

WHITE
PAPER
ON
GLOBAL
JOURNALISM

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WHITE PAPER ON GLOBAL JOURNALISM

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FOREWORD

By Younes Mjahed
IFJ President

As 2020 draws to a close, I would like to spare a thought on 10th December, International Human Rights Day, for all our members who have had to mourn the disappearance of a loved one due to the Covid-19 pandemic or an accident in life.

As President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), I have spoken and shared views a lot this year with all our members from different regions of the world and I know how difficult 2020 has been for all of you, for all of us, journalists and trade unionists. Many media outlets have experienced or are experiencing economic difficulties, tens of thousands of sisters and brothers have lost their jobs, sometimes brutally, but our unions continue, in spite of everything, to give the best of themselves for their members, our members.

On the side of the elected members of the Executive and Administrative Committees, we have never let our guard down in the face of problems, even if, like all of you, our daily lives have sometimes been turned upside down. We have continued to support our members in every region (the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia-Pacific) and our ideal of international solidarity, so dear to the great founders of the IFJ nearly a century ago, has always guided our steps.

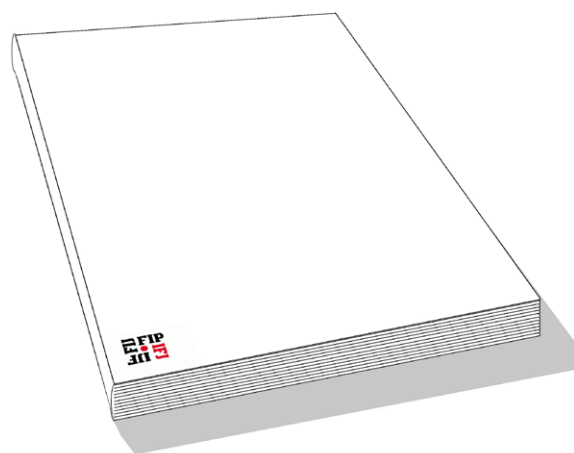
The publication of this **White Paper on Global Journalism**, coordinated by the IFJ General Secretary, is a response to the questions that everyone may have, because its scope covers all trade union fields across our profession (safety and protection of journalists, ethics, quality of information, gender equality, youth, working conditions, salaries) and it shows in detail all the work that has been carried out by the IFJ in recent years, by the current team, but also by my predecessors.

The **White Paper** is also an opportunity for the IFJ to mark the 30th anniversary of the "*The List of Journalists Killed*" (1990-2020) that we publish annually. The remarkable analysis you will read is a vibrant tribute to the 2658 journalists who have lost their lives since 1990 while carrying out their mission to inform.

The IFJ, the world's leading professional and representative organisation of journalists in almost 150 countries, addresses on a daily basis all the challenges faced by journalists and media workers on the ground. They are reflected in our **White Paper on Global Journalism**. It lives up to our ambitions and commitments.

Share it, distribute it, offer it.

I can assure you today that this publication is in the public interest.





INTRODUCTION

By Anthony Bellanger
General Secretary

In a few years' time, historians of journalism will have their say and look back over the first 100 years of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), since its creation in Paris in 1926 by Georges Bourdon. The year 2020 will certainly remain one of the worst for global journalism and for trade unionism, as a crisis has swept through every region of the world, without exception.

Nevertheless, even during the great lockdown of the second quarter, which brought more than three-quarters of humanity to a standstill, the IFJ and the entire General Secretariat, in Brussels and in the regions - I would like to thank all the staff for their commitment - continued their work in the service of their affiliates. One of the most remarkable examples is the "Global Newsletter-Covid-19" which we published weekly and then monthly for several months in all three languages to maintain a link with our members and share good trade union practice from our affiliates in times of pandemic. It was also an opportunity to propose solutions to the crisis, economic responses.

The publication of the Global Platform for Quality Journalism in the spring enabled many of our unions to launch discussions and take part in negotiations with their governments on the basis of a document that is supported by more than 200 million workers, from all the major Global Union Federations, around the International Trade Union Confederation and UNI-Global. The document is a roadmap for action to save journalism, pluralism, and employment in the information sector.

Over the years, the IFJ has established itself as the *World Voice of Journalists* and "**The List of Journalists Killed**" has remained a reference for the entire profession since its launch in 1990, 30 years ago. To "celebrate" this 30th anniversary, on the occasion of the

International Human Rights Day, we are now offering you for the first time a **White Paper on World Journalism**, a major publication that takes stock of the state of the profession around the world.

To our reference documents - **International Convention on the Safety and Independence of Journalists and other Media Professionals** - 2018; **World Charter of Ethics for Journalists** - 2019; **Global Platform for Quality Journalism** - 2020; our various studies on the profession since 2016, and of course the "**List of Journalists Killed 2020**" - we add the analysis of the last 30 years of the "**List of Journalists Killed (1990-2020)**", and this year, for the first time, the **List of Journalists Imprisoned Worldwide**.

This work would not have been possible without the support of all our members around the world and we are convinced that this **White Paper on Global Journalism** will contribute to the analysis of the challenges faced by our profession around the world and the means to respond.



نذير القطاري
صحفيان تونسي
ليبيا منذ سنة



SINCE 1990, 2658 JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN KILLED

When the International Federation of Journalists published its first annual report of killed journalists in 1990, very few anticipated that the “journalists killed list” would still be going 30 years later, spanning the entire globe. The grim numbers that shocked the world were a stark reminder of what Chris Cramer dubbed “a hunting season of journalists”. Over these years we paid almost every week with the life of a reporter, a cameraman or support worker, and unless it was the case of a well-known Western correspondent, the world barely noticed.

The IFJ was the first organisation representing journalists to raise the alarm over their killing and chart their fate every year as they were targeted with impunity in every corner of the globe, brutalized, gunned down, kidnapped and done to death by the enemies of press freedom. The IFJ casualty toll included all journalists including freelance as well as support staff such as drivers, fixers and translators who died during newsgathering activities. This was unique in giving a fuller picture of the extent of casualties within the media workforce. Many years later, other press freedom organisations launched their own reports, which did not add much except, produced different numbers that made it more difficult to have an authoritative precise figure.

At the time we started counting in 1990, we listed 40 journalists and media workers killed in that year. This was at a time when raising a white flag and writing TV in masking tape on a vehicle might help keep one safe. Some believed that this was merely a blip. Sadly

this proved not to be. When you aggregate all these numbers, the total adds up to a staggering 2658 killed in the last thirty years. This comes to about two journalists or media workers dying every week.

Over 50% of journalists were killed in the ten most dangerous top spots featuring countries which suffered war violence, crime and corruption as well a catastrophic breakdown of law and order. Iraq (339 killed) came top followed by Mexico (175), Philippines (159), Pakistan (138), India (116), Russian Federation (110), Algeria (106), Syria (96), Somalia (93) and Afghanistan (93).

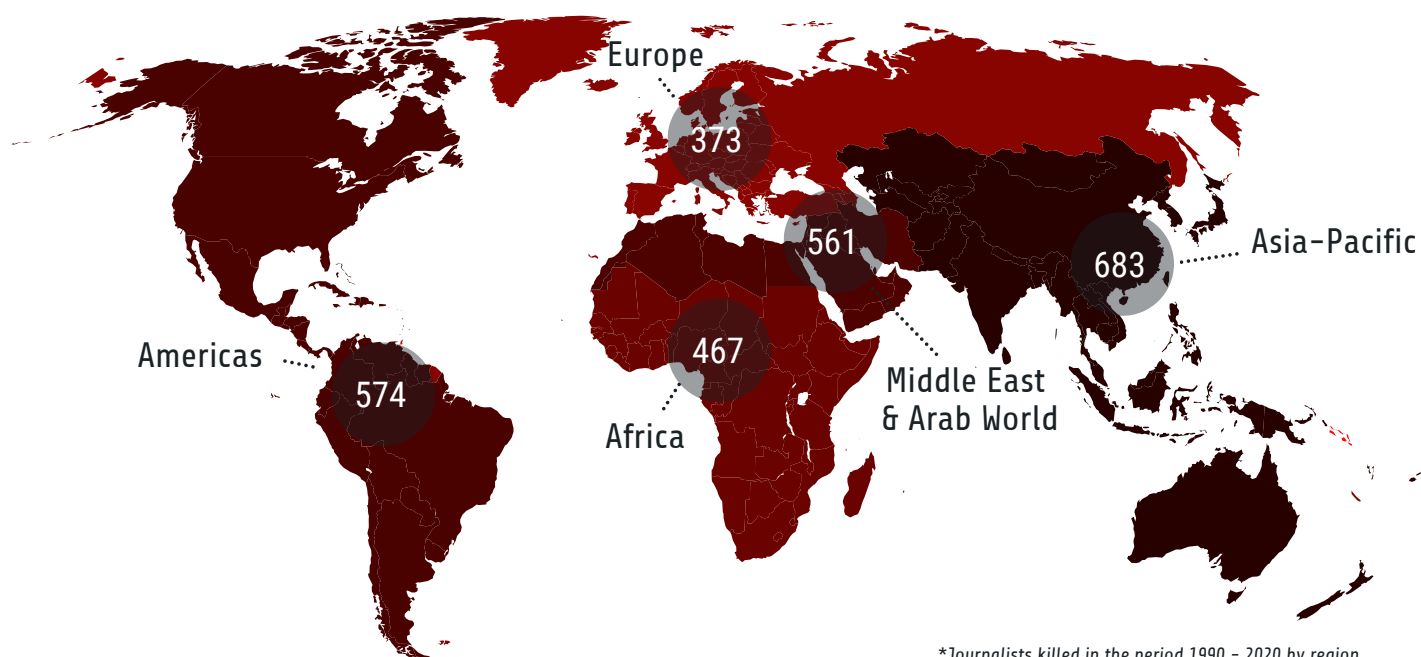
**IN 1990, THE INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS
PUBLISHES THE FIRST
"JOURNALISTS KILLED LIST"**

These numbers also show that there has not always been a consistent targeting of journalists spreading year in year out, except for a few countries. The most murderous years were 2006 and 2007 with 155 and 135 killed, respectively. They reflected the height of the Iraq war and the sectarian bloodbath that ensued with 69 and 65 (almost 50%) killed, respectively, in each of these years.

