



Backgrounder

The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. We defend the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal.

Website: cpj.org

Latest statistics

- [248 journalists behind bars in 2019](#)
- [22 journalists killed in 2020](#) (as of Nov 2 check link for latest data)
- [1387 journalists killed since 1992](#) (as of Nov 2 check link for latest data)
- [64 journalists missing globally](#)
- [CPJ's 2020 Impunity Index](#)
 - During the 10-year index period ending August 31, 2020, 277 journalists were murdered for their work worldwide and in 83% of those cases no perpetrators have been successfully prosecuted.
- COVID-19 crackdowns
 - As of Oct 28, CPJ has recorded [190 press freedom violations](#) connected to the pandemic.
- Press Freedom in the USA: In 2017 CPJ helped found the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, which received more than 930 reported anti-press incidents across 79 cities during this year's protests. Statistics and comparative data [here](#).

CPJ campaigns on behalf of journalists featured in this year's awards show:

- [#FreeThePress](#): Amid the unprecedented public health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 190 groups joined together to urge world leaders to immediately and unconditionally release all journalists imprisoned for their work. At least two journalists have died of COVID-19 behind bars and we urge authorities to drop charges against journalists like our awardee Mohammed Mosaed.
- [#SafetyInFocus](#): Photojournalists face enormous safety and security challenges, like Shahidul did in Bangladesh. CPJ's [#SafetyInFocus](#) campaign highlights the risks photojournalists face and how they can protect themselves
- [#HoldTheLine](#): Defend Maria Ressa and independent media in the Philippines

CPJ provides life-saving information to journalists including related to:

- [Election safety](#)
- [Physical, digital, and psychosocial safety](#)
- [COVID-19 safety](#)