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. 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
Committee to Protect Journalists

A journalist walks amid the destruction left by a Russian attack in Byshiv on the outskirts of Kyiv.

AP/Rodrigo Abd
Committee to Protect Journalists Annual Report 2022

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, Lisbon, London, Lomé, Lusaka, Mexico City, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm, Taipei, and Vilnius.

Ukraine
CPJ has worked to disburse safety advisories in the local language and other life-saving medical supplies to journalists on the front lines.

Hong Kong
CPJ renewed calls for the release of imprisoned media owner Jimmy Lai in a panel with his legal team, son, and Nobel laureate Maria Ressa.

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory
CPJ is calling on Israel and the Biden administration to conduct full and transparent investigations into the killing of Palestinian American reporter Shireen Abu Akleh.

Ethiopia
Amid civil conflict that granted Ethiopian authorities broad power to arrest journalists and suspend due process, CPJ advocated for the prompt release of all detained.

The Hague
To end impunity in journalists’ murders, CPJ and partners conducted “The People’s Tribunal,” a series of grassroots hearings and indictments based on international law.

Brazil
CPJ is demanding justice in the murders of British journalist Dom Phillips and Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, who chronicled environmental threats to the Amazon.

Philippines
CPJ called upon President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to reverse the policies of his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, targeting independent media and journalists.

Annual Report 2022

Table of Contents
Dangerous Assignments: Documenting the Russia-Ukraine war 4
Beyond Ukraine 6
Journalist Assistance: A look back at Afghanistan 8
Mexico in Crisis 10
Digital Dilemma: Spyware used to track journalists 12
Advocacy Highlights 14
Free the Press 16
Impunity 18
Awards 20
Knight Foundation Press Freedom Center 22
Supporters 24
Financial Report 28
CPJ Board and Staff 30

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, Lisbon, London, Lomé, Lusaka, Mexico City, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm, Taipei, and Vilnius.
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 Award, 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.

Yuri Butusov, a well-known Ukrainian journalist, trains as a member of Ukraine’s defense forces.

A journalist takes cover during shelling near Kyiv in March.

A journalist in a safety training near the southern city of Odesa before the war.

A journalist takes part in a safety training near the southern city of Odesa before the war.
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 Belarusian 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—affect 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.
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 arduous 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 principle factor that fuels attacks against reporters,” Hootsen has said, “and Mexican authorities must step up their efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.”
Digital Dilemma: Spyware used to track journalists

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.

CPJ aims to provide members of the press with the updated tools they need to keep themselves safe. Our Digital Safety Kit provides journalists with frequently revised recommendations on how to protect against digital threats.

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.

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.

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. We neither through discreet diplomacy or seizing the headlines, CPJ pushes for justice when journalists are robbed of their freedom. Whether through discreet diplomacy or seizing the headlines, CPJ pushes for justice when journalists are robbed of their freedom.

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—Egypt has held as many as 34 journalists in 2020. President Joe Biden’s inauguration, however, offered an opportunity to engage with U.S. government officials about what more could be done to ensure it is safe for journalists to report the news without the fear of being placed behind bars.

CPJ sought high-level meetings with government officials at the U.S. Department of State, including of 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 of 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, Mohamad Salah, and Solafa Magdy—all arrested in late 2019.
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.

Committee to Protect Journalists Annual Report 2022 | 19
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 tirelessly 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.

**Pham Doan Trang,** Vietnam

Trang is the founder of the independent legal magazine Luat Khoa. She also edits and writes for The Vietnamese, 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 CPJ’s December 1, 2021, prison census, was among at least 23 journalists in Vietnam held behind bars for their reporting.

**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**
A HOME FOR CPJ: 
THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION PESS 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.
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.
## AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020

(in thousands)

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<tr>
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<th>12/31/2021</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td>Programs and editorial</td>
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<td>Supporting Services:</td>
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<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
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<td>Surplus (deficit) related to Funds Without Donor Restrictions *</td>
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<td>Surplus (deficit) related to Purpose and Time Restricted Funds **</td>
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<td><strong>Increase in net assets</strong></td>
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<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
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<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
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<td>32,724</td>
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* 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 Ashenfels LLC, are available at cpj.org.
CPJ would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous in-kind contributions:

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Contributors: Madinah Diallo, Isabela Vidal
Design: Mark by Fire, LLC
Journalists walk inside a destroyed food warehouse after a Russian attack on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine.

AP/Rodrigo Abd

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@ PressFreedom

@ CommitteeToProtectJournalists

@ CommitteeToProtectJournalists

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