



Global Press Freedom Report June 2012 - May 2013





96 bis, rue Beaubourg, 75003 Paris, France - tel : 33.1.47.42.85.00 Fax :33.1.42.78.92.33 -
Email : info@wan-ifra.org - Internet : www.wan-ifra.org

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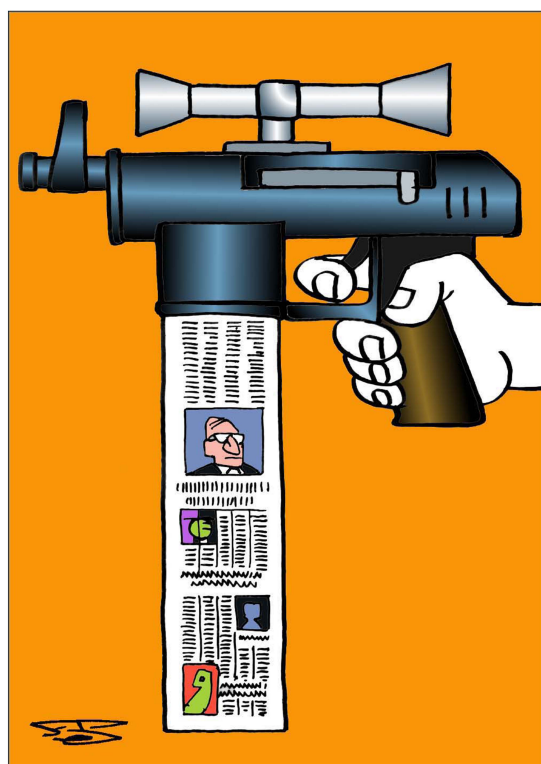
WAN-IFRA's Global Press Freedom Report takes a twelve-month snapshot of the major issues affecting press freedom and freedom of expression worldwide. It is by no means a comprehensive assessment of the situation in each individual country; rather, it helps identify some of the recurring patterns and highlights the major difficulties facing the media.

Journalists Killed

Since 1998, WAN-IFRA has actively monitored the cases of media employees who pay the ultimate price in their efforts to bring us the news.

A way of honouring the courage and determination of men and women who lose their lives while reporting on conflicts, challenging governments or investigating corruption and crime, WAN-IFRA's figures include all media workers killed in the line of duty or targeted because of their work. They also include cases where the motive is unsure or where official investigations have not been completed.

Journalists killed June 2012 - May 2013: Brazil (6), Cambodia (1), Egypt (1), Mexico (3), Iraq (2), Pakistan (9), Palestine (2), The Philippines (1), Russia (2), Somalia (10), South Sudan (1), Syria (15), Tanzania (1). **Total: 54**



Boukhari (Palestine)



New Challenges, Familiar Threats

The safety of journalists continues to be of major concern in areas of the world where conflict makes reporting the news dangerous, often deadly. WAN-IFRA research reveals that at least 15 media professionals lost their lives in Syria, and at least 10 in Somalia during the reporting period. Whether at the hand of extremists, organised criminal gangs or official security forces, journalists increasingly find themselves in the firing line.

Where the media is targeted, impunity for the killers of journalists continues to prolong the agony for the victims' families and cast a chilling shadow over the profession. In countries where justice persistently fails such as Pakistan or Mexico, where independent investigative reporting is vital, too frequently journalism has become a deadly occupation. Global efforts to reverse such trends such as the United Nations' Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity have gained traction in the last twelve months. Bringing together governments, the UN system, NGOs and industry in one concerted effort to combat crimes against journalists, it remains to be seen how effectively the Plan can be implemented in the parts of the world most affected by violence.

Criminal defamation and other legal weapons aimed at muzzling independent media persist, with cases in Russia, Italy, Libya and Cameroon highlighting the global appeal of such pernicious legislation for those in power to stifle criticism and debate. The space for such freedoms within newly formulated constitutions is yet to be defined, and as debate continues in Egypt and Tunisia the media remains unprotected and faces increasing attacks in the post-revolution reconstruction. Proposals for tighter press regulation in the United Kingdom and a Secrecy Bill in South Africa contrast with the positive steps towards greater legislative freedom for the press in Myanmar. Nevertheless, media watchdog organisations are closely monitoring the formulation of legal texts that will define how freedom of expression is framed in emerging societies and established democracies alike.

Soft-censorship has become the weapon of choice for governments looking to exert financial pressures on the independent press as a means of bending it to their will. Government interference in advertising distribution in countries such as Argentina and Azerbaijan forms part of a larger worldwide pattern of economic sanction against independent journalism.

Policing the digital debate has led to increased online censorship and imprisonment of netizens in countries around the globe. Bahrain has targeted Twitter users while Vietnam continues to jail bloggers in its on-going suppression of political debate. China remains key to how online censorship will develop, with its Great Firewall still policing hundreds of millions of users and restricting the free-flow of information, despite some notable exceptions. Perhaps most worrying is the influence the Chinese model of Internet censorship is having over countries such as Pakistan, Egypt and Iran when it comes to installing surveillance technologies and emulating government-controlled Internet policing. The fight for online freedoms will only intensify in the coming twelve months as Anonymous movement 'hactivist' trials and that of WikiLeaks source Bradley Manning reach verdicts.

Regional Summaries

Africa's press continues to be blighted by legislation that criminalises journalists and stifles freedom of expression. Fighting in Somalia has claimed the lives of at least 10 journalists during the reporting period, while physical attacks against media professionals have been on the rise around elections in a number of countries. Investigative reporters continue to be targeted for their work exposing corruption by state officials, with intimidation of the press a familiar weapon regularly deployed by those in power.

Cuba remains the most repressive country for freedom of expression in the **Americas**. With nine journalists killed in this period, violence and impunity continue to spread self-censorship across Mexico, Central America and Brazil. Government intimidation of the independent press continues to be a reality in Venezuela and Ecuador, and has intensified in Argentina, making the country one of the most deteriorating environments for freedom of expression in the Americas.

The press in **Asia** continues to be targeted by violent extremists in parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan, with impunity for those who murder journalists a major impediment to securing the rule of law. Online freedom of expression has been targeted across the region, particularly in China and Vietnam where bloggers have been sentenced to jail terms and surveillance and censorship has increased.

Cautious gains for press freedom in Myanmar continue to provide hope that the country is firmly on the road to democratic transition.

The worldwide economic crisis has put pressure on the independent press in **Europe** - financially and also, worryingly, through violence and the deliberate targeting of journalists. Threats and intimidation against media professionals continue in parts of Eastern Europe and **Central Asia**, while 300 years of press freedom came under threat in the United Kingdom as legislators sought to respond to the hacking scandal by imposing harsher regulation over the media.

In the **Middle East and North Africa** (MENA) region, the on-going war in Syria continues to claim the lives of journalists, with 15 losing their lives in the past 12 months. The intensifying conflict has made it extremely difficult to source accurate information without placing journalists in extreme danger. The legal framework for clearly defined freedom of expression laws in Tunisia and Egypt is stalling, while the shift to more conservative values under Islamist rule has seen press freedoms and secular values attacked. Governments that resisted the tide of revolutionary change during the historic events of 2011 continue their clampdown on freedom of expression in an attempt consolidate their influence.

Press Freedom in Sub-Saharan Africa



SOMALIA, Baidoa: Somali journalist Abdukadir Hassan Abdirahman films a scene on 23 October, 2012 in Baidoa, outside Mogadishu. Camera in one hand and pistol in the other, this reporter goes out to work on some of the most dangerous streets for journalists in the world. AFP PHOTO/STRINGER

Africa's press continues to be blighted by **legislation that criminalises journalists** and stifles freedom of expression. Fighting in **Somalia has claimed the lives of at least 10 journalists** during the reporting period, while physical attacks against media professionals have been on the rise around elections in a number of countries. Investigative reporters continue to be targeted for their work exposing corruption by state officials, with intimidation of the press a familiar weapon regularly deployed by those in power.

Journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013: Somalia (10), South Sudan (1), Tanzania (1). **Total: 12**

Angola

The home of José Manuel Gimbi, one of the few independent journalists in the city of Cabinda and who had recently interviewed members of the opposition group UNITA, was robbed and equipment was stolen.

Benin

Insult laws remain a scourge in Africa and Benin is no exception. In January, President Boni Yayi pardoned Berthe Cakpossa, director of television station *Canal*

3, and had her three-month prison term revoked for covering a press conference in which a former presidential advisor criticised the head of state. However, on November 20, the state's media regulation board suspended one of the station's talk show programs for three months and another program for two weeks after "offending the head of state", according to local media. Benin's 1997 press law holds journalists accountable for third-party statements they report.

Burkina-Faso

On 31 October, Roland Ouédraogo and Lohé Issa Konaté (a contributor and editor for private weekly paper *L'Ouragan*) were sentenced to 12 months in jail while the paper was banned from publication for six months following the publication of two articles alleging abuses of power by the prosecutor's office.

Cameroon

Cameroon remains a difficult country for press freedom and freedom of expression, with journalists routinely jailed. A prosecutor in Bamenda threatened to file defamation charges against Aaron Kah, editor of the bi-monthly *Kilum 24*, who would not reveal his sources for a series of articles that questioned the hiring and personnel practices of the management of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board. Kah offered to publish a rebuttal but refused to reveal his sources.

Three Cameroonian journalists who were investigating claims of corruption in the management of a state oil company were given multi-year convictions on 3 December after reportedly being tortured in police custody. The editor of a weekly paper was given a three-year sentence while the editor of a bi-monthly publication was handed a two-year sentence. Reporter Simon Hervé Nko'o was sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison. Nko'o alleged that he had been tortured while in custody. A fourth man, Germain Cyrille Ngota Ngota, died in jail.

