



International Federation of Journalists

# Targeting and Tragedy

Journalists and Media Staff  
Killed in 2005

An IFJ Report on Media Casualties  
in the Field of Journalism  
and Newsgathering



PLUS special IFJ International Safety Fund report



Cover photos:

An unidentified mourner holds a photo of a victim as she attends a ceremony to commemorate those who died in the plane crash on 6 December, in Tehran. Photo: AP

A group of Filipino journalists who have armed themselves for protection, show their weapons to protest over assassinations on journalists in the country. Photo: AP

**Who is included in the IFJ List of Journalists and Media staff Killed**

The IFJ casualty toll includes all employed staff, including freelance who work in all sections of the media industry. Our list includes all journalists and support staff as well as employees who are in the firing line and who are victims because their media have been targeted. We include personnel such as drivers, fixers and translators who died during newsgathering activities. We also include people who have been killed because of accidental causes while on duty. We recognise that other organisations do not include some of the victims we have identified. We believe that by ensuring all media employees involved in the support and promotion of journalistic activity are covered by this report it is possible to give a fuller picture of the extent of casualties within the media workforce.

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## Targeting and Tragedy

2005 a record year of loss in journalism -

150 deaths and 89 murders and other killings

*It was in the end a year of targeting and tragedy. Two incidents, only days apart in December, summed up the story of a year in which journalists and media staff were again in the headlines as victims of an increasingly dangerous profession.*

*On December 6, 48 journalists and media staff climbed aboard a military aircraft in Tehran. Their assignment was to cover army manoeuvres in the south of the country, but they never made it. The plane, an old and creaking C-130 air force transporter, crashed soon after take off killing them all and sparking off a row, still unresolved, about whether the aircraft was unsafe and should not have been in service.*

*Six days later Lebanese journalist and newspaper boss Gebran Tueni, who had returned to his homeland only 24 hours earlier from exile in Paris, was blown to pieces when a bomb destroyed his car. Tueni, publisher of the independent An-Nahar newspaper and a distinguished writer and lawmaker who made no secret of his criticism of Syrian influence in Beirut, was among four people killed in the explosion. He was the latest journalist to be singled out for assassination in another brutal year for world journalism.*

*The details of those killed in 2005 are set out in this report. In total the numbers are staggering. By the IFJ's count – and we include colleagues who die in accidents in the exercise of their profession – it was an unprecedented year with at least 150 casualties.*

*Of these the IFJ has counted 89 who were killed in the line of duty, singled out for their professional work. In 2005 the trend towards targeted assassination of editorial staff has intensified. Many of these colleagues died at*

*the hands of criminals, political extremists and sinister paramilitary groups operating on the fringes of civilised society.*

*A further 61 died in a series of accidents and natural disasters, with victims caught up in the Pakistan earthquake (3), or in the Iran plane tragedy (48), or who died in car accidents in India (3), Colombia (1), Bangladesh (1) and the United States (2), a helicopter crash in Indonesia (1), or those who died in a horrifying road crash in Guinea, western Africa (2), when a mini-bus filled with journalists en route to a world Aids Day media event burnt out in a road accident.*

*During 2005 journalists came to terms with the consequences of the aftermath of the tsunami of December 2004 in the Indian Ocean in which media people were among the victims. After the wreckage was cleared and rebuilding commenced it was found that there were 11 confirmed deaths of media people and a further 78 are missing, many of them presumed dead.*

*It is not possible to lighten the load by playing with figures. The Philippines remained the most dangerous country in the Asia-Pacific region for journalists with 10 journalists killed – almost all of them the victims of brutal murder and targeted assassination while another 12 were killed in Colombia, Haiti, Mexico and Brazil, once again highlighting the curse of corruption, crime and narcotics that has cast its shadow over the region's media for more than a decade.*

*The threat from political quarters was cruelly exposed when, following threats to journalists in Bangladesh from the ruling Bangladesh National Party a bomb explosion at a press club in Khulna killed senior journalist Sheikh Belaluddin*

*Ahmed. And, as ever, ruthless criminals made their mark, as in the case of Dolores Guadalupe Garcia Escamilla, a crime reporter who was shot dead by gangs in Nuevo Laredo, a town in the lawless region around the Mexican-United States border.*

*But once again the focus is on the Middle East where 38 targeted deaths – 35 of them in Iraq alone – make this region by far the world's most deadly beat for reporters in the field. Most of those who died were local, many of them working for international media outlets in Iraq where the streets are too dangerous for foreigners to tread.*

*The murder of Mohammed Harun Hassan who was gunned down in Baghdad was particularly shocking in a year of unspeakable violence against media. He was the Executive Secretary of the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate and also editor-in-chief of Nabdh Al Shabeb newspaper. He was not only a courageous voice campaigning against political corruption; he also spoke out against journalists who disgraced their profession by collaborating with military intelligence services.*

*In addition there were another five cases of journalists killed involving United States troops – bringing to 18 the number of reporters and media staff killed at the hands of occupation soldiers since 2003 and reinforcing calls led by the IFJ for independent investigations into these deaths to eliminate suspicion of targeting.*

*The controversy in Britain in November over a reported discussion between George Bush and Tony Blair on a plan to bomb Al-Jazeera's headquarters in Qatar once again raised fears that the US attack on the station's offices in Baghdad on April 8, 2003 when journalist*

*Tareq Ayyoub died was a targeted strike to intimidate a contrary media voice.*

*IFJ unions around the world protested on April 8, 2005 – also the anniversary of the US attack on the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad when two journalists, José Couso and Taras Protsyuk, were killed – calling for full and independent investigations into these deaths and all cases where journalists have died at the hands of US soldiers. New protests will be held in April 2006.*

