



CPJ The Committee to Protect Journalists
promotes media freedom worldwide.
We take action when journalists are censored,
jailed, kidnapped, or killed for their work.
CPJ is an independent, nonprofit
organization founded in 1981.

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COVER: A journalist gags her mouth to protest violent attacks against members of the media by alleged supporters of President Hugo Chávez in Venezuela.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/FERNANDO LLANO

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

This is an incredibly exciting time to be defending independent journalists and free expression. Digital technologies are enabling new forms of journalism and contributing to a global culture of greater openness and transparency. There are more people practicing journalism than ever before.

The new technologies, however, can be a boon to repressive governments—allowing for surveillance and censorship on an unprecedented scale. In 2009, half of all imprisoned journalists were targeted for work published online.

The Internet is also transforming the news business, which has enormous implications for our work. As media companies eliminate foreign bureaus and cut staff positions, freelancers are on the front-lines of reporting the news around the world. Freelance journalists are especially vulnerable to arrest and intimidation because they often lack the legal and financial support that large news organizations can provide to staffers.

Journalists of all stripes increasingly work independently—that is to say, alone.

These trends make CPJ's work even more vitally important. When journalists are imprisoned, we campaign for their release. When journalists are forced into exile, we help support them. When journalists are killed for their work, we demand justice.

In 2009, our advocacy helped secure the release from prison of 45 journalists. Successes included high-profile cases such as that of Iranian-American freelance journalist Roxana Saberi. Originally sentenced to eight years in prison on allegations of espionage, Saberi was released on May 11. She had spent nearly four months in detention. CPJ led international advocacy efforts on Saberi's behalf—working closely with her family, press freedom groups around the world, and with the news organizations she reported for, including ABC, NPR, and the BBC.

We offered direct assistance to 87 journalists around the world—in many cases helping to save them from imminent arrest or attack. For example, CPJ helped arrange for the emergency evacuation from Somalia of radio journalist Ahmed Omar Hashi. CPJ supported his relocation to Uganda, helped him obtain essential medical care, including treatment for trauma, and supported his claim for resettlement through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Really, I cannot forget as long as I live how CPJ helped me,” Hashi wrote to us. “I would never have a life without CPJ.”

Journalists depend on us to tell their stories to the world so that they cannot be targeted with impunity. As you read some of their stories in the pages of this report, I hope you will be reminded of what makes journalism so urgent and essential and worth saving.

Joel Simon
Executive Director



REUTERS/AMIR COHEN

Journalists photograph Israeli troops near the northern Gaza Strip on January 7, 2009, amid a three-week military offensive.

CPJ has been a leading voice in the global press freedom movement for nearly 30 years. Our knowledge and credibility enable us to directly engage world leaders and policymakers on press freedom issues.

Our staff of journalists and human rights researchers provides expert information on reporting conditions in more than 120 countries, from authoritarian states such as Cuba and Burma to the fragmented nations of Afghanistan and Somalia. We respond to attacks against the press through five regional programs: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa.

Our International Program Network includes consultants and stringers in Mexico City, Moscow, Bangkok, Johannesburg, and Nairobi. CPJ representatives in Washington, Madrid, and Brussels help lead our international advocacy.

In April 2010, we hired an Internet advocacy coordinator to meet the growing challenges of defending freedom of expression and privacy online.

CPJ works with local journalists and foreign correspondents to expose attacks against the press and identify those responsible for abuses. We carry out research and advocacy missions to respond to press freedom crises. We publish news alerts, special reports, and open letters to heads of state. We organize petition drives and international campaigns on behalf of journalists in prison. All of our published work is available on our website, cpj.org.

We join forces with other press freedom and human rights organizations around the world, sharing information on breaking news and organizing joint field missions. Generating media attention is a vital component of our work. By publicly revealing abuses against the press and championing threatened journalists, CPJ directly confronts those who seek to silence the messenger.

There are times when advocacy alone is not enough. Our Journalist Assistance program provides direct aid to journalists in crisis situations. We offer emergency grants to imprisoned journalists and their families. We help journalists who are injured after violent attacks or forced into exile. We also provide crucial non-financial assistance, including support for asylum claims.

CPJ is a non-partisan organization, and we defend journalists and news organizations without regard to their political ideology. Through our work to help protect journalists, CPJ protects the rights of all people to have access to diverse and independent sources of information. ■



REUTERS/FESAL OMAR

The Islamist insurgent group Al-Shabaab has consolidated control over much of the country, imposing censorship through violence and intimidation.

The decimation of the Somali press corps has greatly diminished firsthand reporting.

Two decades of conflict have left Somalia a shattered state. Since 2007, escalating fighting between government troops and insurgent groups has led to the deaths of more than 20,000 people and driven another 1.5 million from their homes, according to the United Nations.

Somalia is among the world's deadliest countries for the media, with more than 20 journalists killed for their work in the last five years alone. Threats come from militants, government forces, and assorted criminals in an atmosphere of widespread lawlessness. The dangers are so great that few independent journalists are left in the country to document what is happening.

