



# End of a **Deadly Decade**

Journalists and Media Staff **Killed in 2009**



INCLUDES **IFJ INTERNATIONAL SAFETY FUND REPORT**

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Cover image: A local journalist lights a candle during a vigil in Cebu city for the victims of the Maguindanao massacre © REUTERS/LJ Pasion

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A photo journalist runs from the site of a suicide bomb attack after an angry mob started to burn vehicles and beat journalists in Karachi. © REUTERS/Athar Hussain

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# End of a **Deadly Decade**

**T**HE DEFINING MOMENT of a deadly decade for journalists came on November 23, 2009 when 32 journalists and media staff were brutally massacred in a rural corner of the Philippines. The group were among 57 victims of a horrifying atrocity in which bodies were mutilated and dumped in shallow graves.

It was the worst single act of political violence against media recorded by the IFJ in the 20 years we have been issuing these reports, and a reminder, if any were needed, that journalism remains among the world's most dangerous professions.

The massacre, carried out by armed political gangsters in the lawless region of Maguindanao Province, shocked the world of journalism. It turned 2009 into another year of grief and mourning for people in the media, with a total of 139 deaths across the globe.

It provoked angry demonstrations by members of the IFJ's affiliate, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. An urgent mission was sent: humanitarian assistance was delivered to the victims and safety training was organised, but this is just pain relief for an open wound that weakens democracy in many corners of the world.

The massacre was an inevitable consequence of lawlessness, impunity, and ruthless politics. It could just as easily have happened in the troubled border region of Mexico, the sectarian frontlines of Iraq, or the devastated back streets of Mogadishu, Somalia.

It reminds us that the crisis of safety for journalists is no temporary phenomenon; it will be with us as long as journalists need to tell their stories in defiance of corruption and the exercise of power without responsibility.

The numbers speak for themselves: there have been 139 media deaths, of which some 113 were targeted killings. Journalists are being killed by crooks, religious extremists, political gangsters, and trigger-happy soldiers under reckless military command. All are acting on the same impulse: the need to keep their dirty secrets from public scrutiny.

Journalists try to tell their stories despite these threats. They deserve protection in the process, but

they rarely get it. The impunity in killings of reporters, and the political indifference to censorship by violence is an international scandal that rarely gets the attention it deserves. When it does get noticed; some countries shrug their shoulders and look the other way.

The adoption of Resolution 1738 by the United Nations Security Council in 2006, which called for the protection of journalists in conflict zones and for proper investigation into violent attacks on media, has largely been ignored. For instance, the murderer of Lasantha Wickrematunge, the Sri Lankan editor who was shot dead in January 2009 shortly after writing an article that predicted his own demise, is still running free – a year after a sanctimonious government vowed to find his killers.

In Russia, where six journalists died in targeted killings last year, three people accused of the murder of Anna Politkovskaya in 2006 were brought to trial and then acquitted – largely as a result of incompetent prosecution and police work.

The problem of corrupt and hapless policing and the scandal of political inaction is a curse that affects journalism in many regions of the world. In Mexico, where impunity encourages ever-more scandalous human rights abuses for many in the population, another dozen journalists were murdered.

Altogether, 2009 claimed 30 media deaths in Latin America. In Colombia, where killings of journalists are once again on the rise, an anonymous leaflet was circulated that gave tips on how to kill journalists, as if the world didn't already know only too well.

One place where they don't need any tips on putting journalism to the word is Somalia. It continues to top the list of the most dangerous countries in a region where civil war, ethnic violence, and religious rivalry continue to put the brakes on urgently-needed actions to combat poverty and build viable economies.

A total of 13 journalists died in Africa. The very first casualty of 2009 was in Somalia, a country that saw the year out with three more journalists killed in a Mogadishu bombing in December. The IFJ is working with other to try to put an international





Journalists and militant groups hold anti-government placards while marching towards the presidential palace in Manila. © REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco

focus on the need for urgent actions in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa. This troubled and poverty-stricken corner of the world rarely makes headlines beyond death and destruction precisely because it is one of the deadliest trails for journalists to follow.

Across the continent – from Somalia, through the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the tiny tongue-like state of Gambia – there is a thread of misrule and social dislocation that has continued to claim the lives of journalists and send many more into exile.

But there are glimmers of hope, most of them provided by the courageous work of journalists' unions such as the National Union of Somali Journalists and the Gambian Press Union. In many countries, countries like Zimbabwe where the threats to the media are never far away, the journalists' unions stand out as beacons of hope and solidarity for a media community under siege. In the coming year the IFJ's Federation of African Journalists will continue to put safety at the top of its crowded agenda.

The Middle East, which has been the primary source of casualties among journalists for most of the last ten years, figures less prominently in the 2009 killed list, largely because of the easing of the crisis in Iraq. It isn't peace, but there is less slaughter of innocents in the streets, and fewer casualties among the media. But the Israeli military's invasion of Gaza at the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009 showed once again that when war breaks out, it is the media that is among the first targets. In January 2009 an IFJ mission, in association with the Federation of Arab Journalists, produced a detailed report on how journalists and the media were affected by the conflict.

In Europe, the shadows of impunity fall across the whole of Russia and many of its neighbouring states. There were nine targeted killings – six of them in Russia alone, including Anastasia Baburova, a reporter on Politkovskaya's paper *Novaya Gazeta*, and Natalia Estimarova, who was kidnapped and executed for continuing the reporting tradition of Politkovskaya by exposing human rights abuses in Chechnya.

The publication of *Partial Justice*, a detailed report on a selected number of killings in Russia since 1993, was one of the highlights of the year. The report, and its extensive accompanying database, reveals in grim detail how journalists are targeted and provides an essential campaigning tool for those trying to end the cycle of targeting and poor policing that makes reporting Russia so dangerous for journalists intent on exposing corruption.

Throughout the Asia-Pacific region, the devastating news from the Philippines made 2009 a year to forget. Altogether, 59 journalists and media staff were killed in the region – almost half of the global total. In Sri Lanka and Pakistan, where the media has been a victim of civil strife, four journalists died.

As the new year approached the crisis in Afghanistan provided yet more victims: Michelle Lang, a reporter embedded with Canadian troops, was killed in a bomb blast on 30 December. A few days later Rupert Hamer from the UK, a veteran of war reporting who was travelling with the United States marines, was also killed by a bomb. This was yet more evidence that when reporting from the frontline, the company of soldiers is no guarantee of protection.

The start of another year always brings with it good intentions, and the start of a new decade even more so, but the experience of 2009 shows that after ten years of unprecedented action to raise the bar of news safety there is still much to do. Governments need to end impunity, the international community needs to hold political backsliders to account, and the media needs to invest more time and effort into building a culture of safety within the industry.

— Aidan White

# Total killed in 2009 **139**

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Afghanistan	Sultan Munadi	Fixer	Freelance	09.09.09
Afghanistan	Javed Yazamy	Cameraman	CTV News	10.03.09
Afghanistan	Michelle Lang	Reporter	<i>Calgary Herald</i>	30.12.09
Brazil	Jose Givonaldo Vieira	Presenter	Bezerros FM	14.12.09
Brazil	Dalvison Nogueira de Souza	Reporter	Freelance	20.08.09
Colombia	Everardo Aguilar	Correspondent	Super radio station	24.04.09
Colombia	Hernando Salas Rojas	Journalist	Emisora Costa de OroTV	20.05.09
Colombia	Diego Rojas Velásquez	Journalist and Cameraman	Supía TV	22.09.09
Colombia	Harold Humberto Rivas Quevedo	Presenter	CNC Bugavisión and Voces de Occidente	15.12.09
Democratic Republic of Congo	Bruno Koko Chirambiza	Presenter	Radio Star	23.08.09
Ecuador	María Eugenia Guerrero	TV Journalist	Integracion Estereo	5.02.09
El Salvador	Christian Poveda	Photojournalist	Freelance	02.09.09
Guatemala	Rolando Santis	Journalist	Telecentro Trece TV	01.04.09
Guatemala	Jorge Mérida Pérez	Correspondent	<i>Prensa Libre</i>	10.05.09
Guatemala	Marco Antonio Estrada Orla	Journalist	Telediario	06.06.09
Honduras	Osman López	Correspondent	Canal 45 TV and daily La Tribuna	18.04.09
Honduras	Gabriel Fino Noriega	Radio Presenter	Radio Estelar	03.07.09
Honduras	Rafael Munguía Ortiz	Correspondent	Radio Cadena Voces (RCV)	31.03.09
India	Anil Mazumdar	Executive Editor	<i>Aaji</i> newspaper	24.03.09
Indonesia	Agung Gede Narendra Prabangsa	Editor	<i>Radar Bali</i> Newspaper	16.02.09
Iraq	Majid Alsaker	Reporter	<i>Albayenah Aljadeddah</i>	02.02.09
Iraq	Haidar Hashim Suhail	Cameraman	Al-Baghdadia TV	10.03.09
Iraq	Souhaib Adnan	Correspondent	Al-Baghdadia TV	10.03.09
Iraq	Alaa Abdel-Wahab	Correspondent	Al-Baghdadia	31.05.09
Iraq	Ohran Hijarne	Cameraman	Al Rasheed TV	21.10.09
Kazakhstan	Gennadi Pavlyuk	Editor	<i>Bely Parus</i>	22.12.09
Kenya	Francis Kaïnda Nyaruri	Freelance	<i>The Nation</i>	29.01.09
Kyrgyzstan	Seyitbek Murataliyev	Editor	<i>Zhylan</i>	04.11.09
Madagascar	Ando Ratonirina	Journalist	Anamalanga Radio/TV	7.02.09
Mexico	Jean Paul Ibarra Ramírez	Reporter	<i>Diario 21</i>	16.02.09
Mexico	Luis Daniel Méndez Hernández	Reporter	La Poderosa-Cadena Radorama	23.02.09
Mexico	Carlos Ortega Melo Samper	Journalist	<i>El Tiempo</i>	03.05.09
Mexico	Eliseo Barrón Hernández	Journalist	<i>La Opinión</i>	25.05.09
Mexico	Martín Javier Miranda Avilés	Correspondent	<i>Panorama and Quadratin</i>	12.07.09
Mexico	Ernesto Montañez Valdivia	Editor	<i>Enfoque</i> magazine	14.07.09
Mexico	Juan Daniel Martínez Gil	Correspondent	W Radio	27.07.09
Mexico	Norberto Miranda Madrid	Editor	Radio Vision	23.09.09
Mexico	Gerardo Esparza Mata	Photojournalist	Direction of Public Security	10.10.09
Mexico	Fabián Ramírez López	Presenter	La Magia 97.1	11.10.09
Mexico	Bladimir Antuna	Reporter	<i>El Tiempo</i>	03.11.09
Mexico	José Emilio Galindo Robles	Reporter	Radio Universidad de Guadalajara	24.11.09
Mexico	Jorge Alberto Velásquez López	Editor	<i>Diario Express</i>	19.12.09
Nepal	Uma Singh	Correspondent	<i>Janakaput Today</i>	11.01.09
Nigeria	Ogunbayo Ohu	Assistant Editor	<i>The Guardian</i>	20.09.09

