



**On Assignment:
A Guide to Reporting
in Dangerous Situations**
by the Committee to Protect Journalists

On Assignment: A Guide to Reporting in Dangerous Situations



The publication of this handbook was made possible
by the following contributors:

**Andrews McMeel Publishing
CNN**

**The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation
The Gannett Foundation
The Poynter Institute**

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I. Introduction

In the early months of 2002, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl was abducted and executed by his captors while pursuing a story about Islamic militants in Pakistan. The kidnapping—which came only weeks after eight reporters were killed covering the conflict in Afghanistan and a little more than one year before 11 journalists died covering the war in Iraq between March 19 and April 9, when Baghdad fell—was a terrible reminder for journalists around the world of their vulnerability.

In the aftermath of Pearl's murder, veteran journalists—including the most seasoned war correspondents—began examining their own routines: Could they suffer Pearl's fate? What can they and their media organizations do to make their work safer? How should they respond in an emergency? Are there new security issues for those reporting on terrorism, as Daniel Pearl was, in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.?

At the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), we asked ourselves the same questions.

CPJ was founded more than 20 years ago to fight for the rights of journalists to report the news freely. We do so primarily by using journalism to advocate on behalf of our colleagues: We document individual press freedom abuses; produce daily news alerts and send formal protest letters; publish a biannual magazine, *Dangerous Assignments*, and an annual global survey, *Attacks on the Press*. We also issue special reports and conduct advocacy and research missions to countries where journalists are confronting serious abuses. Through our work, we have acquired considerable expertise about the physical dangers that journalists confront.

Over the years, CPJ has also offered advice to journalists going into risky situations. For instance, 10 years ago, CPJ published a “survival guide” for journalists covering the violent breakup of Yugoslavia. But since then, much has changed in the world of war correspondence. The proliferation of satellite telephones and

other technologies has greatly increased the number of journalists covering conflicts while intensifying the competitive pressures that can push them to take unwarranted risks. Media companies increasingly send their news teams to special security training courses that were virtually unknown a decade ago. Greater awareness of the effects of posttraumatic stress has encouraged programs to help war journalists cope after covering wars or other tragedies.

CPJ published an online edition of this handbook in February 2003 to provide guidance to journalists preparing to cover the war in Iraq. This updated version draws on lessons learned in this most recent war and includes advice on coping with the sustained risks that many journalists and their families confront on a daily basis.

This guide should be read not just by those in the field and those covering dangerous assignments, but also by the media managers who send journalists on those assignments. For managers, the safety of their journalists should be paramount. This means discouraging unwarranted risk-taking, making assignments to war zones or other hostile environments voluntary, and providing proper training and equipment.

With this handbook, we hope to give journalists and media managers a basic overview of security issues. Readers will find contact information for many valuable resources, as well as suggested readings. While some topics are covered in depth, others involve specific skills that can only be developed through comprehensive training. This report also includes information to help news gatherers obtain training, equipment, and insurance policies.

No set of principles, no training course, and no handbook like this one can guarantee any journalist's safety. Indeed, as we worked with editors, reporters, and others to compile this guide, we heard frequent concerns that some journalists might gain a false sense of security from training courses or safety manuals.

So it's worth stating again: This handbook and the resources and ideas presented here can help minimize risks but can never guarantee safety in any given situation.

Journalists in dangerous situations must constantly re-evaluate risks and know when to back down. As Terry Anderson, CPJ honorary co-chairman and former Associated Press Beirut bureau chief, who was held hostage for nearly seven years in Lebanon, has said: "Always, constantly, constantly, every minute, weigh the benefits against the risks. And as soon as you come to the point where you feel uncomfortable with that equation, get out, go, leave it. It's not worth it. There is no story worth getting killed for."

Two cautions about this guide: From its years of research, CPJ recognizes that the journalists who are most at risk are often local reporters. They, and their news companies, often cannot afford body armor or expensive training courses. Some of them live with daily risks. Some of them are also employed by foreign media companies. CPJ strongly urges all news organizations to ensure that journalists and others working for them (including local freelancers, stringers, and fixers) are properly equipped, trained, and insured.

Through extensive research and reporting, CPJ staff have compiled the information presented here. We welcome your feedback. Any suggestions, comments, and updates to this report may be sent to info@cpj.org.



II. Who Is at Risk?

Recent fatalities in Iraq illustrate the dangers faced by war correspondents. But the hazards of war coverage are not limited to combat. During and after the three weeks of fighting in Iraq, several journalists died from either medical conditions that proved fatal in the field or from road accidents.

But even all the risks of reporting in a conflict zone comprise only a small part of the risks journalists face worldwide. In fact, for every journalist killed in crossfire, three are targeted for murder. Between 1993 and 2002, CPJ research indicates that 366 journalists have been killed while conducting their work; of that total, 60 journalists, or 16 percent, died in crossfire, while 277 journalists, or 76 percent, were murdered in reprisal for their reporting. The remaining journalists were killed on the job in other situations, such as violent street demonstrations.

What happens to those who murder journalists? CPJ has recorded only 21 out of 277 cases since 1993 in which the suspected perpetrators have been arrested and prosecuted. That means that in 94 percent of the cases, those who kill journalists do so with impunity.

Many of the murdered journalists were investigative reporters uncovering stories about government corruption, organized crime, or human rights abuses. Around the world, the brazenness of the killers is underscored by the fact that 50 of the 277 journalists who were murdered during the last decade were threatened before their murders.

In 23 cases since 1993, journalists were kidnapped by militants, criminals, guerrillas, or government forces and subsequently killed, including *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan and TV Globo reporter Tim Lopes in Brazil, both of whom were murdered in 2002. In several cases, notably in Algeria and Turkey, journalists have simply “disappeared” after being taken into government custody.



III. Covering Conflict

CPJ asks **Charles Hanley**, special correspondent with The Associated Press:

How do you decide whether it is best to blend in or be clearly identified as a journalist while working in a combat zone?

Whatever scarves, headgear, or other native paraphernalia they don, foreign journalists aren't going to blend in with local populations in a war zone. They'll be spotted a mile away.

If journalists are traveling with a military unit—like those “embedded” with U.S. units in Iraq—the general practice in recent wars has been to wear distinctly civilian clothes. This should help ensure that adversaries treat journalists as noncombatants. It also helps establish to the military and in the minds of the reporters themselves their independence as objective observers.

On another level, journalists in war zones or other areas of turmoil make subtle judgments

Training

Security Training Courses

One of the most important skills that journalists can learn is how to protect themselves and each other in the field. Several companies offer “hostile-environment training” tailored for journalists; hundreds have taken these courses in the last few years, and many who finish the week-long sessions say they are extremely valuable. Even correspondents with years of experience covering dangerous assignments say they learn much from the courses, which are usually taught by former military personnel.

But even the best training cannot guarantee survival, as illustrated by one of the most dramatic cases documented by CPJ in recent years:

In May 2000, foreign correspondents around the world were shocked by the deaths of Kurt Schork of Reuters and Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora of Associated Press Television News, who were killed in Sierra Leone while driving two vehicles with Sierra Leonean army soldiers on board. Rebels ambushed the vehicles, killing the two journalists instantly, along with several of the soldiers.

Schork and Moreno were two of the most experienced war correspondents in the business, described by colleagues as savvy and careful in combat situations. Schork had also completed a hostile-environment

every day about just how distinguishable to be: to draw less attention but possibly more suspicion on the fringes of a potentially violent crowd, or to get close to the crowd's leaders and stand out; to rush, for example, as an American, to find the survivors of a U.S. bombing of civilians; or to rely on local colleagues to deal with their angry countrymen.

In Afghanistan's unending turmoil, one journalist, for appearance's sake, disdained hired SUVs and preferred to travel with a low profile around the countryside in ubiquitous Toyota taxis. He gained some anonymity but risked raising suspicions if stopped by a warlord's men or U.S. troops. In Iraq, a big "TV" emblazoned in duct tape on their vehicles announced journalists as "friendlies" to the nervous young U.S. soldiers at checkpoints. But a conspicuous "TV" also attracted armed highwaymen hunting for expensive video and computer equipment.

The unpredictable variety of situations defies hard-and-fast rules. In

training course for journalists. But the surprise attack gave neither correspondent the chance to use his knowledge; they were hit immediately.

Two other Reuters journalists were with them, however, and both survived. Yannis Behrakis, a veteran photographer, and Mark Chisholm, an experienced cameraman, were not hit in the initial gunfire and managed to flee the cars and escape into the bush. Once in hiding, "Behrakis smeared himself with mud and leaves to blend into the terrain as the rebels looked for survivors ... within 15 feet of him," reported Peter Maass in a lengthy article on the incident in the now defunct media watchdog magazine *Brill's Content*. Behrakis, who served for two years as a soldier in Greece before becoming a journalist, credited training that he had received from the British firm **Centurion Risk Assessment Services Ltd.** with helping to save his life.

The oldest private firms that offer specially designed security training courses for journalists are U.K.-based companies **AKE Ltd.** and **Centurion**. Since the 2002 murder of Daniel Pearl, several more firms based in the United Kingdom and the United States have begun offering security training courses specifically for journalists. For instance, **Pilgrims Group** offers comprehensive programs for journalists, and **Bruhn NewTech** offers training in chemical, biological, and nuclear warfare hazards.

While there is no substitute for experience, training helps. Students in these programs

general, however, it seems best for a journalist to be quiet but not stealthy, to carry a notebook openly, and to not try to disguise the ultimately undisguisable fact that he or she is there to observe, listen, and record.

spend about half of their time in the classroom and the other half applying their lessons in field simulations. The simulated exercises are conducted in groups, allowing individuals to test and improve their ability to cooperate with others under emergency conditions.

