



# Targeting and Tragedy Journalists and Media Staff Killed in 2005

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

PLUS special IFJ International Safety Fund report

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## **Targeting and Tragedy**

### **2005 a record year for loss in journalism – 150 deaths and 89 murders and other killings**

It was in the end a year of targeting and tragedy. Two incidents, only days apart in December, summed up the story of a year in which journalists and media staff were again in the headlines as victims of an increasingly dangerous profession. On December 6, 48 journalists and media staff climbed aboard a military aircraft in Tehran. Their assignment was to cover army manoeuvres in the south of the country, but they never made it. The plane, an old and creaking C-130 air force transporter, crashed soon after take off killing them all and sparking off a row, still unresolved, about whether the aircraft was unsafe and should not have been in service.

Six days later Lebanese journalist and newspaper boss Gebran Tueni, who had returned to his homeland only 24 hours earlier from exile in Paris, was blown to pieces when a bomb destroyed his car. Tueni, publisher of the independent An-Nahar newspaper and a distinguished writer and lawmaker who made no secret of his criticism of Syrian influence in Beirut, was among four people killed in the explosion. He was the latest journalist to be singled out for assassination in another brutal year for world journalism. The details of those killed in 2005 are set out in this report. In total the numbers are staggering. By the IFJ's count – and we include colleagues who die in accidents in the exercise of their profession – it was an unprecedented year with at least 150 casualties.

Of these the IFJ has counted 89 who were killed in the line of duty, singled out for their professional work. In 2005 the trend towards targeted assassination of editorial staff has intensified. Many of these colleagues died at the hands of criminals, political extremists and sinister paramilitary groups operating on the fringes of civilised society.

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

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

It is not possible to lighten the load by playing with figures. The Philippines remained the most dangerous country in the Asia-Pacific region for journalists with 10 journalists killed – almost all of them the victims of brutal murder and targeted assassination while another 12 were killed in Colombia, Haiti, Mexico and Brazil,

once again highlighting the curse of corruption, crime and narcotics that has cast its shadow over the region's media for more than a decade.

The threat from political quarters was cruelly exposed when, following threats to journalists in Bangladesh from the ruling Bangladesh National Party a bomb explosion at a press club in Khulna killed senior journalist Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed. And, as ever, ruthless criminals made their mark, as in the case of Dolores Guadalupe Garcia Escamilla, a crime reporter who was shot dead by gangs in Nuevo Laredo, a town in the lawless region around the Mexican-United States border.

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

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

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

The controversy in Britain in November over a reported discussion between George Bush and Tony Blair on a plan to bomb Al-Jazeera's headquarters in Qatar once again raised fears that the US attack on the station's offices in Baghdad on April 8, 2003 when journalist Tareq Ayyoub died was a targeted strike to intimidate a contrary media voice.

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

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

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

At the same time, efforts to provide humanitarian relief for the victims of violence are continuing. This expanded report includes information on the work of the IFJ

Safety Fund which provides special assistance to the families and loved ones who are left bereft and often in need after the death of breadwinners. There is also information on the use of money raised during the year for disaster relief in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

**Aidan White, IFJ General Secretary**

## Journalists and media staff killed in 2005

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
	Afghanistan	Shaima Rizae	TV Presenter	Tolo TV	17/05/2005
	Afghanistan	Fahim Ihsan	Reporter	Mazar TV	22/10/2005
IN	Afghanistan	"Maiwand"	Radio Presenter	Da Solah Pagham	17/12/2005
	Azerbaijan	Elmar Huseynov	Editor-in-chief	Monitor Magazine	3/02/2005
	Azerbaijan	Alim Kazimli	Journalist	Yeni Musavat Daily Newspaper	19/09/05
A	Bangladesh	Md Mujibur Rahman	Photojournalist	Sangram Newspaper	28/12/2004
	Bangladesh	Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed	Reporter/Bureau Chief	Shamokai Daily Newspaper	11/02/2005
	Bangladesh	Gautam Das	District Bureau Chief	Dainik Ajker Khabar Daily newspaper	17/11/2005
	Belarus	Vasily Grodnikov	Correspondent	Narodnaya Volya Newspaper	18/10/2005
MS	Brasil	Ricardo Gonzalves Rocha	Newspaper Owner	Jornal Vicentino Newspaper	31/03/2005
	Brasil	José Cândido Amorim Pinto	Radio Journalist	Diário do Nordeste	1/07/2005
MS	Brasil	José María Ramos da Silva	Driver	Radio Comunitaria Alternativa	26/10/2005
	China Zhou	Wenguang	Photographer	Xinhua News Agency	8/11/2005
A	Colombia	Julio Hernando Palacio Sánchez	Radio Host	Radio Lemas	11/01/2005
	Colombia	Rafael Enrique Prins Velásquez	Journalist/Editor	Apocalipsis Newspaper	19/02/2005
	Colombia	Alberto Martínez Práder	Sports Reporter	RCN TV and Radio	27/07/2005
	Democratic Republic Congo	Frank Kangundu	Journalist	La Reference Plus Daily Newspaper	3/11/2005
	Ecuador	Julio Augusto García Romero	Freelance Photographer	La Bocina Newsagency	19/04/2005
A	Guinea Bissau	Sori Baldé	Broadcast Journalist	Televisao de Guine-Bissau	1/12/2005
A	Guinea Bissau	Aruna Djamanca	Journalist	Kansare Newspaper	1/12/2005
	Haiti	Abdias Jean t	Radio Correspondent	WKAT-AM Radio	1/12/2005
	Haiti	Laranque Robenson	Radio Journalist	Radio Tele Contact	4/04/2005
IN	Haiti	Jacques Roche	Editor	Le Matin Newspaper	14/07/2005
A	India	Asim Nath	Journalist Aajkaal Daily Newspaper		
A	India	Bhimashi Mannapur	Journalist	Karnataka Times Newspaper	29/08/2005
A	India	Devdas Shahade	Journalist	Mahasatta Daily Newspaper	29/08/2005
A	Indonesia	Erman Tasrial	Journalist	Singalang Newspaper	9/01/2005
	Indonesia	Elyudin Telaumanua	Journalist	Berita Sore Newspaper	24/08/2005
A	Iran	Mohammad Ahmad	Photojournalist	Hamshahri Daily Newspaper	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Rasul Kazemnezhad	Photojournalist	Keyhan Daily Newspaper	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Hassan Gharib	Photojournalist	Iranian Student's News Agency (ISNA)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Smaeel Omrani	Photojournalist	Iranian Student's News Agency (ISNA)	6/12/2005

**Killed in 2005**

**International Federation of Journalists**

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
A	Iran	AliReza Baradaran Najar	Photojournalist	Fars Newsagency	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mohammad Sadegh Nili	Journalist	Fars Newsagency	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mahdi MirAfzali	Photojournalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Sepahdar Sajedi	Journalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mahdi Abasi Asnari	Trainee Journalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Ebrahim Baghaee	Trainee Journalist	Islamic Republic Newsagency (IRNA)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Daryush Shahini	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mahmud Eilbeigi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mahmud Turan Pashti	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Majid Asgari	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Seyed Yahya Mahdavi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	MohammadReza Shadruh	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	HamidReza Kheirkhah	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Hassan Najafi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Seyed Hadi Hoseini	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Jalil Eidizade	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Massoud Jaonnesari	Radio Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Amir Sahraee	Radio Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Babak Ghiasvand	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Hossein Mirzaee	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mohammad Reza Farisabadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Nasrolahzade	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Rahimi	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Sajjad As'adi	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Gholam Reza Bayat	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	AliReza Afshar	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Khoda'Afv Abdiani	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Javad Farahani	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005

**Killed in 2005**

**International Federation of Journalists**

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
A	Iran	Hossein ArabAhmadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mahdi Hematti Khashruni	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Hossein Mohajeri	Technical Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Hamid Nazari Makkiabadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Hassan Heidari	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	7/12/2005
A	Iran	MohammadReza Ahmadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	8/12/2005
A	Iran	Mansur Mahmudi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	9/12/2005
A	Iran	Hossein Babapour	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	10/12/2005
A	Iran	Hossein KhosroAbadi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	11/12/2005
A	Iran	Seyed Mohammad TavusShirazi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Ali Asadi Kord Deh	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Mahdi Yunesi	TV Journalist	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Ramami	Support Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Tajik Support Staff		Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Habib Asadi	Support Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
A	Iran	Alizade	Support Staff	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	6/12/2005
	Iraq	Abdul Hussein Khazal Al-Basri	TV Journalist/Radio Correspondent	Al-Hurra TV	9/02/2005
	Iraq	Dler Karam Ali	Journalist	Al-Ittihad Al-Islami and Al-Ofoq Al-Islami newspapers	12/02/2005
	Iraq	Raledah Mohammed Wageh Wazzan	News Anchor	Al-Iraqiya	25/02/2005
MS	Iraq	Unidentified Driver		Al-Hurra TV	25/02/2005
	Iraq	Laik Ibrahim Nowruz Al-Kakaie	Bureau Chief	Kurdistan TV	10/03/2005
	Iraq	Hussam Hilal Sarsam	Cameraman	Kurdistan TV	14/03/2005
	Iraq	Ahmed Jabbar Hashim	Reporter	Al-Sabah Daily Newspaper	1/04/2005
	Iraq	Fadhil Hazem Fadhil	TV Journalist	Al-Hurriya	14/04/2005
	Iraq	Ali Ibrahim Issa	TV Journalist	Al-Hurriya	14/04/2005
	Iraq	Shadman Abdulla Izzedine	TV Journalist	Kirkuk TV	15/04/2005
	Iraq	Izadeen Saman Adawi	TV Journalist	Kurdistan Satellite TV (KTV)	15/04/2005
	Iraq	Ahmed Al-Rubai'l	Journalist	Al-Sabah Daily Newspaper	16/04/2005
	Iraq	Saleh Ibrahim	Cameraman	APTN	23/04/2005
	Iraq	Najem Abd Khudair	Correspondent	Al-Mada Newspaper	15/05/2005
	Iraq	Ahmad Adam	Freelance Journalist	Al-Mada Newspaper	15/05/2005

**Killed in 2005**

**International Federation of Journalists**

Key	Country	Name	Profession	Employer	Date killed
	Iraq	Ali Jassem Al-Rumi	Trainee Writer	Al-Safeer Newspaper	15/05/2005
	Iraq	Jerges Mahmood Sulelman	News Anchor	Nineveh TV	31/05/2005
	Iraq	Jassim Al-Qais	Journalist	Al-Siyada	22/06/2005
IN	Iraq	Yasser Salihee	Correspondent	Knight Ridder US Newspaper Group	24/06/2005
	Iraq	Maha Ibrahim	News Editor	Baghdad TV	26/06/2005
	Iraq	Ahmed Wael Bakri	TV Director	Al-Sharqiyah TV	28/06/2005
	Iraq	Khaled Sabih Al- Attar	TV Producer	Al-Iraqiyah TV	1/07/2005
	Iraq	Adnan Al-Bayati	Freelance TV Producer/Interpreter	Rai Mediaset and TG3 TV Stations/ Panorama Magazine	23/07/2005
	Iraq	Steven Vincent	Freelance Reporter	New York Times/Christian Science Monitor	3/08/2005
	Iraq	Rafed Mahmoud Said Al-Anbagy	News Anchor/Director	Diyala	TV 27/8/05
MS	Iraq	Waleed Khaled	Soundman	As-Saffir Daily Newspaper	28/08/2005
	Iraq	Hind Ismail	Reporter	As-Saffir Daily Newspaper	16/09/2005
MS	Iraq	Sabah Mohssin	Driver	Al-Iraqiya TV	17/09/2005
	Iraq	Fakher Haider	Reporter	New York Times	19/09/2005
MS	Iraq	Firas Maadidi	Bureau Chief	As-Saffir Daily Newspaper	20/09/2005
	Iraq	Ahlam Youssef	Engineer	Al-Iraqiya TV	21/09/2005
	Iraq	Mohammad Harun Hassan	Editor	Nabdh Al-Shabeb Newspaper	19/10/2005
	Iraq	Ahmed Hussein Al- Maliki	Journalist	Tall Afar Weekly Newspaper	7/11/2005
	Iraq	Aqeel Abdul Ridha	TV Journalist	Al-Iraqiya TV	28/11/2005
	Iraq	Muqdad Muhsin	TV Journalist	Al-Iraqiya TV	28/11/2005
	Kosovo	Bardehul Ajeti	Reporter	Bota Sot Daily Newspaper	25/06/2005
	Lebanon	Samir Kassir	Columnist	Al-Nahar Newspaper	2/06/2005
	Lebanon	Gebran Tueni	Managing Director/Editor	An-Nahar Daily Newspaper	12/12/2005
	Libya	Daif Al-Ghazal Al-Shuhaibi	Journalist/Writer	Lybia al-Youm Online Newspaper/Al- Zhaf Al-Akhdar Daily Newspaper	2/06/2005
IN	Mexico	Alfredo Jiménez Mota	Crime Reporter	El Imparcial Newspaper	2/04/2005
	Mexico	Raul Gibb Guerrero	Director/Owner	La Opinion Daily Newspaper	8/04/2005
	Mexico	Dolores Guadalupe García Escamilla	Reporter	Stereo 91 Radio	16/04/2005
	Nepal	Khagendra Shrestha	Editor	Dharan Today Newspaper	31/03/2005
	Nepal	Maheshwor Pahari	Journalist	Rastriya Swabhiman Weekly Newspaper	4/10/2005
IN	Nicaragua	Rony Adolfo Olivas Olivas	Correspondent	La Prensa Newspaper	14/08/2005
	Pakistan	Allah Noor	Journalist	The Nation Newspaper and Khyber TV	7/02/2005
	Pakistan	Amir Nawad	Freelance Cameraman	APTN	7/02/2005
ND	Pakistan	Sardar Hanif	Journalist	Jang Daily Newspaper	8/10/2005