In Iraq, which topped the table and acquired the moniker of the most murderous country in the world for journalists, killings of journalists were rare in the first decade of this period. It was not until 2003, at the onset of the Anglo-American invasion, that the numbers started stacking up.

Similarly in Afghanistan the numbers (93) reflect the aftermath of the US invasion in 2001. The link between deadly conflicts and a spike in the murders of journalists was also apparent in the civil war in Algeria which

Journalists killed in the period 1990 - 2020*

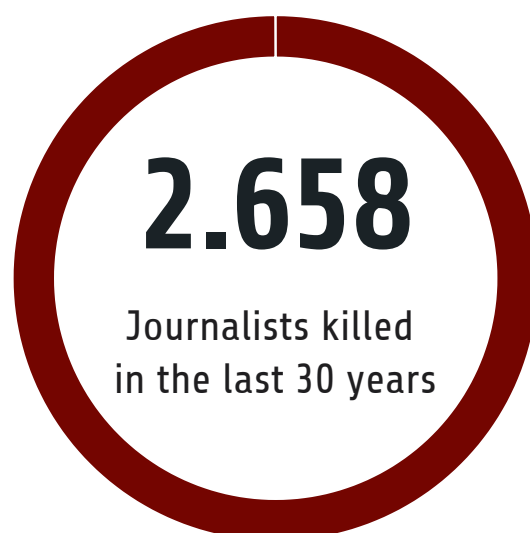


*Journalists killed in the period 1990 - 2020 by region

Most Dangerous Countries for Practice of Journalism in the World*

Iraq	340
Mexico	178
Philippines	160
Pakistan	138
India	116

*Journalists killed in the period 1990 - 2020



kicked off in 1993 and ended in 1996 – the bulk of the 106 killed journalists died in a short period of three years. This was also the case of the war in Syria which started in 2011 and is still ongoing resulting in 96 killed journalists for the last nine years.

Other conflicts like the long-running insurgency in Somalia has propelled the country to be the most murderous in Africa for journalists and the 9th on the IFJ top list.

In the Indian sub-continent, murders of journalists in Pakistan (138) and in India (116) have featured almost every year in the killed list since 1990, making 40% of the total death in the Asia Pacific region.

Equally the pattern of the killing of journalists in Mexico, in most cases at the hands of organised crime, made this country the most dangerous in Latin America, featuring on the IFJ list every year and sometimes with double-digit numbers. Bearing in mind that journalists have been targeted in big numbers since the 1970s and 80s, Mexico will remain the most dangerous place for journalists in the planet.

The patterns of regional variations also lift the veil on how these killings have evolved over the years according to specific variables. The Asia Pacific region comes first with 681 killed journalists, followed by Latin America with 571, the Middle East with 558, Africa with 466 and Europe with 373.

There is no single explanation as to why journalists are targeted, but one of the principal causes has always been wars and armed conflicts where journalists who report on them are exposed to injury, kidnapping or worse. In recent years a novel threat to journalists has emerged with the involvement of terrorist organisations, many operating in the Middle East region. In the case of the murder of journalists at Charlie Hebdo it proved they can strike in any part of the world. In other regions it is not war but crime barons

and corrupt officials who lead the slaughter. The latter includes civilian government officials backed by allied paramilitary groups without forgetting anti-government forces.

Historically a region like the Middle East experienced a relative calm during the first ten of the 30 years. Only 16 journalists were killed between 1990 and 2020 and it is not until the invasion of Iraq in 2003 that the numbers started spiking up.

The accumulated statistics over the period reveals a regular pattern of journalists killed every year. No less than 50 journalists were listed as killed in 25 out of the 30 years. If you raise the bar, you will find that 75 journalists were killed in 20 of the 30 years, and 100 journalists in 11 of the 30 years. The peak was in 2006 and 2007 and the lowest numbers were in 1998 and 2000 (37).

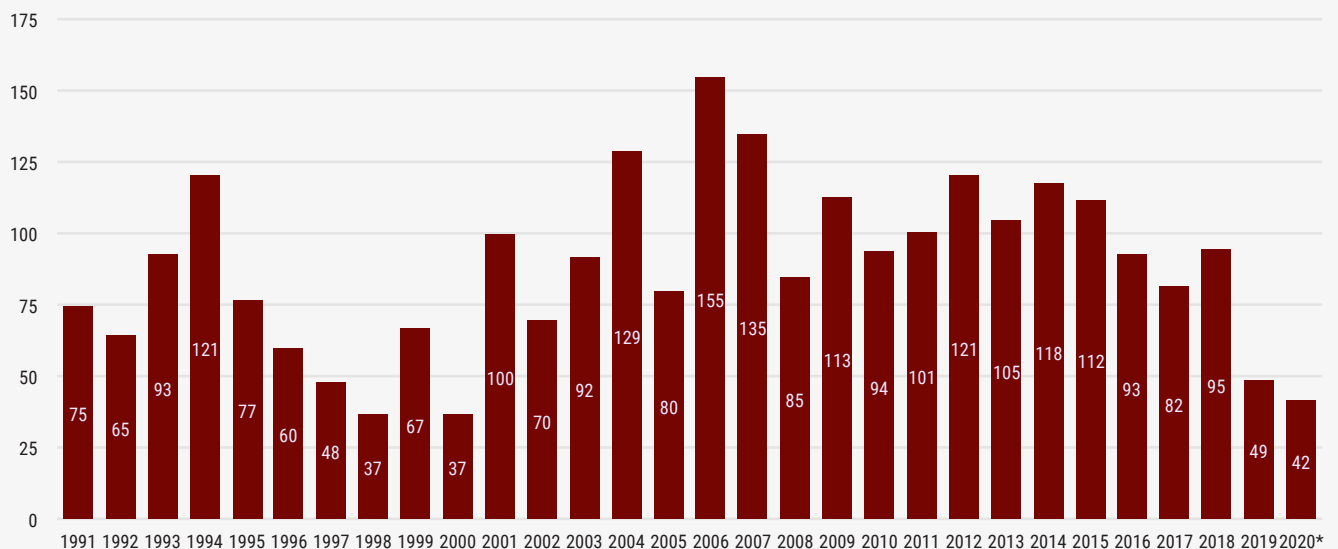
**THE STATISTICS REVEAL
A REGULAR PATTERN OF
JOURNALISTS KILLED
EVERY YEAR.**

The untold story, however, is the risk to local journalists as most of the murdered are local beat reporters whose names do not resonate in the media. These are different from by-lined war correspondents, who knowingly risk their lives, sometimes mistaken for combatants. In fact, nearly 75 percent of journalists killed around the world did not step on a landmine, or get shot in crossfire, or even die in a suicide bombing attack. They were instead murdered outright, such as killed by a gunman escaping on the back of a motorcycle, shot or stabbed to death near their home or office, or found dead after having been abducted and tortured.

These murders also have an impact beyond the incidents themselves. They send a signal to countless others that they or members of their family could well be next. This generates a fear that is hard to measure. Self-censorship has become routine almost everywhere.



Journalists killed in the period 1990 – 2020



Source: IFJ Killed Reports

*Until November 29 2020

Even in war zones, most journalists are murdered in reprisal for what they write, as opposed to being killed by the hazards of combat reporting. In Somalia, more than half of journalists killed did not die in a firefight or bombing attack; instead, they were individually murdered. In Iraq, the most dangerous nation for journalists on record, 65 percent of journalists killed since the US-led invasion were individually targeted and murdered.

The killing of local journalists is most common as nearly nine out of ten journalists were killed on the job. Many people have heard of the Russian investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya, who was shot to death in the lift of her apartment. But how many people beyond the northern Mexican town of Saltillo have heard of Valentín Valdés Espinosa, a young general assignment reporter for Zócolo de Saltillo, whose tortured corpse was found in January 2010 after he reported the arrest of an alleged local drug lord? Or can we remember a single name of the 30 journalists killed in one incident during election unrest in the Philippines's Maguindanao province – the biggest single massacre of journalists.

For all these 30 years it has almost become a fact of life that the slaughter continues year in year out. The IFJ has been at the forefront of exposing the scandal of impunity and the failures of governments to bring the killers to justice. In no less than 90 percent of journalist murders worldwide, there has been little or no prosecution whatsoever. In two-third of the cases the killers were not identified at all and probably will never be. This means that it is almost virtually risk-free to kill a journalist – murder has become the easiest and cheapest way of silencing troublesome journalists. Occasionally, a triggerman is identified and brought to trial, but in most cases paymasters go free.

