The RE has never been a more dangerous time for journalists, with record numbers killed and imprisoned around the world. New technologies enable censorship and surveillance on an unprecedented scale—even as they empower exponentially more people to commit acts of journalism.

Syria provides a stark example of the new challenges, with 52 journalists killed for their reporting on the conflict to date. Ninety percent of those journalists were locals, including large numbers of citizen journalists. More than 70 Syrian journalists have been forced into exile since the conflict began in 2011.

In September, I joined an emergency meeting in Istanbul convened by CPJ to improve aid to Syrian journalists. Local journalists in Syria are literally serving as the eyes and ears of the world, yet feel largely abandoned by the international community. We are leading a joint initiative to support journalists at risk and share practical advice, including on security issues.

We also confronted an evolving crisis in Turkey, the world’s leading jailer of journalists in 2012. This year, things got even worse as journalists covering anti-government protests became frequent targets of police abuse. Dozens of journalists were fired or forced to resign for their critical reporting. CPJ drew international attention to the crackdown and raised the political costs of repression. Our advocacy contributed to the release of at least 10 journalists this year.

In October, CPJ issued its first-ever comprehensive report on the state of press freedom in the United States. The report examines the impact of the U.S. administration’s aggressive war on leaks and widespread surveillance. Leading journalists described to us a pervasive chilling effect on reporters and their sources. We are hearing from international colleagues about the far-reaching implications of these actions—especially for journalists working in closed societies who had looked to the U.S. as a model for upholding freedom of the press.

We all have a stake in ensuring that freedom of expression is broadly defended and preserved, the world over. Thanks to all of you who have supported us over the years. We hope that many more of you will join us in the fight to defend brave journalists and keep the information space open for all.

Sincerely,

Joel Simon
Executive Director

CPJ IS WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO IMPROVE AID TO SYRIAN JOURNALISTS AMID AN ESCALATING REFUGEE CRISIS. DOZENS OF JOURNALISTS HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY SINCE THE CONFLICT BEGAN. (P. 17)

A CPJ REPORT FINDS THAT BURMA FALTERS ON PRESS FREEDOM, DESPITE SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD GREATER OPENNESS. WE ARE CALLING FOR THE REFORM OF RESTRICTIVE MEDIA LAWS.

A CPJ MISSION TO THE COUNTRY FOUND AFGHAN JOURNALISTS BANDING TOGETHER TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF ONGOING THREATS, AND IN ANTICIPATION OF NEW DANGERS. (P. 7)

CPJ IS WORKING TO EXPOSE THE INVISIBLE PLIGHT OF THE TANZANIAN PRESS, AS A SPIKE IN ATTACKS AGAINST JOURNALISTS UNDERMINES THE COUNTRY’S REPUTATION FOR TRANSPARENCY.

IRAN’S JOURNALISTS ARE IN CHAINS, DECLARED OUR REPORT ISSUED ON THE EVE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. CPJ IS CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS.

OUR REPORT ON THE DIVIDE CHRONICLES THE STRUGGLE FOR PRESS FREEDOM AS JOURNALISTS FACE CHALLENGES RANGING FROM LEGAL INTIMIDATION TO CENSORSHIP TO PHYSICAL ASSAULT. (P. 9)

A CPJ ADVOCACY MISSION DREW GOVERNMENT ATTENTION TO A WAVE OF DEADLY VIOLENCE AGAINST THE MEDIA AND PROVIDED MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT TO LOCAL JOURNALISTS AT RISK. (P. 5)

A CPJ REPORT FINDS THAT BURMA FALTERS ON PRESS FREEDOM, DESPITE SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD GREATER OPENNESS. WE ARE CALLING FOR THE REFORM OF RESTRICTIVE MEDIA LAWS.

A REPORT ON THE PROBLEM OF IMPUNITY IN SYRIA INVESTIGATES WHY VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PRESS GOES UNPUNISHED IN ONE OF THE DEADLIEST COUNTRIES FOR JOURNALISTS.