CPJ reports regularly on the risks facing journalists in Somalia, and, through its advocacy, seeks to improve security conditions for the press. We also work closely with regional media and human rights groups to help support journalists pushed into exile.

At least 60 journalists have been forced into exile in recent years, diminishing the flow of firsthand reporting. "There's little question that the decimation of Somali journalists—by assassination or through exile—has reduced the quantity and quality of news coming out of that country," Paul Salopek, a veteran international correspondent, told CPJ.

As the Islamist insurgent group Al-Shabaab has consolidated power, the group has imposed its own brand of censorship through violence and intimidation. In 2010, Al-Shabaab controlled most of central and southern Somalia and parts of the capital, Mogadishu.

In November 2009, CPJ honored Somali journalist Mustafa Haji Abdinur with its International Press Freedom Award. The prize was intended to honor Abdinur for his extraordinary courage, as well as draw international attention to the beleaguered Somali media community. "We need your support now more than ever," Abdinur told the audience of distinguished journalists gathered for the awards ceremony in New York. "Please don't forget us." ■



REUTERS/DESMOND BOTMAN

Members of the Ladies in White, a group made up of family members of imprisoned journalists and political dissidents, march through Havana.

Cuban repression is more subtle now and is applied with fewer traces. But Cuba is still a dark corner.

For years, CPJ has campaigned for the release of imprisoned journalists in Cuba. As of December 1, 2009, the small island nation was the world's third-worst jailer of journalists, with 21 journalists in prison. Most of them had been rounded up in the March 2003 crackdown on dissent that came to be known as the "Black Spring."

CPJ has led international advocacy efforts on behalf of journalists imprisoned in Cuba, and carried out a series of meetings with Spanish officials to ask for their intervention. At the time of this writing, advocacy efforts were beginning to pay off. We learned in July 2010 that the government planned to release 52 political prisoners, including journalists, over a four-month period. The deal was brokered by the Roman Catholic Church and Spanish diplomats. Fourteen journalists were among those freed by the time we went to press in August.

Much work remains to be done. Even after the diplomatic breakthrough, seven Cuban journalists were waiting behind bars, and CPJ is concerned that imprisoned journalists are being forced into exile as a condition of their release. Independent journalists in Cuba are still routinely harassed by security police. Internet regulations are among the most restrictive in the world.

Despite the obstacles, Cubans are finding ways to exercise their right to free expression. Our 2009 special report, "Chronicling Cuba, Bloggers Offer Fresh Hope," describes a lively online culture where writers examine subjects that are off-limits to state media, such as food shortages, health care, and housing.

CPJ gives these independent voices a platform on its website. "The repression is more subtle now and is applied with fewer traces," wrote Cuban blogger Laritza Diversent, in a piece for the CPJ Blog in March 2010. "But Cuba is still a dark corner, a country where freedom of expression is a crime if it contradicts the goals of the socialist system." ■



REUTERS/FANAL AZIZ

A journalist calls for help after an attack on the Peshawar Press Club, where a suicide bomber killed four people and wounded 26.

Either you cover it from the side of the militants or from the side of the government. Cover it independently and your life is at risk.

Journalists in Pakistan face threats from a dizzying range of actors—including Taliban fighters and other militants, state security forces, corrupt local officials, and religious extremists. Since 2001, CPJ has documented the deaths of 26 journalists in Pakistan, all but two of them local reporters.

CPJ has traveled to Pakistan three times in the past four years to report on the growing dangers to journalists. In 2009, we produced a five-part online series, "The Frontier War," which chronicled the risks of reporting on the conflict and recommended specific measures to better protect local journalists. Our mission followed the first of two major military operations launched by the government against the Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups.

During the Pakistani military's offensive in the Swat Valley, much of the local press corps joined the estimated 2 million people who fled the all-out assault. The homes of six journalists were destroyed in what appeared to be targeted militant attacks. CPJ provided an emergency grant to support journalists with the greatest needs.

Frontline reporting was largely handled by Pakistani journalists from outside the region who had embedded with the military. When the military launched an offensive in South Waziristan, the Pakistani army restricted access to conflict areas and did not allow reporters to embed with troops until late in the operation. Even then, embedded journalists were forced to comply with severe military restrictions.

Journalists said they have had few good options when reporting on the conflict. "Either you cover it from the side of the militants or go over and cover it from the side of the government," said Muhammad Arshad Sharif, a correspondent for Pakistan's Dawn TV News. "Cover it independently and your life is at risk."

CPJ planned a follow-up mission to the region in late 2010. ■

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA FOCUS ON AZERBAIJAN



REUTERS/DAVID MOZDARSHVILI

A plainclothes police officer detains an opposition activist during a rally in the capital, Baku, calling for free speech.