The central focus of such courses is to raise awareness skills. For example, journalists learn how to listen for the trajectory of bullets, to evaluate the thickness of a cement or brick wall (and thus its ability to withstand bullets and for how long), to filter sediment from filthy water, and to locate a safe place to stand when covering street demonstrations. Nearly every course includes extensive training in emergency first aid. Such comprehensive programs usually last five days; refresher courses are recommended every three years.

Biochemical Courses

Journalists who may cover a conflict with the possible introduction of biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons should obtain both proper training and gear to cope with such hazards. Several firms now offer specific training for this type of warfare.

Security Training Firms

The following companies offer security training for journalists. CPJ does not endorse any specific firm or course but strongly urges media companies to provide hostile-environment training for journalists covering dangerous assignments.

• **AKE Ltd.** (*www.akegroup.com*), which stands for awareness, knowledge, and excellence, is run and taught by former British military personnel, including former U.K. Special Forces. AKE offers a variety of courses in the United Kingdom, as well as comprehensive training programs specifically for journalists.

AKE Limited

Mortimer House

Holmer Road

Hereford HR4 9TA

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1432-267-111

Fax: +44 (0) 1432-350-277

E-mail: services@ake.co.uk

Or

AKE LLC

1825 I Street, NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20006

United States

Tel: 202-974-6556

• **Bruhn NewTech Group** (*www.newtech.dk* or *www.bruhn-newtech.com*) specializes in chemical, biological, and nuclear warfare hazards. Taught by former British Royal Air Force personnel, Bruhn offers courses in the United Kingdom, the United States, Denmark, and other nations, including biochemical courses designed specifically for journalists. The training includes the detection of biological and chemical agents, along with first-aid procedures to treat people exposed to them.

Bruhn NewTech A/S

Gladsaxevej 402

DK-2860 Søborg

Denmark

Tel: +45 3955-8000

Fax: +45 3955-8080

E-mail: info@newtech.dk

Or

Bruhn NewTech Ltd.
1 Allenby Road
Winterbourne Gunner
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP4 6HZ
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1980-611-776
Fax: +44 (0) 1980-611-330
E-mail: info@bruhn-newtech.co.uk

Or
Bruhn NewTech Inc.
10420 Little Patuxent Parkway
Suite 301
Columbia, MD 21044-3636
United States
Tel: 410-844-1700
Fax: 410-844-6171
E-mail: info@bruhn-newtech.com

•**Centurion Risk Assessment Services Ltd.** (www.centurionsafety.net) is run and taught by former British Royal Marine commandos. This firm offers a number of programs designed specifically for journalists. Their five-day course was the first of its kind to be offered in the United States, and it teaches hostile-environment awareness, along with emergency first aid. Other courses are offered more regularly in the United Kingdom. Centurion also has classes in self-protection from chemical and biological warfare.

Centurion Risk Assessment Services Ltd.
P.O. Box 1740
Andover
Hants SP11 7PE
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1264-355-255 or +44 (0) 7000-221-221
Fax: +44 (0) 1264-355-322 or +44 (0) 7000-221-222
E-mail: main@centurionsafety.net

• **Objective Team Ltd.** (www.objectiveteam.com) is run by former British intelligence officers and offers classes only in the United Kingdom. The firm has a comprehensive three-day course that covers chemical, biological, and nuclear training.

Objective Team Ltd.

North Hampshire

Brag Borough Lodge Farm

Braunston NN1 7HA

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1788-899-029

Fax: +44 (0) 1788-891-259

• **Pilgrims Group** (www.pilgrimgroup.com) is run and taught by former British military personnel. This firm, which is based in the United Kingdom, now offers a variety of courses in the United States. In week-long classes, Pilgrims Group teaches environmental awareness and emergency first aid. The company also offers two-day courses in biochemical warfare preparation for journalists.

Pilgrims Group

Pilgrims House

P.O. Box 769

Woking

Surrey GU21 5EU

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1932-339-187

Fax: +44 (0) 1932-336-330

E-mail: training@pilgrimgroup.com

• **Safehouse Security Training Inc.**

(www.safehousesecurity.com/journalist_safehouse.html) is run and taught by former U.S. Army personnel. This firm, which is based in California, began offering special courses for journalists in 2002.

Safehouse Security Training Inc.

10221 Slater Avenue, Suite 112

Fountain Valley, CA 92708

United States

Tel: 714-968-0088

Fax: 714-968-3040

E-mail: info@safehouse.com

Security Literature

No matter what training course journalists or their employers choose, the most important skill that such classes teach is to be mindful of danger in advance. Training manuals exist, but actual hands-on training is preferable.

The U.S.-based relief agency **World Vision** sells a journalist's security manual that covers many of the same topics that are dealt with in any comprehensive security-training course. The manual can be purchased at www.echonet.org/shopsite_sc/store/html/WorldVisionSecurityManual.html.

Centurion (www.centurionsafety.net) also offers portable and comprehensive manuals, including "Hostile Environments and Emergency First Aid" and "A Guide to Biological and Chemical Warfare."

Funding for Security Courses

The fee for a five-day training course in either conventional or unconventional hazards exceeds US\$2,000. The **Rory Peck Trust** (www.rorypecktrust.org), which was established in the name of the freelance cameraman killed in crossfire while covering the October 1993 coup attempt in Moscow, offers a limited number of grants distributed through the Rory Peck Awards. The grants are available to freelance journalists and subsidize about half the cost of security training. Also, the **Reuters Foundation** (www.foundation.reuters.com) has in the past helped subsidize the costs of such training for some freelance journalists, and it continues to do so on a case-by-case basis.

Protective Gear

Body Armor

The most important thing to remember about body armor is this: Bulletproof vests are not bulletproof. Body armor may stop some projectiles, but one can still suffer serious injury or die as a result of the blunt trauma inflicted by high-caliber or high-velocity bullets. Journalists should consider in advance whether they may require body armor, and what kind or level of protection they may need.

Body armor is primarily categorized according to a six-level system of threats developed by the U.S. **National Institute of Justice** (www.nlectc.org/txtfiles/BodyArmorStd/NIJSTD010103.html#classif). Most manufacturers use this system to rate body armor.

Also remember: Protective gear must be properly maintained. Anti-ballistic ceramic plates can crack if dropped or mishandled. Kevlar vests and other gear must be kept dry. **Centurion** provides tips for care on its Web site, www.centurionsafety.net

One risk of wearing body armor is that it tends to be bulky and conspicuous. In a few places, such as Colombia, journalists say they avoid wearing such armor for fear of being mistaken for drug enforcement officials. Body armor is also relatively heavy, and in hot climates it can slow down the wearer.

Nonetheless, body armor is highly recommended in combat zones, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Afghanistan, and, most recently, Iraq, where both crossfire and attacks on journalists are common. And body armor is always recommended wherever there may be shrapnel.

Each type of body armor is designed for a specific purpose. Some are designed to guard against knife attacks, which may be recommended when covering large street demonstrations. Other vests are manufactured to protect against short-range gunfire, which may be recommended for journalists facing the possibility of a

targeted attack and for protection against shrapnel from hand grenades or mortar bombs.

Only ceramic or metal plates inserted into the center of the jackets will stop automatic or high-powered rifle fire. But keep in mind that there are special armor-piercing bullets that can penetrate ceramic and metal plates, and even with such plates worn in front and in back, only a portion of the body is protected.

Body armor prices vary depending on protection level, weight, and durability. Journalists covering any military environment should use nothing less than a level III vest, as outlined by the U.S. National Institute of Justice.

Helmets

Journalists working in conflict zones should also consider wearing combat helmets, which provide effective protection from flying shrapnel. A helmet, however, will not stop a round fired by a military assault rifle.

Helmets shaped like baseball caps and designed for protection against riots, rock throwing, and similar unrest are available through special order by calling **Centurion** in the United Kingdom at +44 (0) 1264-355-255 or +44 (0) 7000-221-221.

Purchasing Body Armor

Journalists should shop carefully when purchasing body armor. Most vests useful for covering violent street activity (offering protection mainly in case of a stabbing) are under US\$350. Vests designed to stop most handgun bullets cost more than US\$500. Vests rated for work in military zones cost up to US\$2,000.

While most vests have been made of Kevlar, two new materials, Spectra and Protexa, are now available. Spectra and Protexa both offer lightweight anti-stab and anti-ballistic protection. Unlike

Kevlar, which deteriorates in water, Spectra and Protexa float in water. While Protexa vests are waterproof, Spectra vests not specifically designed for use in water may deteriorate if they get wet. (**Jack Ellis Body Protection** [www.jackellis.co.uk] produces vests made of Protexa.)

As for inserted plates, although ceramic plates are more expensive than steel ones, they tend to weigh less and are more likely to stop projectiles safely. Steel plates have a tendency to deflect projectiles upward toward the face or head.

NP Aerospace (www.np-aerospace.co.uk), which has designed a jacket for journalists, produces one of the lightest ceramic plates currently available on the market. Its jackets for journalists come with a notebook pocket, along with an option for additional pockets and nonslip shoulder pads for camera operators.

CPJ encourages journalists not to buy used body armor because it deteriorates from normal usage. If buying used body armor, always inspect it carefully for damage, especially bullet marks. Once a vest is fired upon, it must be discarded since it can no longer offer full protection.

