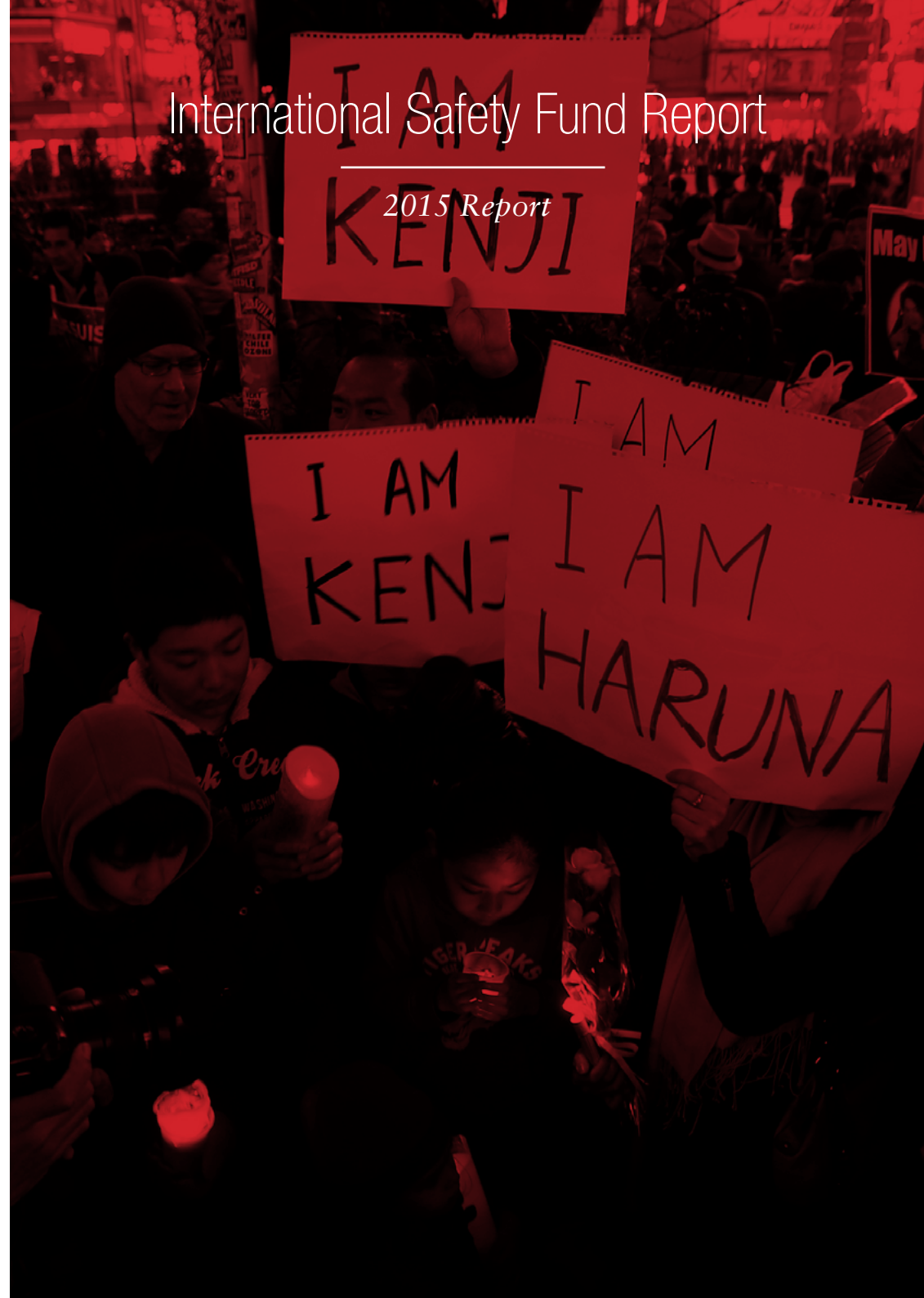


Rescue workers carry the body of journalist Aftab Alam, who was killed by unidentified gunmen, at a hospital morgue in Karachi, Pakistan, September 9, 2015. Gunmen shot dead a journalist on Wednesday, police said, less than 24 hours after a technician working for the country's most popular news channel was killed in a similar attack. REUTERS/Akhtar Soomro

International Safety Fund Report

2015 Report

Right: People holding candles and placards take part in a vigil for Japanese hostages Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa, who were killed by Islamic State militants, in Tokyo February 8, 2015. Islamic State militants beheaded journalist Goto last month, a week after the group released footage appearing to show the beheaded body of another Japanese hostage, Yukawa. REUTERS/Yuya Shino



INTERNATIONAL **safety** FUND

In a year overshadowed by war and violent unrest across the globe, there was greater need for solidarity with many journalists, media staff and their families who were affected by these situations. The IFJ International Safety Fund paid out more than 80.000 Euros in relief to journalists from the four corners of the world to help them relocate to safety, receive medical treatment or pay for secure accommodation.

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 over 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. A new and up to date version of Live News will be published in 2013.

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.

When a journalist
is attacked,
everyone
in journalism
is affected.

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 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 there to help.

Solidarity in Action

AFRICA

BURUNDI

The IFJ Safety Fund Board and the General Secretary paid a substantial amount in grants for Burundi journalists caught up in the media crackdown, both inside the country and in exile. The Secretariat mobilised further support for those hosted by the Rwandan affiliate, ARJ, from the European delegations in Rwanda and Burundi as well from members of the Journalists in Distress Network.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

A journalist from the Democratic Republic of Congo received assistance for living expenses in exile

GAMBIA

The IFJ Safety Fund provided assistance to two Gambian journalists living in exile.

SOMALIA

Two journalists who live in exile received assistance to help with living expenses.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Fund also provided assistance to another journalist from South Sudan for living expenses in exile

RWANDA

A journalist who fled threats to her safety was awarded an emergency assistance to help her settle in her country of refuge. Another was provided with financial assistance to help with family reunification, also in exile.

AMERICAS

COSTA RICA

A journalists' union leader in Costa Rica was awarded humanitarian assistance for medical treatment.

ASIA PACIFIC

VANUATU

The IFJ Safety Fund awarded assistance to a journalist facing crippling legal fees as he defended charges against him. The IFJ helped raise more funds from other funding organisations.

EUROPE

FRANCE

Following the terror attack on the French satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, the IFJ International Safety Fund contributed to the appeal launched by IFJ affiliates in France who set up a solidarity fund for the families of journalists and media staff killed.

MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD

PALESTINE

The IFJ Safety Fund helped two Palestinian journalists with costs to relocate their families to safety.

YEMEN

The Fund assisted to Yemeni journalists who escaped the media clampdown with living expenses in countries where they sought refuge. Others also received help inside the country as they tried to keep safe from threats to their safety during the armed conflict.

ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR SAFETY FUND FOR MEDIA TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS (SFMI)

(to be put under the details of the IFJ Account Number , please)

A/C BE90 3630 4689 8732

SWIFT CODE: BBRU-BE-BB

ING Bank, Rond Point
Schuman 8, 1040 Brussels

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 crossfire of violence. Others are the victims of pre-meditated 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.

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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safety@ifj.org | <http://www.ifj.org>