**Until I draw
my last breath,
I will be
investigating
this
assassination.**

CPJ has maintained a spotlight on Azerbaijan, one of the region's most repressive states. President Ilham Aliyev has tightened his grip on the oil-rich Caspian Sea nation, pushing through a constitutional change that will allow him to stay in office for life. Intolerant of dissent, his regime aggressively pursues critics in the independent media.

After long-term advocacy by CPJ and other groups, authorities released five journalists in 2009 and 2010. As of July 1, however, three journalists remained behind bars. CPJ has provided a series of emergency grants to help support imprisoned journalists in Azerbaijan. The funds have been used to help pay for the journalists' medical treatment, legal fees, and urgent assistance to their families.

CPJ also demanded an independent investigation into the death in state custody of newspaper editor Novruzali Mamedov, 68. Mamedov died two years into a 10-year prison sentence on a fabricated treason charge. Authorities ignored appeals to release Mamedov on humanitarian grounds and did not provide adequate medical treatment.

In November 2009, CPJ honored the jailed editor Eynulla Fatullayev with its International Press Freedom Award. Fatullayev was arrested in April 2007 in retaliation for his reporting on the unsolved murder of journalist Elmar Huseynov, his former boss and mentor. "Until I draw my last breath, I will be investigating this assassination," Fatullayev told the newspaper *Yeni Musavat*. CPJ continues to work for the journalist's release and will present his award when he is free.

A CPJ delegation led by prominent board members met with Azerbaijan's chargé d'affaires in Washington, D.C., in January 2010, delivering a letter signed by more than 500 international journalists seeking Fatullayev's immediate release. Responding to the international outcry, the European Court of Human Rights also demanded that Fatullayev be freed. CPJ called on the government to comply with the court's April 2010 ruling. ■

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA FOCUS ON IRAN



REUTERS/RANS NEWS/HASAN GHAEI

Journalist Ahmad Zaid-Abadi (R) was sentenced to six years in prison and five years of exile after a mass trial involving some 100 defendants.

**We live
in an era
in which you
cannot stop
the flow of
information.**

Amid the greatest national political upheaval since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran launched a full-scale assault on the media and the opposition. In June 2009, protests erupted in response to presidential election results showing incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad winning by a large margin. As outcry against perceived electoral fraud spiraled into mass demonstrations, Iranian authorities threw dozens of journalists behind bars, shuttered and censored news outlets, and barred foreign journalists from reporting.

Blogs and social media sites filled the void in coverage and became leading news sources, despite government attempts to control digital communications. Iran is at the forefront of online repression in the Middle East, CPJ found in an October 2009 special report, "The Street Leads Online."

At least 37 journalists were still behind bars in Iran as of June 1, with another 19 detainees free on short-term furloughs, according to CPJ research. CPJ has helped secure the release from prison of four journalists and provided direct assistance to more than 30 journalists who were forced into hiding or exile.

Successful interventions included a high-profile campaign on behalf of Maziar Bahari, a *Newsweek* correspondent freed after a grueling 118 days in a Tehran prison. Bahari, who was subjected to physical and psychological torture in custody, was released on bail in October 2009—just in time to witness the birth of his first child. Since his release, Bahari has worked with CPJ on an international campaign to draw sustained attention to the dozens of journalists still behind bars.

"Do you think you can stop dissent by throwing those who report it in jail?" Bahari asked Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in an open letter published in the *International Herald Tribune*. "I'm not sure what your advisers are telling you. But we live in an era in which you cannot stop the flow of information." ■



ASSOCIATED PRESS/RODRIGO ABO

One must read between the lines of newspaper coverage of Mexico's drug wars as reporters increasingly resort to self-censorship for self-preservation.

I am committed to journalism. But first I am committed to survival.

CPJ has a wider global presence than ever before through our International Program Network of stringers and consultants, an initiative supported by Bloomberg LP and the Oak Foundation. The IPN team includes representatives in Mexico City, Moscow, Bangkok, Johannesburg, and Nairobi. Having regional representatives has greatly improved our ability to respond to crisis situations.

For example, IPN Mexico consultant Mike O'Connor has written a series of reports about escalating violence against journalists. He meets regularly with local legislators and media freedom advocates to push for a stronger federal response to attacks against the press. O'Connor is a veteran journalist who has reported for news organizations including CBS News, National Public Radio, and *The New York Times*.

Mexico is the most dangerous country in Latin America for the media. Since 1992, 44 journalists have been killed in Mexico. At least 19 were slain in direct reprisal for their work. Eight journalists have disappeared since 2005.

CPJ's years-long campaign for accountability for these crimes began to pay off in 2009, when the Chamber of Deputies voted unanimously to add to the federal penal code penalties for crimes against "journalistic activity." CPJ is also urging the Mexican Congress to reform the constitution to grant federal authorities broader jurisdiction over crimes against free expression.

In 2010, O'Connor contributed on-the-ground reporting to our flagship project documenting the unsolved killings of journalists in Mexico. This project, led by Carlos Lauría, senior program coordinator for the Americas, builds on a series of articles CPJ has published over the last two years to draw public and political attention to the crisis of impunity for journalist murders.

