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**SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES
TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS AND COMBAT IMPUNITY**

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**AN ATTACK
ON ONE
IS AN ATTACK
ON ALL**

LARRY KILMAN

■ PREFACE

Close to 300 participants met at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in February 2016 to discuss the topic: “News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals”.¹ The event led to 40 ideas for the media to consider. Another 17 were proposed for UNESCO and its Member States. Collecting and sharing good practices was a common strand across the outcomes.

The contents of this publication are mainly about inspiring initiatives taken by media and civil society people. In some cases, they show what is possible when governments and others work together to protect journalists and end impunity for attacks against them. Most of all, the stories here demonstrate that individual determination is a powerful force to push back against attacks on journalists.

This compilation is funded by UNESCO’s International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). This UNESCO intergovernmental programme raises funds for media development, including a host of safety-related projects submitted by media actors around the world.

The IPDC complements this work with a mandate for the UNESCO secretariat to monitor journalistic safety and impunity rates. In turn, the information generated constitutes the UN’s official data on these subjects. It feeds the tracking of progress under the Sustainable Development Goal 16.10 on “public access to information and fundamental freedom”.

All this is part of UNESCO’s wider contribution and leadership of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The Plan is a multi-stakeholder framework that encourages co-operation amongst concerned actors to ensure protection of the people who bring us journalism.

The UN Plan is clear that states have responsibility for protecting all citizens, and that those people doing journalism merit particular attention due to their social role. It is also clear that states also have the duty to bring to justice any person who seeks to curb the right to free expression, and press freedom in particular, by means of intimidation and violence.

But within the UN Plan, it is also well-recognized that non-state actors also play an essential role – journalists themselves, family and friends, lawyers, and civil society groups.

It is the actions in this social realm that can help ensure that states fulfill their roles, as well as make an immediate and enduring difference to journalistic safety on the ground. It is specific individuals who create initiatives, and who develop organizations, networks and programmes as part of this.

The stories of their good practices have the potential to catalyse action and adaptation elsewhere.

In this context, we salute the people whose actions are reported in this booklet. They show what can be done.

Our thanks go to Larry Kilman for compiling these narratives into one inspirational, informative and educational publication. ■

■ **Frank La Rue**

Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information
UNESCO

¹ <http://en.unesco.org/node/254937>

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■ INTRODUCTION

Journalists take risks to uncover stories for the public - sometimes fatally. Most visible internationally are war reporters, but the same risks often apply equally to local journalists covering topics that someone finds threatening.

US journalist and filmmaker Sebastian Junger notes that on top of the many reasons why journalists do what they do, *“there is a sincere and noble concern about human suffering”*, and the fact that *“if you don’t uncover it and expose it and communicate it, this suffering will go on and on and on”*. What he points out is for those who cover major armed conflicts, but it is no less relevant to those who do journalism in other context of danger.

There are a lot of dangerous jobs that rely on people to put themselves in harm’s way to fulfill essential roles in society. Firefighters and coal miners, construction workers and oil riggers, loggers and commercial fishing workers.

They’re not often thought about in the same way, but journalists also practice a dangerous profession, one that by all measures is becoming even deadlier. But unlike other hazardous work that keeps societies functioning, journalists are targeted expressly for doing their jobs.

We’re not talking only about the danger that faces those who cover war; hundreds of journalists put their lives on the line each day by investigating corruption, criminal activity, incompetence and other wrongdoing. They are harassed, both online and off, attacked, imprisoned, censored and even murdered by those who engage in activities that thrive in darkness, who are threatened by a free flow of information.

Keeping journalists safe can be a difficult proposition.

This report takes a look at a selection of the innovative, successful ways media companies, individual journalists and civil society organizations are coming together to improve journalist safety. These are cases of people taking the initiative, of acting on behalf of the profession, of not sitting back as disempowered victims.

The report is not an overview of all the work that is being done in this domain. It is not full of statistics and data. It is, instead, a collection of stories, told in the words of the motivated people who are dedicated to protecting courageous journalists with pro-active measures to make them safer. It is written in the hope of inspiring others to support these efforts, perhaps duplicate them, and to raise awareness of the importance of this work.

Many of these stories are touched by tragedy. Much of the telling is by friends, colleagues and family members of journalists slain in the line of duty, who created lasting legacies in their memories.

The deaths drew attention and raised awareness about the dangers. But they did more than that; they led to initiatives that are protecting the most vulnerable, the freelance journalists at the frontlines, and local journalists who work daily under difficult conditions.

UNESCO reports that more than 800 journalists have been killed in the past

.....

decade, one every four days. Very few of the cases have ever been resolved. Many more journalists undergo harassment, physical attacks, jail and press freedom violations. The culture of impunity is intimidating many others into exile or silence.

Keeping journalists safe can be an expensive proposition. Unfortunately, these threats are coming at a time when news media, particularly newspapers, are undergoing extreme disruption to their business models, reducing revenues just when even greater resources are needed.

To deal with these circumstances, new alliances and cooperative efforts are emerging. Civil society organizations are contributing more to safety work. And new ideas are coming from those who have suffered loss and want to prevent others from suffering.

This is their story. ■

WAR CORRESPONDENTS TRAINED AS COMBAT MEDICS TO PROTECT COLLEAGUES

Sebastian Junger has stopped going into war zones. He stopped when his friend and colleague, Tim Hetherington, was killed.

Junger, the best-selling author (*The Perfect Storm*, among others) and Academy Award-nominated filmmaker (*Restrepo*, with Hetherington), was supposed to be with the photographer in Misrata, Libya, on that day in 2011, when shrapnel from a mortar killed Hetherington, who bled to death on his way to hospital.

Until a memorial service for Hetherington in London some weeks later, Junger hadn't thought there was anything that could have been done to prevent his friend's battlefield death. But a conversation with a British SAS medic changed everything.

"I said something about Tim's wounds being fatal, and he said it wasn't necessarily fatal, he just bled out," said Junger. "Even with a catastrophic bleed from your femoral artery, there are things you can do."

"When someone's doomed, it sort of relieves you of a sense of responsibility, I think," said Junger. "It turns out he wasn't doomed medically. There was just no one around who knew what to do. And had I been there, and unwounded, I would not have known what to do either. I was supposed to be there, and because of a fluke I wasn't, so that galvanized me to start a training programme. It happened by the time the guy finished the sentence, I thought of it."

The training programme is called RISC - Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues - and has trained nearly 300 freelance journalists since 2012 in emergency medical techniques, in case they ever find themselves alongside someone like Tim Hetherington.

"It's roughly analogous to the training a combat medic gets in a platoon in the US military in combat," Junger said. "It's sort of wilderness first aid plus, how to conduct a chest decompression, put on a chest wound seal, clear the air passageways, stop catastrophic bleeding, assess for spinal injuries, that kind of thing."

It seems like such a simple, obvious safety measure, it's a shame it took a tragedy to create it. And a shame that nobody thought of it sooner.

"It would have been great to have it in Sarajevo in the '90s or Beirut in the '80s, but one of the things that gave rise to it was the enormous changes in the world and in the industry happening somewhat simultaneously," Junger said.

"Social media helped undermine the traditional news industry, so now there are fewer full-time jobs," he said, explaining that RISC focuses on freelance journalists because media companies are far more reliant on them than ever before. They comprise the majority of those who cover wars, and the majority of deaths and injuries.

"So you have several things going on simultaneously. The Arab Spring arrives, bolstered by social media. Social media undermines traditional media, and allows for a whole new field of operations for freelancers. So all of that happened because of the internet during the



Photo credit: Balazs Comdi

The slain journalist Tim Hetherington.

Arab Spring. And Tim was killed during the Arab Spring.”

A RISC training session is provided free of charge to experienced, published freelance journalists, takes four days and involves classroom instruction and exercises on the skills needed to save someone’s life. Trainees are given a comprehensive medical pack, similar to those worn by combat medics, to take on assignments.

The sessions are conducted at headquarters in New York and in a rotating selection of cities around the world - Kosovo, Lagos, Kiev, London. Most of the participants are international media, though RISC has held a session for local journalists in Ukraine and would like to do more.

RISC has one full-time staff member, and hires medical trainers to conduct the sessions. Its annual budget is US\$200,000, funded by foundation grants, individuals and media companies themselves. Junger invested his own money, along with money from the news agencies that employed Hetherington and fellow photographer Chris Hondros, who was killed with him, to get it started.

The training has been put to good use: bandaging shrapnel wounds in Aleppo, Syria, aiding a passenger who collapsed on a plane to Cairo, even helping an elderly neighbor. *“We don’t know of a situation where a life has been literally saved, in some ways thankfully,”* Junger said. *“The skills have been used but we haven’t had a Tim or Chris situation yet. And if we don’t, I will be quite pleased.”*

The focus on freelancers is both the result of their increasing presence on hostile environments, but also from the freelance culture itself.

“It’s a very fluid population, people drift into it, they drift out of it, they’re highly mobile,” Junger said. *“They’re obviously not unionized. And they’re a little bit like cats – it’s hard to get them going in the same direction. And most freelancers see it as sort of a transitory position anyway, on the way to a salaried job in the news industry. So it’s a sort of a way station for a lot of people; it’s like everyone has to use it to get where they’re going, but no one is really that invested in its welfare.”*

“The point is, it is very hard to organize and create collective action with people who are, by definition, unaffiliated. In terms of creating some kind of pressure on the hirers in the business, it’s hard to make it happen. The freelancers are all doing their own thing, and competing with one another for jobs.”

If the work is so dangerous, why do it at all?

“There is something noble that underlies it,” Junger said. *“In addition to curiosity about war and advancing your career and whatever else motivates journalists, there is something quite noble about it in the motivation of most of the journalists I know. And that is a sincere concern about human suffering, and if you don’t uncover it and expose it and communicate it, it will go on and on and on.”*

“A world without journalists covering war would be an appalling world. It would really be horrible, we wouldn’t know anything about how our fellow human beings are suffering in some of these places. Whatever it takes, it is really something that society must make sure to continue and be done honestly and honorably”. ■

■ **RISC:**
<https://risctraining.org/>

MARIE COLVIN NETWORK: FOR WOMEN AT HOME IN A WAR ZONE

Marie Colvin made a lot of friends working in war zones, and she was deeply mourned when she died.

Colvin, the renowned Sunday Times correspondent who was killed in Syria in 2012, had a lot of experience working in difficult and dangerous conditions. But as much experience as she had, she met others even more deeply immersed than she was, for whom those conditions were a way of life. While foreign correspondents got to leave the war zone, many journalists do not have that option. Their home is the war zone.

During her life, Colvin has a strong network of friends with whom she could trade experiences and who helped and supported one another.

When she died, three of her closest friends decided to turn those friendships into a lasting legacy, and the Marie Colvin Journalists Network was born.

“The inspiration was something called The Vulture Club, which was kind of an informal network of journalists who help each other with communications and contacts,” said Dima Hamdan, who runs the Marie Colvin Journalists Network.

“Marie always felt that female journalists out there were really isolated, especially the freelancers. It was her friends – Lyse Doucet, Lindsey Hilsum and Jane Welleley – who decided that in honor of Marie, as her legacy, they would create it.”

They were aided by the singer Annie Lennox, who founded The Circle NGO “for women and girls in a fairer world”, and who also wanted to do something in Marie Colvin’s memory. The journalists’ network is part of The Circle.

It brings together women journalists and other media workers from across the Middle East and North Africa.

“We decided for the time being it was going to be Arab female journalists, because western female journalists have a different set of challenges, there are probably more outlets open for them,” Hamdan said.

“If you’re a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip, or an Egyptian in Cairo, or a Yemeni woman working in Sana’a or Aden, you don’t have the luxury, you don’t have the privilege of a Western passport to be evacuated if an emergency occurs,” Hamdan said. For local reporters in conditions of violent conflict, *“You have to live the war. It’s your life, it affects your family.”*

“And more importantly, if English isn’t your first language, or you don’t speak English at all – then automatically, you are shut out of a lot of the support channels that are out there.”

There are other challenges as well, ones that female journalists who don’t live within conflict zones would recognize.

“You have to deal with sexism on a daily basis, you work with the local media where sometimes there is not enough editorial support, sometimes there is not legal support, they don’t pay you on time. Somebody might steal your material, there is no way for you to cry

foul over something like that. So there are a lot of things. You have to be a local in the country to understand the challenges.”

Hamdan, herself a Palestinian journalist who worked for the BBC in the Middle East, said the network interviewed about 80 women across the Arab world before it was launched. *“If we were going to create a network of support, it really needed to be tailored to their actual needs,”* she said. *“One of the key things we noticed was that they all wanted mentorship.”*

So the network, which now includes about 60 participants, reached out to veteran journalists and has attracted about 25 mentors, most of them native Arabic speakers and all of them volunteers. The mentors include some of the most experienced journalists in the region, including Samia Nakhoul, Middle East news editor for Thomson Reuters, Roula Khalaf, deputy editor at the Financial Times, Shaimaa Khalil, broadcast journalist at BBC Worldwide, and Nadia Bilbassy, Washington, D.C., bureau chief at Al Arabiya News.

The mentors are paired with each of the network’s members and connect with them in various ways. It may be a Skype call once a month, or regular text messaging.

“This is such an opportunity for these girls,” Hamdan said. *“Maybe a young girl in Morocco, who is now a fixer and learns something about video, she might become a documentary filmmaker. So it’s not just the day to day, but having the communication could really make a difference. They’re getting training that is not afforded to them by education or by courses.”*

The mentoring is not the only service offered by the network.

“A lot of these women work in extremely stressful situations, and they don’t know where to go,” Hamdan said. *“Somebody might be in need of emergency evacuation, somebody might have to stop writing and lay low for a while because they’re receiving death threats, they’re under threat of kidnapping. Somebody might be traumatized because they live with war and they may be too shy [to tell people about it] or they don’t know what to do about it.*

“We’re in regular contact with every single one of them and we check on them from time to time, so if someone needs emergency evacuation or aid we put them in touch with other organizations like the Rory Peck Trust, or organizations that provide emergency funds for people like Journalists in Distress, or we have found psychotherapists who do therapy online. We’re trying to find ways where we can help with the cost of psychotherapy, or other assistance.”

The network also organizes a monthly online “hangout”, addressing issues important to the members, which run the gamut from dealing with trauma, through to how to pitch story ideas, advice for freelancers, how to deal with workplace harassment and more.

“One of the key things is that we are very strict when it comes to online security,” Hamdan said. *“We want this network to be a safe space, where every woman can ask questions without feeling they’re being intercepted or worry they are going to be judged or worried that they might be tapped for whatever reason.”*

The network offers its own online security course, which teaches members how to encrypt messages, how to save and protect passwords, what to do if they’re hacked, and what are the most secure applications. *“We tell them not to rely too much on Skype, there are more secure applications available to them,”* Hamdan said.

The Marie Colvin Journalists Network is currently supported by the Asfari Foundation, which works in the United Kingdom, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon, and the Sigrid Rausing Trust, which supports human rights globally. It expects to receive additional funding to expand its services, and is open to accepting applications from new members working in the region.

“We’re reaching out to anyone who works in print, radio, online – we’re talking about reporters, fixers, filmmakers, news producers, photographers – anyone who works in journalism or has a very serious interest in journalism, and with our help would be able to dedicate themselves and start a proper career,” Hamdan said.

“They’re so full of questions – editorial questions, legal questions, ethical issues,” she said. “There are a lot of tricky situations, for example, what you do when you’re out there and somebody asks you to reveal your source, or somebody calls you at the last minute and asks you to cancel a story? These are the questions they don’t necessarily find the answers to, and it would be really good if they had a mentor who could speak with them on a regular basis, as a sounding board, to help them improve their skills, and consider the key questions they may have”. ■

■ THE MARIE COLVIN JOURNALISTS NETWORK:

English: <https://mariecolvinnetwork.org/en/>

Arabic: <https://mariecolvinnetwork.org/ar/>

TRAGEDY BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER: THE VALUE OF COOPERATION TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

It's a straightforward premise, that freelance journalists working for news organizations in dangerous places should get the same protections as staff journalists. But it isn't always the case. And the details of how that arrangement might work can be complicated.

In the case of a journalist who is working for several news organizations simultaneously - a frequent occurrence for international reporters in danger zones - who is responsible for providing care if the journalist gets hurt?

Who provides the insurance?

Who plucks the reporter from the scene and gets him or her to hospital?

Who helps the family if the reporter can't work?

Those nuts-and-bolts issues are the concern of A Culture of Safety, which goes by its acronym ACOS, an alliance of major news organizations, media associations and NGOs. It started with a list of principles for freelancers and local journalists and the news organizations they work for, striving for endorsement by news organizations around the world. It has morphed into a global initiative that is now trying to fulfill those principles.

As with many safety initiatives, ACOS was born from tragedy, from the public executions of freelance journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, who were separately kidnapped and murdered in Syria in 2014.

"There are some events that really mark you, really change things, or really have a click in the mind of people, and I think it had a profound effect," said Elisabet Cantenys, the Executive Director of ACOS.

The kidnappings and beheadings of Foley and Sotloff had repercussions far beyond journalism – their horrific killings were broadcast internationally and raised public awareness of the ISIS group, which carried them out.

In the journalism world, those murders were a catalyst for cooperative action.

In a series of meetings involving representatives from the Associated Press, the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, the Frontline Freelance Register, the GroundTruth Project, the Overseas Press Club Foundation and Reuters, the Freelance Journalist Safety Principles were conceived.

"The kidnapping and murder of reporters James Foley and Steven Sotloff brought to light the growing risks faced by international freelance journalists," says the preamble to the principles, noting that killings, imprisonments and abductions have reached historic highs, with local journalists facing the biggest threat.

Seven of the principles apply to freelancers and local journalists on dangerous assignments, things like making sure they have armored helmets and jackets, carry first aid kits, carry out a careful risk assessment, and that they inform others

of their whereabouts.

It includes eight principles for news organizations employing freelancers and local journalists: show the same concern for their welfare as they do for staffers; factor in the cost of training, insurance and safety equipment in war zones; ensure prompt payment and provide recognitions with by-lines; and more.

The list of signatories has grown to more than 90 organizations: BBC, Bloomberg, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International News Safety Institute, Global Post, the Guardian, Globo TV, Pakistan Press Foundation, Kyodo News, Agence France-Presse, CNN, Foro de Periodismo Argentino, the Pulitzer Center, Online News Association and USA Today among them.