These are not just statistics. They are our friends and colleagues who have dedicated their lives to and paid the ultimate price for their work as journalists. We don't just remember them but we will pursue every case, pressing governments and law enforcement authorities to bring their murderers of journalists to justice. We have done this since 2003, for the 16 journalists who have died and others seriously wounded by US forces' fire in Iraq.



In their names we do more every day to find ways of making journalism safer. In 2006, the IFJ campaign led to the United Nations Security Council adopting resolution 1738 which called on governments to protect journalists. But the political will is still not there. Since that motion was passed some 1492 journalists were killed. A few years ago, as killings reached unprecedented numbers they attracted attention from some western government for the first time in over three decades. However this commitment is again slipping away as the number of killings decreased in the last couple of years.

The numerous instruments adopted, both at UN and regional level, to reinforce the scope of treaty obligations, some of which address explicitly the issue of impunity are of course important. But we know their weakness – that most are non-binding and that they operate incrementally. The problem of impunity is indeed well recognised but the major hindrance for the protection of journalists derives not from the scope of the rights but from implementation deficits.

This is why the IFJ took its Convention on the Safety and Independence of Journalists to the United Nations in 2018 and is now mobilising its affiliates worldwide to help put the Convention on the agenda of the UN General Assembly.

As well as intense lobbying of international institutions and governments, the IFJ has over these years, played a unique role in helping journalists confront this ordeal, in setting up training courses in regions most in need; opening up solidarity centre in Algeria, Colombia, the Philippines, Palestine and Sri Lanka to monitor crisis situations and distribute assistance; publishing and distributing survival guides and advisories to journalists in conflict zones; and offering cheap insurance.

Being an organisation of trade unions, the IFJ has been able to have a more coherent engagement with media owners, publishers and editors, regarding their responsibility, as employers to educate their journalists in risk assessment, avoid reckless assignments and take all necessary precautions when they send them to work in dangerous environments. The adoption of an international code of conduct for the safe practice of journalism and the inclusion in the annual killed list of work-related deaths have been distinctive tools that helped in this process.

**THESE ARE NOT JUST
STATISTICS. THEY ARE OUR
FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES
WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE
PRICE.**

Another important and unique tool is the International Safety Fund, which has been providing emergency humanitarian assistance to journalists. Since its launch nearly

30 years ago the fund, sustained by the fund-raising efforts of IFJ unions and from donations among journalists, has paid over 3 million Euros to journalists and their families who have fled threats or been victims of violence.

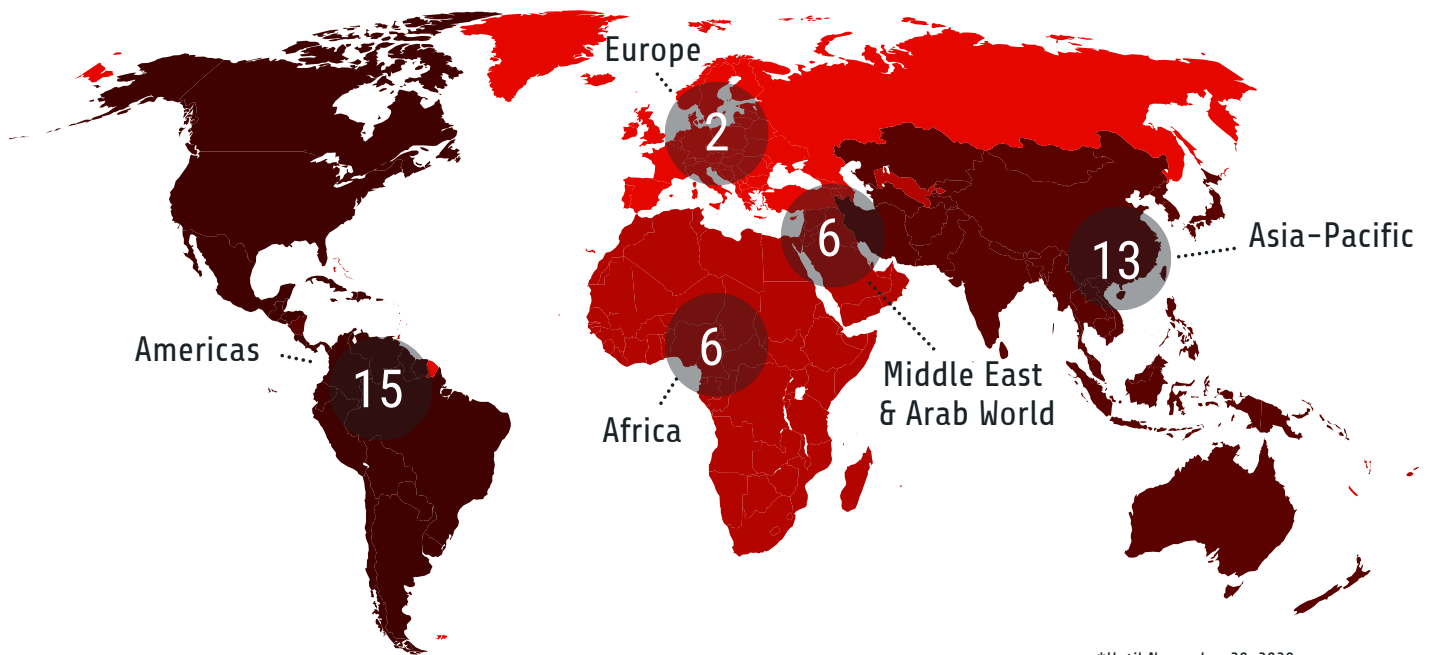
During 30 years of a colossal effort to raise the bar of news safety, the IFJ and its member unions are engaged every day holding states responsible for their negligence and, in many cases, complicity in the murders of journalists. In their names we join forces in every region to act to make journalism safer. Our strength is our unity and solidarity which we have used for the last thirty years and will continue to use to combat impunity.

*Jim Boumelha
IFJ Honorary Treasurer
IFJ President (2007-2016)*

Journalism is
Not a Crime!

- Harassment
- Killing
- Libel Suits
- Threat by SMS
- Slay Attempt
- Verbal Threat/Assault
- Intimidation

Journalists killed in 2020 by region*

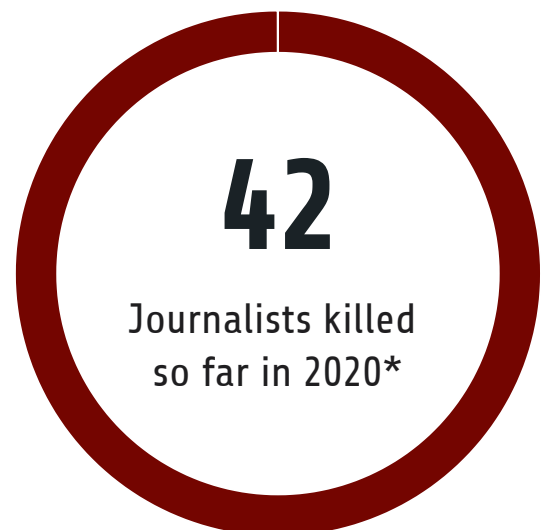


*Until November 29, 2020

Most Dangerous Countries for journalists in the World in 2020*

Mexico	13
Pakistan	5
Afghanistan	3
India	3
Nigeria	3
Iraq	3

*Until November 29, 2020



*Until November 29, 2020

JOURNALISM REMAINS IN GRIP OF VIOLENCE DESPITE SMALL DROP OF JOURNALISTS' KILLINGS TO 42 IN 2020

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has recorded 42 killings of journalists and media staff so far in 2020 in targeted attacks, bomb blasts and cross-fire incidents in 15 countries in the world.

This is less than the 49 from last year and continues the downwards trend of recent years of loss of life to violence among journalists in the world. The IFJ records show that the current number of killings of media professionals are at the same levels as in 1990 when the IFJ started publishing annual reports on journalists and media staff killed, which show peaks of death tolls in the mid-nineties and mid-2000s.

But the Federation warns against complacency, saying that the welcome drop is small consolation in the face of a sustained roll call of tragedy and death due to violence targeting media professionals over these decades.

Organised criminal cartels, extremists' insurgencies and sectarian violence continue to strike terror among journalists, scores of whom have paid the ultimate price for independent reporting in the four corners of the globe.

In this regard, 2020 has been no exception. The ruthless reign of crime barons in Mexico, the violence of extremists in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Somalia as well as the intolerance of hardliners in India and the Philippines have contributed to the continued bloodshed in the media.

In particular, this year's list features the killing of Russian journalist Irina Slavina, a case which perhaps exposed the level of despair and utter despondency in the face of an unrelenting onslaught against media professionals. The Editor of Koza Press set herself on fire in the city of Nizhny-Novgorod to protest against the intimidation and harassment campaign to silence her. In the

end, this led to her fatal act but not before she blamed the authorities as bearing the responsibility for her action.

"The decrease of journalists' killings in recent years cannot disguise the deadly danger and threats journalists continue to face for doing their work," IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger said **at the launch of the publication to mark International Day for Human Rights.** *"The trends in our publications over the last 30 years make it clear to all that there is no room for complacency. Instead, they are an urgent call to redouble our efforts to mobilise for greater protection of journalists and commitment to the safe practice of journalism."*

As of 10 December 2020, the IFJ lists Latin America as the most dangerous region with 15 killings, followed by Asia Pacific on 13 murders. Africa and the Arab and Middle East region both posted six killings and are in third place before Europe with two cases.

