Journalists walk inside a destroyed food warehouse after a Russian attack on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine.

AP/Rodrigo Abd

To make a gift to CPJ or to find out about other ways to support our work, please contact us at development@cpj.org.

cpj.org/donate
Dear CPJ supporter,

Earlier this year I had the honor of meeting Associated Press journalists Mstyslav Chernov and Evgeniy Maloletka, who brought the world news of the atrocities in the city of Mariupol, Ukraine. Reflecting on his experiences there, Chernov said he realized: “Sometimes, news is more important for human survival than food.”

That is as true in a war zone as it is amid a continuing global pandemic or growing worldwide political unrest. Whether the news tells us where we can safely travel, helps us make timely, accurate decisions about our health, or exposes political corruption, the press is vital to every decision we make—especially when those decisions can mean the difference between life and death.

And while the war in Ukraine makes that crystal clear, it is not the only place where a threatened press and a fractured society go hand-in-hand. There has been no foreign invasion of Mexico this year, yet it is as dangerous to be a journalist there as in a war zone. In much of the world, it takes a certain kind of fortitude to be a journalist and endure the constant animosity or retaliation journalists too often face for reporting the news.

That fortitude can only go so far.

Journalists sometimes need more help so they can do their jobs safely. Whether that help comes from giving their story the attention it deserves or advocating on a journalist’s behalf; whether it comes as safety advice written in local languages, or via one-on-one consultations, or whether it’s direct financial assistance or relocation support, CPJ has stood with journalists for more than 40 years so they never have to go it alone.

That is precisely what the pages ahead chronicle: your continued support at work in keeping journalists safe.

When I took the helm as CPJ’s new president earlier this year, I did so recognizing just how challenging the task ahead might be given the sharp rise in the threats journalists are facing daily. But I also did so noting that this was a moment of solidarity and optimism.

Thanks to you, our growing and dedicated team has been able to help more journalists than ever before, and in the process keep open the spaces for life-saving information to flow.

You have been a stalwart defender of a free press, and we could not do this work without you.

Thank you.

Jodie Ginsberg
President
CPJ is headquartered in New York with offices in Washington, D.C. and Brussels and a safety team based in Europe. We also have a network of reporters all over the world, including in Abuja, Bangkok, Berlin, Bogotá, Brussels, Delhi, Guatemala City, Istanbul, Lisbon, London, Lomé, Lusaka, Mexico City, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm, Taipei, and Vilnius.
DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENTS: DOCUMENTING THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

In late February 2022, as Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, CPJ declared an organization-wide emergency, an internal move to shift resources and personnel, as needed, to address the crisis. Over the past several years—from Syria to U.S. protests to Afghanistan—CPJ has fine-tuned a rapid response in the face of these emergencies.

The war in Ukraine, however, is shaping up to be one of the worst press freedom crises in CPJ’s history. A dedicated team has worked around the clock to document press freedom violations and attacks on journalists—and to provide the support those journalists need.

Here are some of the ways we’re taking action.

CPJ disbursed crucial safety advice in Ukrainian, Russian, and English to help journalists who cover the war. These advisories cover a wide range of situational risks—from civil disorder, arrest and detention, and internet shutdowns, to assessing digital threats. CPJ also offers one-on-one safety consultations for more specific questions journalists ask.

In March, CPJ called on Ukrainian authorities to exempt journalists from conscription. Sevgil Musaieva, chief editor of media outlet Ukrainska Pravda and our 2022 IPFA Awarded, told CPJ that one of her correspondents faced mobilization in Lviv. While some journalists volunteered at the war’s start, CPJ continues to advocate for journalists to be able to report the news.

Amid a global shortage of personal protective equipment, CPJ has provided crucial resources for journalists to access the equipment they need. Working with MedTrade and local outlet Zaborona, CPJ distributed hundreds of first aid kits, as well as hemostatic gauze to stop bleeding in 60 seconds—lifelines to reporting on the war safely.