*The continuing high level of media deaths cries out for more action and during 2005 the IFJ, with the support of the International News Safety Institute (INSI) and many other press freedom and professional groups, has launched a campaign in favour of action by the United Nations to force governments to pay more attention to the safety crisis facing journalists and media.*

*A draft resolution for the attention of the United Nations Security Council was presented to the Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, in November at the World Summit on the Information Society and this campaign will continue into 2006.*

*At the same time, efforts to provide humanitarian relief for the victims of violence are continuing. This expanded report includes information on the work of the IFJ Safety Fund which provides special assistance to the families and loved ones who are left bereft and often in need after the death of breadwinners. There is also information on the use of money raised during the year for disaster relief in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.*

**Aidan White, IFJ General Secretary**



# Journalists and media staff killed in 2005

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
	Afghanistan	Shaima, Rizaee	TV Presenter	Tolo TV	17/5/05
	Afghanistan	Fahim, Ihsan	Reporter	Mazar TV	22/10/05
IN	Afghanistan	"Maiwand",	Radio Presenter	Da Solah Paghham	17/12/05
	Azerbaijan	Elmar , Huseynov	Editor-in-chief	Monitor Magazine	3/2/05
	Azerbaijan	Alim, Kazimli	Journalist	Yeni Musavat Daily Newspaper	19/69/05
A	Bangladesh	Md Mujibur, Rahman	Photojournalist	Sangram Newspaper	28/12/04
	Bangladesh	Sheikh Belaluddin, Ahmed	Reporter/Bureau Chief	Shamokai Daily Newspaper	11/2/05
	Bangladesh	Gautam , Das	District Bureau Chief	Dainik Ajker Khabar Daily Newspaper	17/11/05
	Belarus	Vasily, Grodnikov	Correspondent	Narodnaya Volya Newspaper	18/10/05
MS	Brasil	Ricardo , Gonzalves Rocha	Newspaper Owner	Jornal Vicentino Newspaper	31/3/05
	Brasil	José Cândido , Amorim Pinto	Radio Journalist	Diário do Nordeste	1/7/05
MS	Brasil	José María , Ramos da Silva	Driver	Radio Comunitaria Alternativa	26/10/05
	China	Zhou, Wenguang	Photographer	Xinhua News Agency	8/11/05
	Colombia	Julio Hernando, Palacio Sánchez	Radio Host	Radio Lemas	11/1/05
	Colombia	Rafael Enrique, Prins Velásquez	Journalist/Editor	Apocalipsis Newspaper	19/2/05
A	Colombia	Alberto Martínez, Práder	Sports Reporter	RCN TV and Radio	27/7/05
	Democratic Republic Congo	Frank, Kangundu	Journalist	La Reference Plus Daily Newspaper	3/11/05
	Ecuador	Julio Augusto, García Romero	Freelance Photographer	La Bocina Newsagency	19/4/05
A	Guinea Bissau	Sori, Baldé	Broadcast Journalist	Televisao de Guine-Bissau	1/12/05
A	Guinea Bissau	Aruna, Djamanca	Journalist	Kansare Newspaper	1/12/05
	Haiti	Abdias, Jean	Radio Correspondent	WKAT-AM Radio	1/12/05
	Haiti	Laranque, Robenson	Radio Journalist	Radio Tele Contact	4/4/05
IN	Haiti	Jacques, Roche	Editor	Le Matin Newspaper	14/7/05
A	India	Asim, Nath	Journalist	Aajkaal Daily Newspaper	
A	India	Bhimashi, Mannapur	Journalist	Karnataka Times Newspaper	29/8/05
A	India	Devdas, Shahade	Journalist	Mahasatta Daily Newspaper	29/8/05
A	Indonesia	Erman, Tasrial	Journalist	Singgalang Newspaper	9/1/05
	Indonesia	Elyudin , Telaumanua	Journalist	Berita Sore Newspaper	24/8/05
A	Iran	Mohammad, Karbalaee Ahmad	Photojournalist	Hamshahri Daily Newspaper	6/12/05
A	Iran	Rasul, Kazemnezhad	Photojournalist	Keyhan Daily Newspaper	6/12/05
A	Iran	Hassan, Gharib	Photojournalist	Iranian Student's News Agency (ISNA)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Smaeel, Omrani	Photojournalist	Iranian Student's News Agency (ISNA)	6/12/05

A: Accident

ND: Natural Disaster

IN: Under Investigation

MS: Media Staff

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
A	Iran	AliReza, Baradaran Najar	Photojournalist	Fars Newsagency	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mohammad Sadegh, Nili	Journalist	Fars Newsagency	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mahdi, MirAfzali	Photojournalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Sepahdar, Sajedi	Journalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mahdi, Abasi Asnari	Trainee Journalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Ebrahim, Baghaee	Trainee Journalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Daryush, Shahini	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mahmud, Eilbeigi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mahmud, TuranPashti	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Majid, Asgari	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Seyed Yahya, Mahdavi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	MohammadReza, Shadruh	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	HamidReza, Kheirkhah	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Hassan, Najafi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Seyed Hadi, Hoseini	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Jalil, Eidizade	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Massoud, Jaonnesari	Radio Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Amir, Sahraee	Radio Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Babak, Ghiasvand	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Hossein, Mirzaee	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	MohammadReza, Farisabadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
MS	Iran	Nasrolahzade	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
MS	Iran	Rahimi	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
MS	Iran	Sajjad, As'adi	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
MS	Iran	GholamReza, Bayat	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	AliReza, Afshar	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Khoda'Afv, Abdiani	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Javad, Farahani	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05

