

CPJ
Committee to Protect Journalists

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE CEO 3

ADVOCACY | FIGHTING FOR MARIO GUEVARA 4

ADVOCACY | SECURING FREEDOM 5

AWARENESS 6

AWARENESS | GAZA: THE DEADLIEST PLACE TO REPORT THE NEWS 7

AWARENESS | JOURNALIST JAILINGS REMAIN ALARMINGLY HIGH 8

ASSISTANCE 9

ASSISTANCE | RISING US PRESS FREEDOM CONCERNS DRIVE DEMAND FOR SAFETY TRAINING 10

ASSISTANCE | ASSISTING PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS REPORTING IN GAZA 11

INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS 12

2025 HONOREES 13

FINANCIALS 16

BOARD 18

COVER:
A journalist prepares for a stand-up as President Donald Trump speaks about the Iran war at the White House, April 1, 2026, in Washington D.C. (Photo: AP/Julia Demaree Nikhinson)

"In 2025, CPJ stepped up to meet mounting pressure on journalists in the United States."

Dear friends,

This year, CPJ celebrates its 45th anniversary. Much has happened in those four and a half decades, but one thing has remained constant: CPJ's unwavering commitment to ensuring that journalists across the globe can report safely, without fear of reprisal. Sadly, that task is becoming increasingly difficult. Levels of democracy worldwide are now at their lowest point since the late 1970s, with attacks on the press serving as a key indicator of this decline. That means CPJ is tackling more cases in more places than ever before, including right here in the United States, where we are based.

Our board member, Nobel laureate Maria Ressa, who was systematically targeted by the Philippine government over her reporting, has said that developments in the United States under the current administration resemble the collapse of the rule of law in the Philippines but "much faster." CPJ clearly documented the speed of the erosion of press freedom in its report on the first 100 days of President Donald Trump's administration, "Alarm Bells." Among the concerns highlighted were changes to the procedures governing the press pool, legal threats, cuts to funding for independent media both at home and abroad, and the increasing politicization of the regulatory Federal Communications Commission. Worse was to follow with new restrictions on Pentagon reporting, an FBI raid on a Washington Post reporter, subpoenas issued against reporters, and journalist arrests.

In 2025, CPJ stepped up to meet mounting pressure on journalists in the United States. Together with four partner organizations, we launched the U.S. Journalist Assistance Network to expand safety training and resources for reporters. We also provided legal assistance to journalists such as Emmy-award winning reporter Mario Guevara following his detention by immigration authorities.

While we expanded our work in the United States, our work elsewhere did not slow. From providing psychosocial support to journalists in Gaza to advocacy missions in Georgia, the Philippines, and Guatemala on behalf of imprisoned journalists and implementing a new global strategy for tackling entrenched impunity, our nearly 100-strong team continues to respond to escalating attacks on journalists worldwide, no matter where they occur.

Thank you for standing with us,



JODIE GINSBERG, *Chief Executive Officer*

ADVOCACY

Demanding accountability, achieving justice



(Photo: AFP/Marvin Recinos)

CPJ works to ensure journalists can operate safely through a multipronged approach. From direct calls to authorities on behalf of detained and at-risk journalists, to legal support for reporters and their families and advocacy aimed at improving laws around the world, CPJ's staff work holistically to achieve meaningful change.

Fighting for Mario Guevara

In a landmark case, the U.S.-based journalist was deported on October 3, 2025, in retaliation for his reporting. Mario Guevara was arrested on June 14 while livestreaming a "No Kings" protest in the Atlanta metropolitan area. For over 100 days, CPJ and its partners fought to secure his release from ICE custody. Guevara sought asylum in the U.S. in 2005 after receiving death threats for his reporting in his native El Salvador.

While we were ultimately unable to prevent Guevara's deportation, CPJ successfully helped secure the release of other journalists who were wrongfully detained in the United States, including Tennessee-based reporter Estefany Rodriguez.



(Photo: AFP/Mohamed El-Raai)

Securing Freedom

We celebrated a number of significant releases during the year. Among them was Egyptian blogger Alaa Abdel El-Fattah, who was pardoned by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi after years of advocacy. Alaa was serving a five-year sentence imposed in December 2021 after he shared a social media post about a prisoner's death. His pardon marked a tremendous win for Alaa, his family, and all those who campaigned for his freedom.

