



Deadly Stories 2007

Killings of Journalists Touch Record Level



INCLUDING IFJ INTERNATIONAL SAFETY FUND REPORT

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Cover image:

RNPS PICTURES OF THE YEAR. One of the last pictures taken by Reuters Iraqi photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen before he was killed on July 12, 2007 shows two old women dressed in black walking towards a window pierced by a bullet in the al-Amin al-Thaniyah neighbourhood of Baghdad. U.S. soldiers took Noor-Eldeen's two digital cameras from the scene after he was killed. REUTERS/Namir Noor-Eldeen (IRAQ)

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Deadly Stories 2007

Killings of Journalists Touch Record Level

The joy that greeted the release of BBC journalist Alan Johnston in March after his three-month kidnapping ordeal at the hands of Palestinian extremists provided the high point in an otherwise bleak year for journalism as the crisis of violence against media has intensified.

For the third year in succession, the IFJ reports an extremely high number of deaths of journalists and people who work with them. Many killings were targeted attacks, some were crossfire casualties in war zones, and others were deaths in accidents, which are listed separately in this report.

The total of 172 is again dominated by the body count of Iraqi journalists in a war that has now accounted for more than 250 media killings according to the IFJ's affiliate the Iraqi Syndicate of Journalists.

During 2007 some 65 died giving fresh urgency to efforts to put in place the Iraqi Media Safety Group, a local self-help operation supported by the IFJ and the International News Safety Institute. This group is now co-ordinating help to media to strengthen safety awareness and reduce the risks facing local journalists.

In Palestine, where the political divisions between Palestinians on the West Bank and those in Gaza have also affected the journalism community, the kidnapping of Johnston galvanized divided local journalists who led a vocal and unified campaign for his release. One of the first messages a relieved and tired Johnston gave on achieving his freedom was to recognise this effort, which may well have saved his life.

In Africa 14 killings were recorded, some eight of them in Somalia alone, a country where the tragedy

of tribalism and lawlessness has caused chaos and where media are victimised when they try to report honestly on the tragic conditions within the country.

The launch of the African Federation of Journalists in Nigeria in November provides a vehicle for new efforts to challenge the killers and the corruption that weakens media and journalism across the continent. Working with INSI out of Dakar in Senegal, the IFJ plans to expand safety training and support work for media including the launch of an Africa Solidarity Fund, part of which will be directed towards helping the victims of violence and their families.

In the Americas 19 deaths were recorded, with Mexico continuing to dominate the list with six killings. Many of them journalists singled out because of their reporting on gangsters operating in the country. In one horrifying case in October three workers were killed at *El Imparcial del Istmo* which had been receiving death threats over its reporting of drugs gangs.

In Asia there were 31 killings with. Political turbulence in Pakistan also accounted for new pressure on journalists during the year and eight deaths. Sri Lanka (6) and the Philippines (5) also counted high numbers of victims.

Asia also provided a grim example of how the fate of kidnapped journalists and media staff often depends entirely on the support the victims can call upon. In March Daniele Mastrogiacomo of the Italian daily *La Repubblica* was kidnapped by Taliban fighters in Afghanistan along with his fellow journalist and translator Ajmal Naqshbandi and driver 25-year-old Sayed Agha a father of four.

The Taliban immediately assessed the worth of their catch. Sayed Agha had his throat cut on the spot, a gruesome event witnessed by his two colleagues, with the kidnapers estimating there was no political or financial advantage in keeping him alive. Mastrogiacomo was later released thanks to a concerted drive by the Italian government pressed into action by the IFJ Italian affiliate the FNSI and with the support of the regime in Kabul. After negotiations, in which undisclosed money changed hands he was set free. Ajmal Naqshbandi was less lucky. He was killed after the Afghan government refused to negotiate further.

This tragic event highlighted once again the perilous situation facing local media staff in a conflict zone – they are among the most numerous of victims and the least protected.

This report also contains a detailed report on the work of the IFJ International Safety Fund, which is used to provide humanitarian support to the victims of violence and their families. During 2007 the IFJ Safety Fund has allocated around 5,000 euro in monthly payments to families who lost breadwinners in some of the world's most troubled spots such as Colombia, and Sri Lanka and made substantial donations to journalists' families in Somalia, Iraq and Palestine as well as a number of other individual contributions.

At the year's end there were more hopeful signs. Alan Johnston, making good on his promise to the IFJ to lend a hand in the campaign for news safety, issued a passionate call for media organisations to work together to build a culture of safety in his address to the New York launch of the International News Safety Institute in December.

How the numbers add up: Who is included in the IFJ List

The IFJ counts the number of media deaths from information provided by regional offices, member unions and other reliable media sources. We check

our numbers with other organisations and we compile them in co-operation with the International News Safety Institute.

Our statistics include all media staff – journalists, fixers, drivers, technicians, security staff, and translators – in fact, all staff put in harm's way as a result of media activity. Our figures do include some cases that are still under investigation, but only where the death remains unexplained and where colleagues, unions or press freedom groups believe that the killing is related to work as a journalist. We do everything we can to verify the information we receive.

The IFJ recognises that other organisations do not include some of the victims we have identified. This is because they apply different criteria to define who is a journalist and may not include media staff.

Not included are journalists and media who are missing and feared dead but whose bodies have not been found. Nor do we include killings of media people who die in conflicts but not as a result of their professional activity.

During the year one tragic example arose. Khaled Fayyad Obaid al-Hamdani, a producer for Nahrain, a satellite television channel in Baghdad, left his home on April 12 in the neighbourhood of Abu Ghraib and drove to Baghdad, purposefully speeding as he always did along the so-called Highway of Death to minimise danger. An American patrol spotted him and, apparently alarmed by his speed, shot him dead. This was a tragedy, but it could have happened to anyone in the turmoil of Iraq. Al-Hamdani was not on assignment and was not killed as a result of his work. He was a civilian victim of a terrible conflict but is not counted.

We do include a list of journalists and media staff killed while at work and on assignment as a result of car, aircraft or other accidents and by natural disasters or by medical problems triggered by strenuous or dangerous work. This list is compiled separately in this report.

Journalists and media staff killed in 2007

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------|
| Afghanistan | Rahman Qul | Editor | Andkhoy Magazine | 17/2/07 |
| Afghanistan | Sayed Agah | Driver | Italian media | 16/3/07 |
| Afghanistan | Ajmal Naqshbandi | Journalist/Translator | Italian media | 8/4/07 |
| Afghanistan | Zakia Zaki | Director | Sada-e-Sulh (Peace Radio) | 6/6/07 |
| Bangladesh | Jamal Uddin | Journalist | Dainik Giri Darpan Newspaper | 6/3/07 |
| Brazil | Róbson Barbosa Bezerra | Photojournalist | Freelance | 8/2/07 |
| Brazil | Luiz Carlos Barbon Filho | Journalist | Jornal do Porto/ JC Regional Newspapers | 5/5/07 |
| Burma | Kenji Nagai | Photographer | APF News | 27/9/07 |
| China | Lan Chengzhang | Journalist | CHINA TRADE NEWS NEWSPAPER | 10/1/07 |
| Colombia | Elacio Murillo Mosquera | Journalist | Choco 7 dias | 10/1/07 |
| DR Congo | Serge Maheshe | Journalist | Radio Okapi | 13/6/07 |
| DRC | Patrick Kikuku | Photographer | Freelance | 9/7/07 |
| El Salvador | Salvador Sánchez Roque | Reporter | Freelance for Radio | 20/9/07 |
| Eritrea | Paulos Kidane | Journalist | Eri-TV/Dimtsi Hafash | 6/7/07 |
| Eritrea | Fesshaye "Joshua" Yohannes | Journalist | Setit | UNKNOWN |
| Ghana | Samuel Kwabena Ennin | News Editor | Ashh FM Radio Station | 9/2/07 |
| Guatamala | Mario Rolando Lopez Sanchez | Producer | Radio Sonora | 3/5/07 |
| Guatamala | Jorge Alejandro Casteñada Martinez | Photographer | Nuestro Diario/Siglo Veintiuno Newspapers | 5/7/07 |
| Haiti | Jean-Rémy Badio | Photographer | Freelance | 19/1/07 |
| Haiti | Alix Joseph | Director | Radio Provinciale | 16/5/07 |
| Haiti | Francois Latour | Presenter | Caraibes FM Radio | 22/5/07 |
| Honduras | Carlos Salgado | Journalist | Radio Cadena Voces | 18/10/07 |
| India | M Vinod Kumar | Computer Engineer | Dinakara Newspaper | 9/5/07 |
| India | G Gopinath | Computer Engineer | Dinakara Newspaper | 9/5/07 |
| India | K Muthuramalingam | Security Guard | Dinakara Newspaper | 9/5/07 |
| Iraq | Ahmed Hadi Naji | Cameraman | Associated Press | 5/1/07 |
| Iraq | Khoudr Younes al-Obaidi | Journalist | Al-Diwan newspaper, other media | 12/1/07 |
| Iraq | UNKNOWN | UNKOWN | AL SABAH NEWSPAPER | 12/1/07 |
| Iraq | UNKNOWN | UNKOWN | AL SABAH NEWSPAPER | 12/1/07 |
| Iraq | Yassin Aid Assef | Correspondent | AL SABAH NEWSPAPER | 14/1/07 |
| Iraq | Falah Khalaf Al Diyali | Photographer | AL SAHA NEWSPAPER | 15/1/07 |
| Iraq | UNKNOWN | Security Guard | AL SABAH NEWSPAPER | 16/1/07 |
| Iraq | Munjid Al-Tumaimi | Photographer | Freelance | 28/1/07 |
| Iraq | Nabras Mohammed Hadi | Security Guard | Al Iraqiya | 7/2/07 |
| Iraq | Azhar Abdullah al-Maliki | Security Guard | Al Iraqiya | 7/2/07 |
| Iraq | Sabah Salman | Security Guard | Al Iraqiya | 7/2/07 |
| Iraq | Hussein Al Zubaydi | Journalist | Al Ahali | 19/2/07 |