And it continues to grow today.

But now comes the hard part. *“The point here is, how do we turn that paper into reality?, ”* asks Cantenys.

The reality is that freelancers and local journalists are the most vulnerable, *“the ones who work for everybody and nobody,”* she says. *“Local journalists by far are the most vulnerable, they live in the conflict they are covering. As an international freelancer, you may be coming in and out of Syria, but as a Syrian journalist, you are in the conflict, you are covering the conflict while your family members are being killed. There are no days off for you.”*

“We’ve seen news organizations that respond very carefully to their duty of care, and they will support the journalist if they need medical attention, or if a freelancer gets in trouble. But sometimes that is not the case,” she said. *“Sometimes there is even confusion about who is responsible for that freelancer, when the freelancer has been working for all of us. Are we all responsible?”*

To help answer these questions and support implementation of the Principles, the ACOS alliance is focused on four major initiatives:

- to develop a mechanism where news media safety experts and freelancers can share safety information regarding specific countries or issues;
- to find accessible and affordable solutions to insurance for freelancers and local journalists;
- to create greater access to safety training for freelancers and journalism students;
- to communicate best practices in safety and disseminate an online list of resources available for freelancers and editors – including where freelancers can receive reporting and training grants, legal representation, psychological help support, training grants and crisis support and other assistance.

But perhaps its greatest benefit is getting the wide array of media companies and non-governmental organizations to cooperate on their safety initiatives. ACOS is becoming the de facto international clearing house to help organizations avoid duplicating actions, and getting them to share information and resources.

“We need to do this together, because this is where our strength comes from,” Cantenys says. *“ACOS is setting up a coordination mechanism where all these key players can optimize*

resources and we can share information. So someone can say, 'I'm going to do safety training in Yemen and I have security concerns, has anyone worked there?' Or, 'what would you advise, what are the venues available?' Very practical information, but at the same time building the knowledge of who is doing what."

ACOS has begun an inventory of safety initiatives around the globe, and identifying gaps that need to be filled.

Coordination was one gap. *"What we should be very careful [about] is not to double up on what others do, we should instead promote what's already in place and working well,"* Cantenys said. *"We should tell freelancers and local journalists they should use those resources. So we should be careful we are not wasting the funding we have to do things that are already there."*

"The second need is to pay more attention to editors and spend more time helping them be better prepared. You can get as many journalists as possible trained, but they need to talk to an editor, ultimately. So we better have an editor who can have that conversation."

"We also saw the need for psychological trauma, gender and digital security to be better integrated into safety training," Cantenys notes. *"I think there has been great improvement into touching on those subjects more and more often in safety training, but sometimes they are secondary. What we are hearing is that this needs to be integrated throughout the safety training."*

And there is a great need for safety training for local journalists working for local media companies, not just international media, she says.

"We want to inspire local news organizations to do similar work, to collaborate with us, but also to get organized on the national level," Cantenys said. *"We would like to go to other countries and talk to news organizations and NGOs, and encourage that dialogue, encourage the idea that they can work together in setting up safety mechanisms. Risk assessments, for example. Yes, money is important, and resources are important, but sometimes, when it comes to responses, it's more about getting organized". ■*

■ THE ACOS ALLIANCE SAFETY PRINCIPLES:

<https://www.acosalliance.org/the-principles>

PUTTING COMPETITION ASIDE FOR SAFETY

News organizations covering the 2016 Rio Olympics had security concerns about protecting their employees from local crime. Then the Zika virus emerged, and they had something else to worry about.

The conflict in Iraq raises a different set of safety questions. In the fighting for Mosul, news organizations had to plan carefully for the latest conflict, putting reporters into what has proven to be a lengthy dangerous assignment.

Digital security has an entirely different set of issues. How do you protect journalists in the field against hacking and being tracked by the footprint of their digital equipment? How do you respond to growing online harassment?

These are just a few of the safety headaches facing news organizations today, while new challenges continue to emerge.

In these situations, and in myriad others, news organizations would be well served to consult directly with others in the same situations - in fact, their competitors - to see how they are coping and, through the discussions, develop a best practice response.

But how to you organize a discussion with your competitors?

That's where the News Safety Group of the International News Safety Institute (INSI) comes in. *"It's a place where they can park the competition and discuss issues which are of common concern to them in terms of journalist safety,"* says Sue English, the chairperson of INSI.

As a member-based organization dedicated to journalists' safety, INSI brings together 50 of the world's leading news organizations - major broadcasters, print publications and pure play digital news companies - to share information about emerging safety challenges.

The News Safety Group meets every four to six weeks and is open to all members. It meets in London, with occasional regional meetings also held. Most participants, who are responsible for the safety of the teams they deploy in difficult and dangerous areas, phone in to the meetings on a secure line. The discussions are always confidential.

"It's a way of allowing people to share experience of current deployment issues, and concerns that they have about emerging security," says English. *"It can be something very specific on the ground in a particular location, or it can be something much more general, say online harassment of journalists. So it's really about allowing people, in a confidential and non-competitive environment, to share some of the issues they are facing."*

INSI offers its members other services, including advice and consultations, journalism safety training, development of industry safety policies and practices, office briefings on safety, reports and events.

It issues safety advisories and conducts research, advocates for greater safety mechanisms, provides links to equipment, training and support providers, promotes a safety code, publishes a blog, podcasts and video on safety issues, and

compiles safety statistics for the news industry.
But it sees its core mission as cooperation and knowledge exchange.

“From our point of view, the key thing INSI can do is provide a forum for its members to talk openly about safety issues,” English said.

Meetings of the News Safety Group are the heart of that work. They can cover a single issue - security in Mosul has been a central issue in several meetings - or it can cover a variety of topics raised by its members.

Though the discussions are confidential, INSI uses them to inform its broader work to benefit a wider audience.

“For example, going back to the Olympics, we produced a series of guidelines for the members on what precautions were needed, what information you should be sharing, how you should ensure they are safe. The guidelines are useful to them, whether or not they’ve been part of that News Safety Group,” says English.

Other reports - like one on how the refugee crisis is affecting journalists who are covering it - get wider distribution, to members and non-members alike.

“Our primary focus is to provide the members who are paying their membership dues, and therefore funding INSI, with specific, up to date, timely information they need. And the more generalized guidelines on best practice we publish publicly as well,” English notes.

“You are deploying people into potentially dangerous situations, and you want to be sure that you are taking the best possible precautions that you can, and therefore sharing that sort of best practice with other people is very valuable,” she adds.

“I think INSI is one of the few organizations that, because of our network of members, can actually provide that kind of forum for people to share this kind of information about these issues,” she said. “The value of it, for us, is very much that people who belong to this network can trust each other to discuss these issues and that’s very much what we focus on trying to achieve”. ■

■ **INTERNATIONAL NEWS SAFETY INSTITUTE:**

<https://newssafety.org/home/>

AN ATTACK ON ONE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ATTACK ON ALL

News media are highly competitive by definition. It's in their DNA. But when journalists are being kidnapped and attacked with impunity, it is time for cooperation, to stand together for their own.

That's the idea behind an exercise in cooperation in Pakistan, among the most competitive news markets in the world and also a dangerous one, where news organizations have gone from ignoring attacks on other media to broadcasting them across the country, keeping journalists safer by focusing attention on their cases.

"Because of the competition, when a journalist used to be attacked or killed or injured, most of the newspapers and television channels refused to identify the organization that they belonged to," explains Zaffar Abbas, editor of the Dawn newspaper.

"As a result, the impact was not there," he said. "If somebody from Dawn was attacked, and some of the other newspapers just say, 'from a local daily, such and such person was injured', or if television just ignored it, there was no attention. So we just thought, how about all the editors get together and have a very minimum requirement: that an attack on one should be considered an attack on all."

The first step was to convince media owners that cooperation was in their best interests. That can be challenging in an industry where competition is so deeply embedded.

"Even today there is a complete ban on reporting about one news organization by another, whether it's a positive report or a negative report, it's a complete blackout. It is amazing how these people pretend that no other media organization exists in the country. So it took a while," says Abbas.

"But we said, listen, this is just about safety. An attack on one television station means tomorrow we can be targeted, you can be targeted, we have to send a message to the militants, as well as the government, that on this particular issue we are united. And it has worked in a big way."

Once the owners were on board, the next step was figuring out the best way to communicate, in real time, among media houses that ranged from broadcasters and big city dailies to far-flung small outlets across the vast country.

The answer was simple: the editors created a group, called Editors for Safety, on the WhatsApp Messenger instant messaging application.

"If somebody is targeted, somebody will immediately message that this has happened, can somebody confirm? And the whole chain will start," Abbas explained. "We will only broadcast or publish the story when an editor from that particular organization confirms it and gives us the go-ahead. It is working in a remarkable manner."

As an example:

When Afzal Mughal was abducted by a group of armed men from his home in Quetta, in November 2015, a message from another journalist went out to the Editors For Safety. In the past, a case like this would receive scant attention. But

this time, the story received national and international coverage.

Mughal, a journalist for a small news agency called Online News Service, was returned home within hours.

“He was terrified, he was not willing to go on record about what may have happened or if the security agencies had taken him away,” Abbas said. “But we later learned that, because it was on almost all television networks, the home minister in Islamabad immediately called people in Quetta, and the guy was back.”

“That’s when we realized the power of all television networks broadcasting the news about a small time journalist from a small time news agency in a small place. It was national news. And we managed to save him from further torture. That was a great story.”

The WhatsApp group is also used to ensure that rumors and hoaxes are not reported.

“Last year, our telephone operator received a bomb threat call, and obviously our security people called the police bomb protection staff,” Abbas recounts. “I started getting calls on WhatsApp because others were getting reports that the bomb protection squad was rushing to Dawn’s offices. So I immediately messaged them, please don’t run the story, because in 99 per cent of the cases it will be a hoax, and will create unnecessary panic.”

One television station did run the story, but when its editor was contacted through WhatsApp the station did not repeat it. *“We contained it within three or four minutes. And, as it happens in most cases, it was a hoax. So nobody carried the story.”*

The group also uses WhatsApp to promote international commemorations of press freedom and safety, like World Press Freedom Day on 3 May. They provide one another with information on the issue in Pakistan to ensure a local focus. *“On the last three occasions, it has worked quite well, with about 50 per cent of the newspapers carrying not only a news story but an editorial as well. Just to highlight the culture of impunity and how it should be challenged,”* said Abbas.

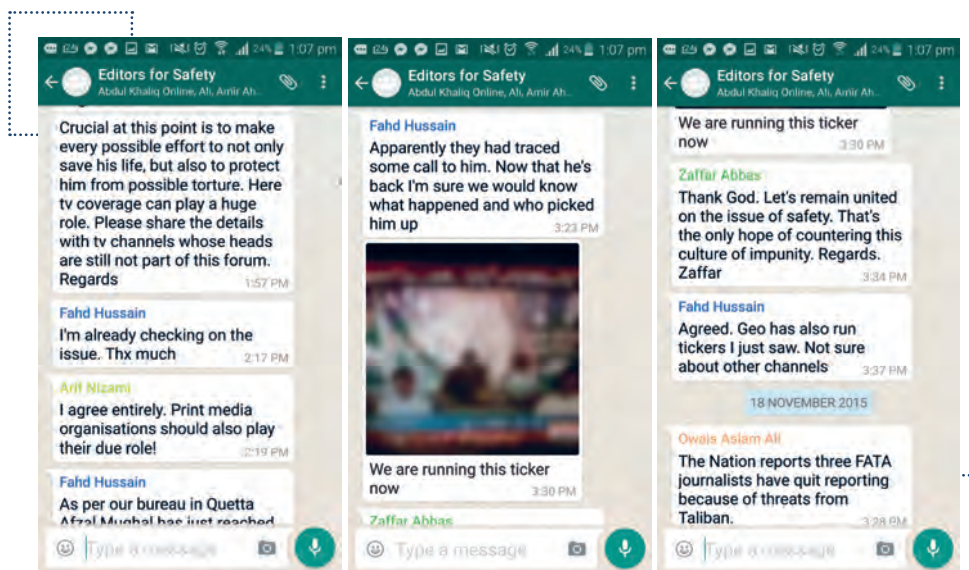
Abbas says the initiative doesn’t need much funding going forward.

“Right now we are 35 people representing most of the known newspapers and television companies in the country. The offer is open to all others. They don’t have to pay, funds are not involved. The idea is, if we can highlight the issue in a big way, we can pressurize the government. At some stage, we maybe will compile a report and bring it to the government and say, ‘listen, these are the cases that remain unresolved and nothing is being done about it.’”

Pakistan faces high levels of crime against journalists and of impunity for the perpetrators of those crimes. Journalists in the small towns and tribal areas are most vulnerable.

“We have to be very mindful of the people working in the tribal region, where the militants and the military are both involved and both pressurize journalists not to report the other side,” Abbas notes. “We have reports of people being picked up by one side or the other, being harassed, and they have stopped reporting altogether. Because they’re so vulnerable, because they don’t get support from the media organizations they work for, they must either listen to one of the sides or stop reporting and leave the area. This is troubling.”

The WhatsApp group is primarily designed to mobilize editors’ support for them, to not only bring attention to their cases but to ensure they aren’t isolated.



Some examples of the WhatsApp discussion during a journalist's abduction in Pakistan. The attention the case attracted brought pressure and is thought to have contributed to the journalist's rapid release.

“Some of the people in remote areas don’t have the smartphones of the kind where other tools could be used, and that’s why we thought this would be the best tool at the moment,” Abbas says.

“The thing is, most of us cannot travel on a regular basis to Lahore, Islamabad or Karachi. So let’s stay connected on WhatsApp”. ■

INSPIRATION FROM THE PAST: THE AMIN FAMILY AND AFRICAN JOURNALIST SAFETY

Mohamed “Mo” Amin was inspiring in his own right, with an impressive, US \$400,000 myoelectric bionic arm - created by the prosthetic innovator John Billock, the first of its kind - that enabled him to keep doing journalism.

But as impressive as that arm was, those who knew him say the source of his ability to inspire others lay elsewhere.



Father and son, Mo and Salim Amin, working together in Ethiopia.

Among other things, he demonstrated loyalty to his colleagues. At a time when local journalists mostly had to fend for themselves, he insisted those who were injured as he was, while doing their jobs, should get the same help he did.

Mo Amin had his arm blown off by a rocket propelled grenade while covering the fall of the Mengiste regime in 1991 Ethiopia, in the same blast that killed his sound engineer John Maathai. Amin was bureau chief for Visnews, now Reuters Television, and one of the most famous news photographers at the time. He was later killed in the crash of a hijacked airliner in which he was a passenger in 1996.

In losing his arm, Mo Amin was a “lucky” one.

“They had to look after him because of who he was,” says his son, Salim Amin, co-Founder and Chairman of A24 Media in Nairobi, Kenya, a Board Member of the International News Safety Institute, and chairperson of Camerapix, the video and photography production house his father founded more than half a century ago.

“But it was a little bit different for his colleagues,” he says. When four of his colleagues were killed in Somalia in 1993 - Dan Eldon, Hos Maina, Anthony Macharia and Hansi Krauss - there was some discussion about whether they should be considered as local staff or international staff. In that era, local staff did not receive the same benefits as international staff.

“(My father) really put his foot down and said to the employers, ‘if you guys don’t pay what you are supposed to pay, then I will make sure everybody hears about this’,” Salim Amin recounted. “He was able to get his way, he was able to fight for their families.”

Although things are better for freelancers working for international media today, protection can still be spotty. And local African journalists working for local media are particularly at risk. There are few resources for safety training and equipment, and most training they might receive is largely provided by organizations and resources from outside of Africa.

“We’ve always felt on the continent that we’ve been seen as second class journalists, in the sense of how local African journalists have been often treated when it comes to safety training or insurance or things like that,” observes Salim Amin.

He is trying to change that. He sees it as part of his father’s legacy. *“Whatever we do is inspired by the work he did on the continent,” he says.*

Amin is developing a two-week, hostile environment training module to be embedded in the curricula of journalism schools, paid for by student tuition but open to all journalists in Africa. Having safety training added to journalism curricula is starting to be seen at universities in the developed world, but not so much in Africa.

Salim Amin is convinced universities are the way to go, where tuition fees paid by full-time students could also be used to train not only those students but also help journalists in the field.



Photo courtesy CAMERAPIX

Mo Amin went back to work, thanks to first-of-kind arm that let him manipulate the camera.

The money has to come from somewhere. *“One of the big problems about safety training, it is expensive to do,” he notes.*

This he knows from his experience running the Mohamed Amin Foundation, a non-profit group which has provided training for African journalists for 18 years. Although it succeeded in providing mostly technical training to 250 African journalists over the years of its existence, the problem is raising money every

year. *“It becomes really difficult to continue to go out with your hat in hand to try to raise funds. So we decided to merge it into this university model, where the student fees would actually pay.”*

“What we’re trying to do is set up a masters course in journalism with a couple of local universities here, the Multi-Media University in Nairobi and the University of Nairobi,” he said. *“As part of that course, I thought to incorporate a two-week hostile environment safety training element as part of the curriculum.”*

The masters programme hasn’t happened yet and the project is in the planning stages. He sees safety training as an essential component, not only for the outside journalists who will be invited to the safety sessions but for the students as well.

“The safety training is one module out of maybe 10 or 12 throughout the year,” he explained. *“We want industry professionals to come and participate with the students in the safety training, purely because they need it, and also because then there will be a great networking opportunity for students, to spend time with the people who will employ them and with whom they will work once they leave.”*

Although the situation has changed since his father’s day, the need for safety solutions for journalists is greater than ever. The international news organizations are more frequently taking responsibility: *“they need to use more local teams, more local news, more local personnel, so they can’t be seen to be treating them differently from people who come from Europe or the US or the Far East or the Middle East,”* Salim Amin says.

The reliance on locals also introduces a competitive impetus to provide benefits, he says. *“The local correspondents and local reporters and fixers have become quite invaluable*



Mo Amin with John Maathai in Ethiopia, a day before the explosion that killed Maathai and blew Amin’s arm off.

to the organizations that because of budget cuts no longer have permanent presences in all of these countries. People talk, and word will spread if they treat their freelancers badly, or if they don't treat them as well as another organization, and people will leave them. It's not anything they've done out of the goodness of their hearts, I think that most organizations have been forced to do it, in order to keep the best personnel."