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Pakistan	Mohammad Imran	Reporter	<i>Eitedal</i>	04.01.09
Pakistan	Saleem Tahir Awan	Reporter	<i>Apna Akhbar</i>	04.01.09
Pakistan	Aamar Wakil	Reporter	<i>Awami Inqilab</i>	24.01.09
Pakistan	Siddique Bacha Khan	Correspondent	<i>Aaj TV</i>	14.08.09
Pakistan	Musa Khankel	Reporter	<i>Geo TV</i>	18.02.09
Pakistan	Raja Asad Hameed	Senior Staff Reporter	The Nation	26.03.09
Pakistan	Janullah Hashimzada	Freelance journalist		24.08.09
Palestine	Basel Faraj	Cameraman	Algeria TV	06.01.09
Palestine	Eyhab Al Wahidi	Cameraman	PBC	8.01.09
Palestine	Ala Murtaja	Journalist	Alwan radio	09.01.09
Palestine	Jalal Nashwan		Palestinian TV	11.01.09
Paraguay	Martín Campos Pérez	Director	Radio Comunitaria Huguá Ñandu FM	12.01.09
Philippines	Ernie Rollin	Broadcaster	Misamis Occidental	23.02.09
Philippines	Crispin Perez	Radio commentator	dDO	09.06.09
Philippines	Jojo Trajano	Journalist	<i>Remate</i> (tabloid) newspaper	03.06.09
Philippines	Antonio Castillo	Columnist	<i>Bigwas (Blow)</i> local tabloid	12.06.09
Philippines	Jonathan Fetalvero	Host at 'Balita at Komentaryo' show	dx FM Frenster Radio	27.06.09
Philippines	Godofredo Linao Jr	Coordinator and press attaché	Radio Nadyin	27.07.09
Philippines	Adolfo Benjie	Journalist	<i>Gold Star</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Henry Araneta	Correspondent	dzRH	23.11.09
Philippines	Mark Gilbert "Mac-Mac" Arriola	Journalist	UNTV	23.11.09
Philippines	Rubello Bataluna	Journalist	<i>Gold Star</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Arturo Betia	Journalist	<i>Periodico Ini</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Jimmy Romeo Cabilo	Journalist	<i>Midland Review</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Cablitas Marites	Publisher	<i>News Focus / dxDX</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Cachuela Hannibal	Journalist	<i>Punto News</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	John Caniban	Journalist	<i>Periodico Ini</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Lea Dalmacio	Journalist	<i>Socsargen News</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Noel Decina	Journalist	<i>Periodico Ini</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Gina De la Cruz	Journalist	<i>Saksi News</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Jhoy Duhay	Reporter	<i>Gold Star</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Jolito Evardo	Assistant cameraman	UNTV	23.11.09
Philippines	Santos Gatchalian	Journalist	DXGO	23.11.09
Philippines	Bienvenido Legarte Jnr	Journalist	<i>Prontiera News</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Lindo Lupogan	Journalist	<i>Mindanao Daily Gazette</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Ernesto "Bart" Maravilla	Correspondent	Bombo Radyo	23.11.09
Philippines	Rey Merisco	Journalist	<i>Periodico Ini</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Marife Montaña "Neneg"	Journalist	<i>Saksi News</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Rosell Morales	Journalist	<i>News Focus</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Victor Nuñez	Reporter	UNTV	23.11.09
Philippines	Ronie Perante	Correspondent	<i>Gold Star Daily</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Joel Parcon	Publisher	<i>Prontiera News</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Fernando Razon "Ranny"	Journalist	<i>Periodico Ini</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Alejandro Reblando "Bong"	Correspondent	<i>Manila Bulletin</i>	23.11.09

# Total killed in 2009 **139**

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Philippines	Napoleon Salaysay	Journalist	<i>Mindanao Gazette</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Francisco Subang "Ian"	Journalist	<i>Socsargen Today</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Andres Teodoro "Andy"	Reporter	<i>Central Mindanao Inquirer</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Daniel Tiamson	Driver	UNTV	23.11.09
Philippines	Momay Reynaldo "Bebot"	Journalist	<i>Midland Review</i>	23.11.09
Philippines	Jepon Cadagdagon	Photographer	<i>Saksi News</i>	23.11.09
Russia	Shafiq Amrakhov	Editor	RIA 51 News Agency	04.01.09
Russia	Anastasia Baburova	Reporter	<i>Novaya Gazeta</i>	19.01.09
Russia	Vyacheslav Yaroshenko	Editor-in-Chief	<i>Korrupsia i prestupnost (Corruption and Crime) newspaper</i>	29.06.09
Russia	Natalia Estemirova	Journalist and Human Rights activist		15.07.09
Russia	Abdulmalik Akhmedilov	Deputy Chief Editor	<i>Khakikat</i> newspaper	11.08.09
Russia	Olga Kotovskaya	Co-founder	Kaskad independent TV	16.11.09
Somalia	Hassan Mayow Hassan	Reporter	Radio Shabelle	1.01.09
Somalia	Said Tahlil Ahmed	Editor	Radio HornAfrik	4.02.09
Somalia	Abdirisak Warsameh Mohamed	Journalist	Radio Shabelle	22.05.09
Somalia	Nur Muse Hussein	Journaliste	Radio Voice of Holy Quran	26.05.09
Somalia	Muktar Mohamed Hirabe	Director-Editor	Radio Shabelle	07.06.09
Somalia	Mohamud Mohamed Yusuf	Reporter	Radio Holy Quran (Iqk)	04.07.09
Somalia	Mohamed Amin Adan Abdulle	Reporter	Radio Shabelle	03.12.09
Somalia	Hassan Zubeyr Haji Hassan	Cameraman	Al-Arabia TV	03.12.09
Somalia	Abdulgafar Abdulkadir Hassan, aka Yassir Mario	Cameraman and fixer	Freelance	03.12.09
Sri Lanka	Lasantha Wickrematunga	Editor	<i>The Sunday Leader</i>	8.01.09
Sri Lanka	Puniyamoorthy Sathiyamoorthy	Canadian Tamil Radio and Tamil Vision International	Journalist	12.02.09
Turkey	Cihan Hayirsevener	Editor-in-Chief	<i>Güney Marmara'da Yaşam</i>	18.12.09
Venezuela	Orel Sambrano	Director	Radio America	12.03.09
Venezuela	Jacinto López	Journalist	Unknown	1.01.09



A soldier aims his weapon at a cameraman at the **Honduran Air Force base in Tegucigalpa**. © REUTERS/Edgard Garrido





A photographer takes pictures of a street damaged after an Israeli air strike in **Gaza** January 1, 2009. © REUTERS/Suhaib Salem (GAZA)

## Accidental deaths in 2009 **25**

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYER	DATE
Canada	Hugh Haugland	Cameraman	CTV	05.08.09
China	Bao Culiang	Reporter	Wenzhou TV	18.02.09
Czech Republic	Rosa Ajiri	Journalist	Radio Farda	29.09.09
Czech Republic	Amir Zamani-Far	Journalist	Radio Farda	29.09.09
Germany	Olivier Fachard	Journalist	Freelance	6.10.09
Georgia	Nino Gigashvili	Journalist	Rioni TV	26.07.09
Georgia	Dato Avaliani	Cameraman	Rioni TV	26.07.09
Georgia	Joni Kublashvili	Journalist	Rioni TV	26.07.09
Georgia	Giorgi Mgaloblishvili	Journalist	Rioni TV	26.07.09
India	Venkatesh Chapalgaonkar	Bureau Chief	Star Majha TV	30.03.09
India	Prakash Kumar Nath	Photojournalist	<i>Sambad</i> , Oriya daily	19.06.09
India	Aman Kashyap	Photojournalist	Freelance	30.12.09
Indonesia	Rajo Johan	Managing director	Publik A.A	30.09.09
Indonesia	Harfianto Gani	Journalist	<i>Post Metro</i>	30.09.09
Italy	Fabio Saccani	Motorbike rider	Independent	19.05.09
Libya	Soad Faraj Abu Sheba	Journalist	<i>Kurina</i> newspaper	03.03.09
Libya	Salah Abdul Hamid	Photographer	<i>Kurina</i> newspaper	03.03.09
Nepal	Nischal Thapa	News Editor	Ganatantra FM	12.12.09
Russia	Nelya Longortova	Journalist	Yamal-Region TV	04.07.09
Russia	Victor Kurtyamov	Cameraman	Yamal-Region TV	04.07.09
Russia	Natalya Ostanina	Journalist	Yamal-Region TV	04.07.09
Russia	Vladislav Zakharchuk	Manager	<i>Arsenyevskie vesti</i>	04.01.09
South Africa	Steve Dlamini	Managing Editor	<i>City Press</i>	22.02.09
South Africa	Wolfgang Jost	Reporter	<i>Der Tagesspiegel</i>	29.06.09
Turkey	İsmail Güneş	Reporter	İhlas News Agency (İHA)	24.03.09

## Killed by Region

### Africa 7

Dem. Republic of Congo	1
Kenya	1
Madagascar	1
Nigeria	1
Somalia	9

### Americas 19

Brazil	2
Colombia	4
Ecuador	1
El Salvador	1
Honduras	3
Guatemala	3
Mexico	13
Paraguay	1
Venezuela	2

### Asia-Pacific 52

Afghanistan	3
India	1
Indonesia	1
Nepal	1
Pakistan	7
Philippines	37
Sri Lanka	2

### Europe 9

Kazakhstan	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Turkey	1
Russia	6

### Middle East 9

Iraq	5
Palestine	4

## Accidental Deaths by Region

### Africa 4

Libya	2
South Africa	2

### Americas 1

Canada	1
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### Asia-Pacific 7

China	1
India	3
Indonesia	2
Nepal	1

### Europe 13

Czech Republic	2
Italy	1
Germany	1
Georgia	4
Turkey	1
Russia	4



A news photographer reacts as he is hit by a rock launched by supporters of Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya during clashes with riot police outside a hotel in Tegucigalpa October 9, 2009. © REUTERS/Oswaldo Rivas



# IFJ Africa

Gabriel Baglo DIRECTOR OF IFJ AFRICA OFFICE

**V**IOLENCE AGAINST MEDIA staff claimed the lives of 13 journalists in 2009, with Somalia topping the list of the most dangerous African countries after nine journalists were murdered there this year. The other four killings occurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, and Nigeria.

2009, which had a bloody start in Somalia when the first journalist was killed on New Year's day, ended with the loss of three more who died in a bomb blast at a hotel in Mogadishu in December. Many more journalists have had to flee the country or go into hiding to escape violence unleashed by various warring factions against the media.

The IFJ Africa Office supported the initiative of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), an IFJ affiliate, in spearheading the evacuation of journalists under threat of attack. The award by the French Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme in December went to the NUSOJ in recognition of their work in encouraging freedom of speech, defending and enhancing media freedom and human rights in Somalia. This was a fitting tribute to the bravery of Somali journalists' leaders in the face of formidable challenges.

Press freedom also came under attack in other parts of Africa in 2009. The IFJ mounted a vigorous campaign to confront violations of journalists' rights in the Gambia following the arrest of seven journalists, including leaders of the Gambian Press Union (GPU), an

IFJ affiliate, in June. The campaign drew widespread support in Africa and beyond, resulting in the release of the journalists in September by presidential pardon.

Threats to press freedom also continue through attacks, arbitrary arrests, and spurious law suits, particularly in conflict areas or in countries marked by political instability. Countries like Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe continue to deny journalists their rights through policies that gag and muzzle the media. In Niger, a country wrecked by political instability, journalists are routinely arrested and threatened.

In Gabon, the climate of tension in the lead-up to elections lead to intimidation and violence. Guinean journalists were targeted following the event of September 28 which saw the military junta attempting to prevent the media from reporting brutal massacres of civilians. Some journalists were forced into exile to escape violence.

The IFJ Africa Office initiated many programs and actions to help the fight against impunity, to promote freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and respect for human rights, and to promote a legal and lawful environment favourable to the development of the media, that would increase news coverage in conflict zones and election periods as well as the safety of the journalists. However, there is still much to be done by the political actors and the opinion leaders to recognize the media as a determining factor for the emergence of a true democratic society resolutely turned towards national development. \*





2009 IN FOCUS

# AFRICA

## January 1 | Somalia

**Hassan Mayow Hassan**, 36, was shot dead by a member of a pro-governmental militia in Afgoye (30 kilometres south of Mogadishu). He was with his colleagues on his way to cover fighting between armed groups close to the Federal Transition Government and Islamist combatants. He was shot twice at close range by the militiamen.