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------|
| Iraq | Abdel Razeq Hashim Al Khaqani | Journalist | Voice of Iraq | 20/2/07 |
| Iraq | Jamal Al Zubaidi | Managing Editor | Al Safir Newspaper | 3/3/07 |
| Iraq | Mohan Al Dhaher | Senior Editor | Al Mashria Newspaper | 4/3/07 |
| Iraq | Youssef Sabri | Journalist | Biladi TV | 7/3/07 |
| Iraq | Hussein Al Jaburi | Editor | Al Safir Newspaper | 16/3/07 |
| Iraq | Hamid Al Duleimi | Producer | Al Nahrain TV | 19/3/07 |
| Iraq | Khamail Khalaf | Journalist | Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | 5/4/07 |
| Iraq | Husain Nizaer | Journalist Trainee | Baghdad TV | 5/4/07 |
| Iraq | Thaer Ahmed Jabr | Senior Journalist | Baghdad TV | 5/4/07 |
| Iraq | Othman Al Mashhadani | Reporter | Al Watan Newspaper | 6/4/07 |
| Iraq | Iman Youssef Abdallah | Journalist | Mosul Workers' Union Radio | 12/4/07 |
| Iraq | Adel Al Badri | Security Guard | Radio Dijla | 3/5/07 |
| Iraq | UNKNOWN | Electric Generator Operator | Radio Dijla | 3/5/07 |
| Iraq | Dmitry Chebotayev | Photographer | Freelancer on assignment for Russian Newsweek | 6/5/07 |
| Iraq | Aqeel Abdul-Qader | Journalist | Raad Media Company | 9/5/07 |
| Iraq | Imad Abdul-Razzaq al-Obeidi | Journalist | Raad Media Company | 9/5/07 |
| Iraq | Nibras Razzaq | Driver | Raad Media Company | 9/5/07 |
| Iraq | Raad Mutashar | Director | Raad Media Company | 9/5/07 |
| Iraq | Alaa Uldeen Aziz | Cameraman | ABC News | 17/5/07 |
| Iraq | Saif Laith Yousuf | Soundman | ABC News | 17/5/07 |
| Iraq | Ali Khalil | Reporter | Al-Zamen | 20/5/07 |
| Iraq | Aidan Abedallah Al Jameji | In charge of Turkmen Language section | Kirkuk TV | 26/5/07 |
| Iraq | Abdel Rahman Al Issawi | Journalism Professor/Journalist | Freelancer | 28/5/07 |
| Iraq | Mahmoud Hassib Al Qassab | Editor-In-Chief | Al Hawadeth Newspaper | 29/5/07 |
| Iraq | Nezar Abdul Wahid Al Radi | Correspondent | Aswat Al Iraq News Agency | 30/5/07 |
| Iraq | Sahar Al Haideri | Journalist | Aswat Al Iraq News Agency | 7/6/07 |
| Iraq | Aref Ali | Journalist | Aswat Al Iraq News Agency | 11/6/07 |
| Iraq | Flayeh Wadi Mijdab | Editor | AL SABAH NEWSPAPER | 17/6/07 |
| Iraq | Zeena Shakir Mahmoud | Journalist | Al Haqiqa Newspaper | 24/6/07 |
| Iraq | Rahim Al Maliki | Producer/Presenter | Al Iraqiya | 25/6/07 |
| Iraq | Hamed Sarhan | Journalist | Various Media | 26/6/07 |
| Iraq | Luay Suleiman | Journalist | Nineveh Al Hurra Newspaper | 27/6/07 |
| Iraq | Mohammed Hilal Karji | Journalist | Baghdad TV | 4/7/07 |
| Iraq | Sarmad Hamdi al-Hassani | Journalist | Baghdad TV | 4/7/07 |
| Iraq | Ali Watan | Journalist | Samawa TV | 6/7/07 |
| Iraq | UNKNOWN | Translator | Reuters | 11/7/07 |
| Iraq | Namir Noor-Eldeen | Photographer | Reuters | 12/7/07 |
| Iraq | Sameed Chmagh | Driver | Reuters | 12/7/07 |

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Iraq | Khalid W. Hassan | Journalist | New York Times | 13/7/07 |
| Iraq | Majeed Mohammed | Sports Reporter | Kirkuk Al Yawm Newspaper | 16/7/07 |
| Iraq | Mustafa Gaimayani | Editor | Kirkuk Al Yawm Newspaper | 16/7/07 |
| Iraq | Adnan Al Safi | Journalist | AL Anwar (TV) | 27/7/07 |
| Iraq | Anwar Abbas Lafta | Translator | CBS | 27/8/07 |
| Iraq | Amir al-Rashidi | Cameraman | Al Iraqiya | 3/9/07 |
| Iraq | Muhannad Ghanim Ahmed | Journalist | Radio Dar al-Salam | 20/9/07 |
| Iraq | Jawad al-Daami | Journalist | Al-Baghdadiyah Channel | 23/9/07 |
| Iraq | Salih Saif Aldin | Journalist | Washington Post | 14/10/07 |
| Iraq | Jasim Mohhamed Nofaan | Journalist | Al Watan Newspaper | 15/10/07 |
| Iraq | Khaled Hamed Nofaan | Journalist | Al Watan Newspaper | 15/10/07 |
| Iraq | Tariq al-Dibo | Journalist | Al Watan Newspaper | 15/10/07 |
| Iraq | Abdullah | Driver for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Reporter | Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | 22/10/07 |
| Iraq | Shehab Mohammed al-Hitti | Journalist | Baghdad News | 27/10/07 |
| Iraq | Ali Shafeya Al-Moussawi | Correspondent | Alive in Baghdad website | 14/12/07 |
| Kyrgistan | Alisher Sayipov | Journalist | Freelance/Sayasat Newspaper | 24/10/07 |
| Mexico | Amado Ramirez | Correspondent | Televisa | 6/4/07 |
| Mexico | Saul Martinez Ortega | Journalist | Interdiario/Diario de Agua Prieta | 26/4/07 |
| Mexico | Mateo Cortés Martínez | Driver | El Imparcial del Istmo | 8/10/07 |
| Mexico | Agustín López Nolasco | Delivery Worker | El Imparcial del Istmo | 8/10/07 |
| Mexico | Flor Vásquez López | Delivery Worker | El Imparcial del Istmo | 8/10/07 |
| Mexico | Israel Garcia Pimental | Journalist | La Opinion de Michoacan | 8/12/07 |
| Nepal | Sankar Panthi | Correspondent | Naya Satta Daily | 16/9/07 |
| Nepal | Birendra Shah | Journalist | Nepal FM/Dristi Weekly Newspaper | 4/10/07 |
| Pakistan | Anwar Saleh | Reporter | Islam Ghagh Newspaper | 02/01/07 |
| Pakistan | Mehboob Khan | Photojournalist | Freelance | 28/4/07 |
| Pakistan | Noor Hakim Khan | Reporter | Pakistan Newspaper | 2/6/07 |
| Pakistan | Noor Ahmed Solangi | Journalist | Khabroon Newspaper | 17/6/07 |
| Pakistan | Javed Khan | Photographer | DM Digital | 3/7/07 |
| Pakistan | Maulana Masud Mehmood | Reporter | Daily Islam | 4/7/07 |
| Pakistan | Mohammed Arif Kahn | Cameraman | ARY One World TV | 18/10/07 |
| Pakistan | Zubair Ahmed Mujahid | Bureau Chief | Jang Newspaper | 23/11/07 |
| Palestine | Suleiman Abdul-Rahim Al Ashi | Economics Editors | Palestine Daily Newspaper | 13/5/07 |
| Palestine | Mohammad Matar Abdo | Production Manager | Palestine Daily Newspaper | 13/5/07 |
| Palestine | Mohaamad Awad Al Joujou | Journalist | Palestine Live Website | 15/5/07 |
| Paraguay | Tito Alberto Palma | Journalist | Mayor Otaño Radio | 22/8/07 |
| Peru | Miguel Perez Julca | Journalist | Radio Exitos | 16/3/07 |

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Philippines | Hernani Pastolero | Editor | Lightning Courier Newspaper | 19/2/07 |
| Philippines | Carmelo Palacios | Journalist | Philippine Broadcasting Service | 18/4/07 |
| Philippines | Dodie Nuñez | Photographer | Freelance | 21/5/07 |
| Philippines | Vicente Sumalpong | Reporter | Radyo ng Bayan | 26/6/07 |
| Philippines | Fernando Lintuan | Broadcaster | dxGO Radio | 24/12/07 |
| Russia | Ivan Safronov | Journalist | Kommersant | 2/3/07 |
| Somalia | Ali Mohammed Omar | Presenter | Warsan Radio | 16/2/07 |
| Somalia | Mohammed Abdullahi Khalif | Journalist | Radio Voice of Peace | 5/5/07 |
| Somalia | Ahmed Hassan | Journalist | SBC Radio | 15/5/07 |
| Somalia | Abshir Ali Gabra | Journalist | IQK FM | 15/5/07 |
| Somalia | Mahad Ahmed Elmi | Journalist | Horn Afrik Media | 11/8/07 |
| Somalia | Ali Iman Sharmarke | Managing Director | Horn Afrik Radio | 11/8/07 |
| Somalia | Abdulkadir Mahad Moallim Kaskey | Correspondent | Radio Banadir | 24/8/07 |
| Somalia | Bashir Nor Gedi | Station Manager | Radio Shabelle | 19/10/07 |
| Sri Lanka | Isaivizhi Chempiyan | Employee | Voice of Tigers Radio | 27/11/07 |
| Sri Lanka | Suresh Linbiyo | Employee | Voice of Tigers Radio | 27/11/07 |
| Sri Lanka | T. Tharmalingam | Employee | Voice of Tigers Radio | 27/11/07 |
| Sri Lanka | Subash Chandrabas | Editor | Nilam Newspaper | 16/4/07 |
| Sri Lanka | Selvarajah Rajiwarman | Journalist | Uthayan | 29/4/07 |
| Sri Lanka | Nilakshan Sahapavan | Student Journalist/Part-time Reporter | Jafna Media Resource Training Center | 1/8/07 |
| Turkey | Hrant Dink | Editor | AGOS NEWSPAPER | 19/1/07 |
| USA | Chauncey Bailey | Journalist | Oakland Tribune | 2/8/07 |
| Zimbabwe | Edward Chikombo | Cameraman | Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation | 29/3/07 |

Accidental deaths in 2007

| COUNTRY | NAME | POSITION | EMPLOYER | DATE |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Benin | Jerome Azagoun | Journalist | National TV | 2/2/07 |
| Benin | Clement Ahouitonon | Engineer | National TV | 2/2/07 |
| Benin | Augustin Gbodui | Driver | National TV | 2/2/07 |
| Bolivia | Lola Almudevar | Journalist | BBC | 25/11/07 |
| Brazil | Joao Roberto Brito | Journalist | SBT Broadcasting | 17/7/07 |
| Brazil | Luiz Pinto | Editor | SBT Broadcasting | 17/7/07 |
| Brazil | Elisandra Lucotti | Journalist | Folha d'Oeste | 10/10/07 |
| Brazil | Evandro Troian | Journalist | RBS TV | 10/10/07 |
| Brazil | Valdir Lucas Rupulo | Radio Journalist | Rede Peperi | 10/10/07 |
| Cameroon | Anthony Mitchell | Correspondent | Associated Press | 5/5/07 |
| Cote D'Ivoire | Traoré Gaoussou | Journalist | Le Jour Plus | 10/11/07 |
| Cote D'Ivoire | Kossou Jean-Marc | Journalist | Nord Sud | 10/11/07 |
| India | Shobhana Singh | Journalist | Zee TV | 11/8/07 |
| India | K. Nagaraju | Journalist | | 19/10/07 |
| Indonesia | Suherman | Cameraman | Lativi TV | 25/2/07 |
| Indonesia | Muhammad Guntur | Cameraman | SCTV | 25/2/07 |
| Indonesia | Morgan Mellish | Journalist | Australian Financial Review | 7/3/07 |
| Mexico | David Herrera | Journalist | Zócalo Newspaper | 9/9/07 |
| Mexico | Carlos Antonio Ballesteros | Journalist | El Tiempo Newspaper | 9/9/07 |
| Mexico | Andrés Ramírez | Journalist | La Prensa Newspaper | 9/9/07 |
| Nigeria | Moses Ezulike | Journalist | Champion | 17/5/07 |
| Nigeria | Agbo Issac | Journalist | The Nation | 17/5/07 |
| Nigeria | Alfred James | Journalist | Leadership | 17/5/07 |
| Nigeria | Musa Nuhu | Journalist | NAN | 17/5/07 |
| Nigeria | Judith Adama | Journalist | New Nigerian | 17/5/07 |
| Nigeria | Unknown | Journalist | AIT | 17/5/07 |
| Pakistan | Mohammad Farooq | Cameraman | Pakistan TV | 8/10/07 |
| Somalia | Abdulkadir Ali Hosh (Jilbis) | Editor | AllDarwish.com | 24/12/07 |
| United States | Michel Barelli | Journalist | Nice Matin | 29/1/07 |
| United States | Joe Loy | Assignment Editor | Fox Carolina News | 15/5/07 |
| United States | Jim Cox | Photojournalist | KTVK-TV | 27/7/07 |
| United States | Scott Bowerbank | Pilot | KTVK-TV | 27/7/07 |
| United States | Rick Krolak | Photographer | KNXV-TV | 27/7/07 |
| United States | Craig Smith | Pilot | KNXV-TV | 27/7/07 |
| United States | Thomas Newby | Photographer | Powerboat Magazine | 11/9/07 |
| United States | Mark Copeland | Photographer | Powerboat Magazine | 11/9/07 |
| United States | Ralph Binder | Cameraman | ABC News | 6/12/07 |