Mo Amin in a gas mask covering the war in Aden, Yemen, in the 1970s.

"I think these things which are essential, and have been given to foreign correspondents for a long time, are now being done for local correspondents as well," he says, adding that the situation is not the same for local journalists working for local media. "It is not often the case with local African broadcasters," he explains, "While we might take potshots at the international broadcasters, I actually think the international broadcasters now treat their local staff better than many local media houses treat their local staff."

Local media houses could also do better in cooperating to fight against what Salim Amin describes as the biggest security threat facing African journalists - the culture of impunity which leaves anyone free to harass, threaten and arrest journalists without fear of prosecution and punishment.

"There is not enough unity amongst local media houses," he said. "If something happens to one of their journalists, they need to all get together and make a lot of noise about it, so there is some publicity that might cause the perpetrators to at least think twice before repeating it, or harming the journalist any more". ■

■ **AFRICA 24 MEDIA:**
<http://www.a24media.com/>

IN THE PHILIPPINES, A FOCUS ON COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS WHO NEED SUPPORT

Red Batario admits to once being young and stupid.

He's not alone in that.

As a young journalist, Batario thought nothing of hitching rides with military convoys through rebel areas, or covering conflict without a flak jacket or helmet. He didn't think much about the risks. It was just what you did when you were young and trying to make a name for yourself.

He knows better now.

"I went on coverage in insurgency areas, in conflict areas in Mindanao, and Visayas and some parts of Luzon, and I rode with soldiers in military vehicles, knowing full well they would be passing through very difficult areas," Batario says. "I only realized later, from a different perspective, that a lot of journalists were doing the same thing."

"We were putting our lives in danger, and our own news organizations didn't seem to care, they only cared about the stories we were filing," he said. "During my time, there wasn't any safety coming from news organizations, not even safety briefings or safety protocols, not even safety gear. You were just sent out on assignment, and it's up to you to survive. It was really up to the reporter to use his own instinct for survival, to be able to do the story. I felt that, in many instances, I put my life in danger. But since I was young, I didn't think much about it."

Batario is based in Manila, but did much of his reporting in the countryside. He started to notice that while his risk-taking was his own choice, his rural colleagues were in danger whether they liked it or not.

Few of them had any training at all. Some of them could barely be called journalists – more like people who took up reporting because nobody else in their communities was doing so.

"What I've seen is that very little reporting was being done on the ground about what people's aspirations are, and usually the voices that are being heard are the voices of the powerful: the rich, the elite, the politicians and big business, but rarely do the small people get to have their voices heard," says Batario.

At the same time, around 2000, *"we noticed that the number of journalists being killed in the Philippines started rising,"* he recalls.

With new insights, Batario left off covering insurgencies and took up a new mission: helping to support community journalism by providing journalism training, safety training and financial assistance to those who needed it most, the community journalists in the provinces.

In 2001, he and like-minded colleagues created the Center for Community Journalism and Development, dedicated to strengthening news reporting in the countryside and developing media-citizen engagement to address local issues. It also works for the safety of journalists, in partnership with the International

News Safety Institute, to provide hostile environment, first aid and basic life support and trauma awareness training and advocacy.

“We felt that we need to bridge the gap and to provide journalists in the provinces with some sort of training, some capacity building, because that is lacking in many places in the Philippines,” Batario says. “Opportunities for journalists here in this country are available to those working in Metro Manila. But as you go farther out, it is more difficult to access training, to access support when something goes wrong, or legal support, or legal advice.”

“So we felt, with the center, we are able to provide some sort of facility or platform to make these things happen,” he explains.

But the Center for Community Journalism and Development does not do this work in a vacuum. *“It’s not just us, we don’t claim exclusivity to expertise or resources, so we need to work with other groups of journalists and civil society organizations in many places around the Philippines.”*



Photo credit: Red Batario

Abduction scenario Southern Philippines

The center is a founding member of the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists, which provides economic and legal support to the families of slain journalists, scholarships for their children, and funds for investigations into their deaths. The other members of the fund are the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas, Philippine Press Institute and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

It is also a member of the Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines that supports public and private sector efforts to build disaster resilience, and the Right to Know Right Now coalition that is advocating for freedom of information that also has implications for journalism safety.

In addition, the center works with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, MindaNews, and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines to strengthen reporting to expose corrupt behavior in the public sector and to promote

anti-corruption best practices, by providing opportunities for journalists and citizens to work together, sometimes forming community action groups.

The center conducts seminars and training workshops on public journalism, the role of media in democracy, media and governance, journalists' safety and security, in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia. In two instances, it has provided, in partnership with volunteer psychologists, psycho-social support to journalists who were victims of disaster. And it has established regional and provincial networks of journalists and media organizations to encourage greater citizen participation in governance.



Photo credit: Red Batario

Typhoon Haiyan assessment

The center's projects have been supported by international development partners including UNDP-Philippines, United Nations Democracy Fund, The Ford Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development, The Asia Foundation, Oxfam-GB, Christian Aid, and the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, among others.

There is no doubt there is a deep need for such initiatives in the Philippines, where 78 journalists have been killed since 1992, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. They were covering politics, corruption, crime, business, human rights and conflict.

The Philippines also suffered the world's largest mass murder of journalists, the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, in which 58 people, including 32 journalists, were kidnapped and killed while on their way to file a certificate of candidacy for a local politician who challenged the local political clan.

One of the survivors of that massacre says the safety training he received saved his life.

"He told me that he and a colleague, after initially joining the convoy, had to go back to

their hotel because they forgot a laptop,” Batario recounts. “When they got there, the front desk told him that an unidentified group of men came looking for him and asked if he had already joined the convoy.

“He said this set off alarm bells in his mind, remembering his hostile environment training about one, taking note of things that were out of the ordinary; two, asking questions as to why he was being singled out; three, about being suspicious about last minute changes; and four, that the arrangement for the convoy seemed complex. He texted and tried calling his colleagues who went ahead, but couldn’t reach them. It was mid-morning and the members of the convoy were already dead.”

While safety training can be effective, it isn’t enough, Batario says, especially in a climate where respect for human rights is being disparaged. “It makes the culture of impunity even more pronounced, and I think that is the situation we are all faced with, that we are trying to address on many fronts.”



Anti impunity campaign

“To some extent, we’re talking about advocacy to address the culture of impunity,” he said. “We’re working not only with local media groups in the Philippines, but also international groups, human rights institutions, freedom of information groups and many others. The safety training, the hostile environment training we conduct for journalists is only part of that, we can only teach journalists how to stay safe, how to survive, but that’s only a small part of the whole safety issue. We have to be able to address that more strategically”. ■

■ **CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JOURNALISM AND DEVELOPMENT:**
<https://ccjdphils.wordpress.com/>

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST PROLIFIC ONLINE HARASSMENT: MARIA RESSA

By Julie Posetti*

Maria Ressa is a former CNN war correspondent but none of her experiences in the field prepared her for the massive and destructive campaign of gendered online harassment that's been directed at her since 2016. *"I've been called ugly, a dog, a snake, threatened with rape and murder,"* she says. How many times has she received online death threats? She's lost count. *"Gosh, there have been so many!"*

A journalist with over 30 years experience, Ressa is the founding CEO and Executive Editor of the successful social media-powered news organisation [Rappler](http://www.rappler.com/)², based in the Philippines.

In addition to being threatened with rape and murder, she's been the subject of hashtag campaigns like #ArrestMariaRessa and #BringHerToTheSenate, designed to whip up online mobs into attack mode, discredit both Ressa and Rappler, and chill their reporting.



Maria Ressa speaks at UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day conference in Jakarta, 2017

Every journalist in the country reporting independently on politics is subjected to rampant and highly coordinated online abuse, she says. Especially if they're female.

"It began a spiral of silence. Anyone who was critical or asked questions about extrajudicial killings was attacked, brutally attacked. The women got it worst," she says. *"And we've realised that the system is set up to silence dissent - designed to make journalists docile. We're not supposed to be asking hard questions, and we're certainly not supposed to be critical."*

This onslaught represents a very real threat to the psychological, digital, and even the physical safety of journalists, she adds. But she refuses to be cowed by online armies of "super trolls", whom she believes are part of a campaign to destabilise democracy in the Philippines. She admits that the constant attacks do make her think twice about doing stories that will be lightning rods for attacks. *"But then I go and do the story even harder! I just refuse to let intimidation win."*

² <http://www.rappler.com/>

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM AS A WEAPON IN THE FIGHT BACK

Her responses to the threats include investigative reporting on the intertwined problems of online harassment, disinformation and misinformation. She believes in “throwing sunlight” on the abusers. But after Rappler published a feature series mapping the corrosive impacts of organised political ‘trolling’ on the Philippines in October 2016, the onslaught of abuse and threats of violence escalated dramatically.

The series deployed ‘big data’ analysis techniques to establish that a ‘sock puppet network’ of 26 fake Facebook accounts was influencing nearly three million other Philippines-based accounts. Behind the ‘sock puppets’ were three “super trolls”, as Ressa describes them. Their aim was to seed disinformation and foment targeted attacks. *“They would plant messages within groups, inflaming the groups who would then become a mob to attack the target,”* she says.

In the days following publication of the Rappler series titled ‘Propaganda War: Weaponising the Internet’³, she received on average 90 hate messages an hour. Among these was what she describes as the first “credible death threat” against her.

The messages continued for months. *“It happened so fast and at such frequency, I didn’t realise how unnatural it was,”* she says. The effect was to mute the seriousness of the threats in her mind initially. *“I really struggled with what’s real, what’s not. How do I respond, should I respond?”* These are familiar questions for journalists and editors struggling to combat the impacts of online harassment.

But speaking up and speaking out brings protection through awareness, Ressa believes.

ASKING LOYAL AUDIENCES TO HELP WITH THE FIGHTBACK

In early 2017, Ressa received another threat that stunned her. It was the kind of threat that women journalists are increasingly familiar with internationally: a call for her to be gang raped and murdered. A young man wrote on Rappler’s Facebook page:

“I want Maria Ressa to be raped repeatedly to death, I would be so happy if that happens when martial law is declared, it would bring joy to my heart”.

Ressa responded like a digital journalist who understands the power of audiences. She asked her online communities to assist in identifying the threat-maker, who was using a Facebook account in a fake name. They came through. With her supporters’ help, Ressa was able to identify the man as a 22 year old university student. When his university learned of his activities, he was forced to call Ressa and apologise.

Then, in the middle of an online storm triggered by a deliberately misleading report on a fake news site that misquoted Ressa, active and former members of the Philippines military piled on with abuse and threats. Again, she activated her own online communities in response, and one ‘netizen’ wrote an open letter to the chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Eduardo Ano, asking him to intervene.

Again, this activation of her networks worked. General Ano was upset by the

³<http://www.rappler.com/nation/148007-propaganda-war-weaponizing-internet>

incident, ordered an investigation and issued an official apology: “We publicly apologize to Miss Maria Ressa for the emotional pain, anxiety, and humiliation those irresponsible comments and unkind remarks might have caused her,” he wrote.

TIGHTENING SECURITY ON AND OFFLINE IN RESPONSE TO CYBER HARASSMENT

As Ressa began to realise, online threats to harm a journalist, or incite others to harm a journalist, must be taken seriously⁴. They can’t just be dealt with by blocking, muting, reporting, deleting and ignoring, because: “You don’t know when it will jump out from the virtual world and sneak into the physical world.”

In response, Ressa decided to upgrade security in Rappler’s newsrooms and provide protection for the journalists facing the worst of the online attacks. “It’s crossed the line where I do worry about safety. When you have people getting killed every night in the drug war and you have these online threats, you have no choice as a responsible corporation but to increase security for the people who work for you.”

In parallel, she strengthened digital safety defences, along with providing psychological support. She hasn’t removed her journalists from reporting duty, nor has she sent them out of the country. And she’s keeping her legal options open. The sheer number of attacks means that it’s not possible to follow through on each one, Ressa says. But Rappler is recording every online threat and storing the data for possible future legal action. “We’ve put in place protocols for how we deal with online threats. We’re looking at potential ways to hold the offenders accountable. This impunity that exists shouldn’t be this way. We need solutions.”

CALLING THE PLATFORMS TO ACCOUNT

Ressa’s public Facebook page is the target of about 2000 “ugly” comments every day, she explains.

“The propaganda machine uses it to incite anger and then we have to deal with real people who believe this stuff. So, that takes a lot of time”, she says. “It’s like playing whack-a-mole.”

She rejects the idea that the onus is on journalists to police the platforms by constantly reporting problems: “Block, mute, report...when you get so many of these it just takes up so much time. There’s not enough time in the day. We also have jobs to do.”

While she recognises the enormity of the challenge confronting Facebook, Ressa is adamant that the only way forward is for the social media giant to take responsibility for the problem and accept its role as a news publisher.

So, she’s begun publicly advocating for Facebook to step up. She’s also gone directly to the company with data demonstrating the size of the problem.

In the immediate short term, “the only group that has the power to restore some sense of order and civility is Facebook...To not do anything is an abdication of responsibility.”

EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Women journalists are often told to “toughen up” or “grow a thicker skin”, and that’s a common response to those who experience gendered online

⁴ See also <http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/news-and-views/swedish-broadcaster-alexandra-pascalidou-describes-online-threats-of-sexual-torture-and-graphic-abuse-20161124-gswuww.html>

harassment. But the cumulative effect of constant derision - frequently received via the intimate device of a mobile phone - must be recognised, Maria Ressa says.

Not just because the damage includes well-documented impacts⁵ on emotional and psychological well-being, but also censorship and erosion of trust.

“They attack your physicality, your sexuality. When you are denigrated, and stripped of dignity in this way, how can you maintain your credibility? All of these things work together for a single purpose and that’s to prevent journalists from doing their jobs,” Ressa says.



She’s been shocked at the level of the attacks and offered counselling and support to affected Rappler journalists, along with the social media team on the frontline of the battle, because: *“I don’t want our people going home with this.”*

Ressa also seeks to support others who are suffering online abuse but may not be as empowered as Rappler staff.

“We come together to help each other through it. We know what’s going on - it’s being done to intimidate us. We galvanise each other. And I think we’ll get through it,” she says. “I’m an optimist and I think we’re being forged by fire and we’ll emerge stronger”. ■

FURTHER READING

■ **RAPPLER:** <http://www.rappler.com/>

■ **PROPAGANDA WAR: WEAPONISING THE INTERNET**
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/148007-propaganda-war-weaponizing-internet>

■ **11 POINT PLAN FOR MANAGING ONLINE HARASSMENT:**
<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/news-and-views/swedish-broadcaster-alexandra-pascalidou-describes-online-threats-of-sexual-torture-and-graphic-abuse-20161124-gswuww.html>

■ **OSCE: COUNTERING ONLINE ABUSE OF FEMALE JOURNALISTS**
<http://www.osce.org/fom/220411?download=true>

**Julie Posetti is Head of Digital Editorial Capability at Fairfax Media who researches digital safety, online harassment and source protection as a University of Wollongong Research Fellow. She is author of UNESCO’s *Protecting Journalism Sources in the Digital Age*⁶*

⁵ <http://www.osce.org/fom/220411?download=true>

⁶ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002480/248054E.pdf>

■ AFGHANISTAN: EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE ON A MASSIVE SCALE

When the Taliban took over Kunduz province in 2015, one of the first things they did was burn down nearly all of the province's media houses.

But thanks to a network built by the **Afghan Journalist Safety Committee** (www.ajsc.af), and other civil society organizations, most of the province's journalists and human rights defenders on the Taliban list, with their families, escaped what would have meant almost certain death.



The destruction of the province's news media ranks as one of the greatest tragedies for the country's journalism community, which has suffered much. But the unprecedented mass mobilization of journalists out of the province, and the support services offered to the displaced, is also as an inspiring story of solidarity and safety.

The Afghan Journalist Safety Committee, set up in 2009 by Denmark-based **International Media Support (IMS)** (www.mediasupport.org), and their media advisor Susanna Inkinen, is a country-wide network that employs local journalists and safety trainers in Kabul and in regional offices, media houses and press clubs. It is an example of a community-based safety model, advised by a network of journalists, unions and civil society representatives, often in collaboration with local authorities and law enforcement to enhance co-operation. This broad constellation of stakeholders makes the mechanism unique.

The Taliban's takeover of Kunduz was easily the network's biggest test. Though it had long experience with rapid emergency response - including a detailed scenario and action plan for Kunduz itself - it had never had an operation that involved relocating 132 journalists and their families.

“AJSC was able to save many, many lives, in a situation where the Taliban burned 13 out of 16 media houses,” confirms a member of AJSC staff who for security reasons prefers not to be named. “The big rapid response operation shows that people have learned how to operate, how to make risk management plans, how to use first aid skills, how to use peer to peer social support.”

“Some of them who had to leave were single men, some were single women, some had two wives, somebody had four, somebody had eight kids, so it became a very large relocation emergency. We had practiced similar operations but with smaller amount of journalists,” says the staffer. “It shocked everyone.”

Last year, 2016, was the bloodiest year for journalists in the history of Afghanistan’s media, according to the Safety Committee, which recorded 101 cases involving killing, assault, intimidation, abuse and wounding of journalists. Thirteen journalists were killed and 88 other violent incidents against journalists were recorded.

But the country is not a homogenized entity. *“You have to remember that Afghanistan has 34 provinces, and the working environment varies from province to province,” the AJSC staff says. “The power structure might be very different depending on whether you’re in an ISIS-only area, whether you are in an area that has ISIS, Taliban and al-Qaeda, or the Haqqani brothers. We have so many different realities related to media life.”*



The Afghan Journalist Safety Committee, also supported by the Swedish development agency Sida, clearly has its work cut out for it. The services it offers are comprehensive.

It provides a 24/7 hotline and maintains safe houses across the country. It provides training on both journalistic skills and safety, including risk assessment and management planning, first aid, and social media and digital security.

The committee offers traumatized journalists psycho-social support from a team of psychologists and trauma counselors. It has female safety coordinators dedicated to female journalists. It offers free legal advice. And it even trains police and security forces to encourage cooperation on safety.