## January 29 | Kenya

**Francis Kaïnda Nyaruri**, was a freelance journalist whose decapitated body was found in the Forest of Kodere near his birthplace of Nyamira. His disappearance was announced by his wife who stated that he had left his home on January 16 for a trip to the town of Kisii. She had spoken to him for the last time the same day at 11 a.m.

Mr. Nyaruri's last article, written before his disappearance, accused the local police

of involvement in racketeering on public transport. He disappeared two days later. One month before his disappearance, he confided in friends and colleagues that he feared for his life after having received a series of death threats. Until now, his murder remains unresolved.

## February 4 | Somalia

**Said Tahlil Ahmed**, Director of the independent HornAfrik radio station, was shot dead in Mogadishu just 16 months after the radio's former director, Ali Imam Sharmake, was killed by a booby-trap car bomb.

According to witnesses, Said Tahlil Ahmed was killed by gunmen in the capital's market district of Bakara as he and six other journalists were walking to a press conference in Mogadishu called by representatives of the al-Shabab militia. No other journalists were injured in the attack.



**Said Tahlil Ahmed** © NUSOJ

A Muslim Sheikh leads in prayers for slain journalist **Said Tahlil Ahmed**, the head of private media house HornAfrik in Mogadishu. © REUTERS/Feisal Omar





**Hassan Mayow Hassan** © NUSOJ



**Nur Muse Hussein** © NUSOJ

### February 7 | Madagascar

**Ando Ratovonirina**, 25, of privately-owned Radio et Télévision Analamanga (RTA), was shot dead while covering an anti-government demonstration outside the presidential palace in Antananarivo on February 7.

Ratovonirina was part of the RTA team that was covering a large demonstration organised by Antananarivo's Mayor, Andry Rajoelina, to call for the overthrow of President Marc Ravalomanana's government. He was shot in the head when members of the presidential guard opened fire on demonstrators as they surged towards the presidential palace. His body was immediately taken to Ravoahangy Hospital, where a doctor said he had been killed by a "gunshot wound behind the ear." He had just completed his journalism studies and had been working for RTA for three months. He previously worked as a photographer for daily newspaper *La Gazette de la Grande Ile* and also used to write for the Tophos news agency under the pseudonym of Hathor.

### May 21 | Somalia

**Abdirisak Warsameh Mohamed**, known as Gado' O, was a Mogadishu-based journalist working for Radio Shabelle who was shot dead in Mogadishu. He was shot in the

chest while crossing the road to get to the Radio Shabelle headquarters. The incident took place near the Bakara market and the Wardhigley police station. His body lay in the road for about 45 minutes, as the militias were shooting at anyone who attempted to assist him. His murder happened 10 days after a Somali militia chief had threatened journalists who oppose his movement.

### May 26 | Somalia

**Nur Muse Hussein** (Nur Inji), 56, who worked for Radio Voice of Holy Quran in Mogadishu as their correspondent in the central regions, died from injuries he sustained in a targeted shooting in Beledweyne, city of Hiran region in Central Somalia on 20 April 2009.

Nur Muse Hussein was wounded while covering the fighting in Beledweyn between militias loyal to Hiran Regional Administration and Hisbul Islam, an Islamic movement that operates in the southern central regions of Somalia. He was deliberately shot and wounded by one of the fighters after he and other journalists who were with him had identified themselves as journalists. He had been in a serious condition since the attack but his condition deteriorated progressively, according to his widow. He was the father of 5 children.



### June 7 | Somalia

**Muktar Mohamed Hirabe**, 48, Director of Radio Shabelle in Mogadishu, was shot dead by gunmen in the war ravaged Somali Capital of Mogadishu.

According to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), two men armed with pistols fired at Muktar as he was walking with his colleague Ahmed Omar Hashi (Tajir), news editor of Radio Shabelle, in Bakara Market. Muktar was shot five times in the head and died on the spot while his colleague sustained serious injuries, but recovered in hospital. Muktar was the fifth journalist to be murdered in Somalia in 2009 and the third Radio Shabelle journalist to be killed in Mogadishu this year. He had received safety training from NUSOJ and INSI in June 2008 on how to report in a hostile environment.

### July 4 | Somalia

**Mohamud Mohamed Yusuf**, 22, reporter for the Radio Holy Quran (IQK), was killed in central Mogadishu.

Yusuf died of wounds to the stomach after being shot by two unidentified gunmen as he read a newspaper in the northern district of Mogadishu. He died of a haemorrhage, several hours later, his assassins having prevented people from giving him assistance by firing at them.

### August 23 | Dem. Republic of Congo

**Bruno Koko Chirambiza**, 24, was a Swahili news-presenter at Star Radio, a private station based in Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He was killed in an attack by a group of eight armed men in Kasali District, Kaduta Municipality, as he returned from a wedding with a friend in the early hours of the morning. He was chased and fatally stabbed twice in the thorax. According to local sources, his attackers took nothing from him and his friend was only punched once. This suggests that Bruno was the target of the attack.

### September 20 | Nigeria

**Ogunbayo Ohu**, assistant news editor, and political reporter for the *Guardian* newspaper in Nigeria, was shot dead in his apartment in Egbeda, a suburb of Lagos.

Six men dressed in white flowing gowns and matching skullcaps fired a volley of bullets at Ohu when he answered a knock at the door. The gunmen, who travelled in a white Toyota Camry, followed him into the house and shot him several times. The assailants took Ohu's laptop and mobile phone. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Ikeja general hospital.

### December 3 | Somalia

**Mohammed Amin Adan Abdulle**, a journalist for Radio Shabelle, and Hassan



**Mohamed Amin Adan Abdulle** © NUSOJ



**Muktar Mohamed Hirabe** © NUSOJ

Zubeyr Haji Hassan, a cameraman for Al-Arabia TV, were killed in a bomb attack at the Shamo Hotel. They were covering a graduation ceremony organised by Banadir University at the hotel, which is located in

a district known as “Kilometre 5” on one of Mogadishu’s avenues. Freelance cameraman and fixer Abdulgafar Abdulkadir Hassan, aka Yassir Mario was critically injured and died later in Medina hospital.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS AFRICA

### February 22 | South Africa

**Steve Dlamini**, 32, editor of the motoring section of *City Press* newspaper, was killed in a head-on collision with a car. He was on his way to the A1 Grand Prix when the accident happened on Allandale Road just outside the Kyalami racetrack, reports say. He was on a motorbike and was overtaking a line of traffic when he crashed into a BMW which was making a u-turn. He died on the spot.

### June 29 | South Africa

**Wolfgang Jost**, 57, a former sports editor of the Berlin newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel*, died on June 29 of wounds sustained in a road accident that took place as he was travelling to Bloemfontein to report on the semi-final of the South Africa Confederation Cup between Spain and the United States of America. Three other journalists were also injured in the crash but survived and have since returned home.

### March 3 | Libya

**Soad Faraj Abu Sheba**, a woman journalist working for *Kurina* newspaper was killed in a road traffic accident on her way to join the Gaza Aid convoy. Her two colleagues, Salah Abdul Hamid and Ibrahim Hadiya Al Majdi were injured in the same accident. **Salah Abdul Hamid**, a photographer for the same newspaper later died of his wounds in hospital.



# IFJ Americas

Gregorio Salazar DIRECTOR OF IFJ AMERICAS OFFICE

**M**ORE THAN THIRTY Latin American journalists were killed in 2009, almost half of them in Mexico. These figures serve as a measure of the dangers the media face in the region. They also show that the deterioration of press freedoms leads to the deaths of media personnel.

By far the most worrying country for journalists is Mexico, where the power of drug trafficking gangs, the ineffectiveness of the authorities, and the level of corruption are creating widespread impunity for media predators. The number of murdered journalists is increasing and the practice of self-censorship is also spreading. *The Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe* (FEPALC) describes this spreading wave of self-censorship as “a mechanism for self protection”. Many individual journalists watch the lack of action by the state’s institutions in desperation, while, at the same time, authorities proclaim their “total” war against crime, drug trafficking, and local corruption.

In Colombia, which for years was the most dangerous country for journalists on the continent, the situation has improved over the last few years due to a number of factors, including the work of the journalists themselves, especially through the actions of the *Centro de Solidaridad de Periodistas de la FIP* (CESO-FIP). But the number of murdered journalists is slowly going up again. Attacks on journalists in “provincial”

media are increasing while some public figures, including President Uribe, fail to appreciate the risks of violence to journalists. The recent discovery of a leaflet containing guidelines for threatening one journalist will have done little to encourage the confidence the media community has in the government when it comes to their security.

In Honduras, the media came under attack during the political crisis. Some of the media closed at the peak of the unrest and both local journalists and foreign correspondents were subjected to tough restrictions of their rights.

The violence in Venezuela came mainly from supporters of the government and government institutions. 12 journalists and unionised media staff were savagely attacked while peacefully distributing leaflets in the street to protest against provisions restricting freedom of expression in a draft law which was being debated in Parliament. The government cancelled the license of dozens of radio stations and changed the media law to punish critical journalists, even jailing some.

In the Dominican Republic, as in other small Caribbean countries, attacks on journalists remained largely invisible to the international community. But our Dominican colleagues suffered from different types of attacks and violations of their rights.





In Peru, while no murders of journalists took place, there were a record number of attacks against journalists in 2009: 180 incidents – the largest figure in the region. The most emblematic case was without doubt that of Radio La Voz, in Bagua. This independent radio station was “politically punished” for reporting the truth about the massacre of indigenous people and policemen that took place on June 5, 2009.

Fortunately, there were also positive developments in 2009. Defamation laws were abolished in some countries, such as Uruguay. There are new possibilities for pluralism through law reforms, such as in Argentina where the new broadcasting law was negotiated by several unions, NGOs, and citizens organizations, with the leadership of FATPREN, the IFJ affiliate in that country. ✨



# THE AMERICAS

## January 1 | Venezuela

**Jacinto Elías López Velázco**, a journalist and photographer died in Barquisimeto, Lara State, during an attack where he was shot several times. He died instantly.

## January 12 | Paraguay

**Martín Campos Páez**, Director of Radio Comunitaria Huguá Ñandu FM, was killed at his home located in Concepcion, in eastern of Paraguay. His murder was reportedly connected to his articles denouncing the alleged involvement of local politicians in an alleged illicit trade. His family suspected members of the local police of having colluded with drug dealers to kill the journalist.

## February 5 | Ecuador

**María Eugenia Guerrero**, was a 27 year-old Colombian journalist who conducted a radio program in Ipiales, Nariño, in the south of Colombia. She was murdered and her body was found in Tulcán, beside the border with Ecuador. According to forensics, the journalist was sexually attacked and then bitten to death with great violence. She was last seen the previous Monday, but her body wasn't found until February 5.

## February 16 | Mexico

**Jean Paul Ibarra Ramírez (33)**, a crime reporter for *Diario 21*, was murdered in the city of Iguala (Guerrero, Mexico) by unknown people who shot him several times as he was riding his motorbike. He was accompanied by colleague Liliana Marchan Arroyo, who was also seriously wounded in the attack.

Ramírez had gone to the Feria de la Bandera, where he had noticed a group of armed men who were visiting each of the locations that were selling alcohol. They were extorting money from bartenders, who were paying up in order to be allowed to continue

working. The reporter took photographs of the alleged extorters and apparently had an argument with one of them.

## February 23 | Mexico

**Luis Daniel Méndez Hernández**, was shot dead in the Municipality of Huayacocotla in the state of Veracruz, Mexico. Méndez Hernández was a reporter for the radio station La Poderosa-Cadena Radiorama of Tuxpan. He was killed during a gun battle.