Key	Country	Name		Profession	Employer	Date killed
ND	Pakistan	Abdul	Hafeez	Editor	Jurrat Newspaper	8/10/2005
ND	Pakistan	Javed Iqbal	Butt	Photographer	Jinnah	8/10/2005
	Pakistan	Nasir	Afridi	Freelance Journalist	Khabrain Daily Newspaper	4/12/2005
	Philippines	Edgar	Amoro	Journalist	DXKP Radio	2/02/2005
IN	Philippines	Arnulfo	Villanueva	Columnist	Asian Star Express Balita Newspaper 28/2/05	28/02/2005
	Philippines	Romeo	Sanchez	Radio Presenter	DZNL Radio	9/03/2005
	Philippines	Marlenee	Garcia- Esperat	Columnist	Midland Review	24/03/2005
	Philippines	Klein	Cantoneros	Radio Presenter	DXAA-FM Radio	4/05/2005
	Philippines	Philip	Agustin	Editor/Publisher	Starline Times Recorder	10/05/2005
	Philippines	Rolando	Morales	Radio Presenter/ Anchorman	Radio DXMD/Radio Mindanao Network	3/07/2005
	Philippines	Ricardo "Ding"	Uy	Radio Announcer	DZRS-AM Radio	18/11/2005
	Philippines	Robert	Ramos	Reporter	Katapat Newspaper	20/11/2005
IN	Philippines	George	Benaogan	Reporter/Columnist	DYDD Radio/Bantay Balita Newspaper	1/12/2005
	Russia	Pavel	Makeev	Cameraman	Puls TV	21/05/2005
	Russia	Magomed	Zagid Varisov	Journalist/Political Analyst/Columnist	Novoye Delo Weekly Newspaper	29/06/2005
	Sierra Leone	Harry	Yansaneh	Editor	For Di People Newspaper	27/07/2005
	Somalia	Kate	Peyton	Producer	BBC	9/02/2005
	Somalia	Duniya	Muhyadin Nur	Reporter/Radio/ Presenter	HornAfrik Radio/Capital Voice Radio	5/06/2005
MS	Sri Lanka	Sivaram	Dharmeratnam	Online Editor	Tamilnet.com Website	29/04/2005
MS	Sri Lanka	Relangi	Selvarajah	Radio and TV Presenter/Journalist	Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC)/Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC)	12/08/2005
	Sri Lanka	D	Selvarajah	Security guard	Sudaroli Printing Press	29/08/2005
	Sri Lanka	K	Navarathnam	Newspaper Deliverer	Yal Thinakkural Newspaper	21/12/2005
	Thailand	Kiat	Saetang	Managing Editor	Hat Yai Post Bi-Monthly Newspaper	14/02/2005
IN	Thailand	Santi	Lamaneenil	Publisher/Freelance/ Owner	Pattaya Post Newspaper/Channel 7 TV/Khaosod Newspaper	2/11/2005

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

## **The Year in Focus: IFJ Africa Regional Office**

Despite the continuous call for a working legal and political framework for media, journalism in the African region has continued to witness brutal attacks and killings. During the 1990s most African governments acknowledged the principles of media freedom and even recognised the value of free expression to democracy and development. There have been some progressive reforms in the region, but in recent years there is a growing fear that the reform movement may be going into reverse. During 2005 the media landscape has been littered with incidents that provide growing evidence that all is not well with press freedom in Africa. A spate of violent attacks reveals that independent media and journalists are more in danger in most parts of the continent than ever before.

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

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

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

The most critical and urgent situations in the continent include: Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Somalia. In an effort to combat key questions of safety in several of these conflict stricken countries, the IFJ continues to support the work of the International News Safety Institute (INSI), who during this year have carried out specialized safety training for journalists in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Rwanda. However, the most disturbing aspect of these killings is that the perpetrators of these crimes enjoy impunity and are never brought to justice. There are glaring examples that remain outstanding -- on December 13, 1998, Norbert Zongo and three of his colleagues were murdered and burnt in Burkina Faso; on December 16, 2004, Deyda Hydera co-proprietor of The Point newspaper was assassinated in the Gambia; on November 2005 in DR Congo, Frank Ngyke Kangundu journalist at the daily newspaper La Reference and his wife were killed by unknown gunmen. So far none of these victims have received justice.

None of those responsible have been brought to justice. The killers remain at large.

The deaths in 2005 continue to add to the list of unfinished business of crimes which must be properly investigated.

There are also tragedies for which no-one is responsible but the priority is to campaign and fight the culture of impunity in Africa. The IFJ is continuing to call for justice, to seek the abolition of all legal obstacles to press freedom and to make the murder of journalists a crime against humanity.

**Killed in 2005**

**International Federation of Journalists**

**Gabriel Baglo - African Regional Office, Director**

## February

### 09 February - Somalia

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

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

## June

### 05 June - Somalia

**Duniya Muhiyadin Nur:** On 5 June, unidentified attackers opened fire on HornAfrik radio journalists Duniya Muhiyadin Nur and Anab Mohamed Yare as they were travelling in a sedan on a road connecting Mogadishu city

to Afgoye district of lower Shabelle region, 30 kilometres outside of Mogadishu. Reporter, Duniya Muhiyadin was immediately admitted to Madiina hospital, but died shortly afterwards due to severe injuries sustained from her bullet wounds. Her colleague, Anab Mohamed Yare survived without serious injury.

The two journalists were on their way to report on increased barricades of independent militias on the highway between Mogadishu and Afgoye. Due to the increase of these militia roadblocks, the drivers and bus conductors created their own roadblock in a mark of protest and solidarity. They were ordering the people driving on that road to return, but when the sedan of the journalists turned around to avoid the roadblock of angry drivers and bus conductors, a number of unidentified attackers opened fire on their car.

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

## July

### 27 July - Sierra Leone

**Harry Yansaneh:** Harry Yansaneh, the editor of For Di People, died of kidney problems caused by an assault he suffered on 10 May. Yansaneh explicitly accused Member of Parliament Fatmata Hassan of ordering the attack. According to Yansaneh, one of Hassan's sons threatened him and

vandalised the For Di People office. When the editor was on his way to the police station to make an official complaint about the incident, he was attacked by a group of unknown assailants. The motives for the assault appear to be Hassan's apparent desire to evict For Di People from their offices, coupled with the member of parliament's dislike of the newspaper's criticism of the government. Yansaneh had taken over the editorship of For Di People in October 2004, following the imprisonment of For Di People's editor and publisher, Paul Kamara. Kamara was convicted of "seditious libel" and sentenced to two years in jail for articles that criticised President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

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

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

## **November**

### **03 November – Democratic Republic Congo**

**Frank Kangundu:** Frank Kangundua, veteran political affairs journalist at the independent Kinshasa daily, La Référence Plus, and his wife Héléne Mpaka, were murdered on 3 November by two unidentified armed men in front of their residence in Limete Commune in Kinshasa. When Kangundu offered them money and his car if they would let him go, the assailants replied that they had been "sent to kill him". The attackers reportedly only took a mobile phone and a small amount of cash. The same sources said that the attackers also shot the couple's son in the shoulder. Kangundu, 52, worked for La Référence

Plus for more than ten years and was well-respected by his colleagues. In November, over 1,000 journalists and other media workers took part in a silent demonstration through the streets of Kinshasa. The government said it had detained two suspects and promised a full inquiry.

## **December**

### **01 December - Guinea Bissau**

#### **Aruna Djamanca:**

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

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The other 13 journalists were flown to Dakar for medical treatment with the assistance of the Senegalese Army. Two of them were admitted to hospital with serious injuries and were said later to be in critical condition.

The remaining 11 journalists were lodged at a nearby guesthouse where

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the injured received medical supplies and treatment through support from the IFJ International Safety Fund administered by the IFJ Regional Office in Africa in Dakar. Journalists injured in tragic road accident in Guinea Bissau receive medical aid at the IFJ regional office in Dakar.

## **The Year in Focus: IFJ Latin America Regional Office**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Various activities were carried out with the International News Safety Institute (INSI) the IFJ Solidarity Centre in Colombia and the Regional Office. Two training workshops were held in Venezuela and Colombia last May and June. During those

events, the Spanish version of the LIVE NEWS survival guide was launched. It is the most complete guide of safety practices and recommendations for journalists reporting in war zones and it is available in thirteen languages.

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

The same IFJ mission, led by General Secretary, Aidan White, visited the Dominican Republic, where the injuries of young colleague Jorge Senci3n who lost an arm in a violent attack was reminder of the tragic events that overtook Dominican journalism in 2004 when drug traffickers killed Juan Andujar and threatened other reporters, including Senci3n. The IFJ Safety Fund gave support and aid in this case and in the cases of Maria Jose Bravo and Ronny Olivas, both from Nicaragua.

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

**Gregorio Sal3azar - Latin American Regional, Coordinator**

## January

### 11 January - Colombia

#### **Julio Hernando Palacio Sánchez:**

Hitmen on motorbikes shot Palacios, 55, a veteran radio news host, as he drove to work around 5:30 am in the city of Cúcuta, in the unstable northeastern region near the Venezuelan border. Palacios, who hosted the morning program Radio Periódico El Viento on Radio Lemas, was shot three times in the chest. Despite his wounds, Palacios drove back home and his family took him to a local hospital. He died two hours after arriving at San José Hospital in Cúcuta. Palacios was a controversial and outspoken journalist who devoted a segment of his program to denouncing local corruption. Palacios had made enemies because of his tough talk against corruption and local journalists believed the murder was connected to his work. Palacios received anonymous threats in October 2004. The Cúcuta-based daily La Opinión said local police gave him a security manual and suggested he change his daily routine. Palacios had survived an attack in 1996 when assailants hurled a grenade into his office that failed to explode.

### 12 January - Haiti

**Abdias Jean:** a correspondent for WKAT-AM radio in Miami, USA, was killed while covering a police operation in the Village de Dieu sector of Port-au-Prince, a stronghold of supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Jean's mother reportedly accused police of executing her son because he witnessed abuses committed during the sweep. Police acknowledged killing several people during the raid and described them as bandits killed in an exchange of gunfire.

According to local reports Abdias Jean may have seen police shoot and kill three youngsters. One witness said police severely beat Jean and then, "After beating him, they took him a little farther and shot him dead." A police spokeswoman, Jessie Coicou, refused to confirm or deny the allegations and urged families to "file complaints before relevant courts of justice if they think they have a case." She added: "The police don't have to defend themselves before the media. Since I heard there are several witnesses, I hope they will accept to testify before a judge."