In its 2020 ranking per country, **Mexico tops the list for the fourth time in five years** with 13 killings, followed by Pakistan (5) while Afghanistan, India, Iraq and Nigeria recorded 3 killings each. There were also two killings in the Philippines, Somalia and Syria. Finally, there was one journalist killed in Cameroon, Honduras, Paraguay, Russia, Sweden and Yemen.





IFJ STUDY FINDS AT LEAST 235 JOURNALISTS IN JAIL WORLDWIDE

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) today published a list of at least 235 journalists who are currently in prisons in 34 countries, in work-related cases. The IFJ's list does not include other journalists facing charges but who have been released on bail.

In its first global study on journalists in prison, the IFJ found that jailing media professionals is often a form of reprisals against brave journalists who stand up for independent reporting, which also serves as a deterrent to others. This is especially the case in times of political upheaval and civil unrest where governments resort to a crackdown on media as a means to deny the public access to reliable information.

The study also found many more cases of journalists who were detained for short periods of time before being released without charges, underscoring the fact that their detention had nothing to do with law breaking but just sheer abuse of power to escape scrutiny for their actions in public office.

The other finding from the study concerns the recurrent allegation of membership of - or support for- groups which are behind events which journalists cover. This is the case in Turkey, where scores of journalists have been detained after the failed coup attempt of July 2016 on allegations that they supported the coup.

However, even before that event, the authorities had already locked up several journalists for reporting on Kurdish issues, accusing them of supporting the Kurds. The same is also true in Egypt where accusations of membership of alleged terrorist organisations have been levelled at the majority of journalists as grounds for their arrest and detention.

Civil unrest and elections-related protests

have also led to massive arrests of journalists and other media professionals, as was the case recently in Belarus. But reporting on the handling of crisis situations like the outbreak of Covid-19 led to the arrest and detention of journalists in some countries. In one tragic case, a veteran Egyptian journalist who was detained on this spurious charge contracted the virus while in custody and died there.

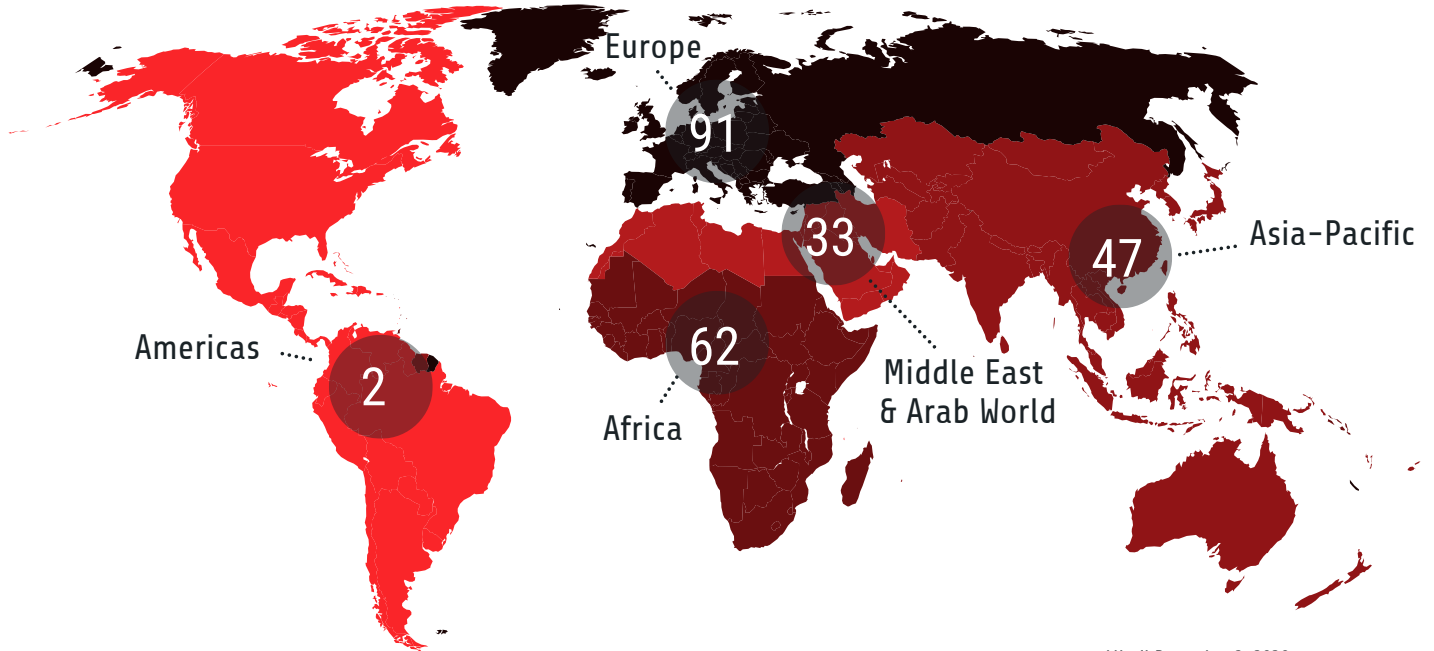
In many cases, the IFJ's study found that many journalists have not been charged with any crime for years after their arrest, even decades for some who are now feared dead, such as in Eritrea.

"These findings shine a spotlight on gross abuse by governments who seek to shield themselves against accountability by jailing journalists and denying them due process," said IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger. "The staggering numbers of our colleagues in detention is a sober reminder of the exacting price journalists around the globe pay for their pursuit of truth in the public interest."

According to the study's findings, Europe is the region with the highest number of journalists in jail, with 91 media professionals in detention, the majority of whom are held in Turkey and Belarus. Africa follows on 62 with Egypt leading the region. Asia Pacific's list, dominated by China, comes in third place with 47. The Middle East and Arab World with its 33 tally claims fourth place featuring Saudi Arabia at the top. The Americas are a distant fifth with just cases in Cuba and Venezuela.

Countries with the highest numbers of journalists in prison include Turkey (67), Egypt (21), China (23), Eritrea (16), Saudi Arabia (14), Belarus (11), Yemen and Cambodia (9), Cameroon (6), Morocco and Myanmar (5).

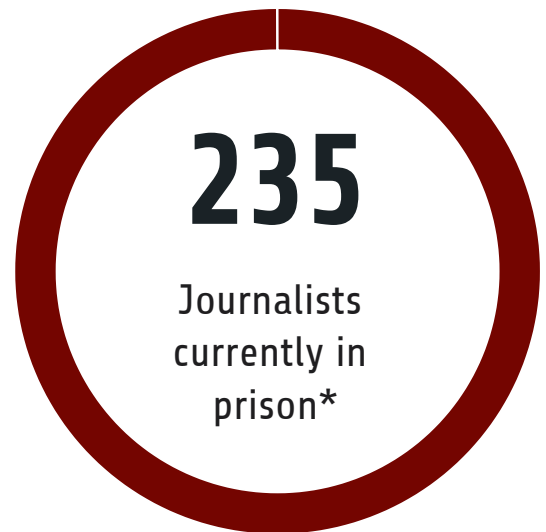
Journalists in prison in 2020*



*Until December 3, 2020

Biggest journalists jailers in the world

Turkey	67
Egypt	21
China	20
Eritrea	16
Saudi Arabia	14
Belarus	13



*Until December 3, 2020





INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SAFETY AND INDEPENDENCE OF JOURNALISTS AND OTHER MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

PREAMBLE

The States Parties to the present Convention,

1. *Reaffirming* the commitment undertaken in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to protect everyone's freedom of opinion and expression and to create the conditions for its effective exercise, and mindful that this right is an essential prerequisite for the progress and development of a democratic society, governed by the rule of law and respect for human rights
2. *Recognizing* the essential contributions made by journalists and other media professionals to the circulation of information and ideas and acknowledging that the work of a free, independent and impartial press constitutes one of the basic foundations of a democratic society
3. *Mindful of* the importance for a free press of securing for all media professionals the right to life, the right to personal liberty and physical integrity, the right to protection against ill-treatment, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to an effective remedy where a breach of their rights has occurred
4. *Lamenting* the impact of attacks against media professionals on everyone's right to receive information and deeply concerned that such attacks, especially when perpetrated with impunity, have a chilling effect on all media professionals and the right of all persons to enjoy their right to freedom of opinion and expression,
5. *Bearing in mind* that ensuring accountability for all forms of violence against journalists and media professionals is a key element in preventing future attacks
6. *Stressing* the need to provide greater protection for all media professionals and for journalistic sources and to ensure that national security, including counter-terrorism, is not invoked to unjustifiably or arbitrarily restrict the right to freedom of opinion and expression,