Killed by region

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| AFRICA | 14 |
| DR Congo | 2 |
| Eritrea | 2 |
| Ghana | 1 |
| Somalia | 8 |
| Zimbabwe | 1 |
| AMERICAS | 19 |
| Brazil | 2 |
| Colombia | 1 |
| El Salvador | 1 |
| Guatamala | 2 |
| Haiti | 3 |
| Honduras | 1 |
| Mexico | 6 |
| Paraguay | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| USA | 1 |
| ASIA | 31 |
| Afghanistan | 4 |
| Bangladesh | 1 |
| Burma | 1 |
| China | 1 |
| India | 3 |
| Pakistan | 8 |
| Philippines | 5 |
| Nepal | 2 |
| Sri Lanka | 6 |
| EUROPE KILLED | 3 |
| Turkey | 1 |
| Russia | 1 |
| Kyrgistan | 1 |
| MIDDLE EAST KILLED | 68 |
| Iraq | 65 |
| Palestine | 3 |
| TOTAL | 135 |

Accidental deaths by region

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| AFRICA | 13 |
| Benin | 3 |
| Cameroon | 1 |
| Cote D'Ivoire | 2 |
| Nigeria | 6 |
| Somalia | 1 |
| AMERICAS | 18 |
| Bolivia | 1 |
| Brazil | 5 |
| Mexico | 3 |
| United States | 9 |
| ASIA | 6 |
| India | 2 |
| Indonesia | 3 |
| Pakistan | 1 |
| TOTAL | 37 |



Top image: People carry the slain body of Ali Iman Sharmarke, one of the managers of Horn Afrik Radio station, in Mogadishu, August 11, 2007.

©REUTERS/Shabelle Media (SOMALIA); Bottom image: Students display placards during a rally to commemorate World Press Freedom Day in Manila May 3, 2007. ©REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco (PHILIPPINES).



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Africa Regional Office

Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) held the top spots as the most violent countries on the continent, where journalists were caught in the cross fire of rebel groups and government armed forces. Journalists accused of bias are being targeted simply for having done their work. This year alone, eight media staff members were killed in Somalia by unknown gunmen. In DRC, two journalists were also gunned by unknown assassins.

In Zimbabwe, journalists reporting police attacks on opposition demonstrations and leaders as well as freedom of expression activists were specifically targeted by the repressive regime. Edward Chikomba, a freelance cameraman, was abducted by a group of armed men from his home in Harare; his dead body was found three days later some 80 km on the outskirts of the capital,

Chikomba was suspected of having leaked footage of demonstrations and images of brutalised opposition activists which flooded international media organisations.

In democratic states such as Ghana, obscure organized groups attacked journalists who exposed their interests or crimes. Samuel Kwabena Ennin, news editor at *Ashh FM* radio station, was shot at a popular drinking spot in Kumasi. Armed men arrived in the pub and demanded the mobile phones of Ennin and other people. They took two phones, shot at the journalist and fired indiscriminately to frighten customers before leaving in a white car.

These killings were emblematic of the attacks on journalists in Africa in 2007. The most painful element in these murders was the impunity the perpetrators of these heinous crimes enjoy since no

The IFJ Africa office has vehemently condemned these barbaric acts in the strongest possible terms and has persistently called on governments to conduct credible and independent investigations into these murders and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. There should be no place for impunity in the democracies of Africa.

inquests and investigations have attempted to identify the murderers and bring them to justice.

The IFJ Africa office has vehemently condemned these barbaric acts in the strongest possible terms and has persistently called on governments to conduct credible and independent investigations into these murders and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. There should be no place for impunity in the democracies of Africa.

All these attacks and senseless killings confirm our belief and commitment to our campaign against the impunity for those who kill journalists in Africa.

Gabriel Baglo
Director IFJ Africa



Gabriel Baglo, Africa Regional Office Director



An unidentified French television cameraman holds his head after he was hit by a stone from demonstrators in the streets of Dakar, November 21, 2007. Police fired tear gas at stone-throwing protesters who rampaged through the Senegalese capital, smashing cars and looting government offices after authorities cleared away street vendors. ©REUTERS/Mamadou Gomis (SENEGAL)

January

Date Unknown • Eritrea

Fesshaye “Joshua” Yohannes, a publisher and newspaper editor, is believed to have died in prison in Eritrea. Yohannes was one of a group of journalists imprisoned by the government during a wave of repression that shut down the country’s independent press.

Yohannes, 47, was a publisher and editor of the weekly *Setit*, which was shut down by the government during the media crackdown. Yohannes may have died in prison on January 11, 2007, some press freedom and journalists groups said, though others said he died much earlier. He had been held in an undisclosed location without any contact with the outside world since 2002.

According to unconfirmed reports, three other journalists who were arrested at the same time as Yohannes may have also died in prison. The journalists are prohibited from communicating with their families and lawyers. Authorities have refused to release information specifying their location or health conditions. There is also the case of five journalists arrested before the wave of repression began in 2001. Eritrea is the only country in the world where there are no independent media or foreign correspondents.

unclear circumstances in Kumasi, Ghana’s second-largest city. At around 8.30 pm armed men arrived there and demanded the mobile phones of Ennin and other people. They took two phones, shot at the journalist and fired indiscriminately to frighten customers before leaving in a white car. According to his colleagues Ennin did not struggle when they asked for his phone.

February 16 • Somalia

Ali Mohammed Omar, a presenter at Warsan Radio and union activist was shot and killed in the early evening in Baidoa in south-western Somalia.

He was attacked by three unidentified assailants on his way to his home. The attackers ordered him to stop and then shot him dead as he tried to flee.

February

February 9 • Ghana

Samuel Kwabena Ennin, news editor at Ashh FM radio station was shot at a popular drinking spot in



L-R: Ali Mohammed Omar, Abshir Ali Gabre and Abdulkadir Mahad Kaskey. All photos ©NUSOJ

March

March 29 • Zimbabwe

Edward Chikombo, a freelance cameraman was abducted by a group of armed men from his home in Glenview Township outside Harare. His body was found three days later near the village of Darwendale, 80 km west of the capital.

According to sources, Chikomba was suspected of having leaked the footage of the demonstrations and images of brutalised opposition activists which flooded international media organisations like the BBC and CNN.

The killing may be linked to the smuggling out of the country of television pictures of the badly injured opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai after he beaten by police on March 11, 2006, according to news reports.

May

May 5 • Somalia

Mohammed Abdullahi Khalif, a journalist for Radio Voice of Peace was shot and killed while on assignment in Puntland, north-eastern Somalia, while covering a

story at the Arms Market in Galkayo when the Puntland army arrived to retrieve guns which had been stolen from their barracks. A gun battle broke out and Mohammed was caught in the cross-fire between the soldiers and the arms traders.

May 15 • Somalia

Abshir Ali Gabra, a journalist with the radio station IQK FM based in Mogadishu and **Ahmed Hassan**, a journalist with SBC Radio in Bosaso in Northern Somalia were in a government convoy travelling to report on mediation efforts to resolve a conflict in Jowhar when

the were killed. According to Shabelle Media Network, armed men ambushed the convoy and riddled the first vehicle with bullets. Six government soldiers were also killed.

June

June 13 • Democratic Republic of Congo

Serge Maheshe, the local head of UN-backed Radio Okapi in the town of Bukavu was shot by two unidentified armed men in plainclothes as he was coming



Ahmed Hussein Hassan, 23, recovers from severe burns at the Madina hospital in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, August 5, 2007. Hassan, a video cameraman, was badly burned by masked gunmen in his studio after he and eight colleagues were held at gunpoint by suspected Islamic insurgents. The attackers poured gasoline on them and set them on fire. One was killed and the rest are being treated for severe burns. REUTERS/Edward Ou (SOMALIA)



L-R: Pallbearers lay to rest the body of Mahad Ahmed Elmi, a journalist with Horn Afrik who was killed by unknown gunmen in Mogadishu, August 11, 2007. Gunmen shot dead the popular journalist from the Somali media house, then hours later a landmine killed the station's co-owner as he drove back from the funeral in violence-torn Mogadishu. ©REUTERS/Shabelle Media (SOMALIA); the body of Bashir Nur Gedi.

from the home of a friend. He was with two other friends who were not injured. Radio Okapi sources said they have no information on the reason for the killing.

July

July 6 • Eritrea

Paulos Kidane, a presenter with the Amharic service of state broadcaster Eri-TV and state Radio Dimtsi Hafash, died from an illness as he tried to escape Eritrea on foot and get to Sudan.

July 9 • Democratic Republic of Congo

Patrick Kikuku, a freelance photographer working in Goma in eastern DRC for national news

agency Agence Nationale de Presse and private newspaper *Union Magazine*, was shot dead by unidentified men in army uniforms. According to eyewitnesses, he was going home around 7.30 pm when he was detained by two armed men in military uniforms. Kikuku was attempting to run away when one of the men shot him in the head.

August

August 11 • Somalia

Mahad Ahmed Elmi, Director of *Radio Capital Voice*, was shot dead on the morning of August 11 in Mogadishu. **Ali Iman Sharmarke**, Managing Director of *HornAfrik Radio*, died when his car was blown up as he and colleagues in a convoy of media mourners were returning from Elmi's burial.

In the bomb attack, journalist Sahal Abdulle, who works with Reuters News Agency and was travelling with Ali Iman Sharmarke, was injured. It was an attack, say observers, that was clearly deliberate with the detonation of a bomb that struck only Ali's vehicle in the middle of the convoy.

August 24 • Somalia

Abdulkadir Mahad Moallim Kaskey, the regional correspondent of Radio Banadir in the south-western province of Gedo, died after unknown gunmen opened fire on the minibus that he was riding in in the village of El Ilan. Another passenger was wounded in the attack.

October

October 19 • Somalia

Bashir Nor Gedi, Radio Shabelle's station manager, was shot outside his home by unidentified gunmen. In September, Gedi and 18 colleagues were arrested and questioned for hours by government soldiers. Before Gedi's death government troops also fired on the station and ordered it to stop broadcasting.



The National Union of Somali Journalists hosted a "Celebration of Human Rights Day 2007 - In solidarity with Somali journalists" in Nairobi to mark the UN's International Human Rights Day. ©NUSOJ



ACCIDENTS

February

February 2 • Benin

Office de radio et télévision du Bénin (Ortb) sound engineer **Clément Ahouitonon**, journalist **Jérôme Azagoun** and driver **Augustin Gbodui** died as they were coming back from an assignment in N'Dali in the Northern region of Benin when their car crashed into a truck parked on the side of the road.

May

May 5 • Cameroon

Anthony Mitchell, a correspondent for the Associated Press, was killed in a plane crash in Cameroon. He had been on assignment to investigate the criminal trade in endangered species for food

May 17 • Nigeria

Moses Ezulike, a journalist for *Champion*, Agbo Issac of *The Nation*, **Alfred James** of *Leadership*, **Musa Nuhu** from *NAN*, **Judith Adama** from *New Nigerian* and another journalist from AIT were killed in an accident in Shendam, Plateau. They were travelling with Gov. Joshua Dariye to inaugurate some projects in the area.

November

November 10 • Cote D'Ivoire

Traoré Gaoussou a journalist for *Le Jour Plus* and **Kossou Jean-Marc** of *Nord Sud* were killed in a road accident as they returned to Abidjan from Boudoukou (Central East) covering a politician's tour. They were killed instantly as the car that was carrying them crashed into a trailer in a suburb of Abidjan. Two other journalists were seriously injured.