## February

### 19 February - Colombia

#### **Rafael Enrique Prins Velásquez:**

Prins Velásquez, journalist and editor of the newspaper Apocalipsis was talking to a number of locals in a park in Magangué, Bolívar, when a hooded assassin opened fire shooting him six times and leaving him severely injured. Velásquez was brought to the nearby San Luis de Dios hospital where after several attempts to save his life he died. Five days before he was killed Velásquez had published an article criticising maladministration within the Municipal Department of Transport in Magangué. The day before his death he had distributed a leaflet denouncing irregularities within the contractual and working programme for basic health matters directed by the Secretary for Health. According to local inhabitants of the city of Magangué, he was killed for his critical reporting on crime and corruption and he could also have been the target of the extreme right-wing paramilitaries who dominate the region.

**March****31 March - Brasil**

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

**April****2 April - Mexico**

**Missing Presumed Dead- Alfredo Jiménez Mota:** Jiménez Mota, a crime reporter for the daily newspaper, El Imparcial, disappeared from his home in the city of Hermosillo in the northwestern state of Sonora on 2 April. The night of his disappearance he called a colleague at El Imparcial to say that he was going to meet with one of his contacts. Jiménez Mota told his colleague that the contact was "very nervous." No one has heard from Jiménez since that call. Before he went missing, He had been investigating drug-trafficking families in the region. Sonora prosecutors have linked his disappearance with his journalistic work.

The Prosecutor General of the Republic, Francisco Daniel Cabeza de Vaca, has opened 11 lines of investigation into the case. The national media published the case as a journalist who had been kidnapped by drug-trafficking gangs and who was later murdered. After the kidnapping, two sisters from Sonora state, Elba and Johann Palma Morquecho, publicly announced that they had been kidnapped by the same gang and that

during their captivity they overheard the gang members saying that Jiménez Mota "was dead" after they had "tortured, burned and buried" him. The declarations of the Morquecho sisters also brought to the forefront the possible implication of the State Police Chief of Public Safety in Sonora, Roberto Tapia Chan, in the disappearance of Jiménez Mota. However, this suspicion was subsequently thrown out by the General Prosecutor following a meeting on the matter with the governor of the State of Sonora, Eduardo Tours on 21 July.

**4 April - Haiti**

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

**8 April - Mexico**

**Raul Gibb Guerrero:** Raúl Gibb Guerrero, 53, owner and director of the daily La Opinión, was shot and killed by four unidentified gunmen as he drove back to his home in Papantla in the eastern state of Veracruz. Struck by eight shots, three to his head, Gibb Guerrero lost control of his vehicle and crashed.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. He had received anonymous death threats days before the attack. Authorities believe Gibb Guerrero was

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murdered for writing articles about the Gulf Cartel, a powerful drug gang. In October 2005, federal agents raided the home of Gibb

Guerrero's sister, seizing a grenade, several pistols, and a large stash of ammunitions. A few days later, a second home was raided and the personal secretary of the director's sister was charged with arms possession.

### **16 April - Mexico**

#### **Dolores Guadalupe García**

**Escamilla:** Guadalupe García

Escamilla, 39, a crime reporter for Stereo 91 radio station, died from injuries she sustained when she was shot by a suspected drug gang hitman in front of her radio station in northern Nuevo Laredo, close to Laredo, Texas. The attack occurred about half an hour after the station aired a report by García Escamilla on the slaying of a Nuevo Laredo defence lawyer. She hosted the programme Punto Rojo for the radio in Nuevo Laredo, a violence-plagued city of 500,000 in the state of Tamaulipas. García Escamilla, an experienced reporter who had worked for several media outlets in the city, had covered crime for Stereo 91 since 2001. According to her colleagues García Escamilla's car was torched in early January 2005 in front of her house.

### **19 April - Ecuador**

#### **Julio Augusto García Romero:**

Freelance photographer Julio Augusto García Romero died after inhaling tear gas while covering a demonstration in downtown Quito, Ecuador's capital. The demonstration, organized to protest the ousted President Lucio Gutiérrez, was moving toward the Palacio de Carondelet, the seat of the executive branch, when police fired water cannons and tear gas grenades into the crowd. The Chilean-born

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García Romero, 58, was taking photographs of the incident when he collapsed. He was then taken to the Red Cross headquarters in Quito, where he arrived with symptoms of asphyxia. Later, however, he suffered cardiorespiratory arrest and was transferred to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead. García Romero worked for the small Chilean news agency La Bocina (The Horn). He had lived in Ecuador for close to 30 years.

## **July**

### **1 July - Brazil**

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

### **14 July - Haiti**

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

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district of Port-au-Prince. His kidnappers called his family to demand a 250,000 US dollar ransom or they would kill him. According to local reports, Roche may have been killed because of his television work for the 184 Group, and during the course of the year a number of suspects were picked up including a prominent Roman Catholic priest whose arrest was denounced by Aristide supporters as being politically motivated.

### **27 July - Colombia**

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

## **August**

### **14 August– Nicaragua**

**Rony Adolfo Olivas Olivas:** Olivas, 47, was killed in Estelí, 150 kilometers north of Managua. He was a correspondent for the newspaper La Prensa and the President of the Estelí section of the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists (UPN). A taxi driver identified as Santos Roberto Osegueda Palacios, who gave himself up to the authorities on 18 August, allegedly shot Olivas in his taxi. Olivas had received death threats on three

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occasions, immediately after a series of articles written for La Prensa, which alleged that there were links between wealthy people in Estelí and drug traffickers. It is believed that the murder may be related to these threats. On 12 August, the UPN had warned of the danger facing journalists in the country and of the increasing number of threats made against them.

## **October**

### **26 October - Brazil**

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

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

### **26 July - United States of America**

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

been working for the Newton Kansan for five years. He was 36, married, and had three young daughters.

**4 October – United States of America**

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

## The Year in Focus: IFJ Asia-Pacific Regional Office

2005 has been a year marred by devastating natural disasters. While much of the Asia-Pacific region was still recovering from the 2004 tsunami, South Asia was hit with a brutal earthquake on 8 October. The quake destroyed the lives of many journalists and media workers, mostly across the Pakistani-controlled Kashmir region. Three journalists died, and over 50 lost their homes, family members and equipment. Aside from those who died in natural disasters, 33 journalists and media workers were killed this year. The Philippines, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh remained the most dangerous areas, but a worrying trend of violence has also emerged in Thailand. The majority of victims in the Asia-Pacific region were not killed in crossfire between warring groups, or by accident while they were reporting in conflict areas. Most of the people on this list were directly targeted and killed because they were journalists.

There is a culture of violence and intimidation directed towards journalists in Asia, and the brutal accounts listed in this report reflect that dangerous culture. The Philippines once again earned its place as the most dangerous country for journalists in the Asia Pacific region. Ten journalists were killed in the Philippines this year, while almost all of their killers escaped any form of justice. This culture of violence and impunity led the IFJ to conduct a mission to the Philippines in January and February of 2005.

The mission produced the report *A dangerous profession – Press freedom under fire in the Philippines*, and led to current plans for a media safety office in the Philippines.

The International News Safety Institute (INSI) also carried out safety training for journalists in the Philippines in November.

The crisis in Nepal has been the most worrying of the year. Nepal's comparatively small death toll does not reflect the harsh conditions Nepalese journalists have faced since the royal coup in February paved the way for a series of crushing restrictions on press freedom. On 9 October, King Gyanendra promulgated a new media ordinance forbidding any FM radio news programs, banning news critical of the royal family, and increasing defamation penalties ten-fold. Hundreds of journalists lost their jobs or were arrested or detained without explanation. Worse still, when peaceful rallies were organised to protest these many injustices, police intervened with violence and mass-arrests.

One of the few positive elements to emerge from all this destruction was the inspiring show of solidarity for Nepalese journalists. Hundreds of organisations and individuals worldwide lent their support to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) in their mission to pressure the government to free captured journalists. The IFJ led a mission to Nepal in February, and participated in a second International Press Freedom mission in July. The outcome of these missions was the IFJ report "Coups, Kings and Censorship", and the launch of a global campaign to pressure King Gyanendra to restore press freedom.

Bangladesh also stood out as particularly dangerous, with the ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) openly threatening and attacking journalists. A bomb explosion at a press club in Khulna killed bureau chief Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed, and wounded

several other journalists. Many journalists reported receiving death threats for covering politically sensitive stories, and intelligence agents even threatened the families of exiled reporters. In Sri Lanka, the intimidation tactics seen in the lead-up to the 2004 elections were repeated this year to control the media's reports on the November elections. Tension between the warring groups of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka continued to escalate, with journalists repeatedly caught in the crossfire. To combat this violence, the IFJ developed several conflict sensitive training modules and a handbook on conflict reporting to help Sri Lankan journalists confront the challenges of their fragile peace process.

In September, the IFJ was extremely pleased when the Association of Taiwan Journalists (ATJ) announced the launch of a Chinese language edition of Live News: A survival guide for journalists. Live News is the IFJ's essential guide for journalists working in trouble spots, whether at home or abroad. Also, on World Press Freedom Day (May 5) the IFJ released the Third Annual IFJ Press Freedom Report for South Asia to highlight the professionalism of journalists working in adverse circumstances. The IFJ continues its focus on safety in the Asia-Pacific region, with new projects aimed at changing the culture of violence against journalists in many countries.

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

Not included in 2004 report

### December 2004

#### 28 December – Bangladesh

**Md Mujibur Rahman:** Md Mujibur Rahman, 35, a photojournalist for the local daily Dainik Ajker Khabar, was killed on assignment in a road accident at Churkhai on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. Mujibur Rahman was fatally injured when a Dhaka-bound bus coming from the opposite direction knocked down his motorcycle. He died on the spot.

### February 2005

#### 2 February – Philippines

**Edgar Amoro:** Edgar Amoro, a key witness to the murder of his friend, journalist Edgar Damalerio, was shot dead in Pagadian, in the southern island of Mindanao. Amoro working for local radio DXKP was under a justice ministry witness protection scheme. Two men shot him dead at point blank range as he left a high school in Pagadian. He died later in hospital. On 29 November, a Cebu City Regional Trial Court handed down a life sentence to former policeman, Guillermo Wapile for the murderer of Edgar Damalerio.

#### 7 February – Pakistan

##### Allah Noor

##### Amir Nawad:

At least two gunmen fired on a busload of journalists with AK-47 assault rifles, killing freelance cameraman Amir Nawad and journalist Allah Noor instantly. Nawad worked for several media agencies, including Associated Press Television News and Noor was a reporter for The Nation and also worked for Pakistani channel Khyber TV. The two journalists were travelling near Wana, the main town

in South Waziristan and were on their way back from covering the surrender of a suspected pro-Taliban, Pakistani militant named Baitullah Mehsud. Two other journalists riding in the bus were injured. Anwar Shakir, a stringer for Agence France-Press, was wounded in the back during the attack, according to news reports. Dilawar Khan, who was working for Al-Jazeera, received minor injuries. Several days after the attack, an unknown group calling itself “Sipah-e-Islam” (Soldiers of Islam) took responsibility for the killings in a letter faxed to newspapers. It accused some journalists of “working for Christians” and of “being used as tools in negative propaganda...against the Muslim mujahedeen.” Local journalists blamed officials for not doing more at the time of the murders, saying no real investigation into the murders took place. Photo: AP

#### 11 February – Bangladesh

**Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed:** Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed, a bureau chief with the daily Sangram newspaper, died of heart failure in the Combined Military Hospital in the capital Dhaka. Ahmed and three other reporters were wounded in a bomb explosion on 5 February at a press club in Khulna, 85 miles southwest of Dhaka. Other journalists injured in the blast were Sheikh Abu Hasan, bureau chief of daily Prothom Alo, Sheikh Jahid Hossain, staff photographer of daily Jugantor and Tutul Ahmed, staff reporter for the daily Loksamaj. The Maoist group Purba Bangla Communist Party claimed responsibility for the attack in a letter signed by the group’s regional leader, Sayeed Hasan Suman. The letter threatened more journalists with similar fates. After Belaluddin Ahmed’s death, editors from across the

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political spectrum formed group called the Forum to Protect Journalists. The group rallied in the capital, marched to the National Press Club, and called for justice in the murders of journalists.