7. *Acknowledging* the specific risks faced by women journalists and media professionals in the conduct of their work, especially when reporting from conflict zones, and underlining the importance of a gender-sensitive approach to the consideration of measures to address the safety of journalists,
8. *Emphasizing* the obligation under international humanitarian law, reiterated in UN Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006) and UN Human Rights Council Resolution 27/5 of 25 September 2014 on the safety of journalists, to consider journalists and media professionals engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict as civilians and to respect and protect them as such,
9. *Recalling* the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977, and in particular Article 79 of Additional Protocol I regarding the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict, and emphasizing the obligations of parties to an armed conflict to discriminate civilians from legitimate military targets and to refrain from attacks intentionally directed against civilians or likely to result in excessive collateral damage,
10. *Recalling* that the work of journalists and other media professionals often puts them at specific risk of intimidation, harassment and violence, as recognized in UN Security Council Resolution 2222 (2015), UN Human Rights Council Resolution 33/2 of 29 September 2016, and UN General Assembly Resolution 70/162 of 17 December 2015 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, and emphasizing that those resolutions call on States to implement measures to address those risks,
11. *Further recalling* UNESCO Resolution 29 “Condemnation of violence against journalists” of 12 November 1997 and the Medellin Declaration “Securing the Safety of Journalists and Combating Impunity” proclaimed by UNESCO on 4 May 2007, UN Human Rights Council Resolution 12/16 “Freedom of opinion and expression” of 30 September 2009 and Resolution 21/12 of 27 September 2012 on the safety of journalists, as well as UN General Assembly Resolutions 68/163 of 18 December 2013 and 69/185 of 18 December 2014 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity,
12. *Deeply concerned* that, despite these various instruments and undertakings, media professionals continue to face barriers in the exercise of their professional role because of their investigative work, opinions and reporting, including killing, torture, violent attacks, forced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention, expulsion, intimidation, harassment and threats of violence,
13. *Recalling* the commitment of UN Member States and agencies to work towards a free and safe environment for journalists and media professionals in both conflict and non-conflict situations through the UN Action Plan on Safety of Journalists, endorsed by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on 12 April 2012
14. *Highlighting* the need to review, and where necessary, to amend laws, policies and practices that limit the ability of journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference and to conform these laws, policies and practices with States’ obligations under international law



15. *Recognizing* the importance of a comprehensive codification of the obligations pertaining to the protection of media professionals established under international human rights and humanitarian law with a view to enhancing their effective implementation,
16. *Taking into account* the good practices recommended in the Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on “The safety of journalists” of 1 July 2013 for the creation of a safe and enabling environment in which journalists and other media professionals may carry out their work unhindered,

Have agreed as follows:

PART I: MEASURES OF PROTECTION

Article 1 – Purpose of the present Convention

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the safety of journalists and other media professionals in times of peace and during armed conflict, and to safeguard their ability to exercise their profession freely and independently in an enabling environment, without facing harassment, intimidation or attacks against their physical integrity.

Article 2 – Use of terms

For the purposes of the present Convention, the terms “journalist” and “media professional” apply to persons who are regularly or professionally engaged in the collection, processing and dissemination of information to the public via any means of mass communication, including cameramen and photographers, technical supporting staff, drivers and interpreters, editors, translators, publishers, broadcasters, printers and distributors.

Article 3 – Right to life and protection against ill-treatment

1. The States Parties undertake to adopt all practicable measures to prevent threats, violence and attacks on the life and physical integrity of journalists and other media professionals. These shall include the adoption of criminal legislation and the training of law-enforcement personnel on the safety of journalists.
2. The States Parties shall incorporate in their laws and practices specific measures with a view to combating gender-based violence against women journalists and media professionals.
3. The States Parties shall adopt measures to protect journalists and other media professionals facing an imminent threat through the establishment of an

information-gathering mechanism permitting the collection and swift dissemination of information about threats and attacks against journalists amongst law-enforcement agencies.

4. States undertake to establish an effectively funded early warning and rapid response mechanism in consultation with media organizations, with responsibility for providing journalists and media professionals, when threatened, immediate access to the relevant State authorities and protective measures. Following any determination that an individual needs protection, the mechanism shall provide material measures of protection, including mobile telephones and bulletproof vests, as well as establishing safe havens and emergency evacuation or relocation to safe parts of the country or other countries through a protection programme. Such programmes shall not be used in such a way as to unduly restrict the work of journalists and other media professionals.
5. Where physical attacks against journalists or other media professionals have been committed, States shall take any necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that the individual affected is protected from further threats and/or physical attack. States shall also take steps to mitigate the impact of such attacks, including by providing such services as free medical care, psychological support and legal services, as well as assistance in relocating journalists and their families.

Article 4 - Right to liberty

1. The States Parties undertake to adopt all practicable measures to prevent the unlawful deprivation of liberty of journalists and other media professionals. These shall include the training of prosecutors, the judiciary and law-enforcement personnel.
2. The States Parties shall ensure that counter-terrorism or national security laws cannot be used to arbitrarily and unduly hinder the work and safety of journalists and media professionals, including through arbitrary arrest or detention, or the threat thereof.
3. The States Parties shall take effective steps to protect journalists and other media professionals against forced disappearances and kidnapping.

Article 5 - Freedom of expression

1. States shall bring their laws, policies and practices fully into compliance with their obligations and commitments under international human rights law so that they do not limit the ability of journalists and other media professionals to perform their work independently, without undue interference.
2. Any restriction on the right to freedom of expression of media professionals must be provided by law, it may only imposed for one of the grounds set out in Article 19 (3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, namely the respect of the rights or reputations of others, the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or public health or morals, and it must be necessary and proportionate. Any restriction shall be formulated with sufficient precision to enable an individual to adjust



his or her conduct accordingly, and be easily accessible to the public.

3. Measures criminalizing any form of freedom of expression shall be revoked, except insofar as they constitute permissible and legitimate restrictions according to the second paragraph of this article.
4. The States Parties undertake to protect, in law and in practice, the confidentiality of journalists' sources, in acknowledgement of the essential role of the media in fostering government accountability, subject only to limited and clearly identified exceptions set down by law in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article.

Article 6 - Effective investigation and redress

1. The States Parties shall take appropriate steps to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, prompt, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all reports of threats and attacks against journalists and media professionals falling within their jurisdiction, and to bring all perpetrators, including those who command, conspire to commit, aid and abet or cover up such crimes to justice, and to ensure that victims and their families have access to adequate remedies.
2. States shall develop and implement strategies for combating impunity for those committing violence against journalists and other media professionals. In particular, investigations into suspected attacks shall be carried out by a special investigative unit or an independent national mechanism, established by law to monitor and carry out investigations into cases and issues related to the protection of journalists and other media professionals, empowered to coordinate policy and action between different government authorities, and having the competence to make recommendations to the relevant State authorities. The unit or mechanism shall be sufficiently resourced and staff shall be appropriately trained to ensure that it operates independently and effectively. Journalists and civil society organizations shall be enabled to participate in the design, functioning and evaluation of such a body.
3. States shall dedicate the resources necessary to prosecute attacks against journalists or other media professionals through the development of specific protocols by prosecutors or the appointment of a specialised prosecutor.
4. In criminal proceedings relating to attacks against journalists or other media professionals, any link between the attack and the victim's professional activities shall be duly taken into account and treated as an aggravating circumstance..

Article 7 - Protection during elections and public demonstrations

The States Parties shall pay particular attention to the safety of journalists and other media professionals during periods of elections and while covering events in which persons are exercising their rights to peaceful assembly, taking into account their specific role, exposure and vulnerability.

2,200 = 8
60



Article 8 - Protection as civilians during armed conflict

1. The States Parties shall treat journalists and other media professionals engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict as civilians, and respect and protect them as such, unless and for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities. This is without prejudice to the right of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces to be granted the status of prisoners of war provided for in article 4.A.4 of the Third Geneva Convention.
2. Any State involved in an armed conflict shall fully comply with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians, including journalists and other media professionals, in armed conflict,
3. Media equipment and installations shall be treated as civilian objects and shall not be subjected to attack or reprisal, unless there is clear evidence that they are being used for military operations.
4. States Parties involved in situations of armed conflict shall respect the professional independence and rights of journalists and other media professionals.
5. States involved in situations of armed conflict shall create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists and other media professionals to perform their work without undue interference from third parties.
6. All parties to armed conflict shall do their utmost to prevent violations of international humanitarian law against journalists and other media professionals in their capacity as civilians.
7. States shall take all practicable measures to ensure the release of journalists and other media professionals who have been kidnapped or taken hostage in situations of armed conflict on territories over which they exercise jurisdiction.
8. All parties to armed conflict shall make appropriate efforts to bring to an end any violations and abuses committed against journalists and other media professionals.
9. The States Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure accountability for crimes committed against journalists and media professionals in situations of armed conflict. In particular, they shall search for persons alleged to have committed, or to have ordered the commission of, a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions, and they shall conduct impartial, independent and effective investigations in respect of alleged crimes committed within their jurisdiction. States parties shall prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in their own courts, regardless of their nationality, or hand them over for trial to another concerned State, provided that this State has made out a prima facie case against the said persons.

10. States Parties shall take appropriate steps to provide education and training to the armed forces in international humanitarian law with a view to halting and preventing attacks against civilians affected by armed conflict, including journalists and other media professionals.

Article 9 - Awareness-raising measures

1. An immediate and unequivocal public condemnation of any form of violence against journalists and other media professionals shall be issued at the highest levels of government, whether the attack was perpetrated by a private individual or a person acting in an official capacity.
2. Training shall be provided by States to law-enforcement personnel, the military, prosecutors and the judiciary regarding their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law and the effective fulfilment of those obligations. Such training shall include dealing with particular areas of risk for journalists and other media professionals, such as protests and public events, the legitimacy of the presence of journalists during situations of armed conflict, and practices and procedures to minimize risks to journalists.
3. Initiatives for raising public awareness about the issue of safety of journalists and a zero-tolerance approach to violence against journalists shall be implemented at local and national level, including by incorporating the issue of safety of journalists in formal public education programmes. Such activities shall include the public promotion of the World Press Freedom Day.
4. Training shall be made available to journalists and other media professionals as well as to media organizations regarding their rights under international human rights law and international humanitarian.



PART II: COMMITTEE ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

Article 10 - Establishment of the Committee on the Safety of Journalists

There shall be established a Committee on the Safety of Journalists (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”). It shall consist of fifteen members who shall be elected by the States Parties for a four-year renewable term by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties for this purpose. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity.