Our concerns include a spreading culture of self-censorship as journalists avoid reporting on crime and corruption out of fear for their safety. "I am committed to journalism," one editor told CPJ. "But first I am committed to survival." ■



JEFF KUBINA

Internet advocacy coordinator Danny O'Brien has been at the forefront of the digital rights movement for more than a decade.

Danny O'Brien joined CPJ in April 2010 as our Internet advocacy coordinator, a new position created to meet the growing threats to media freedom online. O'Brien has fought for digital rights for more than a decade, most recently as international outreach coordinator for the Electronic Frontier Foundation. In 2006, he helped found the Open Rights Group, a digital rights organization based in the United Kingdom. He has worked as a journalist covering technology and culture for *Wired UK*, *The Sunday Times* of London, and *The Irish Times*.

Q Why do journalists need someone to defend the Internet as a platform?

A Last year, half of all journalists imprisoned for their work were connected to the Internet in some way. Online journalists don't have the same protections as journalists working for large media companies. They're often working on their own. They're at the forefront of doing some challenging journalism, often in countries where there isn't a tradition of a free press. An organization like CPJ has to get ahead of these trends and work out where are the weak points.

Q Which country is the most aggressive about controlling the Internet?

A China is the elephant in the room. Before China, people believed the Internet would be uncensorable—that the costs of trying to control it would be beyond the capability of any government. China put the lie to that. So far, they have spent over \$1 billion on the Golden Shield, the system that includes internal surveillance and censorship. Very clumsy censorship is the thing that gets the headlines, but it's often the subtle forms of control that are the most effective. China wants Chinese citizens to feel that they're being watched. It doesn't matter how much independent media you have online if ordinary Chinese people feel too intimidated to look at it.

Q What can media and telecommunications companies do to promote free expression online?

A We are working with companies through the Global Network Initiative to find ways to better protect free speech and privacy online. Free speech is a vested interest for them. It costs a lot for a company to censor what passes through its systems. And it's a losing game. An Internet company can never live up to the demands of countries like China or other authoritarian regimes. There will always be content that slips through.

In 2009, half of all imprisoned journalists were targeted for work published online.

JOURNALIST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CPJ provided direct assistance to 87 journalists in 2009—in many cases helping to save them from imminent arrest or attack.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ASSOCIATED PRESS/MIKHAIL METZEL; COURTESY OF TIKA BISTA; COURTESY OF AHMED OMAR HASHI; EHSAN MALEKI/SIPA PRESS

Our Journalist Assistance program helps journalists whose needs cannot be addressed by advocacy alone—journalists injured in violent attacks, forced into exile, and imprisoned in harsh conditions. We work closely with journalists over the long term, for months and even years, to develop effective strategies for managing a crisis.

We offer both financial and non-financial assistance to journalists and their families, and we work with other human rights and media organizations to coordinate aid. CPJ lobbies governments and international agencies to help secure refugee or asylum status for journalists.

In 2009, we provided assistance to 87 journalists around the world—in many cases helping to save them from imminent arrest or attack.

For example, CPJ helped arrange for the emergency evacuation from Somalia of journalist **Ahmed Omar Hashi** after repeated attempts on his life. Gunmen shot Hashi, news editor of Radio Shabelle, as he was walking through Mogadishu's Bakara Market. When the hospital where he was being treated came under fire, CPJ arranged for his immediate relocation to a more secure area and then for his flight to Uganda. We helped him obtain essential medical care, including treatment for trauma, provided a subsidy for basic living expenses, and supported his claim for resettlement through the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Really, I cannot forget as long as I live how CPJ helped me," Hashi wrote to us. "I would never have a life without CPJ."

Worldwide, at least 85 journalists fled their home countries between June 2009 and June 2010, according to CPJ's annual survey of exiled journalists. The report, which marked World Refugee Day on June 20,

highlighted the plight of journalists forced to leave their homes in the face of attacks, threats, or the risk of imprisonment. Countries with the highest exile rates over this 12-month period included Iran, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

Since Tehran's crackdown on the media began in June 2009, CPJ has helped 30 Iranian journalists forced into hiding or exile under threat of arrest. Photojournalist **Ehsan Maleki** was at risk after sending pictures of anti-government demonstrations to Sipa Press, an international photo agency. He eventually made his way across the Iranian border into Iraqi Kurdistan by crawling amid a herd of sheep. CPJ funds helped sustain Maleki in exile. We secured an emergency visa for him to travel to France, bought his airline ticket to Paris, arranged temporary housing for him there, and provided an additional subsidy for living expenses until he was eligible for French government assistance.

I cannot forget how CPJ helped me. I would never have a life without CPJ.