A CPJ MISSION TO THE COUNTRY FOUND AFGHAN JOURNALISTS BANDING TOGETHER TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF ONGOING THREATS, AND IN ANTICIPATION OF NEW DANGERS. (P. 7)

A REPORT ON THE ROOTS OF IMPUNITY IN BURMA INVESTIGATES WHY VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PRESS GOES UNPUNISHED IN ONE OF THE DEADLIEST COUNTRIES FOR JOURNALISTS.
VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS SPIKES IN BRAZIL

Brazilian journalist Mauri König won international attention, including an award from CPJ, for his reporting on organized crime and corruption. Back home in the southern city of Curitiba, König’s work won him powerful enemies among local police who were among those accused of wrongdoing. After receiving death threats, the journalist went into hiding with his wife and 3-year-old son, and called CPJ. We worked with IPYS, a Lima-based press group, to get König out of the country.

“I have always been convinced that journalism is an instrument that transforms people and realities,” König wrote in an anguished blog for CPJ. “I went to the limit of my possibilities in search of the truth in which I believe.” König chose to return home, despite ongoing threats. In March, CPJ carried out a mission to Brazil to stand with König and other journalists at risk. Brazil is among the most dangerous countries in the Americas for journalists. Ten journalists have been killed over the past two years. Provincial journalists and bloggers face the greatest risks.

Our advocacy helped secure government pledges to protect press freedom at home and abroad. In meetings with CPJ, Brazilian officials pledged to support the embattled Inter-American human rights system and the UN action plan on impunity. This year, we welcomed a conviction in the 2010 murder of Brazilian radio journalist and blogger Francisco Gomes de Medeiros. We urged authorities to bring to justice all those responsible for the journalist’s murder and address mounting violence against the press.

In June, CPJ documented the cases of 25 journalists attacked or detained amid massive protests that swept Brazil. Journalists were targeted by military police, as well as by protesters angered by media coverage. We called on all sides to respect the crucial role of journalists in covering events of tremendous public interest.

“I WENT TO THE LIMIT OF MY POSSIBILITIES IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH IN WHICH I BELIEVE”
Afghanistan’s booming news media are among the country’s success stories—evidence of the social and political changes since the end of Taliban rule. However, Afghan journalists still face tremendous pressures from all sides, including the government, security forces, militant groups, and regional and ethnic powerbrokers. The risks are likely to multiply during a volatile transition period, as the country prepares for national elections in April 2014 and the planned drawdown of most NATO troops by the end of that year. The international community is expected to scale down aid, including support for media and civil society.

CPJ traveled to Afghanistan in July to meet with local journalists and prepare for contingencies. We found that a number of journalists have already left the field, particularly women. Although permanent exile is a last resort, CPJ has assisted a limited number of journalists forced to flee the country. We are seeking to ensure that the U.S. grants Special Immigrant Visas to qualified Afghans who worked for U.S. media companies.

Many reporters said they were committed to stay, and local journalists are increasingly banding together to defend their rights. We welcomed the establishment of the Afghanistan Journalists Federation, an umbrella organization of nine media and free expression groups. During a visit to the AJF office in Kabul, we met with journalist Abdulrahman Sakhiзадeh, who was imprisoned on libel charges for exposing abuses in the High Office for Oversight and Anti-Corruption. Asked about his two weeks locked in a hot cell during Ramadan, Sakhiзадeh replied simply, “prison is prison.” He planned to fight his case through the courts.

Despite anxiety about the future, many journalists sounded cautiously optimistic. “This society has grown enough not to see all these gains vanish overnight,” said Lotfullah Najafizada, head of current affairs at Tolo TV, the country’s largest independent broadcaster. “Some gains are irreversible.”
JOURNALISTS FIGHTING FOR FREE EXPRESSION IN EGYPT

CPJ has stood at the forefront of defending journalists in Egypt, where state repression combined with political volatility pose extraordinary challenges for a deeply divided press corps.

Hopes for press freedom in Egypt were high after the 2011 revolution led to an explosion of private media outlets and set the country on a path to a landmark presidential election. Since then, the media have been battered by an array of repressive tactics, from legal and physical intimidation under the short-lived presidency of Mohamed Morsi to the wide censorship of the new military-backed government.