In April, Angolan journalist Carlos Alberto also received a presidential pardon ahead of a planned CPJ visit to advocate for his release. Instead of meeting in prison, CPJ representatives were able to celebrate Alberto's newfound freedom with him over lunch. Alberto had already spent 18 months of a three-year sentence in a prison in the capital Luanda, after being convicted of criminal defamation.

Likewise, CPJ rejoiced in November when Tunisian commentator Sonia Dahmani was released from prison — just days after she received one of our International Press Freedom Awards in absentia. Dahmani had been serving a nearly five-year sentence on multiple anti-state charges stemming from her media commentary, including remarks condemning racism against migrants in Tunisia and poor prison conditions. CPJ brought Dahmani's case to international attention, including by bringing her sister, Ramla Dahmani, to the European Parliament to advocate for Sonia's release. Soon afterwards, Parliament adopted an urgent resolution demanding Sonia's immediate and unconditional release. She was freed the same day. Although her release was an important victory, outstanding charges and legal proceedings meant that the threat of further judicial harassment remained.

AWARENESS

All of CPJ's work begins with documentation. For more than three decades, we have documented the killing, imprisonment, and harassment of journalists worldwide.

In 2025, a record 130 journalists and media workers were killed worldwide, the highest annual total since CPJ began collecting data in 1992. It marked the second consecutive year in which the global death toll reached a new high, with Israel responsible for two-thirds of all journalists killed. CPJ uses this data to press for accountability, with our statistics on journalist killings cited in more than 2,000 news articles since their publication.



(Photo: AFP)



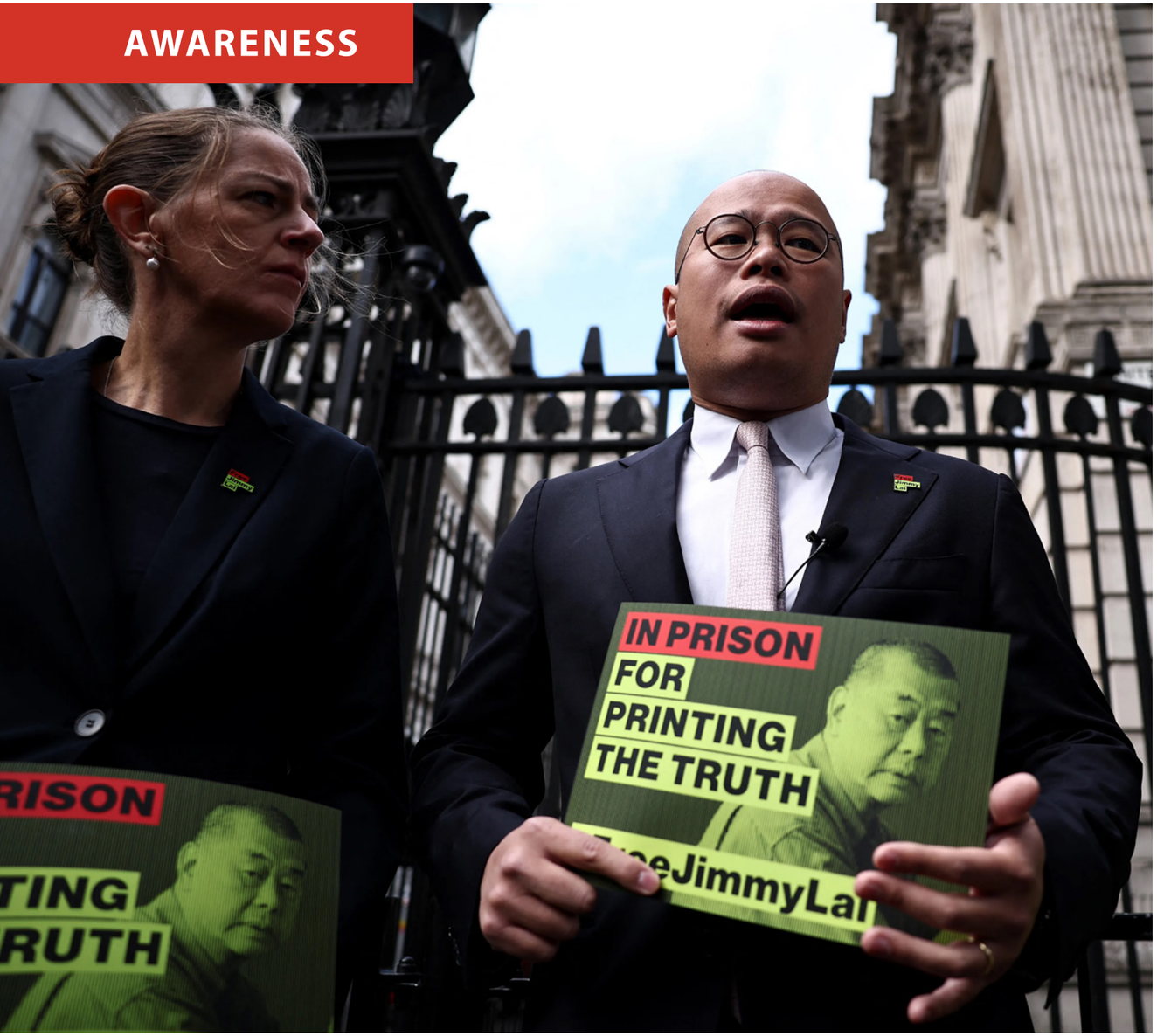
(Photo: AFP/Omar Al-Qattaa)