December

December 24 • Somalia

Journalist **Abdulkadir Ali Hosh** (Jilbis) was killed in a car crash near the southern checkpoint of Garowe, capital of Puntland. The journalist was a passenger in a car carrying Jama Hassan Karshe, a member of Puntland Parliament, who also died in the accident. Hosh was an online journalist and was the editor of AllDarwiish.com



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Americas Regional Office

Fighting impunity in crimes against media workers is the challenge that Latin American journalists and their unions must take on with increasing frequency. They are assuming this role in one of the most dangerous regions of the planet when it comes to providing information in a timely and truthful manner. Twenty-one colleagues have fallen during 2007, victims of drug traffickers' bullets and other types of organized crime.

Absurdly, none of the assassins' names appear beside the names of the victims. The inefficacy and ominous silence of justice in these cases is an insult to our democratic society. The impunity for these killers puts the whole system of values for human rights at risk. When journalists are left defenseless and besieged by their violent attackers, freedom of expression and information becomes more vulnerable to attack.

The Federation of Journalists of Latin America and the Caribbean (FEPALC), a regional organisation of the IFJ, has set as a priority the promotion of a culture of respect for the lives of journalists. This means we will denounce impunity and demand justice from governments and government-related organizations. But we also call for solidarity and awareness from our communities, whose own interests lie in taking up this fight.



Gregorio Salazar
Regional Coordinator IFJ/LAC



L-R: Protestors hold posters calling for justice in the murder of Peruvian journalist Miguel Pérez Julca; and A photograph of Pérez Julca at a vigil after he was murdered. Both photos ©ANP

February

February 8 • Brazil

Freelance photojournalist **Robson Barbosa Becerra**, 41, was shot eight times in his car as he arrived home in the Rio de Janeiro suburb of Abolicao. He worked for various newspapers in Rio de Janeiro and had reported previous death threats, which were being investigated at the time of his murder.

January

January 7 • Colombia

Elacio Murillo Mosquera, a columnist for the newspaper *Chocó 7 días*, was shot four times in the head while in an ice cream shop in Istmina. He was killed instantly.

Murillo had been reporting on paramilitary organisations in his region, which is controlled by an extreme right-wing illegal organization. Murillo, who was also a practicing lawyer, wrote a

column called “Noticias del San Juan” (News from San Juan). He also coordinated a radio program called “Mesa para Tres” (Table for Three) on the station “Canalete Etéreo.”

January 19 • Haiti

Photojournalist **Jean-Rémy Badio** was killed in Martissant, south of Port au Prince. He was killed at home by members of a gang that he had photographed a few days earlier, according to his colleagues at Association SOS Journalists.

March

March 16 • Peru

Journalist **Miguel Pérez Julca**, 38, was shot twice in the head near his home in Las Palmeras district of Jaén by men riding motorcycles. He worked on the news show “El informativo del pueblo” (Town News), on Radio Éxitos, in which he reported information critical of local mayor Jaime Vilchez and talked about crime and corruption in the city.



Members of ANPRESS, an affiliate of the Colombian Federation of Journalists in the city of Ibagué in west central Colombia at an event that was part of an international campaign to “stand up for journalism.” Their sign reads: Journalists seek truth through peace: No more indifference!

April

April 6 • Mexico

Amado Ramirez, a correspondent for Televisa in Acapulco, was shot three times as he left Radiorama Acapulco to drive to present the news program *Al Tanto*. Preliminary reports say Ramirez was shot by an unknown assailant in his car. He survived the first shot and, gravely wounded, tried to find refuge in the Hotel California. His attackers shot him two more times in front of the hotel.



Demonstrators hold signs calling for the release of Peruvian journalist Jaime Rázuri who was held hostage in Gaza for 6 days in January 2007. He was released unharmed. ©ANP

April 26 • Mexico

Saul Martínez Ortega, a journalist for the newspaper *Interdiario* in Agua Prieta was kidnapped on April 16 and found dead outside the city of Casas Grandes in the state of Chihuahua on April 23.

An autopsy found he died from blows to the head. Martínez, 35, was a police reporter and his colleagues said that he had no personal enemies and was killed by drug traffickers for reporting on their crimes.

was shot outside his home in Guatemala city. López, 64, had produced for 14 years a daily program analysing politics called “Casos y cosas de la Vida Nacional” (Cases and Things from National Life). Robbery is not believed to be the motive as nothing was taken and his car was found a few meters from the scene of the shooting.

tour companies and five town council members from Porto Ferreira. The case had a lot of repercussions for the media industry at the time.

May 16 • Haiti

Alix Joseph, director of Radio - Tele Provinciale in Gonaives, was assassinated by two unknown gunmen as he left his girlfriend’s house. The police have not identified a motive or suspects for the crime.

May 5 • Brazil

Luiz Carlos Barbon Filho, a journalist for the Jornal do Porto/ JC Regional Newspapers was shot by two men on a motorcycle in the city of Porto Ferreira, 228 kilometers from Sao Paulo. Four years earlier Barbon had denounced a child prostitution ring that involved among others

May 22 • Haiti

Francois Latour, a presenter for Caraibes FM Radio, was found dead after he was kidnapped in Port-au-Prince. He presented

May

May 3 • Guatemala

Mario Rolando Lopez Sanchez, a producer for Radio Sonora,



Chauncey Bailey ©Oakland Tribune

the show “Se compra, se vende” (It’s bought, It’s sold) for many months and he was also working for Radio Métropole, another private station.

July

July 5 • Guatemala

Jorge Alejandro Casteñada Martínez, a photojournalist for *Nuestro Diario/Siglo Veintiuno* newspapers, was shot 10 times by unknown assailants when he took his two children (ages 4 and 6) to their school in the capital Guatemala City.

Casteñada, 35, had won a national prize for his work and had also worked for the government.

August

August 2 • United States

Chauncey Bailey, a journalist at the *Oakland Tribune*, was shot by 19-year-old DeVaughndndre Broussard, a member of a violent

gang that was the subject of a series of articles that Bailey was working on.

Broussard confessed to homicide investigators that he shot Bailey multiple times. He has since recanted his confession and is awaiting trial.

August 22 • Paraguay

Tito Alberto Palma, a journalist for Mayor Otaeno Radio was shot by two men dressed in military clothes while he was eating in a home in Mayor Otaño, 400 kilometers southeast of the capital Asuncion.

Palma, 47, was known for his critical reporting of politicians and other influential people in the area as well as his stories denouncing drug-trafficking gangs. Theories for his murder include that he was killed by drug-traffickers or that it was related to his reporting on three radio stations operating without licenses in the city.

Palma had received death threats for years but those threats intensified in the month before his death and a week before he was killed he announced on the air that he would return to Chile because of threats.

September

September 20 • El Salvador

Salvador Sánchez Roque, a freelance reporter for various radio stations, was shot near his home in Soyapango by a gang member who believed that Sánchez had implicated him in crimes in the area. He is believed to have been targeted for his reporting on social issues and organized crime.

In October the Nacional Civil police arrested gang member José Alfredo Hernández who along with two others is accused of killing Sánchez, who worked for stations including YSUCA, Mi Gente and Cadena Sonora. The other two suspects are still at large.

October

October 8 • Mexico

Driver **Mateo Cortés Martínez** and delivery workers **Agustín López** and **Flor Vásquez López** were killed when unidentified assailants shot at their vehicle bearing the logo of the Oaxaca-based newspaper they worked for, *El Imparcial del Istmo*.

An SUV chased and then blocked the newspaper’s vehicle on a highway between Salina Cruz and Tehuantepec before the occupants got out of the car and shot all three men, according to Mexican press reports. The newspaper’s Regional Director Gonzalo Domínguez received an anonymous telephone call later that afternoon stating he was “next.” Luis David Quintana, the daily’s deputy director, told local reporters that the newspaper had received several threatening e-mail messages and letters in the month before the shooting warning that the paper should tone down its coverage of local drug trafficking gangs.

October 18 • Honduras

Carlos Salgado, a journalist for *Radio Cadena Voces* was shot seven times in the back in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. His assailants escaped in a car.

Salgado, 67, had spent more than 40 years working as a journalist and on his program “Frijol, el terrible” and was known for using humour to criticise politicians and government figures.

December

December 8 • Mexico

Israel García Pimentel, a reporter for the daily *La Opinión de Michoacán* (Michoacan Opinion) in the state of Michoacan, was shot about 20 times by unknown assailants in the car park of the

hotel where he lived with his family

No motive has been discovered yet for the killing but family members claim his murder was connected to his work. He covered political and social news. Michoacan is one of the most dangerous regions for journalists due in part to the powerful drug cartels operating in the state.

AMERICAS ACCIDENTS

January

January 29 • United States

Michel Barelli, 54, an automobile journalist for French daily *Nice-Matin* was killed when he lost control of a car he was test driving on a mountain road near San Diego, California.

May

May 15 • United States

Joe Loy, an assignment editor at Fox Carolina news, was run over as he was filing a lumber truck that had lost its load. Loy was standing on the highway when a vehicle swerved to avoid another and hit Loy.

July

July 17 • Brazil

João Roberto Brito and **Luiz Pinto**, a journalist and an editor, respectively, of the broadcaster SBT died in the TAM plane crash at Sao Paulo 's Congonhas airport. They were on their way to a meeting in Sao Paulo.

July 27 • United States

Two pilots and two photojournalists were killed in a mid-air collision of two news helicopters filming a police chase in Phoenix. KTVK-TV photographer **Jim Cox** and pilot **Scott Bowerbank** and KNXV-TV photographer **Rick Krolak** and reporter-pilot **Scott Craig** were killed when their helicopters collided.



September

September 9 • Mexico

Reporters **David Herrera**, of daily newspaper *Zócalo*, **Carlos Antonio Ballesteros**, of daily *El Tiempo* and **Andrés Ramírez** of daily *La Prensa*, were killed covering a car accident that involved an explosives-laden truck and another vehicle.

The explosion took place minutes after the reporters arrived at the accident scene 30 kilometers south of Monclova. The truck was carrying 20 tons of mining explosives.

September 11 • United States

Photographers **Thomas Newby**, 50, and **Mark Copeland**, 44, were killed when the helicopter they were in crashed into the Gulf of Mexico during a photo shoot for *Powerboat Magazine*. The pilot was critically injured in the crash.

October

October 10 • Brazil

Journalists **Elisandra Lucotti**, with newspaper *Folha d'Oeste*, **Evandro Troian** of RBS TV and **Valdir Lucas Rupulo** of radio station Rede Peperi were killed while covering a crash between a bus and a truck on a highway in Florianópolis. A truck hit and killed the three reporters and 20 other fire and rescue personnel who were at the scene.

November

November 25 • Bolivia

Lola Almudevar, 29, a journalist with the British Broadcasting Company was killed in a car accident while on her way to cover political unrest in Sucre. The taxi she was riding in collided with two trucks which had already crashed. Four others also died.

December

December 6 • United States

ABC cameraman **Ralph Binder** was killed in a car crash as he drove from Denver to Omaha to cover a shooting in a shopping mall. Soundman Dan Johnson, who was driving with Binder, was injured in the accident.



THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Asia-Pacific Regional Office

Deadly violence against journalists, media workers and their families in the Asia-Pacific region increased during 2007, as the number of killed journalists and media staff almost unchanged at 31 in 2007 compared with 34 in 2006. Of those killed in 2007, almost half were working in Pakistan or Sri Lanka, where the alarming number of deaths as a result of bombings, cross-fire and murder are indicators of the region's heightened insecurity. These numbers do not reveal the darker reality of journalists who are reported missing and whose whereabouts remain unknown.