CPJ mobilized to secure a statement on journalist safety from the Media Freedom Coalition. We worked to ensure the inclusion of journalists in accountability processes with the OSCE Moscow Mechanism—established to assess potential war crimes in Ukraine—and we liaised with USAID and the U.S. National Security Council to share the concerns of journalists in Ukraine.

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The Russia-Ukraine war has displaced hundreds of journalists. Many Ukrainian journalists have been forced from their homes even as they try to remain in the country to report on the conflict, dozens of Belarussian and Tajik journalists who sought pre-war refuge in Ukraine from media crackdowns in their own countries have again had to flee, and Russia’s harsh measures to control coverage of the war forced at least 250 local journalists to seek refuge abroad. CPJ is assisting dozens of journalists with financial and non-financial lifelines of support, including country condition letters for those aiming to relocate.

Within Russia, the situation for journalists has changed alarmingly. As the war in Ukraine intensified, Russia focused its attention on controlling domestic coverage. Silencing voices at home, authorities cracked down on independent media and criminalized the dissemination of any news challenging Vladimir Putin’s narrative. Using the words “invasion” or “war” in relation to Russia’s actions became punishable by up to 15 years in prison. As both local and international newsrooms scrambled to understand the implications of these laws for their staff, CPJ and the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s global pro bono legal service, TrustLaw, set to work on a “Know Your Rights” guide. CPJ received the 2022 Thomson Reuters Foundation Impact Award for a similar guide to support journalists covering protests in the United States. Our new guide helps journalists operating in Russia understand risks and which rules are being applied so that they can make informed decisions around newsgathering and safety.

For many journalists, however, the collapse of independent media in Russia signaled the end of their careers in their home country. In the spring of 2022, CPJ traveled to Germany, setting up a temporary “hub” to meet with and understand the needs of journalists affected by the war, especially Russians, as many set up operations in exile. We also traveled to Georgia, Norway, and Poland to assess the needs of journalists and continue to actively assist these journalists—and others like them—affected most directly by the war.

Russia’s gutting of independent media, however, hasn’t stopped journalists from finding important ways to continue their work—and CPJ will stand with them.
JOURNALIST ASSISTANCE: A LOOK BACK AT AFGHANISTAN

In August 2021, hundreds of Afghan journalists made desperate plans to flee as U.S.-led forces withdrew and the Taliban took back control of the country.

A generation of journalists had been raised to believe that Afghanistan’s best days were ahead, and that their roles as watchdogs would help shape a free Afghanistan. But now, they were mobilizing to leave.

With the Taliban’s unexpectedly swift advance on Kabul, CPJ’s options to help were greatly limited, especially amid complicated and unclear foreign visa processes that were inaccessible to many.

In the face of these challenges, CPJ helped dozens of reporters to evacuate, including Bushra Seddique and Ogai Wardak. These are their stories.

Bushra Seddique

Seddique is a 22-year-old journalist who worked for the Arman-e-milli newspaper in Kabul. She fled the country for the U.S. with her 16-year-old sister; their older brother traveled separately but was able to join them. Her mother, father, and another sister remain in Kabul.

“I left Afghanistan on the 29th of August, a day before the U.S. withdrew all troops. I just wanted to escape Afghanistan.”

Seddique’s evacuation took her from Afghanistan to Qatar to Germany, and then to a U.S. military camp in Indiana before ultimately resettling in Maryland. She is currently an editorial fellow for The Atlantic—and has published a piece chronicling her evacuation.

“My only dream when coming to the U.S.,” she said in an interview, “was to continue being a journalist. This was the only request I asked of CPJ.”

Seddique misses her family and home dearly, but is moving forward with life in Maryland as best she can: she hopes to obtain her driver’s license soon.

Ogai Wardak

When news of the Taliban’s potential takeover of Kabul spread, Ogai Wardak, a 21-year-old journalist working for the female-led, groundbreaking news channel Zan TV “never believed the Taliban would take the capital city.”