## March 12 | Venezuela

**Orel Zambrano**, Director of radio station Radio América, journalist for weekly paper ABC and columnist for the daily paper, Notitarde, was shot dead in the city of Valencia, the capital of Carabobo state. The gunman was riding on a motorbike and shot the journalist from behind. Orel had denounced local businessmen and police officers for their alleged involvement in the drug trade. Several weeks later a policeman was detained on suspicion of Orel's murder.

## March 31 | Honduras

**Rafael Murguía**, correspondent for Radio Cadena Voces in Honduras, was murdered by unidentified assailants as he was going home. Gunmen fired eight shots at him, killing him instantly. A few days before his death, Rafael had written a report on the climate of insecurity in San Pedro Sula, the second most important city in the country.

## April 1 | Guatemala

**Rolando Santis**, was murdered by two motorbike-riding gunmen who shot him as he was driving a car identified with the logo of the Guatemalan TV station, Telecentro Trece. His colleague, cameraman Antonio de León, was seriously wounded. News readers from other channels also received death threats warning them off continuing to report on crime.



**Hernando Salas Rojas**

Photos courtesy of IFJ Latin America



**Eliseo Barrón Hernández**

### April 18 | Honduras

**Osman López**, 27, was killed by unknown attackers in Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, as he drove his car in the south of the city. He was working for daily paper *La Tribuna* and was also a correspondent for the Canal 45 TV station. His assailants pretended ask for a cigarette before shooting him on the spot, killing him instantly. He was travelling with a cousin who was seriously wounded.

### April 24 | Colombia

**Everardo Aguilar**, 72, was a correspondent for Super Radio radio station and was involved with communitarian stations in El Cauca. He was murdered by a gunman who shot him 8 times in the face at his home in the village of El Bordo, in Cauca, in the south-east of Colombia. He was killed in front of his daughter.

Everardo had spent two years in hiding because of death threats he had received. He enjoyed the reputation of a “professional determined to fight corruption issues” and was one of the most popular journalists at the stations.

### May 3 | Mexico

**Carlos Ortega Melo Samper**, 52, journalist for daily paper *El Tiempo* in Durango, died after being shot three times in the head, near his house in the village of Santa María del Oro. Several men blocked Ortega’s way and one of them shot him repeatedly. He had been threatened by several officers and local

administration officials on several occasions, including verbally, because of his articles on corruption in the area. Three months before his assassination, the journalist’s house had been attacked and his van set on fire.

### May 10 | Guatemala

**Jorge Mérida Pérez**, 40, a correspondent of daily paper *Prensa Libre* in Quetzaltenango, was shot four times as he was working on his computer in his own home. The murder was linked to Merida’s journalistic work.

### May 20 | Colombia

**Hernando Salas Rojas**, Director of Emisora Costa de Oro TV, a local TV station in Curillo, Caquetá, was killed by two hit men who forced their way into his house and shot him several times before escaping on a motorbike. His death was made public only after his brother Melquisedec, who is also a journalist, had fled the country after receiving threats.

### May 25 | Mexico

**Eliseo Barrón Hernández**, was a journalist for daily paper *La Opinión* in Torreon, Coahuila who specialised in police affairs for *Milenio-La Opinión* and *Multimedios Laguna*. He was kidnapped and later found dead. He was kidnapped by an armed commando as he rested at his house, in Colonia Parque Hundido, in Gómez Palacio. On May 26 the police found his dead body with signs of torture and five bullet wounds, according to the autopsy report.





### June 6 | Guatemala

**Marco Antonio Estrada Orla**, 39, was a journalist for Channel 3's news program Telediario, in eastern Guatemala. He was shot dead near his residence by a gunman who escaped on a motorbike.

### July 3 | Honduras

**Gabriel Fino Noriega**, 42, a news presenter for local radio station Radio Estelar, was killed by a gunman as he left the station.

The previous week, he had been attacked outside the station. Gabriel was also a contributor to other radio stations, including Radio América, in Tegucigalpa, which is one of the most important of all local media in the Atlantic area of Honduras.

### July 12 | Mexico

**Martín Javier Miranda Avilés**, correspondent for Panorama and the Quadratin newspaper, was found dead in his house in Zitácuaro, Mexico City, Michoacan. He had been stabbed twice in the back. His death was believed to be related to his work – colleagues testified that the victim had received threats shortly before his murder and that his death had taken place on the very day that one of the “padrinos” of the Michoan cartel “La Familia” was captured.

### July 14 | Mexico

**Ernesto Montañez Valdivia**, editor of Enfoque, the accompanying magazine of the newspaper El Sol of Chihuahua, was shot dead in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, as he travelled in a van driven by his 17 year-old son, who was also injured.

### July 27 | Mexico

**Juan Daniel Martínez Gil**, a correspondent for the W Radio network in Acapulco was murdered during the night of July 27. The autopsy report revealed that he had suffocated. His face had been covered with a ribbon and he had been beaten in several parts of his body, especially the thorax. He was found 12 hours later, half buried in a wasteland of the village of La Maquina, in Guerrero, México.

### September 2 | El Salvador

**Christian Poveda**, 54, a Spanish-French photojournalist, was murdered in a shantytown near San Salvador, seemingly by the same members of the so called “Mara 18” whom he had previously filmed as part of a 90-minute documentary. Apparently members of the “Mara 18” gang wanted to share earnings from the film and Christian refused.

### September 22 | Colombia

**Diego Rojas Velásquez**, journalist and cameraman for Supía TV was riddled with bullets after being lured into an ambush by people who alerted him to a news story in the municipality of Caramanta, in Antioquia, Caldas.



A man takes a photo of a banner which reads, “Memorial to Christian Poveda, against violence” during a memorial in honour of French filmmaker **Christian Poveda** at the National Anthropology Museum in San Salvador. © REUTERS/Luis Galdamez



**Diego Rojas Velásquez**

Photo courtesy of IFJ Latin America



### September 23 | Mexico

**Norberto Miranda Madrid**, 44, Director of Radio Vision, a digital radio station in Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, and columnist for daily paper El Heraldo de Chihuahua, was murdered by three gunmen who stormed the newsroom and shot him several times in front of his colleagues.

### October 10 | Mexico

**Gerardo Esparza Mata**, 40, a journalist, died from a single gunshot to his head. His body was found on October 10, a few meters from Dalila bridge on the way to the Ejido Antonio Castillo Nájera on the Durango-México road. He had also sustained multiple blows to his face.

### October 11 | Mexico

**Fabián Ramírez López**, a presenter for regional radio station La Magia 97.1, was found dead with his throat cut in the port of Mazatlan, in Sinaloa State. He had also sustained knife wounds to his body, while initials had been marked on his back using a blunt instrument. The victim had disappeared forty-eight hours previously, after leaving home to go to work.

### November 3 | Mexico

**Bladimir Antuna**, 39, crime reporter for regional daily paper *El Tiempo* in Durango, Mexico, was kidnapped and later found dead. His body was found behind a hospital and a sports centre in the capital of Durango. The body showed signs of suffocation. An attached message read: "This happened for giving information to the military and writing

what you should not. Be careful about your texts before making a note.

### November 24 | Mexico

**José Emilio Galindo Robles**, 43, Director of Radio Universidad de Guadalajara in Ciudad Guzmán, Mexico, was found beaten to death at his home. He had been gagged and tied to his bed. An expert in environmental issues, he won the National Prize for Environmental Journalism in 2004. He came second in the Latin American Radio Biennial for his investigation of toxic waste discharged by businesses into the country's most polluted river, the Santiago river.

### December 15 | Colombia

**Harold Humberto Rivas Quevedo**, 48, broadcasting journalist for CNC Bugavisión and Voces de Occidente, was killed in the southwestern Colombian city of Buga, just minutes after concluding a television program he had hosted on CNC television. A man wearing a motorbike helmet shot Harold five times from a 9 mm handgun at close range before escaping on a motorbike. The journalist died on the spot.

### December 19 | Mexico

**Alberto Velazquez Lopez**, 42, was killed by two men who drew level with his moving car and shot him at close range. The journalist, who was from the east Mexican town of Tulum, worked for local newspaper Expresiones de Tulum, which has been the target of threats before. The newspaper's offices were attacked with homemade bombs in November. Alberto died as he was being transferred to the nearby hospital in Cancún.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS AMERICAS

### August 5 | Canada

**Hugh Haugland**, a cameraman for Canada Television (CTV), died in a helicopter crash while shooting the damage caused by a tornado in Mont Laurier. The pilot, Roger Bélanger, also died in the crash. According to Canadian press reports, the helicopter's engine failed and it was attempting to land when it crashed and hit an electricity cable.. Witnesses reported that the helicopter caught fire after it crashed and the two occupants could not be saved.



## SPECIAL FOCUS

# IFJ Members' Response to the Media Massacre in the Philippines

**T**HE ANGER AND SHOCK felt by journalists around the world following their colleagues' massacre in the Philippines were in evidence on the Global Day of Solidarity and Action, which was held on December 9, 2009. Affiliates and partners of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) from all corners of the world joined forces in calling on their home governments and the Government of the Philippines to seek justice for the victims of the November 23 massacre in the province of Maguindano, and to end the culture of impunity for the murders of journalists in the Philippines. Some organisations began local actions during the lead-up to December 9. The following is a summary of the activities organised by IFJ affiliates:

**PHILIPPINES:** In Mindanao, local journalists participated in the Global Day of Solidarity and Action by travelling (under military escort) to the Ampatuan Town Massacre site to lay wreaths in memory of their 31 slain colleagues. In Manila, an estimated 400 people participated in a rally and march near the Malacanang Palace. They were joined by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and by members of the IFJ international mission to the Philippines. According to unconfirmed estimates, as many as 2000 people attended the march. The rally was addressed by 50 speakers, including members of the mission. The protest called for an end to impunity and for justice for the victims of November 23.

Other protests were held across the country in the provinces of Bacolod, Bulacan, Cebu, Iloilo, Masbate,

Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, and Sorsogon, and in the cities of Cotabato, Davao, Baguio, and Zamboanga.

**AROUND THE WORLD:** In Bali, Indonesia, journalists and press freedom advocates representing press councils and journalists' organisations across the Asia-Pacific region, the Arab World, and Europe, expressed their solidarity and sorrow to the families of the victims and to all journalists in the Philippines.

December 9 saw the opening of the conference, the Bali Forum: Media Accountability in Practice, which was organised by the IFJ with the Indonesian Press Council. The conference began with all the delegates standing in silence to pay tribute to the 31 journalists and media workers who were killed on November 23. They commended the extraordinary courage and determination of journalists in the Philippines for telling the world their story and trying to ensure justice, despite enormous personal risks.

Earlier, Indonesia's Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), which participated in the international mission as well as the Bali meeting, held a protest action in front of the Filipino embassy in Jakarta. They also met with the Filipino Ambassador to Indonesia on November 26 to express their outrage at the massacre. AJI has also demanded that the United Nations Human Rights Council and ASEAN Human Rights Commission take all the steps necessary to bring the perpetrators of the massacre before an international criminal tribunal.

In Brussels, the International Federation of Journalists, the Association of Belgian Journalists (AJPB), and the UNI – MEI (Media Entertainment





International) held a joint press conference and a demonstration at the Filipino Embassy where they also met Filipino diplomats to ask for a thorough, independent investigation into the massacre.

In Berlin, the Deutsche Journalistinnen- und Journalisten-Union (DJU) in ver.di, an IFJ affiliate, organised a candlelit protest. In Cyprus, a delegation of Union of Cyprus journalists delivered a letter to the Filipino Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus.

In Dakar, the IFJ Africa Office and the Syndicat des Professionnels de l'Information et de la Communication du Sénégal (SYNPICS) held a joint press conference and delivered a letter to the Senegalese Ministry for Foreign Affairs, calling for representation to the Government of the Philippines to end impunity for media predators.