In 2007, Sri Lanka and Pakistan eclipsed the Philippines as the most dangerous places in the region for journalists to work. However, amid intense conflict and political strife in Pakistan and the ongoing violence of Sri Lanka's civil war, local and national authorities show a disturbing lack of will to protect journalists and outright hostility toward the principles of independent and critical media.

In Pakistan and Sri Lanka, there are similarities but also sharp differences. More journalists and

media workers were killed in Pakistan than in Sri Lanka, but the killing of a media worker in Sri Lanka is more likely to be an act of murder. Killings of media workers in Sri Lanka remained almost steady at seven in 2006 and six in 2007, while the toll in Pakistan doubled from four to eight. In both countries journalists and media workers confronted the daily reality of the risk of death, abduction, physical attack, threats and intimidation.

Pakistan's rising death toll in recent years led the IFJ to send a mission to the country in February to raise the issue with authorities. Since then, however, continued killings show a bad situation deteriorating further, as was made clear when President Pervez Musharraf clamped down hard on the media after his imposition of emergency rule in November. The IFJ sent a second emergency mission to Pakistan in late November.

Of those killed in Pakistan, two journalists were gunned down, allegedly for the content of their work. Three died in the line of fire in conflict zones or as

a result of their presence at news events: two at the siege of Lal Masjid mosque in Islamabad and one at the return from exile of opposition figure Benazir Bhutto, which prompted bomb blasts in Karachi that killed 138 people. Two other media workers died in separate bomb attacks that also killed others. However, the bomb that detonated outside the home of Mahrin Nisa in November was clearly intended for her. Even though she is not counted in the official tally of killed media workers, the widow of murdered photojournalist Hayatullah Khan had been agitating for an investigation into her husband's death. Her murder increases concerns about a trend of attacks against relatives of journalists.

In Sri Lanka, the working environment for journalists and media workers remains extremely dangerous. In the zones where fighting between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) resumed in mid-2006, a culture of impunity prevails as media institutions and their staff are targeted according to the ethnic divisions that characterise the war. In the war zones, editors of Tamil outlets were shot dead, several outlets were hit by arson attacks, the Government proclaimed as a success its bloody attack on a Voice of Tigers radio station, and a senior journalist at one paper has not left his office for more than a year for fear of being murdered. As in Pakistan, there is no political will to bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes. Sri Lanka's media community is in the grip of a fear psychosis as media staff flee the industry or even the country.

The negative attitude to media protection and rights is not confined to Sri Lanka and Pakistan, as was evident when the military junta in Burma responded with violence – yet again – to suppress pro-democracy protests. In that case, however, the killing of Japanese news photographer Kenji Nagai was caught on film and broadcast across the world, further strengthening international condemnation of the junta. As the protests gained momentum before a crackdown in late September, local independent reporters defied personal risks by transmitting information out of the country. But the deaths of other journalists and media workers in the region did not receive such high-level attention, and authorities in other countries may consider themselves relieved of global pressure to end a culture of impunity for those who target the media.



Jacqui Park, *Director Asia Pacific Regional Office Director.*

The situation should, ideally, be considered more positive in Nepal. Although two journalists were murdered during 2007 and others faced threats, intimidation and the risk of abduction, there is optimism that the country's transition to democracy will not only help to secure a free media but also promote governance that is genuinely committed to assure journalists and media institutions of protection and justice. The establishment of a media rights monitoring service in the country builds on a similar model in the Philippines, where there have been some successes in pursuing prosecutions and the media safety environment has improved. A safety office was also set up in Afghanistan in 2007 and intensive safety training sessions were run for journalists working in the country. But there is no room for complacency. Five journalists were shot dead in the Philippines and four media workers were killed in Afghanistan in 2007.

Nevertheless, the culture of impunity is being challenged in the Philippines, Nepal and Afghanistan. Successes in protecting journalists and media workers and defending the right of communities to enjoy a free, independent and critical media require vigilance, courage and international advocacy. The benefits will be felt as strong networks of trades unions and professional associations work together at all levels to defend the right of all individuals to enjoy the positive impacts of good journalism.

Jacqui Park
Director of Asia-Pacific Regional Office



L-R: Sayed Agha Photo courtesy of Afghanistan Independent Journalists Association/Committee to Protect Afghan Journalists; An ambulance is decorated with flowers and a picture of Ajmal Naqshbandi as it heads to pick up Naqshbandi's body at Kabul airport April 11, 2007. ©REUTERS/ Ahmad Masood (AFGHANISTAN); Demonstrators in Nepal protest after the killing of journalist Birendra Shah. © Sagar Shrestha

January

January 2 • Pakistan

Afghan journalist **Anwar Saleh**, a reporter for *Islam Ghagh* weekly was killed in Hangho, the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan by unidentified armed men who cut his head was cut from his body.

Before working for *Islam Ghagh*, Saleh, worked with BBC and RTA-Khost.

January 10 • China

Lan Chengzhang, a reporter for the *China Trade News* newspaper was beaten to death in the Huiyuan region of the Shanxi Province. According to news reports he was investigating a story on China's coal mining industry when he was attacked by assailants, allegedly on the orders of a local coal mine boss.

February

February 17 • Afghanistan

Rahman Qul, editor of *Andkhoy* magazine was attacked and killed by two armed motorcyclists. The provincial police chief

Mohammad Fazal accused the Taliban of the attack, saying they had arrested a suspect.

February 19 • Philippines

Hernani Pastolero, editor-in-chief of the Cotabato City-based newspaper *Lightning Courier* was shot by a lone gunman as he was drinking coffee outside his house.

March 5 • Bangladesh

Jamal Uddin, a journalist for ABAS and the Rangamati regional paper, *Dainik Giridharan* was reported missing after he left his home on March 5. Police recovered his body from the Rangamati Tourist Complex the next day and recorded the cause of death as murder.

March 5 • Afghanistan

Sayed Agha, the driver for Italian *La Repubblica* correspondent Daniele Mastrogiacomo was killed by the Taliban in an ambush. During the attack, the Taliban fighters managed to abduct passengers Daniele Mastrogiacomo and his fixer Ajmal Naqshbandi.

Ajmal Naqshbandi was later beheaded (April 4) when the Afghan government refused to meet

demands for a prisoner exchange.

Mastrogiacomo was released on March 19.

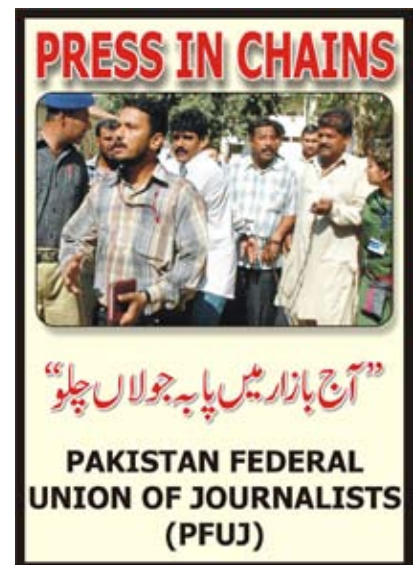
April

April 16 • Sri Lanka

Subash Chandrabogas, editor of *Nilam* was shot dead at his home in Thirunavatkulam, near Vavuniya. The motive remains unknown.

April 17 • Philippines

Carmelo Palacios, a reporter for Radyo ng Bayan was found dead in St Rosa Town, Nueva Ecija prov-



Journalists arrested in Pakistan in early November are taken to court in handcuffs in Karachi. ©PFUJ



A Hot Day for Marches – Journalists bear the April heat to protest against attacks on media in the Philippines. ©NUJP

ince. His body was badly beaten and he had been shot in the chin.

April 28 • Pakistan

Mehboob Khan, a freelance photojournalist who worked regularly for *Katapat* was among the 28 killed in an April 28 **suicide bomb** attack on Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao in Charsadda.

April 26 • Sri Lanka

Selvaraja Rajewarnam, an editor at *Nilam* was killed by an unidentified gunman while cycling in Jaffna. He had only been working for the newspaper for four months. Tragically he left his previous job at the *Nawadu Eelanadu* because its managing director was murdered in August 2006 and its publication ceased to operate.

May

May 9 • India

Three employees from the Tamil daily *Dinakaran* were killed during a violent protest that led to an arson attack on the newspaper's office in Madurai. Computer engineers **M Vinod Kumar** and

G Gopinath, as well as security guard **K Muthuramalingam**, were killed in the blaze that destroyed the office building shared by newspapers *Dinakaran*, *Tamil Murasu* and television station Sun TV.

The fire was reportedly started by a mob of angry supporters of a faction of the political party, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), who hurled petrol bombs and stones. The mob also ransacked and locked the building to trap staff inside; the survivors had to break windows and scale down walls to escape the fire, according to local reports.

The protesters were reportedly demonstrating against the results of a political poll conducted by *Dinakaran*.

May 21 • Philippines

Dodie Nuñez, a freelance photojournalist based in Cavite who worked regularly for *Katapat*, was killed in an ambush. According to GMANews.tv, he was riding a jeep on his way home to the town of General Mariano Alvarez when the jeep was intercepted by three unidentified men on motorcycles.

June

June 2 • Pakistan

Noor Hakim Khan, a reporter for the newspaper *Pakistan*, was killed along with four other men including a government official when a bomb targeting their vehicle exploded. Local sources say Noor Hakim's vehicle appeared to be targeted, as two vehicles in their convoy passed through the area unharmed ahead of them.

June 6 • Afghanistan

Zakia Zaki, head of radio station Sada-e-Sulh (Peace Radio), was killed when three armed men broke into Zaki's home and shot her seven times with two different types of arms while she was sleeping with her baby and two-year-old son. Zaki had received death threats before, relating to her criticism of the warlords who control the area.

June 17 • Pakistan

Noor Ahmed Solgani, a reporter and presenter for *Khabroon*, was killed as he arrived in Pir Jo Goth from his village Machyoon. Two armed men shot him at close



range and fled. The motive behind the murder is still unknown though police suspect it could be part of a tribal feud.

June 25 • Philippines

Vicente Sumalpong, a reporter for Radyo ng Bayan, died instantly after being shot five times by an unidentified assailant in an ambush in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. He was riding a motorcycle with two colleagues, reporter Vema Antham and staff member Ruelan Hope Borja, who were also injured in the attack.

July

July 3 and 4 • Pakistan

Javed Khan, a photographer for Markaz and the UK-based DM

Digital TV television station, and **Maulana Masud Mehmood**, a reporter for *Daily Islam*, were killed while covering clashes between law enforcement agents and the students of Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) in Islamabad. Khan died on July 3 after he was hit in the chest and neck by stray bullets thought to have been fired by paramilitary fighters. Mehmood died on July 4.

August

August 1 • Sri Lanka

Nilakshan Sahapavan, a part-time journalist and student at Jaffna Media Resource Training Centre Chaa'laram, was killed after being shot by gunmen in his family home in Kokuvil in the early hours of the morning. The area is

under government control, heavily guarded by the Sri Lankan military and the shooting occurred within curfew hours.

According to the Free Media Movement (FMM), Sahapvan had just attended a seminar in Colombo in which students had talked about the situation facing journalists in Jaffna. The Tamilnet website, which covers Tamil affairs, said Sahapavan had played an active role in events marking the second anniversary of Tamilnet editor Dharmaratnam Sivaram's murder.