Chad

Chad's authorities use all possible means to shut down the independent press. Editors for the paper *Abba Garde* were harassed in December for a series of articles that rated the performance of the government and President Idriss Deby. After giving Deby a failing mark for his performance, the paper's editor-in-chief along with another Editor were abducted on two separate occasions and attacked by men in police and military uniforms. Two radio station reporters were detained for two hours and beaten by National Security agents when they entered a private hospital to investigate claims that it had hired unqualified doctors during labour union strikes. The reporters' equipment was confiscated and police threatened another two reporters who attempted to film the arrest. Chad's Inspector General of Police claimed the reporters were "subdued", not attacked.

Police reportedly whipped and beat a radio journalist in the town of Bongor after he entered a police station on 30 September to confirm the arrest of a local man involved in civil disturbance. According to Yves Phono Kepmi, two superior officers gave orders for three policemen to beat him with whips and belts. He was then handcuffed and detained overnight.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mining News Editor Franck Fwamba was abducted and interrogated for 11 hours by four armed men on 6 June. The motive was unclear, but Fwamba reported that he had received anonymous threats after the magazine published an article critical of the management of state power authority *Société Nationale d'Electricité* (SNEL) in March 2012. The DRC's state-run media regulatory agency, The Higher Council for Broadcasting and Communication, indefinitely banned broadcasts about the conflict in the Eastern Congo in August. Stations like *Ngoma FM* and *Radio Soleil* were forced off the air after violating the ban.

Alarmingly, media organisations have reported having their headquarters raided. On 30 November, rebels belonging to M23, a group of former army officers who seized towns in the eastern part of the country, raided the headquarters of *Radio Solidarité* seizing equipment, including a generator and microphones and forcing the station off the air. In January, DRC Armed Forces raided the studios of *Radio Tujenge Kabambare* and took computers, generators, solar panels, mobile phones and recorders. Two heads of programming were detained and beaten at a nearby military camp.

Cote D'Ivoire

After disputed elections in 2011, press freedom in Cote d'Ivoire continues to be fragile. In February, the state-run National Press Council (CNP), suspended *Prestige Mag* and two of its editors for "offensive" articles about public figures (including a musician and a reporter for the state-owned broadcasting company). In September the CNP suspended the publication of all pro-opposition newspapers for six days. The decree impacted newspapers that posted photos and/or made statements referring to former President Laurent Gbagbo, who took office during an election-crisis in 2011. Some photo captions continued to refer to Gbagbo and his cabinet members as if they were still in power, which the CNP said gave the false impression that there were two governments. Two newspapers that supported the former President were attacked and their headquarters set ablaze in August. The suspects stole equipment before starting fires in the buildings in an act that caused other pro-opposition papers to suspend publication to protest the system of intimidation.

Djibouti

A diabetic reporter for one of Djibouti's opposition papers was arrested and held in sequestration for a week in August without being charged or given access to insulin. Houssein Ahmed Farah had written articles for *La Voix de Djibouti* critical of the ongoing detention of political prisoners and chronic shortages of water in the country. He was released three months later.

Eritrea

2011 Golden Pen of Freedom laureate, Dawit Isaak, remains in jail, his whereabouts unknown. Eritrea continues to be bottom of the press freedom world rankings. The Ministry of Information in Asmara was the scene of a mutiny on 21 January when around 100 rebel soldiers stormed the building and interrupted broadcasts, demanding the reinstatement of the 1997 constitution and the release of political prisoners. Tanks and military personnel surrounded the building, and the mutiny ended as suddenly as it had begun 12 hours earlier. News network *Al Jazeera* was blocked in Eritrea after it covered protests against the government by Eritrean exiles outside Eritrean diplomatic missions in Cairo, London, Frankfurt, Rome, Stockholm and other locations. The protestors also voiced support for the January mutiny of the Ministry of Information. On 1 February, the Information Ministry jammed all *Al Jazeera* frequencies and forbid anyone in Eritrea to provide access to the network.

Ethiopia

Despite hosting the headquarters for the African Union, Ethiopia remains inconsistent on freedom of the press, where journalists continue to be jailed on spurious charges relating to vague anti-terrorism legislation and the independent press is regularly shut down over technicalities.

Charges against journalist Temesghen Desalegn were renewed in February for articles that the state prosecutor said, "falsely accused the government of interfering in religious affairs and discrimination against certain ethnic groups," as well as articles that allegedly "incited violence." The publisher of the newspaper Desalegn wrote for also faces an unspecified charge. The bi-monthly opposition paper *Addis Times* was charged with "failing to report a change of owner and change of address; failing to send the two obligatory copies of each issue to the National Archives; and a lack of transparency in its funding" and had its license revoked in January. The paper had been created to fill the void left when authorities shut down the outspoken paper *Fitih* in 2012.

Ethiopian journalist Yusuf Getachew was charged with plotting acts of terrorism, advancing a political, religious or ideological cause by force and "planning, preparation, conspiracy, incitement and attempt of terrorist acts." Getachew was arrested while covering protests in Ethiopia's Muslim community against the government's imposition of a moderate teaching of Islam called Al-Ahbash and it's

hand in the elections within the Supreme Council on Islamic Affairs. Eskinder Nega, who wrote articles referring to a possible Ethiopian uprising in the wake of the Arab revolutions, was jailed in September under the vague terrorism laws. His 18-year prison sentence was upheld on 2 May.

Gabon

Journalist Olivier Ndembi was taken for questioning and threatened by officials on 18 October in response to his investigation of the alleged involvement of Gabonese politicians in ritual killings. Reports show that ritual killings intensify in the lead-up to elections. *TV+*, a television station owned by André Mba Obame, Gabon's main opposition leader, was broken into on 5 September. This came after previous attack on the station on 16 August. Blaise Louembe, Gabon's Information Minister, told the Committee to Protect Journalists that attacks on the station are staged by the opposition to discredit the government. Gabon's state-run media regulator suspended two newspapers in August after they published articles critical of top government officials.

Gambia

Despite housing the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Gambia is one of the most difficult countries in Africa for media professionals. Crackdowns on the media in August and September resulted after President Yahya Jammeh announced the executions of 47 prisoners and a public outcry ensued. Scores of newspapers, foreign and local, were targeted for reporting on the public's displeasure at the announcement, and many were shut down for unknown reasons. Editor of the online news website *Jollof News* and *Associated Press* contributor Abdoulie John was arrested and detained by the Gambian National Intelligence Agency in early December. Agents conducted a search of his home and personal laptop, and after failing to find anything, demanded access to his personal emails. *Jollof*, which is blocked in Gambia, is often critical of the government.

Ghana

Several journalists were attacked while reporting on Ghana's election, which was highly contested. Supporters of the opposition party reportedly attacked journalists when they claimed their reporting manipulated election figures in favour of the ruling party.

Guinea

Three radio talk shows were censored in December after broadcasting discussions critical of the government. The program 'La Rondes des Journalistes' was suspended for five weeks as well as its host, Mandian Sidibé, after a defamation complaint filed by presidential advisor Fodé Idrissa Touré. Two other programs that featured in-

depth discussions on current affairs faced similar restrictions for various anti-government commentaries.

Guinea-Bissau

Portuguese journalist Fernando Teixeira Gomes was forced out of the country on October 29, 2012 after he reported critically of the nation's transitional government after a coup in April 2012.

Kenya

Soldiers with Kenya's paramilitary force, the General Service Unit, attacked two journalists on 20 January as they attempted to cover politically motivated clashes in the town of Kibera. While they were denied access after the forces blocked off roads, the soldiers became physically violent after the journalists showed their press identification cards.

Liberia

While President Sirleaf became the second head of state to sign the Declaration of Table Mountain, there were still press freedom issues in the country. Journalist George Borteh, a reporter for the *New Republic*, was arrested after taking a photo of Police Director Chris Massaquoi at a temple in Monrovia. The Police Director had Borteh arrested for assault, which witnesses said was far from the truth. During May, the media took part in a self-imposed black out after President Sirleaf's chief of security, Othello Warrick, intimidated journalists by saying, "be careful questioning the integrity of Liberians. Because you have your pens and if you incriminate the character and integrity of Liberians like myself, we will come after you."

Mali

The coup d'état in Mali has made things difficult for the independent press. In March, Boukary Ndaou, editor of *Le Républicain*, was arrested after his paper printed on its front page an open letter criticising President Dioncounda Traoré for benefits given to an army officer who led a military coup in March 2012. At the time of his arrest, Ndaou had not been charged and employees of the paper did not know where he was being held. Since the beginning of hostilities in Mali this January, journalists are reporting that access to key areas has been restricted. Journalists that are not embedded with troops have been consistently kept around 100 km from the action by the military.

The "Green Berets" who carried out the coup d'état in March 2012 attacked and detained a group of journalists on 8 February. Members of the militant group attacked and detained journalists and photographers when they attacked President Amadou Toumani Touré's "Red Beret" bodyguards. Reporters Without Borders'

secretary-general Christophe Deloire said that the attack was an attempt to suppress videos and photos that would embarrass the new regime.

Saouti Haïdara, editor of *L'Indépendant*, was kidnapped, beaten and dumped by around ten gunmen on 10 July in an effort to silence reporting on the war. Haïdara had previously been interrogated by intelligence officers about an article warning people to stay away from government buildings for fear of an attack.

Niger

On 15 February, four journalists were chased, hit with tear gas and beaten at a peace march which was violently disrupted by police.

Nigeria

Nigeria's authorities use their influence to physically and judicially harass journalists. Reporter Ozioma Ubabukoh was harassed by seven men who identified themselves as part of Nigeria's State Security Service on 18 December in an effort to stop him from filing a story on Governor Sullivan Chime. Ubabukoh's laptop was confiscated by the men, who wanted to stop a story investigating the governor's health as he had made no public appearances for over three months. The State Security Service beat Kazeem Ibrahim unconscious when he attempted to cover Governor Godswill Akpabio's birthday celebration at the Akwa Ibom State Government House on 10 December. Ibrahim was denied entry to the event for unknown reasons, and the security officers began their assault when he demanded to know the reasons for his denied access.