CPJ can help provide longer-term support for journalists recovering from serious injuries. Russian journalist **Mikhail Beketov** was brutally beaten in reprisal for his newspaper's reporting on environmental issues and local corruption in Khimki, a Moscow suburb. On November 13, 2008, neighbors found Beketov lying unconscious in a pool of blood, in the front garden of his home. Attackers had broken his skull, smashed the fingers of both hands, broken his legs, and left him for dead in the freezing cold. CPJ provided ongoing financial support to Beketov over the course of multiple surgeries, physical rehabilitation, and speech therapy lasting more than a year.

In Nepal, journalist **Tika Bista** was beaten, slashed with razor blades, and left unconscious in the forest near her home in Rukum district, western Nepal. She was targeted after her commentary in the weekly *Jan-tidhara* criticized local Maoist politicians for their use of violence and intimidation. CPJ provided support for Bista's medical treatment in Kathmandu and helped subsidize her family's travel expenses so they could be with her during recovery. Bista said the support motivated her to fight for press freedom. "The attack and aftermath have given me more responsibility," she said. "The journalistic fraternity is with me." ■

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A woman holds a photograph of Russian journalist Mikhail Beketov at a demonstration in Moscow; Tika Bista recovers from her injuries at a hospital in Kathmandu; Ahmed Omar Hashi with his wife and two children in exile in Uganda; A self-portrait by photographer Ehsan Maleki; CPJ consultant Karen Phillips with a group of Somali journalists living in exile in Uganda—from left to right: Omar Nur Gutale, Bashir Diriye Naleye, Hassan Mohamed Ahmed, Elmi Osman Farah, and Mohamed Mahmoud Odoua; BELOW: Hashi lies wounded after an attack by masked gunmen that killed his close colleague.



ASSOCIATED PRESS/MOHAMED SHEIKH NOR

With 71 journalists killed for their work, 2009 was the deadliest year for the media ever recorded by CPJ.

The toll was driven by the election-related slaughter of 32 journalists and media workers in the Philippine province of Maguindanao, the worst event for the press in CPJ history.

As in previous years, most of the victims were targeted for murder. Even in war zones, murder is the leading cause of death for journalists. Who were these journalists, and what was their urgent work? Who killed them, and why? These are questions we pursue day after day.

With support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, CPJ has established the Global Campaign Against Impunity to bring the killers of journalists to justice. We began with pilot projects in the Philippines and Russia—countries that are among the deadliest for journalists and among the worst in solving these murders. In both countries, the large number of unsolved killings has had a devastating effect on the journalism profession and on society at large. Unchecked violence encourages self-censorship, as journalists pull back from covering sensitive topics.

In the Philippines, CPJ has undertaken several research and advocacy missions to draw attention to the impunity crisis. In late 2009, shortly after the Maguindanao massacre, CPJ dispatched its South-east Asia representative to the Philippines to join an independent investigative team that interviewed witnesses, victims' relatives, and local investigators. CPJ has issued a series of reports about developments in this and other landmark cases in the Philippines. We work with local and regional groups to provide targeted financial and legal assistance to the families of slain journalists.

Family members cry during a funeral for journalists killed in the Maguindanao massacre in the southern Philippines.



We are also pressing for the prosecution of journalist murders in Russia. In September 2009, CPJ released a 72-page report, "Anatomy of Injustice: The Unsolved Killings of Journalists in Russia," which examined the murders of 17 journalists over the past decade. We are pursuing our recommendations directly with the Russian government, European governments and institutions, and the United Nations.

Our campaign has helped to advance prosecution efforts in key murder cases. The battle against impunity remains a long-term struggle because of the complexities of the cases and the larger challenges posed by weak and dysfunctional law enforcement institutions. But high-level, coordinated advocacy led by CPJ is beginning to transform the legal landscape in both countries. And we have put the issue of impunity on the international agenda.

CPJ is now building a global coalition to fight for justice. In April 2010, CPJ organized an Impunity Summit in New York at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Participants included journalists and press freedom advocates from Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka—many of whom had seen close colleagues killed in the line of duty. The delegates left the summit with an international action plan.

If anyone had reason to be pessimistic about such efforts, it would be Sergei Sokolov, deputy editor of the independent Moscow newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, who has lost five of his colleagues in targeted killings. When asked if the summit was useful, Sokolov responded vigorously. "Yes, of course. Because the worst thing in the world is to feel isolated," he said. "International attention to impunity is the only thing that can make a difference." ■

2010 IMPUNITY INDEX

Here are the 12 countries where journalists are murdered on a recurring basis and governments fail to prosecute the killers.

- 1 Iraq
- 2 Somalia
- 3 Philippines
- 4 Sri Lanka
- 5 Colombia
- 6 Afghanistan
- 7 Nepal
- 8 Russia
- 9 Mexico
- 10 Pakistan
- 11 Bangladesh
- 12 India



Vera Politkovskaya, daughter of slain Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, talks to CPJ board member Kati Marton in Moscow about the family's efforts to pursue justice.

Methodology: CPJ's Impunity Index ranks nations based on the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. CPJ examined every nation worldwide for the period January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2009.