Morsi’s failure to tolerate diverse views was among the missteps that led to his fall. A CPJ special report found that Morsi and his supporters used politicized regulations, ignored dissent to push through a repressive new constitution, pursued retaliatory criminal investigations, and employed rhetorical and physical intimidation of critics.

When the Egyptian military seized control on July 3, it promptly turned the tables. One of the regime’s first acts was to take five pro-Morsi television stations off the air in an effort to mute criticism. In the ensuing two months, CPJ reported on 67 cases of temporary detentions, assaults, and confiscations against journalists. As of September 1, Egyptian authorities were holding 10 journalists in custody—including six journalists from Al-Jazeera and its affiliates.

Nine journalists have been killed in the course of their reporting in Egypt since 2011. In September, CPJ launched an online petition drive calling for investigations into the deaths of all journalists killed during this period.

In November, CPJ gave its International Press Freedom Award to Egyptian satirist Bassem Youssef, a popular talk show host and newspaper columnist who takes on political conservatives and liberals alike. (See p. 27) “I will not tone down my criticism,” Youssef told CPJ in an interview just days before Morsi’s ouster. “Freedom of speech is not a gift, it’s a birthright.”
The Nigerian media scene is vibrant. However, reporting on conflict, human rights abuses, and political corruption can be extraordinarily difficult. Government officials often use state security as a pretext for withholding information.

The country is one of the world’s largest oil producers, yet more than half its people live in poverty. In April, CPJ condemned the government’s ban on the documentary film, “Fueling Poverty,” which was deemed a threat to national security. Media organizations have been sanctioned for criticizing the government.

Nigeria, which joined CPJ’s Impunity Index for the first time, ranked 11th worst in the world in prosecuting journalist murders. Attacks on the press are perpetrated by security forces and officials, and members of the Islamist militant group Boko Haram. Reporters who cover Boko Haram told CPJ they are being watched. “Most of us know that our phone lines are bugged by the security agencies,” Daily Trust investigative editor Nuruddeen Abdallah told CPJ in an e-mail. “We are operating between the devil and the deep blue sea.”

In April, the Premium Times reported on a secret government program to spy on Internet users. In September, the Nigerian Senate debated a bill for the “Interception, Development and Protection of Communications Networks and Facilities for Public Interest and Other Related Matters.” Journalists worried that the bill would provide a legal basis for wider surveillance.

We are expanding outreach with the local press freedom movement, including bloggers and mobile media pioneers. In September, Information Minister Labaran Maku expressed the government’s “utmost displeasure” with online media coverage. He criticized two news organizations, Premium Times and SaharaReporters, for publishing “online reports deliberately contrived to undermine military strategy, demoralize our troops, or even cause incitement to mutiny.”

CPJ also covered a high-profile criminal case involving two journalists at the Leadership newspaper, Tony Amokeodo and Chibuzor Ukaibe. The case was launched in reprisal for their critical reporting on President Goodluck Jonathan’s political plans. The journalists were charged on 11 counts that could put them in prison for life.
RUSSIA TIGHTENS REPRESION AHEAD OF SOCHI GAMES

In the year since Vladimir Putin returned to the Russian presidency, independent media, civil society groups, and opposition activists have come under attack. A raft of new laws suppress dissent by limiting public assembly, criminalizing defamation, and authorizing state censorship of critical websites. Local human rights groups and independent watchdogs that receive funding from abroad are required to brand themselves as “foreign agents”—a term that in Russia connotes “spy.”

CPJ launched a campaign to draw international attention to deteriorating press freedom conditions in Russia ahead of the 2014 Sochi Olympics. CPJ is stirring a debate over the role of human rights and the free exchange of information in granting and organizing a prestigious international event like the Olympics. Does the International Olympic Committee have an obligation to hold host governments accountable for repression, censorship, and human rights abuses? Can host city obligations to allow news media the freedom to report on the Games be met in an environment in which journalists’ physical safety is threatened or dissent is silenced?