Days later, Wardak made it past the gunmen at Kabul airport and, with a visa CPJ was able to secure in consultation with the Irish government, boarded a plane for Doha, Qatar, before resettling in Dublin.

She spent three months at a refugee camp and three months with an Irish family. She longed for home where she’d managed a school of kindergarten students when not reporting for Zan TV.

“Afghanistan was beautiful, life was good even though there was a war. I miss my family, friends, and my students.”

Today, she works as a translator for Afghan refugees. She hopes to bring her family to Dublin, and is grateful she has been able to continue working as a journalist.
Acapulco was home to photojournalist Alfredo Cardoso Echeverría, who worked for various media outlets in Mexico and founded the online news magazine Las Dos Costas. On October 28, 2021, Cardoso was abducted from his home by masked men and shot several times. Days later, he was pronounced dead.

Cardoso’s murder comes at a time when Mexico is experiencing a devastating uptick in journalist killings. Through August, CPJ had documented three journalists murdered in retaliation for their work in 2022 and is investigating the circumstances of 10 other journalist killings to determine if they were work-related.

Murder is the ultimate form of censorship, and CPJ is focused on demanding justice in every case, as well as offering support to journalists who need to navigate government-operated protection mechanisms.

One such mechanism, established in 2012, provides protective measures including camera systems, panic buttons, police protection, and relocation assistance to journalists under threat, but is often slow-moving and archaic to navigate. CPJ is actively engaging with public officials to improve these existing means of protection.

We are also seeking justice for Alfredo Cardoso Echeverría—and others like him. In working closely with Mexico’s Executive Commission for Attention to Victims, an institution that provides restitution for victims of violence, CPJ has sought reparations of damages for Cardoso’s family. We are also assisting Cardoso’s wife in her push to ensure that federal authorities conduct a credible investigation into Cardoso’s murder, so it will not become another example of impunity in a country where, too often, the perpetrators of violence against journalists evade punishment.

This past May, CPJ Mexico Representative Jan-Albert Hootsen attended events held to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the killing of Javier Valdez Cárdenas, a Sinaloan journalist fatally shot in 2017 and 2011 recipient of CPJ’s International Press Freedom Award. To date, while certain individuals involved in his murder have been convicted for their roles, others have yet to face any form of justice.

CPJ strives to break the cycle of impunity in Mexico, for Valdez, for Cardoso, and for the more than 68 journalists and media workers killed in direct connection with their work in Mexico since 1992.

“Impunity continues to be the principal factor that fuels attacks against reporters,” Hootsen has said, “and Mexican authorities must step up their efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.”
Moroccan journalist Omar Radi was investigating the expropriation of land in his country in July 2020. As he worked, Radi was summoned by police at least 10 times and eventually jailed pending trial. The following summer, a court sentenced him to six years in prison on charges that are widely considered to be retaliatory.

Forensic analysis of Radi’s phone in 2019 and 2020 by Amnesty International revealed the device had been hacked with Pegasus spyware, a product of Israeli technology firm NSO Group. CPJ research corroborates that spyware products like Pegasus marketed to fight crime have been used to target members of the press globally. NSO Group has said it sells only to vetted governments and law enforcement agencies.

These digital surveillance products are designed to enable unauthorized access to electronic devices such as mobile phones or personal computers, often relying on vulnerabilities in the product software or by tricking a target into clicking a link or attachment to access the device.

Spyware can be used to retrieve a journalist’s whereabouts, sources, and private interactions. During interrogations of Radi, for example, police had information about the people he lived with that had never been publicized. In denying journalists the privacy they need to work safely, surveillance can cause them psychological distress and damage their ability to communicate with sources, as CPJ found in the cases of journalists in Togo, El Salvador, and elsewhere.