Article 11 - Criteria for office

The Committee shall be composed of nationals of the States Parties to the present Convention who shall be persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The Committee may not include more than one national of the same State.

Article 12 - Individual communications procedure

A State Party to the present Convention recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals or groups of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by that State Party of the Convention.

Article 13 - Admissibility criteria

The Committee shall consider an individual communication inadmissible if:

- a. The communication is anonymous;
- b. The communication constitutes an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or is incompatible with the provisions of the Convention;
- c. The same matter has already been examined by the Committee or has been or is being examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;
- d. All available domestic remedies have not been exhausted. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief;
- e. It is manifestly ill-founded or not sufficiently substantiated; or when
- f. The facts that are the subject of the communication occurred prior to the entry into force of the present Convention for the State Party concerned, unless those facts continued after that date.

Article 14 - Examination of an individual communication

1. The Committee shall bring any communications submitted to it to the attention of the State Party alleged to have violated any provision of the Convention. Within six months of receipt of the Committee's notification, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.
2. The Committee shall consider communications received in the light of all written information made available to it by the alleged victim or victims and by the State Party concerned. If need be, the Committee shall undertake an investigation, for the effective conduct of which the States Parties concerned shall furnish all necessary facilities.

Article 15 - Interim measures

1. At any time after the receipt of a communication and before a determination on the merits has been reached, the Committee may transmit to the State Party concerned for its urgent consideration a request that the State Party take such interim measures as may be necessary to avoid possible irreparable damage to the victim or victims of the alleged violation.
2. Where the Committee exercises its discretion under paragraph 1 of this article, this does not imply a determination on admissibility or on the merits of the communication..

Article 16 - Outcome of individual communications

After examining a communication, the Committee shall determine whether there has been a violation of any provision of the present Convention and shall forward its suggestions and recommendations, if any, to the State Party concerned and to the author or authors of the communication.

Article 17 - Procedure for grave or systematic violations

1. If the Committee receives reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations by a State Party of rights set forth in the present Convention, the Committee shall invite that State Party to cooperate in the examination of the information and to this end submit observations with regard to the information concerned.
2. Taking into account any observations that may have been submitted by the State Party concerned as well as any other reliable information available to it, the Committee may designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry and to report urgently to the Committee. Where warranted and with the consent of the State Party, the inquiry may include a visit to its territory.
3. After examining the findings of such an inquiry, the Committee shall transmit these findings to the State Party concerned together with any comments and recommendations..
4. The State Party concerned shall, within six months of receiving the findings, comments and recommendations transmitted by the Committee, submit its observations to the Committee.

Article 18 - Annual report to the General Assembly

The Committee shall report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations and summarise its activities in relation to individual communications and investigations into reports of grave or systematic violations.

PART III: FINAL CLAUSES

Article 19 - Reservations

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 20 - Signature, ratification and accession

1. The present Convention is open for signature by any State Member of the United Nations or of any of its specialized agencies. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The present Convention shall be open to accession by any State referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.
3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all States which have signed this Convention or acceded to it of the deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 21 - Entry into force

1. The present Convention shall enter into force thirty days after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the present Convention after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

Article 22 - Denunciation

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.



GLOBAL PLATFORM

FOR QUALITY JOURNALISM

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR QUALITY JOURNALISM

By bringing more than two thirds of humanity to a standstill, the health, political and economic crisis of Covid 19 will have terrible consequences on all our societies. And we are certain today that it will continue to do so for some time.

This "Great Confinement", as already defined by the International Monetary Fund, in reference to the "Great Depression of 1929",

does not leave any continent or sector untouched, and the media, whatever their nature, are unable to escape this destructive wave. Many media companies have already closed down, millions of jobs have disappeared and journalists, even though quality information is essential for citizens in times of crisis, are suffering the full impact.

**IT IS TIME TO PROTECT MEDIA, SAVE JOBS AND SUPPORT THE MOST
PRECARIOUS WORKERS.**

**BUT IT IS ALSO TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE, A FUTURE OF QUALITY,
ETHICAL AND SOLIDARITY-BASED JOURNALISM THAT RESPECTS LABOUR
RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.**



The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world's leading organisation of the profession with 600,000 members in 146 countries, today proposes a strong and immediate global stimulus plan to save the most badly affected media and the most precarious journalists; and calls on all national governments to commit to quality journalism in this time of misinformation through strong political and economic measures that will

ensure the survival of quality media and professional journalists.

Many IFJ affiliates around the world have already achieved significant progress and strong commitments from governments or employers' federations:

- To ensure the physical and psychological safety and protection of media workers;

- To enable journalists to circulate freely in times of general confinement ;
- To provide journalists and media workers with the means to live and work decently with exceptional financial assistance, despite a drop in income.

From the onset of the pandemic, journalists have amply proved the essential role they play educating their citizens, contextualising the non-ending number crunching, explaining the science and, most importantly, unravelling the narrative played by politicians, asking the tough questions and exposing institutional failures. Thanks to their engagement, journalism as a public good, kept on thriving as the backbone of our democracies.

Unfortunately, at the same time, too many states are taking advantage of this crisis to increase their authoritarian power, strengthen their systems of surveillance of the population or to jail journalists while some media companies reduce salaries without negotiation, cut benefits or lay off staff.

The IFJ and its affiliates around the world will be at the forefront of tomorrow's journalism, globally and nationally, and will continue to promote the quality, ethical and solidarity-based journalism it has been standing up for since its creation in 1926.

THE IFJ THEREFORE PROPOSES A "GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR QUALITY JOURNALISM" TO SAVE AND PROTECT JOBS IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY AND CREATE A FUTURE THAT PROMOTES A SUSTAINABLE, ETHICAL AND PUBLICLY SUPPORTED INFORMATION ECONOMY.



Information must remain a public good.

URGENT MEASURES - SUPPORTING MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

The IFJ calls on all governments to immediately open negotiations with the GAFAM Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft - to collect a tax on revenues generated within their national territory.

These companies pay no tax in the majority of countries where they collect revenues, estimated at \$900 billion worldwide.

Taxing these revenues at 6% could inject \$54 billion into journalism.

The IFJ calls for these **funds to be managed jointly** by representative unions of journalists and media workers and national employers' organisations.

The IFJ calls on these organisations to use the funds **to support as a matter of priority** public service media, private, independent media and national and local **media not owned by multinationals**. These media should demonstrate the financial need for it.

Any journalism-recovery stimulus should be seeded with the necessary support **to revitalise adequately staffed newsrooms** able to deliver trustworthy news and information, and should not be allowed to be used to prop up profit at all costs, hedge fund-driven business models that have failed.

The IFJ wants these funds to be used as **a priority to support independent, co-operative and non-profit media enterprises**.

The IFJ calls on all governments to give **priority support to precarious journalists** (including freelancers) by creating a social protection fund, a national minimum wage, exempting them from income tax and granting them bank loans at reduced rates.

The IFJ wants public service media, private media and national and local media to be able to benefit from **reduced national taxation provided that** :
Social dialogue and trade union rights are respected, in line with relevant ILO Conventions

- **Dismissals are prohibited** if the company makes a profit ;
- **The annual accounts** are public and transparent;
- **There is diversity and equality** between women and men are demanded ;
- **Companies that have received funding may not**, for a period of five years, **engage in** mergers and acquisitions or leveraged buy-out **activity that would result in job cuts or wage reductions**.

The IFJ calls on companies to reserve **seats on their boards for workers' unions**;

To strengthen the media economy, the IFJ encourages the creation of **national media advertising programmes** to promote issues of national interest.

The IFJ recommends that governments reform media ownership rules to allow for **greater pluralism of information**.

In line with the EU Whistleblower Directive, the IFJ calls on governments to legislate urgently for the **protection of these citizens acting in the public interest**.

The IFJ considers it necessary that independent press distributors, who are involved in the distribution of print media, should be **supported by tax exemptions**.

The IFJ calls on governments to strengthen **journalists' authors' rights** in order to increase their income.

The IFJ encourages governments to fund free digital subscriptions for the youngest (6- 18 years) as part of **access to education and information**, in line with UNESCO's commitments, and proposes that families with a media subscription get tax credits.

The IFJ calls for media literacy **initiatives at national level** to combat misinformation and false news.