In February, four men who identified themselves as police officers detained three journalists who were investigating allegations of mismanagement at the government-run Science and Technical College. In the same month, two journalists were detained and their radio station was shut down indefinitely after they aired a program questioning the legitimacy of a government polio campaign. The men were charged with inciting violence in connection with the murder of nine female polio vaccinators who were killed two days after the show aired.

Rwanda

An amendment to the 2008 law in Rwanda that will enable police, army and intelligence services to listen to and read private communications in order to "protect public security" was passed in the lower house of Rwanda's parliament in August. Anyone who is identified visiting "subversive" websites will now face tough prison sentences. Political reporter Idriss Gasana Byiringiro was detained in July after his employer filed a complaint alleging that he had been arrested and interrogated the month before by security forces, without access to a lawyer or his family. The reporter had written stories on controversial topics and had received threatening messages after his first detainment.

Sierra Leone

Soldiers attacked two journalists for the newspaper *Awoko* on 7 August after Poindexter Sama took a photograph of the soldiers. In addition to beating Sama and tearing the shirt of a female colleague, the soldiers took their cell phones and memory sticks. Supporters of local politician John Raka Conteh attacked the headquarters of *Radio Gbafth* in July after Conteh's participation in a panel discussion at the radio show did not go as planned. During the panel, convened to discuss the postponement of a local election, Conteh strayed from the subject and had his microphone turned off by the moderator. In retaliation, two supporters vandalised the studio and damaged equipment.

Somalia

10 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Threats against journalists continue in Somalia and sadly, 10 have lost their lives during the period of this report. On 3 March an appeals court upheld the conviction of journalist Abdiaziz Abdinur Ibrahim for his role interviewing a woman who publicly claimed five government soldiers had raped her. Although his sentence was reduced to six months in prison, the judge said that Ibrahim "had not respected the laws of the country and the ethics of journalism by not reporting his interview with the alleged rape victim."

In connection with the aforementioned case, Somali soldiers assaulted half-a-dozen reporters who were attempting to cover a rape case on 9 March. After the initial assault, the police chief ordered the arrest of two journalists, who also had their equipment confiscated. Local journalists said that they believed the police wanted to prevent news coverage after the outcry resulting from the conviction of Abdiaziz Abdinur Ibrahim.

Daud Abdi Daud was detained on 5 February after the conviction of journalist Abdiaziz Abdinur Ibrahim for publicly proclaiming that journalists have the right to interview whomever they choose. He was taken into police custody without a charge and moved to Mogadishu Central Prison on 11 February.

A private radio station in the town of Adado was shut down by the Hibin and Heb administration after broadcasts alleging corruption, mismanagement, and misuse of Adado hospital equipment. The administration stated that the station "compromised peace in the town and spread inaccurate and unacceptable information."

On 20 September, **Abdirahman Yasin Ali**, a director at *Radio Hamar*, **Abdisatar Daher Sabriye**, head of news at *Radio Mogadishu*, and **Liban Ali Nur**, head of news for *Somali National TV* were killed. The following day **Hassan Youssouf Absuge**, a reporter with *Radio Manta*, also died. On 27 September **Abdirahman Mohamed**, a reporter for *Civaarahamaanta* sports news website lost his life. A day later, **Ahmed Abdulahi Farah**, a photographer for Yemeni news agency *Saba* was also killed. On 23 October **Ahmed Farah Ilyas**, a broadcast reporter with *Universal TV* was killed. On 28 October **Mohamed Mohamed Turyare**, a reporter and website editor with

Shabelle Media Network died. On 18 January **Abdihared Osman Aden**, a producer with *Shabelle Media Network* was killed, and on 21 April **Mohamed Ibrahim Raage**, a reporter and producer with *Radio Mogadishu* and *Somali National Television* lost his life.

South Africa

In April, the South African national assembly adopted a new version of the Protection of State Information Bill (POSIB), dubbed the “Secrecy Bill” by press freedom groups. The bill proposes sentences of up to 25 years in prison for those who publish classified state information. Media freedom organisations are concerned this will lead to self-censorship.

South Sudan

1 journalist killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Harassment by security forces and the unlawful detention of journalists undermines freedom of expression in the country. South Sudan has no state body mandated to regulate the media. Security forces engage in de facto censorship through harassment and illegal detentions. Many journalists say they choose not to report on contentious issues for example, corruption and the internal politics of South Sudan's ruling party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Either they have been told not to cover those subjects by members of security forces and/or they or their colleagues have been recently intimidated or detained for producing similar stories. Freelancer **Diing Chan Awol**, (aka **Isaiah Abraham**), was killed on 2 September.

Sudan

A Sudanese journalist who was critical of the president was found on 5 November with her head shaved after having been kidnapped and beaten. Somaya Ibrahim Ismail Hundosa was found on the side of the road after being kidnapped by members of the National Intelligence and Security Services. Her captors showed her articles she had written on subjects deemed “off-limits” for journalists, including human rights violations in the western Darfur region and the Nuba Mountains.

The National Press Council suspended six newspapers for writing negative articles and publishing false information “damaging the country's security and reputation” in September. Another paper, *Al-Jarida*, was shut down at the beginning of the month on orders from authorities but without any official reason.

Swaziland

Two editors and the CFO of the *Swazi Observer* were served a month-long suspension in July. The National Director of the Swaziland Chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA Swaziland), Comfort Mabuza, said that action was

likely a response to the editors' "fearless" approach in editing news and allowing the publication of sensitive stories.

Tanzania

1 journalist killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

A TV journalist with *TEN TV* was killed on 2 September during an argument with police over the arrest of another journalist. **Daudi Mwangosi** was killed after police fired a tear gas canister at his stomach at close range. The arrested journalist, Godfrey Mushi, was later released without charge after being detained for two hours.

Swahili-language paper *MwanaHalisi* was suspended in July after the government declared that the critical paper had published "seditious" articles. Under the country's 1976 Newspaper Act, any paper can be suspended if it is found to have "seditious intent."

Togo

On 19 February a new law gave the High Authority for Broadcasting and Communication (HAAC) the power to impose sanctions on the media without recourse to judicial processes. The new law annuls Article 26 of the Togolese Constitution, which states "the media cannot be subject to any preliminary authorisation, be cautioned or censored or [be subject to] other barriers. No publication shall be banned from circulation except by virtue of a court decision."

Four journalists were injured while covering an anti-government protest in the nation's capital on 10 January. Journalists who were at the scene said that police used tear gas and rubber bullets in a targeted effort to halt coverage of the protests.

On 17 July, Radio station *Légende FM* was forced to stop call-in shows under the orders of the country's media regulatory body. A show in June had featured callers criticising the violent crackdown by security forces on anti-government protests in the capital, Lomé; the regulatory body said that the show incited "racial and ethnic hate" in a press conference after the shutdown.

Uganda

In May, police raided the printing press of independent newspaper *Daily Monitor* and tried unsuccessfully to have sources revealed on a story related to the president's son.

Television journalist William Ntege was pepper-sprayed and detained after demanding the police replace a video camera that had been destroyed when he was assaulted as he covered the arrest of an opposition leader in October. Ntege had

previously waited a year for police to compensate him for a camera they had broken in an unrelated incident.

Police officers assaulted three journalists who were reporting on the arrest of opposition leader Kizza Besigye on 4 October. The reporters' equipment was destroyed and one said that because of the police involvement, it was impossible for him to file a complaint. The Committee of Professional Journalists recorded ten similar cases in the months' prior.

Uganda's broadcast regulatory body, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), suspended a talk show host and a current affairs program on *Endigito FM* radio in January. Crumbling under pressure from the government after reports critical of politicians, the radio station suspended the show and the host. The officer in charge of media crimes at the Criminal Investigations Department, Fred Mirondo, advised the UCC that they had no case, but wasn't able to stop the suspension.

Zambia

Members of the news team for *Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation* (ZNBC) channel were assaulted by members of the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) on 29 October. The UPND members began throwing stones and bricks at the reporters, threatening their lives in response to what they believed was unfair coverage.

Zimbabwe

In the lead-up to elections, police raided the headquarters of a Zimbabwean radio station on 1 March under the guise of searching for smuggled radios. The officers confiscated over 180 radios and detained the station's production manager, Zenzele Ndebele, for questioning.

Zimbabwean police also confiscated hand-cranked and solar-powered radios distributed by a non-governmental organisation to report on the election. The crackdown appeared to be an attempt by officials to halt the spread of diverse information to the people prior to the election; officials claim that the devices were used to promote hate speech. In February the Police Deputy Commissioner told a parliamentary committee that any individuals involved would be arrested.

In October police raided a news production company that produces content for the United Kingdom and 10 journalists were detained for questioning. Computers and video editing equipment were confiscated in what authorities say was an investigation into possible importation violations; however, local journalists believe that the raid was the beginning of a police crackdown before this year's national elections.

Journalist Obey Manayiti was arrested in February when he entered a police station to seek protection after receiving death threats from former provincial youth chairman, Tawanda Mukodza. The ousted ruling party official had filed a complaint of criminal insult against the reporter. Mukodza had been removed from his post after allegations of corruption, nepotism, provoking divisions within the ruling party and insubordination.



Zlatkovsky (Russia)



Press Freedom in the Americas



MEXICO, Xalapa: Journalists and students protest the murder of Mexican journalist Regina Martinez in Xalapa, Veracruz State on 29 April, 2012. Martinez was found dead in her house on 28 April, with signs of strangulation. More than 40,000 people have been killed in rising drug-related violence in Mexico since December 2006, when President Felipe Calderon deployed soldiers and federal police to take on organised crime. AFP PHOTO/SERGIO HERNANDEZ

Cuba remains the most repressive country for freedom of expression in the continent. With nine journalists killed in this period, **violence** and **impunity** continue to spread **self-censorship** across Mexico, Central America and Brazil. **Government intimidation** of the independent press continues to be a reality in Venezuela and Ecuador, and has intensified in Argentina, making the country one of the most deteriorating environments for freedom of expression in the Americas.

Journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013: Mexico (3), Brazil (6). **Total: 9**

Argentina

The government continues to intensify its campaign of intimidation against independent media through various means, resulting in a severe deterioration for the freedom of the press in the country.

On 9 May, the government presented a bill aimed at taking full control of 'Papel Prensa', the country's leading producer of newsprint. The move would give the government control of the production and importation of the industry's main

supply, and potentially allow it to pressure independent media. There is mounting fear that the government is planning to temporarily take-over *Grupo Clarín*, the country's largest media conglomerate, through a law passed in November that enables a government-controlled commission to intervene in the administration of any company quoted on the stock market, should it consider that the interests of a minority shareholder are affected.

The government already pressures independent media via the blatantly unfair distribution of official advertising and in February, it went further by calling major national and international companies (such as Telefónica, Carrefour, Walmart and Sony) to stop all advertising across several independent media outlets. Newspapers such as *La Nación* and *Perfil* immediately lost 15-20% of their advertising revenue.

Brazil

6 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Covering corruption, organised crime and politics can cost a journalist their life in what is often depicted as Latin America's most vibrant democracy. Violence and impunity against media professionals prevail, spreading self-censorship especially in the provinces. **Walgney Assis Carvalho, Rodrigo Neto, Mafaldo Bezerra Goes, Eduardo Carvalho, Valério Luiz and Edinaldo Filgueira** were the six journalists killed in the past year, making Brazil, along with Mexico, the continent's most dangerous country for journalists.

Pre-publication censorship is also an important cause of concern. *O Estado de Sao Paulo*, Brazil's fourth largest circulation daily, continues to be banned by court order from publishing any information related to a serious corruption case involving Fernando Sarney, son of current senate president and former president of Brazil, José Sarney. Courts often increase such bans during election periods.

Colombia

According to local civil society organisations, 139 journalists have been murdered in Colombia since 1977, with only 17 deaths having led to convictions for the perpetrators. Despite a special government protection programme currently granted to around 70 journalists, such figures reveal the level of violence and impunity that continue to undermine the work of the press.

On 14 May, authorities revealed that an assassin had been hired to murder freelance investigative journalist Gonzalo Guillén and two political analysts, León Valencia and Ariel Ávila. Both Valencia and Ávila had led an investigation in 2011 linking 130 local politicians in northern Colombia to left-wing rebels and organised crime. Guillén was working on a documentary on the same issues.

On 10 May, unidentified gunmen killed Alberto Lázaro del Valle, director and broadcaster for *Radio Planeta* in Cali. There are no records showing that Lázaro del

Valle had been previously intimidated or threatened. The Colombian authorities have offered a 27,000 US\$ reward for information on his death.

On 1 May, unidentified gunmen shot the car of Ricardo Calderón, editor and head of the investigation unit of *Semana*, Colombia's leading newsweekly. Two weeks prior to the attack, his team had published a piece on the alleged luxurious jail conditions reserved for military officials convicted of human rights abuses. President Juan Manuel Santos condemned the attack and called for an immediate investigation.

Cuba

Cuba continues to be the region's most repressive country for freedom of the press. Journalist Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias was released from jail on 9 April 2013, after being detained for nearly seven months without charge. He was covering a cholera outbreak for news agency *Hablemos Press* when he was arrested on 16 September, and now faces a three-year prison sentence for "disrespect" to the head of state. His lawyer was prevented access to his file and he was never officially put on trial. Prominent blogger Yoani Sánchez was given permission to leave the country and led a tour to several countries in the Americas and Europe. However, the Cuban government orchestrated a campaign against her, organising protests wherever she went. Although small, some were very aggressive and clearly aimed at intimidating Sánchez.

Ecuador

President Rafael Correa was re-elected in February 2013, his party obtaining an absolute majority. It is widely feared that this victory will be followed by increasing pressure on independent media companies. Through presidential speeches attacking the media and journalists, criminal defamation charges against critical voices by government officials, and an official stance stating that private media do not guarantee the public right of expression and access to information, the climate of intimidation against the press continues to affect independent reporting. Early in 2013, President Correa announced an increase of 70% in journalists' wages, as well as the possible creation of a subsidy to cover the wages of those journalists whose media companies wouldn't be able to cover the new wage. Abroad, President Correa continues to seek ways of weakening the Office of Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Organization of American States. Finally, an imminent Communication Law would create a regulatory council with the power to define prevalence of content, to sanction discriminatory message and order media to publish corrections, among other attributions.

Honduras

The Honduran media face some of the most complex challenges in the region in terms of freedom of the press. With one of the highest crime rates in the world, kidnappings, killings, the presence of powerful organised crime groups and drug-

traffickers make reporting an extremely dangerous activity, notably in the provinces. The impunity surrounding these crimes, fuelled by an extremely corrupt police force, has led to prevailing self-censorship and internal displacement of journalists to larger cities. A reality often under-reported by the international press and that comes with little or no action from the government.

On top of these high-levels of violence, the independent press has recently had to face an increasingly hostile stance from the government. President Porfirio Lobo and other authorities have verbally attacked newspaper companies, accusing them of biased coverage of violence. The government has presented a bill to reform the legislative framework of the media. It contemplates the creation of a regulation commission, the prohibition for shareholders in telecommunications companies to participate in other business activities, the redistribution of frequencies and confiscatory sanctions. Media representatives have criticised the lack of transparency in the possible application of these reforms and fear the government is, through the bill, aiming to weaken independent media and establish stronger control over media content.

Mexico

3 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

The new Mexican government led by President Enrique Peña Nieto is severely struggling to decrease the levels of violence against the media in Mexico. In this period, three journalists have been killed: **Jaime Guadalupe González, Adrián Silva Moreno** and **Victor Manuel Baéz**. Despite positive legislative actions enabling federal authorities to investigate crimes against journalists, and the setting up of a federal protection mechanism for journalists, the prevailing climate of impunity continues to spread fear and self-censorship throughout the country. WAN-IFRA research on the ground revealed that, in addition to ultra-violent organised crime groups, corrupt state authorities are also an important obstacle for any progress in the field of press freedom. Dozens of journalists from Veracruz have fled to other states and countries, with concerning reports of threats to critical journalists coming directly from high-level Veracruz authorities.

Paraguay

Drug trafficking along the Paraguayan-Brazilian border has made reporting more dangerous in that region, with journalists increasingly on the receiving end of death threats. On 6 February, Marcelino Vázquez, owner and director of *Sin Fronteras 98.5 FM*, was shot and killed. His radio station broadcasted news and music, and he owned a discotheque, where, according to local police, he had recently prohibited dealers from selling drugs.

USA

On 10 May, the Associated Press was informed that records of calls made from 20 of the news agency's phone lines during April and May 2012 had been secretly seized by National Security authorities, in an effort to identify the sources for a report published on 7 May 2012 revealing details of a CIA anti-terrorist operation against Al-Qaeda.

The court-martial of Bradley Manning, the army private accused of leaking hundreds of thousands of classified documents to whistle-blower organisation WikiLeaks, will take place on 3 June. Civil rights organisations have denounced the lack of transparency and access to public information surrounding his trial. In September, an *amicus brief* addressed to the US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, signed by 31 media organisations amongst which were several WAN-IFRA members, protested restrictions in the coverage of the trial. One of the charges held against Private Manning, the violation of the Espionage Act, is punishable with the death penalty. If confirmed, it would establish a terrible precedent and deter future journalistic sources from providing public interest information.

US news media have increasingly come under attack from Chinese hackers. *Bloomberg News* and *The New York Times* have both reported cyber assaults, with *The Times* being attacked around the publication of its investigation on 25 October that revealed the accumulation of wealth of relatives of Wen Jiabao, China's prime minister. Computer systems were hacked and several of the passwords of journalists and employees retrieved. Amongst them, Shanghai bureau chief David Barboza, author of the piece, and Jim Yardley, former Beijing bureau chief.

Venezuela

Harassment and intimidation against the independent press continue in Venezuela, with systematic absorption of public media outlets into the organs of state propaganda and the manipulation of information.

On 14 May, *Globovisión*, seen as the last terrestrial TV station openly critical of the Venezuelan government, was sold and publically announced it would change its editorial line "more to the centre", with a new management stepping in to direct the channel. *Globovisión* was repeatedly fined for reasons ranging from alleged tax evasion, "promoting hatred and intolerance", and using unauthorised frequencies. Many saw these as intimidating measures against the channel's critical line.

The period leading up to the death of President Hugo Chávez was characterised by extreme secrecy and manipulation of information around his health. The government claimed his health was a personal and private affair, ignoring the fact that the health of the president, when at risk, was an issue of public interest.

During the campaign in the run up to 7 October elections, rights groups pointed out pressure from government on news media through the shut down of programs, the withdrawal of reporters, and direct requests to “tone down” editorial stances.

Press Freedom in Asia



MYANMAR, Yangon: A Myanmar journalist works on his laptop carrying a sticker reading 'Stop Killing Press' as he waits outside a court for a ruling on a defamation case against *The Voice Weekly* in Yangon on 23 August, 2012. Myanmar said it had abolished media censorship on 20 August in the latest in a series of rapid democratic reforms, delighting journalists who lived for decades under the shadow of the censors' marker pen. AFP

The press continues to be **targeted by violent extremists** in parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan, with impunity for those who murder journalists a major impediment to securing the rule of law. **Online freedom of expression has been targeted across the region**, particularly in China and Vietnam where bloggers have been sentenced to jail terms and surveillance and censorship has increased. Cautious **gains for press freedom in Myanmar** continue to provide hope that the country is firmly on the road to democratic transition.

Journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013: Cambodia (1), Pakistan (9), The Philippines (1). **Total: 11**

Afghanistan

Since the beginning of 2013, over 30 journalists have been arrested or attacked and two radio stations have been closed. News media has also been censored. On 22

April President Hamid Karzai gave orders to the Information and Culture Ministry to prevent the dissemination of films and broadcasts that were "contrary to Islamic values and the values of Afghan society." Ahmad Nader Nadery, now at the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan, commented: "The government's attitude toward media has been mixed and inconsistent. Its response seems to be driven more by individuals than by a broad or coherent policy. There has been no systematic attempt to restrict media, but individuals within the government working on their own group's political agendas have made attempts."

Pierre Borghi, a French photographer who was abducted in Kabul in November, escaped his captors and returned home in April.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has been gripped by large-scale protests, political unrest, and violence since the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), a court set up to prosecute those responsible for atrocities committed during the country's 1971 war of independence, sentenced a *Jamaat-e-Islami* party leader, Abdul Qader Mollah, to life in prison instead of the expected capital punishment on 5 February.

Around ten journalists covering Islamist rioting in the central Dhaka district of Paltan on 5 May were injured in attacks by protesters and two were hospitalised in a critical condition. The rioting was followed early in the morning of 6 May by the closure of two Islamist TV stations.

Impunity against journalists has a strong foothold in Bangladesh, where a popular anti-Islamist blogger was hacked to death on 15 February and another was badly wounded in a stabbing incident on 14 January. A sit-in organised by journalists led to the release of two newspaper photographers who had been arrested and beaten by police while covering a nationwide opposition protest in December. Three bloggers have also been arrested since the creation of an Anti-Blasphemy committee on 13 March. The three were detained for posting "inflammatory" comments online.

Bhutan

In August, the Election Commission of Bhutan announced that it would reserve election-related advertising strictly for state-owned media outlets, a motion which joins with other measures to severely impact the advertising revenue of the independent media in the country. Reports suggest that an estimated 80 percent of advertising expenditure in the Bhutanese economy comes from the government. The announcement came just months after the Ministry of Information and Communication asked government departments to review their ad placement choices, urging them to withhold advertising from daily newspaper *The Bhutanese*.

Myanmar

In August, the English and Burmese websites of news outlet *Mizzima* were attacked. The Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) completely shut down the sites for two days and significantly slowed Web traffic for days afterward.

In February, journalists for various news outlets received messages from *Google* that their emails had been hacked by “state-sponsored attackers”. Reporters for the *AP*, *New York Times*, the *Irrawaddy* and the *Weekly Eleven News Journal*, among others, were all victims of the attack.

A draft Printers and Publishing Law submitted by the Ministry of Information in March was criticised for the secrecy in which it was planned and the potential restrictions it would place on the press. The draft law maintains the regulatory and licensing regime that previously restricted printed news media and private publishing and is being hotly debated by journalists and rights groups.

The end to pre-publication censorship in August, along with the reappearance of private dailies on 1 April are welcome signs that press freedom is slowly returning, but journalists are wary that these newfound freedoms remain fragile.

Cambodia

1 journalist killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

In mid-November, Cambodia’s Ministry of Post and Telecommunications called for the closure of all Internet cafes within 500 meters of a school or educational facility in the capital Phnom Penh. The Cambodian Center for Human Rights reported that if enforced, the decree would result in the removal of almost all of the Internet cafes in the capital and essentially censor those residents who do not own a personal computer.

The owner of Cambodia’s main politically independent radio station was convicted and initially sentenced to 30 years in prison in-absentia in 2012, for crimes that reportedly there was little to no evidence he was a part of. Mam Sonando, who was openly critical of the country’s Prime Minister, had his sentence quashed and was released on 15 March 2013.

Hang Serei Odom, a journalist with *Virakchun Khmer Daily* who had reported on illegal logging, was found dead inside of the trunk of his car on 11 September. Odom had uncovered several links between illegal logging and well-connected, powerful Cambodian elite

China

Censorship remains a large part of China’s actions against the press and free speech, with many stories being blocked on the Internet or halted at the presses this year. Search terms used to find information on the Tiananmen Square massacre were blocked on the event’s 23rd anniversary, while photos taken of self-immolations in

October by four Tibetan monks were censored and the men arrested. Further, the country is tightening Internet controls to make identifying dissidents easier, including a method called “real name registration”.

A standoff between censors and protesting journalists at China's *Southern Weekly* news magazine led to a weeklong strike and strong calls for greater press freedom. A compromise deal was reportedly reached that saw the journalists return to work with the ‘tacit’ agreement that the local censors would limit future censorship.

Journalists attempting to report on the home imprisonment of Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo’s wife were beaten outside of her apartment building on 8 March, the latest in a series of actions to bury the story. Police have done nothing to identify the attackers who assaulted the journalists and attempted to confiscate their equipment.

East Timor

A surprising verdict absolved two journalists of criminal liability for defamation but fined them for causing psychological disturbance to the defendant. Raimundo Oki of the *Jornal Independente* and Oscar Maria Salsinha of the *Suara Timor Lorosa'e* were fined \$150US each after publishing a story based on information from a source which was deemed to be psychologically disturbing.

India

Press covering clashes and riots were attacked several times in the past year. In August, insurgent group *Kanglei Yawol Kunna Lup* threw a grenade into the home of a newspaper editor after his title refused to publish a statement from the group. In the same month, a group of photojournalists was seriously injured during a violent demonstration. Media professionals covering strikes and clashes in September were also harmed. Police reportedly carried out attacks on journalists in September and December.

A parcel bomb killed freelance journalist Chaitali Santra on 26 September. Santra’s mother told a local newspaper that the crime reporter had made several enemies and regularly received threatening calls.

All Kashmiri news outlets were censored on 9 February after the execution of a local militant. An unofficial government directive shut down the media after the execution revived political tension in the area.

On 17 August the government conducted a technology shutdown after SMS messages warning people in several large towns of retaliation for sectarian violence caused a mass exodus. The government banned selected SMS messages and blocked

a hoard of websites after people from Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai fled to parts of northern India.

Until 22 March, a gag order had been in place over a controversial rape trial in Delhi, prohibiting journalists from receiving reliable and open information about the case.

Indonesia

Air Force officials beat reporters covering a jet crash in October 2012. The beatings and confiscation of equipment resulted in protests in ten cities in Indonesia.

Five policemen beat a reporter covering a *West Papua National Committee* (KNPB) rally after attempting to take pictures of the excessive force being used against the protestors.

Journalist Normila Sari Wahyuni was attacked while reporting on a land dispute on 3 March, resulting in a miscarriage. After being falsely identified as a relative of one of the individuals involved in the dispute, she was dragged off a motorcycle and beaten by a crowd.

Japan

Journalists attempting to cover the nuclear industry and the backlash it has faced since the Fukushima meltdown have been subjected to lawsuits and censorship. Three journalists seeking entrance to a Press Club building to cover anti-nuclear demonstrations filed a legal demand in October after months of denied access. In addition, a journalist who wrote an article investigating links between politicians, nuclear plant construction companies and TEPCO (the company that owns the Fukushima plant), was sued for 67 million Yen in July. Shiro Shirakawa, a nuclear industry entrepreneur, sued for libel damages, legal fees and the cost of publishing a correction.

Malaysia

In scrutinising the 2013 general election coverage provided by the most popular and influential Malaysian media, the Watching the Watchdog media monitoring project found that citizens of Malaysia were being deprived of fair and objective information about political parties and coalitions. The ruling *BN* coalition was found to have received the most frequent, and most favourable coverage in the mainstream media by a wide margin over opposition candidates.

Blogger Amizudin Ahmat was sentenced to three months in prison in August for violating a court order to stop criticising the Culture, Information and Communications Minister, Rais Yatim. Ahmat penned 11 articles after the ban that the court judged to be defamatory.

Blogger Syed Abdullah Hussein Al-Attas was arrested on 4 July under the Official Secrets Act over controversial posts about the Sultan of Johor.

Maldives

A proposed piece of legislation threatened to uproot valuable protections for journalists by allowing parliament to force anyone to “give witness or to hand over any information of interest”. The Parliamentary Privileges Act initially passed through parliament in December, but was vetoed before being passed a second time.

Opposition television station *Raajje TV* was broken into and forced off the air in August after being described as one of the “enemies of the state” by the Home Minister during a 24 July news conference. The station says that it has been subject to police harassment and discrimination in the last year.

Mongolia

Journalists in Mongolia have been subjected to defamation charges and large fines. One reporter became the subject of defamation charges after she published an article, for which she said she had information backing it up, connecting the *Mon Uran* company director to the sexual abuse of teenage girls. Another journalist was charged with defamation over an article that discussed the election plans of a politician. He was also detained multiple times for minor infractions, such as being late on one of the trial days.

Nepal

Members of political parties have subjected journalists across Nepal to threats and violence in the last year. Assailants who claimed they belonged to the *Shiva Sena Nepal* party attacked the offices of *Nepal Republic Media* in December. The attack, in which the group verbally abused a receptionist, cut the telephone wires, broke windows and attacked the Chief Editor and a number of reporters, was reportedly in retaliation for photographs recently published. A reporter with the *Karobar* daily newspaper was attacked in the capital city Kathmandu in March.

Pakistan

9 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Nine journalists have been reported killed in the period June 2012 – June 2013, with five losing their lives since the beginning of 2013 in what has been a deadly year so far for Pakistani media.

Abdul Haq Baloch, a broadcast reporter with *ARY Television*, was killed on 29 September. **Mushtaq Khand**, a broadcast and print reporter with *Dharti TV Network* and *Mehran* newspaper died on 7 October. **Rehmatullah Abid**, news reporter with *Dunya News* and *Intikhaab* newspaper, was killed on 18 November, while **Saqib Khan**, a photojournalist at *Ummat* newspaper died on the 22 November. Three journalists were killed on 10 January - senior cameraman **Imran**

Shaikh and senior reporter **Saif ur Rehman**, both with *Samaa TV*, and **Mirza Iqbal Hussain**, a photographer with *News Network International*. **Malik Mumtaz**, a journalist with *Geo News Television* and *News International* was killed on 27 February. **Mahmut Jan Afridi**, a journalist who was also head of the Kalat Press Club, died on 1 March

Journalists were also injured in violent attacks and suicide bombings that marked the build up to elections in May. While impunity for the killers of journalists remains a stain on the country's press freedom record, Pakistani authorities announced on 18 March that they had apprehended a militant allegedly involved in the 2002 murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl.