### 14 February – Thailand

**Kiat Saetang:** Kiat Saetang, managing editor of the bi-monthly newspaper *Hat Yai Post*, was shot dead near a central market in the town of Hat Yai, in Thailand's southern province of Songkhla. Saetang, 54, was on his motorbike approaching a small street near the market when he was shot three times from behind by one of two men on another motorbike. Two bullets hit Saetang in the back and he was killed instantly. The unidentified assassins immediately fled the scene. Saetang's wife, Suchin, told the police she believed the killing was linked to his exposés on the misconduct of local Hat Yai politicians. She also confirmed that he had received telephone threats before he was killed. The Thai Journalists Association and the Southern Journalists Association of Thailand, to which Pongkiat belonged, condemned the murder and called on Thai national police to conduct a fair and open investigation into the case.

### 28 February – Philippines

**Arnulfo Villanueva:** Community newspaper columnist Arnulfo Villanueva was gunned down in Naic, Cavite, just south of Manila. A local village official found Villanueva, 43, a columnist for *Asian Star Express Balita* along a road at Barangay Timalan. His body was pierced with shotgun bullets. Naic Police Chief Pablo Zorilla said police are tracking down a woman, who was seen riding with the journalist on board a motorcycle shortly before he was killed. Police are still investigating if Villanueva's murder was related to his profession. The journalist reportedly

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criticised some local officials over illegal gambling in some parts of Cavite province.

## March

### 2 March – India

**Asim Nath:** a Delhi-based chief reporter for the Bengali daily *Aajkaal*, was crushed to death by a bus near Gol Dak Khana in New Delhi. He was rushed to the nearby Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. Nath was on his way to cover a parliamentary session when he was killed. The driver of the bus has been arrested on charges of causing death due to rash and negligent driving. He is survived by his wife Seema and one year-old son, Aakash. Nath had been working with *Aajkaal* for over 15 years covering Parliament and Congress affairs.

### 9 March – Philippines

**Romeo Sanchez:** Romeo Sanchez, a radio broadcaster for DZNL radio in San Fernando City was killed in Baguio City, 350 kilometres north of Manila. Sanchez was with two companions inside a flea market in Baguio when the attacker approached and shot him once with a 9-millimetre pistol. He died on the spot, while the attacker walked away casually after he killing. Police described the killing as a well-planned operation.

### 24 March – Philippines

**Marlenee Garcia-Esperat:** Marlenee Garcia Esperat, 45, a columnist with the *Midland Review* in Tacurong City, Mindanao, was shot in the head in front of her children. Attackers barged into Esperat's house in the early evening and shot her once in the head. The gunman and his accomplice escaped from the scene on a motorcycle. Her husband, George, told a local radio station that his wife had

many enemies because of her exposés. Garcia-Esperat was under police protection as a result of death threats. The Philippine National Police Chief, General Arturo Lomibao told reporters “the motive is work-related.” In a radio interview, George Esperat said that his wife had “made many enemies because of her exposés” and that she had received death threats via text message. He also suggested Garcia-Esperat’s murder was connected to a corruption story that she wrote, accusing a police officer of involvement in illegal logging activity. In April, murder charges were brought against the two officials from the local Department of Agriculture, but a judge dismissed them on 31 August because of what he termed insufficient and conflicting evidence. During her time as ombudsman for the Department of Agriculture, Garcia-Esperat filed legal actions against several officials accusing them of graft. She spent two years in the witness protection programme due to her ombudsman discoveries, before she started work as a full-time journalist in 2004.

**31 March – Nepal**

**Khagendra Shrestha:** On 31 March, Khagendra Shrestha, an editor and publisher for the Dharan Today newspaper died from injuries he had sustained when he was shot by unidentified attackers three weeks earlier on 15 March. He was rushed to BP Koirala Institute for Medical Sciences and later taken to a local hospital in the Indian town of Siliguri for treatment where he remained in a coma. The Royal Nepalese Army blamed Maoists for the attack, who have not yet reacted to the allegations.

**April****29 April – Sri Lanka**

**Sivaram Dharmeratnam:** Sivaram Dharmeratnam, 46, was a senior editorial board member of the pro-Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam website Tamilnet.com and a military and political columnist for the English language Daily Mirror. He was found shot dead from gunshot wounds to the head several hours after four unidentified attackers had abducted him from a restaurant in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. His colleagues identified the body, which was found in the Colombo suburb of Talangama. He had received threats in the weeks before his death and progovernment media had accused him of being a spy for the Tamil Tigers.

**May****4 May – Philippines**

**Klein Cantoneros:** Cantoneros, a “block-time” radio broadcaster known for denouncing corruption died after he was shot over seven times by motorcycle-riding attackers in Dipolog City on the southern island of Mindanao. Cantoneros, 32, who frequently criticised local officials for alleged corruption and illegal gambling on his talk radio programme, “Nasud, Pagmata Na” (People, Wake Up), on DXAA-FM, was attacked when he was returning home close to 1.30am. He was found holding his own .45-calibre pistol, and appeared to have fired back at his attackers. His colleagues told radio DZBB that Cantoneros had identified his assailants before undergoing surgery and that he had received several death threats before he was killed. A special task force dedicated to solving Cantoneros’ murder was formed in May, headed by Dipolog City Philippine National Police Chief Tomas Hizon, but in spite

of the arrest of one suspect in September no further progress has been made.

**10 May – Philippines**

**Philip Agustin:** Philip Agustin, 53, publisher and editor of the Starline Times Recorder, was shot dead in the village of Maltic, north of Manila. An unknown assailant attacked the publisher at his home in Dingalan town. Agustin's paper had published a report calling on the Dingalan mayor, Jaime Ylarde, to account over allegedly missing government funds. Agustin had received threats prior to his death. Agustin's family told police that his articles about local corruption and official inaction against the illegal logging trade were the likely motives for his murder. Witnesses in May identified three suspects. The alleged gunman, Reynaldo Morete, arrested on 14 May, identified Ylarde as the instigator of the crime. The other suspects remain at large.

**17 May – Afghanistan**

**Shaima Rizaee:** Shaima Rizaee, 24, a former entertainment presenter for Tolo TV in Kabul died after she was beaten and shot in the head. Rizaee hosted the daily music programme, "Hop", until March 24, when she was fired after Tolo TV came under pressure from a government panel of religious scholars known as the Council of Ulemas, who condemned the channel for broadcasting anti-Islamic programmes. Police suspected a connection between her work at Tolo TV and her killing. Rizaee had been missing for several months before her body was found.

**July****3 July – Philippines**

**Rolando "Dodong" Morales:** Ricardo "Dodong" Morales, a "blocktime" host on a programme for Radio dxMD was inside his car in General Santos City when attackers stopped him and opened fire with pistols and assault rifles, killing him instantly and wounding his companion. Morales, 43, was shot 15 times. The gang-style attack happened shortly after Morales left Radio dxMD, where he had built a reputation as a hard hitting commentator of hard local politicians linked to drug syndicates. Morales was an anchorman for the Tingog sa Barangay (Voice of the Village) program of Radio Mindanao Network. Just a week before the ambush Morales had reportedly accused several Barangay (village) officials of involvement in summary executions. In August, police in General Santos City arrested and filed murder charges against two suspects in Morales' murder, including the alleged mastermind. Morales' wife said that her husband had received several death threats by text message beginning in November 2004 because of his crusade against illegal drugs. She said that he continued to broadcast despite the threats "because it was a public service," and that he worked at the radio station on a volunteer basis. Morales had received a threatening letter shortly before his killing, warning the commentator to halt his criticism of local officials and illegal drugs.

**August****12 August – Sri Lanka**

**Relangi Selvarajah:** Relangi Selvarajah, a popular radio and television broadcaster, and her

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husband, were shot dead by unknown attackers in Bambalapitiya, Colombo. The attackers shot Selvarajah, 44, and her husband, Senathurai, in the office where they ran a travel agency. The LTTE Tamil Tigers had criticized Selvarajah for broadcasting anti-LTTE programmes. Selvarajah had previously worked as a TV presenter with the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) and was working as a journalist with Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC). She also produced the SLBC programme "Ithaya Veenai," a program known for criticizing the LTTE.

### 24 August – Indonesia

#### **Elyudin Telaumanua:**

#### **MISSING PRESUMED DEAD**

Elyudin Telaumanua, 51, a journalist for the daily Berita Sore newspaper, was kidnapped by a group of people in Teluk Dalam Kabupaten, Southern Nias on 24 August. Just before he was killed, Telaumanua had reported on criminal gangs, local corruption and irregularities in local elections. Although the police had identified several suspects, no arrests have been made due to witnesses refusing to testify. Witnesses reported six men chasing Ely and taking him away. Later witnesses saw the men, including Samagaho, the head of the Bawogamowo village, take Ely inside a house and beat him to death. Conflicting witnesses say the body was then thrown into the ocean off the Nias Genesi coast, and may have been burned or buried later. Ely's colleagues believe he may have been killed because of his coverage of the upcoming election in Southern Nias.

### 29 August – Sri Lanka

**D Selveraja:** D Selveraja, a security guard at the Sudaroli printing press, was killed when grenades were hurled at the door of the building where he

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worked. Journalist, Iliya Abdulla, proofreader Kamalanathan, and a visitor were also injured in the attack. There had been repeated attacks on the Sudaroli newspaper, and the editor had received threatening phone calls.

### 29 August – India

#### **Bhimashi Mannapur:**

**Devdas Shahade:** Two journalists were killed on the spot when the Tata Sumo they were travelling in on their way to cover a ministerial function collided with a Maxi Cab near Koulgudda Cross on Athani-Kagwad road. The journalists were identified as Bhimashi Mannapur (35) of Karnataka Times, a Kannada daily published from Gokak, and Devdas Shahade (35) of Mahasatta, a Marathi daily published from Sangli.

## September

### 1 September – Indonesia

#### **Erman Tasrial:**

Singgalang reporter Erman Tasrial was killed in a helicopter crash along with 5 officers as they were on their way to Padang after inspecting a forest fire in Solok regency. The MI-2 helicopter crashed amid heavy rain in the national park situated some 20 kilometers from Padang.

## October

### 4 October – Nepal

**Maheshwor Pahari:** Journalist Maheshwor Pahari, who was in detention for a year and a half for being a supporter of the Maoist ideology, died on the evening of 4 October in a hospital in Pokhara northwest of Kathmandu. Pahari, 32, had been sick for one-and-a-half months before he finally died of Tuberculosis after being held with 100 other prisoners in a cell designed for 20 people. His family members

## **Killed in 2005**

criticised the government for not providing him timely treatment in detention and said that he had been denied proper medical treatment. Before his imprisonment, Pahari worked for the Rastriya Swabhiman weekly published from Pokhara. Security forces arrested Pahari from Lwangghalel in Kaski on 2 January 2004.

The journalist was in good health when arrested and was held incommunicado for several months. Local doctors had recommended Pahari be transferred to Kathmandu for better treatment, and members of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) in Pokhara offered to pay to send him. But officials refused, citing security concerns. Pahari was held under an anti-terrorism law that has been used to jail journalists since it was introduced in November 2001.

### **8 October – Pakistan**

**Sardar Hanif:** Abdul Hafeez: Javed Iqbal Butt: Sardar Hanif, a journalist working for the daily Jang, Abdul Hafeez, an editor of Juraat and Javed Iqbal Butt a photographer for Jinnah were killed in the earthquake that devastated the Kashmir region on 8 October and had a grave impact for many journalists. Hanif, Hafeez and Butt all lost their lives in the disaster, and many others were affected.

Between 10 and 20 other journalists were injured, and at least 50 suffered personal losses. Many lost their homes and relatives, with several journalists losing their entire families. 22

**October – Afghanistan Maiwand:** Maiwand, an 18-year-old working for local radio station Da sole Paigham (Message of Peace), was killed in a bomb attack on a military convoy in the south eastern province of Khost. While the attackers remain unknown, some believe Maiwand was killed by

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his enemies, and other reports say the bomb was placed by the Taliban.

## **November**

### **2 November – Thailand**

**Santi Lamaneenil:** Santi Lamaneenil, an owner and journalist of Pattaya Post newspaper, was found dead in the back of his car outside the beach resort of Pattaya. His body was found blindfolded, his hands were tied, and he had suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the head. Police believe there were at least three assailants and said that Lamaneenil's killing could have been connected to his work as a journalist.