Gaza: The deadliest place to report the news

Israel's August 10, 2025, strike on a tent housing journalists near Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City killed six journalists, including Al Jazeera correspondent Anas al-Sharif. Weeks earlier, CPJ had warned that an escalating smear campaign and threats against al-Sharif put his life in acute danger, raising concerns that the allegations could precede an attempt to target him.

In the days that followed the attack, CPJ's representatives gave dozens of high-profile media interviews and our work on Gaza was cited more than 10,000 times in the press. Less than two weeks later, when another group of journalists were killed in a targeted Israeli military strike on a Gazan hospital, CPJ's data and demands for accountability again featured prominently in news reports around the world. CPJ has dedicated additional resources to pursue justice in several emblematic cases to hold Israel to account for its decades-long pattern of killing journalists.

More broadly, CPJ has called for fundamental reforms to the ways that governments globally investigate journalist killings to improve access to justice, including establishing an international investigative task force and imposing targeted sanctions on those responsible for such attacks.



(Photo: AFP/Henry Nichols)

Journalist jailings remain alarmingly high

The year marked a major change in the way CPJ documents the imprisonment of journalists. CPJ introduced a dynamic tracking model to supplement its annual December 1 census. This allows us to better monitor and respond to emerging trends throughout the year. Journalist jailings remain alarmingly high, with 340 journalists imprisoned worldwide as of December 1 2025, marking the fifth year in a row that the global total exceeded 300.

Among these cases is prominent Georgian journalist and editor Mzia Amaglobeli, who remains wrongfully detained in her home country. In July, CPJ traveled to Batumi, Georgia, alongside a coalition of press freedom partners, to monitor proceedings in her case. CPJ documented the disproportionate and politicized nature of the charges against Amaglobeli and advocated for her release.

In June, CPJ and other press freedom groups, supported by the Media Freedom Coalition, visited Tacloban City jail to meet Philippine journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio, but were denied entry. CPJ also met the justice minister to advocate for the release of Cumpio, who was arrested in 2020 when police claimed to have found firearms and grenades in her home.

Beyond advocacy, CPJ provides direct assistance to a rising number of imprisoned and newly released journalists, including legal, medical, trauma, and other health-related support. Over the past five years, the number of journalists who received both prison and post-prison support from CPJ rose by almost 200%.

ASSISTANCE

CPJ's emergencies team provides short-term, emergency support to working journalists and media workers worldwide following an incident related to their journalism.

2.3k	Journalists provided with training and emergency assistance globally, including 959 journalists in the U.S.
$1M	In emergency assistance grants distributed to journalists under threat around the world.
255	Journalists provided with relocation and exile support during a year of rising conflicts.
$25k	Grant to the nonprofit Press House Palestine to provide psychosocial support to 105 female journalists in Gaza City.
$45k	Grant to the regional Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism to support the creation of a journalism hub in Gaza City, which served as a base for 315 journalists.
$30.7k	Grant to the Palestinian nonprofit Filastiniyat to support work and sleepover stations for up to 45 women journalists in the cities of Khan Yunis and Deir al-Balah.