Messages of solidarity to the NUJP, letters of protest to the Government of the Philippines, press conferences, and local rallies and meetings with Filipino consular officials were organised by the following affiliates and organisations:

- Abbotabad Union of Journalists (AUJ), Pakistan
- Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), Indonesia
- Association of Journalists from the Republic of Poland, Poland
- Association of the Press of Uruguay (APU), Uruguay
- Association of Taiwan Journalists (ATJ), Taiwan
- Bahawalpur Union of Journalists (BUJ), Pakistan
- Claudia Julieta Duque, Unión de Periodistas de Bogotá (UPB) Member, Colombia
- Dansk Journalistforbund, Denmark
- Deutsch Journalistinnen und Journalisten-Union, Germany
- Faisalabad Union of Journalists (FUJ), Pakistan
- Federacion Argentina de Trabajadores de Prensa (FATPREN), Argentina

Federation of Journalists of Latin America and the Caribbean (FEPALC), Brazil

Federacion de Periodistas de America Latina y El Cariba (FEPALC), Latin America

Federation of Media Employees Trade Union (FMETU), Sri Lanka

Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana, Italy

Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), Nepal

Filipino Journalists in the United States

La Federacion de Asociaciones de Periodistas de España (FAPE)

Finlands Journalistforbund, Finland

Indian Journalists Union (IJU), India

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Asia-Pacific, Australia

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Headquarters, Belgium

Islands Journalistforbund, Iceland

Japan Broadcasting Labour Union (NHK Worker's Union), Japan

Media Alliance, Australia

National Union of Journalists of Nepal (NUJN), Nepal

National Union of Journalists of Peru

National Syndicate of Journalists of Costa Rica

Norsk Journalistlag, Norway

Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Pakistan

Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), Russia

Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Prensa de la Republica Dominicana, Dominican Republic

Suomen Journalistilitto Union, Finland

Svenska Journalidforbundet, Sweden

Union of Cyprus Journalists

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# IFJ Asia-Pacific

Jacqui Park DIRECTOR OF IFJ ASIA-PACIFIC OFFICE

**T**HE UNPRECEDENTED MASS KILLING of 32 journalists and media workers, along with at least 26 others, in the southern Philippines on November 23 mark 2009 as the darkest year yet for media safety in the Asia-Pacific. The massacre is the single worst atrocity against the media in living memory, and makes the Philippines – with 36 targeted killings in 2009 – the most dangerous country for journalists this century outside Iraq.

The year also began on a chilling note, with the murder of Lasantha Wickrematunge in Sri Lanka on January 8. Just days before he was killed, the editor-in-chief of the *Sunday Leader* had penned an editorial, published posthumously, in which he anticipated his murder and laid blame in advance with government authorities.

These tragic events, among the many other acts of violence against media personnel across the region through year, ram home the extraordinary risks for journalists in the Asia-Pacific, and the enormous challenge that is trying to achieve a change for the better. Of the 26 murders of journalists across the region in the year prior to November 23, 16 were targeted attacks related to the victims' professional work.

But as journalists and their unions across the world despaired at the violence in the Philippines in November, they also came out in extraordinary force to extend support and solidarity for our colleagues in the Philippines. On the IFJ's Global Day

of Solidarity for the Philippines on December 9, more than 30 affiliates from all regions, among other partners, undertook a range of local actions to back the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) in its demands for justice and an end to entrenched impunity.

Before the massacre in Maguindanao Province, Mindanao, five other reporters were murdered in the Philippines in 2009, while a sixth was killed in a crossfire accident. Much of the blame for the systematic violence against the media can be laid with the Arroyo administration and its failure to intervene to quell a nation-wide culture of violent retribution against journalists who dare to report on corruption and political issues.

In Sri Lanka, the murder of Wickrematunge dashed hopes of fostering open dialogue between Sri Lanka's independent media and a vociferously anti-media Government, as leading journalists, along with press freedom and union activists, sought safe haven abroad, leaving behind their families, friends, and jobs. Another journalist was killed in a crossfire incident in a military 'safe zone' in the north in February, bringing the 2009 death toll to two. This toll is not as high as in previous years, but 2009 was an extremely challenging year as the long-running campaign of violence and vilification against journalists who dare to speak out continued. Public officials condemned and labelled journalists as traitors or terrorists in the lead-up to the armed forces claiming victory in the



war against the Tamil Tigers. Suspicion and self-censorship prevail, and this will take a long time to repair.

Elsewhere in South Asia, journalists continued to brave high-risk environments and a marked lack of protection from security officials to ensure conflict zones do not become a media vacuum. In Pakistan, the intensification of violence in Swat and the North-West Frontier Province claimed the lives of two journalists in a suicide bomb attack in early 2009. Three more journalists were murdered shortly after they had each interviewed leaders of militant groups. A senior Afghan journalist was ambushed and murdered in Pakistan's Khyber district in August. He had reportedly upset key players in the area as well as the governments of both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, up to 160 journalists and their families joined a mass exodus of civilians fleeing intense fighting in Swat in May.

Across the border in Afghanistan, local reporter and fixer Sultan Munadi was killed in crossfire as British and NATO forces rescued Irish-born reporter Stephen Farrell, of the *New York Times*, on September 9. The two men were kidnapped by insurgents in the Char Dara district. Munadi's death sparked outrage in Afghanistan and worldwide as local and international groups stressed concerns about the treatment of local media personnel who conduct their work with foreign correspondents and international media outlets at great personal risk. Meanwhile, young Afghan cameraman Jawad 'Jojo' Ahmed was shot dead in Kandahar on March 10. Less than six months earlier, the US had freed him from an 11-month detention at the Bagram air base, where he had been held without charge, allegedly for supposed connections with the local Taliban.

There was some good news from Afghanistan, however, as Sayed Pervez Kambakhsh was freed after 22 months in prison. He received a private pardon from President Hamid Karzai ahead of national elections in August. Kambakhsh had been sentenced to death, and then to life in jail, after accusations he had downloaded information about women's rights under Islam. He is now living abroad.

In Nepal, the murder of young female journalist Uma Singh in Janakpur on January 11 – the only killing recorded in the country in 2009 – was widely condemned. Uma Singh, a radio broadcaster and role model for young women in the media, was murdered at her home. She was known for her critical reports on land issues. An IFJ fact-finding mission highlighted the failure of local authorities to investigate her murder adequately. In November, another young

female journalist in western Nepal was assaulted, seemingly due to her reports on local politics. At the time of writing she remains in hospital.

After a surge of killings in India's insurgent-hit states in late 2008, one journalist was killed in India in 2009. A series of IFJ-led workshops with district-based journalists' associations and the media community has helped to greatly boost monitoring and reporting on media rights violations in India, particularly in conflict areas such as Jammu, Kashmir and the North-East. Safety remains a concern, but increasingly regular reporting through local monitoring networks indicates that local media personnel and their organisations are better placed to face these challenges.

In Southeast Asia, countries other than the Philippines saw a general reprieve in violence against the media. In Indonesia, the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) succeeded in pushing authorities to re-open investigations into the February murder of *Radar Bali* editor Agung Gede Narendra Prabangsa in Bali, leading to the arrest of seven suspects. All are connected to a development project on which Prabangsa was reporting allegations of corruption. His murder was the only targeted killing of a journalist in Indonesia in 2009.

However, across Southeast Asia and the Pacific, journalists had to contend with reporting on significant environmental disasters and loss of life, including a series of earthquakes in Sumatra, Indonesia, and a devastating tsunami that struck Samoa and the Pacific Islands in September. In Indonesia, AJI launched an international appeal to support the families of two journalists killed in the quakes and to provide others with food and clean water even as they continued reporting the disaster. In Samoa, the IFJ worked with the Dart Centre to help local media set up a peer support network to deal with the trauma of reporting disaster.

Journalists and media personnel across Asia-Pacific close the year with grief and dismay at the record-breaking number of colleagues targeted and killed for their work. In honouring the dedication, determination and courage of our colleagues, strong united actions such as the Global Day of Solidarity for the Philippines show the enduring commitment of the IFJ and its affiliates to putting pressure on the governments and authorities that instigate physical and psychological violence against the media, or otherwise fail to act on their responsibility to protect all citizens, including journalists, to end the culture of impunity for the murder of journalists. ✨

# ASIA-PACIFIC

## January 4 | Pakistan

**Mohammad Imran** and **Saleem Tahir Awan**, reporters for the *Eitedal* and *Apna Akhbar* newspapers respectively, died in a suicide bomb attack at the site of an earlier explosion which police and forensic experts and journalists were investigating. A total of five people were killed and 25 injured in the attack.

## January 8 | Sri Lanka

**Lasantha Wickrematunge**, leading journalist and editor-in-chief of the *Sunday Leader*, was shot dead central Colombo on his way to work. His car was ambushed by two assassins on motorcycles who used crowbars to smash the car windows before shooting him.

Shortly before his death, Lasantha had penned a moving editorial predicting his own murder and holding the Sri Lankan Government responsible. He was posthumously awarded the Unesco World Press Freedom Prize for 2009. In announcing the award, Joe Thlloe, President of the jury and Press Ombudsman of the Press Council of South Africa said that “jury members

were moved to an almost unanimous choice by a man who was clearly conscious of the dangers he faced but nevertheless chose to speak out, even beyond his grave.”

## January 11 | Nepal

**Uma Singh**, correspondent of the *Janakapur Today* newspaper, was attacked by a group of 15 to 16 assailants who forced their way into her house in Janakpur in the early evening. They then beat her to death with a sharp instrument.

## January 24 | Pakistan

**Aamar Wakil**, a reporter for the *Awami Inqilab* newspaper, was shot in the back just a few metres from his home. He worked for *Awami Inqilab* (*The People's Revolution*), a regional daily paper based in Kohat, south of Peshawar.

## February 12 | Sri Lanka

**Puniyamoorthy Sathiyamoorthy**, journalist and political analyst, well-known and highly respected by Tamil communities in Eelam and in the Diaspora, sustained serious injuries during a Sri Lankan Army (SLA) artillery barrage on Theavipuram. The area, in Mullaitheevu district in Vanni, had been declared a “safety zone” by the Sri Lankan government. He later died of his wounds. Lack of proper medical attention contributed



## Uma Singh

Former Miss Nepal Malvika Subba takes part in a protest rally after the killing of female journalist Uma Singh in Kathmandu © REUTERS/Shruti Shrestha

## Lasantha Wickrematunge

© REUTERS/STR New



to his death, according to relatives who cared for him after the incident.

### February 16 | Indonesia

**Agung Gede Narendra Prabangsa** was the editor of the *Radar Bali* newspaper. His body was discovered in the Bungsil Strait, off Karangasem regency, six days after he was reported missing. On May 25, seven suspects were arrested, all connected to a development project Prabangsa had been reporting on in regard to allegations of corruption.

### February 18 | Pakistan

**Musa Khankhel**, a reporter for News International GEO TV, went missing on February 18 while reporting on a series of public events addressed by senior cleric Maulana Sufi Mohammad. His bullet-riddled body was discovered hours later in the same area.

### February 23 | Philippines

**Ernie Rollin**, a broadcast journalist for the *Misamis Occidental*, was shot dead at a petrol station on his way to work in the early morning. When his partner tried to assist him, the attackers held her back and shot him in the neck. He was killed on the anniversary of the “People Power” revolution in Philippines, which marked the return of democratic freedoms that had been suppressed under Fernando Marcos.

### March 10 | Afghanistan

**Javed Yazamy**, a cameraman for the Canadian TV channel, CTV News, was shot dead in Kandahar while driving in the city,

almost six months after his release from detention in the US army military base in Bagram for alleged connections with terrorist groups.

### March 24 | India

**Anil Mazumdar**, executive editor of Assam-language *Aaji* newspaper, was shot dead late at night near his home in Guwahati by unidentified attackers who were waiting for him. Local police suspected one of the insurgent organisations in Assam of being linked to his murder.