A: Accident

ND: Natural Disaster

IN: Under Investigation

MS: Media Staff

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
A	Iran	Hossein, ArabAhmadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mahdi, HemattiKhashruni	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
MS	Iran	Hossein, Mohajeri	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Hamid, NazariMakkiabadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Hassan, Heidari	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	MohammadReza, Ahmadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mansur, Mahmudi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Hossein, Babapour	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Hossein, KhosroAbadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Seyed Mohammad, TavusShirazi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Ali, AsadiKordDeh	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Mahdi, Yunesi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Ramami	Support Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Tajik	Support Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Habib, Asadi	Support Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
A	Iran	Alizade	Support Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/05
	Iraq	Abdul Hussein , Khazal Al-Basri	TV Journalist/Radio Correspondent	Al-Hurra TV	9/2/05
	Iraq	Dler , Karam Ali	Journalist	Al-Ittihad Al-Isalmi and Al-Ofiq Al-Islami newspapers	12/2/05
	Iraq	Raledah Mohammed, Wageh Wazzan	News Anchor	Al-Iraqiya	25/2/05
MS	Iraq	Unidentified	Driver	Al-Hurra TV	25/2/05
	Iraq	Laik Ibrahim , Nowruz Al-Kakaie	Bureau Chief	Kurdistan TV	10/3/05
	Iraq	Hussam , Hilal Sarsam	Cameraman	Kurdistan TV	14/3/05
	Iraq	Ahmed , Jabbar Hashim	Reporter	Al-Sabah Daily Newspaper	1/4/05
	Iraq	Fadhil , Hazem Fadhil	TV Journalist	Al-Hurriya	14/4/05
	Iraq	Ali , Ibrahim Issa	TV Journalist	Al-Hurriya	14/4/05
	Iraq	Shadman , Abdulla Izzedine	TV Journalist	Kirkuk TV	15/4/05
	Iraq	Izadeen, Saman Adawi	TV Journalist	Kirkuk TV	15/4/05
	Iraq	Ahmed , Al-Rubai'i	Journalist	Al-Sabah Daily Newspaper	16/4/05
	Iraq	Saleh , Ibrahim	Cameraman	APTN	23/4/05

A: Accident

ND: Natural Disaster

IN: Under Investigation

MS: Media Staff



Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
	Iraq	Najem, Abd Khudair	Correspondent	Al-Mada Newspaper	15/5/05
	Iraq	Ahmad, Adam	Freelance Journalist	Al-Mada Newspaper	15/5/05
	Iraq	Ali Jassem, Al-Rumi	Trainee Writer	Al-Safeer Newspaper	15/5/05
	Iraq	Jerges Mahmood, Mohamad Sulelman	News Anchor	Nineveh TV	31/5/05
	Iraq	Jassim, Al-Qais	Journalist	Al-Siyada	22/6/05
IN	Iraq	Yasser, Salihee	Correspondent	Knight Ridder US Newspaper Group	24/6/05
	Iraq	Maha, Ibrahim	News Editor	Baghdad TV	26/6/05
	Iraq	Ahmed , Wael Bakri	TV Director	Al-Sharqiyah TV	28/6/05
	Iraq	Khaled Sabih, Al-Attar	TV Producer	Al-Iraqiyah TV	1/7/05
	Iraq	Adnan, Al-Bayati	Freelance TV Producer/Interpreter	Rai, Mediaset and TG3 TV Stations/Panorama Magazine	23/7/05
	Iraq	Steven , Vincent	Freelance Reporter	New York Times/Christian Science Monitor	3/8/05
	Iraq	Rafed Mahmoud, Said Al-Anbagy	News Anchor/Director	Diyala TV	27/8/05
MS	Iraq	Waleed , Khaled	Soundman	As-Saffir Daily Newspaper	28/8/05
	Iraq	Hind, Ismail	Reporter	As-Saffir Daily Newspaper	16/9/05
MS	Iraq	Sabah, Mohssin	Driver	Al-Iraqiya TV	17/9/05
	Iraq	Fakher , Haider	Reporter	New York Times	19/9/05
	Iraq	Firas, Maadidi	Bureau Chief	As-Saffir Daily Newspaper	20/9/05
MS	Iraq	Ahlam, Youssef	Engineer	Al-Iraqiya TV	21/9/05
	Iraq	Mohammad , Harun Hassan	Editor	Nabdh Al-Shabeb Newspaper	19/10/05
	Iraq	Ahmed Hussein, Al-Maliki	Journalist	Tall Afar Weekly Newspaper	7/11/05
	Iraq	Aqeel , Abdul Ridha	TV Journalist	Al-Iraqiya TV	28/11/05
	Iraq	Muqdad, Muhsin	TV Journalist	Al-Iraqiya TV	28/11/05
	Kosovo	Bardehul, Ajeti	Reporter	Bota Sot Daily Newspaper	25/6/05
	Lebanon	Samir, Kassir	Columnist	Al-Nahar Newspaper	2/6/05
	Lebanon	Gebzan, Tuani	Managing Director/Editor	An-Nahar Daily Newspaper	12/12/05
	Libya	Daif , Al-Ghazal Al-Shuhaibi	Journalist/Writer	Lybia al-Youm Online Newspaper/Al-Zhaf Al-Akhdar Daily Newspaper	2/6/05
IN	Mexico	Alfredo , Jiménez Mota	Crime Reporter	El Imparcial Newspaper	2/4/05
	Mexico	Raul , Gibb Guerrero	Director/Owner	La Opinion Daily Newspaper	8/4/05
	Mexico	Dolores Guadalupe, García Escamilla	Reporter	Stereo 91 Radio	16/4/05
	Nepal	Khagendra, Shrestha	Editor	Dharan Today Newspaper	31/3/05
	Nepal	Maheshwor, Pahari	Journalist	Rastriya Swabhimani Weekly Newspaper	4/10/05
In	Nicaragua	Rony Adolfo, Olivas Olivas	Correspondent	La Prensa Newspaper	14/8/05
	Pakistan	Allah , Noor	Journalist	The Nation Newspaper and Khyber TV	7/2/05
	Pakistan	Amir, Nawad	Freelance Cameraman	APTN	7/2/05
ND	Pakistan	Sardar , Hanif	Journalist	Jang Daily Newspaper	8/10/05