For those who must flee the country, or require medical treatment not available in Afghanistan, the committee maintains a relocation center in India, which offers long-term exiles job training or study at a local university.

The committee also fulfills a research and advocacy role, recording attacks on journalists and promoting the role of female journalists and for increased safety.

All this is run by a staff in Kabul comprising a director, an operations manager, an emergency case manager, female safety coordinators, a legal advisor, an administrative manager, 12 safety coordinators in eight zones across the country, and 26 volunteers.

While Afghans have the ownership of the initiative, IMS and Sida provide financial and technical support. But the local ownership is the most important factor, says AJSC.

“I think you should go as local as possible,” the AJSC staffer says. “If you go into the local communities, you know the local police, you know the local security forces, you know the human rights workers. You can start safety with the media houses and the media owners, so you can increase the responsibility and the understanding.”



“You set up safety mechanisms in each province, in each city, and you have natural coordination with other civil society actors, and base your work on risk analysis,” the AJSC staffer continues. “And you have the media report on the situation, but in a conflict sensitive way, where they are not complaining but trying to be more solution oriented. For example, if the police are the main risk, what can we do to minimize and mitigate the risk? Do we have police training? Or do we designate someone as ‘policeman of the month?’ This is a natural dialogue with them.”

In addition to the local angle, *“it is very important that we have international coordination on the country level,”* the staffer adds. *“There is a lot to do, but we have to make sure there aren’t 11 different training courses. But if we coordinate, if we share the duties, then we don’t feed the conflict. It doesn’t mean everybody needs to sing the same song. But coordination increases safety, it’s better to analyse the risks and find joint solutions, address them jointly and put more focus on the international level of coordination and cooperation. It builds respect. The beneficiaries should be the local journalists”.* ■

■ **THE AFGHAN JOURNALIST SAFETY COMMITTEE:** www.ajsc.af

■ **INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUPPORT:** www.mediasupport.org

INDONESIA: INTRODUCING SAFETY INTO THE CULTURE

The television cameraman had no notion of personal safety, so he stepped onto the deck of a sinking ferry, and went down with the ship.

His colleagues told him to throw his camera away and save himself, but evidently the camera was too precious. And he wasn't wearing a life vest. According to news reports, none of the journalists on the scene that day were wearing them.

"He died by drowning just to save his camera," says Eni Mulia, Executive Director of the Indonesia Association for Media Development, who used the story to illustrate the lack of a safety culture for journalists in the country.

"It happened to someone working for national TV in Jakarta, but we can imagine it happening anywhere, it can happen in local media, in any province in Indonesia," she says. *"There is so little attention to the safety environment for journalists."*

Since its founding in 2006, the association, which goes by its Indonesia acronym PPMN, has stepped into that gap. Though safety training is not its core mission, it incorporates a safety component into all of the professional training workshops and seminars it conducts for Indonesian media. It conducts similar workshops with a network of partners across south and southeast Asia.

"Particularly in southeast Asia, we realized we share common experiences and common challenges, like the development of democracy," Mulia explains. *"Each country has its own conditions and traditions regarding the politics or the levels of democracy. But I think we have the same challenges, like freedom of the press, radicalism, professionalism of media. That's why we think we can share our experiences, and we can also learn from other countries."*

PPMN is a by-product of Indonesia's turn-of-the-century political reforms. Political liberalization is usually accompanied by a massive expansion of news media, and Indonesia was no exception: the media market exploded during the country's "reformasi" as the post-Suharto era is known. The number of periodicals grew from 300 to 1,500, and the number of broadcasters also grew exponentially.

"It was like mushrooms after the rainy season," Mulia says.

But the explosion of new media outlets created a vacuum, a lack of professional media skills to go around.

Mulia and a group of her colleagues, journalists all, came together to create the non-profit PPMN, to provide skills for emerging media and journalists, especially in rural areas in the provinces, with funding and other support provided over the years by a wide array of international and national partners, including The Asia Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Tempo TV, USAID, Ford Foundation, Media Development Investment Fund, Australian AID, European Journalism Center and many others.

"We got freedom, but we did not have much capacity, education or training for journalists, which can lead to a very dangerous situation," Mulia recalls. *"If the media is not professional, it won't be able to protect democracy."*

PPMN provides professional workshops, in-house training at media companies, seminars, one-to-one mentoring, and reporting fellowships for local journalists.

“We raise some of the issues that are important to journalists, like corruption or environment, or marginalized issues, radicalism and religious conflict,” she states.



Photo courtesy of Indonesia Association of Media Development

A training session by the Indonesia Association for Media Development. Indonesia's media market grew substantially following political liberalization, with a need for many more professional journalists.

The Association also does emergency work in conflict and disaster areas.

“Indonesia has so many natural disasters, like tsunamis or earthquakes. If that happens, we try to help the local media to get back to work and provide information for the people who really need it in time of crisis,” says Mulia.

The safety training PPMN incorporates into its professional training programmes is based on the conditions in which then country's journalists work. *“We do it to provide journalists with safety information. When you get a threat, then who do you have to call?” she explains.*

“When you do reporting related to the local government or local leaders or military or police, or even local business, you will have this potential threat,” she notes. “Especially in the local and remote areas.”

PPMN works closely with local press legal aid groups, which are available in some provinces but not all. It also reports attacks and threats to the national Press Council.

And it also takes personal responsibility for its fellowship reporters.

“The coordinator doing the programme has to always be monitoring his journalists while they're working in the field, to see if there is a threat occurring,” says Mulia. “We work with the Press Council, if we have to evacuate someone, or if we need to have help for a journalist who is facing a massive threat, we could do something very quickly.”

Mulia cites the case of a reporter who was given a fellowship to investigate political corruption in West Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo.

“There was a group of people who came to the office and threatened the journalist, so the journalist had to return to the capital of the province,” she recounts. “The case resolved itself, he didn’t need to be evacuated out of the province, but we reported the case to the Press Council and to press legal aid, and also to other journalist associations. If anything happens, we can take a more tactical approach to protecting the journalist.”

PPMN’s largest training initiative also grew out of a feeling of responsibility for the journalists who work with it.

The organization is associated with a regional news agency called Asia Calling, which produces radio reports and other content for hundreds of radio stations in Indonesia and around southeast Asia, largely from part-time stringers employed by other news organizations.



The Indonesia Association for Media Development is dedicated to building their capacity and ensuring they work safely.

“Our journalists come from countries which have risks and conflicts, like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia itself,” Mulia said. “So we felt we needed to provide this kind of training for them, because we realized there are only a few trainings or seminars about that, and it is an everyday challenge for our journalists in conflict areas. Some of the journalists said it was the first time they had that kind of training, they had never participated before.”

“We realized there is so little effort by the media houses to do safety training for their journalists,” she said. “Even the big media houses don’t think about that”. ■

■ INDONESIA ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA DEVELOPMENT:

<http://www.ppmn.or.id/en/>

CPJ: A SEA CHANGE IN THE APPROACH TO JOURNALIST SAFETY

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has had top profile since Meryl Streep called for people to support the group.

She was responding to US President Trump's powerful verbal attacks on the press, which for her showed why organizations like CPJ are necessary, even in mature democracies.

The Academy Award-winning actor spoke out at the 2017 Golden Globe Awards, urging viewers to hold government to account, and to support the non-profit CPJ as a way of doing so.

"I only ask the famously well-heeled Hollywood Foreign Press and all of us in our community to join me in supporting the Committee to Protect Journalists, because we're going to need them going forward, and they'll need us to safeguard the truth," she said.

Those remarks led to an immediate spike in donations to CPJ, and more attention - at least from a general audience - to its important work on behalf of media freedom.

But CPJ has long been in the spotlight, though perhaps with a narrower audience than Streep provided. It has been conducting notable advocacy campaigns in support of media freedom since 1981, wherever this right is violated. Like similar organizations such as Reporters Without Borders, it has been an effective thorn in the side of those who withhold the basic human right to freedom of expression. And when advocacy is not enough, it backs its campaigns with an assistance programme to provide support to individual journalists in trouble.

The organization is now adding a new focus: a comprehensive programme for the safety of journalists, and it is calling on others to adopt a similar approach.

"We've been seeing the safety environment get worse and worse," says Maria Salazar-Ferro, the head of CPJ's Emergencies Response Team, created in October 2016 as a central part of the organization's new focus on safety.

"By our research, it's never been worse than it is right now," she explains. "It really hit us in the summer of 2014, with the public beheadings of (freelance journalists) Jim Foley and Steve Sotloff. As an organization, we needed to do more to prevent the most vulnerable journalists from getting into trouble, and to help them if they did get into trouble."

When an organization with the track record and reputation of CPJ significantly changes its approach, it's time to sit up and take notice.

"We decided to expand and create something that was able to holistically respond in a preventative way, and in a reactive way, for the journalists on the front lines and the journalists at risk," Salazar-Ferro states.

CPJ is doing more than re-organizing internally; it is calling on others to devote more resources to safety. It launched its new initiative with a manifesto, a multimedia report called, *"The Best Defense: Threats to journalists' safety demand a fresh approach."*

The report addresses a wide variety of subjects: mitigating the risks; solidarity, knowledge and protection; trauma and mental health; universal technical security; the price of protection; and, perhaps most importantly, recommendations for governments, for media companies, for journalists, and for journalist safety trainers.

The Emergencies Response Team is the center of CPJ's new approach. Working with partners from around the world, including the ACOS Alliance (A Culture of Safety, see earlier chapter) and the Journalists in Distress Network, the team provides support to journalists working in dangerous environments, including not only war correspondents but local journalists as well.

It informs journalists of risks, promotes the creation of risk assessment mechanisms, and, when things go wrong, works as a crisis management team. It also aims to ensure that trauma is more often taken into consideration, both in assignment planning and after assignments, and that gender issues - the particular dangers facing female journalists - also are given more attention.

"We really felt we needed to be doing much more hands on, concrete work in terms of helping vulnerable journalists, and we decided to amp up our safety work," Salazar-Ferro says. "We realized it couldn't be just safety on its own, what would make more sense is to work on creating something more holistic. So we brought on safety to go with the assistance we've been working on since 2001. And we brought in our digital safety specialist to the team as well, so we were able to give pre-emptive, reactive, digital, physical and psychological support to journalists."

Among other things, CPJ is updating its digital security guide. It is putting out safety advisories for situations that are high-risk to journalists, and circulating them through freelance networks and other channels. A safety advisory for Mosul, Iraq, released in early 2017 highlighted the potential danger from chemical weapons, including detailed and specific information about what to do if they were used. Advisories have also been issues for US election protests advising journalists to be aware of threats and protect themselves.

The team also plans to deploy its safety coordinator to hotspots where this person would provide up-to-date, on-site safety information to journalists, and also to advocate for them and push for more protection.

CPJ will also intensify some of the work it does best: more advocacy with international mechanisms like the United Nations, to push for journalist safety and more security for journalists.

"It's really about having someone in-house full time for journalists in risk, before they really get in trouble," Salazar-Ferro says. "The idea is to help mitigate the risk. That's fairly new to us. We were getting involved when people were in danger. What we're trying to do is to prevent that from happening."

What CPJ does not do is safety training. *"We believe a lot of organizations we work with closely are already doing great training, so we don't feel the need to do it,"* Salazar-Ferro states.

That cooperation is a key component, and, through ACOS and other mechanisms, more and more media safety organizations are coming together to make their work more efficient. Many organizations today - not just CPJ and similar organizations, but media development organizations and NGOs dedicated to safety - are looking to fill the gaps, to not duplicate, and to expand

the reach of safety initiatives.

The Emergencies Response Team is based in New York, where it works with CPJ's extensive networks and with its own regional representatives in Belgium, Colombia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Thailand, and United Kingdom.

"At this point it is a lot of knowledge initiatives and identifying places we can work, and identifying existing networks we can work with," Salazar-Ferro says. "We see it more as knowledge sharing."

In addition to working with international freelancers and the media companies that commission them, *"we're working to create networks locally, through our existing regional networks, where we can work mostly with editors, educate them and allow them to create their own safety networks, which we think will be more effective than 'parachute' training,"* she adds.

In an ideal world, the safety programme would protect journalists sufficiently to make the assistance programme obsolete. But we don't live in an ideal world, and the assistance programmes will continue.

"When advocacy, which is our traditional work, is not enough, we bring in the assistance team, when a journalist is in trouble," Salazar-Ferro explains. *"We basically help people who are facing prison or are in prison, or are facing imminent physical attack or have been attacked, people who are forced to leave their country. We can give emergency grants to help pay for lawyers or help in an evacuation or advocate with the UN system or with embassies in cases where people are forced into exile."*

"We don't do this alone," she stresses. *"This is part of a pretty wide and really high functioning coalition of other organizations that are doing the same kind of work".* ■

■ THE REPORT:

<https://cpj.org/reports/2017/02/Best-Defense-Threats-Safety-Journalists-Freelance-Emergencies-Attack-Digital.php>

BRAZIL: IF A JOURNALIST IS MURDERED AND NOBODY CARES, WHO IS GOING TO INVESTIGATE?

True crime was the genre that Guilherme Alpendre believed was the best way to bring attention to the murder of journalists in Brazil, and he wanted a best-selling book to break the silence.

But eventually he became convinced - grudgingly - through discussions that there was a better solution in the digital age.

The killings of journalists in Brazil is a problem in provincial areas, where murder can silence criticism and few people seem to care. These attacks are dramatic, but they get little attention; perhaps a bland write-up in a local paper, based on a brief police report, or an international report that turns a murdered journalist into a statistic.



Guilherme Alpendre, Executive Director of ABRAJI.

"I [initially] came up with this idea of writing about half a dozen cases of journalists killed in Brazil. Why? Because the few people who do write about killed journalists do so in a way that does not attract readers' attention – like a huge report with data, with one or two paragraphs about the killing or violation against each journalist," Alpendre says. "We shouldn't do that anymore."

Alpendre, Executive Director of the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (ABRAJI), figured it would be easy to find a suitable author among his members. *"The idea was, let's make this a best seller, a thriller, that people would read, that people would identify with, and maybe get more sensitive to the situation."*

Sadly, there is enough material for such a book. A radio broadcaster who was killed in the studio, during a broadcast, on an open microphone, by someone who came into the studio and shot him. *"So people in the city heard the killing. It was very frightening, this one."*

Or the murder of two journalists investigating organized crime along Brazil's border with Bolivia. Those murders didn't stop the investigation, so the killers went back and murdered the newspaper's owner. *"It was a very efficient way of shutting up the press,"* Alpendre observes.

Or what Alpendre calls the "regular" method of murder; a drive-by shooting of a journalist on his way home, two guys on a motorcycle shoot him dead.

Brazil remains a dangerous place in the world for journalists, but most of the killings occur in small towns in the countryside, not in the big cities, and few people hear about it.

There are plenty of examples. Tragic. But the material for a powerful book, and a way to raise awareness.

Only, Alpendre's colleagues thought a book was kind of limited, and a different approach would have more impact.

"I'm a stubborn person, so it took them a lot of time to get me to let go of the idea of the book, and work with just stories, good stories, open to the public on the internet, with photographs, texts, short videos, documentaries. They told me this would be a good way to get the message to more people around Brazil. So I was convinced, and so the project was begun."

The "them" of this story included the Open Society Foundations, which agreed to fund the effort to tell the tales of murder in a multi-platform digital project that is now going into unanticipated directions.

While the original idea looked to draw attention and revive investigations into the murder of journalists, it has also led to a second, more ambitious initiative: a rapid reaction force of investigative journalists. Drawn from media around the country, with the support of the Brazilian Newspaper Association, this is to investigate journalist murders as they occur.

The initiative is a team on call to travel to wherever a journalist is killed, start an immediate investigation, and report about it all of the country's cooperating media.

Not cold cases. New cases, the kind where national attention might have been lacking in the past, and where focused attention could motivate authorities to pursue the culprits.

"The idea is that we have a story written by all of these reporters in a cooperative work, to be published the same day in all the newspapers participating in the initiative," Alpendre said. *"Our plan is to cover what happened, the crime, and try to discover what this journalist was covering. So if he or she was covering corruption, we'll have six reporters looking closely at the local politics, and maybe they can bring something to light."*

"This will put a lot of pressure on the local police, and will have, I suspect, a very chilling effect in the future, that killing a journalist will be way more expensive, in terms of the consequences of the murder."

In the first part of the project, begun in 2017, journalists are delving into the murders of seven journalists in four regions of the country, focusing on the murders of radio journalists in the north, and on murders along Brazil's border with Bolivia, and on the tri-border with Argentina and Paraguay where drug

trafficking, prostitution and smuggling are rampant. The reports, in video and texts, are expected to be published as a multi-media package in the middle of 2017.

For the second idea, the rapid reaction team will consist of six or so reporters drawn from different media, with their own editor and coordinated through the investigative journalists association.

“If somebody is killed in a small village in the countryside, we will reach out to all these reporters, their editors and the owners of their newspapers, they’ll get a week or 10 days or two weeks off, Abraji will purchase tickets and arrange hotels and get all of them as quickly as possible to the city. “

“The killings occur in the countryside, it’s a small city, a small radio station, two guys on a motorcycle meet the journalist on his way back home, and shoot him ten times, and then he’s dead, and the police don’t investigate,” Alpendre said. “We need to bring attention to this kind of crime. So these are the kinds of stories we are telling”. ■

■ **ABRAJI:**

<http://www.abraji.org.br>

THE 'TROPICALIZATION' OF SAFETY : TAILORING RESPONSES TO LOCAL SITUATIONS

For journalists covering dangerous street protests, the best advice to avoid attacks is to learn the lessons of those who weren't so lucky.

In Brazil, where street protests have been particularly difficult to cover safely, that would include the TV presenter who had vinegar thrown in her face, or the journalists targeted and beaten by police and protesters, or those shot with rubber bullets.

Listen and learn, or become a statistic: more than 300 journalists were attacked in street protests that occurred across the country between June 2013 and December 2016. Alarming, 80 per cent of the attacks were said to have been carried out by members of the police, and 20 percent by the protesters themselves, according to the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (ABRAJI), which presented the data at a public hearing in September 2016, which led the Public Prosecutor's Office of São Paulo to issue 11 recommendations to be followed by the Military Police and its officers in protests. The measures include establishing monitoring protocols, training of police officers, mechanisms for determining responsibility and more.