In Russia, a crackdown on free expression and a strong anti-foreign climate threaten to collide with the Olympic goals of peace and mutual respect, and the guarantees of media freedom to report on the Games.

In August, CPJ and Human Rights Watch issued a joint letter addressed to the six presidential candidates of the International Olympic Committee to raise concerns about Russia’s record and to ensure that future host countries fully comply with human rights principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter. The organizations received a response from IOC Director General Christophe De Kepper, who invited us to submit specific cases in which media are prevented from reporting freely during the Games.

In September, our Russia correspondent traveled to Sochi to investigate local press freedom conditions. CPJ will continue to monitor media restrictions closely, and look for every opportunity to hold Russia accountable for press freedom violations.
Government surveillance of electronic communications “should be regarded as a highly intrusive act that potentially interferes with the rights to freedom of expression and privacy and threatens the foundations of a democratic society,” warned a United Nations report issued this spring. Following revelations of widespread digital surveillance led by the United States National Security Agency (NSA), these words seemed a prescient rebuke.

In June, The Guardian and The Washington Post began publishing a series of articles based on confidential information about U.S. communications surveillance programs provided by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. CPJ joined an unprecedented coalition of leading Internet companies and civil liberties activists to press Washington to be more open about its massive surveillance programs.

“I wonder how many have truly understood the absolute threat to journalism implicit in the idea of total surveillance?” wrote Alan Rusbridger, editor of The Guardian and past winner of CPJ’s Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for lifetime achievement in the cause of press freedom. “We are not there yet, but it may not be long before it will be impossible for journalists to have confidential sources.”


In September, CPJ expressed alarm over reports by Der Spiegel that the NSA had hacked into the internal communications of the international news network Al Jazeera.

CPJ is reaching out to journalists around the world to raise awareness about the critical importance of digital security, a major focus of our Journalist Security Guide (available at cpj.org in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and Somali).
Fuad Abdel Aziz worked as a reporter for the official Syrian news agency SANA when the uprising began in his hometown of Deraa in March 2011. He says he fell under suspicion almost immediately. SANA sent him to report from Deraa, but twisted his dispatches to suit the official narrative. “We were at the center of events, and at the center of the disinformation that the Syrian regime was providing to the Syrian people,” Abdel Aziz said in an interview. “I couldn’t tell the truth while I was in Syria.”

Abdel Aziz was detained by intelligence agents, and later asked by security personnel to spy on behalf of the government. When he refused, officials threatened to arrest him or harm his family. Terrified, Abdel Aziz crossed into Jordan with his wife and five young children.

CPJ provided emergency aid to get Abdel Aziz to safety in France. We sent additional grants to pay for his family to join him there, and for urgent medical care for the journalist’s daughter.

CPJ created its Journalist Assistance Program in 2001 to provide help to journalists whose needs could not be addressed by advocacy alone. We offer a range of support services, including emergency grants, case advocacy, and referrals to vital services. Since the program was launched, CPJ has offered direct aid to more than 1,000 journalists from 54 countries.

From Syria alone, more than 70 journalists have fled since the conflict began—part of a much larger refugee crisis. In September, CPJ organized a summit meeting in Istanbul to improve aid to Syrian journalists at risk. CPJ is working with partners to implement proposed projects, including the creation of a network to coordinate emergency assistance; an online resource center for Syrian journalists and those covering the conflict; and joint advocacy on behalf of exiled journalists.
MORE THAN 1,000 JOURNALISTS KILLED SINCE 1992

CPJ INVESTIGATES EVERY REPORT OF A JOURNALIST KILLED
THESE RECORDS PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR ACTION TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR SLAIN COLLEAGUES

ISSUES COVERED
- Business: 5%
- Corruption: 21%
- Crime: 15%
- Culture: 17%
- Human Rights: 17%
- Politics: 42%
- Sports: 2%
- War: 36%