The Web site run by the French firm **Sema** (www.sema-france.com/pages-gb/ProtectionBalistiques/ProtectionBalistiques.htm) offers several useful images of different kinds of body armor, including three types recommended specifically for journalists.

For journalists based in the United States, **Zero G Armorwear** lists retailers of body armor throughout the United States on its Web site, www.bodyarmor.com. For journalists outside the United States, **Zero G Armorwear** has another site, www.safariland.com, listing retailers of body armor in many countries.

In addition to acquiring the right level of protection for a particular situation, journalists should also make sure that the vest or jacket fits properly. The U.K.'s **Vest Guard** offers a useful diagram for measuring oneself for body armor (www.vestguard.com/Made%20to%20Measure.shtml).

Protective Gear Companies

Bullet Proof Me

6705 Highway 290 West, Suite 502

Austin, TX 78735

United States

Tel: 800-374-7029

Tel: 512-647-7417

E-mail: questions@bulletproofme.com

Web site: www.bulletproofme.com

Jack Ellis Body Protection

Marshall House

West Street

Glenfield

Leicester LE3 8DT

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1162-320-022

Fax: +44 (0) 1162-320-032

Web site: www.jackellis.co.uk

NP Aerospace

4031 N.E. 12th Terrace

437 Foleshill Road

Coventry CV6 4AQ

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1203-638-464

Fax: +44 (0) 1203-687-313

E-mail: npa@globalnet.co.uk

Web site: www.np-aerospace.co.uk

Point Blank Armor

4031 N.E. 12th Terrace

Oakland Park, FL 33334

United States

Tel: 800-413-5155

Tel: 954-630-0900

Fax: 954-630-9225

E-mail: usasales@pointblankarmor.com

Or

Rue Léon Fredericq 14
4020 Liège
Belgium
Tel: +32-4-344-1644
Fax: +32-4-344-1222
E-mail: ccarpintero@pointblankarmor.com
Web site: www.pointblankarmor.com

Sema-France

9, rue de Lens
92000 Nanterre
France
Tel: + 33 (0) 147-81-95-21
Fax: + 33 (0) 146-49-95-26
E-mail: contact@sema-france.com
Web site: www.sema-france.com

T.G. Faust Inc.

544 Minor Street
Reading, PA 19602
United States
Tel: 800-407-8373
Tel: 610-375-8549
Fax: 610-375-4488
E-mail: vests@tgfaust.com
Web site: www.tgfaust.com

Vest Guard

42 Burdett Avenue
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SSO 7JW
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 1702-346-660
Fax: + 44 (0) 1702-344-059
E-mail: info@vestguard.com
sales@vestguard.com
Web site: www.vestguard.com

Biochemical Equipment

News gatherers working in areas where biological or chemical weapons may be used face additional risks, as noted above under the section titled “Training.” Training alone is not enough; journalists must purchase biochemical protective equipment, which can be even more expensive than the courses. Some television networks and other news gatherers often buy packages of training and gear through **Bruhn NewTech Group** (www.bruhn-newtech.com). **Centurion** (www.centurionsafety.net) also offers both biochemical training and gear.

Armored Vehicles

Journalists working in conflict zones may require armored vehicles, and media employers should provide them when requested. During the 1990s, media companies gave their journalists armored vehicles in the Balkans, and, more recently, news organizations have used them regularly in the West Bank. Journalists should keep in mind that even armor-plated vehicles remain vulnerable to attacks by rocket-propelled grenades, shoulder-fired light anti-tank weapons, and anti-tank land mines.

Armored vehicles cost up to three times the price of standard vehicles. Regular vehicles may also be modified to better withstand blasts from land mines or other explosive weapons; however, journalists should seek expert advice to ensure that any such reinforcements are sufficient.

Besides **Land Rover** (www.landrover.com), which armors vehicles for media companies such as Reuters, these firms also armor vehicles according to customized needs:

Alpine Armoring Inc.

503 Carlise Drive
Herndon, VA 20170
United States
Tel: 703-471-0002
Fax: 703-471-0202

Armet Armored Vehicles

12600 Belcher Road South

Largo, FL 33773

United States

Tel: 727-535-3359

Fax: 727-530-9519

Web site: *www.aavi.com*

Note: Armet Armored Vehicles has offices in Argentina, Canada, India, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Russia, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Ballistica Inc.

1363 Paul Villasenor

San Bernardino, CA 92408

United States

Tel: 909-382-6047

Web site: *www.building.org/texis/db/bix/
+nwurmw3eoF0urmwxe8Xww/profile.html*

International Armoring Corporation

2335 Lincoln Avenue

Ogden, UT 88401

United States

Tel: 801-393-1075

Fax: 801-393-1078

Web site: *www.armormax.com*

O’Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt

9113 Le Saint Drive

Fairfield, OH 45014

United States

Tel: 513-881-9800

Tel: 800-697-0307

Fax: 513-874-2558

S. MacNeillie & Son Limited

Stockton Close

Walsall

West Midlands WS2 8LD

United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0) 1922-725-560

Fax: + 44 (0) 1922-720-916

Texas Armoring Corporation

4728 Cotton Belt Drive

San Antonio, TX 78219

United States

Tel: 210-666-3344

Fax: 210-666-3330

Health Insurance

While most journalists from North American and Western European nations have health insurance provided through either their employers or national plans, a surprisingly high number of journalists from Africa, Latin America, and Asia work without any insurance. Journalists from many less developed nations tell CPJ that health insurance in their countries is rarely available. In such cases, journalists who are injured, even on the job, may or may not be able to rely on their employers to cover their health care and related costs.

Even staff journalists from North America and Western Europe should review their employers' health insurance policies to ensure that they are covered in conflict zones. Journalists heading overseas should confirm whether their policies include acts of war and other dangers they may face on assignment. Journalists and their families should also find out what life insurance coverage is in effect. Many large news firms provide medical evacuation, either as needed on a case-by-case basis or explicitly through employment insurance policies.

Staff journalists may also be covered when on assignment overseas through workers' compensation insurance policies. However, in the United States, such policies may vary from state to state, so journalists should review policies prior to departure.

Journalists and their families should ask their employers to provide copies of their insurance policies to review language for war or related situations before going into a conflict zone. Ambiguities should be resolved or at least noted in advance. Journalists covering wars should also keep in mind that, according to the World Health Organization, among the greatest risks to any traveler (including war correspondents) is injury or death in a car accident, so round-the-clock (not assignment-specific) coverage is worthwhile.

In the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., some insurance companies rewrote their policies

to expand areas they will not cover. For instance, one Florida-based firm now excludes coverage for, "Treatment and expenses directly or indirectly arising from or required as a consequence of war, invasion, acts of foreign enemy hostilities (whether or not war is declared), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection or military or usurped power, mutiny, riot, strike, martial law or state of siege or attempted overthrow of government or any acts of terrorism."

Freelance journalists face particular problems with health insurance. Many such correspondents, even those covering war zones, work without coverage. There have been instances where the news organizations they file for assured them they did have coverage, but later it turned out they did not. In addition, even where coverage exists for freelancers and stringers, it may not apply on days when they are not filing stories for a news organization. This means that they might not be covered in a traffic accident or other incidents that occur when they are not working on a specific story.

Media companies should recognize their responsibility to freelancers and stringers covering conflicts and should provide them with coverage equivalent to staff correspondents. Freelancers and stringers unable to obtain coverage from a media company should contact the organizations listed below to explore their options.

One option is to obtain insurance through high-risk providers such as **Lloyd's** of London (+44 [0] 20-7327-1000). U.S. citizens may obtain such policies through the following brokers:

Griffith & Armour Ltd.

19 Water Street

Liverpool L2 0RL

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 151-236-5656

Fax: +44 (0) 151-227-2216

E-mail: info@ganda-group.com

Web site: www.ganda-group.com

Oregon Health Insurance–Independent Health Insurance Agents
P.O. Box 16382
Portland, OR 97292
United States
Tel: 503-231-6399
Tel: 800-426-9544

Peterson International Underwriters
23929 Valencia Boulevard, Suite 215
Valencia, CA 91355
United States
Tel: 661-254-0006
Tel: 800-345-8816
Fax: 661-254-0604

Journalists may also explore other options, including the following:

- Members of the U.S.-based **Society of Professional Journalists** (www.spj.org) may obtain a plan called “Gateway Premier,” which is offered by **March Affinity Group Services** and is designed for individuals planning to work abroad for at least six months. Fees depend on the policy terms selected, such as the level of deductible costs. However, while the March Affinity Group Services plan applies to journalists working in war zones, its accidental death or dismemberment coverage does not.

- **Reporters sans Frontières** and the French insurance company **Bellini Prévoyance**, in partnership with **ACE Insurance Group**, now offer coverage to journalists, photographers, and freelancers who are residents of countries within the European Union on assignment “anywhere in the world.” The coverage, which is per day, is available in three options that are among the most affordable policies available to journalists (www.rsf.org/article.php?id_article=2350).

- **The Rory Peck Trust**, which promotes safety and security among freelancers, can advise journalists on insurance policies.

Journalists having trouble securing adequate coverage can contact the trust at *www.rorypecktrust.org*.

Private insurance brokers around the world also help develop policies between news gatherers and insurance firms. Such brokers can arrange for health and life insurance, as well as special needs, including medical evacuation. But some policies provide no coverage for the Middle East, and the policy prices vary greatly. Insurance brokers and firms recommended by the Rory Peck Trust and others include:

Insurance Brokers and Firms

Crisis Insurance

West Midlands Brokers Ltd.