IN CONCLUSION,

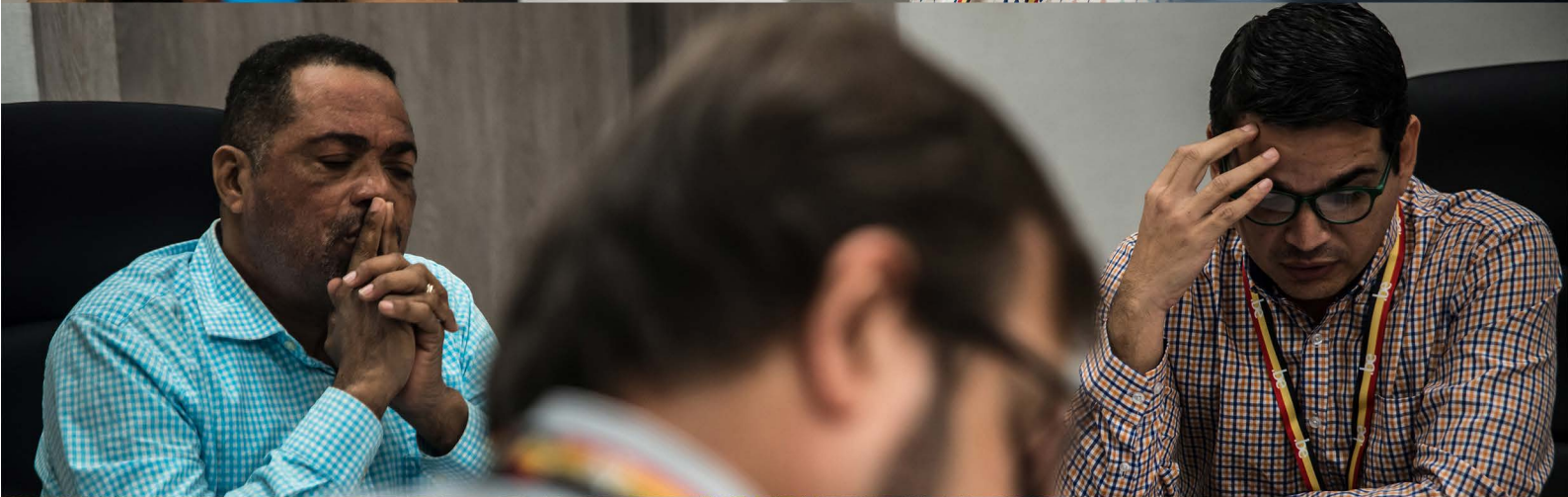
The IFJ proposes to the world employers' federations to support this Global Platform for Quality Journalism and to ask their national members to implement it.

As an associate member, the IFJ calls for formal support from the United Nations and its agencies (UNESCO, ILO, OHCHR) as well as regional political and economic entities to follow up the Global Platform for Quality Journalism:

- the 47 members of the Council of Europe;
- the 55 countries of the African Union;
- the 35 states of the Organization of American States;
- the 22 countries of the Arab League;
- the 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.
- The IFJ has received the support of the Global Union Federations

ITUC/CSI : International Trade Union Confederation - 200 millions members / UNI-Global - 20 millions / PSI : Public Services International - 20 millions / IndustriALL - 50 millions / EI : Education International - 20 millions / BWI : Building and Wood Worker's International - 12 millions / IUF : International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations - 12 millions / TUAC : The Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - 58 millions / ITF : International Transport Workers' Federation - 20 millions





IFJ LAUNCHES NEW GLOBAL CHARTER OF ETHICS FOR JOURNALISTS

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) adopted at its 30th World Congress in Tunis (2019) adopted a new Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists, a document that defends and reinforces ethical standards for journalists worldwide.

Meeting in Tunis for the 30th IFJ Congress the 300 delegates backed the new charter, which builds on and reinforces the ethical standards laid down by the 1954 IFJ Declaration of Principles on the Conduct of Journalists, the most widely recognised text on journalistic ethics to date. That Declaration was drafted in Bordeaux, France, 65 years ago, and was last updated in 1986, hence the need for a new Charter adapted to current challenges facing the media.

The adoption of the Global Charter on the Ethics of Journalists is a milestone in the IFJ's history because ethics was one of the IFJ's founding pillars when it was created in 1926 in Paris. This document takes up the professional duties laid down in 1954, but it also includes rights, in a world where the profession is being abused. All journalists around the world identify themselves with the IFJ's Global Charter of Ethics and can challenge it against unscrupulous employers.

The Charter is based on major texts of international law, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It contains 16 articles plus a preamble and defines journalists' duties and rights regarding ethics.

The Charter's preamble states: "The journalist's responsibility towards the public takes precedence over any other responsibility, in particular towards their employers and the public authorities." It recalls that journalism is a "profession" that "requires time, resources and the means to practice". Other main provisions cover respect for truth, conflicts of interest, protection of sources and discrimination.



GLOBAL CHARTER OF ETHICS FOR JOURNALISTS

The IFJ Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists was adopted at the 30th IFJ World Congress in Tunis on 12 June 2019. It completes the IFJ Declaration of Principles on the Conduct of Journalists (1954), known as the "Bordeaux Declaration"

The right of everyone to have access to information and ideas, reiterated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, underpins the journalist's mission. The journalist's responsibility towards the public takes precedence over any other responsibility, in particular towards their employers and the public authorities. Journalism is a profession, which requires time, resources and the means to practise – all of which are essential to its independence. This international declaration specifies the guidelines of conduct for journalists in the research, editing, transmission, dissemination and commentary of news and information, and in the description of events, in any media whatsoever.

1. Respect for the facts and for the right of the public to truth is the first duty of the journalist.
2. In pursuance of this duty, the journalist shall at all times defend the principles of freedom in the honest collection and publication of news, and of the right of fair comment and criticism. He/she will make sure to clearly distinguish factual information from commentary and criticism.
3. The journalist shall report only in accordance with facts of which he/ she knows the origin. The journalist shall not suppress essential information or falsify any document. He/she will be careful to reproduce faithfully statements and other material that non-public persons publish in social media
4. The journalist shall use only fair methods to obtain information, images, documents and data and he/she will always report his/her status as a journalist and will refrain from using hidden recordings of images and sounds, except where it is impossible for him/her to collect information that is overwhelmingly in the public interest. He/she will demand free access to all sources of information and the right to freely investigate all facts of public interest.
5. The notion of urgency or immediacy in the dissemination of information shall not take precedence over the verification of facts, sources and/or the offer of a reply.
6. The journalist shall do the utmost to rectify any errors or published information which is found to be inaccurate in a timely, explicit, complete and transparent manner.
7. The journalist shall observe professional secrecy regarding the source of information obtained in confidence.
8. The journalist will respect privacy. He/she shall respect the dignity of the persons named and/or represented and inform the interviewee whether the conversation and other material is intended for publication. He/she shall show particular consideration to inexperienced and vulnerable interviewees.
9. Journalists shall ensure that the dissemination of information or opinion does not contribute to hatred or prejudice and shall do their utmost to avoid facilitating the spread of discrimination on grounds such as geographical, social or ethnic origin, race, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, disability, political and other opinions.
10. The journalist will consider serious professional misconduct to be
 - plagiarism
 - distortion of facts
 - slander, libel, defamation, unfounded accusations
11. The journalist shall refrain from acting as an auxiliary of the police or other security services. He/she will only be required to provide information already published in a media outlet.
12. The journalist will show solidarity with his/her colleagues, without renouncing his/her freedom of investigation, duty to inform, and right to engage in criticism, commentary, satire and editorial choice.
13. The journalist shall not use the freedom of the press to serve any other interest and shall refrain from receiving any unfair advantage or personal gain because of the dissemination or non-dissemination of information. He/she will avoid - or put an end to - any situation that could lead him/her to a conflict of interest in the exercise of his/her profession. He/she will avoid any confusion between his activity and that of advertising or propaganda. He/she will refrain from any form of insider trading and market manipulation.
14. The journalist will not undertake any activity or engagement likely to put his/her independence in danger. He/she will, however, respect the methods of collection/dissemination of information that he / she has freely accepted, such as "off the record", anonymity, or embargo, provided that these commitments are clear and unquestionable.
15. Journalists worthy of the name shall deem it their duty to observe faithfully the principles stated above. They may not be compelled to perform a professional act or to express an opinion that is contrary to his/her professional conviction or conscience.
16. Within the general law of each country the journalist shall recognize in matters of professional honour, the jurisdiction of independent self-regulatory bodies open to the public, to the exclusion of every kind of interference by governments or others.



International Federation of Journalists



World Congress
11-14 June 2019
Tunis

RIFJ
RUE

YOUTH IN UNIONS AROUND THE WORLD

In 2016, at its 29th World Congress in Angers, France, the IFJ conducted a survey on the theme

"YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR UNIONS".

What is the strategy?

How to recruit?

HERE ARE THE MAIN RESULTS. >

Globally, 31% of our members are over 51 years old. Europe and Latin America have the oldest average membership age with 51% of Latin American members aged over 51 and 47% of EU Europe. This is compared to 30 % of Eastern European, 17% of Asian and 10% of African members over 51. Not surprisingly then we see many of the initiatives to target youth coming from EU Europe where only 13% of members are under 35.

When asked why youth membership in unions was a priority, **82%** unions agreed with the statement that '**our future depends on it**'. Despite this only 23% of unions have conducted research into young journalists.

This biggest obstacles to recruitment cited were :

1. 29% : journalists do not think union cannot help them
2. 27% : journalists are not interested
3. 26% : journalists fear that union membership may damage job prospects;



YUNES
The 30th Congress
PRESS

International Federation of Journalists
The 30th Congress
YUNES June 20
PRESS

Unions are responding to the challenges of youth recruitment in the following ways.

Four unions (7%) reported that they have an official Youth quota (Kenya, Dominican Republic, Afghanistan and NUJ Nepal).

However four more unions claim to have a formal youth policy (DJV Germany, MINPROROREN Japan, CAJP Cambodia and JUS Serbia);

and a further eight unions provided examples of their youth strategies in action making a total of 16 (24%) respondents with an active youth programme.