September

September 16 • Nepal

Sanker Panthi, a correspondent for *Naya Satta*, was found dead at a gas station in Mahendra



A journalist shouts slogans during a joint protest in Colombo, Sri Lanka, November 6, 2007. © REUTERS/Buddhika Weerasinghe(SRI LANKA)



L-R: Kenji Nagai of APF tries to take photographs as he lies injured after police and military officials fired upon and then charged at protesters in Yangon's city centre September 27, 2007. Nagai, 50, a Japanese video journalist, was shot by soldiers as they fired to disperse the crowd. He later died. ©REUTERS/Stringer (MYANMAR); and Birendra Shah. © Avenues TV



Highway in Sunwal with injuries to his head and body that indicated he had been attacked. He was on assignment reporting on the destruction of a Young Communist League (YSL) office.

same motorbike as Shah at the time of the incident, said that Maoists had beaten him before leaving with Shah. One month later on November 5, Shah was confirmed dead by the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist) at a press conference in Kathmandu. The CPN told the media that Shah was killed on the same day that he was abducted. Shah had previously

written about the former rebels' alleged profiteering from timber smuggling and also their alleged assault and abuse of opponents.

September 27 • Burma

Kenji Nagai, a Japanese photographer for APF News, was killed during demonstrations in the Burmese capital of Rangoon, where monks were leading a protest against the Burmese military junta. He was killed near the Sule pagoda when soldiers opened fire onto a crowd of protesters.

October 19 • Pakistan

Muhammed Arif Khan, senior cameraman for ARY One World, was killed by bomb blasts in

October

October 5 • Nepal

Birendra Shah, a journalist with Nepal FM and *Distri Weekly*, was abducted from Pipara Bazaar, Kalaiya-6, in the Bara district of Nepal. The motive remains unknown. Ram Dev Das, a journalist who was riding on the



A cameraman's shadow is reflected on a poster of names of journalists who were slain in Philippines, during a prayer rally in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day in Manila May 3, 2007. ©REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco (PHILIPPINES)



A journalist shouts slogans during a demonstration by media persons in Colombo June 6, 2007. The banners read “Condemn the attack on journalist Chinthaka”, “Who is this? What are they doing? 2006-2007 in media: Killed 9, Disappeared 1, Abductions 2, Assaults 4, 6 in remand. Who is responsible for these?” ©REUTERS/Buddhika Weerasinghe (SRI LANKA)

Karachi that killed 138 people. The two bombs targeted the truck carrying the returning opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

about corruption and mistreatment of the poor.

(Tamil Tigers)-held town.

November

November 23 • Pakistan

Zubair Ahmed Mujahid, a journalist for *Jang newspaper*, was shot in the stomach by an unidentified gunman on a motorcycle and was killed instantly. His brother insists the motive of the killing was revenge for his investigative articles

November 27 • Sri Lanka

Isaivizhi Chempiyan, Suresh Linbiyo and **T. Tharmalingam**, three editorial staffers at Voice of Tigers radio were killed along with other civilians by an Air Force strike on the radio station near Kilinochchi in the country’s northern province of Vanni. The state-run Media Centre for the National Security (MCNS) reported that the Sri Lanka Air Force conducted the attack on the LTTE

December 24

Fernando Lintuan, a radio broadcaster for dxGO radio in Davao, was killed by gunmen while in his car after leaving work.

At about 10 am, two men on a motorcycle opened fire on Lintuan at a street intersection. He was with two fellow radio journalists, dxGO’s Louie Ceniza and dxRR’s Edgar Banzon, who were unhurt but could not identify the attackers.

ACCIDENTS

February

February 25 • Indonesia

Suherman, a cameraman for Lativi, and **Muhammed Guntur**, a cameraman for SCTV, were covering an investigation into a ferry fire and was filming on the ferry when it sank without warning. According to local reports none of the journalists were wearing life vests

March

March 7 • Indonesia

Morgan Mellish, the Jakarta correspondent for the *Australian Financial Review* and Liz O'Neill, a media advisor for the Australian Government, were killed when a Garuda Air flight crash-landed and burst into flames at Yogajakarta airport.

August

August 11 • India

Shobhana Singh, a journalist for Zee TV, was killed in a mudslide in Himachal Pradesh while driving to film a rare meteor shower at Chandratal in the Rohtang Pass.

October

October 8 • Pakistan

Mohammed Farooq, a cameraman for Pakistan TV, was killed when the military helicopter he was riding in crash-landed near Muzaffarabad.

October 19 • India

K Nagaraju, a journalist for *Andhra Prabha*, was trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants in the Hussainapuram reserve forest area, near Veeraghatam. Three other journalists who were taking pictures of the herd with Nagaraju narrowly escaped.





THE YEAR IN FOCUS

IFJ Europe Regional Office

Hrant Dink, editor of the *Agos* newspaper in Istanbul, was a strong and powerful person. When he spoke the audience listened.

I spent time with him twice but only on one day. I met him on a December morning in 2006 in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm at a discussion on freedom of speech and human rights in Turkey.

Then I saw him again the same evening at a more informal meeting with the Turkish and Armenian communities in Stockholm.

When Hrant Dink spoke I listened. He filled the room when he spoke in support of press freedom as an essential part of free and open discussion among different nationalities in the Turkish state. He spoke of the right to openly debate history and saw that as a prerequisite for peaceful and democratic development in Turkey.

At the time Hrant was facing charges in Turkey for his work as a journalist. And like many brave journalists

in Turkey he decided not to leave the country but stay and risk a jail sentence.

The infamous paragraph 301 in the Turkish penal code is a vague clause that can be used by the authorities to bring charges against those who defame or question the concept of “Turkishness” or the Turkish state.

Hrant’s voice was powerful, his words convincing and for that reason some dark forces within Turkish society sent a killer to murder him. In the first days of 2007 Hrant Dink was shot and murdered just outside his newspaper office.

In Turkey, journalists and other friends of press freedom demonstrated against his murder and in honour of Hrant’s memory. In Stockholm, I talked at a meeting with the same purpose. We demanded the killers to be brought to justice, we spoke against paragraph 301 and we demanded the abolition of this shameful law.

The memory of Hrant will always be connected with the long and ongoing fight for freedom of speech in Turkey.

It is no coincidence that out of three murdered journalists in Europe 2007, one is from Russia and one is from Turkey. The governments in those two countries have not enforced the protection of journalists, necessary in any country where you need an open debate to promote changes in the society. And that goes for all countries.

Even if Europe fortunately is spared some of the worst scenarios when it comes to violence against journalists, the developments here are not going the right way either.

The structure under which journalists are working with ongoing media concentration, with less security in the work in terms of employment, with more demand on the individual journalist to produce more material and with less security for the sources increases every day the need for strong journalist organisations.

We need good collective agreements guaranteeing journalists employment even when they ask the tough and critical questions. We need agreements guaranteeing journalists the necessary training for risky situations and full support of their employer when they go on risky assignments, be it a war correspondent or the local reporter covering the local criminal life.

We need practical courses and instruction on how to protect journalists.

We need in some cases physical protection like body guards, alarm systems and flak jackets.

We need strong organisations to support journalists in their rightful demands for stronger legislation when it comes to protection of sources and the tools of the trade. We need a strong cooperation with employers and editors who stand behind the same democratic and journalistic values as their staff and freelance workers and have the same goal of offering quality journalism.

We need strong organisations to forcefully back up the journalistic profession, now risking marginalisation in a media landscape where the main object in many cases seems to be maximise profit and nothing else.



Arne König

Organizing, a basic task for journalists' organisations is again one of the most important issues for European journalists and the European Federation of Journalists. With strong organisations representing journalists in individual countries, the safety of all our colleagues will improve.

With strong collective agreements safe-guarding the journalistic profession, the power structures that order the killings of journalists will be undermined.

We need strong structures of our own to be able to enforce our demands on legislation and to fight legal authorities who are not doing their jobs.

We need those structures so the killed list for next year will show fewer killed colleagues, that we have been able to save lives and breach the escalating violence against journalists.

The 260,000 journalists in the European Federation of Journalists are a good starting point for that work.

The work of the EFJ will in the coming year focus on collective agreements and recruiting, thus building the structures that eventually will lead to a more secure working situation for European journalists.

Arne König
Chair, European Federation of Journalists



Left: Hrant Dink. Right: Dink's body after he was killed by a Turkish nationalist just outside his office. ©Anadolu Ajansi

January

19 January • Turkey

Hrant Dink, the editor of the Turkish Armenian newspaper *Agos*, was shot outside his offices in Istanbul by a seventeen-year-old Turkish nationalist.

Dink, 53, was a prominent journalist who had received threats from nationalists who viewed him as a traitor. He had expressed concern over what he described as the hatred some Turks had for him.

His death came just over a year after he was given a six-month suspended sentence for writing about the Armenian “genocide” of 1915. He wrote about what Armenians say was the massacre by Ottoman Turks of hundreds of thousands of Armenians in 1915. Turkey strongly denies any genocide, and says the deaths were a consequence of World War One.

Eighteen people have been charged in connection with his murder. The trial began on July 18.

At the time of publication two non-commissioned police officers in the killer’s hometown who allegedly knew about the plans had been charged with negligence for doing nothing to prevent the killing of Dink.

March

2 March • Russia

Ivan Safronov, a military affairs writer for Russian newspaper *Kommersant*, died after falling from the fifth floor of his apartment building. According to press



A protester holds a portrait of killed journalist Alisher Saipov in front of the Interior Ministry building in Bishkek October 26, 2007. ©REUTERS/Vladimir Pirogov (KYRGYZSTAN)

reports he received threats for an article he was preparing about Russian plans to sell weapons to Iran and Syria via Belarus, *Kommersant* said he had not yet submitted the piece. Russian authorities are launching an investigation into his death.

October

24 October • Kyrgyzstan

Alisher Sayipov, a freelance journalist who also founded the newspaper *Sayasat*, was shot outside the offices of Radio Free Europe in Osh.

The motive for his shooting is under investigation. Sayipov wrote numerous articles critical of neighboring Uzbekistan's government. The government of Kyrgyzstan has said his work may have contributed to his death. He worked for various news media including fergana.ru, Radio Free Europe and Voice of America.



A protester ties black ribbons on a fence of the Interior Ministry building in Bishkek October 26, 2007. © REUTERS/Vladimir Pirogov (KYRGYZSTAN)





THE YEAR IN FOCUS

Middle East

For the last three years the escalation in numbers of killings of media staff can be traced to the continuing tragedy of Iraq. In the first weeks of 2007 the targeting of journalists reached new horrifying levels but by December the first hopeful signs of an end to the slaughter began to emerge.

The struggle for press freedom and democracy in the Middle East continues to be overshadowed by a pattern of violence in which media staff are prominent among the victims and no more so than in Iraq and Palestine.

Iraq has been the deadliest country for journalists since the US invasion in 2003, and claimed at least 65 journalists and media staff this year, slightly down on the 69 who were killed during 2006. Of those who died in 2007 all but one was an Iraqi national. A further three journalists died, all of them in Palestine, giving a total of 68 for the region.

Efforts to intervene to support Iraqi journalists during this period of crisis included the establishment of a national safety programme in May, but throughout the year the fear of targeting of journalists has remained the primary concern of the IFJ. The case of the bombing and armed raid on Radio Dijla, a private station in a predominantly Sunni area of Baghdad, in which two people died, highlighted the problem. It was the third attack on the station in five months. The station's deputy director told the Associated Press that gunmen also tried to kidnap four employees as they were riding to work, but the driver managed to get away.

A year earlier *Radio Dijla*, *Al Iraqiya* TV and *Al Sabah* newspaper lost multiple employees in targeted attacks. The role of private armed security companies employed by the United States was also highlighted by the shooting of three security guards working for government-funded *Al Iraqiya* TV. They were killed by employees of the Blackwater company

The struggle for press freedom and democracy in the Middle East continues to be overshadowed by a pattern of violence in which media staff are prominent among the victims and no more so than in Iraq and Palestine.

accompanying a delegation in Baghdad near the Iraqiya TV headquarters.