He had recently reported on illegal operations in late-night entertainment venues.

His wife told police that Santi had stayed with relatives intermittently in recent months for fear of abduction or attack. Lamaneenil also contributed freelance work to Channel 7 television and Khaosod newspaper.

### **8 November – China**

**Zhou Wenguang:** Wenguang, a photographer for Xinhua News Agency, was killed in a traffic accident on his way to cover mine cave-ins in China's North Hebei Province.

Wenguang suffered grave injuries when the press car he was travelling in overturned and fell into a roadside ditch whilst trying to avoid a pedestrian who had suddenly appeared in front of the vehicle. Zhou suffered grave injuries at the scene and died later in hospital.

### **17 November – Bangladesh**

**Gautam Das:** Gautam Das, 28, district bureau-chief and reporter for the Daily Shamokal was found strangled in his office in the town of Faridpur, west of

Dhaka. His hands and legs were broken and a rope was tied around his neck. Friends and colleagues have reported that it was common for Das to sleep overnight in his office due to its distance from his home. According to local reports,

Das had previously received death threats. He had a history of writing on local extortion, local businesses, drug dealing and just before his death on the activities of Islamic militant groups. On 19 November, police arrested Tamjid Hossain Babu, the son of a local MP, in connection with Das' murder. Local journalists said police arrested three other suspects.

#### **18 November – Philippines**

**Ricardo “Ding” Uy:** Ricardo “Ding” Uy, a radio announcer for DZRSAM, was gunned down outside his home in Sorsogon City, southeast of Manila. Uy, 49, was shot five times in the head, torso and mouth with a .45 caliber pistol by a lone attacker on a motorcycle. He died shortly after at a nearby hospital, Uy was also president of the Media Reporters Association of the province and a Bayan Muna provincial coordinator for Sorsogon. He had received threats before he was killed and was known as a critic of the army

#### **20 November – Philippines**

**Robert Ramos:** Robert Ramos, 39, a reporter for the weekly tabloid Katapat based in Laguna was shot twice in the head in front of a market in Barangay Loc, Cabuyao, Laguna. Police continue to investigate the motive behind the attack. Ramos was waiting for a ride home from work when two motor cycle riding assailants shot him. He was pronounced dead at the scene. On 1 December, police identified two suspects in the murder, who believed the reporter had tipped off authorities about their illegal sales of pirated

DVDs and CDs from a shop in Cabuyao.

## **December**

### **December 1 – Philippines**

**George Benaogan:** George Benaogan a reporter for DYDD radio and a columnist for Bantay Balita in Talisay City, Cebu, was shot by an unidentified attacker. Police continue to investigate the motive behind the attack. Benaogan, 27, died at a local hospital shortly afterward. He had been talking to a man in a market when the gunman approached and shot the journalist in the mouth, neck, and chest. Benaogan had been receiving death threats and had reported on alleged corruption in the local customs bureau for DYBB and Bantay Balita, a publication distributed among customs personnel. Benaogan was known for reporting on official corruption and had survived an attack in August 2004 when three men ambushed him and two colleagues.

### **4 December – Pakistan**

**Nasir Afridi:** On 4 December, Nasir Afridi, the president of Darra Adam Press Club and a correspondent for Khabrain, a daily Urdu language newspaper, was shot and killed while driving in his car in Northern Pakistan. Afridi was on his way to the press club to attend a meeting, when he was killed by a stray bullet from a battle going on between the Bazi Khel and the Mala Khel tribes. A truck driver was also killed in the attack. Bazikhel tribesmen had taken a tribesman from the Mulakhel tribe hostage and a fight ensued between the two warring factions. A bullet hit the journalist that proved fatal and he died on his way to hospital.

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### **12 December – Afghanistan**

**Fahim Ihsan:** Fahim Ihsan, 30, a reporter for the Mazar state television was found dead under mysterious circumstances after receiving death threats and being beaten in connection with his controversial and critical reports on local government officials on his television program Shere-Ma-Khane-Ma (My City, my home). The

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Afghan Independent Journalists' Association (AIJA) continues to investigate Ihsan's death.

### **21 December - Sri Lanka**

**K. Navarathnam:** K. Navarathnam (about 45), a newspaper delivery person of Tamil language news paper Yal Thinakkural, was shot dead in northern capital of Jaffna.

**Asian Tsunami  
Journalists and Media Staff Killed and Missing in Aceh,  
Indonesia**

**Killed**

**1. Muharram M. Nur**

(Kontras Tabloid)

**2. Ridwan Ishak**

(Kontras Tabloid)

**3. Erismawati**

(Serambi Indonesia Daily)

**4. Emrizal**

(Harian Serambi Indonesia Daily)

**5. Muhamad Amin**

(Media NAD Tabloid)

**6. M. Jarimin**

(RRI)

**7. Taufan Nugraha**

(Radio 68H)

**8. Zainal Abidin**

(Medan Pos Daily)

**9. Darli**

(Medan Pos Daily)

**10. Amdina**

(Eks Post Tabloid)

**11. Yarmen Dinamika**

(Serambi Indonesia Daily)

\*\* Over 50 additional cases of missing journalists and media staff have been reported by the IFJ affiliate, Aliansi Journalis Independen (AJI).

**Missing**

**1. Safwan**

(Analisa Daily, Medan)

**2. Mohamad Rokan**

(Serambi Indonesia Daily)

- 3. Erwin Sjafri**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 4. Karta Gusti**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 5. Najmudin Umar**  
(Kompas Daily)
- 6. Razali Idris**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 7. Zainun**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 8. Yarmen Dinamika**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 9. Ismail**  
(Detektif Magazine)
- 10. Saidulkarnain Ishak**  
(Antara, National News Agency)
- 11. Darmawan**  
(Republic Indonesia Radio - RRI)
- 12. Syafrudin**  
(Republic Indonesia Radio - RRI)
- 13. Saleh Adami**  
(Suara Indonesia Baru)
- 14. Said Alwi**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 15. Tondi Rizal Putra**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 16. Syahrul Rahman**  
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 17. Aswin S. Coki**  
(Republic Indonesia Radio - RRI)
- 18. Muharram M Nur**  
(Kontras Tabloid)
- 19. Yusuf**

(Serambi Indonesia Daily)

**20. Ismail**

(Majalah Delta dan Romeo)

**21. Taufan Nugraha**

(Radio 68H)

**22. Ferdiyan**

(Radio Prima FM Banda Aceh)

**23. Asnita Alwi**

(Radio Prima FM)

**24. Dina Keumala**

(Radio Prima FM)

**25. Eva Victoria**

(Radio Prima FM)

**26. Yulia Yuswar**

(Radio Prima FM)

**27. Mila Gayo**

(Radio Prima FM)

**28. Meliyani**

(Radio Prima FM)

## The Year in Focus: The European Federation of Journalists

The fragile conditions for democracy in Russia and many countries of the former Soviet Union means that journalists who are trying to report freely and to expose official corruption are the first to come under pressure from shadowy political and criminal groups.

The killings of six journalists -- two from Azerbaijan, two from Russia, one from Belarus and one from Kosovo -- all of them cases involving reporters and media reporting on high-level corruption illustrate a political and democratic crisis that has deepened in the last year.

Journalists who stand up to political corruption and editors who are renowned for taking a critical line are in the front-line of a constant struggle for human rights. One supreme example is Elmar Huseynov, in Azerbaijan, who was killed on 2 March and who personified the sacrifice that journalists are forced to make to get to the truth behind the exercise of power in countries that have yet to embrace fundamental principles of open democracy and good governance.

The deaths in Russia also underscore a worsening media crisis where the regime of Vladimir Putin continues to put pressure on journalists who do not follow the government line, where the war on terrorism in Chechnya is still used to intimidate media, and where independent journalism has all but disappeared as a concept in the national television networks.

Meanwhile, in Kosovo, a reporter from the controversial and nationalist newspaper Bota Sot was killed in circumstances in June that raised worrying questions about official vigilance and responsibility. Two weeks before his death Ajeti Bardehul informed the United Nations Temporary Media Commission about threats to his life and apart from advice to go to the police like any other citizen, it appears that no special attention was paid to this report.

Would the same response have come had he been working for one of Kosovo's more independent newspapers rather than for a paper that had been censured and fined by the UN Media Commission for its lack of professionalism?

In Belarus the authoritarian regime of President Luskashenko continues to drive the voices of dissent further and further underground. The IFJ is calling for a full investigation into the brutal and tragic killing of Vasily Grodnikov, a freelancer for the opposition newspaper, Narodnaya Volya.

Although the situation in Western Europe was better than the rest of the region, the sentencing of Al-Jazeera journalist Tayseer Allouni to seven years jail in Spain in a controversial case over his alleged links with terrorist groups raised again the question of how anti-terrorist policy in Europe, as elsewhere has a potentially devastating impact on journalism. This issue was dealt with in detail in a special IFJ Report with the civil liberties group Statewatch on Journalism, Civil Liberties and the War on Terrorism, which was released during the year.

**Arne König, European Federation of Journalists, Chair**

**March****2 March - Azerbaijan**

**Elmar Huseynov:** Elmar Huseynov the founder and editor of the Russian-language independent weekly news magazine Monitor was shot seven times by an unidentified assailant in his apartment building. Huseynov, who had been harassed and pursued by the authorities many times in recent years, was killed as he entered his apartment. The national state prosecutor set up an enquiry into what he said was a “brutal premeditated murder” and committed to following all leads, including links between the killing and Huseynov’s journalistic activities.

The Monitor has carried many reports of corruption and abuse of power by government members, including President Ilham Aliiev. Some independent media say Huseynov was killed because of these reports. Huseynov’s father Sabir told the French news agency, Agence France-Presse he was sure “someone in the government” had ordered his son’s murder. “We’d been expecting it,” he said. Huseynov was sentenced to jail for six months in 2001 for supposedly libelling Baku mayor Gajibala Abutalibov. He was also fined the equivalent of 10,000 Euro in July 2002 over an article criticising the army. Attacks on the independent media have increased since the IFJ sent a mission to Azerbaijan in October 2003 following controversial elections.

**May****21 May - Russia**

**Pavel Makeev:** Pavel Makeev, a 21-year-old cameraman with Puls television station, in Azov (near Rostov- on-Don), was found dead under suspicious circumstances. His body was found by a roadside outside

Azov, after he had finished a report about illegal dragster racing. Police investigators said his body was located about 15 meters from a pool of blood and appeared to have been dragged along the road. Makeev’s video camera and cell phone were missing. Police said they discovered the car that allegedly hit Makeev, but no arrests have been reported. The investigation was transferred to the Rostov regional prosecutor’s office. Makeev’s colleagues conducted their own investigation because Rostov prosecutors would not discuss the case and closed the investigation, claiming an “absence of evidence of a crime. Local journalists noted that reporters who have tried to cover drag racing have often been threatened. Finally in September, Rostov prosecutor Vasily Afanasiev said that his office had reopened the case. Makeev worked for Puls for two years and was regarded by his colleagues as a talented and professional cameraman.

**June****19 June - Azerbaijan**

**Alim Kazimli:** Alim Kazimli, 51, a photo correspondent for the main opposition daily Yeni Musavat for over ten years, died on 19 June as a result of a beating he received on 28 December, 2004 at the Narimanov police station in Baku that left him paralysed on his left side. He fell into a coma on 17 June and then died of a brain hemorrhage. On 28 December last year, Kazimli went to the Office and Registration and Identification (ORUL) at the Narimanov district police department in Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku, to get Azeri internal passports for him and his wife. A confrontation ensued when Kazimli protested alleged bribe-taking and chaotic conditions in the office. When Kazimli identified himself as a

correspondent for Yeni Musavat and demanded an office manager correct the problems, the manager struck Kazimli on the head with a telephone. Kazimli was immediately rushed to a Baku hospital where doctors diagnosed him with a stroke. He was released from the hospital in March 2005, but continued receiving medical treatment at home. Kazimli did not return to work, his condition deteriorated, and finally he fell into a coma several days prior to his death.