A: Accident

ND: Natural Disaster

IN: Under Investigation

MS: Media Staff

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
ND	Pakistan	Abdul , Hafeez	Editor	Jurrat Newspaper	8/10/05
ND	Pakistan	Javed Iqbal, Butt	Photographer	Jinnah	8/10/05
	Pakistan	Nasir , Afridi	Freelance Journalist	Khabrain Daily Newspaper	4/12/05
	Philippines	Edgar, Amoro	Journalist	DXKP Radio	2/2/05
In	Philippines	Arnulfo, Villanueva	Columnist	Asian Star Express Balita Newspaper	28/2/05
	Philippines	Romeo, Sanchez	Radio Presenter	DZNL Radio	9/3/05
	Philippines	Marlenee, Garcia-Esperat	Columnist	Midland Review	24/3/05
	Philippines	Klein, Cantoneros	Radio Presenter	DXAA-FM Radio	4/5/05
	Philippines	Philip, Agustin	Editor/Publisher	Starline Times Recorder	10/5/05
	Philippines	Rolando, Morales	Radio Presenter/ Anchorman	Radio DXMD/Radio Mindanao Network	3/7/05
	Philippines	Ricardo "Ding" , Uy	Radio Announcer	DZRS-AM Radio	18/11/05
	Philippines	Robert , Ramos	Reporter	Katapat Newspaper	20/11/05
IN	Philippines	George , Benaogan	Reporter/Columnist	DYDD Radio/Bantay Balita Newspaper	1/12/05
	Russia	Pavel , Makeev	Cameraman	Puls TV	21/5/05
	Russia	Magomed, Zagid Varisov	Journalist/Political Analyst/Columnist	Novoye Delo Weekly Newspaper	29/6/05
	Sierra Leone	Harry, Yansaneh	Editor	For Di People Newspaper	27/7/05
	Somalia	Kate , Peyton	Producer	BBC	9/2/05
	Somalia	Duniya , Muhiyadin Nur	Reporter/Radio Presenter	HornAfrik Radio/Capital Voice Radio	5/6/05
	Sri Lanka	Sivaram, Dharmeratnam	Online Editor	Tamilnet.com Website	29/4/05
	Sri Lanka	Relangi, Selvarajah	Radio and TV Presenter/ Journalist	Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC)/Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC)	12/8/05
MS	Sri Lanka	D , Selvarajah	Security guard	Sudaroli Printing Press	29/8/05
MS	Sri Lanka	K, Navarathnam	Newspaper Deliverer	Yal Thinakkural Newspaper	21/12/05
	Thailand	Kiat, Saetang	Managing Editor	Hat Yai Post Bi-Monthly Newspaper	14/2/05
IN	Thailand	Santi, Lamaneenil	Publisher/Freelance/ Owner	Pattaya Post Newspaper/Channel 7 TV/Khaosod Newspaper	2/11/05

**A: Accident****ND: Natural Disaster****IN: Under Investigation****MS: Media Staff****TOTAL including accidents and natural disasters: 150****TOTAL targeted killings: 89**

killed in 2005

International Federation of Journalists



# The Year in Focus: IFJ Africa Regional Office



Gabriel Baglo - African Regional Office Director

*Despite the continuous call for a working legal and political framework for media, journalism in the African region has continued to witness brutal attacks and killings. During the 1990s most African governments acknowledged the principles of media freedom and even recognised the value of free expression to democracy and development. There have been some progressive reforms in the region, but in recent years there is a growing fear that the reform movement may be going into reverse.*

*During 2005 the media landscape has been littered with incidents that provide growing evidence that all is not well with press freedom in Africa. A spate of violent attacks reveals that independent media and journalists are more in danger in most parts of the continent than ever before.*

*And this change in atmosphere does not include the media victims in war-torn hostile environments in which many journalists are forced to operate.*

*It is dubious lawmaking and official corruption that works to clip the wings of journalists and to cage the profession.*

*Around Africa there are incidents of imprisonment, intimidation, harassment, forceful arrest, detention, and many violent attacks. The killing of journalists is an inevitable consequence of this decline.*

*The most critical and urgent situations in the continent include: Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Somalia. In an effort to combat key questions of safety in several of these conflict-stricken countries, the IFJ continues to support the work of the International News Safety Institute (INSI), who during this year have carried out specialized safety training for journalists in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Rwanda.*

*However, the most disturbing aspect of these killings is that the perpetrators of these crimes enjoy impunity and are never brought to justice. There are glaring examples that remain outstanding -- on December 13, 1998, Norbert Zongo and three of his colleagues were murdered and burnt in Burkina Faso; on December 16, 2004, Deyda Hydara co-proprietor of The Point newspaper was assassinated in the Gambia; on November 2005 in DR Congo, Frank Ngyke Kangundu journalist at the daily newspaper La Reference and his wife were killed by unknown gunmen. So far none of these victims have received justice. None of those responsible have been brought to justice. The killers remain at large.*