Teenage blogger Malala Yousafzi was shot and critically injured by Taliban members on 10 October for her activist writings. After the Taliban closed schools in her area to prevent education for women, Yousafzi began a blog in conjunction with the *BBC*, criticising the Taliban. The young activist survived the shooting. After receiving criticism for the shooting, members of the *Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan* issued orders to target media in the region. Intelligence agencies intercepted a telephone call in which the plans were discussed, and security at media offices was increased.

Reporters attempting to cover the bombing of the Karachi headquarters of the Pakistan Rangers in November were assaulted and had their equipment broken.

Philippines

1 journalist killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Impunity remains a bitter issue in the Philippines, with investigations still on-going into the 23 November 2009 'Ampatuan massacre', which saw 32 journalists tragically killed.

On 8 November, **Julius Cauzo**, a radio host and commentator on *DWJJ* radio in the northern city of Cabanatuan was shot dead. Cauzo was also the executive vice-president of the Nueva Ecija Press Club, and was known for criticising local politicians. Local media reported that he had received death threats prior to his murder.

In March, two unidentified men shot a freelance reporter in retaliation for his frequent criticism of high-profile local figures. Domingo Valdecantos, Jr. was shot twice in the back, but survived the attack.

Sri Lanka

Just 10 days after an assault on Tamil newspaper *Uthayan's* distribution office in the northern provincial town of Kilinochchi, its printing press in the provincial capital of Jaffna was attacked and parts of it damaged in arson on 13 April.

The *BBC* suspended all radio broadcasts in Sri Lanka after a national broadcaster repeatedly interrupted its Tamil-language coverage of the UN Human Rights Council on 16 March. The *Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation* (SLBC) replaced the programming with the government's perspective on the issue.

A journalist investigating corruption within private and government sectors was the target of what the UN is calling "an attempted assassination" in February. Three gunmen broke into Faraz Shauketaly's house and shot the *Sunday Leader* reporter, who survived. Sri Lankan police continue to harass news outlets, including raiding and confiscating equipment from the offices of two opposition newspapers in June. Nine people were arrested in the raid, the reason for which was not disclosed.

In July, the Sri Lankan government imposed registration fees on news websites in the country.

Taiwan

Concerns about media diversity arose in October when it was revealed that the owner of the Hong Kong-based, independent *Next Media Group* was in talks to sell his Taiwan holdings to a group that includes a pro-China businessman. Various *Next Media* publications have openly criticised Chinese leadership. Reports suggest the sale would lead to the removal of the media group from the Taiwan market altogether.

Thailand

In violation of Article 112 of the constitution, otherwise known as Thailand's lèse-majesté laws, Somyot Pruekasemsuk, editor of *Voice of Taksin* magazine was sentenced to 11 years in jail for publishing two articles that were judged to have defamed the king and the monarchy. The court rejected his defence that he was not the author of the articles. Reports suggest that people convicted of lèse-majesté crimes in Thailand are abused by prison guards and fellow inmates.

A pioneering initiative to discuss the sensitive issue of the Thai monarchy on public television hit a snag when an episode of a political talk show was abruptly cancelled on 15 March, prompting a heated debate on how such issues should be tackled, or if they should be discussed at all. Executives of the *Thailand Public Broadcasting Service* (TPBS) pulled the final episode of the talk show series "Tob Jote Prathet Thai" ("Answering Thailand's Questions"), in response to protests over the content of the show. Protesters turned up at the station's headquarters and threatened to mobilise more people and take the law into their own hands if the show was not cancelled. TPBS decided to broadcast the controversial episode the following Monday, 18 March, prompting another protest to demand the resignation of the station director Somchai Suwannaban.

An investigation into the series is being carried out on two fronts: the National

Broadcasting and Television Commission (NBTC) is set to investigate the cancellation of the program with a view to reviewing the rules governing the prerogatives of stations to cancel TV shows; and the Royal Thai Police are set to investigate whether the content of the "Top Jote" TV series violated article 112 of the Penal Code.

Four *ASTV* television station cars were riddled with bullets on 26 January by unknown attackers. *ASTV* is reportedly linked to the government-opposed group *The People's Alliance for Democracy*. No journalists were injured in the attack.

Tibet

Media blackouts continue in an attempt to stop the spread of information about ongoing human rights violations and self-immolation protests that have seen scores of monks arrested in the last 12 months, including five in September and another three in December. Four Tibetan men were sentenced in September for providing information to contacts outside of China. Two others were sentenced in a separate case for sending information abroad.

Vietnam

In January, *Danlambao* blogger Nguyen Hoang Vi posted a record of a forced cavity search conducted by police; the blogger recounted being beaten, stripped naked, restrained and videotaped while the search was conducted. Vi was trying to cover the appeal hearing of three imprisoned bloggers and was arrested in front of the courthouse.

In one of the largest cases of its kind, five bloggers were convicted along with eight activists for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration."

An independent blogger who had written about high-level corruption was arrested and held against his will in a psychiatric institution for close to two weeks.

Press Freedom in Europe and Central Asia



GERMANY, Munich: Protestors hold portraits of slain Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya outside the Residenz palace complex in central Munich during Vladimir Putin's welcoming ceremony, 11 October 2006. The Russian president was hunting for business deals in Germany's economic powerhouse, Bavaria, as part of a bid by Russia to woo the country with investment offers. AFP PHOTO / DENIS SINYAKOV

The worldwide economic crisis has put pressure on the independent press in Europe - **financially** and also, worryingly, through **violence** and the **deliberate targeting** of journalists. **Threats and intimidation** against media professionals continue in parts of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, while 300 years of press freedom came under threat in the United Kingdom as legislators sought to respond to the hacking scandal by imposing harsher regulation over the media.

Journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013: Russia (2). Total: 2

Azerbaijan

Despite being on the world stage for the Eurovision song contest in 2012, Azerbaijan remains a repressive regime for freedom of expression and the press. At a protest against police brutality in January, ten journalists who were wearing press jackets and identification suffered minor injuries after they were pushed to the ground by police. This followed on from police assaults against journalists at an opposition rally in November. The attacks on journalists are not just physical. *Khural* editor-in-chief

Avez Zeynalli was sentenced to nine years in jail for bribery, extortion and tax evasion; charges which the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS) believes were fabricated. The bank accounts of opposition paper *Azadlig* were illegally frozen by an Azeri court in November.

Belarus

Under the regime of President Aleksandr Lukashenko, Belarus continues to be one of the world's most censored countries. In July, website editor Anton Suryapin was jailed for publishing photographs of teddy bears which were dropped from the sky as part of a demonstration for free speech. Journalists have been intimidated, detained and attacked in a bid to prevent the reporting of news. A reporter for the Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* was reportedly told by the head of the Minsk City Police Directorate that she could leave the country, where she is serving a suspended two-year prison sentence on fabricated charges of mass disorder in connection to her reports on the presidential elections. Irina Khalip was told to seek asylum in the United Kingdom, with authorities telling her "nobody needs you here, all you do is spread false information." Correspondent Andrzej Poczobut was indicted in July on criminal charges of libeling the president. He was arrested in June for articles he wrote for *Charter 97*, which criticised the authoritarian leader and his policies. Poczobut said in an interview that he will continue to write, despite the prosecution and harassment.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Journalist Stefica Galic was beaten by a crowd on 18 July, two days after the screening of a film dedicated to her late husband, Nedeljko Nedjo Galic. Her husband helped Bosniak (Muslim) citizens escape during the war, and Galic and her children have continuously been subject to threats by nationalists.

Greece

The financial crisis that has hit Greece has also hit the ability of its press to report the news in the form of intimidation, harassment and criminal charges. In January, bombs were placed outside the homes of five journalists in Athens. The small, homemade devices detonated but no one was harmed in the attacks. Reporters Marilena Katsimi and Kostas Arvanitis were dropped from a morning magazine show on 29 October after discussing the Public Order Minister's response to claims of police misconduct and the torture of anti-fascist demonstrators. Editor Kostas Vaxevanis faces a re-trial after being acquitted of charges that he leaked a list of Greek citizens with Swiss bank accounts. He was initially arrested in October and acquitted on 1 November.

Hungary

Despite local, regional and global protest, in March Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's ruling *Fidesz* party approved 15 amendments that would negatively affect press freedom in the country. Some of the amendments include provisions that ban

political advertisements on commercial media channels during campaign seasons, forcing candidates to advertise on government controlled channels.

Italy

As in Greece, the financial crisis has had an impact on press freedom in Italy. An Italian court upheld the conviction of *Il Giornale* editor Alessandro Sallusti for criminal libel. Sallusti had edited a right-wing daily in 2007 which printed a pseudonymously-penned comment expressing outrage at a Turin judge's ruling allowing a 13-year-old girl to proceed with an abortion. Press liberties groups have urged the Italian Parliament to change the country's penal codes in regards to defamation, under which many journalists have been charged.

Kazakhstan

Physical attacks and harassment of journalists are daily in Kazakhstan. Days after the prosecutor-general's office announced the ban of a number of independent and opposition news outlets, two main opposition papers were forced to halt publication. *Golos Respubliki* and *Vzglyad* were shut down in December. This followed further harassment of opposition newspapers, which included Igor Vinyavsky, editor of *Vzglyad* being jailed for two months earlier in the year. In October 2012, a provincial court convicted newspaper reporter Lukpan Akhmedyarov in a defamation case for which he was ordered to pay five million tenges (30,000€) in damages. The same journalist was brutally attacked with a knife earlier in the year, resulting in a month's stay in hospital. During August, three unidentified men beat and attempted to strangle journalist Maksim Kartashov, leaving the reporter concussed and bruised.