**25 June - Kosovo**

**Bardehul Ajeti:** Bardehul Ajeti, a Kosovar correspondent for the Bota Sot daily paper was shot near Pristina on 3 June and died later on 25 June in an Italian hospital from his injuries. According to the IFJ affiliate, the Association of Professional Journalists of Kosovo (AGPK), he was attacked near Pristina after his car had broken down and was then shot from a passing car.

On 17 May, 28-year-old Ajeti, had appealed in vain to the UN-led administration for protection following an article published about him in another newspaper. Baton Haxhiu, Executive Director of the AGPK told the IFJ that Ajeti wrote daily editorials for Bota Sot, which is allied with the governing Democratic League of Kosovo party and that he often criticised opposition party figures in his editorials.

**29 June - Russia**

**Magomed-Zagid Varisov:** Varisov, a prominent journalist and political analyst, was shot and killed in Mahachkala, the capital of the Russian republic of Dagestan. Varisov, a columnist for Novoye Delo, Dagestan's largest weekly, was returning home with his wife when unidentified assailants opened fire on

his car. He was fatally wounded and died at the scene. His wife was unharmed while their driver was hospitalised with injuries. Police believe that the attackers targeted Varisov because of his critical reporting on organised crime and terrorism.

During 2005, Varisov had spoken of threats against him and had written about those threats in articles for Novoye Delo. Varisov complained that unknown individuals were following him, and he unsuccessfully sought protection from Makhachkala law enforcement authorities.

**October****18 October - Belarus**

**Vasily Grodnikov:** A freelance correspondent for the opposition newspaper, Narodnaya Volya, Grodnikov was found dead with a head wound in his home in Zaslauje, near Minsk. According to reports, the journalist's family believes that he was murdered. Narodnaya Volya, which is frequently critical of the Belarusian authorities, has suffered ongoing harassment for its reporting. Authorities had harassed Narodnaya Volya in retaliation for its criticism of President Aleksandr Lukashenko. State-run kiosks were not permitted to sell the newspaper. Authorities had recently ended its printing contract, forcing it to use a printer in the neighboring Russian city of Smolensk. The Interior Ministry said that Grodnikov had died of a stroke while an autopsy at the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital concluded that the cause of death was head trauma. The Minsk regional prosecutor's office continues to investigate the case.

## The Year in Focus: Middle East and the Gulf

The struggle for press freedom and democracy in the Middle East continues to be overshadowed by a pattern of violence in which media people are prominent among the victims. The war in Iraq and the continuing conflict in Palestine make reporting from these regions highly dangerous and political instability between Syria and Lebanon has seen high profile targeted killings of independent journalists.

At the same time, towards the end of the year, a tragic air crash in Tehran, which claimed the lives of 48 journalists and media staff, highlighted the dangers facing journalists whenever they leave the office.

There were 35 cases of journalists killed in Iraq all of them Iraqis, with the exception of United States freelance writer Steven Vincent. Most of the victims were killed in or around Baghdad although there were 10 media deaths in Mosul.

Many of these colleagues were employed by US backed media such as the Al-Hurra satellite network, Nineveh TV a local affiliate of Al-Iraqiya TV, which is part of the US-backed Iraqi Media Network and Al-Sabah newspaper. This pattern of killings illustrates that journalists working for media subsidised by foreign donors, especially from the United States, are particularly at risk.

Local journalists' groups were particularly shocked by the targeted killing of Mohammed Harun Hassan, secretary of the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate who was gunned down on 19 October in Baghdad.

He was a prominent editor and journalists' leader who spoke out against corruption both inside journalism and outside it.

The IFJ remains concerned over the lack of proper reporting and investigation into cases of media deaths at the hands of United States soldiers. In 2005 there were five deaths, bringing to 18 the number of journalists and media staff killed by US troops since March 2003. The cases of Dier Karam Ali, Yasser Salihee, Maha Ibrahim, Ahmed Wael Bakri and Waleed Khaled reinforce the arguments in favour of an independent process of investigation and reporting. So far, the US military carries out its own investigations and normally produces reports, which, if they are published at all, are unconvincing and full of self-justification.

In order to try to combat this safety crisis in Iraq, the International News Safety Institute (INSI) carried out safety training for Iraqi journalists in October. Beyond Iraq, the deaths in Beirut of Samir Qasir and Gebran Tuani - both highly critical of Syrian influence in Lebanon - showed that independent journalists are prime targets when political tensions begin to emerge. The killing of Tuani led the IFJ to postpone a planned regional meeting of Arab journalists in Beirut at the year's end.

The need to take the campaign for justice for journalists and for politicians to speak out in defence of independent media in the region during 2006 is most horrifyingly reinforced by the case of Daif Al Ghazal in Libya. This writer who had published articles critical of the regime, paid a terrible price for his profession in June when he

was captured, tortured beyond recognition, with his fingers severed, and finished off by a shot to the head.

## February

### 9 February - Iraq

#### **Abdul Hussein Khazal Al-Basri:**

Attackers killed Abdul Hussein Khazal, a 40-year-old Iraqi journalist working for Al-Hurra TV, and his son as they left their home in the Maqal area of Basra. Khazal, who joined the US-funded television station in April 2004, also worked as a correspondent for the US-funded station Radio Sawa. Khazal was a member of the political office of the Islamic Dawa Party, an influential Shiite movement, and the editor of a local newspaper in Basra. He served as the head of the press office at Basra City Council. In spite of the possibility that Khazal was killed because of his political connections, Al-Hurra News Director Mouafac Harb disputed reports of Khazal's Shiite political affiliations and said the reporter 'was killed because he was a journalist.'

### 12 February - Iraq

**Dler Karam Ali:** On February 9, Dler Karam Ali, a Kurdish journalist working for the Al-Ittihad Al-Islami and Al-Ofoq Al-Islami newspapers and also a member of the IFJ affiliated Kurdistan Syndicate of Journalists was shot and injured by US forces on the road between Baghdad and Darbandikhan in Northern Iraq. He was passing through a US military checkpoint on his way to cover the elections when US soldiers on duty asked the car to stop, the driver refused and the soldiers started shooting at the car fatally injuring Karam Ali. He died in hospital three days later.

### 25 February - Iraq

#### **Raledah Mohammed Wageh**

**Wazzan:** On 25 February, the body of 35-year-old journalist Raledah Wazzan, a news anchor with the Iraqi

state TV channel Al-Iraqiya was found five days after she and her son were kidnapped by masked attackers in the centre of the northern city of Mosul. According to reports Wazzan's murder was claimed on the Internet by an armed Iraqi group linked to Al-Qaeda, but this could not be verified.

### 25 February – Iraq

**Unidentified Driver:** The unidentified driver of Mohammad Sherif Ali, an Iraqi journalist working for Al-Hurra was killed after gunmen attacked their car in Iskandiriyah, south of Baghdad. Ali survived with serious injuries.

## March

### 10 March - Iraq

#### **Laik Ibrahim Nowruz Al-Kakaie:**

Nowruz Al-Kakaie, Kurdistan TV's bureau chief in Kirkuk (250 kilometres north of Baghdad) was shot dead as he was driving in the Hay Al-Askari neighbourhood on his way to his offices. His driver, who was wounded in the attack, survived his injuries. Kurdistan TV is the satellite television station of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

### 14 March - Iraq

**Hussam Hilal Sarsam:** Hussam Hilal Sarsam was shot and killed while attempting to escape suspected insurgents in the city of Mo-sul. Sarsam, 27, was a cameraman working for Kurdistan TV. He was been abducted on 13 March in front of Mosul University. According to local sources, the following day his captors returned him to the same location, where they killed him in front of a number of pedestrians. Colleagues and a family member said burn marks were found on Sarsam's upper body, an indication of possible torture. His Kurdistan TV identification cards and

a media card issued by U.S.–backed coalition forces were placed on his corpse by his killers. Sarsam had worked with Kurdistan TV since January 2004 and had videotaped confessions of insurgents held by Iraqi police in Mosul that were aired on a program on Kurdistan TV called Al-Irhab ala Haqiateh (Terrorism Exposed). His colleagues and a family member suspected his murderers were motivated by his filming of the detainee confessions.

## **April**

### **1 April - Iraq**

**Ahmed Jabbar Hashim:** Hashim, a reporter working for the Baghdad–based daily Al-Sabah, part of the US – backed Iraq Media Network, was kidnapped on March 25 by an unidentified armed group. His decapitated body was discovered on 1 April. Insurgents have frequently targeted journalists working for US – backed news outlets in Iraq. Some journalists reported that Hashim might have been killed because he had also done work for US media. Eight armed men in three cars ambushed the journalist while he was taking his daily route home. They decapitated him and sent a recording of the killing to Al-Sabah as a warning.

### **14 April - Iraq**

#### **Fadhil Hazem Fadhil**

**Ali Ibrahim Issa:** Two Al-Hurriya television journalists were killed in twin suicide bombings while en route to an event honoring the new president at the time, Jalal Talabani. The journalists were traveling in a car with a reporter and a driver when the bombs exploded outside the Interior Ministry in Baghdad. The reporter and driver were injured but survived.

### **15 April - Iraq**

#### **Shadman Abdulla Izzedine:**

**Saman Adawi Izadeen:** On April 15, the IFJ affiliate, the Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate reported the killing of two television journalists, Shadman Abdulla Izzedine and Saman Adawi Izadeen, both working for Kirkuk TV. Unidentified assailants gunned down Izzedine as he was driving on the main highway from Kirkuk to Baghdad. Izadeen was also shot by insurgents while driving to the Kirkuk TV offices. Kurdish journalists in Kirkuk said that their car was fired on by a group of armed men driving in a black Nissan. Local journalists also said that Kirkuk TV's anti-insurgent stance has made it vulnerable to attack from armed groups, and they believe Izzedine, a prominent personality on Kirkuk TV, was targeted for his work with the station.

### **16 April - Iraq**

**Ahmed al-Rubai'i:** Reporter and editor, Ahmed al-Rubai'i, working for the US-backed daily Al-Sabah newspaper was abducted and beheaded in Baghdad apparently by a group known as al-Jihad and al-Tawhit. Al-Rubai'i also worked in the media department of the Iraqi National Assembly. No body was found. International news sources reported that on 6 June, police arrested members of a criminal gang who admitted to killing several people. Rubai'i's press pass was found among the identity cards in their possession.

### **23 April - Iraq**

**Saleh Ibrahim:** Saleh Ibrahim, a local television cameraman working for Associated Press Television News (APTN) was killed when gunfire broke out near the city's al-Yarmouk Circle after an explosion in the northern city of Mosul. Both Saleh and his brother-in-law, AP photographer Mohamed

## Killed in 2005

Ibrahim, had gone to cover the explosion. The journalist told AP that gunfire broke out and both men were struck, although the report did not indicate who fired on them. Saleh Ibrahim was taken to a local hospital, where he died shortly after arrival. Mohamed Ibrahim, treated for shrapnel wounds, was detained at a hospital by US troops and released the following day.

## May

### 15 May - Iraq

#### **Najem Abd Khudair:**

#### **Ahmad Adam:**

**Ali Jassem Al Rumi:** Abd Khudair worked as a correspondent in Kerbala for Al-Mada, a private Iraqi newspaper. Adam worked as a freelancer for Al Mada and Jaseem Al-Rumi was working as a trainee writing for Al Safeer newspaper. They were murdered on a road in Latifiyah, a town proximately 40 kilometres south of Baghdad. According to local sources the three journalists were on the way to their hometown of Karbala after leaving the in for and the office of their newspaper offices in Baghdad to get their assignments for the week. Armed assailants ambushed their car, slit their throats and left their bodies on the side of the road.

### 31 May - Iraq

#### **Jerges Mahmood Mohamad**

**Sulelman:** Unidentified assailants shot and killed Sulelman, a news anchor at Nineveh TV in Mosul. Co-workers reported Sulelman worked for the station for just 20 days before he was killed. He was shot as he approached Nineveh TV's offices, about 200 meters from the building. Colleagues said Sulelman had not received any prior threats, but they suspect he was targeted because he was an employee of Nineveh TV. Insurgents have

## International Federation of Journalists

frequently targeted Nineveh TV's offices with gunfire and mortars. Nineveh TV is a local affiliate of Al-Iraqiya TV, which is part of the US-backed Iraqi Media Network.