JOBS OF VICTIMS
- Print Reporter: 29%
- Broadcast Reporter: 16%
- Camera Operator: 16%
- Columnist/Commentator: 4%
- Columnist/Editor: 13%
- Columnist/Writer: 9%
- Columnist/Commentator: 8%
- Columnist/Writer: 5%
- Publisher/Owner: 4%
- Internet Reporter: 4%
- Technician: 2%
- Producer: 2%
- Publisher/Owner: 2%
- Columnist/Commentator: 1%
- Columnist/Writer: 1%
- Columnist/Commentator: 1%
- Columnist/Writer: 1%

MEDIUM
- Print: 52%
- Television: 29%
- Radio: 8%
- Internet: 20%

TYPE OF DEATH
- Murder: 67%
- Combat: 20%
- Dangerous Assignment: 13%

IMPUNITY
- Complete Impunity: 88%
- Partial Justice: 7%
- Full Justice: 5%

MURDER SUSPECTS
- Criminal Group: 13%
- Government Officials: 21%
- Local Residents: 2%
- Military Officials: 2%

LOCAL / INTERNATIONAL
- Local Journalists: 88%
- International Journalists: 12%

THE VAST MAJORITY OF VICTIMS ARE LOCAL REPORTERS COVERING ISSUES OF VITAL INTEREST TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

BEHIND THESE NUMBERS ARE COUNTLESS STORIES THAT MUST BE TOLD

CPJ CONSIDERS A DEATH “CONFIRMED” ONLY IF WE ARE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT A JOURNALIST WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF HIS OR HER WORK. WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING A DEATH REMAIN UNCLEAR, CPJ CLASSIFIES THE CASE AS “UNCONFIRMED” AND CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE.

THESE INFOGRAPHICS ARE BASED ON CPJ DATA AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2013. STATISTICAL TOTALS MAY ADD UP TO MORE THAN 100 PERCENT BECAUSE MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY APPLIES IN SOME CASES.
Our Campaign Against Impunity is bringing the killers of journalists to justice. Working with partner groups, we have made the issue of impunity an international priority and spurred prosecutors to action in emblematic cases.

In a milestone toward justice, this January, a Kiev court convicted a former high-ranking Ukrainian police official in the 2000 murder of journalist Georgy Gongadze. The 31-year-old editor was the first online journalist worldwide to be murdered for his work.

In May, CPJ celebrated a partial victory for justice when the man who shot journalist Gerardo Ortega was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Philippines. CPJ reported on the case extensively and provided aid to the Ortega family. “Thank you for being with us in every development, every victory, every setback,” Michaela Ortega, the journalist’s daughter, wrote in a message to CPJ staff. “For not relenting in your support. For lending us your voices. We would never have gotten this far without you.”

This year CPJ helped secure a major gain in Mexico, with passage of legislation giving the federal government jurisdiction over crimes against free expression. CPJ played an instrumental role in persuading the United Nations to strengthen its response to the crisis. In 2012, the UN adopted a Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which draws extensively on CPJ research. In 2013, we saw an unprecedented Security Council session on the protection of journalists. Nearly 50 member states participated in the July session, many of them citing CPJ reporting. Speakers included Kathleen Carroll, executive editor of The Associated Press and CPJ Vice Chair, and Mustafa Haji Abdinur, a correspondent for Agence France-Presse in Somalia and past winner of CPJ’s International Press Freedom Award. Our ability to place issues on the international agenda has never been greater.
Covering civil unrest is among the most dangerous assignments any reporter can take on. This year alone, CPJ documented more than 125 attacks on journalists covering protests—including assaults, obstruction, detention, raids, threats, censorship orders, and confiscation or destruction of equipment. From the streets of Brazil to Egypt to Turkey, journalists took on tremendous risks to bring eyewitness accounts of massive demonstrations and the often violent attempts to suppress them.

CPJ’s Istanbul correspondent Özgür Öğret described the surreal atmosphere in his cosmopolitan city as police used tear gas and water cannons to break up the demonstrations. “The demand and price of gas masks, protective eyewear, and helmets rocketed in Istanbul,” he wrote for the CPJ blog. “Hardware store clerks were quick studies, explaining to journalists which masks offer you a better line of sight when taking pictures, and describing the problem of speaking through a mask when broadcasting live.”