The days when protesters welcomed journalists as witnesses - in the days when they famously chanted, 'The Whole World is Watching' - have been replaced by an environment where journalists consider hiding their profession to avoid attack. In many places, the journalists' role as the eyes and ears of society is no longer understood, and the media are treated as the enemy.

In this world, you had better come to a protest prepared to protect yourself.

To help journalists navigate the dangers, ABRAJI has collected the experiences of the victims of the 2013 violence in a guide, the Security Manual for Protest Coverage in Brazil. They've published it in Portuguese as well as in Spanish and in English in a thoughtful gesture that allows journalists from elsewhere to benefit from the advice.

To the testimony of victims, they've added advice gathered through international experience, with the help of the International News Safety Institute (INSI), among others – but they've tailored it to meet the particular situation in Brazil, calling this process the “tropicalization” of safety advice.

“All the guides say, ‘look for the security forces if you need help,’ but our colleagues say, ‘no, don't do that!’ because some policemen may also be your enemy.’ So it is a very different kind of guide,” says Guilherme Alpendre, Executive Director of ABRAJI.

The guide covers legal issues, the importance of risk analysis, first aid advice, precautions to take during the protest, advice on security and protection equipment, responses for specific situations, and safety steps to take immediately after the protest.

It also includes a caution: *“These tips should be read in the same way one would listen to colleagues who have gone through similar situations, always bearing in*

mind there are no universal rules which are valid in every situation. This manual may help a reporter reduce his exposure to risk, but never to eliminate it entirely. ... Every person is, in the end, responsible for their decisions and postures, which must be adapted to the circumstances of each situation. In this way, the first and foremost decision the reporter must make is whether she/he feels able to accept the assignment she/he has been given."

Even facing the possibility of attack just for being there, journalists continue to brave the protests to carry out their jobs - and perform their necessary function of bringing critical information to society, even if this role is sometimes forgotten.

In collecting cases where journalists were attacked, ABRAJI sought detailed information on not only who was attacked and who they work for, but also who carried it out (police or protesters), what kind of attack (beating, rubber bullets, harassment), and whether or not the journalist was specifically targeted for being a journalist.

The list, a massive document, is a litany of outrage. Beatings. Shot with rubber bullets. Tear gas. Equipment set afire.

"For instance, someone threw vinegar in the eyes of a TV reporter, and she panicked, she was in despair not knowing if what hit her eyes was acid," Alpendre recounts. "In the end, it was just vinegar. But the terror that she narrates was terrible. We had cars set on fire, we had television headquarters that were surrounded and attacked by rocks and sticks, so the reporters were covering it from the top of the building. They were prevented from doing live reports [from the street]."

As yet, no one has been brought to justice for the attacks. Not the police - some of whom allegedly remove identifying badges during protests - and not the protesters.

"It is still unresolved," Alpendre says. "I wrote to the security authorities in the state of São Paulo, where the aggressions took place ... and they sent a police car to park in front of our building, and a policeman wearing a uniform with a gun came here to deliver the response, which was, 'we could not find any record of complaint against these names in the official files so we cannot give you an official response.' Obviously, they could have sent it by mail, but they chose to send a policeman in uniform here to the door, to show us the police now knew where we were, this kind of thing."

But that may change. In September 2016, the São Paulo Public Prosecutor's Office held hearings into the violence on behalf of the state to determine if police attacks on journalists violated the public's right to information. The decision is pending, but if the case goes forward, *"it would be very symbolic, that the state has to recognize that its actions were against the constitution, against fundamental rights,"* Alpendre states. *"This is the best we've gotten until now".* ■

■ SECURITY MANUAL FOR COVERING PROTESTS IN BRAZIL:

Portuguese: <http://www.abraji.org.br/midia/arquivos/file1492527123.pdf>

English: <http://www.abraji.org.br/midia/arquivos/file1492527156.pdf>

Spanish: <http://www.abraji.org.br/midia/arquivos/file1492527138.pdf>

COLOMBIA'S CONSEJO DE REDACCIÓN: SAFETY IN NUMBERS

For a journalist, putting your name atop a story - your byline - is one of the greatest satisfactions. Everyone remembers their first byline.

But in Colombia, where investigating organized crime, corruption and conflict is a regular part of the job, your byline can get you killed.

An isolated journalist and an individual media outlet investigating and reporting on corruption, organized crime, civil war, even peace negotiations, can easily be targeted for harassment, kidnapping, attacks and murder.

But what if dozens of journalists publishing in multiple news outlets joined the isolated journalist? The journalist loses a byline, but gains safety and security. Gains a longer life.

That is the idea behind a project of the Consejo de Redacción (Editorial Board) of Colombia, a network of journalists from 87 partners that promotes training in investigative reporting and the production of reports. It has garnered enormous experience over the past 10 years on how journalists can protect themselves, using rigorous investigative techniques and working in networks.

There is safety in numbers.

Colombia has long been a dangerous place to practice journalism. Narcotics trafficking and other forms of organized crime, the corruption they spawn, and a lengthy civil war serve to put at risk all journalists looking into these issues.

With the recent peace agreement between the government and FARC guerillas, and with narcotics trafficking migrating to Mexico, Colombia may be becoming a safe place. Safer, at least. And while it may be true for some regions, organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption remain chronic problems, and the country can still be a dangerous place for the journalists who live and work there.

In Catatumbo in northeastern Colombia, in Tumaco on the Pacific and in Cordoba on the Caribbean, there remain *“serious problems from criminal gangs in the service of drug trafficking,”* says Ginna Morelo, Chair of the Consejo de Redacción.

Those regions also face violence from coca leaf growers, who continue to resist government programmes to destroy illicit drug crops. In some areas the growers prevent access to news media.

Violence is also a problem in Guaviare, in the Amazon jungle, where there is resistance to the peace agreement and reconstruction and where, in fact, there continues to be dissent from elements of the FARC. In other departments, such as the Cauca, the National Liberation Army (ELN) - which is engaged in talks with the government in Quito, Ecuador - is still active and carries out violent attacks. And in still other territories, those who supported paramilitarism that accompanied the seizure of peasants' land now resist the return of that land.

Working in this environment, the Consejo de Redacción has developed time-tested measures to protect journalists.

The joint investigative project is the largest of the initiatives. The Consejo de Redacción provides training and working space for journalists throughout the

country to address issues including political and financial corruption, conflict and peace. About 100 journalists have participated in the programme.

To help in this work, the Consejo de Redacción maintains a database of information on public officials available to investigative journalists, to help them with their work, and also databases for partner organizations and the public, including the fact checking site, Colombiacheck.org.

The teams have produced a series on elections, carried by three newspapers, and five in-depth stories on teenage pregnancy in Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

The stories carry a simple by-line: “written for the Consejo de Redacción”.

And they are often accompanied by dedicated online forums where journalists can discuss their work with each other, as well as tap into advice from journalists from around the world.

While promoting and improving investigative journalism is the primary goal of the Consejo de Redacción, other activities include a hostile environment safety training component to the journalism courses it provides, in order to teach journalists to protect themselves in a wide variety of situations.

Over the past two years, the Consejo ran a programme called “*Coverage of Conflict and Peace*,” which provided training for 40 journalists in Medellín, Arauca, Cali and Bogotá in investigative journalism, data journalism and storytelling, in the run-up to the peace accord between the government and FARC guerillas. In alliance with the Foundation for Press Freedom (FLIP, its acronym in Spanish), it was able to add a fourth programme for security training for the group.

The joint investigative team has produced 17 stories on conflict and peace, produced in different formats for radio, press, television and multimedia. These stories have been published in a variety of Colombian news outlets, including the newspapers El Espectador, La Opinión de Cúcuta, El Tiempo, El Nuevo Liberal, as well as Telepacifico television and Caracol Radio.

That experience led to a protocol and to a practical guide of safety standards to help participating journalists to protect themselves. The protocols cover everything from office safety to handling packages that arrive through the mail, and from digital security through to precautions to take on the ground.

Investigative journalism and safety training for those who conduct it are expensive propositions, but the Consejo de Redacción has been able to carry out its work for a decade thanks to a wide variety of funding sources.

It approaches funders with individual projects, rather than looking for core financing for its activities: the project on teenage pregnancy was financed by the Deutsche Welle Akademie. The Open Society Foundations and the United Nations Development Programme backed the election coverage, International Media Support funded the “*Coverage of Conflict and Peace*” initiative, OSF backed the Colombiacheck project, and so on.

“The problem of sustainability is always there when it comes to independent journalism, but at CdR we’ve made great progress and have now been here for 10 years” Morelo says. ■

■ **CONSEJO DE REDACCIÓN:** <http://cdr2.consejoderedaccion.org/>

DIGITAL SECURITY, PHYSICAL SECURITY AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL HEALTH: A HOLISTIC APPROACH FROM IREX SAFE

The mantra for the safety experts at IREX is digital security, physical security and psycho-social health. Talk to them, and the phrase will come up at one point or another. They all say it.

Digital security, physical security and psycho-social health.

They are justly proud of the comprehensive safety training they provide to the most vulnerable local journalists living and working in dangerous and difficult places. While many other organizations are moving toward more comprehensive safety training, IREX embraced the approach early on.



*If the threat pattern against journalists are multidimensional, shouldn't the way safety is being taught change?
The IREX SAFE project has integrated three domains - physical and digital security and psychosocial self-care.*

How the NGO got there is illustrated by the story of a journalist walking down a street carrying a laptop and a cell phone.

“As many other organizations, IREX has been providing digital security training, but we realized that some of the questions from participants were not about digital things,” says Magnus Forsberg, project director of IREX’s “SAFE” - the acronym of “Secure Access to Free Expression”.

One of the participants had been walking down the street when he was mugged for his laptop and cell phone. While the security training taught him to protect the information on the devices, nothing prepared him for the physical threat, or the fear and stress that came afterwards.

A similar issue arose for another participant, whose Facebook ID was stolen. Even after changing the password and taking other steps to protect the account,

she was frightened and refused to use it again. How does she deal with the stress?

“Our digital security trainer would really be quite helpless, he would maybe try to show you need to be more secure, but we wouldn’t be able to solve the issue,” explains Forsberg.

“With the psycho-social element, we’re trying to enable them to deal with stress, with the secondary trauma,” he says. “For journalists it is a huge issue, because they’re dealing with things that are sometimes very violent. They report it on a daily basis, and sometimes they take some of the stress out of these stories and carry it with them, without even realizing it.”

“We realized that most of the participants are more interested in psycho-social than any other thing,” he observes. “They tell us they can’t sleep. They say, ‘I need to make myself immune to these problems. I can deal with digital security, I have software, I know how to deal with the physical, but I don’t know how to deal with my own mind’. They’re very interested in stress management.”

Since the IREX SAFE programme began in 2013, the organization - a non-profit international group dedicated to developing education, civil society, gender, media, governance, access to information, and youth employment - has trained more than 1,200 journalists and has been able to build what Forsberg calls “a bank account of education experience,” a wealth of information about what is effective when it comes to training journalists about safe practices.

Here are some of the things they do:

IREX makes sure to use local people to deliver training. *“They are culturally aware, they’re local so of course they know the local language,” Forsberg says.*

SAFE trainers help participants develop individual risk management plans to deal with digital and psychical threats. The initiative also provides relocation if necessary, through the Journalists in Distress network - a “hotline” system with 24/7 access to emergency assistance for journalists. And SAFE establishes regional security advisory networks to share resources and promote community-wide solidarity on the issue of safety.

The courses cover participants *“from highly trained local journalists down to citizen journalists,”* Forsberg says. Sometimes, there are only citizen journalists.



For example, its Middle East training center - one of five regional training centers, with others in Central America, Eurasia, East Africa and South Asia - is dedicated exclusively to helping citizen journalists.

“In some conflict regions, the professional journalists have left the country, they’re in the US or Canada or Europe, so the people we are training there are more like citizen journalists,” Forsberg said. “It started with someone who has a camera and managed to get a good photo and send it to Associated Press or something, and suddenly they were on a freelance contract.”

Though all trainings include a comprehensive approach, they’re tailored for the different threats in different regions. In countries where government surveillance is ubiquitous, the focus would be on digital security. And places where violence is common, the focus is on physical safety.

Because it works in many sensitive environments, IREX is understandably obsessed with security, both for participants and for its training staff. Through a network of trusted advisors, it carefully vets and selects participants, in an effort to build trust for open dialogue.

“We aim to have quite small groups for these trainings, the magic number is between eight and 12 participants,” Forsberg said. “There should not be too many differences. Sometimes, these are highly traumatized people and perhaps they don’t really trust many others, so we have to reach a trust level very quickly.”

“It’s a good idea to understand the local situation so completely that you can put together a group that is very comfortable with one another,” he says. “They are sitting in a group where they feel it is okay to share their most personal problems. That is a sign the training is working really well.”

The participants are also selected based on their backgrounds: journalists with journalists, editors with editors, photographers with photographers, with similar work experience and even age. *“If a question comes up from a participant, it should be relevant to all 11 of the other participants,” Forsberg said.*

Trainings generally last five days, conducted by IREX staff members who include psychologists, digital experts and physical security experts, usually former journalists who have worked in dangerous places. Using dedicated staff rather than consultants is important: *“since we have this integrated approach, it can be complicated, we don’t just throw them in just to deliver the training,” Forsberg explains.*

Forsberg says much of the training is dedicated to helping the participants help themselves.

“We create a scenario and we let the person go through it so we can see what the person would do, and how our trainer could intervene and suggest different things for them,” he states. “Many times these are things the participant will come up with on their own, and the other 11 participants are listening and taking notes and saying, ‘this is great, we didn’t think about this.’”

“It’s just trying to get them to channel their thoughts and get them to work in the right direction”. ■

■ SECURING ACCESS TO FREE EXPRESSION (IREX SAFE)

<https://www.irex.org/project/safe-securing-access-free-expression>

HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT **TRAINING COURSES FOR WOMEN**

It's bad enough that female journalists face situations their male counterparts never face when they're out reporting in the field. Having to take extra precautions like wearing multiple layers of clothing and staying out of crowds are just two of the challenges.

But female journalists around the world are also confronted with situations that resonate with women everywhere, no matter what their profession: workplace harassment and problems from men who are supposed to be their colleagues.

When women journalists get together among themselves to talk about safety, these are some of the things they talk about. The advice they give each other is often more valuable than advice from a safety trainer.

That's something that might not be apparent when women and men take safety training together. In those circumstances, women may be less likely to share.

"I think having an all female training creates a safe space, where women are actually sharing their experiences with each other, and a lot of peer learning occurs," says Nadine Hoffman, Deputy Director of the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF).

Since 2012, the IWMF has been providing safety training to women who participate in its two-week, international reporting trips to Africa and Latin America, currently running about 15 trips each year. It also provides the participants - called "fellows" - with drivers, fixers and other support they need to go out and get their stories, focusing on underreported narratives in the regions.

It offers the same training to local journalists it works with in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Tanzania, Rwanda and Mexico. There are plans to train journalists in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and South Sudan over the next two years.

The training for local journalists is open to both men and women - the groups are balanced, half and half. But since the reporting trips are open only to women, those safety groups are entirely female.

"There is the formal training where we talk about the common sense strategies that women in the field should do to stay safer, but I think the real value of bringing together these women from a variety of different reporting contexts is that they're really sharing their own strategies with each other, and they're also sharing some of the trauma they've experienced and sort of processing that as well," Hoffman says.

In one such group in Cairo, Egypt, they shared advice for staying safe while covering street protests: wear overalls and other layers underneath other clothing, to make it more difficult for attackers to remove; work with colleagues or fixers, stay outside the center of the crowd; get telephone numbers from people in the crowd, so you can follow up and get quotes from them and stay safe after the protests.

"These are just a couple of examples that come to mind," Hoffman states. *"A lot of it is just sharing their experiences, and people validating each other, because we know that*

women journalists are facing harassment almost everywhere in the world. And it's not always because of external actors, often it is colleagues that they're dealing with as well. So those kind of conversations are happening."

IWMF and the International News Safety Institute conducted the first ever survey of security risks for women journalists in 2013, with almost 1,000 women journalists from around the world responding. The report, entitled *"Violence and Harassment Against Women in the News Media: A Global Picture"*, illustrates that women journalists face not only the same threats their male colleagues face, but cultural and social prejudices that can keep them silent.

Nearly two-thirds of the survey participants said they had experienced some form of intimidation, threats or abuse in relation to their work, everything from name-calling to death threats.

The majority of threats, intimidation and abuse occurred in the work place and was committed most often by male bosses, supervisors and co-workers, the survey found. Most incidents of harassment and violence were never reported, even though a majority of women who experienced them said they were psychologically affected.



Photo courtesy of IWMF

IWMF participants reporting trip Mexico

"Certainly, I think many organizations like ours have just become more focused on the safety issues because the threats to journalists seem to be proliferating," Hoffman says. "And we know that women are dealing with threats online as well as offline. That needs to be addressed. And that's something we think is central to the mission of the organization in helping women advance in their careers."

The reporting trips are funded by multi-year grant initiatives from the Howard G. Buffet Foundation, with the hostile environment training built into the budgets. The programme *"has been a complete game changer for us, in terms of being able to offer these to journalists."* Hoffman notes.

IWMF also has a fund for women journalists, offering small grants for women to take hostile environment training courses on their own, and offering trauma

workshops as well. “A longer term priority of ours in developing resources for journalism trauma, for journalists who have experienced trauma,” says Hoffman.

The approach seems to be effective. “I saved a man from dying when he fell under the train, in Bombay, by knowing how to check for his vitals and knowing how to get him from under the train, and ensuring that people do not panic because I looked confident in whatever I was doing while taking care of him,” recalls Priyanka Borpujari, a freelancer who participated in an IWMF trip to El Salvador. “That truly felt that the security training gave me immense confidence in preventing me from being just another bystander.”

“It helped me save someone’s life by performing CPR,” testifies Kimberly Adams, a reporter for Marketplace in Washington, D.C., who participated in IWMF trips to Uganda and Mexico. “On the security side, my overall digital and situational awareness is better, and I refer to tips and tricks from the training when colleagues ask me about best practices.”