4A St. Nicolas Street

Hereford HR4 OBG

United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0) 1432-268-301 or + 44 (0) 1432-266-133

Fax: + 44 (0) 1432-355-235

E-mail: crisis-insurance@crisis-insurance.com

Web site: *www.crisis-insurance.com*

Insurance Consultants International

308 Epps

Tomball, TX 77375

United States

Tel: 281-516-3633

Tel: 800-576-2674

Fax: 832-201-7553

Craig Robinson, Managing General Agent

E-mail: craig@globalhealthinsurance.com

benefits@globalhealthinsurance.com

Web site: *www.globalhealthinsurance.com*

Insurance Services of America

P.O. Box 1617

Chandler, AZ 85244

United States

Tel: 480-821-9052

Tel: 800-647-4589

Fax: 480-821-9297

Marcus Sneed

E-mail: isahealth@isaphxcoxmail.com

health@immigrationhealth.com

Web site: *www.overseashealth.com*

International Medical Group Inc.

407 Fulton Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

United States

Tel: 317-655-4536

Tel: 800-628-4664 (toll free from within the U.S. only)

Fax: 317-655-4505

Steven A. McFarland, Director of Group Benefits

E-mail: steve.mcfarland@imglobal.com

Or

IMG Europe Ltd. VW2

Maritime House Basin Road

North Hove, East Sussex, BN41 1WR

United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0) 127-338-4926

Fax: + 44 (0) 127-338-4934

E-mail: insurance@imglobal.com

Web site: *www.imglobal.com*

Marcus Hearn & Co. Ltd.

Marcus Hearn House

65-66 Shoreditch High Street

London E1 6JL

United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0) 20-7739-3444

Fax: + 44 (0) 20-7256-0460

E-mail: mail@marcushearn.co.uk

Web site: *www.marcushearn.co.uk*

Media & Entertainment Insurance Service

49 Glanville Road
Bromley Kent BR2 9LN
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 20-8460-4498
Fax: + 44 (0) 20-8460-6064
E-mail: Pdc_media@netway.co.uk

Multinational Underwriters Inc.

107 S. Pennsylvania Street
Suite 402
Indianapolis, IN 46204
United States
Tel: 317-262-2132
Tel: 800-605-2282
Fax: 317-262-2140
E-mail: insurance@mnuui.com
Web site: *www.mnuui.com*

Health Precautions

Journalists should check with qualified medical experts to learn what specific immunizations may be needed before traveling. Many countries require visitors to present an International Certificate of Vaccination to customs officials. The certificate, which can be obtained from a physician, should be dated and stamped after each inoculation.

Some countries require journalists to show that they have received a cholera inoculation prior to entry, although many health officials discount the usefulness of cholera shots. Other nations require journalists to submit to an HIV test prior to entry. Journalists who face the possibility of having blood drawn under such conditions should bring their own sterilized needles.

Vaccinations and Health Sources

A general practitioner can either advise journalists on needed vaccinations or refer them to someone who can provide advice and inoculations, as well as prescriptions for antimalarial or other recommended medications.

Most physicians will recommend a 10-year tetanus shot for all travelers. Journalists traveling to areas where malaria is prevalent will generally be prescribed prophylactic antimalarial medication to protect against infection. For some areas, vaccination against polio, hepatitis A and B, yellow fever, and typhoid may also be recommended. The vaccination for hepatitis B must be planned a half-year in advance because it requires three inoculations over a six-month period.

Journalists may consult the **United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (see “Travelers Health” at www.cdc.gov) for updated, comprehensive, and geographic-specific information on outbreaks, diseases, and recommended vaccinations.

To review health issues, journalists may wish to consult a professional guide such as “Travel Health Companion,” which is distributed by **Traveler’s Medical Service of New York and Washington, D.C.**, and is available from Shoreland Inc. (www.shoreland.com)

First-Aid Kits

Journalists should carry either individual first-aid kits or larger ones, depending on the size of the group with which they are traveling. First-aid kits should, at minimum, include:

- Sterilized bandages in a variety of sizes, including triangular bandages and medium and large dressings;
- Disposable latex gloves;
- Small plastic airway device or tubing for breathing resuscitation;
- Scissors;
- Safety pins;
- Plastic bags;
- Flashlight or, preferably, a head lamp;
- Adhesive tape;
- Porous tape; and
- Triple antibiotic ointment

Note: Be careful with using basic medications, including aspirin, since some people respond negatively to different drugs.

Journalists may either assemble their own first-aid kits or purchase them from retailers. Many different kits are commercially available through the following sources:

www.safety-first.biz/dlx_fak.htm

www.first-aid-product.com/226-u.htm

www.rescuebreather.com/store/index.cgi?code=3&cat=5

Centurion also designs first-aid kits for journalists depending on size and need. Go to www.centurionsafety.net and search for “first-aid kit.”

Medical Identification

CPJ recommends carrying blood-type identification, as well as information on other medical conditions (i.e. drug allergies, heart murmurs, etc.). In conflict areas, journalists should map out in advance the locations of available medical services along with evacuation routes. Media employers should be prepared to evacuate injured journalists from conflict areas after they receive immediate care in or near the place they were injured, which may involve either a helicopter or vehicle evacuation.

Medevac

News organizations should provide medical evacuation for journalists in emergency situations. There are many Medevac providers, but only three have an international network capable of providing international evacuations—including evacuation from war zones:

International SOS Pte. Ltd.

331 North Bridge Road #17-00

Odeon Towers

Singapore 188720

Tel: +(65) 6338-2311

Fax: +(65) 6338-7611

Alarm Center: +(65) 6338-7800

International SOS also has offices worldwide. Specific numbers are posted on its Web site, www.internationalosos.com.

Maitrex International (provides Medevac services in Asia only)

Suite 1901

Shun Kwong Commercial Building

8 Des Voeux Road

West Hong Kong

Tel: +(852) 2803-7704

Fax: +(852) 2803-7156

Worldwide Assistance Services Inc.

1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202-659-7775

Tel: 800-777-8710

Fax: 202-828-5892

Worldwide Assistance Services also has offices around the world, including a representative in Baghdad, Iraq.

Knowing the Geographic Hot Spots

While prudence and caution are always essential, nothing can substitute for knowledge on the ground in a rapidly changing environment. A road that is safe one day could be mined the next. In some situations, traveling in a large group is safer. In others, it might be better to be inconspicuous. Over and over again, reporters tell us that accurate, up-to-the-minute information is essential for making the right decisions.

Although information can quickly become outdated, a number of Web sites offer periodic updates on situations in conflict areas.

- **Zero-Risk International** (www.zerorisk-international.com) is a collaboration between Chiron Resources Ltd. and Associated Press Television News, *CNN.com*, ITN, Reuters, BBC, CBS News, *ABCNews.com*, SkyNews, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Although a subscription is required, Zero-Risk International offers geographic updates along with health, travel, and other information of value to journalists.

- **Centurion Risk Assessment Services Ltd.** offers periodic updates about conflict zones, such as Iraq, and related security issues through its Media Safety Net (www.themediasafety.net).

- **International Crisis Group** (www.crisisweb.org) is a non-governmental research organization with offices in Brussels, Paris, London, New York, and Washington, D.C.

- Extensive military information relevant to journalists is available from the **Federation of American Scientists** (www.fas.org) and **Global Security** (www.globalsecurity.org).

- Journalists may also consult the **U.S. State Department Travel Warnings & Consular Information Sheets** (www.travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html).



IV. Reporting in Hostile Areas

CPJ asks **Gustavo Gorriti**, independent journalist:

What are elements of an emergency contingency plan?

Any journalist facing potential danger—be it short- or long-term—should have a contingency plan in case things take a turn for the worst.

When violence is unleashed upon you or your family, emotional turmoil, severance of communications, and a compressed sense of time will make it very difficult to act rationally in the usually short span of time when something can be done. In cases of “disappearance,” for instance, it is absolutely critical to find the “disappeared” one within the first three or four days. After that, the chances of finding the kidnapped person diminish markedly.

So, it is crucial for you and your family and a few trusted friends or colleagues to have a plan ready, listing the actions to take in the event of several crisis

Staying in Touch

Staying in touch means staying alive.

Editors at home should always know their journalists’ schedules in detail, and at least one trusted individual in the field should know a journalist’s itinerary so that colleagues can act quickly should a journalist suddenly disappear or fail to return as expected.

In addition, every journalist covering a dangerous story should develop an emergency response contingency plan before he or she begins reporting. Such plans should include these basic features:

- Make sure at least one person—preferably a supervising editor—knows where you are, with whom you are meeting, and when you are expected to return. That person should also know precisely what to do if you do not return or are delayed. If you plan to be gone for more than a day, a plan should be worked out for you to call a designated person (your editor, your spouse or partner, a parent, etc.) every 24 hours. Your failure to call by an appointed time should trigger phone calls to emergency contacts.
- Several people—including colleagues both in the field and back in the office—should be provided with a list of emergency contacts, as well as detailed instructions for how to get in touch with them. The list should include CPJ and other press freedom

scenarios. Some you can't predict, most you can. And having that list before you when you or your family find it difficult to think clearly can make all the difference in the world.

I had written many stories on corruption and human rights abuses in my own nation of Peru by 1992, when then-president Alberto K. Fujimori launched a so-called self-coup. The same night, a commando unit armed with silencer-equipped weapons broke into my home in the capital, Lima. They took me to the army's Intelligence Service compound, but no one, including my wife and family, knew where I was.