Our International Press Freedom Awards ceremony in New York City brings together hundreds of media and business leaders to celebrate journalists who risk everything to tell the truth. Our November 2009 event was chaired by Robert Thomson, managing editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, and hosted by Christiane Amanpour, CPJ board member and acclaimed international correspondent.

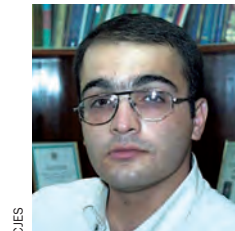
CPJ honored Naziha Réjiba (Tunisia), Mustafa Haji Abdinur (Somalia), Eynulla Fatullayev (Azerbaijan), and J.S. Tissainayagam (Sri Lanka). CPJ advocacy on behalf of Tissainayagam, who was imprisoned at the time of the awards ceremony, resulted in the journalist's release in January 2010.

Chinese journalist Jiang Weiping, who was honored with the CPJ award in 2001 while serving a prison sentence, was finally free to travel to New York to accept his long-overdue recognition. "Today, I have my freedom, but there are 26 of my colleagues in China still in prison for doing their duty," Jiang told the crowd. "They need our attention."

The benefit raised more than \$1.3 million to support CPJ's work on behalf of journalists worldwide. ■



Clockwise from top left: CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon and board member Gwen Ifill (R) with journalist Ronnate Tissainayagam, who accepted CPJ's award on behalf of her jailed husband, J.S. Tissainayagam; award winner Naziha Réjiba enjoys the evening; CPJ board member and dinner host Christiane Amanpour banters with Harry Smith, co-anchor of "The Early Show" on CBS; Anthony Lewis, who received the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for lifetime achievement, celebrates with Bill Keller, executive editor of *The New York Times*, Jiang Weiping, a 2001 International Press Freedom Award-winner, and Zhao Yan, a former researcher for *The New York Times* Beijing bureau who served three years in prison for his reporting.



**EYNULLA
FATULLAYEV**
Azerbaijan

When his friend and colleague Elmar Huseynov was murdered, Fatullayev set out to find the killer. He ended up in jail after his reporting raised the possibility of a government cover-up.

Fatullayev, an investigative reporter, produced an in-depth article that charged Azerbaijani authorities with ignoring evidence in the murder and obstructing the investigation. The piece, "Lead and Roses," alleged that Huseynov's murder was ordered by high-ranking officials in Baku and carried out by a criminal group. The article was published in *Realny Azerbaijan*, a newspaper founded by Fatullayev.

Within days, Fatullayev began receiving death threats. Within months, he was convicted on charges of libeling Azerbaijanis in an Internet posting that was falsely attributed to him. His newspaper's offices were then raided and shut down. More criminal charges followed, including a "terrorism" count apparently based on his published analysis of Azerbaijan's policies toward Iran. He was convicted on a number of baseless charges and sentenced to a total of eight years and six months in prison. ■



**MUSTAFA
HAJI ABDINUR**
Somalia

Abdinur is among the very small number of independent journalists still working amid devastating violence in Mogadishu.

"Your support is so vital to me and to my courageous colleagues who every day brave the bullet-scarred streets to bring you news of our unending civil war."

In the last five years alone, more than 20 Somali journalists have been murdered or killed in crossfire—including several of Abdinur's close friends and colleagues. Dozens of other journalists have been forced to flee Somalia, the deadliest country for journalists in Africa.

As a correspondent for Agence France-Presse and editor-in-chief of Radio Simba, Abdinur faces danger every day. He has been beaten by militants and arrested by government security forces. He has been targeted with threats by all sides.

Despite the many risks, Abdinur is staying in Mogadishu to report on the unfolding crisis. ■



**NAZIHA
RÉJIBA**
Tunisia

Réjiba, also known as Um Ziad, is one of Tunisia's most critical journalists. Because of her courageous work in challenging the government, her home is under constant surveillance, her phones are monitored, and she has been summoned for repeated police interrogations.

She is the editor of *Kalima*, an independent online news journal, and cofounder of the press freedom group Observatoire de la Liberté de la Presse, de L'Edition, et de la Création, or OLPEC. Both *Kalima* and OLPEC are officially banned in Tunisia.

Réjiba and her family have been subjected to a vile smear campaign, featuring obscene, fabricated photographs of her husband. In 2008, vandals hacked into *Kalima* and shut down the site. When Réjiba wrote an article accusing the government of involvement in the attack, she was summoned to appear before a public prosecutor and threatened with publishing "false news."

"I am neither a hero nor a victim," Réjiba told the audience, "but a journalist who wishes to work under normal conditions." ■



**J.S.
TISSAINAYAGAM**
Sri Lanka

Tissainayagam, editor of the news website *OutreachSL* and a columnist for the English-language weekly *Sunday Times* of Sri Lanka, went to the offices of the government's Terrorism Investigation Division in March 2008 to ask about a colleague who had been arrested the day before. Tissainayagam did not return.