A reporter who asked to remain anonymous recounts: “The first aid training has been critical. I used it in Burkina Faso and most recently, I used it in Burundi and was later told ... that I saved the victim’s life by responding quickly to his gunshot wound.” She adds: “To be honest, I’m not sure how close what I actually did was to exactly what we were taught, however I am 100 per cent sure that I had the confidence and presence of mind to act quickly because of this security and first aid training.”

Those comments come from the annual surveys IWMF conducts to assess how the training is working. “The most common feedback we hear is that the most useful thing is just practical situational awareness and becoming more cognizant of your surroundings,” says Hoffman. “The situational awareness is a lot of common sense stuff, but when you really break it down for people, they start to practice it more in their work”. ■

■ INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S MEDIA FOUNDATION:

<https://www.iwmf.org/>

FEMALE JOURNALISTS IN SUDAN WORK FOR SAFETY AND EQUALITY

The problems facing female journalists in Sudan are multiple: harassment, discrimination, violence and all the problems that afflict their male counterparts: kidnapping, press freedom controls, natural disasters, lack of medical care, conflict, even snakebite, animal attacks and getting lost in the wilderness.

But rather than despairing, women journalists in Sudan want to work even more.

“Female journalists are suffering from discrimination, even from the other journalists, the male journalists, because they think that women are more vulnerable to the broad problems and the conflicts,” said Niemat Alnaiem, a safety workshop facilitator who works in Darfur, the war-torn region of western Sudan.

“The women believe they are equal to the men and are capable to do anything the men can do and this is discrimination against them,” she added. *“They have to give them the chance to be there, to prove their capability to do the jobs that men are doing.”*



Alfashir

Ms Niemat conducts workshops in Darfur as part of the Occupational Safety of Female Journalists program funded by UNESCO’s International Programme for Developing Communications (IPDC), and the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and organised by the Sudanese Journalist Union with the organizational support of the Khartoum office of UNESCO. Additional support comes from the Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture and the Italian and Netherlands Embassies.

Ms Niemat met in Khartoum recently with two other women involved in the program to talk to this report’s author about how workshop participants view the risks and what is being done to reduce them.

The women - Ms Niemat, Ms Hadiea Ali, head of the Women’s Section of the Sudanese Journalists Union, and Dr Asma Altoum, a workshop facilitator in Wad Medani, the capital of Al Gezira state - described a working environment for

female journalists that is fraught with challenge.

The problems are diverse, and vary from state to state.

In Darfur, for example, there are the dangers posed by the conflict itself, but also kidnapping by both rebels and by the local powerholders, the women said. There is an overall lack of security. Journalists also face danger from the harsh nature of the countryside. *“They are passing through forest and exposed to wild animals and snakes, and there are no hospitals in this area. If there is an accident, there is no immediate treatment,”* said Ms Hadiea.



Photo courtesy Sudanese Journalists Union

Darfur

In Al Gezira and Sennar states, flash flooding combined with diseases including malaria and typhoid pose serious dangers. The state is largely agricultural, and suffers from the overuse and misuse of pesticides, and has a high cancer rate, the women said. *“Many of these journalists are living in Al Gezira itself, and they are exposed to disease and to natural disaster itself,”* said Dr Asma.

In the border region with Ethiopia around Ad-Damazin in the Blue Nile State, where conflict and weapons trafficking continue, kidnappings, shootings and attacks on journalists are great risks. But here too the natural landscape is a threat. *“Journalists have been lost in the desert, this area has many deserts, and also forests, there is always a problem of being lost in this area,”* said Dr Asma.

In the capital of Khartoum, some of the problems and challenges differ from elsewhere. Hacking of email accounts is a problem. So is the danger of being targeted by security force while covering street protests and strikes. Female journalists say they are threatened with killing and rape. And access to government information is limited.

But some of the problems are universal.

Discrimination against female journalists is rife, the women said. *“We need workshops for men to be more aware about the rights of female journalists, their right to do the same job and be respected,”* said Ms Neimat. *“This is not understood by men in the community and even in the journalism world, they think women are not able to do the*

tasks. They are using their power to discriminate against their colleagues. This is a big problem.”

The discrimination is also a problem among government officials, workshop participants complain. The women described cases where female journalists were excluded from invitations to events organized by local officials. Some defiantly participated - or tried to - anyway.

Training opportunities are also limited, the women said.

“Most of the chief editors think, if I give you the opportunity to be trained, you will be able to go to another place better than the newspaper, maybe to an international organization like the United Nations,” explained Ms Neimat, recounting conversations in her workshop.

“They think it is a waste of time, they just want them to go cover an event, come back with a big story for the newspaper; this is all we need from journalists, we don’t need you to have more skills,” Dr Asma added.

In this daunting environment, the Sudanese Journalist Union’s Occupational Safety of Female Journalists program is training about 140 female journalists. Workshops have been carried out or are planned in El Fasher, Wad Medani, Khartoum, Nyala, El Obeid, Kassala and Ed Damer, covering most of the country.



Darfur

Photo courtesy Sudanese Journalists Union

The workshops provide practical safety skills, including risk assessment, and advice on what female journalists should carry on assignments. UNESCO’s manual on safety of journalists is part of the curriculum, but no manual can cover all of the situations that occur in Sudan; the workshops also provide an opportunity for participants to trade experiences and learn from one another.

“Most of them are so enthusiastic about their assignments that they ignore their safety,” said Dr Asma. “So what they are told to do, through these workshops and facilitators, is that they have to be aware of their safety. We teach them safety first.”

Risk assessment is a big part of the process. Participants are taught to make a

checklist about expected risks on assignment, and to do everything they can to avoid or limit those risks or avoid dangerous assignments if the risk is too great.

They are also taught what to take along on assignments - helmets, first aid kits, and communication devices to stay in touch with headquarters.

“They have to be ready for diseases or medical problems, so they have to take all the medications they need because sometimes there are no pharmacies or hospitals and they have to be ready for everything,” Dr Asma said.

But more is needed, the women said. Participants in the workshops have asked for more help coping with hate speech, particularly in Darfur. They also need classes in English, because their stories often require them to interview people working in international organizations. And they’ve asked for additional training in digital safety, particularly in Khartoum.

More first aid training is also needed, particularly in the conflict areas and where flash floods and other natural disasters occur.

And they stress that combating discrimination is an ongoing problem; in addition to their own safety training, they’d like their male colleagues to have courses that would help alleviate the stereotypes and have them view their female colleagues as journalists of equal abilities, who deserve an equal chance. ■

THE COLD CASES: WHEN JOURNALISTS INVESTIGATE MURDERS OF COLLEAGUES

It's all well and good to remember slain journalists with days of commemoration. But Veran Matić emphasizes that this isn't enough.

It's thanks to him going a lot further that three security officials are now in prison for murdering journalists more than 15 years ago, and justice is underway in several other cases.

"I think it's rather absurd to mark annual anniversaries of the killings of our colleagues, and call on the authorities on that occasion to resolve those cases. It will never happen, if that is all we do," he said.

Matić is a Serbian legend, both for his courage and independence and for his work to bring together journalists with police and state security representatives in a commission to combat the culture of impunity in the murders of journalists. The commission, which gives support to judicial bodies to act in accordance with law, is a model that is now being duplicated elsewhere in the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

"I decided to propose a stronger initiative for my fellow journalists, to take an active part in investigations, influencing the dynamics through constant public pressure, as well as trying to realize what seems to be the problem and why all those cases fail to be resolved," said Matić.

Veran Matić has been editor-in-chief and chairman of the Serbian broadcaster and web portal B92 since its founding in 1989. He has been honored with numerous awards, including the Committee to Protect Journalists' Annual Award in 1993, the Olof Palme Memorial Fund's prize for professional journalism and promotion of international understanding, the Ilaria Alpi Award, and the MTV Free Your Mind Award.

The International Press Institute named him one of 50 World Press Freedom Heroes. France has made him a Knight of the Legion of Honor.

But his greatest legacy might be as founder and president of the Commission for Investigating Killings of Journalists in Serbia.

The Commission, founded in 2013 as an official government body, consists of journalists and journalist associations, and representatives of the police and the Serbian State Security Agency. It tracks threats and violence against journalists and ensures that unsolved cases aren't forgotten.

Its work has already led to criminal charges in one of Serbia's most notorious journalist killings: the 1999 murder of Slavko Ćuruvija, the founder and editor-in-chief of Dnevni telegraf, Serbia's first private daily newspaper.

The Commission also works to eradicate the conditions that lead to impunity: it educates prosecutors, judges and police representatives about journalistic standards, the importance of the profession, its rights and respect for freedom of expression. At the same time, it educates journalists on the legal system and on professional standards.

And it sees its role as educating the public as well, to build understanding of the value of independent journalism, and how attacks on journalists are attacks on society as well. Among other initiatives, its 2014 media campaign on these issues, supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, won a Bronze Lion at the International Cannes Lions Festival.

But it was its work investigating the murder of Ćuruvija that has drawn the most attention. At the time of his murder in April 1999, Dnevni telegraf was the country's largest circulating print publication and, immediately prior to the founder's killing, it had been banned by the regime of then-president Slobodan Milošević for its critical coverage.

In 2013, the newly formed Commission gave additional stimulus for the state bodies to resolve the case of the killing of Ćuruvija and two other Serbian journalists, Milan Pantić, and Dada Vujasinović.

After a one-year investigation, charges in Ćuruvija's murder were filed against four members of the former Serbian State Security Service. Three are being held and one is a fugitive.

The indictment states that Ćuruvija was killed because of his "public statements in the country and abroad, and criticism of the holders of political power, the possibility of influencing public opinion and action of opposition of social forces, for the sake of preserving the existing government."

In other words, he was killed for doing his job.

The trial, which began on 1 June, 2015, continues.

The Serbian Commission is the first of what Matić hopes will become an international network of such bodies, a regional and global effort involving journalists and police, and also including prosecutors and judges with the aim of ending the culture of impunity that has allowed the killers of journalists to escape punishment and prosecution.

Serbia has provided the model, and the Balkans are providing the proving ground, a place where the legacy of war and division provides ample cases of impunity, and where the threats continue. A 2015 report by Human Rights Watch painted a stark picture of an environment where journalists, editors and media owners face threats, attacks and other types of intimidation in the region. Matić himself works under ground.

A second Commission was established in Montenegro in 2013. It is headed by Nikola Markovic, Editor in Chief of the daily newspaper Dan, whose owner and former editor Dusko Jovanovic was murdered in 2004.

A similar initiative is underway in Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244), with the support of the OSCE and the President, to investigate 13 unresolved murders of journalists, dating back to 1998.

Regional cooperation is key to successful investigations, Matić explains. Cases of journalists killed in the former Yugoslavia are now under the jurisdiction of the newly formed states that took part. *"This makes it rather hard to investigate those killings separately,"* he notes.

For example, Matić points to the 2008 murder in Croatia of Ivo Pukanić, the

owner of the Nacional newspaper, and Niko Franjić, its marketing manager.

He believes that Pukanić was “*assassinated by professional executioners from Serbia and Bosnia, in cooperation with Croatian criminals, while the murder was ordered from a third country, and all linked to the tobacco mafia that has been working in a fourth country,*” Matić states.

A Croatian court convicted six people in the murder, but the court was unable to determine who commissioned the assassination. Three of the six were also tried in Serbia, where one was convicted and two were acquitted.

Matić hopes the three commissions in the region are only the start.

“We should proceed with forming institutions to protect journalists on the national levels in many countries, establishing connections between those institutions, and connect them with other similar institutions of the Council of Europe, and with international journalists associations to create international and regional networks for the protection of journalists,” he says. ■

A SMALL CRACK IN THE CULTURE OF IMPUNITY

The award of US\$ 200,000 seems like small compensation for torture, and on top of that Musa Saidykhan never actually received it. But a court decision is a court decision, for all to see, and it stands as a small victory against impunity by authorities who torture, maim and even kill in their efforts to silence critics.

Crimes against journalists are rarely investigated, let alone resolved. Even more so when the crime is carried out by government security forces.

Nevertheless, the Community Court of Justice for the regional Economic Community of West African States' (ECOWAS) ruled in 2010 that one of its members, The Gambia, had violated Saidykhan's human rights.

Saidykhan had been arrested by Gambian security forces, detained for 22 days without charge and tortured, merely for doing his job.

It would have been improbable for Saidykhan to bring such a case himself. But thanks to the intervention of the Media Foundation of West Africa (MFWA), he got his day in court.

His is a story about how dedicated lawyers and journalists and their supporters, working mostly as volunteers, can come together in solidarity to fight the culture of impunity.

It's not a perfect result, since The Gambia - prior to the elections in December 2016 - refused to honor its commitment, violating its agreement that the regional court's decisions are binding on its members. Nevertheless, the judgment stands and is a rare thing given that, worldwide, the culture of impunity is rampant.

Though the ECOWAS court has accepted the submission of individual complaints of human rights violations since 2005, petitioners need lawyers and other resources to do so. And even if they have the resources, pursuing justice can be a dangerous proposition.

"Victims do not have the means, and are also afraid because the government would go after them, including possibly killing them for going to court at all," says Kwame Karikari, who was the director of the Media Foundation for West Africa when the case was brought in 2007.

Saidykhan himself lives in exile in the United States, where he fled following his release from detention, but could not be located for this report. But it is clear that leaving The Gambia for him was the only way to avoid continued harassment.

And that would have been the end of it, if the MFWA had not offered its services.

"The MFWA became involved because, at the time, the organization ran a programme for the legal defense of journalists, and because the courts in The Gambia were not independent to try any cases involving the government. The only alternative was to go to the regional court of justice," recounts Karikari.

MFWA's Network of Lawyers for the Defense of Journalists comprised a dozen lawyers from 10 West African countries. Among them was the renowned human

rights lawyer Femi Falana of Nigeria, who handled The Gambia cases, pro bono, at the ECOWAS Court in Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

With lawyers waiving their fees, and with research and coordination carried out by MFWA staff, the costs of the process ran to about US\$10,000, *"which was peanuts compared with the real professional fees that could have been charged,"* Karikari recalls.

The costs were covered by a grant provided by the Open Society Foundations.

Musa Saidykhan had been a journalist for 15 years in The Gambia when he was appointed editor of *The Independent* in Gambia, a newspaper that was hounded by authorities from its inception in 1989. In 2004, its printing press was destroyed in a still unsolved arson attack. The unsolved assassination of a leading Gambian journalist, Deyda Hydara, in December 2004 had also been a serious blow against independent journalism in the country. In 2014, the ECOWAS court held that the Gambian government had failed to properly investigate the journalist's murder in a case brought by his family in a joint application with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). The court awarded US \$50,000 to Deyda Hydara's family as compensation as well as US \$10,000 for legal costs.

But *The Independent* kept on, striking a printing arrangement with the pro-government newspaper *The Daily Observer*. And when that arrangement was terminated without explanation, it continued to publish as an underground paper with few staff or resources.

"With a strong desire to serve a news-hungry population, I closed my ears to a warning that I would be 'sitting on a ticking time bomb'", Saidykhan recounted in a 2009 interview with the Committee to Protect Journalists. *"With a vibrant editorial team, the paper became hot again, regaining its footing in the market. Murmurs started filling the air. All eyes focused on me. People kept telling me, 'Your editorials are too itchy'".*

But during a 2005 trip to South Africa to attend the African Editors Forum, Saidykhan petitioned the South African government to intervene and pressure The Gambia to cease its human rights abuses under the government of then-president Yahya Jammeh. When he returned home, *"I was arrested by security agents who interrogated me, questioned my nationality and accused me of being a traitor,"* he said in the interview.

He was released but re-arrested soon after. *"Those 22 days in detention included three nights of systematic physical and mental torture that left scars all over my body as well as my hand broken in three places,"* he said.

In the court papers, Saidykhan's case stated that said security agents administered *"electric shocks on his body including his genitals"* in an attempt to coerce him into confessing to trying to overthrow the government. They also threatened to bury him alive. He accused the security forces of inflicting *"physical, mental and psychological torture"*.

In 2010, the ECOWAS Court of Justice agreed, ruling that The Gambia had violated his human rights to personal liberty, fair trial and personal dignity under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Court awarded him US\$ 200,000 in compensatory damages.

Saidykhan has been no doubt disappointed that the ruling was never enforced and the promises of the regional court was not fulfilled. Yet despite the country's

refusal to recognize the court's decision, and its neighbors for declining to enforce it, his story, and the ruling in his favor, is an example of how one journalist in one small country can combat impunity with community support, and the will and resources available to pursue justice.

At the time of the decision, *"I was delighted that justice at last prevailed in my case,"* Saidykhan said in an interview with the MFWA. *"The goal is not only about being compensated, but also to show or teach a dictatorial regime that [violating] human rights has a bitter price to pay. I decided to be a pacesetter to give courage to other victims of the Jammeh dictatorship to follow suit. If I had not tested the waters, other Gambian victims would not dare seek redress at the ECOWAS Court. Yes, I am hopeful that damages will be paid if the ECOWAS is engaged in a proper manner."*

"[Now,] I feel disappointed by a sub-regional body that has effectively demonstrated its inability or weakness to implement the verdict of the ECOWAS Community Court," he said. *"Some of the very ECOWAS leaders who approved the Court's establishment and funding are not interested in protecting human rights, as evidenced by their lack of interest in making sure that State Parties are forced to comply with the Court."*

Though Saidykhan was unsuccessful in getting compensation from The Gambia, ECOWAS subsequently showed its teeth. On 19 January 2017, it militarily intervened in The Gambia to force Yahya Jammeh to accept his defeat in a 2016 presidential election, after which he fled into exile after more than two decades in power.

There are a number of other regional courts that consider individual human rights cases, including the European Court of Justice, the East Africa Court of Justice and the Tribunal of the Southern African Development Community. Whether cases of attacks on journalists can succeed depends on the individual cases. But several factors came together to allow Saidykhan to pursue justice in the ECOWAS court, according to Karikari.

- the local courts were not free to take up human rights cases involving government or its operatives (such violations were carried out on the orders of the then dictatorial leader of The Gambia himself);

- there was the regional court, set up under a convention signed by member governments, that had a mandate to take up cases by citizens from member states;

- there were lawyers who are committed to human rights defense and are ready to take up such cases on a pro bono basis or at rates that are affordable by poor journalists or non-profit organizations with little funds;

- the resort to courts was backed up by well-planned campaigns against impunity;

- a critical factor that allowed the MFWA intervention was that, unlike many other regional courts of justice, applicants to the ECOWAS Court do not have to have exhausted local remedies by going through local courts.