- Examples given of youth strategies included:
- targeting and recruiting students (DJV Germany, NJ Norway),
- offering special rates and special status to students (NVJ, Netherlands),
- having a youth board (NVJ, Netherlands) ,
- special section for students, quotas at congress, and regional representation (NJ Norway)
- providing training directed at younger journalists (SUJ Sudan),
- offering associate membership to students (NUJP, Philippines)
- mentoring of younger students by older members (AJP, Belgium)

The most popular methods of Reaching out to young journalists were the following:

1. 57% Trainings
2. 43% networking events
3. 34% student / school visits
4. 30% student membership rates
5. 26% digital campaigns
6. 25% mentoring
7. 20% workplace information events
8. 18% youth committees and dedicated youth organisers
9. 16% youth leadership programmes
10. 16% Career development services



TOWARDS OUR OWN DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Each generation of journalists experiences its revolution. So-called "new" technologies are part of it. And the IFJ is no exception.

Despite ever-increasing challenges - media concentration, poorly paid journalists, poor ethics, freedom-destroying laws - IFJ unions are demonstrating week by week that they can win rights for media workers.

The telephone that each of us carries is millions of times more powerful than the power of the computers that NASA used to send a man to the moon just over five decades ago. We take for granted instant access to information and content in ways that were inconceivable 30 years ago. Digital technologies are changing every aspect of our daily lives.

This technological revolution is changing the way we work. First, this change has resulted in a massive loss of jobs for journalists and it is time for GAFAMs to pay their fair share. Not only do they capture an overwhelming share of the advertising market, but most of their profits are not taxed. Every penny of unpaid taxes is money that other media outlets, social protection systems and national pension and welfare schemes are denied.

In 2005, for just one digital journalist, there were twenty print journalists. In 2019, for every digital journalist, there were three print journalists.

If we want to remain relevant, we must not resist the future, but shape it. If we claim to represent journalists, trade unions

everywhere must open their doors to those working in digital media.

The vast majority of the new jobs being created are poorly paid, more precarious and with fewer benefits than the jobs they seek to replace. The largest survey to date on the working conditions of digital journalists has shown that they work longer hours, have an overwhelming workload, are expected to have more skills than their colleagues but receive less training, have more health and safety problems, face a massive increase in ethical and professional issues, work with smaller budgets and fewer resources and earn less...

The result is a growing army of self-employed, contract and casual workers - who are harder to reach and more vulnerable for journalists' unions and associations.

And there is an impact on journalism. With fewer journalists and financial pressure to adapt to low advertising rates, newspapers and digital media are being pushed to focus on shorter stories that take less time and money to produce. Journalists are under more pressure to write articles that generate clicks - some media outlets in the United States even use metrics to determine how much they are paid.



In this economic environment, fake news and sensationalism flourish, local democracy suffers, and in-depth investigative reporting, which takes time and costs more money to produce than lighter reports, has become increasingly rare. Why seek the truth when it is more profitable to broadcast clicks?

The problem is not always technology, but the business model of the media and how employers take advantage of these technologies not to improve journalism, but to reduce costs, undermine decent work and increase profits.

We see the digital industry as a multitude of small creative businesses. And yet the majority of journalists who work only on the Internet work for only 30 large global companies. We have more channels, more platforms, but not more owners - in fact, we have fewer than ever before. Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Apple control 95% of the world's operating systems, 95% of the world's search engines and 85% of the world's social media. In 2016, for every dollar spent on online advertising, 49% went to Google and 40% to Facebook. Only 11% went to all the others.

There is no shortage of good examples!

Almost all the major journalists' unions have seen their membership decline in recent years. To some extent, this should not surprise us. Journalism is changing rapidly. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost in the print and broadcast media, and the traditional strengths of our unions are being replaced by low-paid and precarious online jobs.

So there are obstacles: it is probably true that many young digital media workers believe that unions are outdated, that they have no place in the modern media industry, that they are an obstacle to the development of dynamic new media and that many young workers are not interested in joining, which gives a very negative image of unions. But none of us have ever met a young worker saying: "I don't want higher pay"; "I don't want to be treated fairly at work"; "I don't want to be safe and healthy at work"!

But there are unions that have been successful in helping workers to organise and that are getting better rights and benefits for digital media workers. For example, journalists at The Guardian, Die Zeit Online, Vice, Salon, Huffington Post, Le Monde and dozens of other companies have organised, won collective bargaining rights, improved wages, and successfully resolved issues ranging from working hours to contractual issues.

There are many examples to follow, and there is always reason for hope.



COVID-19 HAS INCREASED INEQUALITIES IN THE MEDIA

“Women are working from home, juggling childcare and educating children alongside their job. Some have taken reduced hours to cope with this, others have had to risk their vulnerable parents' health for childcare instead of the father taking on anywhere near half of these duties.”

These words from a Spanish journalist were included in response to the IFJ's latest survey on Covid-19 and women journalists, published in July 2020.

They highlight a situation of high stress for women journalists during the pandemic and bring to light difficulties of an already precarious and fragile sector where women usually pay the highest price.

They also confirm the finding of an IFJ survey conducted in April which highlighted that while women journalists' working conditions tended to be less affected by the COVID-19 outbreak than those of men, two-thirds of them had suffered higher stress and anxiety as a result of the crisis compared to just half of men.

The July survey, which was specifically targeted at women and gathered over 500 responses from 52 countries, showed that more than three-quarters of women have seen their level of stress increased during the pandemic, half of them pointing at multitasking as the main cause.

Women journalists have faced increased

anxiety, stress and having to work long hours, taking on responsibility for much of the work in the home, including home-schooling or childcare when schools were closed, at the same time as having to also do their full time job.

A majority of women pointed at an increase of inequalities and 66% highlighted balancing work and private life as a major issue.

Respondents urged employers and governments to better regulate and organise teleworking as a way to limit intensive stress and tackle ongoing inequalities.

They pointed at the need for employers to provide adequate working equipment including adequate bandwidth, define working hours and breaks, and understand the reality of working from home while caring for children.

A MAJORITY OF FEMALE JOURNALISTS POINTED AT AN INCREASE OF INEQUALITIES



THE CRISIS FACING JOURNALISM IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

Three in four journalists have faced official restrictions, obstruction or intimidation in reporting on Covid-19, according to a major survey of more than 1300 frontline journalists in 77 countries.

Two-thirds of staff and freelance journalists have also suffered pay cuts, lost revenue, job losses, cancelled commissions or worsening working conditions, according to the survey carried out by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) between 26-28 April 2020.

The survey of 1308 journalists also revealed that as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic:

- Nearly every freelance journalist has lost revenue or work opportunities
- More than half of all journalists are suffering from stress and anxiety
- More than a quarter lack essential equipment to enable them to work safely from home, while one in four lack any protective equipment to work in the field.
- Dozens of journalists have been arrested, faced lawsuits or been assaulted.
- More than a third of journalists have shifted their focus to covering Covid-19 related stories.

When asked about the state of media freedom in their countries the vast majority said it had got worse. From Greece to Indonesia and from Chad to Peru journalists used words such as

precarious, problematic, terrible, worse, declining and restricted to assess the media freedom environment.

Respondents also exposed the toll on journalists with many citing job losses, longer hours and fewer resources as obstacles to proper coverage of the pandemic. In many countries the lack of social protection networks and fair employment practices are driving journalists to desperation.

One female Peruvian freelance told the IFJ: *"The state is unprepared for this pandemic, there are sectors in total abandonment by the authorities, corruption continues, while at the same time media companies have shown they do not have institutional policies to alleviate our despair, such as the lack of income. Many families are on the edge of poverty"*.

A Greek women journalist added: *"I work more but earn less money and the newspaper owner I work for owes me and my colleague over 7 months pay but the government does nothing about this"*.

Many journalists complained of increasing attacks on media freedom. Almost one in four journalists said they had faced growing difficulties accessing information from government or official sources. Many reported being verbally attacked by politicians. Others complained of restrictions on asking questions at press conferences and restrictions being imposed on the movement of journalists during the crisis, including the withdrawal of recognition of press cards. Some worried that the total focus on Covid-related stories meant other important issues were being ignored.



One female Brazilian journalist said: *“The federal government despises journalists. It attacks the press every day for the information it publishes and discredits and humiliates journalists”*.

A male journalist in India added: *“Press freedom has become increasingly restrictive. Journalists have been arrested for reporting stories highlighting the government's shortcomings”*.

But respondents also praised journalists for risking their own safety to report on the pandemic and for trying to seek out independent sources and counter disinformation.

A Portuguese journalist responded: *“There are bad situations – more press release, less real reporting, press conferences without questions, we work more hours, a lot more hours, cell phones don't stop, we are confined, always working, it's bad for our health. Yet there's also a sense that we are going through extraordinary times and journalists are responding, there's more motivation to report. Like with doctors and health staff, this is also a time for journalism”*.

The survey's findings back up calls made by the IFJ and representatives of more than 200 million working people across the globe for urgent action to save jobs, protect independent media and fund quality journalism.

42% of respondents are women

1308 journalists took part in the survey from 77 countries/territories : Angola, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo-Brazzaville, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Luxemburg, Macau, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uganda, Uruguay, USA, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam

42% of respondents were female, 58% male.

57% were employed, 43% were freelance.

Read the Statistics: https://www.ifj.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Statistics.pdf

The Global Platform for Quality Journalism, a call by journalists' unions in 146 countries, demands urgent measures to protect and reinforce public interest journalism including:

- A tax on the revenues of tech giants such as Facebook and Google to create a global fund to support independent media
- The use of tax and fiscal policy to reduce the burden on journalists and media
- Health and public advertising campaigns to support local media

These results show a worrying trend of declining media freedom and cuts to journalism at the very time when access to information and quality journalism is so crucial. Journalism is a public good and it deserves public support and an end to political obstruction and interference.



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10/12/2020