## June

### 02 June - Lebanon

**Samir Kassir:** Samir Kassir of the An-Nahar newspaper died instantly when a bomb exploded under the driver's seat of his car outside his home in the mostly Christian Ashrafiyeh neighborhood in east Beirut. The attack came four days after the start of the country's parliamentary election. Anti-Syrian groups were quick to blame Damascus and its Lebanese allies for his murder, alleging the involvement of the Syrian-backed President, Emile Lahoud. Kassir had been writing columns for the past ten years with An-Nahar, a daily Arabic newspaper and was married to Giselle Khoury, another prominent Lebanese journalist working for Al-Arabiya and currently residing in the United States. He was well-known for his anti-Syrian positions and his criticism of the "Lebanese police state" and had been harassed and threatened for years. Kassir was the most prominent Lebanese figure to be killed since the 14 February assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, which plunged the country into its worst political crisis since the 1975-1990 war.

### 2 June - Libya

**Daif Al-Ghazal Al-Shuhaibi:** On 2 June, Libyan journalist and writer Daif Al Ghazal, was found dead in a suburb of Benghazi over 900 kilometers east of the capital, Tripoli. Two armed men claiming to be state security officers reportedly kidnapped Al-Shuhaibi on 21 May. Al-Shuhaibi wrote articles critical of Libya's governing party the

Movement of Revolutionary Committees (MRC) for the London-based online newspaper Libya Al-Youm (www.libya-alyoum.com). The autopsy report referred to many signs of torture with most of his fingers severed, and multiple bruises and stab wounds to the body. A shot to the head killed him. Al-Shuhaibi, 32, also wrote for four years for the daily newspaper Al-Zhaf al-Akhdar (The Green March), which belongs to the MRC. However, he then took a strong stand on the corruption prevailing within the MRC and decided to stop writing for the government press. According to local sources, Al-Shuhaibi was briefly detained and questioned by Libyan security agents in April 2005.

**22 June - Iraq**

**Jassim Al-Qais:** Jassim Al-Qais, working for Iraqi daily, Al Siyada, and his son were shot dead as they were traveling on a road ten kilometres north of Baghdad. Al-Qais was at the wheel of his Kia when armed men opened fire killing him and his son on the spot. The motive for the murder remains under investigation.

**24 June - Iraq**

**Yasser Salihee:** Yasser Salihee, an Iraqi special correspondent for Knight Ridder, US newspaper group, was shot to death in Baghdad. The shot appears to have been fired by a US military sniper, though there were Iraqi soldiers in the area who also may have been shooting at the time. Salihee, 30, was driving alone near his home in the western Baghdad neighbourhood of Amariyah when a single bullet pierced his windshield and then his skull. He was shot as his car neared a joint patrol of American and Iraqi troops who had stopped to search a building for snipers. The US army continues to investigate the incident. US Humvees blocked three of the entry points to the

intersection that Salihee was approaching. It's unclear how well Salihee could have seen the troops, and whether they were standing in the road and waving motorists away, or taking cover by the side of the road in case of a sniper attack.

**25 June - Iraq**

**Maha Ibrahim:** Maha Ibrahim, a news editor with the local television station Baghdad TV, was killed when US troops opened fire after apparently coming under attack in a Baghdad neighborhood. Ibrahim and her husband, who also worked at the station, were on their way to the station, owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party. According to her colleagues, Ibrahim's car was hit as US troops attempted to disperse a crowd of people from a Baghdad road. They said Ibrahim was wounded in the stomach and that she died on arrival at a local hospital. Ibrahim's husband survived the shooting.

**28 June - Iraq**

**Ahmed Wael Bakri:** US troops allegedly killed an Iraqi television director and news producer working for Al-Sharqiyah television when he drove near a US convoy on his way home near southern Baghdad. The US military said it had no reports of the incident. Bakri was trying to pass by a traffic accident and wasn't paying attention to a US convoy when troops allegedly opened fire at his car. US soldiers fired at the car 15 times, and Bakri later died at Yarmouk Hospital.

**July****1 July - Iraq**

**Khaled Sabih Al-Attar:** Al-Attar, an Iraqi television producer for the state news channel Al-Iraqiyah was kidnapped in the north of Mosul city and his body was found a few hours

later in an empty lot on the west side. He had been shot to death. Al-Attar, 43, worked for a satirical program called “I don’t give a damn”, which made fun of the carelessness of staff in government offices. Al-Iraqiyah’s headquarters has been the target of several attacks because of the station’s ties to the US-supported Iraqi Government.

**23 July - Iraq**

**Adnan Al-Bayati:** Adnan Al-Bayati, a freelance Iraqi television producer and interpreter, was killed at his home in the Al-Adhamiya neighbourhood of Baghdad in the presence of his wife and daughter. Al-Bayati had been working for Italian television stations Rai, Mediaset and TG3, and for the magazine Panorama. Italian media believe Al-Bayati was targeted because of his work for TG3. The Web site Articolo 21 said that “Al-Bayati fell victim to revenge attacks by Sunni terrorist groups who do not let Iraqis work with foreigners, especially with western news media, above all Italian media.”

**August****02 August - Iraq**

**Steven Vincent:** US freelance reporter, Steven Vincent, was shot dead by unknown assailants in Basra. Vincent was abducted with his female Iraqi interpreter, Noor Al-Khal, at gunpoint by five assailants in a police car as they left a currency exchange shop. His bullet-riddled body was found on the side of a highway south of the city a few hours later. Al-Khal was seriously wounded and was hospitalised. Vincent was shot several times in the head and body. In an opinion article published in The Times on July 31, Vincent said police in Basra had fallen under the sway of Shiite religious groups, and he strongly

criticised British authorities in charge of police training for tolerating such influence. Vincent had been in Basra in recent months working for the Christian Science Monitor, the New York Times and the National Review. He had been writing a book about the city. Vincent was the first US journalist to be murdered in Iraq.

**August - Iraq**

**Rafed Mahmoud Said Al-Anbagy:** Al-Anbagy, a 36-year-old news anchor and director at Diyala TV, part of the U.S.-backed Iraq Media Network, was shot dead in Za’toun neighborhood in the city of Baaquba, east of Baghdad, while covering a football match. Al-Anbagy was interviewing one of the team’s coaches when gunmen opened fire, killing both men. Al-Anbagy was shot in the head. Local sources say they believe Al-Anbagy was killed because of his on-air criticism of insurgent groups and former Baathists and that Al-Anbagy had received several death threats for his reporting.

**28 August - Iraq**

**Waleed Khaled:** Waleed Khaled, a soundman working for Reuters, was shot dead by US military forces in Baghdad. Khaled, 35, was shot in the face and chest at least four times, as he drove with cameraman Haidar Kadhem to check a report of an incident involving police and gunmen in the western Hay Al-Adil district. Kadhem, the only known eyewitness, was wounded and was held by US forces at an undisclosed location for three days following the attack. Kadhem told reporters at the scene that he heard gunfire and saw a US sniper on the roof of a nearby shopping center. Lieutenant Steve Boylan, a US military spokesman in Iraq, said Kadhem was detained “due to inconsistencies in his story.” Waleed left behind a seven-year-old daughter and his wife, who

## Killed in 2005

was four-months pregnant at the time of his death.

## September

### 17 September - Iraq

**Hind Ismail:** Hind Ismail, a 28-year-old reporter for the local daily, As-Saffir, was kidnapped in the northern city of Mosul. Police in the southern suburb of al-Muthana found her body the next morning with a single bullet wound to the head. Staff members believe insurgents targeted the newspaper because it supported the new Iraqi constitution, urged citizens to vote, and frequently covered news and press conferences held by Iraqi police. The day before her abduction, Ismail had covered a police press conference. According to her colleagues, Ismail was tortured by her captors and forced to reveal the names of other staffers at the newspaper. The day after Ismail's death, insurgents circulated a list of newspaper staff and posted it on the walls of mosques in Mosul. On September 20, As-Saffir journalist Firas Maadidi was also killed.

### 17 September - Iraq

**Sabah Mohssin:** Sabah Mohssin, a driver for the Iraqi TV station Al-Iraqiya, was killed in Baghdad on 17

### 19 September - Iraq

**Fakher Haider:** Fakher Haider, a 38-year-old Iraqi working as a reporter for the New York Times was found dead in the southern city of Basra after being kidnapped by masked assailants. He was found with his hands bound and a single bullet wound to the head. Four masked assailants in a dark Toyota vehicle arrived at his family home in an apartment complex in central Basra after midnight. They said they were from the intelligence

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services and that they needed to speak to Haider in connection with an investigation. They bundled him into their vehicle and told his wife and family not to interfere. Haider had worked for the New York Times for over two years and also worked for Merbad TV in Basra, the Guardian of London, National Geographic, and other publications. Haider was married with three small children. According to local sources, his killing was connected to investigations that they had been undertaking concerning local security forces being under increasing control of militias loyal to two competing Shi'ite political groups.

### 20 September - Iraq

**Firas Maadidi:** Firas Maadidi, 40, the Mosul bureau chief for As-Saffir and chief editor of the local daily, Al-Masar, was killed outside his Mosul home in al-Noor neighborhood. Maadidi died in hospital after being shot in the head six times by unidentified assailants. The murder came just days after the slaying of Hind Ismail, a 28-year-old reporter for As-Saffir.

### 21 September – Iraq

**Ahlam Youssef:** Ahlam Youssef, an Iraqi engineer working for Al-Iraqiya television was gunned down in Mosul. Youssef was driving in her car with her husband, who was also killed, and her son, who was wounded in the attack.

## October

### 19 October - Iraq

**Mohammad Harun Hassan:** Harun Hassan, editor-in-chief of the Nabdh Al-Shabeb newspaper, was gunned down by unknown attackers in Baghdad city centre. He was known for being a well-respected senior journalist and an influential trade union activist who was Executive Secretary

## **Killed in 2005**

within the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate. Harrun Hassan was on his way to meet the editor-in-chief of the Baghdad paper Al-Qarar in the early afternoon when he was shot four times while driving near the Al Nahda quarter. In weeks before his death, he told colleagues that he had been threatened, told to resign his position at the syndicate, and lower his public profile.

## **November**

### **7 November - Iraq**

**Ahmed Hussein Al-Maliki:** Ahmed Hussein Al-Maliki, an Iraqi journalist working for Tall Afar (Today), an independent weekly covering local news, was found dead in the northern city of Mosul. He was shot, probably not long before his body was discovered. Insurgents kidnapped al-Maliki as he was leaving an Internet café in a northern district of the city two months prior to his death. No group to date have claimed responsibility for his abduction.

### **28 November - Iraq**

**Aqeel Abdul Ridha:** Muqdad Muhsin: Aqeel Abdul Ridha and Muqdad Muhsin working for the state-run Al-Iraqiyah TV network were killed in Baghdad. Gunmen inside a car opened fire on both Abdul Ridha and Muhsin in the western Baghdad neighbourhood of Adil.

## **December**

### **12 December - Lebanon**

**Gebran Tuani:** Gebran Tuani, managing director and editor of the Beirut independent daily An-Nahar, was among four people killed in the explosion that destroyed his car in the Mekalis area of mainly Christian east Beirut. Police say a parked car packed with explosives blew up as Tuani's car passed. The killing took place just a

## **International Federation of Journalists**

short time before the report of a United Nations special investigator into the February 14 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri was due to go to the United Nations Security Council. Earlier, an interim report said the evidence pointed towards the involvement of Syrian officials and their Lebanese allies in Hariri's killing. In June a columnist at An-Nahar, Samir Kassir, who also criticised Syrian policies, was killed by a car bomb. Lebanese Druze leader and politician Walid Jumblatt says that Gebran Tuani and An-Nahar were being threatened for a long time by Syria.

### **06 December - Iran - 68**

48 journalists and media staff were among the 94 passengers and crew killed in a military flight that crashed soon after takeoff in Tehran. The plane hit a Tehran apartment block and burst into flames killing at least 115 people. The media victims were predominantly Iranian radio and television journalists heading to cover military manoeuvres in southern Iran. The crash occurred when their plane, a C-130 four-engine turboprop, crashed in the Azari suburb of Tehran, also killing 21 people on the ground. The air force plane developed engine trouble soon after take off. The plane circled back for an emergency landing but crashed into a densely-populated residential area. Among the media victims were at least 30 state broadcasting network employees. The IFJ has supported calls for an immediate investigation into the cause of the crash, the latest in a string of fatal air accidents in Iran in recent years. Iran has an ageing, poorly-maintained fleet of aircraft due in part to US sanctions imposed in the 1990s which prevent it from buying US-built planes or spare parts.