*The deaths in 2005 continue to add to the list of unfinished business of crimes which must be properly investigated. There are also tragedies for which no-one is responsible but the priority is to campaign and fight the culture of impunity in Africa. The IFJ is continuing to call for justice, to seek the abolition of all legal obstacles to press freedom and to make the murder of journalists a crime against humanity.*



Country	Journalist	Media staff	Under investigation
Democratic Republic Congo	1	0	0
Guinea Bissau	2	0	0
Sierra Leone	1	0	0
Somalia	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## FEBRUARY

### 09 FEBRUARY - SOMALIA



The coffin of BBC producer, Kate Peyton, is unloaded by colleagues at Wilson airport, Kenya on 10 February after arriving from Mogadishu, Somalia. Photo: AP

**Kate Peyton, 39:** a BBC producer based in Johannesburg, was taken to the Madina hospital in Mogadishu for an operation to remove a bullet wound to her back but later died of internal bleeding. The circumstances surrounding the incident remain unclear, but according to local reports Peyton was entering the Hotel Sahafi (Sahafi = Journalist) when two masked attackers drove by in a taxi and shot her in the shoulder. Peyton was one of a number of foreign reporters covering a government team that was assessing conditions in the Somali capital, ahead of a plan to relocate the Somali Government to Mogadishu from its exile in Nairobi. The transitional Somali Government has been based in Nairobi since they came to power amid continued fears of instability in Somalia.

Peyton had worked for 10 years in Africa and began working for the BBC as a producer and reporter in 1993. She also worked as a producer and trainer for the South African Broadcasting Corporation in Johannesburg. While police continue investigating and say they have located the taxi and the pistol used in the attack, the two attackers have still not been tracked down. The IFJ affiliate in Somalia, the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) continues to follow the case.

## JUNE

### 05 JUNE - SOMALIA

**Duniya Muhiyadin Nur:** On 5 June, unidentified attackers opened fire on HornAfrik radio journalists Duniya Muhiyadin Nur and Anab Mohamed Yare as they were travelling in a sedan on a road connecting Mogadishu city to Afgoye district of lower Shabelle region, 30 kilometres outside of Mogadishu. Reporter, Duniya Muhiyadin was immediately admitted to Madiina hospital, but died shortly afterwards due to severe injuries sustained from her bullet wounds. Her colleague, Anab Mohamed Yare survived without serious injury. The two journalists were on their way to report on increased barricades of independent militias on the highway between Mogadishu and Afgoye. Due to the increase of these militia roadblocks, the drivers and bus conductors created their

own roadblock in a mark of protest and solidarity. They were ordering the people driving on that road to return, but when the sedan of the journalists turned around to avoid the roadblock of angry drivers and bus conductors, a number of unidentified attackers opened fire on their car.

Duniya Muhiyadin, 26, was a junior reporter of Horn Afrik Radio and a presenter of a program called Mogadishu and Today broadcast on Capital Voice Radio, an FM station owned by HornAfrik Media Corporation. She was a well-loved figure in the community and used to report societal events in the city and carry out interviews with political figures.

## JULY

### 27 JULY - SIERRA LEONE

**Harry Yansaneh:** Harry Yansaneh, the editor of *For Di People*, died of kidney problems caused by an assault he suffered on 10 May. Yansaneh explicitly accused Member of Parliament Fatmata Hassan of ordering the attack. According to Yansaneh, one of Hassan's sons threatened him and vandalised the *For Di People* office. When the editor was on his way to the police station to make an official complaint about the incident, he was attacked by a group of unknown assailants. The motives for the assault appear to be Hassan's apparent desire to evict *For Di People* from their offices, coupled with the member of

parliament's dislike of the newspaper's criticism of the government. Yansaneh had taken over the editorship of *For Di People* in October 2004, following the imprisonment of *For Di People's* editor and publisher, Paul Kamara. Kamara was convicted of "seditious libel" and sentenced to two years in jail for articles that criticised President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

A judicial inquest found that the attack in May on Yansaneh contributed to his death from kidney failure more than two months later. The inquest found that Yansaneh's death was "accelerated by the beating" and called it a case of involuntary manslaughter.

A magistrate ordered the arrest of Hassan, three of her children, and two other men for suspected manslaughter. Hassan, an MP for the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party, Olu Campbell, and Reginald Bull were detained on August 26. All three were released on bail on August 30. Police said they planned to seek the extradition of Hassan's two sons and a daughter from the United Kingdom. The government ordered the inquest following strong local and international pressure. The IFJ affiliate, the Sierra Leone Journalists Association said it was satisfied with the proceedings and with the outcome.

said that the attackers also shot the couple's son in the shoulder. Kangundu, 52, worked for *La Référence Plus* for more than ten years and was well-respected by his colleagues. In November, over 1,000 journalists and other media workers took part in a silent demonstration through the streets of Kinshasa. The government said it had detained two suspects and promised a full inquiry.

## DECEMBER

01 DECEMBER - GUINEA BISSAU



### Aruna Djamanca:

### Sori Baldé:

Two journalists, Sori Baldé working for *Televisão da Guiné-Bissau* (TGB) and Aruna Djamanca from the newspaper *Kansaré* were killed in a road crash in Gabu (East) while covering World AIDS Day on 1 December. Fifteen journalists from six media institutions were involved in the road accident, as they were covering events in the Guinea Bissau region of Gabu, some 200 kilometers from the capital Bissau. The tyre of the mini-van in which they were traveling burst and the van somersaulted. Djamanca and Baldé died on the spot.