He was among dozens of ethnic Tamil journalists swept up during the 26-year-long conflict between the Sinhalese-dominated government and Tamil separatists. After being held without charge for six months, he was eventually indicted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In September 2009, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison. His crime was reporting on alleged human rights abuses committed by government security forces during the military campaign.

Sustained CPJ advocacy helped win Tissainayagam's release in January 2010 and an eventual presidential pardon. He left Sri Lanka in June due to fears for his safety. ■



CPJ works closely with local journalists and foreign correspondents around the world to investigate attacks on the press and develop effective advocacy strategies to support media freedom. We apply stringent journalistic standards in all our work. Our reports are routinely cited by international media, from *The Washington Post* to the *South China Morning Post*. Major broadcasters, including Al-Jazeera, the BBC, CNN, and Univision, regularly interview CPJ staffers as experts on press freedom. We also contribute to popular online news sites, including *The Huffington Post* and the *Guardian's* "Comment Is Free" blog.

All of CPJ's published work is accessible on our website, *cpj.org*. We host a lively blog featuring press freedom news and views from international contributors. The website now features sections in Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. We translate select reports into relevant languages to address a global readership.

In February 2010, we released our annually published book, *Attacks on the Press*, with coordinated events in Tokyo, New York, Brussels, Bogotá, Cairo, and Nairobi. This ambitious international launch allowed us to target key regional audiences, meet with local journalists, and address their particular concerns.

Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International* and host of "Fareed Zakaria GPS" on CNN, wrote the preface to the latest edition of *Attacks*. In his essay, Zakaria drew attention to the growing importance of local journalists in international reporting, and to their growing vulnerability. "Unable to afford foreign bureaus, more newspapers and magazines are relying on freelancers abroad," he wrote.

"This changing landscape makes the work done by the Committee to Protect Journalists more critical than ever," added Zakaria. "Repressive regimes like Iran's count on the anonymity of their victims, on the world ignoring or overlooking who they've arrested and why.... Governments do respond to pressure that is consistent, principled, and well-publicized." ■

(THIS PAGE) Nina Ognianova, program coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, interviews persecuted journalist Hakimeldostu Mehdiyev in Baku; Madeline Earp, Asia research associate, speaks at an event in Tokyo hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan; (OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) Board member María Teresa Ronderos, Americas program coordinator Carlos Lauría, and Ignacio Gómez, former CPJ awardee and president of the Foundation for Freedom of the Press, hold a press conference in Bogotá; East Africa consultant Tom Rhodes meets with exiled Somali journalists Hassan Ali Gesey, Mohamud Mohamed, and Abdihakim Jimale in Nairobi; CPJ staff release *Attacks on the Press* at United Nations headquarters in New York: (L-R) Mohamed Abdel Dayem, Middle East and North Africa program coordinator, María Salazar-Ferro, Journalist Assistance program coordinator, Rob Mahoney, deputy director, and Bob Dietz, Asia program coordinator.



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(February 23, 2009)

Global Report: Getting Away With Murder 2009
CPJ's Impunity Index spotlights countries where journalists are slain and killers go free
(March 23, 2009)

Republic of Congo: From a Fatal Fire, Many Questions
(April 23, 2009)

Global Report: 10 Worst Countries to be a Blogger
(April 30, 2009)

Global Report: Journalists in Exile 2009
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Anatomy of Injustice
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Pakistan: The Frontier War
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Middle East Bloggers: The Street Leads Online
(October 14, 2009)

Global Report: CPJ's 2009 Prison Census
Freelance Journalists Under Fire
(December 8, 2009)

Global Report: Journalists Killed in 2009
Philippines, Somalia Fuel Record Death Toll
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A Somali Journalist in Exile
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Global Report: Getting Away With Murder 2010
CPJ's Impunity Index spotlights countries where journalists are slain and killers go free
(April 20, 2010)

Global Report: Ten Journalist Murder Cases to Solve
CPJ challenges authorities in 10 nations to reverse culture of impunity
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THE COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2009

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$966,124
Cash - restricted	128,756
Pledges receivable	1,247,807
Prepaid expenses and other receivable	13,560
Investments	10,143,123
Fixed assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	61,024
Security deposit	81,567

Total assets **\$12,641,961**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$200,215
Deferred rent	306,839

Total liabilities **507,054**

Net assets

Unrestricted	1,387,830
Temporarily restricted	1,247,077
Permanently restricted	9,500,000