Fortunately, my wife immediately put into action a contingency plan that we had already formulated just in case something like this ever occurred. Somebody else had a copy of the plan, to cover the possibility that my wife would be unable to act. We made a list, and on it were the names and home telephone numbers (nobody had e-mail yet because the Internet

organizations, which can mobilize international attention on your behalf. Journalists should also carry local emergency phone numbers with them in the field.

- Consider working with a partner or with a group wherever possible. In some cases, this means putting aside competitive pressures to collaborate with other journalists. Editors should never push a journalist to visit an area that he or she deems too dangerous; likewise, a journalist should not travel into a dangerous zone without advance clearance from a supervising editor.

In some areas, it may be either difficult or unwise to discuss particularly sensitive matters with editors back home. In many nations, especially countries with active intelligence services, journalists should consider being cautious when using telephones. Moreover, using e-mail to communicate may not be secure either. Some journalists may choose to encrypt their e-mail to communicate with editors and others, but the security of encryption programs remains debatable, and sending encrypted text is likely to raise a red flag to anyone who might be monitoring you. Where Internet access is freely available, journalists and their editors may wish to communicate using generic e-mail accounts such as Yahoo! or Hotmail, which are more difficult to trace. For added security, they may wish to avoid using proper nouns in messages

was still new) of colleagues, sources, and friends in Peru and abroad whom I knew one way or another would help. The list included foreign diplomats, CPJ representatives, human rights advocates, and others.

A strong spotlight on an ongoing disappearance can be a trying experience even for a would-be police state. Faced with a flood of international protests and even direct diplomatic pressure, the Fujimori dictatorship first acknowledged my detention and later freed me, less than 72 hours after the abduction.

or to develop a code system in advance that can be used to communicate by voice or electronically.

Minimizing Risks in Conflict Zones

Comportment

How journalists conduct themselves in the field may help save their lives, and the unwritten rules can vary from conflict to conflict. In some situations, for example, it may make sense for journalists to have a high profile, while in others, drawing attention to yourself may draw a hostile reaction from combatants. Talking with seasoned reporters who have covered the region is essential; veteran correspondents are usually generous with advice to newcomers.

The Brussels-based **International Federation of Journalists** publishes a useful safety manual (www.ifj.org/brights/safetymanual.html) that members of the press should review.

Journalists should always be aware of their behavior in conflict zones and should avoid doing anything provocative. In an increasing number of wars, crossing combatant lines has become more dangerous and difficult, if not impossible. Many combatants and others have challenged the neutral status of journalists in places such as Afghanistan and Colombia; foreigners in both these nations have claimed to be journalists but have allegedly either committed an assassination or taught bomb-making, respectively. CPJ vigorously protests any such impersonations because they increase the risks for all journalists. Moreover, journalists covering conflicts should never represent themselves as something other than what they are: journalists trying to cover a story. They should also avoid being photographed with combatants.

Clothing and Culture

Journalists should be mindful of the kind and color of clothes they wear in war zones. Members of the media should always place prominent labels on their clothing (including helmets) that clearly identify them as press. Journalists who accompany armed combatants—irrespective of whether the combatants are uniformed—must consider how their own clothes may look from a distance.

Bright and light colors that reflect a lot of sunlight may make a journalist too conspicuous. But wearing camouflage or military green could make journalists targets. Depending on the terrain, dark blue or dark brown may be preferable. In particular, some photojournalists prefer black because it doesn't reflect light, but some combatants, especially rebel forces, often wear black.

Of course, journalists should also respect local sensibilities. This includes men and women dressing as decorum may require. Foreign journalists of both sexes should also be aware of practices that could be offensive in some cultures.

Theft

Journalists walking around with protective gear, cameras, or computers should keep in mind that their equipment may be worth a fortune to local residents and should exercise discretion and care with their materials. Correspondents may also wish to separate their money and credit cards and hide them in various pockets or among their gear. Pouches, belts, and other items may be purchased for this purpose at travel stores or on the Internet.

Weapons

Journalists covering conflicts should never carry arms or travel with other journalists who carry weapons. Doing so jeopardizes a journalist's status as a neutral observer and can make combatants view correspondents as legitimate military targets.

In some particularly dangerous conflicts, journalists have hired armed guards. The practice first became widespread among television crews and reporters covering Somalia in the early 1990s after journalists traveling without armed guards were robbed at gunpoint. Journalists who use armed guards, however, should recognize that they may be jeopardizing their status as neutral observers. For example, CNN crews used armed guards in northern Iraq in 2003. On one occasion, unidentified attackers shot CNN's

vehicle, which was clearly marked with “Press,” and CNN’s hired guard returned fire. The gunmen continued to shoot the vehicle as it turned around and drove away. CNN International president, Chris Cramer, defended the network’s use of armed guards as necessary to protect CNN personnel in Iraq. Robert Menard, secretary-general of the Paris-based press freedom watchdog group Reporters sans Frontières, however, criticized CNN, saying that the practice “risks endangering all other reporters.”

Many broadcasters now regularly employ experts from private security firms to accompany their news crews in the field, but these experts are not armed and primarily provide guidance on movements in conflict areas, including large street demonstrations.

Credentials

All journalists should carry individual press identification, as well as any other event-specific credentials, including military press passes.

Language Skills

Journalists should make sure that they have the ability to communicate in the local language whenever they travel in a hostile zone. Ideally, journalists who do not know the local language should travel with a qualified interpreter who can help them communicate and understand local customs. Journalists should also learn and be able to pronounce the words for “press” or “journalist” in local languages.

CPJ asks **Ron Haviv**, photojournalist with Agency VII:

How do you get close enough to a story? When does close become too close?

I dug a little deeper into the Afghan ground. I tried to gather some more cover by placing one camera over my head and another over my heart as a makeshift bulletproof vest. The bullets hit all around us and then one struck the commander next to me. This time, I thought, perhaps I've gotten a little bit too close.

Glimpses of my past escapades flashed in my mind: street battles, crossing front lines, treks to mountain lairs, and driving blindly into a fight. Each time, I would assess the danger: Are the images worth the risk? Can I take the photograph and get the image and myself out to safety? Sometimes these thoughts happen quickly. Simply crossing a street can often be a life-or-death decision, as dangerous as

Battlefield Choices

Embedding with Combatants

Although the term “embedding,” or placing journalists with troops in wartime, was recently coined by U.S. Defense Department officials in 2002, the practice is as old as the earliest war correspondents. More than 150 years ago, journalists such as William Howard Russell of *The Times of London* accompanied British and allied forces during the Crimean War. Far more correspondents went to the battlefield a decade later to cover the U.S. Civil War. Journalists also accompanied military forces during World War I. And even more journalists, including Ernie Pyle, who reported among U.S. forces in North Africa, covered the front lines during World War II.

From at least the U.S. Civil War through the first two world wars, journalists who accompanied combatants were only able to file reports through military censors. “Very little could be published at the time about the doings and sufferings of our Army in Mesopotamia and our relations with the people of the country,” wrote journalist Edmund Candler in his memoir about traveling with British troops during World War I in what is now Iraq, “for though an official ‘Eye-Witness’ was appointed, he was judiciously gagged.”

Journalists briefly enjoyed more autonomy during the Korean War, although it was not until the Vietnam War that many correspondents

deciding to travel with a group of rebels.

Other times, great planning took place before deciding to go. The luxury of speaking with the commanders, understanding the battle plan, and knowing the troops I would travel with sometimes added a great deal of comfort.

The nature of photography requires, unlike most other media, proximity to your subject. Our equipment's limitations don't allow us the luxury of witnessing from afar. An image's power often comes from the photographer's ability to bring the viewer in close. To photograph combat, for example, you have to be in combat. Standing, ducking, and hiding shoulder-to-shoulder with soldiers is sometimes the only way to do it.

More often than not, my colleagues and I cross that line from safety to risk. Every photographer has his or her own reasons for crossing this line. It's a personal choice based on an obligation to serve as a witness for others.

were able to file without censorship. This practice changed remarkably with subsequent conflicts. U.S. officials, along with their local allies, tried to keep journalists away from the fighting in El Salvador, Grenada, Panama, the 1991 Gulf War, and Afghanistan. The practice of battlefield exclusion is not limited to U.S.-led forces. Since the 1990s, Russian officials have excluded journalists from combat zones in Chechnya, and, more recently, correspondents have been excluded from war zones in Liberia, Nepal, East Timor, and numerous other places.

U.S. officials changed policy, however, during the 2003 war in Iraq. By the time the three-week conflict was over, more than 800 journalists of various nationalities, including correspondents reporting in English and Arabic, had been embedded with either U.S. or U.K. forces. U.S. Defense Department officials who supervised the program argued that allowing journalists to report alongside U.S.-led combatants would result in a better historical record of the campaign. Before the war, the Defense Department offered journalists a week of military training with U.S. forces free of charge. (Attending this training exercise was not necessary to qualify for an embed slot.)

The Defense Department also reinstated the use of military filters: Embedded journalists were required to sign guidelines agreeing, among other things, to allow U.S.-led military unit commanders the

Often the effects of being too close come later, when we are out of danger. Over the years, I've learned to some degree to deal with the bullets and the memories after. Still, it is a never ending struggle to get back on the plane, to argue with the commander for permission to accompany his troops, and to stand and document what is before me, time and time again. But when I see and hear the response to a photo, I know that I have fulfilled my obligation to inform, educate, and possibly change things for the better.