The other 13 journalists were flown to Dakar for medical treatment with the assistance of the Senegalese Army. Two of them were admitted to hospital with serious injuries and were said later to be in critical condition. The remaining 11 journalists were lodged at a nearby guesthouse where the injured received medical supplies and treatment through support from the IFJ International Safety Fund administered by the IFJ Regional Office in Africa in Dakar.

## NOVEMBER

03 NOVEMBER - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CONGO

**Frank Kangundu:** Frank Kangundu, veteran political affairs journalist at the independent Kinshasa daily, *La Référence Plus*, and his wife Héléne Mpaka, were murdered on 3 November by two unidentified armed men in front of their residence in Limete Commune in Kinshasa. When Kangundu offered them money and his car if they would let him go, the assailants replied that they had been "sent to kill him". The attackers reportedly only took a mobile phone and a small amount of cash. The same sources



Journalists injured in tragic road accident in Guinea Bissau receive medical aid at the IFJ regional office in Dakar.



## The Year in Focus:

# IFJ Latin America Regional Office

*Fourteen Latin-American journalists lost their lives during 2005, all of them victims of people who are ruthlessly opposed to critical journalism when it exposes their acts of abuse and corruption.*

*The deadly triangle of Colombia, Haiti and Mexico once again, as in 2004, has registered the highest number of victims of violence.*

*In 2004 María José Bravo, a young Nicaraguan reporter, died at the hands of a politician desperate because of his election failure and at the end of 2005 Mexican journalist Dolores Guadalupe Escamilla was gunned down and killed under similar circumstances. Escamilla received several threats through radio broadcast by the Nuevo Laredo police in Mexico, a country where drug trafficking has destroyed the lives of many journalists and their families.*

*Although the number of colleagues killed in the region decreased in 2005, unsafe conditions and the lack of guarantees for the professional exercise of journalism did not change substantially for Latin American journalists. They are continuously being threatened, persecuted and attacked by powerful politicians and the ever-increasing perils of organized crime and corruption.*

*During the last four decades, more than 400 journalists have been killed in Latin America and the level of impunity runs at more than 80% of the cases. Justice for journalists, respect for freedom of expression and the protection of society's right to be well informed are three challenges facing unions of journalists striving to overcome this dramatic situation.*

*Journalists are front-line victims of the social crisis in Latin America where official corruption, drug trafficking, unrestrained criminality, social violence and a background of political instability has made an impact in many countries such as Colombia and Haiti. On the other hand, in Ecuador for example, photojournalist Julio Augusto García Romero died after he inhaled teargas during a street demonstration in the midst of a national crisis that led to the resignation of the President.*

*In Brazil and on a greater scale in Mexico, drug trafficking continues its criminal actions mostly in impunity. In Venezuela, where four journalists died in 2005 at the hands of common delinquency, crime has transformed the country into the most violent in the region following Colombia and El Salvador, while in Colombia it finances a large degree of the destructive and deadly extra-legal groups.*

*For the International Federation of Journalists, aware and concerned about this harsh reality, 2005 meant taking new steps forward to establish a safety culture for journalists. This means implementing in the professional training of journalists, risk awareness and good practice to minimize or avoid risks and guaranteeing these tools are available for their daily work.*

*Various activities were carried out with the International News Safety Institute (INSI) the IFJ Solidarity Centre in Colombia and the Regional Office. Two training workshops were held in Venezuela and Colombia last May and June. During those events, the Spanish version of the LIVE NEWS survival guide was launched. It is the most complete guide of safety practices and recommendations for journalists reporting in war zones and it is available in thirteen languages.*

*During November a broad representation of local journalists in Haiti received the French version of LIVE NEWS. Another action carried out by the IFJ in this depressed Caribbean island since February of 2005 was a mission organized with INSI which reported on the terrible environment of violence in which reporters and media carried out their duty. This work will be strengthened with a safety training workshop to be held in the first trimester of the year.*

*The same IFJ mission, led by General Secretary, Aidan White, visited the Dominican Republic, where the injuries of young colleague Jorge Sención who lost an arm in a violent attack was reminder of the tragic events that overtook Dominican journalism in 2004 when drug traffickers killed Juan Andujar and threatened other reporters, including Sención. The IFJ Safety Fund gave support and aid in this case and in the cases of María José Bravo and Ronny Olivas, both from Nicaragua.*

*As the fightback against these developments take place we highlight as a positive and hopeful event the conversion of the IFJ Latin American Group – GALFIP into the Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Journalists – FEPALC, which has already put human rights and safety of journalists at the top of its list of priorities for 2006 and beyond.*



Gregorio Salazar - Latin American Regional Coordinator

Country	Journalist	Media staff	Under investigation
Brasil	1	2	0
Colombia	3	0	0
Ecuador	1	0	0
Haiti	2	0	1
Mexico	2	0	1
Nicaragua	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
United States of America	2	0	0

## JANUARY

11 JANUARY - COLOMBIA



Photo: AP

### Julio Hernando Palacio Sánchez:

Hitmen on motorbikes shot Palacios, 55, a veteran radio news host, as he drove to work around 5:30 am in the city of Cúcuta, in the unstable northeastern region near the Venezuelan border. Palacios, who hosted the morning program Radio Periódico El Viento on Radio Lemas, was shot three times in the chest. Despite his wounds, Palacios drove back home and his family took him to a local hospital. He died two hours after arriving at San José Hospital in Cúcuta. Palacios was a controversial and outspoken journalist who devoted a segment of his program to denouncing local corruption. Palacios had made

enemies because of his tough talk against corruption and local journalists believed the murder was connected to his work. Palacios received anonymous threats in October 2004. The Cúcuta-based daily La Opinión said local police gave him a security manual and suggested he change his daily routine. Palacios had survived an attack in 1996 when assailants hurled a grenade into his office that failed to explode.