"In many such jurisdictions, you can take cases to the regional institutions on appeal when not satisfied with decisions of the national courts," Karikari says. *"In the case of the ECOWAS Court, an aggrieved citizen can take a case there even on first instance. However the applicant must have cogent reasons why the local courts cannot be used".* ■

■ **READ THE ECOWAS COURT JUDGMENT:**

http://www.courtecowas.org/site2012/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=179:musa-saidykhanyrepublic-of-the-gambia&catid=18:judgments&Itemid=88

■ **MEDIA FOUNDATION OF WEST AFRICA:**

<http://www.mfwa.org/>

ROTECTING JOURNALISTS BEFORE THEY GET INTO TROUBLE

Ask anyone who is concerned about freelance journalists working without a safety net, and they'll invariably mention the Rory Peck Trust.

The Trust, set up in 1995 in memory of the freelance cameraman whose name it carries, has been providing assistance grants to freelancers since 1995, long before many others even identified freelancers as among the most vulnerable of journalists.

Though financial assistance remains its main mission, the world has changed since Peck was killed in Moscow in October 1993, caught in a crossfire while filming a gun battle during Russia's October attempted coup.

For one thing, today there are a lot more organizations looking after freelancers. The notable deaths of freelance journalists - Kurt Schork and Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora in Sierra Leone in 2000, to the very public deaths of James Foley and Steven Sotloff in Syria in 2014, with many in between - have led to a variety of freelance protection initiatives, created by friends and colleagues and families seeking to protect others as a lasting legacy in their memories.

"It wasn't like people had not thought of safety," says Tina Carr, Director of the Rory Peck Trust. "Loads of journalists had been killed, but somehow there began to be an awareness, people started talking about them, and in the last few years it has really accelerated. Suddenly everywhere I went people were talking about how vulnerable freelancers are and I'd been saying it for 20 years. Like I'd been shouting in the desert alone and suddenly everybody's shouting."

"I think the massive difference now is that, not only the news organizations are more aware, but the freelancers themselves are more aware, they are more professional. They know what they want, and there is stuff out there to help them."

The Rory Peck Trust is changing with the times. Though its main mission continues to be providing assistance grants to freelancers, it can be enormously frustrating to help journalists only after they get in trouble. So it has been working on ways to becoming more proactive while building on what it does best, Carr says.

It remains the case that the Trust is known for being an intensely personal organization, aiding thousands of freelancers, one at a time.

There is Fred Alvaro Duran, who was threatened with death in Honduras for his investigations into drug cartels and related land issues. He felt his work had become too dangerous to remain in Honduras; the Trust provided a grant to cover his basic needs for two months while he applied for asylum in Canada.

There is Nabil Subaye in Yemen. The Trust covered his medical costs after he was attacked by gunmen.

There is the family of Mehmood Khan in Pakistan, who was murdered by a suicide bomber in 2016, leaving his family without income. A grant from the Trust paid school fees and helped his widow to set up a home business.

Those are just a few of the hundreds of freelancers who have been aided by the trust. *“We are still in essence an assistance organization, we’re not an advocacy organization so we know our place,” Carr states. “What we’ve done is to become an awful lot bigger and much better at what we are doing.”*

What the Trust has also done is become involved in initiatives to protect journalists before they need help, mostly in partnership with other organizations, as a complement to the assistance.

The process began in a small way in 2000, with the establishment of the Rory Peck Training Fund. *“It was very simple, it was Robin Hood, it was get the money from the broadcasters and give it to the freelancers so they could go on training courses,” Carr elaborates.*

“We launched with the support from CNN, the Guardian, the Freedom Forum, BBC and Reuters,” she says. “The idea was, okay, you give me money, out it goes straight to freelancers. We don’t even take anything for administration. And that’s carried on and is still carrying on. It’s a simple idea.”

Now, the Trust is starting something more ambitious; taking all the knowledge it has gathered aiding freelancers over the years, and turning it into an online resource accessible and for the benefit of all.

“Knowledge sharing is absolutely where we see ourselves being more proactive because we have a massive amount of knowledge and we’re getting more all the time,” Carr explains. “We pick up an enormous amount of information that informs our work and gets us to help people the best way we can.”

Working with freelancers for so long, the Trust has developed enormous knowledge on safety initiatives, trauma workshops and professional freelance tradecraft, *“things that will help the freelancer survive, basically,” Carr says. It is sharing that knowledge in free, online resources, accessible to all.*

For example, a two-year training and mentoring programme for Libyan journalists, conducted with a local partner and funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund, resulted in a series of workshops on safety, risk assessment and professional skills. Putting the results of those workshops online helps not only the participants but *“other freelancers in the region because it is very region specific,”* she says.

Other recent, collaborative projects have included tailored safety training for Egyptian photojournalists in Cairo, emergency battlefield media training in Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, for freelancers covering the Mosul offensive, and safety training for local freelancers in Yemen and on the US-Mexican border. All producing knowledge and information that can be shared.

“The online resource is the most proactive thing we’ve done, and that has taken our work massively further,” says Carr. “It feeds our practical work on the ground and our practical on-the-ground work feeds the resource.”

The Rory Peck Trust offers a wealth of online information for freelancers, supported by the Open Society Foundations, including practical guides, tools and tips on safety and security, digital security, insurance and professional development. And it adds to the resource regularly.

But another set of information is yet to be exploited: data that will help define

the size and scope of the global freelance community and their needs.

“We have built up a tremendous amount of knowledge without analyzing it or quantifying it. And we are going to do that,” Carr explains. “What we are now doing is incorporating that into our database, building things so that we can quantify everything. For us, it is things like, how many freelancers do we have, what are their situations, are they in exile, in hiding in their own country, what happens after their exile, what help did they need? There are so many different areas that you can quantify that we haven’t yet done. I think we have the possibility of being a real source of information about freelancers.”

“This is a change that is going on at the moment because we want to be more proactive than we are,” she adds. “Part of that is becoming more evidence based. People come to us a lot and say, ‘how many freelancers this and how many freelancers that’, and you cannot actually say, so we are working on becoming better at collecting information. We’re not only trying to respond to calls for help. We are looking at what’s going on, where things are brewing, through our freelance contacts, and through the freelance community. So we can better serve them”. ■

■ **RORY PECK TRUST:**

<https://rorypecktrust.org/>

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR FRIENDS DIE?

Created in February 2013 in response to the battlefield deaths of some close friends of its founders, “A Day Without News?” was conceived to draw public attention to the killings of journalists and raise awareness about attacks on journalists that prevent citizens from getting the critical news and information they need.

It worked.

*“We got on to CNN and we got on to the BBC, and, because of our connections, millions and millions of people heard about this campaign called, “A Day Without News?,” says Aidan Sullivan, Founder and CEO of the New York-based Verbatim Photo Agency and the former director of photography of the **Sunday Times Magazine** in London.*

“A Day Without News?” is not an organization. It is rather a grassroots campaign conceived by Sullivan and a small network of journalists and their supporters who were devastated by the deaths of their friends Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros, who died in Libya in 2011, and Marie Colvin and Rémi Ochlik, killed in Syria in 2012.

The project has been effective, though it consists of little more than a website and the strong motivation of its participants, who advocate for greater protections for journalists and to raise awareness of the importance of their work.

“The whole idea was born of grief and anger,” Sullivan says. “Grief because these were my close friends, these weren’t people I just happened to know. Tim and Marie. I worked with Marie for decades. It just brings it home, these are just such smart people, so brave and so dedicated. And I was so angry. And when journalists get angry, we try to find ways to get things done.”

“The campaign did more than gain widespread attention. Through a series of meetings with US and British delegates, it helped in convincing the United Nations to take a stand,” says Sullivan.

Sullivan believes that, at least partly as a result of the campaign, the UN Security Council held an open debate on the protection of journalists on July 17, 2013, the first time the Council took up the issue in a full meeting since the adoption of a resolution on the protection of journalists in 2006.

That debate led to a resolution adopted by the full United Nations General Assembly in November 2013, condemning attacks and violence against journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations.

The resolution emphasizes the responsibility of states to prevent violence and to bring perpetrators to justice. It urges *“Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into all alleged violence against journalists and media workers falling within their jurisdiction, and to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice and to ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies.”*

“A Day Without News?” is not an attempt to organize a news blackout for a day. Instead, it raises the question to get people to think about the cost to society

when journalists are prevented by violence from doing their jobs.

“As journalists, (organizing a news blackout) is not our role,” says Sullivan. “What we’re saying is, imagine a scenario where there is no news, because it is too dangerous for the journalists - both locals and the ones who are being parachuted in - to tell you, sitting in your living room, what’s going on. And that is what we’re heading for. There are incidences where we are just not getting the news.”

“A Day Without News?” was conceived with three goals in mind:

- to draw sharper attention to the growing numbers of journalists who have been killed and injured in armed conflict, in some cases as a result of direct targeting by the belligerents;

- to develop a public diplomacy, institutional and legal agenda to combat this more effectively; and

- to investigate and collect evidence in support of prosecutable cases in this area.

Though it succeeded on the first two points, Sullivan admits the third campaign goal remains unfulfilled.

“One, we wanted to highlight the issue. Two, we wanted to try to get the UN Security Council to raise the issue. And three, which we always knew would be the toughest one, was to actually get prosecutions,” Sullivan says.

Though “it may happen eventually,” Sullivan believes seeking prosecutions may have been overly ambitious for a grassroots campaign in which the organizers have full-time jobs outside of the project. There are other organizations - he mentioned the Committee to Protect Journalists among them - that are organized to pursue these goals.

“Once we got those two things done, and the Security Council had a special debate, and it went to the General Assembly, it was clear that things were moving ahead and they were actually trying to do more to protect our colleagues and friends,” he says.

But “A Day Without News?” can be revived at any time.

“Regarding the website, nothing much has happened recently, but I didn’t want it to go away, because it could be we will need to do something again, and it’s there if we need it”. ■

■ MORE ON “A DAY WITHOUT NEWS?”:

<http://adaywithoutnews.com/>

ART CENTER DELVES INTO SAFETY TRAINING EFFECTIVENESS

Does safety training work? There are plenty of stories of journalists rescuing others, of using their first aid training, of changing their own behavior, of considering the risks in ways they didn't before they took safety training courses.

But outside of these anecdotal tales, there is little to tell us what works and what doesn't.

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma is helping to change that.

There are dozens of safety courses offered to journalists around the world, offering different approaches. Some focus on first aid and medical training, others provide risk analysis, some help journalists deal with stress and trauma, and some offer a bit of everything. Some of them are conducted by people with military backgrounds, or police, or journalists themselves, both locals and people from elsewhere. But what is the best approach?

"This is such an essential issue, and the safety of journalists is so important. We really need to get a handle on this and figure out what is really needed and what isn't," says Elana Newman, research director for the Dart Center and a Professor of Psychology at the University of Tulsa in the United States.

The Dart Center isn't into safety training in isolation. The center, based at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, is dedicated to improving news coverage of trauma, conflict and tragedy. But, as a resource center and global network of journalists, journalism educators and health professionals, it also is part of the ACOS Alliance (A Culture of Safety). Newman's research expertise made her a logical choice to quantify the value of the safety training out there.

As a first step, the Center conducted a survey of journalists who participated in safety training courses to ask them what they found valuable, what the training lacked, and if their behavior changed because of it. The initial survey was conducted between October and November 2016, with 190 journalists taking part.

The survey was designed to get basic information about journalists' opinions and experience with safety trainings. *"We were not interested in documenting information about specific providers but simply documenting experiences and thoughts about the content, needs and modes of training,"* Newman recalls.

The results are preliminary, the research ongoing, but the first indications show that most of the participants were satisfied with the training overall. Some of the other initial findings:

- The most common topics covered were first aid, personal safety, hostage survival, medical knowledge, and vehicle and travel safety.
- The most useful training topics, in the opinion of most participants, were first aid, personal safety and hostage survival.
- Many of the participants reported changes in their behavior following the training: for example, they started carrying first aid kits on assignments. They

also experienced changes in their overall attitude, especially concerning risk awareness, surveillance and risk analysis. *“I’m more aware of my physical presence, appearance, vulnerabilities, and strengths when reporting as a result of the training,”* one respondent wrote.

■ They would like to see more gender-based, regionally relevant and psychological trauma training components. These were identified as gaps in the programmes.

■ The respondents were overwhelmingly experienced news professionals that had spent significant time in crisis zones. The initial results therefore do not necessarily reflect the needs of younger journalists or local journalists who live in hostile environments, though the study is ongoing and may reflect their needs in future.

Since reporting its preliminary findings to the ACOS Alliance in December 2016, the Dart Center subsequently received additional responses, and the survey now includes about 350 participants. It will analyze the additional data and publish the survey online in the near future.

The next step will be to develop methodologies to determine whether journalists are effectively using what they’ve learned, with the goal of developing better safety curriculums.

That research won’t be easy, Newman admits. You would need a good size sample of journalists who have used their training in the field, and reported back on the experience. And really, when you come to think of it, not having to use the training is the ideal. There is also the issue of forgetting. If you don’t have frequent opportunities to use safety skills, it might undo the value of the training in the first place.

But the preliminary survey, and subsequent discussions about its results, have led to some intriguing questions for future research, notes Newman.

Why, for example, do insurance companies often require five days of training before covering journalists on dangerous assignments? What is the optimal length of a training course? *“We’re trying to get a sense of what needs to be in these trainings as essential,”* Newman explains.

Does safety training adequately reflect what journalists find in the real world? A handful of respondents felt their training was not appropriate for their region, jobs or purpose. Others expressed the need for training in non-conflict zones (unsafe neighborhoods), disaster zone training, urban drug warfare, cultural training, and natural hazards. And those who worked where kidnapping was rampant asked for more emphasis on the topic of surviving kidnapping.

“I was advised in my first training about how to use protective gear like flak jackets and helmets, and I invested in them,” wrote one journalist. *“But while this is good knowledge to have, this hasn’t been particularly useful. I work in situations of urban violence in Latin America where showing up in that gear means getting denied access. No one wants to be seen with you in a residential neighborhood looking like you’re dressed for war. So I would have appreciated more tips on how to deal with those situations.”*

What are the needs of local journalists who live full time in hostile environments? They were underrepresented in the original sample and future research should incorporate them.

Are trainers with military backgrounds adequately aware of how journalists work? *“It seemed like many people felt many of the military trainers didn’t have an understanding of journalism,”* recounts Newman. *“From what they were used to, they would say, ‘you can be medi-vacked to the hospital down the road’, but that’s not always possible for journalists, so they felt it was insensitive to the culture. Or they told them to carry guns, there were some things that didn’t make sense.”*

Respondents asked for more trauma awareness in safety training programmes, but what, exactly, does trauma awareness mean?

“My concern now is that people are adding trauma training but I have no idea about what they mean by that,” Newman states. *“We at the Dart Center want to figure out what that means and what it means to do it well. So that’s something to think about.”*

Do trainings adequately cover the specific dangers faced by women journalists? In the preliminary survey, female participants were less satisfied than their male colleagues about the existing gender resources. They called for more focus on sexual assault, self-defense, how to handle sexual harassment, gender-specific first aid, and how males can be more supportive when a female colleague is harassed or attacked.

Do trainings adequately cover emerging digital issues? Not only digital security, but the trauma that comes from online threats, bullying, intimidation and harassment, and the impact from having to watch disturbing user generated content?

“More and more journalists have to spend all day long looking at these unfiltered videos of executions and death, and it’s a new occupational burden that is looking like its having an impact on people psychologically,” Newman says. *“There are starting to be lawsuits that say this is an occupational injury unique to journalists.”*

So the work continues. *“In theory, these programmes should be making people safer, but we don’t have any (quantitative) evidence that it is,”* states Newman. *“People like the training. But there is no measurement that they’re actually doing what we want them to do, which is to keep our journalists safer. And that’s really, I think, the real question.”*

Newman would like to answer that question. It will require measuring a large sample of journalists’ behavior, before and after training, in the field, and over time.

“My dream would be for everybody to measure the same outcomes, and to move toward standardization based on best practices and local conditions” she ventures. ■

■ DART CENTER FOR JOURNALISM AND TRAUMA:

<https://dartcenter.org/>

■ CONCLUSIONS

This is the part where reports are nicely summed up and a list of recommendations is presented. But we're not going to do that here.

This isn't the type of report that presents an array of statistics and data. It doesn't pretend to be an exhaustive overview of safety mechanisms from around the world. It is, quite simply, a selection of notable initiatives that successfully protect journalists and combat impunity, created by people who do not meekly sit back and see themselves as victims. They are proactively taking action to protect their own.

They are, in a word, inspiring.

While not an exhaustive overview, these cases illustrate the dangers facing journalists and some of the extraordinary efforts that are being taken on their behalf. It provides examples of what can be done, presenting approaches to safety that could be duplicated in other countries and cultures, some admittedly more easily than others. It also serves to illustrate themes and trends that are emerging as media come to grips with growing security threats. And the threats are occurring as media face a crisis in their businesses; digital disruption is reducing revenues at a time when even more resources need to be dedicated to safety.

What is being done, of course, is not enough. Danger is a chronic problem for many journalists, especially those who cover conflicts or uncover corruption, crime, wrongdoing and other misdeeds, and who are targeted by those who wish to hide incompetence or conduct nefarious business in the dark.

Journalists are harassed, attacked, imprisoned and even murdered for simply doing their job of bringing citizens the news and information they need to understand their world and make informed decisions. They need all the support they can get.

Here are some of the themes and trends that have emerged from this report:

■ There is a need for more coordination and cooperation for journalist safety. While a number of organizations and mechanisms are strengthening joint approaches, competition and a lack of solidarity among media still inhibits developing mechanisms that could allow them to work together for the common good.

As one journalist put it: *"if something happens to one of their journalists, they all should get together and make a lot of noise about it, so there is some publicity around it that might cause the perpetrators to at least twice before repeating it. If they want to band together they can, and it can make a difference, but they don't do it often enough."*

There should be maximum co-operation amongst media outlets, or among support groups, when it comes to safety.