And in that instant, crossing the line was worth it.

option to “impose temporary restrictions on electronic transmissions for operational security reasons.” According to most embedded journalists and their editors, few of the restrictions turned out to be unreasonable, although many journalists and their editors did note short-lived disagreements over what and, more often, when reporters could file in the field. Similarly, U.S. officials had relatively few complaints. U.S. military officers interviewed in Qatar and Kuwait in 2003 told CPJ that, with only a few exceptions, embedded journalists abided by the above guidelines, and that, even taking into account the few breaches, no journalist jeopardized operational security during the 2003 U.S.-led campaign in Iraq.

Whether to embed with any armed force is a decision involving trade-offs. A primary advantage of embedding is that a journalist will get a firsthand, front-line view of armed forces in action. But there are also disadvantages. An embedded journalist is only able to cover that single part of the story, and his or her reporting can become one-sided as a result of becoming too close to the soldiers.

“[The] access could be suffocating and blinding,” wrote *Los Angeles Times* correspondent David Zucchino after reporting on the Iraq war as an embed. “Often I was too close or confined to comprehend the war’s broad sweep. I could not interview survivors of Iraqi civilians killed by U.S. soldiers or speak to Iraqi fighters trying to

kill Americans. I was not present when Americans died at the hands of fellow soldiers in what the military calls ‘frat,’ for fratricide. I had no idea what ordinary Iraqis were experiencing. I was ignorant of Iraqi government decisions and U.S. command strategy.”

Embedded journalists also run the risk of being mistaken for combatants—this is especially true if journalists wear military uniforms—and run the risk of being injured or killed during hostilities. Three embedded journalists were killed in action during the three weeks of combat in Iraq in 2003. Conversely, many embeds saw little or no action because they were embedded with units on aircraft carriers or with troops in support, as opposed to combat, roles.

There are signs that other countries may adopt the U.S. embedding policy, but with harsher restrictions on journalistic freedoms. In the aftermath of the Iraq war, Indonesia created an embedding program to deal with coverage of civil conflict in its restive Aceh Province. In announcing the program, Indonesian authorities said that embedded journalists should provide “patriotic” coverage of the fighting—just as U.S. journalists had done in the war with Iraq, claimed the Indonesian government.

Operating Independently

Since as early as the Vietnam War, U.S. Defense Department officials have used the term “unilaterals” to describe journalists covering conflicts independently. Such reporting provides invaluable and compelling dispatches, but sometimes at the price of high personal risk. Journalists moving about on their own on the battlefield could find themselves being targeted by combatants on all sides of the conflict. Hundreds of journalists operated unilaterally in Iraq in 2003, many of them in Baghdad before the fall of the Iraqi government.

During the 2003 war in Iraq, both sides harassed unilateral journalists. Iraqi authorities arrested four unilateral journalists in Baghdad, accused them all of espionage, and held them incommunicado for eight days in Baghdad’s notorious Abu Ghraib Prison. Iraqi

authorities also detained several other journalists, transporting some out of Iraq to the Jordanian border and bringing others to Baghdad.

U.S.-led forces arrested four journalists near Baghdad, accused them of spying, and held them incommunicado without food for 48 hours before flying them by helicopter to a military base in Kuwait. In a separate incident, U.S. troops detained a U.S. journalist and escorted him out of southern Iraq to Kuwait, accusing him of revealing the location of a nearby military unit during a CNN telephone interview even though the unit's position had already been reported in U.S. newspapers.

In one particularly chilling series of episodes, on the morning of April 8, 2003, U.S.-led forces fired on the offices of two international news broadcasters and a hotel filled with journalists in three separate attacks in Baghdad. One journalist died in the missile strike on the Al-Jazeera network studio, equipment was damaged at the Abu Dhabi TV studio, and two cameramen died when a tank fired on the Palestine Hotel, which was being used as a base of operations by about 100 journalists at the time.

A CPJ investigation into the incident at the Palestine Hotel—based on interviews with about a dozen reporters who were at the scene, including two embedded journalists who monitored the military radio traffic before and after the shelling occurred—suggests that the attack on the journalists, while not deliberate, was avoidable. According to CPJ, U.S. Defense Department officials, as well as commanders on the ground in Baghdad, knew that the Palestine Hotel was full of international journalists and were intent on not hitting it. However, these senior officers apparently failed to convey their concern to the tank commander who fired on the hotel. For a detailed report on the attacks, see “Permission to Fire: CPJ Investigates the Attack on the Palestine Hotel” (www.cpj.org/Briefings/2003/palestine_hotel/palestine_hotel.html).

Participatory Behavior

For their own protection, journalists should not engage in participatory behavior on the battlefield, such as identifying enemy locations, and they must be mindful at all times of their behavior, language, and attitude toward combatants. Whether they are embedded with military forces or traveling independently, the only role that journalists should play on the battlefield is that of observer.

All journalists must remember that participatory behavior while traveling with combatants—or anywhere within a conflict area—can put them and their colleagues in danger.

CPJ asks **Terry Anderson**, former Associated Press bureau chief in Beirut, Lebanon:

What is the single most important strategy for long-term captivity?

Being captured and held hostage is traumatic, but you must remember that your main goal is survival. One of the first things you need to recognize is that you may be held for a long time.

Therefore, you need to be practical and pragmatic. You need to find a way to deal with your captors that makes getting through the ordeal each day possible. In the face of what is likely to be a daily assault on your dignity and integrity, you need to find a place within yourself where you can maintain them.

The biggest single shock of being taken prisoner is the realization of helplessness. Very rarely are adult human beings put into situations of helplessness. As a prisoner, you need to accept being powerless and think of things you can

Rules of War

International humanitarian law, which governs the conduct of parties in an armed conflict, comprises a series of treaties and conventions, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols. Any journalists covering war should understand the basic principles of international humanitarian law for two reasons: first, because journalists covering war should be able to report effectively on violations of the rules of war, including war crimes; second, because a number of the conventions' provisions apply directly to journalists.

An invaluable resource on international humanitarian law is the **Crimes of War Project**, established by journalists Roy Gutman and David Rieff to educate journalists and others about the laws of war. The Web site, www.crimesofwar.org, contains articles on current issues, as well as an alphabetized reference guide to dozens of essays on a variety of topics, including the protection of journalists.

The text of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols are posted by the **International Committee of the Red Cross**, which is based in Geneva, Switzerland. (www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/WebCONFULL?OpenView)

Under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, journalists accredited by an accompanying military force are considered to be part of

control. For instance, despite the helplessness of your situation, you can often control your mental and physical balance and the way you deal with your captors.

It is not generally a good idea to adopt an attitude of total defiance and noncooperation, unless, of course, that approach is necessary to your sense of integrity.

One deliberate strategy that my fellow prisoners and I took with our captors, young guards who happened to be Islamic fundamentalists, was to get them to recognize that we were human beings and not criminals. The idea was to let them know that they could hold us as prisoners, but they couldn't punish us because we had done nothing wrong. Captors are not rational, but they are often intelligent. The sense of power that they gain over you, especially young guards, can be dangerous. Therefore, you have to make them realize that you are a human being and that you haven't done anything wrong. Essentially, you need to get your captors to respect you.

the military entourage. If opposing forces capture them, journalists must be treated as prisoners of war (POW) and cannot be charged with crimes, such as espionage, in a civilian court. Under the conventions, POWs must be treated humanely. Their camps must be located away from hostilities, and inmates must be fed, housed, provided with medical care, and given the right to send and receive letters.

The Geneva Conventions were drafted in the aftermath of World War II, when war correspondents generally wore military uniforms and accompanied armed forces. Thirty years later, when the Additional Protocols were drafted and ratified, the nature of war coverage had changed dramatically, and new language sought to address this reality. Article 79 of Protocol I states that “journalists engaged in a professional mission in the areas of armed conflict shall be considered civilians” as long as they take no action to compromise this status, such as wearing a military uniform. Under the rules of war, civilians cannot be deliberately targeted. However, if they are captured, civilians are not entitled to prisoner of war status and may be detained or tried for violating national law (for example, entering a country without a visa).

Thus, under international humanitarian law, journalists have two options. They can accredit themselves as war correspondents and accompany military forces. Journalists intermingled with military forces can potentially be targeted by opposing military

Total cooperation, giving in to them, and cozying up to them does not work because if you lose your dignity and integrity, you are in trouble. Your captors know that you hate them, and if you act friendly toward them, they'll know you are acting. The so-called Stockholm Syndrome is a myth or extremely rare.

So the key to survival in captivity is to keep your dignity and integrity and get along with people who may hate you and whom you hate.

forces but are entitled to prisoner of war status if captured. Journalists can also cover a war as a civilian correspondent under the terms of the 1977 Additional Protocols. Journalists, like all other civilians, cannot be deliberately targeted. However, civilians are not entitled to POW status if captured or detained by a hostile government.

CPJ asks **Ray Choto**, former reporter with *The Sunday Standard*:

How do you recognize signs of post-traumatic stress?

After my own Zimbabwean government tortured me alongside a colleague in 1999, it did not occur to me that I might be suffering from anxiety and distress. My life had not changed, or so I thought. I never feared being tortured again. I simply saw myself as a survivor.

But I didn't want to talk about it. I had nightmares, remembering how the perpetrators would beat the soles of my feet and apply electric shocks to various parts of my body, including my genitals. I was suffering physically, spiritually, and mentally. I had trouble making meaningful connections with my colleagues and other people.

A few days after the three-day ordeal, Tony Reeler, then the clinical director for Amani Trust, a nongovernmental organization that helps torture victims in Zimbabwe, interviewed

Captive Situations

More than 23 journalists have been kidnapped and killed since 1993. The Daniel Pearl and Tim Lopes cases in 2002 underscore this terrible phenomenon. In several cases, notably in Algeria and Turkey, journalists have simply “disappeared” after being taken into government custody.