### March 26 | Pakistan

**Raja Asad Hameed**, a senior reporter for *The Nation* newspaper, an English daily, was killed by unidentified armed men at his home. They rang his door bell and shot him when he opened. He was rushed to the hospital by colleagues in Islamabad but was pronounced dead on arrival.

### June 3 | Philippines

**Jojo Trajano**, a journalist for *Remate*, a local tabloid, was killed alongside a policeman in an attack by suspected drug dealers in one of the countries eastern provinces, according to police sources.

A team of police officers were on their way to raid a hideout of suspected drug dealers and car thieves in Taytay town, in the province of Rizal, 25 kilometres east of Manila, when they were ambushed by the suspects. Jojo had been travelling with the raiding team in order to cover the operations, police added. Both he and the police officer



### Musa Khankhel

A journalist holds up a picture of journalist Mohammad Musa Khankhel as he chants slogans during a protest in Swat Valley in Karachi. © REUTERS/Athar Hussain



sustained multiple gunshot wounds and were declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital.

### June 9 | Philippines

**Crispin Perez**, a radio commentator for the dwDO radio station, was shot and stabbed to death outside his house in Barangay 7, San Jose City in the Occidental Mindoro province. He had just finished a radio broadcast on the dwDO network.

Reports say Crispin hosted two talk shows on a state-owned radio station in the Occidental Mindoro province and had spoken out against local mining and energy interests in the province.

### June 12 | Philippines

**Antonio Castillo**, a columnist for *Bigwas (Blow)*, a local tabloid, was shot and wounded by two assailants riding a motorcycle on a highway as he travelled home. He later died of his wounds in hospital. Police reports say that Castillo knew the identity of the shooter, but refused to name them to police.

### June 27 | Philippines

**Jonathan Fetalvero**, host of the *Balita at Komentaryo* morning show on dxFM Frenster Radio, was shot in a restaurant by a masked attacker. Fetalvero's program was aired as "block-time" broadcasting, a common practice in the Philippines in which

commentators buy airtime from local stations and solicit their own advertising.

In this case, Fetalvero's commentary was broadcast on a station owned by a local politician, Vice Major Genesis Efren who also owns Frenster Radio, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

### June 27 | Philippines

**Godofredo Linao Jr**, a coordinator for Radyo Nadin radio station, was shot dead shortly after receiving a threatening text message while drinking with friends. The station manager said Godofredo was known for reporting on controversial issues.

### August 14 | Pakistan

**Siddique Bacha Khan**, a correspondent for the independent TV chan, Aaj TV, was killed by unidentified gunmen who shot him in the city of Mardan in Pakistan's restive north-west frontier province, according to news reports.

Siddique was ambushed and shot at close range, according to a statement on the channel's website. The attack came shortly after the journalist had interviewed family members of a former military official who had been killed by the Taliban. He was returning to the office when he was attacked, said the channel's bureau chief. He died on the way to the hospital.



### Janullah Hashimzada

Cameramen take footage of killed Afghan journalist, Janullah Hashimzada as he lies in a hospital at Jamrud. © REUTERS/Pakistan



A woman grieves as she holds the picture of her daughter during a funeral for journalists killed in **Maguindanao massacre** in southern Philippines December 4, 2009. © REUTERS/Erik de Castro





L-R: **Editha Tiamzon** holds a picture of her husband **Daniel**, as she looks at the crate containing his body. © REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco; Photo courtesy of IFJ Asia-Pacific.

### August 24 | Pakistan

**Janullah Hashimzada**, a Peshawar-based Afghan freelance reporter, was murdered in an ambush near Jamrud in the Khyber tribal district. Two gunmen entered his van and shot him four times. The Pakistani Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) said that Janullah's reports on insurgents operating under the banner of the Taliban had upset key players in the region as well as the governments of both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### September 9 | Afghanistan

**Sultan Munadi**, a freelance fixer working for *New York Times* reporter Stephen Farrell, was killed during a rescue mission by British and Nato security forces in the Char Dara district. Sultan and Stephen had been kidnapped by insurgents. It is still unclear by whom Munadi was killed when Nato troops raided the place where Taliban militants were holding Farrell and Munadi.

### November 23 | Philippines

A convoy of politicians, lawyers and journalists was ambushed by gunmen as it travelled to an election office in the lawless southern Filipino province of Maguindanao. 57 people, including 32 journalists and other news media staff, were shot and hacked to death. Most were buried in shallow graves on

a hillside off the highway. It was the single most bloody attack on the news media on record anywhere in the world. The journalists who lost their lives during that attack are:

**Adolfo Benjie**, journalist for *Gold Star*, **Henry Araneta**, correspondent for *dzRH*, **Mark Gilbert "Mac-Mac" Arriola**, journalist for UNV, **Rubello Bataluna**, journalist for *Gold Star*, **Arturo Betia**, journalist for *Periodico Ini*, **Jimmy Romeo Cabilo**, journalist for *Midland Review*, **Cablitas Marites**, publisher of *News Focus / dxDX*, **Cachuela Hannibal**, journalist for *Punto News*, **John Caniban**, journalist for *Periodico Ini*, **Lea Dalmacio**, journalist for *Socsargen News*, **Noel Decina**, journalist for *Periodico Ini*, **Gina De la Cruz**, journalist for *Saksi News*, **Jhoy Duhay**, reporter for *Gold Star*, **Jolito Evarado**, assistant cameraman for UNTV, **Santos Gatchalian**, journalist for DXGO, **Bienvenido Legarte Jr**, journalist for *Prontiera News*, **Lindo Lupogan**, journalist for *Mindanao Daily Gazette*, **Rey Merisco**, journalist for *Periodico Ini*, **Marife Montaña "Neneg"**, journalist for *Saksi News*, **Rosell Morales**, journalist for *News Focus*, **Victor Nuñez**, reporter for UNTV, **Ronie Perante**, correspondent for *Gold Star Daily*, **Joel Parcon**, publisher of *Prontiera News*, **Fernando Razon "Ranny"**, journalist for *Periodico Ini*, **Alejandro**



Protesters hold placards and candles for the victims of election-related violence in **MAGUINDANAO PROVINCE**, southern Philippines, during a rally in Manila November 24, 2009. © REUTERS/Cheryl Ravelo

**Reblando “Bong”**, correspondent for *Manila Bulletin*, **Napoleon Salaysay**, journalist for *Mindanao Gazette*, **Francisco Subang “Ian”**, journalist for *Socsargen Today*, **Andres Teodoro “Andy”**, reporter for *Central Mindanao Inquirer*, **Daniel Tiamson**, driver for UNTV, **Jepon Cadagdagon**, photographer for *Saksi News* and **Momay Reynaldo “Bebot”**, journalist for *Midland Review*.

#### December 30 | Afghanistan

**Michelle Lang**, a Canadian reporter for the *Calgary Herald*, was killed by a roadside bomb while embedded with Canadian troops around

Kandahar city. Michelle was travelling in an armoured vehicle with a provincial reconstruction team in Kandahar when she was killed.

The attack took place near the district of Dand. The soldiers’ vehicle was apparently travelling on an unpaved road near the farming village of Qassam Pol, about four kilometres south of Kandahar city when the blast occurred around 4 p.m.

Michelle, an award-winning health reporter, was the first Canadian journalist to be killed while participating in the military’s media embedding program in Afghanistan. She had been in Afghanistan for just over two weeks on what was her first assignment to the country.

# ACCIDENTAL DEATHS ASIA-PACIFIC

## February 18 | China

**Bao Cunliang**, a reporter for the Wenzhou TV channel, fell off a 25-storey building in eastern China's Zhejiang Province. He was filming streets from the building's roof in the rain, alone. Finding his view obstructed by a wall that surrounded the roof, he climbed onto it. The wall was over a meter high and only 20 cm wide, according to his colleagues. They added that there was a strong wind at the time, although it is not clear whether the wind might be what caused the reporter to fall. Bao fell onto the windshield of a car, his camera equipment smashed around him. He suffered brain and chest injuries in addition to several fractures. He was rushed to hospital, where he died.

## March 30 | India

**Venkatesh Chapalgaonkar**, 39, bureau chief of Star Majha TV in Pune was killed in a road accident when his private taxi lost control and fell down a ravine. He died on the spot. into a ravine. He died at the scene. According to a colleague, Chapalgaonkar was on his way to Sholapur to cover a political event which was to be addressed by the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar.

**Rajesh Bidkar**, the Star Majha cameraman who was also in the vehicle, sustained injuries and his condition was critical, said one of his colleagues. Chapalgaonkar had worked in the media for more than 16 years, including on newspapers *Maharashtra Times* and *Lokmat*. Six years ago, he switched over to television journalism and joined Star News before moving to Star Majha.

## June 19 | India

**Prakash Kumar Nath**, 42, a photojournalist for Oriya daily newspaper, *Sambad*, died after falling onto a rock while trying to avoid an attack by an elephant in Kanibandhali forest. The photojournalist was attempting to take photographs of a sick elephant when the animal charged him with its trunk raised. He was severely injured and was taken to a nearby hospital but died on the way.

## September 30 | Indonesia

**Rajo Johan**, managing director of Publik A.A., and Harfianto Gani, a journalist for the *Post Metro* newspaper, were killed in a landslide in the Lubuk Paralu area, Padang City. The landslide was caused by the 7.6 magnitude earthquake which devastated West Sumatra. Rajo was killed while crossing a street while Harfianto was hit by a truck on the main road in the city and later died in hospital.

## December 12 | Nepal

**Nischal Thapa**, 27, news editor at Ganatantra FM in Dharan, was killed in a motorcycle accident at the Betuwa road section along the Mechi highway in Belbari when their motorcycle collided with a bus heading in the opposite direction. He died on the way to the hospital. The accident happened as Nischal and his colleague were returning from a live event about the declaration programme by the UCPN (Maoist) Limbuwan and Kochila autonomous states.

## December 30 | India

**Man Kashyap**, a freelance photojournalist, was hit by a train while taking pictures of early morning fog in Ghaziabad, according to police sources. Aman, a resident of Vasundhara, was killed near the Anand Vihar railway station.



# IFJ Europe

Arne König PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS (EFJ)

**2**009 ENDED with nine targeted killings of journalists, six of which occurred in Russia – making it the fifth most dangerous country for journalists this year. The deaths included those of young Novaya Gazeta journalist, Anastasia Baburova, who was shot in Moscow while sharing a coffee with prominent lawyer, Stanislav Markelov. Another victim was Natalia Estimarova, who was abducted and executed for her reports exposing human rights abuses in Chechnya. The other three targeted killings in Europe were those of Kyrgyzstan journalist, Seyitbek Murataliyev – whose newspaper *Zhylyan* was known to be critical of the country's police; his fellow countryman, Gennadi Pavlyuk, who was thrown from the sixth floor of building in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Turkish journalist Cihan Hayirsevener, whose death is believed to be related to a corruption scandal he was investigating.

The rise in Russian deaths is another setback for the IFJ campaign against impunity following the acquittal of the three defendants being tried for the murder of Anna Politkovskaya. Most commentators acknowledged that the prosecution case wasn't strong enough to secure a conviction, and focused their criticism on the obstacles to a proper investigation.

It was the 2006 murder of Politkovskaya and concerns over the inability of the Russian prosecution system to provide justice, that prompted the IFJ to investigate the true levels and causes of impunity in Russia. This resulted in the June 15 launch in Moscow of *Partial Justice: An investigation into the deaths of Russian Journalists 1993 – 2009*. Also launched was the accompanying database: *Journalists in Russia, 1993 to 2009: Deaths and Disappearances*.