We are also working with human rights groups from around the world to push for transparency and accountability for spyware purveyors and violators. In September 2021, CPJ briefed members of the U.S. State Department and National Security Council on press freedom and spyware, and urged them to take targeted action against NSO Group. The following month, the Department of Commerce imposed export controls on NSO Group, a blow to the company’s business prospects intended to send a clear message to others in the spyware industry: there are repercussions for the misuse of these products.

CPJ also urged the Biden administration to use its two-day “Summit for Democracy” to take global action on spyware. During the summit, the U.S., Australia, Denmark, and Norway announced the Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative, a coalition presently working to draft a code of conduct for governments to reduce the misuse of spyware to target journalists and activists alike. CPJ is now working with civil society organizations to provide input to that initiative.

These important steps to curb the use of spyware against journalists will hopefully slow the proliferation and wrongful use of the product, but our continued research and advocacy will be crucial as these products become more sophisticated and widespread over time.
ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

CPJ believes in the strength of collective action. Whether engaging government officials or working with partners committed to press freedom, we can champion the rights of journalists everywhere. Here are just some of the ways we’re collaborating to make the world safer for journalists to do their jobs.

**Founding members of the ACOS Alliance**
CPJ is a founding member of the ACOS Alliance, a network of 130 organizations committed to building "a culture of safety" for local and freelance journalists. The alliance recognizes these journalists’ vitality to the free flow of information and the increasing vulnerabilities they face in today’s world. In 2022, partners organized safety workshops at global journalism events, such as the International Journalism Festival (IJF) in Perugia, Italy, and Photoville in New York City.

**Partnering with Loki Films and HBO**
Premiering at TriBeCa Film Festival in June 2022 and on HBO Max shortly thereafter, Ronan Farrow and Loki Films’ Endangered documents today’s threats to global press freedom. The film follows four journalists as they struggle with personal sacrifices to bring us the news during an historic pandemic and social upheaval. Following a two-year partnership, the film features commentary from CPJ staff and excerpts from CPJ meetings to help contextualize these stories.

**Supporting journalists in distress**
CPJ is a founding member and works closely with the Journalist in Distress (JiD) Network, a collaboration of 24 international freedom of expression groups who share information to develop joint initiatives for emergency response. In the months following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, and as Russia invaded Ukraine, the network has enabled close coordination to ensure that the right help reaches the greatest number of journalists possible.

**“Holding the Line” for Maria Ressa**
CPJ has banded together with Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) to spearhead a coalition of more than 80 organizations in support of Rappler CEO and Nobel laureate Maria Ressa, who faces legal persecution, online harassment, and the threat of imprisonment. The #HoldTheLine campaign works with Ressa’s legal team to advocate on her behalf and demand the decriminalization of libel along with other reforms for a free press.

**Advocating on behalf of Shireen Abu Akleh**
CPJ joined a press conference with members of the U.S. Congress, the Institute for Middle East Understanding, and the family of Shireen Abu Akleh, who was fatally shot in the head in the West Bank city of Jenin. Multiple eyewitnesses and investigations concluded that the gunfire came from an Israel Defense Forces position, but no one has been held to account. CPJ continues to renew calls for an investigation that leads to accountability for the killing of Abu Akleh.

**Partnering with The Washington Post**
As an inaugural member of the partnership—"a public service initiative from The Post to promote press freedom worldwide"—CPJ and 10 international partners have highlighted multiple high-profile cases in print ads. From Jamal Khashoggi to Austin Tice to, most recently, Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian American killed while reporting in the West Bank, public attention applies pressure on governments to curb press freedom violations.
When a government puts a journalist behind bars, it not only silences the reporter but also chills reporting locally. With fewer journalists covering vital news, people lose their right to be informed. We say it often: journalism is not a crime. Yet, the number of journalists behind bars reached a record high in 2021, with CPJ documenting more than 290 jailed on December 1 as political upheaval and media crackdowns reflected increasing intolerance for independent reporting.