A series of journalists, working for press and television were targeted and killed by unknown assassins. Among the victims was **Mohan Al Zaher**, boss of the independent daily newspaper *Al Mashria*, who died in Baghdad during a kidnap attempt. A few days earlier he had published a trenchant article criticising government finances. Other journalists just disappeared and later turned up dead.

In response to these attacks the two IFJ affiliates in Iraq organised an urgent meeting on security for Iraqi journalists. The meeting, hosted by the Kurdish Journalists' Syndicate and co-organised with the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate, saw the launching of the Iraq Media Safety Group which brings together media representatives from throughout the country. Together with the International News Safety Institute and the IFJ, the new Safety group is aiming to develop a national safety plan for Iraqi journalists.

The number of media killings in Iraq began to fall towards the end of the year as targeting by warring factions in the country's sectarian disputes began to subside raising hopes that new safety initiatives may see a downturn in the number of media killings.

The IFJ has been working closely with the Arab Federation of Journalists and others to try to highlight the media crisis across the region. This cooperation was highlighted during the year in the concerted international action over the kidnapping of BBC journalist Alan Johnston in Palestine. The Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate led local efforts to highlight this case and eventually the bitter divisions between Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah were bridged and eventually Johnston was released unharmed three months captivity.

The IFJ remains concerned over the lack of proper reporting and investigation into cases of media deaths at the hands of United States soldiers. Around 20 journalists and media staff have been killed by US troops since March 2003 and the IFJ has reiterated calls for an independent process of investigation and reporting. Currently, the US military carries out its own investigations and normally produces reports which, if they are published at all, are unconvincing and full of self justification.

In the first days of 2008, the IFJ sent an urgent mission to Baghdad to develop a new programme to help journalists and media confront the media crisis and, who knows, to prepare the way for a winding down of violence and a new phase in the troubled history of the country.



Palestinian policemen push and point their weapons at journalists during a rally calling for the release of BBC journalist Alan Johnston in Gaza, April 17, 2007. © REUTERS/Mohammed Salem (GAZA)

January

January 5 - Iraq

Ahmed Hadi Najji, a cameraman for the Associated Press, was found dead six days after his family reported him missing. He had been shot in the back of the head. He had worked as a messenger and occasional cameraman for the AP for 2 1/2 years.

January 12 – Iraq

Khoudr Younes al-Obaidi, a journalist working for *Al-Diwan* newspaper and other media outlets, was gunned down in Mosul by several men in a car as he walked in the street.

January 12 - Iraq

Two unnamed employees of state-run *Al Sabah* newspaper were kidnapped from the newspaper's

offices in Baghdad and found the next day with their throats cut.

January 14 - Iraq

Yassin Aid Assef, a correspondent for state-run *Al Sabah* newspaper, was killed by a bomb while covering a story in Baghdad.

January 15 – Iraq

Falah Khalaf Al Diyali, a photographer for *Al Saha* newspaper, was shot by unknown assailants who saw him taking pictures of damage to the central mosque in Ramadi. The men followed him as he was working then shot him as he was driving away. He also contributed photos to state-run daily *Al-Sabah*.

January 16 - Iraq

An **unnamed security guard** for state-run *Al Sabah* was found

dead on the newspaper building's roof. The paper believes he was shot from a distance while patrolling on the roof.

January 28 - Iraq

Munjid Al-Tumaimi, a freelance photographer was shot dead in Najaf as he was taking pictures in the city's hospital of people injured in clashes near the city. His attackers also took his camera and mobile phone.

February

Iraq- February 7

Nabras Mohammed Hadi, Ashar Abdullah al-Maliki and Sabah Salman, security guards working for government-funded Al Iraqiya TV, were killed by Blackwater foreign security guards accompanying a delegation in Baghdad near the Iraqiya TV headquarters.



Wounded Reuters cameraman Nehad Shnaha is carried to a hospital during an Israeli raid into the central Gaza Strip December 20, 2007. Israeli tanks and troops backed by helicopter gunships raided the central Gaza Strip, killing at least four Palestinian gunmen. ©REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa (GAZA)

February 19 - Iraq

Hussein Al Zubaydi, a journalist working for *Al Ahali* weekly newspaper, was shot dead by unknown assailants.

February 20 - Iraq

Abdel Razeq Hashim Al Khaqani, a journalist for Voice of Iraq, was discovered in a Baghdad morgue on 20 February one week after he had been kidnapped in East Baghdad. He had been shot dead.

March

March 3 - Iraq

Jamal Al Zubaidi, the managing editor of *Al Safir* newspaper, was found dead a week after he had disappeared. He had a gunshot wound to the head and had been severely wounded in a previous shooting attack.

March 4 - Iraq

Mohan Al Zaher, a managing editor at independent daily newspaper *Al Mashria*, was killed near his home in Baghdad during a botched kidnapping attempt.

The well-known journalist published a column in the newspaper the previous Sunday that criticized government spending. The piece, entitled "In the Goal: Democracy the Indian way," asked Iraqis "if this is the democracy that we dreamt of?"

March 7 - Iraq

Youssef Sabri, an Iraqi journalist working for Biladi TV was among the 22 killed in a car bomb attack at a checkpoint in the al Dawra district in the south of Baghdad. Biladi TV, is a privately-owned station affiliated with al-Dawa, a Shia political party. Sabri was reportedly at the checkpoint to film Shia pilgrims leaving the capital for the holy city of Karbala.

March 16 - Iraq

Hussein Al Jaburi, editor of *Al Safir* Newspaper, died in a hospital in Amman, about a month after he was attacked outside his home in Baghdad on February 11.

March 19 - Iraq

Hamid Al Duleimi, a producer for Al Nahrain TV, was found dead in the Baghdad morgue two days after he was abducted leaving the TV studio. An autopsy revealed that Al Duleimi, 37, had been tortured.

April

April 5 - Iraq

Khamail Khalaf, a journalist working for Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty, was found dead two days after she went missing in Baghdad. She was found with a shot to the head and other body wounds.



April 5 - Iraq

Senior Iraqi journalist **Thaer Ahmed Jabr** and journalist trainee **Husain Nizaer** were killed when a suicide truck bomb exploded outside a television station in Baghdad. Eleven others at the station were injured in the bombing.

April 6 - Iraq

Othman Al Mashhadani, a reporter for Saudi newspaper *Al Watan*, was found dead in Baghdad two days after he was kidnapped.

April 12 - Iraq

Iman Yussef Abdallah, a journalist with the Mosul Workers' Union Radio, and her husband, were shot dead by gunmen in an eastern

area of the city. According to the Iraqi Association for the Defence of Journalists' Rights, their bodies were later set alight in their vehicle.

May

May 3 - Iraq

Adel Al Badri, a security guard, and an **unnamed electric generator operator** at Radio Dijla were killed when gunmen attacked staff at the radio station in a predominantly Sunni area of Baghdad. Five others were wounded before the attackers bombed the building and knocked the station off the air. It was the third attack on the station in five months. The station's deputy director told the Associated Press that gunmen also tried to kidnap four employees as they were travelling to work, but the driver managed to get away.

May 6 - Iraq

Dmitry Chebotayev, a freelance Russian photographer on assignment for Russian *Newsweek*, was killed in a roadside bomb attack north of Baghdad while on patrol with U.S. forces, six of whom were also killed. He was the first Russian journalist killed in Iraq.

May 9 - Iraq

Raad Media Company owner **Raad Mutashar**, journalists **Aqeel Abdul-Qader** and **Imad Abdul-Razzaq al-Obeidi** and driver **Nibras Razzaq** were shot dead in Northern Iraq southwest of Kirkuk near the small town of Rashad. Police believe they were targeted because they were journalists.

Mutashar, was also chairman of Kirkuk writers' union. According to local reports, Mutashar and the



Mourners carry the body of Palestinian journalist Soliman al-Ashi during his funeral in Gaza May 14, 2007. ©REUTERS/Suhaib Salem (GAZA)

two journalists were dragged from their car, tortured and shot. Their driver Razzaq was also killed.

May 13 - Palestine

Suleiman Abdul-Rahim Al Ashi, an economics editor, and **Mohammad Matar Abdo**, a distribution manager for the Hamas-affiliated *Palestine Daily Newspaper*, were killed by gunmen who stopped their taxi in southwest Gaza city. The gunmen were reportedly wearing presidential guard uniforms.

May 15 - Palestine

Mohaamad Awad Al Joujou, a journalist for the Palestine Live website, was shot by gunmen in Gaza City while on his way to cover clashes between Fatah and Hamas factions that broke out in mid-May over control of the security forces.

May 17 - Iraq

The bodies of Iraqi cameraman **Alaa Uldeen Aziz** and soundman **Saif Laith Yousuf** were found a day after they were abducted after leaving ABC's Baghdad bureau.

May 20 - Iraq

Ali Khalil, a reporter for *Al-Zamen* newspaper, was found dead several hours after he was kidnapped while leaving a relative's house in Baghdad. He was 22.

May 26 - Iraq

Aidan Abedallah Al Jameji, head of the Turkmen language Section for Kirkuk TV, was found in the trunk of his car after it had

been burned and dumped near a cemetery in Kirkuk.

May 28 - Iraq

Abdel Rahman Al Issawi, a journalism professor and freelancer was killed in the western city of Fallujah by gunmen who also killed six of his family members. Issawi, who contributed to several newspapers and satellite channels and taught media studies, was killed along with his father, brother, and four children in his home.

May 29 - Iraq

Mahmoud Hassib Al Qassab, editor-in-chief of Kirkuk's *Al Hawadeth* newspaper, was killed by unidentified gunmen in front of his house in the predominantly-Turkmen neighborhood of al-Musalla, northern Kirkuk. He was an ethnic Turkmen and the fourth journalist to be killed in Kirkuk in May.

May 30 - Iraq

Nezar Abdul Wahid Al Radi, correspondent for the Aswat Al Iraq News Agency, was killed in the southern city of Amara as he prepared for a journalism workshop with colleagues. Three gunmen opened fire on al-Radi and five other journalists near al-Arousa Hotel killing him immediately.

June

June 7 - Iraq

Sahar Al Haideri, a journalist working for Aswat Al Iraq News

Agency in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, was killed by gunmen. Al Haideri, 45, was found in the al-Hadbaa neighbourhood of northeastern Mosul. She covered political and cultural news for the independent news agency.

June 11 - Iraq

Aref Ali, a journalist working for Aswat Al Iraq News Agency, was killed by a roadside bomb. He was the third agency employee to be killed in a two-week period. Ali, 32, was killed while on assignment in Diyala, where violence had spiralled as Sunni insurgents battled against U.S. and Iraqi troops. Aswat al-Iraq said Ali was hit by a roadside bomb near the town of Khalis, north of Baghdad.

June 17 - Iraq

Flayeh Wadi Mijdab, editor of *Al Sabah* newspaper, was found dead in Baghdad four days after he was kidnapped by gunmen in several cars who intercepted his vehicle as he drove to work.

June 24 - Iraq

Zeena Shakir Mahmoud, a newspaper journalist and a former radio broadcaster with "The Voice of Mosul," was killed in Mosul. Mahmoud, 35, worked for *Al-Haqiqa*, a news organ of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. She was attacked in mid-afternoon in the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Intisar, in eastern Mosul. She herself was Sunni. Her murder occurred while her colleagues were celebrating Iraq's national "Journalists Day".



June 25 - Iraq

Rahim Al Maliki, a producer and presenter for Al Iraqiya, was killed in a suicide bombing at a conference centre in central Baghdad at the Mansour Hotel. Eleven others were killed in the blast.

June 26 - Iraq

Freelance journalist **Hamed Sarhan** was killed by gunmen in southern Baghdad on his way home from work. For more than 30 years, Sarhan, 57, worked for various newspapers, magazines and for the Iraqi news agency.