## International Safety Fund 2005 REPORT

*IN A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED DEATH AND TRAGEDY IN JOURNALISM, THE IFJ INTERNATIONAL SAFETY FUND, WHICH PROVIDES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES, HAS PROVIDED ALMOST €100,000 IN URGENT AID.*

The Safety Fund, which is made up of money raised by individual journalists and IFJ unions, has taken up cases in 30 countries and intervened to provide special support for the media victims of natural disasters and accidents. It has also helped to pay the hospital bills of injured journalists, has flown threatened colleagues to safe exile and contributed to legal costs in court actions to defend journalists rights in countries where often poverty and social conflict makes it impossible for journalists to help themselves.

The Safety Fund has also given assistance to families of journalists in countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Belarus, Nicaragua, Philippines, Bangladesh and Somalia.

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

1. The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily as a once-off emergency assistance fund for journalists and media staff who are injured in the line of duty, primarily in the so-called “hot-spots” of the world and in cases where the media employing the journalist/media staffer is not capable of covering such costs. This assistance can be in the form of travel, medical or subsistence costs.

2. The Safety Fund can also be used on case-by-case limited basis to assist in legal fees for journalists/media staff that again cannot find sufficient support from their employer. Finally, the Safety Fund can provide immediate assistance for the families of journalists and media staff whose ‘bread-winner’ has been killed and who have no means to sustain themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The IFJ Safety Fund can only continue to assist journalists if its future is secured. In order to go out, money must come in.

## **Solidarity in Action: 2005 Assistance from IFJ Safety Fund Nears €100,000 in Year of Record Death Toll**

### **Special Assistance Cases in 2005**

**Tsunami:** The IFJ Safety Fund which established a special crisis fund for the victims of the tsunami in 2004 has now been responsible for the donation of over €60,000 to its affiliates in both Indonesia and Sri Lanka. A further €30,000 raised during the year is now being distributed for follow-up relief work. An expert from the National Union of Journalists of the UK & Ireland went to the region in November to discuss with the IFJ's affiliates support for strategies to rebuild the media landscape in these two countries.

**Pakistan:** A special fund was also set up in May 2005 in the name of former IFJ Senior Vice-President Gustl Glattfelder. A part of this fund combined with the Safety Fund to total €10,000 is being given for immediate assistance to journalists and their families affected by the October earthquake disaster in Pakistan. The IFJ has been told by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists that 3 journalists have been killed and close to 25 journalists are missing or injured and that many media families are among the homeless and those affected by the disaster.

**Nepal:** A total of €6000 has now been donated to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) to assist journalists under attack and in exile since the Royal coup in February.

**Guinea:** A total of up to €3000 is being administered through the IFJ Africa Regional Office to assist victims of a tragic road crash in the Guinea Bissau region of Gabu, some 200km from the capital Bissau. The tyre of the mini-van in which they were travelling burst and the van somersaulted. Two journalists, Sori Baldé working for Televisão da Guiné-Bissau (TGB) and Aruna Djamanca from the newspaper Kansaré died on the spot.

**Iran:** following the Tehran military aircraft disaster in which 68 journalists and media staff died the IFJ Safety Fund made available an immediate €5000 to help the Iranian Association of Journalists cope with the urgent needs in the aftermath of the tragedy.

### **Cases of On-going Assistance**

**(January – December 2005)** Amounts of between €700 and €3000 have been paid out to support individuals and groups in the following cases:

**Dominican Republic / Haiti:** Support was given, in cooperation with the Committee to Protect Journalists, for two Dominican journalists and one Haitian journalist who had been receiving constant death threats for their investigative work into crime and corruption, following the murder of their colleague, Juan Andujar in September 2004.

**Colombia:** At the beginning of the year, assistance was given to support a Colombian radio journalist who exiled from the North of the country to the capital in Bogota

while waiting for a transfer to a third country. He had received threats and his father was killed by the FARC, his mother threatened by the paramilitaries and his cousin killed by criminals.

**The Gambia:** Assistance was given to two female media staffers working with AFP correspondent, Deida Hydera, when he was killed on December 16 2004. The money facilitated the transportation of both colleagues to Senegal where they could receive medical attention to gun-shot wounds after being left for over a week without care in Banjul. Ecuador: In April, the IFJ joined Amnesty International and Frontline Defenders in supporting the emergency evacuation of a radio director who along with his family had received numerous death threats for his critical work on crime and corruption.

**Ethiopia:** On 9 May, the IFJ helped an Ethiopian journalist and executive member of the IFJ Ethiopian affiliate, EFJA, who was applying for asylum in the UK and could not return to his country due to threats to his life. His application was being supported by the IFJ UK and Irish affiliate, the NUJ. Belarus: The IFJ provided assistance to the wife of a Belarusian cameraman for Russian Public Television (ORT) who disappeared in Minsk on July 7, 2000.

**Kyrgyzstan:** Support was given to the chair of the Kyrgyzstan Journalists' Union, who had his legs broken during the demonstrations in Kyrgyzstan in March 2005.

**Kurdistan:** Through the courageous help of the IFJ Greek affiliate, the Journalists' Union of the Athens Daily Newspapers, a Kurdish journalist and his son were brought to Athens following the suicide bomb attacks in Irbil on 1 February, 2004 in which 12 journalists were killed. The reporter needed a special operation to have his leg amputated in a hospital in Athens and finally was moved to a hospital in Germany. Nicaragua: Support was given to the family of a Nicaraguan reporter working for La Prensa, who was murdered by the former mayor of El Ayote while covering local elections in Juigalpa.

**Philippines:** The IFJ Safety Fund gave support to the family of a Filipino radio journalist who was killed on 13 May 2002. Two unidentified individuals riding a motorcycle shot the journalist who worked for the public radio DXKP and was an editor of the local Zamboanga Scribe at point-blank range. He had written numerous articles about corruption in political and police circles in the region.

**Afghanistan/Turkey:** Support was given to an Afghan journalist working for Aftab weekly newspaper in Kabul, who fled to Turkey and continues to seek political asylum through the UNHCR process. The IFJ Turkish affiliate, the Progressive Journalists' Association, administered aid and played a vital role in pushing the journalist's case through the UNHCR and the local Turkish administration.

**Palestine:** The IFJ worked with the UK-based Rory Peck Trust to support two Palestinian freelance cameramen who needed special surgery in the UK following injuries they sustained while working for Ramattan studios in the Territories.

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** The IFJ in conjunction with Journalists en Danger (JED) supported the cases of three journalists under fire in Bukavu, East Congo.

**Bangladesh:** Support given to family of a senior journalist from Bangladesh, who was an executive editor for the Bogra-based daily DurjoyBangla, and was hacked to death near his home in Sherpur in October 2004.

**Nepal:** In March 2005, the IFJ gave assistance to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists to set up safety nodes around the country for journalists in threat following the Royal coup. Support was also given to an investigative reporter who had fled to India after torture and death threats from the Nepalese security forces and the Maoists.

**Tanzania/Kenya:** The Fund supported a Tanzanian journalist was arrested and tortured for an article he wrote for the English language newspaper The African on 14/02/2003. The journalist had moved to Kenya, but his family remained stranded in Tanzania. After his article came out the Malawi High Commissioner phoned the Tanzanian authorities to accuse them of “inciting the army to overthrow the president and destabilizing the situation in the great lake zone”. Prior to this incident he had written extensively on corruption and the need to have a new constitution in the country (Tanzania) and so his editor moved him from home news to foreign news. His editor was also threatened.

**Nepal:** In March, the IFJ Safety Fund helped with accommodation and subsistence costs for two Nepalese journalists who escaped to New Delhi after the February coup. The IFJ Asia-Pacific office has secured additional funding from International Media Support (IMS) to set up on-going accommodation and subsistence for both these journalists as well as other Nepalese journalists displaced to New Delhi.

**Kenya:** The IFJ Safety Fund gave assistance to an injured Kenyan freelance journalist following a request for joint assistance from both the Rory Peck Trust and CPJ. This assistance will allow Wallace to regain

## **IFJ Gustl Glattfelder Solidarity Fund**

In a year in which earthquakes, hurricanes and floods overwhelmed communities and made the headlines in many parts of the world, the IFJ launched an initiative to provide humanitarian relief for the media victims of natural disasters.

The fund was set up in the name of Gustl Glattfelder who died this year after many years service to his union, the Deutscher Journalisten Verband, and to the IFJ in which he served as Senior Vice President and Chairman of the European Federation of Journalists. Glattfelder, who retired in 2004 from all his union positions, died on May 24 from a heart attack following treatment for cancer. At his funeral in his home town of Baden Baden, Germany, on June 1, special mention was made of his dedication and commitment to the cause of international solidarity.

When announcing his death, his family relayed Gustl's express wishes, in keeping with his commitment to international solidarity, to donate any practical expressions of sympathy to the IFJ International Safety Fund and from this the IFJ Gustl Glattfelder Solidarity Fund was born.

Following the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, Gustl's family expressed their wishes and those of Gustl to support the victims and their families by using the money donated in Gustl's name.

“For more than 15 years Gustl was a towering and well-loved figure on the IFJ and EFJ landscape,” said the IFJ President Christopher Warren, EFJ Chair Arne Konig and IFJ/ EFJ General Secretary, Aidan White. “His support for the victims in Pakistan continues the spirit of generosity that he displayed all throughout his life as a journalist”.

Gustl was a distinguished radio journalist with a long career in German Regional Radio (Sudwestfunk). He became a member of the IFJ Executive Committee at Baia Chia, Italy in 1990 and at the same time entered as the founding President of the EFJ and was the Vice-President of his union the DJV since 1986.

### **How to donate**

Please send donations to the IFJ member union in your country; the money will be forwarded in a lump sum and will cut the administration costs of the Fund.

Alternatively you can send the money to:

The IFJ Safety Fund  
A/C: BE64 2100 7857 0052  
Swift Code: GEBABEBB  
Fortis Bank, Rond Point Schuman 10  
1040 Brussels, Belgium

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

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

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

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

However, there are steps that journalists and media organisations should take to minimise the risks to staff. In particular, the following are vital considerations in providing protection: Adequate preparation, training and social protection. It is essential that journalists and media staff be in a state of readiness when difficulties arise. There should be a framework for providing individuals with health care and social protection.

Media professionals must be informed and inform themselves about the political, physical, and social terrain in which they are working. They must not contribute to the uncertainty and insecurity of their conditions through ignorance or reckless behaviour.

Media organisations must guard against risk-taking for competitive advantage, and should promote co-operation among journalists whenever conditions exist which are potentially hazardous. Governments must remove obstacles to journalism. They must not restrict unnecessarily the freedom of movement of journalists or compromise the right of news media to gather, produce and disseminate information in secure and safe conditions.

**People Must Keep Their Hands Off Media.** Everyone should respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff at work. Physical interference with filming or other journalistic work must be prohibited.

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

- 1. Journalists and other media staff shall be properly equipped for all assignments including the provision of first-aid materials, communication tools, adequate transport facilities and, where necessary, protective clothing;**
- 2. Media organisations and, where appropriate, state authorities shall provide risk awareness training for those journalists and media workers who are likely to be involved in assignments where dangerous conditions prevail or may be reasonably expected;**
- 3. Public authorities shall inform their personnel of the need to respect the rights of journalists and shall instruct them to respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff while at work.**
- 4. Media organisations shall provide social protection for all staff engaged in journalistic activity outside the normal place of work, including life insurance;**
- 5. Media organisations shall provide, free of charge, medical treatment and health care, including costs of recuperation and convalescence, for journalists and media workers who are the victims of injury or illness as a result of their work outside the normal place of work;**
- 6. Media organisations shall protect freelance or part-time employees. They must receive, on an equal basis, the same social protection and access to training and equipment as that made available to fully employed staff.**