12 JANUARY - HAITI

**Abdias Jean:** a correspondent for WKAT-AM radio in Miami, USA, was killed while covering a police operation in the Village de Dieu sector of Port-au-Prince, a stronghold of supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Jean's mother reportedly accused police of executing her son because he witnessed abuses committed during the sweep. Police acknowledged killing several people during the raid and described them as bandits killed in an exchange of gunfire. According to local reports Abdias Jean may have seen police shoot and kill three youngsters. One witness said police severely beat Jean and then, "After beating him, they took him a little farther and shot him dead." A police spokeswoman, Jessie Coicou, refused to confirm or deny the allegations and urged families

to "file complaints before relevant courts of justice if they think they have a case." She added: "The police don't have to defend themselves before the media. Since I heard there are several witnesses, I hope they will accept to testify before a judge."

## FEBRUARY

19 FEBRUARY - COLOMBIA



### Rafael Enrique Prins Velásquez:

Prins Velásquez, journalist and editor of the newspaper *Apocalipsis* was talking to a number of locals in a park in Magangué, Bolívar, when a hooded assassin opened fire shooting him six times and leaving him severely injured. Velásquez was brought to the nearby San Luis de Dios hospital where after several attempts to save his life he died. Five days before he was killed Velásquez had published an article criticising maladministration within the Municipal Department of Transport in Magangué. The day before his death



he had distributed a leaflet denouncing irregularities within the contractual and working programme for basic health matters directed by the Secretary for Health. According to local inhabitants of the city of Mangué, he was killed for his critical reporting on crime and corruption and he could also have been the target of the extreme right-wing paramilitaries who dominate the region.

## MARCH

### 31 MARCH - BRASIL

**Ricardo Gonzalves Rocha:** 72, owner of the newspaper *Jornal Vicentino* of Sao Vicente in Sao Paulo, was assassinated while he was driving in his car. Rocha was shot three times by unknown attackers riding on a motorcycle. Rocha was considered to be a very controversial figure in the town and was also a city councilman for several decades. Police dismissed robbery as a motive since the journalist's valuables were not taken.

## APRIL

### 2 APRIL - MEXICO



Photo: AP

**Missing Presumed Dead- Alfredo Jiménez Mota:** Jiménez Mota, a crime reporter for the daily newspaper, *El Imparcial*, disappeared from his home in the city of Hermosillo in the northwestern state of Sonora on 2 April. The night of his disappearance he called a colleague at *El Imparcial* to say that he was going to meet with one of his contacts. Jiménez Mota told his colleague that

the contact was "very nervous." No one has heard from Jiménez since that call. Before he went missing, He had been investigating drug-trafficking families in the region. Sonora prosecutors have linked his disappearance with his journalistic work. The Prosecutor General of the Republic, Francisco Daniel Cabeza de Vaca, has opened 11 lines of investigation into the case. The national media published the case as a journalist who had been kidnapped by drug-trafficking gangs and who was later murdered. After the kidnapping, two sisters from Sonora state, Elba and Johann Palma Morquecho, publicly announced that they had been kidnapped by the same gang and that during their captivity they overheard the gang members saying that Jiménez Mota "was dead" after they had "tortured, burned and buried" him. The declarations of the Morquecho sisters also brought to the forefront the possible implication of the State Police Chief of Public Safety in Sonora, Roberto Tapia Chan, in the disappearance of Jiménez Mota. However, this suspicion was subsequently thrown out by the General Prosecutor following a meeting on the matter with the governor of the State of Sonora, Eduardo Tours on 21 July.

### 4 APRIL - HAITI

**Laranque Robenson:** Haitian journalist Laranque Robenson, 25, of radio Tele Contact died in a Cuban hospital on 4 April from gunshot wounds he received two weeks earlier on 20 March in the southern Haitian town of Petit-Goâve in shooting between UN peacekeepers and former soldiers occupying a police station. Two former soldiers and a Sri Lankan peacekeeper were killed in the shootout, which Robenson followed from the balcony of Tele Contact. Colonel El Ouafi Boulbars, spokesman for the UN forces in Haiti said in late October that the inquiry was continuing.

### 8 APRIL - MEXICO



Photo: AP

**Raul Gibb Guerrero:** Raúl Gibb Guerrero, 53, owner and director of the daily *La Opinión*, was shot and killed by four unidentified gunmen as he drove back to his home in Papantla in the eastern state of Veracruz. Struck by eight shots, three to his head, Gibb Guerrero lost control of his vehicle and crashed. He was pronounced dead at the scene. He had received anonymous death threats days before the attack. Authorities believe Gibb Guerrero was murdered for writing articles about the Gulf Cartel, a powerful drug gang. In October 2005, federal agents raided the home of Gibb Guerrero's sister, seizing a grenade, several pistols, and a large stash of ammunitions. A few days later, a second home was raided and the personal secretary of the director's sister was charged with arms possession.

### 16 APRIL - MEXICO

**Dolores Guadalupe García Escamilla:** Guadalupe García Escamilla, 39, a crime reporter for Stereo 91 radio station, died from injuries she sustained when she was shot by a suspected drug gang hitman in front of her radio station in northern Nuevo Laredo, close to Laredo, Texas. The attack occurred about half an hour after the station aired a report by García Escamilla on the slaying of a Nuevo Laredo defence lawyer. She hosted the programme Punto Rojo for the radio in Nuevo Laredo, a violence-plagued

killed in 2005

International Federation of Journalists

city of 500,000 in the state of Tamaulipas. García Escamilla, an experienced reporter who had worked for several media outlets in the city, had covered crime for Stereo 91 since 2001. According to her colleagues García Escamilla's car was torched in early January 2005 in front of her house.