*Partial Justice* examines the circumstances surrounding six prominent deaths, the results of the investigation, and the reasons those investigations ultimately failed. It further analyses all 313 known journalist deaths (1993 – 15 June 2009), to identify whether they were killed for their work, and to measure the movement from a position of total impunity to one of partial justice.

In 19 cases the journalists were clearly killed for their investigative reporting, while in another 19 cases there is good reason to believe this was the case, although the evidence is inconclusive.

The report makes specific recommendations to improve their record of investigating journalist deaths including:





A person lays flowers at the site where lawyer **Stanislav Markelov** and reporter **Anastasia Baburova** were shot in Moscow January 20, 2009. © REUTERS/Denis Sinyakov

- Establishing a nationwide database on crimes against journalists.
- Bringing in outside investigative teams for contract killings.
- Making the results of police investigations accessible to victims' families and lawyers.
- Consider making the killing of a journalist a more serious offence.

The accompanying database, <http://journalists-in-russia.org>, details the circumstances surrounding each case and classifies them into: 'homicide', 'accident', 'crossfire', 'terrorist act', 'incident not confirmed', and 'missing'. This will become an essential new campaign tool, providing reliable updated information on each case.

The report and database are the result of a unique collaboration between the IFJ and the two leading Russian monitors of abuses against journalists, the Glasnost Defence Foundation and the Centre for Journalism in Extreme Situations, who have been brought together by IFJ affiliate the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ).

The IFJ intends to expand its coverage to include assaults on journalists, often a more sensitive indicator of the level of violence against journalists than the death toll. The Russian Union of Journalists is particularly concerned about the rise in assaults and stresses cases like that of Mikhail Beketov, editor of *Khimkinskaya Pravda*, who regularly exposed local Moscow corruption until he was brutally beaten by a gang in November 2008 who left him for dead. A year later, he has emerged from his coma, but still remains unable to speak or move.

The IFJ presented this work to a regional meeting of IFJ affiliates from Belarus, the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia at the RUJ's annual journalism festival in September. It is now putting together a plan to expand this work to the broader region.

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) is holding its General Annual Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in April. The meeting will address issues of human rights and press freedom in the region. ✪

# EUROPE

## January 4 | Russia

**Shafiq Amrakhov**, editor of the RIA 51 news agency, died in the regional hospital in Murmansk. He was shot several times by an unidentified assailant in the stairwell entrance to his Murmansk apartment block on 30 December 2008. One of the bullets entered his head. Two operations failed to save his life.

## January 19 | Russia

**Anastasia Baburova**, a journalist for the investigative newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* (also the paper that journalist Anna Politkovskaya worked for) was shot at close range on January 19 while talking to leading human rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov in Moscow. He was also killed. Baburova was critically injured and died several hours later in hospital. Markelov was a lawyer who had acted for *Novaya Gazeta* on a number of cases. On the day he and Baburova were killed, he had held a press conference in Moscow to denounce the prison release of ex-colonel Budanov, who was convicted of the murder of a civilian during the Chechen conflict.

## June 29 | Russia

**Vyacheslav Yaroshenko**, editor-in-chief of the *Korrupsia i prestupnost* [Corruption and Crime] newspaper, died in Rostov-on-Don from injuries he had sustained on April 29 when unknown assailants attacked him in the stairwell entrance to his apartment block. Yaroshenko sustained severe head injuries and was in emergency care for some time. He underwent two operations but died on June 29.

According to his colleague, Sergei Sleptsov, Yaroshenko was attacked as a reprisal for articles he had published. Yet local police at first refused to even register the attack and have still not opened a criminal investigation. They insist, Sleptsov says, that the deceased had slipped on the stairway.

## July 15 | Russia

**Natalia Estemirova**, a journalist, human rights activist and winner of both the Anna Politkovskaya Award and the Swedish Parliament Award "The Right to Exist", was kidnapped in downtown Grozny, the Chechen capital, by unidentified gunmen. Her



**Anastasia Baburova** © REUTERS/Alexander Natruskin



**Vyacheslav Yaroshenko**

© Yaroshenko family



**Abdulmalik Akhmedilov** © RUJ

**Natalia Estemirova** © REUTERS/Dylan Martinez



body was later found in neighbouring Ingushetia with bullet wounds to the chest and head. Her murder was widely condemned, including by authorities in Russia and Chechnya. Her outspoken criticism of corruption and human rights violations in Chechnya is believed to have led to her murder.

#### August 11 | Russia

**Abdulmalik Akhmedilov**, the deputy chief editor of the *Khakikat* newspaper, and chief editor of the *Sogratl* monthly, was shot in Makhachkala, Dagestan, as he left his home. He died at the scene.

Eyewitnesses say that he was shot by unidentified assailants who emerged from a car with tinted windows and no number plates. They had seen the vehicle near the journalist's house for several days previous to the attack. Akhmedilov, 33, was known by his colleagues and friends as generally moderate and objective in his reporting, but according to his colleagues some of his articles criticised federal forces and local law-enforcement agencies for suppressing religious and political dissent under the guise of an "anti-extremism" campaign.

#### November 4- Kyrgyzstan

**Seyitbel Murataliyev**, editor of weekly *Zhylan*, a weekly newspaper which frequently criticised the secret police in the former Soviet Union died after a savage attack in which he was stabbed more than a dozen times, according to police sources. His body was found in a communal area of his apartment building in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek.

#### November 16 | Russia

**Olga Kotovskaya**, former director of the Kaskad independent TV and radio company, died a tragic death in Kaliningrad on November 16. Reports quoted a senior assistant-head of the Investigations Committee at the prosecutor's office as saying that Kotovskaya jumped from the 14th-floor balcony window and died instantly. Investigators are still deciding whether or not to open criminal proceedings.

Local opposition activists, however, insist it was a murder, and linked to the victim's journalistic activities. Another local politician claimed that Kotovskaya had turned to him for help last year after she had been insistently advised by certain high-ranking officials in the Kaliningrad regional administration to cease the judicial proceedings through which she hoped to regain ownership of Kaskad. She had just won a court case against the regional administration following her eviction as owner of Kaskad TV in 2006. Kotovskaya founded Kaskad TV with fellow journalist Igor Rostov in 1991.

#### December 18 | Turkey

**Abdulmalik Akhmedilov**, editor-in-chief of a Guneş Marmara'da Yasam newspaper that was engaged in exposing corruption, was shot dead while leaving his office in the western town of Bandırma. He had received death threats because of his work, after writing about the detention of people suspected of corruption in a construction tender.

#### December 22 - Kazakhstan

**Gennadi Pavlyuk**, a prominent opposition journalist in Kyrgyzstan, died after he was thrown from the sixth floor of a building in Almaty, Kazakhstan. His arms and legs had been bound with tape.



## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS EUROPE

### January 4 | Russia

The body of **Vladislav Zakharchuk**, advertising manager for *Arsenyevskie vesti*, was found on the evening of Saturday, January 4, 2009, after a fire was extinguished at the newspaper's offices in Vladivostok. The independent opposition weekly (12,000 print run in 2009) is well known for its criticism of authorities in the Primorsky region. According to the Glasnost Defence Foundation and the Centre for Journalism in Extreme Situations, there are suspicions that the fire was an act of arson carried out for political motives.

### March 24 | Turkey

**İsmail Güneş**, a reporter with the İhlas News Agency (İHA), died in a helicopter crash which killed six more people, including Turkish Grand Unity Party (BBP) leader Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu.

### May 19 | Italy

**Fabio Saccari**, a motorcyclist who, for 32 years carried well-known Italian bike race photographer Roberto Bettini, was killed in an accident with a truck in Madonna dell'Olmo, near Cuneo. He was travelling to Cuneo for the start of the Giro bike race.

### July 4 | Russia

**Nelya Longortova** (journalist), **Victor Kurtyamov** (cameraman) and **Natalya Ostanina** (journalist), who worked for Yamal-Region TV, died when their boat overturned on the River Ob. They were returning home after a week's filming.

The victims, and three other members of the Yamal-Region TV and radio company, were travelling in a boat with a crew of three, as they filmed a program about the seasonal flooding of the region and the local fishing industry. According to preliminary reports, the captain decided to ignore a storm warning and continue the voyage home. The characteristic seasonal weather – short spells of rain with sudden very fast gusts of wind (up to 12 metres a second) – resulted in a 3-metre high wave that capsized the boat. Six people survived but Longortova, Kurtyamov and Ostanina drowned. Their bodies were not found until July 20.

### July 26 | Georgia

**Nino Gigashvili** (journalist), **Dato Avaliani** (cameraman), **Joni Kublashvili** (journalist) and **Giorgi Mgaloblishvili** (journalist), died in a road accident in Kutaisi when another vehicle crashed into the car they were travelling home from from work in the early morning. Joni Kublashvili and Dato Avaliani were killed on the spot while Joni Kublashvili and Giorgi Mgaloblishvili died on the way to the hospital.

### September 29 | Czech Republic

**Rosa Ajiri**, 27, and **Amir Zamani-Far**, 29, both journalists for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), died in a car crash near the Czech capital, Prague. The crash left a third colleague in a coma and slightly injured another visiting journalist who was travelling with them.

### October 6 | Germany

**Olivier Fachard**, a French machinery journalist died following an accident at a Fendt press launch that was held in Marktobendorf, Germany. He was a freelance journalist working for French agricultural publication *Le Betteravier Francais* and a contractor magazine. Fachard and a colleague, Jean Pierre Noret, were testing the new Fendt800 tractor when it overturned, fatally injuring Fachard. He died shortly after arriving at the hospital.





# IFJ Middle East and Arab World

**Monir Zaarour** IFJ COORDINATOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**2009 BEGAN** with the Israeli invasion of the Gaza strip already in full swing. Journalists, as usual, were on the front line. By the end of the four-week conflict six journalists had died, five of them in 2009. On January 22, the first day of the ceasefire, the IFJ, in cooperation with Federation of Arab Journalists, led an international mission into Gaza. It found that media installations had been deliberately targeted and destroyed, including Hamas TV al-Aqsa, the al-Johara Tower and the al-Shuroug Tower.

The Mission report, *'Justice in the News: A response to Targeting of Media in Gaza'*, condemned the deliberate targeting of the media, the deaths of journalists, and the ban on access to Gaza by foreign journalists. It also called for an international investigation into Israel's violations of international law and failure to protect journalists in conflict zones, as required under UN Security Council Resolution 1738.

The IFJ also helped to organise safety training for 18 Gaza-based journalists in Cairo, with the support of the Federation of Arab Journalists (FAJ) and the International News Safety Institute (INSI). In 2010 the IFJ plans to hold a Mediterranean conference on the targeting of the media in conflicts with a special focus on the Gaza invasion.

In Iraq the year saw another five names added to the journalist death toll, making a total of 298 reported victims since the 2003 invasion. A fifth journalist, Imad al Ibadi, director of Al Diyar TV, who has a reputation for exposing corruption and criticising the occupation,

narrowly escaped the list after surviving three assassins bullets to the head and chest in November.

While the dramatic drop in the death rate in Iraq (the yearly average between 2003 to 2008 was around 50) is welcome, the IFJ is increasingly angry at the failure of Iraqi authorities to live up to repeated commitments, including a Prime Ministerial order, to conduct full investigations into the deaths of journalists during this period. As the nature of the threat to journalists moves from conflict reporting to being targeted for their work, the authorities must demonstrate their readiness and capacity to punish the journalists' killers.

The growing stability has enabled the Iraqi affiliates to move to a post-crisis phase and direct their efforts towards the task of building a professional journalistic culture. A new programme for ethical and independent journalism was launched at the very first international conference to be organised in Baghdad since the invasion. The Iraqi Journalists syndicate hosted over 60 international media professionals and union representatives in May. The summit also saw the launch of the Shihab Tamimi Scholarship, for the children of victims who need help to study journalism. The scholarship was established in honour of the former President of the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate, who was assassinated on February 27, 2008.