Russia

2 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Press freedom and freedom of expression has deteriorated markedly in Russia in the last year. Physical attacks and intimidation of those journalists whose publications have critical voices against those in power are routinely attacked. Three unidentified assailants attacked *Nepravilnaya Gazeta* editor Victor Nedosvetey on 11 February. Nedosvetey had reportedly been critical of city officials for abuse of power. A member of Russia's parliament threatened two journalists by using his Twitter account to convey threatening messages. Andrei Isayev warned of "severe retaliation" for the independent journalists who had apparently written about female officials.

There have been a number of journalists' deaths recorded. On 8 April, the editor of the independent newspaper *Khimkinskaya Pravda*, **Mikaile Beketov** succumbed to injuries sustained in a brutal attack dating back to 2008. Journalist **Kazbek Gekkiyev** was killed by two unidentified men in December. Gekkiyev was a news anchor and covered many social issues; several reporters for the TV channel had

received death threats and had quit their jobs as a result. In a backwards step, Russia also moved to return defamation to the criminal code in July.

SpainThe editors of *BafeAmbLlet* magazine, Marta Sibina and Albano Dante, were convicted in October of defamation against the Catalan government health advisor. The advisor objected to the title of a video the couple had made called “The biggest robbery in the history of Catalonia.” In August, several journalists who had been critical of the ruling Popular Party were fired from their jobs at the state-owned broadcaster *RTVE*.

Tajikistan

The independent news website *Asia-Plus* was blocked by authorities after the site reported on the murder of a high-ranking security official in July. Three news websites that reported critically about issues such as energy shortages, rising unemployment and human rights abuses were blocked by authorities in early 2013. ISP representatives reportedly received text messages to block the sites without any reason; it is the fourth such ban since early 2012. The independent weekly newspaper *Imruz News* was convicted of defamation charges in closed-door proceedings on 25 February. Rustam Hukumov won the case after the paper questioned the reasons behind his release from a Russian jail a year earlier.

Turkey

Turkey had the dishonour of being the largest jailer of journalists in 2012, with more than 100 currently imprisoned according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. This pattern is set to continue in 2013. Ali Örnek was sentenced to a conditional 14 months’ prison term in April for insulting the president, and was told he would be jailed if he continued to produce critical articles against the president.

WAN-IFRA wrote to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in September to express concern regarding the trial of 41 journalists working for pro-Kurdish media, 36 of whom had been held in jail since 20 December 2011. WAN-IFRA expressed grave concern that the mass prosecution was an attempt to intimidate the press still further.

Ukraine

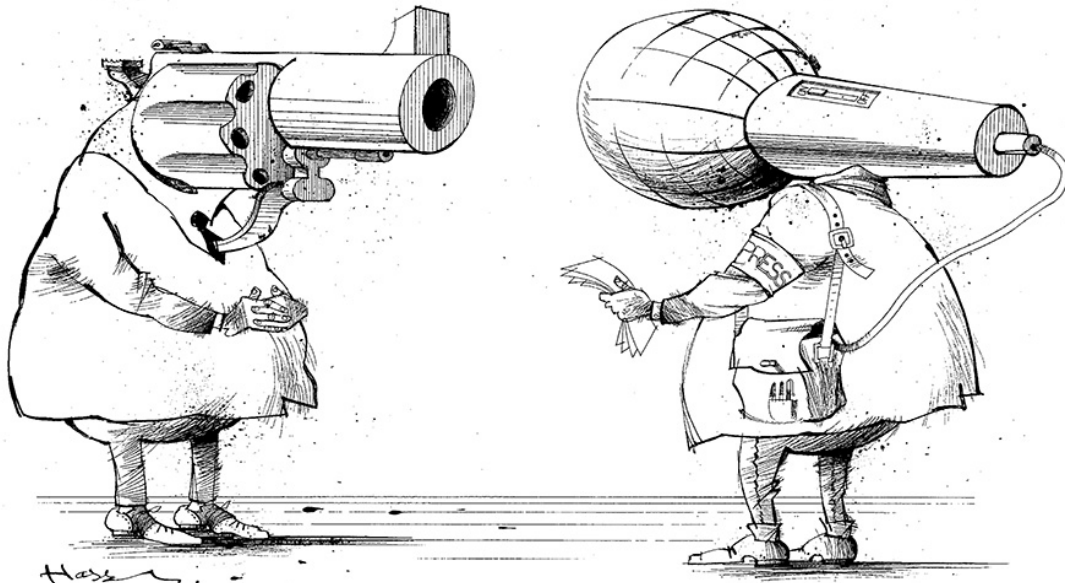
Ukraine remains a difficult country for press freedom, with corruption high, “jeansa” (payments) to journalists, and editorial lines crossed between paid content and advertising. Physical assaults are also prevalent. In March, three men attacked independent *Tarasova Pravda* editor Taras Chornoivan; his paper was known for publishing controversial stories, including articles on corruption by local government officials. Justice finally came – in part - for the families of murdered journalist Georgy Gongadze, when Olexiy Pukach, a former police chief, was

sentenced to life imprisonment for his murder. The former president, Leonid Kuchma, who had reportedly been recorded ordering the murder, had his case thrown out because the recording was deemed illegal.

United Kingdom

Two attacks against journalists in Northern Ireland took place in December 2012. One reporter was covering Loyalist protests in East Belfast, while the other was alerted by police that a pipe bomb had been placed in front of his home.

300 years of press freedom came under threat, according to the publishing industry and many international rights groups, when the coalition government tabled the Royal Charter for Self Regulation of the Press as a result of the Leveson inquiry. After significant backlash, the government put its Charter on hold for further discussion with stakeholders.



Hassan (Iran)



Press Freedom in the Middle East and North Africa



SYRIA, Aleppo: A correspondent for the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera Arabic news channel, identified as Medyan Dairieh, runs after being injured in the leg across a sniper corridor during heavy fighting in the Saif al-Dawla district of Aleppo on 24 August, 2012. Syrian forces blitzed areas in and around the northern commercial city, destroying a number of homes, activists said, as Western powers sought to tighten the screws on strongman Bashar al-Assad. AFP PHOTO / JAMES LAWLER DUGGAN

The on-going **war in Syria continues to claim the lives of journalists**, with 15 losing their lives in the past 12 months. The intensifying conflict has made it extremely difficult to source accurate information without placing journalists in extreme danger. The **legal framework for clearly defined freedom of expression laws** in Tunisia and Egypt is stalling, while the shift to more conservative values under Islamist rule has seen press freedoms and secular values attacked. Governments that resisted the tide of revolutionary change during the historic events of 2011 **continue their clampdown on freedom of expression** in an attempt consolidate their influence.

Journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013: Egypt (1), Iraq (2), Palestine (2), Syria (15). **Total 20**

Bahrain

Photojournalist Ahmed Humaidan was arrested on 29 December and charged with “demonstrating illegally”, “using violence to assault police” and “damaging public property” while covering anti-government protests.

Freelance journalist Ahmed Radhi was detained after making critical comments about Bahraini-Saudi relations, and now faces terrorism and other anti-state charges which he says were lodged after he was abused and forced into making a false confession.

Influential freedom of expression and human rights defender Nabeel Rajab continues to be held in a Bahrain prison since being arrested in July. On 16 August the Lower Criminal Court sentenced him to three years' imprisonment for three cases related to his participation in peaceful gatherings in favour of fundamental freedoms and democracy. On 15 May, six Twitter users were sentenced to a year in prison each for having “misused the right of freedom of expression” to insult King Hamad.

Egypt

1 journalist killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Despite much hope during, and in the months after the uprising of 2011, freedom of expression and press freedom remains a distant prospect in Egypt, where media professionals are prevented from reporting the news both physically and through new restrictive laws.

On 4 January 2013, Sinai-based freelance journalist Mohamed Sabry was detained for filming in a military zone while in March, TV journalist Dina Abdel Fattah was investigated on suspicion of “promoting terrorism” after she invited members of the protest movement ‘Black Bloc’ to participate in the political TV programme she hosted. At least four local Egyptian journalists were attacked and an international journalist was briefly detained while covering street violence in April 2013.

El-Fagr newspaper journalist **Al-Hosseiny Abu Deif** died in December after being shot in the head with a rubber bullet while covering clashes outside of the presidential palace in Cairo.

Iran

Iran continues to be one of the most difficult countries for press freedom. Imprisoned blogger Sattar Beheshti died suddenly in November after being arrested

in late October on allegations he was “acting against national security”. Prior to his death, he had complained about severe mistreatment while in custody.

In July, Iranian authorities established new censorship guidelines barring domestic news outlets from reporting on the impact of Western economic sanctions and in March, the editor of a reformist magazine, Mohammad Javad Rouh, was arrested in Tehran as part of a crackdown on independent media.

Iraq

2 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

The Baghdad offices of four independent daily newspapers were attacked on 1 April. Employees were injured and equipment was destroyed in attacks which allegedly happened after journalists interviewed a controversial cleric.

International journalist Nadir Dendoune was held in an Iraqi prison for almost a month after being arrested for photographing officials at a location described as “restricted”. He was later accused of failing to register under the country's vague Journalist Protection Law. He was released on 14 February.

Two broadcasters were shut down in December 2012 for alleged administrative violations. It was reported *Al-Baghdadia TV* and *Radio Al-Mahaba* were shut down in connection to their exposure of corruption by government officials.

Ghazwan Anas, a host with *Sama Mosul TV* was killed on 30 July. **Samir al-Sheikh Ali**, editor-in-chief of *Al-Jamahir al-Baghdadiya* daily, was killed on 17 November.