In our effort to free the press, we reach out to local authorities and family members, and advocate with government leaders to demand the release of jailed journalists. Whether through discreet diplomacy or seizing the headlines, CPJ pushes for justice when journalists are robbed of their freedom. We also seek to end the laws and regulations created or misused to repress the independent media.

Over the past five years, advocacy by CPJ and its partners has helped win the early release from prison of more than 400 journalists.

One place where those advocacy efforts are making a difference is Egypt.

Last year, Egypt was the world’s third-worst jailer of journalists, with at least 25 reporters imprisoned in the country in retaliation for their work. Recent years had been just as bleak for journalists, if not worse—with Egypt holding as many as 34 journalists in 2020. President Joe Biden’s inauguration, however, offered Egypt’s notorious al-Qanatir women’s prison an opportunity to engage with U.S. government officials about what more could be done to hold the country accountable for its dismal record of jailing journalists.

CPJ sought high-level meetings with government officials at the U.S. Department of State, including officials at the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. As part of those meetings, coinciding with briefings to U.S. lawmakers, we asked officials to pressure Egypt on its human rights record and to make aid to the country conditional on its improvement.

Over a two-year period, the U.S. withheld $260 million in military aid to Egypt, and President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi has promised a national “dialogue” and reforms. Since the beginning of last year through September 2022, Egypt’s new arrests of journalists have plummeted and more than 20 journalists have been released, including Esraa Abdelfattah, Mohamed Salah, and Solafa Magdy—all arrested in late 2019. Charged with false news and anti-state crimes, their release shows improvement, but with many others still imprisoned Egypt must do more to ensure it is safe for journalists to report the news without the fear of being placed behind bars.
IMPUNITY

Whether documenting corruption and war crimes or asking tough, uncomfortable questions, journalists hold the powerful to account. Too often, though, the powerful push back—and get away with it.

Last year, CPJ documented at least 22 journalists murdered in retaliation for their work. According to research by CPJ, no one has been convicted in connection with more than 80% of those murders.

With the war in Ukraine, unrest in Haiti, and a sharp rise of journalist murders in Mexico, that dismal track record could become even worse, and it makes the conviction of murderers like Juan Francisco Picos Barrueta, known as “El Quillo,” one of the killers of Mexican journalist Javier Valdez Cárdenas, crucial moments for CPJ.

It also means CPJ advocacy can play a key role in curbing impunity. These accounts show why that matters and how CPJ is working, with partners, to end impunity in the murders of journalists.
INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS

CPI is proud to honor these brave journalists with our 2022 International Press Freedom Awards. They have faced harassment, imprisonment, and exile to report the truth. In highlighting their resolve and calling attention to their cases, we hope to bring awareness to the plight of journalists everywhere.

Niyaz Abdullah, Iraqi Kurdistan

Abdullah is a prominent Iraqi Kurdish freelance journalist. She regularly contributes to media outlets in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, including Radio Nawa, the broadcaster NRT, and several news websites. Abdullah has covered politics, civil unrest, government corruption, human rights, and ethnic and religious minorities in Iraqi Kurdistan. She faced legal harassment by security forces and local authorities, and she was detained and threatened with violence over her work. In 2021, she fled to France to escape threats against her.

Elyaas Ehsas

Sevgil Musaieva, Ukraine

Musaieva is editor-in-chief of Ukrainska Pravda, Ukraine’s leading independent online newspaper covering politics, economics, and culture. Musaieva has worked relentlessly since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine to ensure the safety of her staff and to inform the public about the war. In June 2022, she and a colleague in her newsroom received death threats following the publication of an investigative report. Under Musaieva’s leadership, Ukrainska Pravda journalists are providing critical, reliable coverage despite the dangers and Russia’s ban on the publication.