June 27 - Iraq

Lucy Suleiman, a journalist for *Nineveh Al Hurra* newspaper in the northern city of Mosul, and another man were killed by gunmen in the city's Al-Zuhur neighbourhood.

Suleiman was reportedly carrying an identity card which showed him working as a reporter with the newspaper.

July

July 4 - Iraq

The body of **Mohammed Hilal Karji**, a journalist for Baghdad TV, was found in the morgue almost a month after he was kidnapped on June 8. Karji was kidnapped outside his home while on his way to work in the Yusifiyah region south of Baghdad.

July 4 - Iraq

Sarmad Hamdi al-Hassani, a journalist for Baghdad TV was found in the morgue a week after he was kidnapped. Al-Hassani was seized from his home in Baghdad's

Al-Jamia neighbourhood on June 27. His body was found the same day as Mohammed Hilal Karji who had been kidnapped a few weeks before al-Hassani disappeared.

July 6 - Iraq

Ali Watan, a journalist for Samawa TV, was shot by a sniper as he entered the station's building.

Watan was killed in the clashes that erupted between security forces and fighters of the Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi army in the southern Iraqi city of Samawa.

July 11 - Iraq

A **translator** for Reuters was shot dead with two of his brothers while they were in a car near the Diyala bridge in Baghdad. Family members requested that his name not be published.



This picture appears to be the last one taken on the cameras of Reuters Iraqi photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen while he was still alive. It shows the top of someone's head who could be falling to the ground or crouching. U.S. soldiers took Noor-Eldeen's two digital cameras from the scene in Baghdad's al-Amin al-Thaniyah neighbourhood after he was killed on July 12, 2007. They were later returned to Reuters. ©REUTERS/Namir Noor-Eldeen (IRAQ)



L-R: Reuters photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen smiles in Baghdad. ©REUTERS/Courtesy of AP-Khalid Mohammed (IRAQ); and Reuters driver Saeed Chmagh, 40, who was killed along with photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen, 23, in Baghdad on July 12, 2007. ©REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz (IRAQ)

Iraq- July 12

Reuters photographer **Namir Noor-Eldeen** and driver **Sameed Chmagh** killed in eastern Baghdad.

Witnesses told Reuters that the two were killed in a U.S. helicopter attack but the military described it as a firefight with insurgents. Iraqi police blamed American military action for the deaths.

A preliminary police report obtained by Reuters said Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh had been killed by a “random American bombardment” that had killed nine other people.

July 13 - Iraq

Khalid W. Hassan, an interpreter and reporter in Baghdad for the *New York Times*, was shot dead in the Sadiya district of south central Baghdad while driving to work.

Before his death he had called his office and said his normal route had been blocked by a security checkpoint and he was trying to find another way to get to work,

the newspaper said. About half an hour later he called his mother, with whom he lived, telling her, “I’ve been shot.”

July 16 - Iraq

Majeed Mohammed, a sports reporter, and Mustafa Gaimayani, editor of *Kirkuk Al Yawm* newspaper, were killed when a suicide attacker driving a truck packed with explosives detonated the vehicle near their office while they were working on an edition. The target of the attack was one of the offices of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani’s party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in central Kirkuk. Mohammed was also a correspondent and Gaimayani a writer for the Kurdish-language weekly *Hawal*.

July 27 - Iraq

Adnan Al Safi, a journalist for Al Anwar, a Kuwaiti-owned satellite channel, died after being shot in the head by a sniper on his way home from work. Safi, 40, died from nerve damage more than 24

hours after the incident, which took place in the Otaifiyah area of northern Baghdad. Safi also worked as an adviser to the Iraqi journalists’ union and as a reporter for Sawt al-Iraq (Voice of Iraq).

August

August 27 - Iraq

Anwar Abbas Lafta, an Iraqi translator working for CBS, was found dead a week after he was abducted from his home.

On the evening of August 20, gunmen entered Lafta’s home, fought with him and his brother and shot his sister in the arm, CBS said in a statement. His family received two ransom calls during the week, and then a cousin received a call from police that a body had been found on the north side of Sadr City, the large Shi’ite neighbourhood in Baghdad. Abbas, who was in his early 50s and was not married, had worked as a translator for the U.S. military in Iraq for three years before joining CBS News 10 months earlier.





L-R: A man looks inside the vehicle of Jawad al-Daami, a journalist for Baghdadiya television, where he was shot by gunmen, outside Yarmouk hospital morgue in Baghdad September 24, 2007. ©REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen (IRAQ); the brother Jawad al-Daami cries as his coffin, placed on the top of a vehicle outside Yarmouk hospital morgue in Baghdad September 24, 2007. ©REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen (IRAQ); and Alan Johnston, a BBC journalist, is surrounded by Hamas fighters and other people after he was released in Gaza July 4, 2007. ©REUTERS/Suhaib Salem (GAZA)

September

September 3 - Iraq

Amir al-Rashidi, a cameraman for Al Iraqiya, was killed by unidentified gunmen in the centre of Mosul.

September 20 - Iraq

Unidentified gunmen killed **Muhannad Ghanim Ahmed**, who worked for the privately owned Radio Dar al-Salam, in the eastern Al-Muharibeen district of the city, police Brigadier General Abdul Karim Khalaf al-Juburi said.

Iraq- September 23

Jawad al-Daami, a presenter for the Al-Baghdadiyah channel, was killed by gunmen who opened fire on his car in the western Baghdad neighbourhood of Al-Qadisiyah as he was driving through the area.

October

October 14 - Iraq

Salih Saif Aldin, a reporter for the *Washington Post*, was killed while he was taking photos in a Baghdad neighbourhood.

Iraq- October 15

Jasim Mohhamed Nofaan, Khaled Hamed Nofaan and **Zeyad Tariq al-Dibo**, who all worked for *Al Watan* newspaper, were killed by an unidentified armed group in the public road leading to Kirkuk. Two security guards, A'allal Abedaljabbar Salaameh and Mohhamed Shakir Mahmoud, were injured in the attack.

Iraq- October 22

During the kidnapping of the U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) correspondent Jumana al-Obaidi, her driver, **who** was identified as **Abdullah**, was shot and his body dumped in the street. Al Obaidi was freed after being held for 10 days.

Iraq- October 27

Shehab Mohammed al-Hitti, a 27-year-old journalist working for *Baghdad News* was abducted and killed in a northern district of the capital as he was on his way to work. He had worked for Baghdad News since 2003 and before that worked for several dailies, including al-Zaman and Babel, under the previous regime.

December

Iraq- December 14

Ali Shafeya Al-Moussawi, correspondent for the Alive in Baghdad website was found dead after a raid by Iraqi National Guard forces on the street where he lived in Sadr city in Baghdad. Al-Moussawi, 22, was shot 31 times in the chest and head.

The Alive in Baghdad website said Al-Moussawi was recently working on a report about an Iraqi militia group and that it was investigating a threat the reporter received the week before his death.



INTERNATIONAL

safety

FUND

The International Safety Fund of the IFJ is expanding. It is reaching out to provide more support to the people who work with journalists and it is looking to provide continuing assistance – particularly to families in conflict regions who face an uncertain future after the loss of a breadwinner.

In 2007 the IFJ has provided more than €50,000 of emergency assistance to more than two dozen journalists and their families. The recipients came from all over the world and show the scope of attacks on journalists—intimidation, threats and attacks did not abate this year.

In May 2007 the IFJ also made a special agreement with the Vintu Foundation for Excellency in Education and Journalism, to provide continuing help to the families of killed media workers.

The fund is providing monthly payments for a year to 10 journalists' families who lost a relative to violence related to that person's work as a journalist. The selected recipients come from all parts of the world: Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Iraq (3 families), the Philippines (2 families), Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

In 2008 the Fund has established a new relationship with fellow trades unionists who want to support translators and interpreters working with journalists who are the victims of violence. The establishment of the Safety Fund for Media Translators and Interpreters (SFMI) on the initiative of a team of interpreters working for the IFJ is being supported initially by colleagues working with other trade union internationals – like the

International Transport Workers' Federation. Other interpreters are being asked to back this initiative. This money, made available through the IFJ Safety Fund, will provide targeted support to the families of these vital media support staff.

During 2008 the IFJ is also launching new efforts to raise greater awareness of the Fund which is made up of money raised by individual journalists and IFJ unions. The Fund has taken up cases all over the world and intervened to provide special support for the media victims of natural disasters and accidents.

It has also helped to pay the hospital bills of injured journalists, has flown threatened colleagues to safe exile and contributed to legal costs in court actions to defend journalists rights in countries where often poverty and social conflict makes it impossible for journalists to help themselves. The Safety Fund has also given assistance to families of journalists.

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

- ▷ The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily to provide one-off emergency assistance for journalists and media staff who are injured in the line of duty, often in the so-called “hot-spots” of the world and in cases where the media employing the journalist/media staffer are unable to cover such costs. This assistance can be in the form of travel, medical or subsistence costs.
- ▷ The Safety Fund can also be used on case by-case limited basis to assist in legal fees for journalists/media staff that again cannot find sufficient support from their employer.
- ▷ Finally, the Safety Fund can provide immediate assistance for the families of journalists and media staff whose ‘bread-winner’ has been killed and who have no means to sustain themselves.

Whenever the IFJ gives assistance there is a monitoring and reporting process to ensure that the money goes to where it is intended. In 2005 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ headquarters.



Students display placards during a rally to commemorate World Press Freedom Day in Manila May 3, 2007. REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco (PHILIPPINES)

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

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

These publications provide basic guidelines on the dangers which may occur, and what measures journalists can take to minimise risks. They are distributed to journalists free of charge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The IFJ Safety Fund can only continue to assist journalists if its future is secured. In order to go out, money must come in. But, most importantly, it is a Fund that must provide help to those who need it most. During 2008 we intend to make sure that we get the message out to those who have suffered and face a bleak future: you are not alone – the IFJ Safety fund is there to help.

LIVE NEWS A Survival Guide for Journalists



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

from the IFJ Human Rights and Safety Office.

International News Safety Institute



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

groups, unions, and humanitarian campaigners working to create a culture of safety in journalism.

More information from www.newssafety.com

Solidarity in Action

Afghanistan

Through the Fund assistance went to the families of two media workers killed in Afghanistan as well as assistance to a journalist forced to flee the country after he was threatened for articles he had written who is seeking asylum abroad.

Algeria

The Fund provided assistance to a journalist forced to leave Algeria and residing in France.

Colombia

A journalist who has been threatened and forced to flee his hometown got assistance from the Fund to support his family as he tried to arrange asylum in another country.

Dominican Republic

A group of journalists received assistance from another arm of the Fund – the Gustl Glattfelder Fund for journalist victims of natural disasters – after their homes were destroyed in a hurricane in November.

Gambia

The Fund provided assistance to journalists who faced the threats from the government stemming from his investigative reporting.

Iraq

The Fund provided assistance to the families of killed journalists.

Paraguay

The Fund provided assistance to a journalist who was forced to flee the country after he was kidnapped and tortured for stories he wrote on drug-trafficking and corruption.

Peru

A group of journalists received assistance from the Gustl Glattfelder fund for journalist victims of natural disasters after their homes were destroyed in a massive earthquake in June.

Somalia

The Fund provided assistance through a special grant of €10,000 to numerous journalists who were injured or forced to flee Somalia due to their work as well as provide assistance to the families of killed journalists.

Sri Lanka

The Fund provided assistance to journalist forced to flee the country after he received threats and feared for his safety.

The IFJ Safety Fund Vintu Assistance went to families in: Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Colombia and Zimbabwe to help them deal with the consequences of losing a major breadwinner in their family.

International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

safety

FUND

It's the
thought
that **counts**

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

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