Jordan

Legislation proposed in August would have imposed significant restrictions on online news content and reader comments, while giving authorities new powers to block domestic and international websites. Changes to the press and broadcasting code, approved by the government and debated before parliament, also involved the establishment of a specialised press court and the placing of restrictions over who could practice journalism.

Kuwait

A draft media law unveiled on 8 April would allow authorities to fine journalists up to 300,000 dinars (one million US\$) for criticising the emir or the crown prince, or misrepresenting what they say, and impose sentences of up to 10 years in prison on journalists who insult Allah, the Prophets of Islam, or the Prophet Muhammad's wives or companions.

Online journalist Ayyad al-Harbi was convicted of insulting the ruling family on social media. He was arrested in November for posts made on his Twitter account; he has been sentenced to two years in prison.

Lebanon

Journalist Rami Aysha was detained without charge and reportedly abused in September. Aysha had been investigating alleged arms smuggling in the southern suburbs of Beirut at the time of his arrest. He was then set to be tried by court martial for “purchasing firearms”.

Libya

Despite initial optimism that led to a surge of independent media, restrictions to freedom when dealing with militant and fundamentalist armed groups and the religious establishment, combined with lawlessness of many parts of the country, is hindering the development of the concept of freedom of speech in post-revolutionary Libya. Media professionals have become the targets for kidnappings, while physical threats from both armed groups and state security have severely hampered independent reporting.

Amara Abdallah Al-Khitabi, editor of privately owned newspaper *Al-Umma*, was arrested on 19 December and charged with defaming and insulting the judiciary following the publication of an article that accused 87 judges and prosecutors of corruption. Released on 22 April, he still faces criminal defamation charges.

Oman

The sentences on 28 netizens were upheld by an appeal court in December, their only crimes being that of expressing their opinions which were in conflict to the Sultan and in contravention of the country’s strict lèse-majesté laws.

Five more netizens were convicted and fined for being guilty of cyber-crimes and insulting the sultan in March.

Palestine

2 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - June 2013

Palestinian freelance photographer Mohammed al-Azza was shot in the face with a rubber-coated bullet by Israeli forces in April. Al-Azza was reportedly filming clashes between the Israeli Defense Forces and local residents when a soldier demanded that he stop; he was shot when he refused.

The detention of Palestinian cartoonist Mohammad Saba'aneh, who was held without charge or access to his lawyer, was extended by an Israeli court in February. Israeli authorities said they were investigating the cartoonist for providing services to unspecified "hostile organisations".

Four Palestinian journalists were assaulted and forced to strip naked by Israeli soldiers in December while on their way to cover the death of a Palestinian teenager killed by an Israeli border guard. Two gas masks and a video camera were also confiscated from the journalists before tear gas was fired.

Hussam Salama and **Mahmoud al-Kumi**, cameramen with *Al-Aqsa TV*, were killed on 20 November when the car they were travelling in was hit by an Israeli drone strike during a week of conflict between the IDF and Gaza militants. Israel claimed the pair were propagandists for Hamas, but their car was clearly marked "TV" and yet nevertheless deliberately targeted.

The home of Palestinian journalist Mohammed Atallah al-Tamini was raided and the journalist was arrested and taken to an unknown location in October. Al-Tamini covered weekly demonstrations against settlement expansions in the West Bank town of Nabi Saleh.

Saudi Arabia

Some good news in a country often shrouded in repressive legislation. Local news website manager Jalal Mohammed al-Jamal was freed from prison on 5 March after a year behind bars without charge. He had covered anti-government protests; the website had been temporarily shut down after his arrest.

Syria

15 journalists killed in the period June 2012 - May 2013

Syria's civil war has devastated the independent press and at least 20 journalists, foreign and local, have been killed or caught in the crossfire in the line of duty since the beginning of hostilities. Attacks are weekly, if not daily. In April, Syrian security forces assaulted and briefly detained a *Sky News Arabic* crew that was reporting on a car bombing in Damascus. They were beaten and held for hours without a charge before being released.

It is believed missing American freelance journalist James Foley is being held in a detention centre by the Syrian authorities near Damascus.

Freelancer **Falah Taha** was killed on 14 July. **Hatem Abu Yeniah**, a cameraman with *Al-Ikhbariya* died on 10 August; **Ali Abbas**, head of domestic news at *SANA* news agency was killed a day later; **Mika Yamamoto**, a reporter with *Japan Press* died on 20 August, and on 22 August freelancer **Mosaab al-Obdaallah** was killed.

On 9 September freelancer **Tamel al-Awam** died, while on 22 September **Maya Naser**, a journalist with Iran's *Press TV* was killed. On 10 October **Mohamed al-Ashram**, a cameraman with *Al-Ikhbariya TV* died. *Syrian State TV* reporter **Basel Tawfiq Youssef** died on 21 November. On 4 December **Naji Asaad**, an editor at *Tishreen* newspaper was killed, and on 22 December **Haidar Alsamoudi**, a cameraman with *Syrian State TV* died.

Suhail Mahmoud al-Ali, a news editor and reporter with *Dunya TV*, died on 4 January. International journalist **Yves Debay** was killed by a sniper in Aleppo on 17 January, while a day later on 18 January, a sniper killed *Al-Jazeera* reporter **Mohamed al-Mesalma** (*a.k.a. Mohamed al-Hourani*) in the city of Daraa. French freelance photographer **Olivier Voisin** died on 24 February from shrapnel wounds received while covering unrest;

Tunisia

A second re-drafting of the Constitution in December proposed better guarantees against pre-publication censorship and stronger protection for freedom of expression, yet the ill-defined repressive legal framework that symbolised former President Ben Ali's grip over free speech remains in place as the draft Constitution awaits implementation. Article 121 (3) of the Tunisian Penal Code prohibits the publication of articles deemed "liable to cause harm to the public order or public morals." The Islamist controlled government has not hesitated to apply such vague legal definitions to limit freedom of speech.

Death threats against journalists resurfaced in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of outspoken left-wing political leader Chokri Belaïd and the resignation at the end of February of Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali. Public disapproval of journalists could be measured on the streets of Tunis, with slogans accusing the press of "lying" and being "next in line" appearing in the centre of town. Harassment and physical attacks in the provinces have also been reported since the beginning of the year. In response the government has largely ignored the issues, and with journalists and bloggers facing criminal prosecutions and being sent to jail, the outlook is worrying for freedom of expression.

Yemen

Yemeni journalists are facing continued physical and legal jeopardy, with one journalist receiving death threats and two others facing politicised defamation charges.

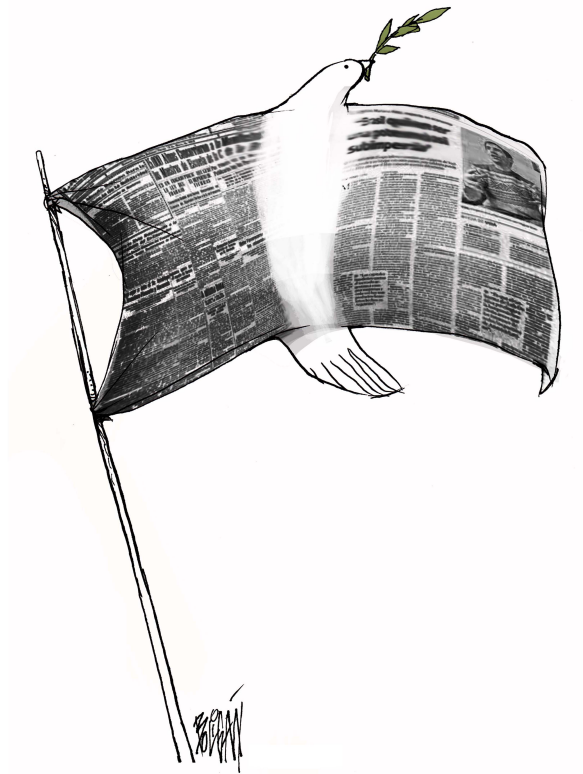
A prosecutor in the Specialised Press and Publications Court filed defamation charges against Mohammed al-Absi, a reporter, and Mohammed Ayeshe, editor-in-chief of the daily *Al-Oula*, in connection with a November 2012 article in *Al-Oula* that accused the local humanitarian group Charitable Society for Social Welfare of mismanagement,

News editor Husam Ashour was sentenced in April to three months in jail for articles that reported on the alleged misuse of a public funds, while the homes of two Yemeni journalists were set ablaze in November, sending clear signals to those who report critically against the authorities that they are not safe.

Sources

In compiling the Global Press Freedom Report, WAN-IFRA uses a range of primary and secondary source material. We wish to acknowledge the following:

Agence France-Presse, Ahram Online, Al Jazeera, Article19, Asociación Ecuatoriana de Editores de Periódicos (AEDEP), Asociación de entidades periodísticas argentinas (ADEPA), Associação Nacional de Jornais (ANJ), Associated Press (AP), Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), BBC, Cartooning for Peace, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), The Guardian (UK), The Gulf Centre for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, Index On Censorship, Inter American Press Association (IAPA), International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), International Media Support (IMS), Journaliste en Danger (JED), The Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, Media Foundation of West Africa (MFWA), Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA), The New York Times, Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), WAN-IFRA.



Boligan (Mexico)





WAN-IFRA, based in Paris, France, and Darmstadt, Germany, with subsidiaries in Singapore and India, is the global organisation of the world's newspapers and news publishers. It represents more than 18,000 publications, 15,000 online sites and over 3,000 companies in more than 120 countries. Its core mission is to defend and promote press freedom, quality journalism and editorial integrity and the development of prosperous businesses.

Inquiries to: Larry Kilman, Deputy CEO and Director of Communications and Public Affairs,
WAN-IFRA, 96 bis, rue Beaubourg, 75003 Paris France.
Tel: +33 1 47 42 85 07. Fax: +33 1 42 78 92 33. Mobile: +33 6 10 28 97 36.
E-mail: larry.kilman@wan-ifra.org

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