■ Freelance journalists and local media workers have been identified as being among the most vulnerable, and an increasing number of initiatives are focused on their safety needs. These have grown out of reliance on freelancers by international media companies that no longer have their own staff in far-flung destinations, and a recognition, at least by some, that the safety resources available to staff members should be extended to freelancers as well. But such coverage is far from universal.

■ The most vulnerable also include local journalists working for local media companies in dangerous areas. If safety training is available at all, it is in the form of occasional workshops by trainers “parachuted” in from elsewhere, funded by international civil society organizations. Their needs are not being fully met by this kind of ad hoc provision.

■ Trauma awareness and counseling is an emerging issue, with increasing resources devoted to dealing with the psychological and social costs of reporting in stressful and dangerous conditions. This has been a hidden burden and continues to be so in many places where the journalistic culture calls for stoicism in the face of reporting on horrors. The problem is not only limited to physical violence but includes a digital component caused by online harassment and bullying, or simply viewing violent acts and disturbing imagery as part of the job.

■ Awareness about the dangers facing female journalists is likewise growing, and gender-specific training is getting more attention. Not only for things such as self-defense, sexual assault and gender-specific first aid, but also to train male journalists to be more supportive when a female colleague is harassed and attacked. Sexual harassment on the job - much of it from colleagues - needs to be addressed.

■ There is growing recognition of the benefits of “holistic” programmes, those that address physical and digital safety and provide psycho-social support. Many organizations are evolving to provide all of these services.

■ Journalists themselves are becoming more pro-active when it comes to safety. Freelancers are banding together and forming organizations to defend their needs. When a journalist is murdered and the killing goes unpunished, reporters form their own investigative teams to look into it and pressure authorities to act. And organizations that provide assistance to journalists who get into trouble are launching initiatives to help them avoid it in the first place.

■ Safety is an expensive proposition. There are initiatives and mechanisms that can be implemented inexpensively, but there are high costs associated with helmets and flak jackets, training courses and medical treatment, evacuation and emergency aid. Where does the money come from? Some say media should pay more, but in the current economic climate that might not be easy to achieve. Foundations and donors are also contributing, but those who implement safety measures admit that fundraising is a time-consuming and ongoing task. Sustainable resourcing is needed.

■ Perhaps the greatest need of all is for more advocacy that convinces authorities and the general public that journalists work for them and keeping them safe is in everyone’s interest. The concept has clearly been lost among many: journalists are more and more being viewed as the enemy, targeted and attacked from all sides, whether at the frontlines, in the midst of a street protests, or by political leaders who find the media to be a convenient scapegoat.

Advocacy is needed for greater protection mechanisms, but also for something more basic: the value that independent media brings to society at large. Increased understanding of this role is needed. It would provide the ultimate protection: citizens and their governments committed to supporting courageous journalists who are working for the benefit of their societies, providing information that citizens need but otherwise might not see, sometimes at great personal cost.

As one of them put it: “An attack on one is an attack on all.”

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■ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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■ RESOURCES

ACOS Alliance ■ <https://www.acosalliance.org/>
Afghan Journalist Safety Committee ■ www.ajsc.af
Article 19 ■ <http://www.article19.org>
Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo ■ <http://www.abraji.org.br>
Committee to Protect Journalists ■ <http://www.cpj.org>
Center for Investigative Reporting ■ <http://cironline.org>
Center for Community Journalism and Development ■ <https://ccjdphil.wordpress.com/>
Consejo de Redacción (Colombia) ■ <http://consejoderedaccion.org/>
Dart Centre for Journalism & Trauma ■ <http://www.dartcentre.org>
European Fund for Investigative Journalism ■ <http://www.journalismfund.eu>
Forum for African Investigative Reporters ■ <http://fairreporters.net>
Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists ■ <http://www.cmfr-phil.org/>
flagship-programmes/freedomwatch/freedom-fund-for-filipino-journalists/
Freedom House ■ <https://freedomhouse.org/>
Free Press Unlimited ■ <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en>
Ground Truth Project ■ <http://thegroundtruthproject.org/>
Indonesian Association for Media Development ■ <http://www.ppmn.or.id/en/>
International Center for Journalists ■ <http://www.icjf.org>
International Federation of Journalists ■ <http://www.ifj.org/en>
International Freedom of Expression Exchange ■ <http://www.ifex.org>
International Media Support ■ <http://www.i-m-s.dk>
International News Safety Institute ■ <http://www.newssafety.org>
International Women's Media Foundation ■ <https://www.iwmf.org/>
IREX Securing Access to Free Expression (IREX SAFE) ■ <https://www.irex.org/project/safe-securing-access-free-expression>
Journaliste En Danger ■ www.jed-afrique.org
Marie Colvin Journalists' Network ■ <https://mariecolvinnetwork.org/en/>
Media Foundation for West Africa ■ <http://www.mfwa.org/>
Pointer ■ <http://www.poynter.org>
Pulitzer Center ■ <http://pulitzercenter.org/>
Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues (Risc) ■ <https://risctraining.org/>
Reporters Without Borders ■ <http://en.rsf.org>
Rory Peck Trust ■ <http://www.rorypecktrust.org>
free-expression
SKeys Center for Media and Cultural Freedom ■ <http://www.skeyesmedia.org/en/home>

ANNEX - UNESCO/IPDC PROJECTS ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS (2009-2017)

	TITLE	REGION	COUNTRY	BUDGET in US\$
2009	PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE KENYA MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS	Africa	Kenya	20,000
2009	STRENGTHENING INFORMATION SECURITY SKILLS	Asia and the Pacific	Regional	36,000
2009	SAFETY TRAINING COURSE FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS IN GAZA BY MAAN NETWORK	Arab Region	Palestine	26,000
2009	BUILDING A SAFETY INFORMATION NETWORK TO OFFER HIGH QUALITY MEDIA TRAINING	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	32,200
2009	INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM FOR MEXICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	35,000
2010	PUNTLAND COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS' TRAINING	Africa	Somalia	12,700
2010	MONITORING AND DEFENDING MEDIA RIGHTS IN THE PACIFIC	Asia and the Pacific	Regional	30,000
2010	STRENGTHENING PRESS CLUBS IN FEDERALLY ADMINISTRATED TRIBAL AREAS (FATA)	Asia and the Pacific	Pakistan	33,000
2010	IMPROVING THE MONITORING OF PRESS FREEDOM IN THE ANDEAN REGION	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	15,000
2011	BOLSTERING THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS IN EASTERN AFRICA (ARTICLE 19 KENYA & EASTERN AFRICA)	Africa	Regional	24,000
2011	STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN INFORMATION FLOW THROUGH MEDIA IN SOMALIA AND AMONG SOMALI DISPLACED COMMUNITIES	Africa	Somalia	19,000
2011	EAJA: MEDIA LAW REFORM CAMPAIGN IN EASTERN AFRICA	Africa	Regional	26,000
2011	INDIA: STRENGTHENING JOURNALISTS SAFETY AND MEDIA RIGHTS MONITORING INITIATIVES IN INSURGENCY PRONE AREAS OF INDIA	Asia and the Pacific	India	30,000
2011	TRAINING FOR KAZAKH-SPEAKING JOURNALISTS ON ISSUES OF LIBEL AND DEFAMATION	Asia and the Pacific	Kazakhstan	19,000
2011	AIBD: TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS ON LEGAL AWARENESS IN AN ERA OF MEDIA CONVERGENCE	Asia and the Pacific	Regional	30,000
2011	TRAINING IN SECURITY, LAW, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SELF-REGULATION FOR JOURNALISTS WORKING IN HIGH-RISK ZONES	Latin American and the Caribbean	Ecuador	21,600
2011	TRAINING ON MULTIMEDIA REPORTING FOR MEXICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	16,000
2011	BUILDING FREE EXPRESSION ADVOCACY CAPACITY IN THE MENA REGION	Arab Region	Regional	29,700
2011	CONFLICT SENSITIVE JOURNALISM TRAINING IN KIRKUK	Arab Region	Iraq	17,000
2012	LIBERIA: MEDIA DEFENSE AND SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS	Africa	Liberia	14,000
2012	PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON JOURNALISTS SAFETY AND TACKLING IMPUNITY	Africa	Regional	37,500
2012	NAVIGATING THE LAWS THAT INFLUENCE THE WORK OF THE MEDIA	Asia and the Pacific	Regional	25,000

2012	INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM REGARDING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SELF-PROTECTION MECHANISMS FOR JOURNALISTS	Latin American and the Caribbean	Colombia	33,000
2012	BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE PALESTINIAN MEDIA IN CONFLICT SENSITIVE REPORTING	Arab Region	Palestine	18,000
2012	INTERNATIONAL MEDIA PROJECT TO PROMOTE AND DISSEMINATE BEST PRACTICE AND RELATED SAFETY AND IMPUNITY ISSUES	International	International	30,000
2013	PROMOTING SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN NIGERIA	Africa	Nigeria	18,000
2013	CREATING SAFETY MECHANISMS FOR JOURNALISTS IN ZIMBABWE	Africa	Zimbabwe	14,000
2013	PROMOUVOIR LA SECURITE ET LA PROTECTION DES JOURNALISTES AU BURUNDI	Africa	Burundi	14,000
2013	ENHANCING THE DJIBOUTIAN MEDIA POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	Africa	Djibouti	15,000
2013	STRENGTHENING SECURITY OF JOURNALISTS IN UGANDA TO REALIZE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	Africa	Uganda	8,000
2013	CAPACITY BUILDING AND SAFETY TRAINING FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS	Asia and the Pacific	Nepal	13,000
2013	ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF TRAUMATIC EXPOSURE AS A SAFETY ISSUE FOR JOURNALISTS	Asia and the Pacific	Regional	24,000
2013	STRENGTHENING THE DRAFT OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI) LAW AND RAISING VOICES AGAINST IMPUNITY OF JOURNALISTS' KILLING	Asia and the Pacific	Pakistan	19,000
2013	SAFETY TRAINING FOR MEDIA STUDENTS	Arab Region	Palestine	11,500
2013	FORMATION DES PROFESSIONNELS DE LA PRESSE INDEPENDANTE ALGERIENNE SUR LES QUESTIONS LIEES A LA SECURITE DES JOURNALISTES	Arab Region	Algeria	10,000
2013	FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF LEGISLATION AND JUSTICE MECHANISMS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN GUATEMALA	Latin American and the Caribbean	Guatemala	11,000
2013	PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE RAPCOS NETWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS	Latin American and the Caribbean	Honduras	10,500
2013	PREVENTION AND SOLIDARITY TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS AND THE NEWS MEDIA	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	24,400
2014	ASSESSMENT OF THE SAFETY OF LIBERIAN JOURNALISTS BASED ON UNESCO SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS INDICATORS	Africa	Liberia	15,000
2014	ASSESSMENT OF THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN NIGERIA BASED ON UNESCO JOURNALIST SAFETY INDICATORS	Africa	Nigeria	15,000
2014	TRAINING COMMUNITY-RADIO INSTRUCTORS FROM COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT/ JOURNALIST SAFETY AND THE CULTURE OF PEACE	Africa	Regional	20,000
2014	DEVELOPING SKILLS AND CREATING MONITORING MECHANISMS FOR THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS	Africa	Malawi	8,000
2014	SAFETY OF COMMUNITY MEDIA JOURNALISTS	Africa	Zambia	8,000
2014	CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF SOUTH SUDAN (UJOSS) ON ETHICS AND SAFETY	Africa	South Sudan	25,000
2014	CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS	Asia and the Pacific	Kazakhstan	19,000
2014	PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN VIETNAM	Asia and the Pacific	Vietnam	13,000

2014	SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS WORKING IN HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT IN RURAL PAKISTAN	Asia and the Pacific	Pakistan	14,000
2014	SECURITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ON ONLINE TRAINING PORTAL FOR PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA JOURNALISTS	Asia and the Pacific	Pakistan	20,000
2014	ENHANCING INTERNET MEDIA FREEDOM IN JORDAN: FROM RESEARCH TO MEDIA ADVOCACY	Arab Region	Jordan	9,000
2014	STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND EXPRESSION (OFIE)	Arab Region	Morocco	12,000
2014	SAFETY TRAINING FOR DOMINICAN JOURNALISTS	Latin American and the Caribbean	Dominican Republic	15,000
2014	MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES ON ISSUES RELATED TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND SAFETY OF JOURNALIST IN MEXICO	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	20,000
2014	FOSTERING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ONLINE IN LOCAL MEDIA AND ONLINE SAFETY OF JOURNALIST	Latin American and the Caribbean	Colombia	15,000
2014	DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING SYSTEM IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	19,000
2015	COTE D'IVOIRE : CAPACITY BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE SAFETY OF 40 JOURNALISTS (50% FEMALE) DURING ELECTION PERIODS IN COTE D'IVOIRE	Africa	Cote D'Ivoire	19,125
2015	STRENGTHENING OF JOURNALISTS' SAFETY NETWORK IN SWAZILAND	Africa	Swaziland	8,425
2015	PROMOTION OF THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF FEMALE JOURNALISTS IN THE POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES	Africa	Regional	19,325
2015	PROMOTING SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS THROUGH SECURITY TRAINING	Asia and the Pacific	Pakistan	17,325
2015	ENGAGING STATE AGENCIES TO ADDRESS IMPUNITY: INITIATIVE TO MINIMIZE THE PRACTICE OF SELF-CENSORSHIP AMONG NEPALI JOURNALISTS	Asia and the Pacific	Nepal	19,325
2015	EVALUATING THE VALUES, PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES OF NEWS EDITORS WITH REGARD TO JOURNALISM SAFETY AND IMPUNITY IN MEXICO, PAKISTAN, BULGARIA, TURKEY, INDIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.	International	International	18,325
2016	SOUTH SUDAN: APPLYING UNESCO'S JOURNALISTS' SAFETY INDICATORS TO ASSESS THE STATUS OF THE MEDIA IN SOUTH SUDAN.	Africa	South Sudan	18,182
2016	SOMALIA: STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY OF MEDIA HOUSES AND THEIR MEDIA WORKERS IN SOMALIA	Africa	Somalia	7,273
2016	REGIONAL: SAFEGUARDING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF JOURNALISTS IN DENYA, RWANDA AND SOMALIA	Africa	Regional	21,818
2016	REGIONAL: TRAINING OF CENTRAL AFRICAN MEDIA IN JOURNALIST SAFETY DURING ELECTION PERIOD	Africa	Regional	15,455
2016	SUDAN: BUILDING CAPACITY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS ON SAFETY IN SUDAN	Arab States	Sudan	18,182
2016	KAZAKHSTAN: SAFETY OF PRINT AND ONLINE JOURNALISTS IN THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCESS	Asia and the Pacific	Kazakhstan	9,091
2016	BANGLADESH: AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND ACTION: PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN BANGLADESH	Asia and the Pacific	Bangladesh	8,182

2016	MALDIVES: A NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY	Asia and the Pacific	Maldives	7,273
2016	VIETNAM: LEGAL ENFORCEMENT TOWARDS JOURNALISTS' PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS IN VIETNAM	Asia and the Pacific	Vietnam	10,000
2016	JUDGES AND OTHER LEGAL PROFESSIONALS IN THE AMERICAS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	18,182
2016	PARAGUAY: TRAINING PARAGUAYAN JUDGES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY	Latin American and the Caribbean	Paraguay	6,364
2016	REGIONAL: STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES AND DEMOCRATIZING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PROTECTION MECHANISMS AND FREE EXPRESSION	Latin American and the Caribbean	Regional	13,636
2016	HONDURAS: STRENGTHENING THE SKILLS AND SAFETY OF COMMUNICATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE RAPCOS ALERT NETWORK	Latin American and the Caribbean	Honduras	8,182
2016	JOURNALIST SAFETY INDICATORS SPECIAL INITIATIVE	International	International	30,000
2016	EXPLAINING IPDC'S MONITORING MECHANISM TO CIVIL SOCIETY	International	International	20,000
2016	COMPILATION OF BEST PRACTICES IN MONITORING, REPORTING ON AND PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS	International	International	30,000
2016	MAPPING MEDIA FREEDOM	International	International	27,273
2017	SUPPORT TO THE PROMOTION OF SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN THE DRC	Africa	DRC	25,000
2017	CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST IMPUNITY IN AFRICA	Africa	Regional	20,000
2017	KAZAKHSTAN: INNOVATION FOR SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN CONDITIONS OF RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	Asia and the Pacific	Kazakhstan	7,500
2017	REPORTING IN TIMES OF NATURAL DISASTERS (INCLUDING TRAINING ON SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS)	Asia and the Pacific	Tuvalu	5,000
2017	PROMOTING SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS AND PRESS FREEDOM FOR JOURNALISTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA	Asia and the Pacific	Regional	20,000
2017	FOSTERING MEDIA SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG JOURNALISTS IN SELECTED REGIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES	Asia and the Pacific	The Philippines	20,000
2017	CAPACITY BUILDING OF AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS	Asia and the Pacific	Afghanistan	20,000
2017	CAPACITY BUILDING OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN VIET NAM	Asia and the Pacific	Vietnam	10,000
2017	RIGHTS AND SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNITY COMMUNICATORS IN BRAZIL	Latin American and the Caribbean	Brazil	20,000
2017	SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN EL SALVADOR	Latin American and the Caribbean	El Salvador	9,000
2017	INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY APPROACHES FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY IN CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS	International	International	10,000
2017	SUPPORT TO UNESCO CONFERENCES ON SAFETY ISSUES	International	International	53,078
2017	TRAINING JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN AFRICA ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS THROUGH MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE (MOOC)	Africa	Regional	90,560

When you read about the journalists around the world who are attacked, beaten, harassed, imprisoned and even murdered, there can be a tendency to despair. The numbers are daunting: more than 120 journalists killed worldwide in 2016, nearly one every three days. More than 800 killed in the past decade. Very few of the killers are ever brought to justice.

In this environment, a wide variety of media companies, individual journalists, media associations and NGOs are responding with pro-active, successful initiatives to better protect journalists and combat impunity. They range from small grass-roots responses to massive global cooperative efforts.

This report collects some of those stories. It is not a statistical compilation, but a selection of effective initiatives, many of them launched by friends and colleagues of journalists who were killed while doing their jobs. The projects stand as legacies and reflect the range of efforts aimed at preventing others from meeting the same fate. They are meant to inspire others by showing what is possible. ■

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