Total net assets **12,134,907**

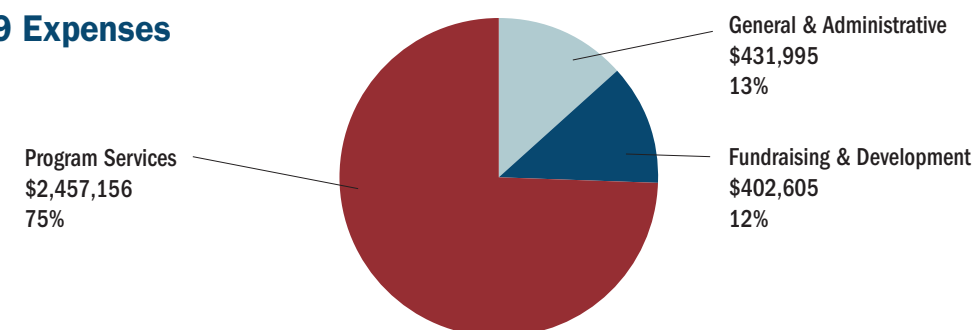
Total liabilities and net assets **\$12,641,961**

CPJ is pleased to report that three-quarters of every dollar spent by the organization goes directly to our program services.

THE COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS, INC. STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Salaries	\$1,157,399	\$184,463	\$191,353	\$1,533,215
Payroll taxes & benefits	258,334	41,476	43,025	342,835
Occupancy	259,481	41,660	43,216	344,357
Travel	48,576		418	48,994
Professional fees	74,876	27,350	2,000	104,226
Program expenses	491,262			491,262
Grants	53,208			53,208
Board expenses	11,937	35	4,782	16,754
Office supplies & maintenance	4,744	37,495	743	42,982
Telephone & Internet	46,463	7,460	7,739	61,662
Publications, printing & postage	28,257	4,537	4,706	37,500
Insurance		19,881		19,881
Depreciation	19,930	3,200	3,319	26,449
Gala expenses			101,304	101,304
Bad debt expense		55,000		55,000
Other	2,689	9,438		12,127
Total	\$2,457,156	\$431,995	\$402,605	\$3,291,756

2009 Expenses



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Aaron Berhane left his wife and three children behind when he fled his native Eritrea. He was a fugitive wanted by authorities because his newspaper had dared criticize the government of revered independence leader Isaias Afewerki. Eight years later, in May 2010, his family joined him in Canada.

“It doesn’t seem like reality. I had several good dreams like this,” the former editor-in-chief and co-founder of *Setit*, once Eritrea’s largest circulation newspaper, told CPJ shortly after his family arrived in Toronto.

CPJ lent financial, logistical, and moral support to Berhane throughout his ordeal. We advocated on his behalf with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which eventually granted him refugee status. We introduced him to other organizations that supported his case, and successfully nominated him for the Hellman-Hammett award administered by Human Rights Watch.

Perhaps no government has decimated the press corps as thoroughly as that of Eritrea, where in 2001 the administration of President Afewerki rounded up 18 critical editors and reporters, jailed them without trial, and held them in secret locations. The crackdown pushed other reporters into exile, and effectively shuttered the independent press. Our Journalist Assistance program has provided help to 28 Eritrean journalists and their families since 2001.

Berhane successfully pressed on with journalism in Canada, starting a community newspaper, *Meftih*, to serve Eritrean Canadians. However, the odds of reuniting with his distant family appeared insurmountable. “When I left, I never expected to see them again,” Berhane said.

Late at night on January 5, 2002, after more than 100 days in hiding, Berhane decided it was time to leave the Eritrean capital, Asmara. “My youngest son was only 6 months old. I had to go home to say goodbye when they were sleeping,” he said. “I thought I was going to disappear forever.”

It was the beginning of a long, harrowing separation. With his wife under surveillance, Berhane developed a coded language to communicate with her. The conversations were difficult. “My kids always asked, ‘Are you coming this year?’ ” he recalled. “It was painful to hear them saying, ‘My birthday is next month. Are you coming?’ It killed me.”

In 2009, Berhane’s wife managed to escape with her children from Eritrea to Sudan—eluding government monitors and passing through some 20 security checkpoints.

“I am really happy that finally my despair is over,” said Berhane, “but my happiness will only be fulfilled when I see the same reunions between my colleagues in jail and in exile and their loved ones.”

CPJ continues advocacy and assistance efforts on behalf of journalists still imprisoned in Eritrea. As of June 1, 2010, there were at least 19 journalists in state custody, many of them held in secret locations without due process or adequate medical attention. ■



COURTESY OF AARON BERNHANE



In this photo of the staff of *Setit*, from left to right:
Eden Iyasu, entertainment reporter
Woldeab, computer technician
Hizbawi Mengisteab, sports reporter
Fesshaye (Joshua) Yohannes, reporter and co-owner, arrested on September 26, 2001; died in prison in 2007
Senait, secretary
Semret Seyoum, reporter and co-owner, arrested January 6, 2002, and released December 2002; in exile in Sweden
Tedros Abraham, reporter, in exile
Aaron Berhane (seated), editor-in-chief and co-owner, in exile in Canada

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- Attend CPJ’s International Press Freedom Awards dinner

To make a gift to CPJ or to find out about other ways to contribute to our work, please contact the Development Department at (212) 465-1004 ext. 107, write to development@cpj.org, or visit our website at cpj.org.