In several regions around the world, including the Philippines, Chechnya, and Colombia, journalists have been kidnapped for ransom. But journalists are more commonly held hostage or secretly detained for political reasons. Journalists have been beaten, gang-raped, or subjected to other forms of torture, including threats against their children or other loved ones.

Whether or not to try to resist an abduction attempt is a difficult decision. Kidnapping is an important focus of the hostile-environment training courses now available to journalists, and most security firms encourage journalists to cooperate with perpetrators attempting to abduct or detain them.

me for more than an hour. Reeler told me that from the responses I had given to his questions, it was quite clear I was suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and needed urgent treatment.

As part of the healing process, Reeler encouraged me to pay attention to how I felt and to find ways to help myself feel better. He said the purpose of the torture was either to kill me or to instill fear in my mind. But because I was still alive, I should thank God and continue to find ways to improve my life.

I also received treatment in London at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims and traveled to Australia, where Daren Smith, a psychologist with Clearview Psychological Services, worked with me. It helped me tremendously to talk about what I had experienced.

There are many ways to tell if you are suffering from PTSD, but here are a few signs:

- Engaging in destructive behavior;

Stress Reactions

Many journalists may think that they are immune to the emotional impact of covering violence, but the evidence suggests otherwise. One 2001 study led by Dr. Anthony Feinstein of the University of Toronto found that war correspondents are more likely to exhibit symptoms of posttraumatic stress than other journalists, and that their reactions are even stronger than those of police officers and firefighters who respond regularly to human crises and are instead on par with those of military combat veterans. Local reporters covering crime, domestic abuse, or death penalty executions are also at risk.

Stress is a normal reaction to repeated exposure to trauma, especially violence. The reactions are often subtle, including increased irritability, poor concentration, sleep disturbances, emotional numbing, or feelings of insecurity. Journalists and their spouses or partners should also keep in mind that posttraumatic stress often affects relationships. In most cases such emotions pass, but they are likely to recede more quickly once memories have been aired with either peers or a professional listener.

Talking, writing, drawing, painting, or crying can change the way a traumatic memory is regarded. Child survivors of conflicts from Guatemala to Bosnia have begun to heal by drawing images of attacks. When such articulation is coupled with the opportunity to

- Isolating yourself and refusing help from others;
- Thinking that you are the only one going through such an experience;
- Not eating well and not sleeping regularly;
- Not enjoying what used to bring you happiness;
- Failing to recognize your feelings;
- Having nightmares about the incident;
- Being forgetful;
- Feeling depressed;
- Being violent or acting out with rage;
- Avoiding people who care about you; and
- Being fearful and becoming more sensitive.

Survivors of torture can recover from the traumas they have suffered and live normal lives. It takes time, but the healing process is important because it requires both survivors and caregivers to work together to recover.

grieve, it often provides an emotional release, enabling survivors to recall the memory with less pain.

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, which is based at the University of Washington in Seattle (www.dartcenter.org)—in coordination with the **International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies**—has offered journalists a referral service for professional counselors worldwide. U.S.-based press groups like the **National Press Photographers Association** (www.nppa.org) have also led peer support workshops in coordination with the Dart Center.

Professional counseling is especially important in cases where journalists have been subjected to torture or other forms of physical or psychological abuse, including witnessing the torture of others. The **Marjorie Kovler Center for Survivors of Torture** (http://poetics.org/daytonpor/kovler_center.htm) is a clinic in Chicago that has developed considerable expertise in treating war refugees.



V. Sustained Risk

CPJ asks **Dina Japeth**, investigative journalist and Central Asian consultant:

How do you know when you are in danger from your own government?

This kind of threat has nothing to do with the fear of bullets whistling overhead. It is silent, it can follow you for years, and it has a habit of appearing unexpectedly when everything seems calm. Even after you recognize the threat, in countries like mine, Uzbekistan, government authorities will be of no help, because they or their clandestine allies are often the subjects of investigative stories. In fact, alerting officials may only increase the threat.

Governments like mine spend financial and human resources to shadow journalists and curb or stop their investigations. Acting like “Big Brother,” governments watch journalists, especially those who work independently, cooperate with opposition sources, or collaborate with foreign media.

The Common Threat

When foreign correspondents feel threatened or unsafe, they can leave, or their editors can send in new correspondents. Local journalists, however, do not have that luxury. And often their work puts their families in jeopardy as well.

Situations of sustained risk pose the greatest danger to journalists worldwide. Dozens of journalists have been murdered in Colombia, Algeria, Turkey, the Balkans, and Russia. Violent intimidation is also a growing problem in Ukraine, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Guatemala. In many nations, a threat is all that is needed to remind journalists and their families of the potential for violent reprisal.

Investigative journalists are often most at risk of being targeted, particularly when they uncover evidence of government corruption, organized crime, or political violence. Journalists in some nations are the only parties on the ground seriously investigating wrongdoing, which is why they face constant risk. Countries in which many journalists have been murdered often have weak judiciaries incapable of prosecuting criminals, especially when they are tied to government forces. In some countries, independent prosecutors may put themselves in danger by investigating attacks against journalists. In Colombia, for example, prosecutors investigating the murders of journalists have recently fled the country for their own safety.

Authorities may listen to phone conversations, open mail, and track, block, or even infiltrate electronic mail. They may “interview” colleagues, friends, neighbors, school-mates, and others, either to intimidate journalists or to try to collect dirt to use against them. A driver, guide, or interpreter could also be working for the government. One journalist in Uzbekistan found microphones in both her car and her office.

Such methods of control often creep up on journalists who are unaware. Only the person who faces an obvious threat is motivated enough to think more carefully about how to secure working conditions. There is no universal way for a journalist to get the story out safely in such situations. We as a community must develop broader and better safeguards in the future to help protect ourselves.

I have learned a few things: Try to estimate the level of potential risk for you, your family, and your sources before starting an investigation. Study the

Assessing Personal Risk

How to assess personal risk can be the most important question facing any journalist, and what constitutes real danger at any given time is rarely clear. The decision to continue investigating a story after being intimidated is a personal one that only a journalist, along with perhaps his or her family, can make.

In many murder cases, victims and their routines are often observed before they are killed. Take Ismael Jaimes, editor and owner of *La Opinión* in Barrancabermeja, Colombia. One witness, Carlos David Lopez, later told Colombian civilian prosecutors that a Colombian Navy intelligence network followed the journalist for days before killing him in 1992: “A navy hit man murdered Jaimes as he dropped off one of his children at school, a daily routine.”

Journalists should protect themselves and their families by watching for signs of surveillance. A car newly spotted in a neighborhood, often with polarized windows to conceal the identities of its passengers, may be one thing to look for. Another might be a street vendor newly stationed near a journalist’s home or office.

Journalists facing sustained risk are also encouraged to vary their routines. This can make it harder for perpetrators to attack them, and it can be a way for a journalist or his or her family members to determine

system you face and learn how it operates. Use the weak sides of the system to benefit your work. For instance, many state agents are badly paid, so their professionalism and motivation is not so high. They often have insufficient technical equipment, so they are unable to keep track of journalists all the time.

Journalists should change their behavior to lower their profiles in places where they may be in danger. In other words, curb your appetite for fame. In fact, do everything you can not to attract attention. Be cautious, too, in all communications. Encryption, for example, is not always safe. In many cases it is better to use code words (especially for names of politicians and events) to avoid detection.

A hostile environment requires journalists to have not only courage but wisdom.

whether they are being followed. A journalist who suspects that he or she may be under surveillance may also wish to employ a colleague or friend to assist in trying to detect the surveillance. The friend, for example, may follow the journalist as he or she changes his route and watch for anyone doing the same.

Unfortunately, the security training courses currently available to journalists focus heavily on battlefield awareness. These courses do not presently include methods to detect surveillance. Moreover, even if such courses were available, they likely would be priced beyond the means of many local media outlets and journalists. Nevertheless, journalists facing situations of sustained risk must be mindful of surveillance because it is often the only palpable sign of danger they may detect before an attack.

CPJ asks **Aroun Rashid Deen**, former producer and reporter with the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service:

How do you survive in hiding?

On January 6, 1999, soldiers from the Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force (ECOMOG) were all over Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, the night before the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) invaded the city. I thought that the ECOMOG forces would mobilize for a counteroffensive, but I was wrong. Most of the peacekeepers, I later discovered, fled, while the rebels massacred those who couldn't escape.

I knew the rebels were looking for me because my reporting had exposed their heinous crimes. As I led my family into the cellar of my friend Abdul's house, I was somewhat optimistic that our stay there would be brief. I had the feeling that even though the rebels were looking for me, I would escape their threats.

But as days passed, things got worse. Daily newscasts on the

Contingency Plans

There is often little a journalist or his or her family can do in the event of a violent attack. But family members and others may be able to act after an abduction. CPJ recommends that local journalists always have a contingency plan. Whom to call in an emergency is something journalists can help their loved ones prepare for. At least one or more people close to the journalist should have a list of names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of people and organizations to call, including home and cell phone numbers.

Obviously, the efficacy of the effort will depend on whether the identity of the abductors is known, and whether they or the government of the country in which the abduction has occurred might respond to pressure. The combination of queries by foreign diplomats and nongovernmental organizations will make local officials and others aware that there is international attention on the case. Publicity, in most but not necessarily all cases, often helps. CPJ publishes alerts about abductions on its Web site and works closely with foreign and local journalists to help generate coverage as needed when journalists have been abducted.