19 APRIL - ECUADOR



Ecuadorean journalists protest during a march seeking respect for the rights of journalists, in Quito, Ecuador on World Press Freedom Day. Photo: AP

Julio Augusto García Romero:

Freelance photographer Julio Augusto García Romero died after inhaling tear gas while covering a demonstration in downtown Quito, Ecuador's capital. The demonstration, organized to protest the ousted President Lucio Gutiérrez, was moving toward the Palacio de Carondelet, the seat of the executive branch, when police fired water cannons and tear gas grenades into the crowd. The Chilean-born García Romero, 58, was taking photographs of the incident when he collapsed. He was then taken to the Red Cross headquarters in Quito, where he arrived with symptoms of asphyxia. Later, however, he suffered cardiorespiratory arrest and was transferred to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead. García Romero worked for the small Chilean news agency La Bocina (The Horn). He had lived in Ecuador for close to 30 years.

JULY

1 JULY - BRAZIL

José Cândido Amorim Pinto:

Known as "Jota Cândido" to his listeners, José Cândido Amorim Pinto was gunned down in Carpina, in the northeastern state of Pernambuco, as he was parking his car outside Rádio Comunitária Alternativa, where he worked. Two attackers riddled him with bullets before making off on a motorcycle. He had been receiving threats for almost six months and had been injured in an earlier shooting attack on 21 May. Amorim, 45, was the presenter of an investigative program for his radio station and had reported and commented about several corruption cases on the air.

14 JULY - HAITI



Hugette Occident cries over the coffin of her son, well-know Haitian journalist Jacques Roche, at the St. Pierre Roman Catholic church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Photo: AP

Jacques Roche:

Jacques Roche, the editor of the daily *Le Matin's* arts and culture section was murdered and his body was found in a chair on a Port-au-Prince street, four days after he was kidnapped on 10 July. He was shot several times and his body was handcuffed, riddled with bullets, and mutilated. Roche also presented a local TV program for the 184 Group, a coalition of civil society organisations that opposed former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He was kidnapped as he was driving in a car in the Nazon district of Port-au-Prince. His kidnappers called his family to demand a 250,000 US dollar ransom

or they would kill him. According to local reports, Roche may have been killed because of his television work for the 184 Group, and during the course of the year a number of suspects were picked up including a prominent Roman Catholic priest whose arrest was denounced by Aristide supporters as being politically motivated.

27 JULY - COLOMBIA



Alberto Martínez Práder:

Alberto Martínez Práder, a veteran sports reporter working for RCN national radio station, was killed while reporting live on a cycling race when his car crashed on a sharp mountain bend. The radio journalist was standing in the back of a convertible with a microphone in hand watching riders compete in the 'Tour de Colombia' when the car's brakes apparently failed and the vehicle hit a side barrier before flipping over on the descent of La Lima. Sports commentator Hector Urrego who was also in the car was rushed to San Juan de Dios hospital with shoulder and collarbone fractures, while journalist Aicardo Torres and technician José López survived with minor injuries.

AUGUST

14 AUGUST - NICARAGUA



A newspaper seller in Managua, Nicaragua displays the story of the killing of La Prensa reporter Rony Adolfo Olivas Olivas. Photo: AP

AFRICA  
AMERICAS  
ASIA PACIFIC  
EUROPE  
MIDDLE EAST & GULF

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**Rony Adolfo Olivas Olivas:**

Olivas, 47, was killed in Estelí, 150 kilometers north of Managua. He was a correspondent for the newspaper *La Prensa* and the President of the Estelí section of the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists (UPN). A taxi driver identified as Santos Roberto Osegueda Palacios, who gave himself up to the authorities on 18 August, allegedly shot Olivas in his taxi. Olivas had received death threats on three occasions, immediately after a series of articles written for *La Prensa*, which alleged that there were links between wealthy people in Estelí and drug traffickers. It is believed that the murder may be related to these threats. On 12 August, the UPN had warned of the danger facing journalists in the country and of the increasing number of threats made against them.

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**OCTOBER**
**26 OCTOBER - BRAZIL**

**Jose Mario Ramos da Silva:** José Mario Ramos da Silva, a driver employed by the *Diário do Nordeste* regional daily, was shot while accompanying two of its journalists on a visit to a slum in Fortaleza, in the northeastern state of Ceará. The shooting occurred when Da Silva, 55, drove reporter Aécio Santiago and photographer José Leomar to a centre used by social workers in the slum of Favela dos Sandras, and waited for them outside. As the journalists emerged from the building on completing their work, they saw Da Silva being held up by a gunman. As they went to look for help, they heard shots. According to an autopsy, Da Silva was shot three times at close range, in the ear, chest and abdomen. He had also been struck in the face many times with great force.

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**
**26 JULY - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Medford E. Logsdon:** Medford E. Logsdon, a photographer and photo editor for the *Newton Kansan* was returning from covering a baseball game and on his way to cover a city hall event, when he was killed in a car accident. After graduation from Wichita State University, he started his journalistic career as a sports editor for the weekly *Andover Journal*, and had been working for the *Newton Kansan* for five years. He was 36, married, and had three young daughters.

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**4 OCTOBER - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Liz Ichizawa:** Liz Ichizawa, a reporter for the weekly newspaper the *Town Common* in Rowley, Massachusetts, was on her way to do an interview when she was involved in a traffic accident. Rushed to a local hospital, she died from massive internal injuries. Ichizawa had worked for one year for the weekly. In addition to writing for local newspapers in New England, she had also worked for publications in Montana. Ichizawa was 49 and left a husband and two daughters.