The IFJ continues to monitor the situation throughout the region and is increasingly concerned by growing tension and violence in Yemen. While no journalist has been reported killed, arbitrary arrests, abductions and death threats are increasingly common. \*

# MIDDLE EAST

## January 6 | Palestine

**Basel Faraj**, who worked as a cameraman for the Algerian TV network ENTV and the Palestine Broadcast Production Company, was wounded as a result of an Israeli air strike on December 27. He succumbed to his injuries on January 6, 2009.

## January 8 | Palestine

**Eyhab Al Wahidi**, a cameraman for the Palestinian Broadcast Corporation in Gaza, was killed with his wife and mother-in-law when Israeli troops shelled their home in Gaza city. His children were also injured in the bombing.

## January 9 | Palestine

**Ala Murtaja**, a journalist who worked for Alwan radio in Gaza, died from wounds he had sustained in an Israeli tank attack on his home in Gaza. His colleagues from the Palestine News Network (PNN) say he had been working from home during the first days of the conflict as he had been unable to reach his station.

## January 11 | Palestine

**Jalal Nashwan**, who worked for Palestine TV, died on January 11 after he was hit by several bullets. The exact circumstances of his death are still being investigated.

## February 2 | Iraq

**Majid Alsaker**, a sports reporter for *Albayenah Aljadidah* newspaper died on February 2, 2009, two months after he was injured on his way to work, when a bomb exploded in Central Baghdad on October 28, 2008.

## March 10 | Iraq

**Haider Hashim**, cameraman and **Suhaib Adnan**, correspondent for the privately-owned Al-Baghdadia TV channel, were among the 33 victims killed when a suicide bomber blew himself in a targeted attack on tribal leaders near the town hall in Abu Ghraib, in Baghdad. At least 46 people were injured, including several journalists who attended meetings in the local market as part of efforts at national reconciliation.

## May 31 | Iraq

**Alaa Abdel-Wahab**, a sports reporter for the Cairo-based Al-Baghdadia TV station, was killed by a bomb that blew up his car in Mosul, in northern Iraq. The blast also injured Sultan Jerjis, a sports presenter with local radio station Al-Rasheed, according to the local media watchdog group, the Journalistic Freedoms Observatory.

Abdel-Wahab and Jerjis, who were on assignment to cover a story on the local Olympic committee, had just finished their lunch and were getting into Abdel-Wahab's car when the bomb went off, reports say. Abdel-Wahab, 37, was severely wounded and was rushed to the city's main hospital where he was pronounced dead.

## October 21 | Iraq

**Orhan Hijran**, a cameraman for the Al-Rasheed television channel, was killed by a roadside bomb in the northern city of Kirkuk. His colleague, Mohammed Abdallah Zadeh of the Al-Baghdadia channel, was wounded in the blast, according to police sources.



## Suhaib Adnan

Mourners grieve over the coffin of Al-Baghdadiya television station correspondent Suhaib Adnan on the back on a truck during a funeral in Baghdad March 11, 2009. © REUTERS/Ahmed Malik



Family members cry during a funeral for journalists killed in the Maguindanao massacre in southern Philippines December 4, 2009. © REUTERS/Erik de Castro

INTERNATIONAL

# safety

FUND

## 2009 REPORT

**2**009 was tragically a year when solidarity was much needed. Armed conflicts in Gaza, Pakistan, the Philippines and Somalia, as well as political upheaval in Iran, and natural disasters in El Salvador and Indonesia affected many journalists, who turned to the IFJ Safety Fund for assistance. The Safety Fund is made up of money raised by individual journalists and IFJ unions. It has taken up cases all over the world and often intervenes to provide special support for the media victims of natural disasters and accidents.

The Safety Fund increased the amount of assistance given this year, compared to 2008. This was in order to respond to the sheer number of requests for humanitarian assistance resulting from crisis situations which left many journalists in terrible conditions. In 2009, the IFJ provided more than 143,000 Euro (regular IFJ Safety Fund and Vintu Fund) to journalists and their families. As in previous years, beneficiaries came from all over the world and reflect the scope of attacks on journalists: threats, lawsuits, detention, and forced exile. Levels of these kinds of attacks remain unacceptably high.



In April, the IFJ also renewed its special agreement with the Vintu Foundation for 2009-2010, to continue giving financial support to families of murdered journalists and media personnel. Under this agreement the Fund provides monthly payments for a year to 10 families who lost a relative to violence related to that person's work as a journalist.

Furthermore, the IFJ offered financial relief and safety equipment to journalists in Gaza following the Israeli military offensive. It also aided journalists in Iran in the wake of the media clampdown that followed the disputed presidential elections in June, in Pakistan where violence in the north-west destroyed the homes of many people, including journalists, and in Somalia, to help protect journalists who were on the hit list of the Al-Shabab militia.

The IFJ also provided financial support to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines in order to assist the families of journalists murdered in Maguindanao province on November 23 – the single most deadly attack on the media in living memory. The Fund gave assistance to the media victims of volcanic activity in El Salvador, and the devastating earthquake in West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Through its Safety Fund, the IFJ continued to help to pay the hospital bills of injured journalists, support programmes of safe houses for journalists in serious danger, and contributed to legal costs in court actions to defend journalists' rights in countries where poverty and social conflict often makes it impossible for journalists to have proper legal representation.

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

- The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily to provide once-off emergency assistance for journalists and media staff who are injured in the line of duty, often in the world's so-called "hot-spots". It also helps in cases where the media employing the journalist/media staffer is unable to cover such costs. This assistance can take the form of travel, medical, or subsistence costs.
- The Safety Fund can also be used on a limited case-by-case basis to assist in paying legal fees for journalists/media staff that do not receive sufficient support from their employer.
- Finally, the Safety Fund can provide immediate assistance to the families of journalists and media staff whose 'bread-winner' has been killed and who have no means of support.

Whenever the IFJ gives assistance there is a monitoring and reporting process to ensure that the

money goes to where it is intended. In 2005 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ headquarters.

Over the years, the IFJ Safety Fund has been used to produce publications as part of the IFJ Safety Programme. These have included the IFJ Safety Fund brochure (see image on right) produced in English, French, Japanese and Spanish, and the IFJ Safety Manual, *Live News* (see Press Freedom and Safety at [www.ifj.org](http://www.ifj.org)) for journalists travelling to conflict areas.

*Live News* has been published in Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian and Spanish.

These publications provide basic guidelines as to possible dangers and the measures journalists can take to minimise risks. They are distributed to journalists free of charge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The IFJ Safety Fund can only continue to assist journalists if its future is secured. For money to go out, it must first come in. But most importantly, it is a Fund that must provide help to those who need it most. In 2010 we intend to make sure that we get the message out to those who have suffered and feel they face a bleak future: you are not alone – the IFJ Safety fund is there to help.

# SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

## Asia and Pacific

**SRI LANKA:** The fund provided assistance to four exiled Sri Lankan journalists – three in Nepal and one in Singapore.

**PAKISTAN:** One journalist who was forced out of his home by death threats received assistance from the Fund to help him relocate to a temporary safe home.

## Americas

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** The Fund contributed to the cost of legal fees through the IFJ affiliate to pay for journalists' legal representation during trials.

**COLOMBIA:** The Fund gave financial support to two Colombian journalists who were forced to flee to Argentina and Peru for their own security.

## Africa

**SOMALIA:** The Fund gave assistance to four Journalists who fled to Uganda after receiving death threats from the Al Shabab militia. Another Somali journalist, living in exile in South Africa also received financial support for living expenses.

**THE GAMBIA:** The Fund provided assistance towards the resettlement of one journalist who had returned from exile. Another journalist who needed a medical operation received assistance with hospital bills.

**SIERRA LEONE:** The Fund provided financial assistance to a journalist for short-term living expenses.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:** The Fund supported a Congolese journalist who received death threats and fled to Uganda.

**ETHIOPIA:** The Fund provided assistance to four journalists from Ethiopia who are living in exile Uganda, Kenya, India and Yemen.

**ERITREA:** One journalist who fled to Sudan and later to Uganda received assistance from the Fund for living expenses.

**RWANDA:** The Fund supported three Rwandan journalists who fled to Uganda and Kenya, because of fears for their safety.

**SENEGAL:** The Fund provided assistance to a journalist who had been injured and needed surgery.

**ZIMBABWE:** The Fund contributed to the legal fee program run by the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ)

## Middle East

**YEMEN:** The Fund provided assistance to one journalist in Yemen who had been in detention for a long time, and to the destitute family of another journalist who remains in prison.

**IRAN:** The Fund gave financial assistance to four Iranian journalists who had fled to Iraq and Turkey following the media clampdown.

**JORDAN:** The Fund supported an Iraqi journalist who was facing financial difficulties after fleeing to Jordan due to persecution in his country.

**THE IFJ SAFETY FUND VINTU ASSISTANCE WENT TO 7 FAMILIES IN:** Iraq (4) and Somalia (3), to help them deal with the consequences of losing a major breadwinner in their family.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help the IFJ to continue and strengthen the work of the Safety Fund by sending a donation, no matter how small, to help us to further develop this work.

## **INTERNATIONAL** **Code of Practice for the** **Safe Conduct of Journalism**

**T**he dangers posed to journalists and media staff working in dangerous situations and conflict zones are the subject of extensive record. The IFJ has recorded the deaths of more than 1000 journalists and media staff over the past ten years.

Many journalists are killed, injured or harassed in war zones, either targeted by one side or another or caught in the crossfire of violence. Others are the victims of premeditated assault and intimidation either by criminals, terrorists or by agencies of the state — the police, the military or the security forces — acting secretly and illegally.

Very often there is little that journalists or media organisations can do to avoid casualties. There will, inevitably, be accidents, no matter how much care is taken to provide protection and there is little one can do when those targeting media use ruthless and brutal methods to crush journalistic inquiry.

However, there are steps that journalists and media organisations should take to minimise the risks to staff. In particular, the following are vital considerations in providing protection:

- ▷ **Adequate preparation, training and social protection.** It is essential that journalists and media staff be in a state of readiness when difficulties arise. There should be a framework for providing individuals with health care and social protection.
- ▷ **Media professionals must be informed and inform themselves** about the political, physical, and social terrain in which they are working. They must not contribute to the uncertainty and insecurity of their conditions through ignorance or reckless behaviour.
- ▷ **Media organisations must guard against risk-taking for competitive advantage,** and should promote co-operation among journalists whenever conditions exist which are potentially hazardous.
- ▷ **Governments must remove obstacles to journalism.** They must not restrict unnecessarily the freedom of movement of journalists or compromise the right of news media to gather, produce and disseminate information in secure and safe conditions.
- ▷ **People Must Keep Their Hands Off Media.** Everyone should respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff at work. Physical interference with filming or other journalistic work must be prohibited.

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

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

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

**3** Public authorities shall inform their personnel of the need to respect the rights of journalists and shall instruct them to respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff while at work.

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

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

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



INTERNATIONAL

# safety

**FUND**

It's the  
**thought**  
that **counts**

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

## **How to Give**

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

## **The IFJ Safety Fund**

**α/c BE64 2100 7857 0052**

SWIFT Code: GEBABEBB

Fortis Bank, Rond Point Schuman 10, 1040 Brussels

## **The Safety Fund for Media Translators and Interpreters (SFMI)**

**α/c BE90 3630 4689 8732**

SWIFT Code: BBRU-BE-BB

ING Bank, Rond Point Schuman 8, 1040 Brussels

## **For more information contact:**

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The IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists with members in more than 100 countries. Today the IFJ spans the world with a range of programmes and solidarity activities that help to strengthen journalists' trade unions.

IFJ Offices around the world highlight the need for safety of journalists.

The Federation has opened offices in Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to provide local support for journalists most in need.

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

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