The people and organizations on any mobilization list should include government officials, foreign diplomats living in the country, local journalists, and local press freedom groups, along with groups outside the country such as CPJ, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch.

BBC—our only source of reliable international news, our life support and connection to the outside world—mentioned few attempts to repel the rebels.

My fear was heightened on the sixth night of the raid, when rebels rounded up some 13 women and girls and took them away. By the ninth day in hiding, I became completely preoccupied with concerns about my family. My wife was three months pregnant and was very frightened, as were my two children. Protecting them was my motivation. I saw it as my duty to bolster their courage.

My wife had suggested that we move out of Abdul's cellar and go to her parents' house. But going there, less than a mile away, meant crossing main roads. I didn't think it was safe. It was too risky. Many of the rebels either knew me or had seen me on national television and could easily identify me.

Abdul was good to my family and me. He gave us shelter, food, water, kerosene, and

Freelancers and Fixers

Many Western media outlets rely on freelancers and fixers in foreign countries to either report or to help in arranging interviews and providing general local information. Even when these local freelancers and fixers are paid a decent rate, they still don't enjoy the same benefits as foreign correspondents. However, CPJ feels strongly that foreign news organizations should be willing to supply freelancers and fixers with safety equipment, cover their medical needs, if necessary, and take the same responsibility for them in risky situations that they would take for their staff correspondents.

Keep in mind that some local journalists, freelancers, and fixers partner with foreign correspondents for personal protection, and CPJ encourages this collaboration. If hostile forces—especially a local journalist's own government—think that a local journalist is close to foreign correspondents, the political cost to the potential attacker may rise and thus prevent the attacker from taking action.

matches. He made a point of spending at least four hours with us every evening and telling us what was going on outside. Even though we may have listened to the latest BBC news, Abdul's kindness and his ability to keep the mood light in tense times was helpful. He always kept the gates locked and kept people from gathering around the compound and raising suspicion that would attract the rebels.

This, along with my prayers, sustained us for 25 days until we heard voices on the street telling us it was safe to go home.

Other Options

One option for a journalist and his or her family facing sustained risk is to go into exile, as dozens of journalists have done from places such as Belarus, Chechnya, China, Colombia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Peru, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan. CPJ works closely with regional press freedom and professional groups to help journalists weigh their options when facing imminent threats. When it is an option, a temporary relocation within the country is preferable to exile. While going into exile is sometimes necessary, it is never an ideal option. Journalists in exile often confront extraordinary hardship. They can be separated from their families and unable to find work in their new country. Furthermore, exile often silences a critical voice and does not advance press freedom in the countries journalists leave behind.



VI. Readings and Resources

Suggested Articles

Below are some recommended readings, particularly for journalists assigned to cover conflict:

Press freedom organizations, including CPJ (www.cpj.org) and Reporters sans Frontières (www.rsf.org), along with such media outlets as the BBC, CNN, ITN, and Reuters, have jointly endorsed the general security principles of the International News Safety Institute (www.ifj.org/brights/insi/objectives.html), an initiative by the International Federation of Journalists, in cooperation with the International Press Institute.

“Deadly Competition,” an article by Peter Maass in *Brill’s Content* (September 2000), reports on the ambush shootings of Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora and Kurt Schork in Sierra Leone in 2000. www.petermaass.com/core.cfm?p=1&mag=1&magtype

“Reporting War: Dispatches from the Front” is the text of a speech given by Kate Adie, chief news correspondent of the BBC, who has been reporting on and in conflicts for more than 20 years. www.cf.ac.uk/jomec/issues/adiemain.html

“In the Danger Zone: Weighing Risks,” by Michael Parks in *Columbia Journalism Review* (May/June 2002). www.cjr.org/year/02/3/parks.asp

“Staying Alive and Other Tips,” by Stephen Franklin in *Columbia Journalism Review* (May/June 2002). www.cjr.org/year/02/3/franklin.asp

“Preparing for Battle,” by Sherry Ricchiardi in *American Journalism Review* (July/August 2002). www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=2566

“‘Any Word?’ How *Newsday* Got Its Journalists Out of Saddam’s Prison,” by Dele Olojede in *Columbia Journalism Review* (May/June 2003). www.cjr.org/year/03/3/olojede.asp

“Advice for Photographers Covering Demonstrations” is a practical guide available from the National Union of Journalists London. Freelance Branch. www.media.gn.apc.org/fl/streets.html

“Danger: Journalists at Work” is a practical safety manual published by the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists. www.ifj.org/brights/safetymanual.html

A Freedom Forum–sponsored panel in 2000, “Setting the Standard: A Commitment to Frontline Journalism; An Obligation to Frontline Journalism,” featured a variety of American and British journalists and their views. The discussion led to the release of a set of safety guidelines for media employers and journalists. A transcript can be read at: www.freedomforum.org/templates/document.asp?documentID=13393.

“Out on a Limb: The Use and Abuse of Stringers in the Combat Zone,” by Frank Smyth in *Columbia Journalism Review* (March/April 1992) examines special issues facing freelancers. www.cjr.org/year/92/2/onthejob.asp

Stories by journalists about the emotional impact of covering wars appear regularly, along with related information about on-the-job stress, at www.dartcenter.org.

A University of Toronto study of war correspondents, “A Hazardous Profession: War, Journalists and Psychopathology,” by Anthony Feinstein, John Owen, and Nancy Blair, was published in September 2002 in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. The results of the study are posted at www.dartcenter.org.

Case studies by journalists and experts applying the rule of law to conflict situations are available online at www.crimesofwar.org.

Support Resources

Journalists working in hostile environments may turn to many organizations for various forms of support. They include:

Committee to Protect Journalists

330 Seventh Avenue, 12th floor

New York, NY 10001

Tel: 212-465-1004

Fax: 212-465-9568

E-mail: info@cpj.org

Web site: www.cpj.org

Reporters sans Frontières

5, rue Geoffrey-Marie

75009 Paris, France

Tel: (33) 1 44-83-84-84

Fax: (33) 1 45-23-11-51

E-mail: rsf@rsf.org

Web site: www.rsf.org

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) can help detainees in conflicts, including journalists. The main number in Geneva, Switzerland, is (41) 22-734-6001. The emergency after-hours number during weekdays is (41) 79-217-3204 and during weekends is (41) 79-217-3285. The ICRC hot line may also be reached through e-mail at press.gva@icrc.org.

Credits and Acknowledgments

This report was written by Frank Smyth and researched by Kristin Neubauer and Benjamin Duncan.

Frank Smyth is CPJ's Washington, D.C., representative and journalist security program coordinator. He has reported for CBS News, *The Economist*, *The Village Voice*, and other publications and has covered conflicts in El Salvador, Colombia, Rwanda, Sudan, and Iraq. In 1991, just after the Gulf War, Iraqi authorities detained him for 18 days. He is a contributor to *Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know*, edited by Roy Gutman and David Rieff.

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Cover photo: Amid a cloud of tear gas, a journalist photographs demonstrators at an antigovernment rally in Peru's capital, Lima, on May 25, 2000. (AP/Martin Mejia)

Photo on page 1: A U.S. Marine searches a journalist at a security checkpoint in Iraq's capital, Baghdad, on April 16, 2003. (AP/Dusan Vranic)

Photo on page 5: An Albanian border guard and two journalists carry Chilean television soundman Abner Machuca to safety after the journalist was shot in the head while recording skirmishes near the Kosovo-Albania border on May 27, 1999. (AP/David Guttenfelder)

Photo on page 7: An Israeli stun grenade explodes near a group of journalists outside Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah in April 2002. (AP/Nasser Nasser)

Photo on page 34: Journalists and soldiers take cover from Pakistani shelling along a highway in Indian-held Kashmir on July 6, 1999. (AP/Sherwin Crasto)

Photo on page 53: Bangladeshi journalist Tipu Sultan is treated at a hospital for injuries he sustained when a group of thugs abducted and savagely beat him with baseball bats, hockey sticks, and iron rods, severing his right hand. The attack stemmed from a January 17, 2001, article that the journalist had written implicating a local legislator in an arson attack. (AP/Pavel Rahman)

Photo on page 60: The Associated Press's Kathy Gannon reports from the basement of her office in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, during a night of heavy bombing in October 2001. (AP/Dimitri Messinis)

Editor: Susan Ellingwood

Deputy Editor: Amanda Watson-Boles

Designer: Bryan Gilligan

Printer: Photo Arts Limited

Many colleagues and experts contributed to this report. CPJ wishes to thank the following for their invaluable input: Marcio Aith, Rosental Calmon Alves, Oscar Francisco Ayala-Silva, Audrey Baker, Ana Baron-Supervielle, Yannis Behrakis, Phil Bennett, Colin Bickler, Jeremy Bigwood, Elaine Bole, Nora Boustany, Dave Butler, Tina Carr, Analya Cespedes, M. Kasim Cindemir, Carolyn Cole, Neal Conan, Chris Cramer, Pedro Diaz Romero, John Daniszweski, Bob Drogin, Douglas Farah, Linda Foley, Pamela Glass, Roy Gutman, David Handschuh, Jay Horan, Kathleen Jackson, Sally Jacobson, Steven Jones, Stephen Jukes, Andrew Kaine, Predrag Kosovic, Olga Krupauerova, Michael J. Limatola, Hilary Mackenzie, Duncan March, Adam Ouloguem, John Owen, William Parra, Paul Rees, Monica Riedler, Bruce Shapiro, John Siceloff, Alison Smale, Philip A. Tazi, Martin Turner, Leonard Venezia, Sandra Vergara, Scott Wallace, Aidan White, and David Wood.

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