Ukrainska Pravda

Pham Doan Trang, Vietnam

Trang is the founder of the independent legal magazine Luat Khoa. She also edits and writes for The Vietnamer, an independent English-language website, and has reported for the exile-run Danlambo blog. In 2020, she was arrested under a criminal code provision that bans making or spreading news against the state and held incommunicado for over a year before her 2021 conviction. Trang is currently serving a nine-year sentence and, at the time of CPI’s December 3, 2021, prison census, was among among at least 23 journalists in Vietnam held behind bars for their reporting.

Paul Mooney

Abraham Jiménez Enoa, Cuba

Jiménez, a freelance journalist, is a co-founder of the online magazine El Estornudo and a columnist for The Washington Post and Gatopardo. He is a prominent outspoken voice within Cuba’s media community, reporting on issues rarely covered by state media. In 2020, authorities strip-searched and handcuffed Jiménez, interrogated him for hours, and threatened him and his family over his writings in his monthly Washington Post column. The persistent harassment forced Jiménez to flee to Spain in 2021, where he is currently living in exile.

Núria López Torres

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Paul Mooney
A HOME FOR CPJ: THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION PRESS FREEDOM CENTER

In June 2022, CPJ held its grand opening of The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Press Freedom Center, the site of our global headquarters in New York. The new space will serve as a convening hub for press freedom advocacy and research. The center also houses the Reuters Photojournalism Gallery, a rotating exhibition of Reuters news photography.

The space is possible thanks to the incredible generosity of the Knight Foundation, Reuters, the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and many others who supported our campaign to secure CPJ’s future and ensure that, each year, more financial resources will be directed toward CPJ’s crucial programmatic work.
Supporters

2021 SUPPORTERS

The Committee to Protect Journalists is extremely grateful to the individuals, foundations, and corporations whose generosity makes our work possible. We also extend our gratitude to the many contributors who supported CPJ with gifts under $1,000, not listed here due to space limitations. This list includes donors who made gifts from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Make Press Freedom Your Legacy

In 2015, CPJ formed the “Sanders Society” to honor the legacy of Malene Sanders, one of TV’s first female journalists. We hope you will consider following Sanders’ example and include a charitable bequest to CPJ in your will. With your help, we can continue the fight to defend journalists around the world and ensure CPJ’s future.

Contact CPJ at development@cpj.org to ensure your legacy has a lasting impact.

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# AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020

(in thousands)

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<th>12/31/2021</th>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$8,620</strong></td>
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|                      | 12/31/2021 | 12/31/2020 |
| Supporting Services: |            |            |
| Management and general | 1,736      | 1,779      |
| Fundraising           | 1,375      | 2,097      |
| **Total Supporting Services** | **$3,111** | **$3,776** |
| **Total Operating Expenses** | **$10,928** | **$11,996** |

|                      | 12/31/2021 | 12/31/2020 |
| Surplus (deficit) of operating revenues over operating expenses | 1,010      | 1,495      |
| Surplus (deficit) related to Funds Without Donor Restrictions * | 5,282      |            |
| Surplus (deficit) related to Purpose and Time Restricted Funds ** | (6,213)    | 6,571      |
| Endowment and other non-operating activities | 2,953      | 767        |
| **Increase in net assets** | **$3,034** | **$8,633** |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 32,724      | 24,091     |
| Net assets, end of year | 35,757      | 32,724     |

* Related to purchase of New York City office space
** Unspent funds with purpose and time restrictions are carried forward and therefore may produce deficits in the years when expended. Complete financial statements, audited by Schall and Ashenfarb LLC, are available at cpj.org.
CPJ would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous in-kind contributions:

Rodrigo Abd
Felipe Dana
Aris Messeinis
Efrem Lukatsky
Alexander Zemlianichenko, Jr.
Petros Giannakouris
Bushra Seddique
Ogai Wardak
Yahir Ceballos
Nir Elias
Khaled Desouki
Elyaas Ehsas
Nuria Lopez Torres
Paul Mooney
Edgard Garrido

CPJ Annual Report 2022

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Editor: Jennifer Dunham
Contributors: Madinah Diallo, Isabela Vidal
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