In Turkey, police were responsible for most of the attacks against journalists documented by CPJ, including numerous beatings and detentions. But angry protesters also attacked journalists whose reporting they perceived as supportive of the state. News vehicles were tagged with graffiti, pushed over, and in some cases destroyed by crowds.
CPJ’s Journalist Security Guide - available at cpj.org in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Somali - provides practical advice on how to stay safe while covering protests and other civil disturbances.
CPJ is proud to honor these courageous journalists with the 2013 International Press Freedom Awards. They have pursued important stories in defiance of threats, assault, censorship, and imprisonment. Through their outstanding work, they are pushing the frontiers of press freedom.

NGUYEN VAN HAI
VIETNAM

Hai was honored by CPJ in absentia, as he served out a long prison sentence for blogging about politically sensitive issues. He is widely known for his blog Dieu Cay (Peasant’s Pipe), and as founder of the Free Journalists Club of Vietnam. Hai was first arrested in 2008 and later sentenced to two and a half years in prison on trumped-up charges. After completing his first prison term, he remained in detention while authorities investigated new anti-state charges related to his online journalism. In 2012, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison and five years of house arrest for “conducting propaganda” against the state. He has endured solitary confinement and waged a hunger strike. Family members report that Hai suffers from poor health and was barely recognizable during a prison visit this year.

JANET HINOSTROZA
ECUADOR

A leading television reporter and host in her native Ecuador, Hinostroza has investigated human and arms trafficking, police abuses, and extrajudicial killings. Her work made her a prime target in the government’s ongoing assault on free expression. In 2012, Hinostroza was forced to take a leave of absence from her morning news program “La Mañana de 24 Horas,” broadcast by the private Ecuadoran television channel Teleamazonas, following anonymous phone calls threatening her safety. She had recently investigated a scandal involving a businessman connected to a cousin of President Rafael Correa. Since 2011, Hinostroza’s show had been frequently preempted to transmit official speeches and rebuttals, known as cadenas. This year, Correa requested that prosecutors investigate Teleamazonas for its alleged links to a 2010 police rebellion.

NEDİM ŞENER
TURKEY

An investigative journalist and author of several books, Şener has won international accolades for his reporting. Yet he is accused of being a terrorist by his government, which alleges that Şener used his journalism to aid an anti-state plot. Şener was detained for a year, and granted conditional release in March 2012 to be tried without arrest. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison under Turkey’s deeply flawed anti-terror law.

BASSEM YOUSSEF
EGYPT

As a window for free expression opened with the Egyptian revolution in 2011, cardiac surgeon Bassem Youssef began dissecting his society with a satirical newscast, “The B+ Show,” produced in his living room and posted on YouTube. The show went viral, earning Youssef a spot on the airwaves as the host of “Al Bernameg” (The Program), now aired by Capital Broadcast Center (CBC). The show has more than 40 million viewers. Youssef has been adept at pushing the limits on freedom of speech in a volatile political environment. Earlier this year he faced charges of “insulting the president” and “reporting false news” for his scathing commentary and skits. Egyptians are famous for their sense of humor—their government officials less so.
2012 SUPPORTERS

The Committee to Protect Journalists is extremely grateful to the individuals, corporations, and foundations whose generosity makes our work possible. We also extend our gratitude to the many contributors who supported CPI with gifts under $500, not listed here due to space limitations. This list includes donors who made gifts during the period from January 1 to December 31, 2012.
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Nearly three-quarters of every dollar spent by CPI goes directly to program activities.

12% Management & General
73% Program Services
15% Fundraising

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2012
(with comparative totals for December 31, 2011)

Statement of Functional Expenses for the Year Ended December 31, 2012
(with comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2011)

Complete audited financial statements, including auditors’ notes, are available at our website, cpj.org.

Complete audited financial statements, including auditors’ notes, are available at our website, cpj.org.
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A photographer walks past Turkish riot police during clashes in Istanbul in September. Police fired tear gas and plastic bullets to disperse the crowds, while protesters used fireworks.