(Photo: Reuters/Carlos Barria)

Rising US press freedom concerns drive demand for safety training

CPJ trained more than 900 journalists across the United States in 2025, strengthening their safety skills and ability to navigate an increasingly hostile political environment.

CPJ's emergencies team delivered 26 training sessions for journalists facing security concerns nationwide. In partnership with seven other journalist safety organizations, the sessions covered a wide range of topics, including digital security, physical safety, legal rights, mental health, and resilience.

To respond to the growing need for coordinated rapid-response to threats against journalists, CPJ spearheaded the creation of the U.S. Journalist Assistance Network. The coalition brings together Freedom of the Press Foundation, the International Women's Media Foundation, PEN America, and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

ASSISTANCE

Assisting Palestinian journalists reporting in Gaza

During the year, CPJ provided $100,000 in grants to partner organizations delivering life-saving aid and work-related resources to support more than 500 journalists reporting in Gaza. One grant gave psychosocial support to 105 women journalists. Through dedicated sessions organized by local partner Press House Palestine, participants learned self-care techniques, psychological first aid, and therapeutic exercises to help them manage the stress and trauma of living and reporting in the midst of a conflict.



(Photo: Press House Palestine)

International Press Freedom Awards

CPJ's 35th annual IPFA and benefit dinner honored courageous journalists from around the world. The 2025 event was held on November 20 in New York City and chaired by Almar Latour, CEO of Dow Jones and publisher of The Wall Street Journal. The evening's master of ceremonies was Christiane Amanpour, CNN's Chief International Anchor.

(Photo: Barbara Nitke)

2025 HONOREES



Dong Yuyu
CHINA

(Photo: Courtesy of Dong family)

Veteran Chinese journalist Dong Yuyu is serving a seven-year sentence on espionage charges after he was arrested in 2022 while meeting a Japanese diplomat for lunch. Dong was convicted by a Beijing court in November 2024 and, after delays in his appeal hearing, a high court upheld the sentence a year later. In August 2026, Dong underwent major surgery to remove a malignant tumor from his left lung and was returned to prison amid concerns for his health.

A respected editor and columnist whose work is recognized both within China and internationally, Dong, 64, began working as a columnist for the state-run Guangming Daily in 1987. His writing is widely seen as advocating for progressive reform, the rule of law, and constitutional democracy in China. Dong has also written for The New York Times' Chinese-language website. Dong's imprisonment underscores a growing trend of espionage and national security charges being used to target journalists in China.



Elvira del Pilar Nole and Juan Carlos Tito
ECUADOR

(Photo: Courtesy of Elvira del Pilar Nole and Juan Carlos Tito)

For more than two decades, Ecuadorian journalists Elvira del Pilar Nole and Juan Carlos Tito operated Radio Selva, the only radio station serving the small highland town of Baeza. It provided vital, independent news to the community. But their investigations into drug gangs led to death threats and forced the family to flee, first to Colombia and then to Canada, where they continue broadcasting from exile.

The couple's experience highlights the immense challenges facing journalists in Ecuador, where authorities and criminal groups are increasingly targeting reporters. Nole and Tito have joined a growing number of journalists — nearly 20 reporters in the past two years — who have been forced to flee Ecuador for their safety. The police, who have faced allegations of collaborating with criminal gangs, offered Nole and Tito little protection from the threats, leaving the couple with no choice but to leave.

2025 HONOREES



(Photo: Courtesy of Bolot Temirov)

Bolot Temirov
KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan's seasoned investigative reporter Bolot Temirov runs Central Asia's leading anti-corruption news outlet, Temirov Live, from exile due to threats to his safety. Operating from Europe, his YouTube-based newsroom continues to publish investigations into senior state officials, including the president, making it a top target amid an unprecedented crackdown on independent media.

Temirov has faced danger for many years. In 2022, he was arrested on fabricated drugs charges, effectively stripped of Kyrgyz citizenship, and deported. Two years later, police arrested 11 current and former Temirov Live staff, two of whom received jail terms, including Temirov's wife, Temirov Live director Makhabat Tajibek kyzy, who was sentenced to six years in prison. In 2025, authorities banned Temirov Live as "extremist" — an unprecedented step against journalists in Kyrgyzstan.

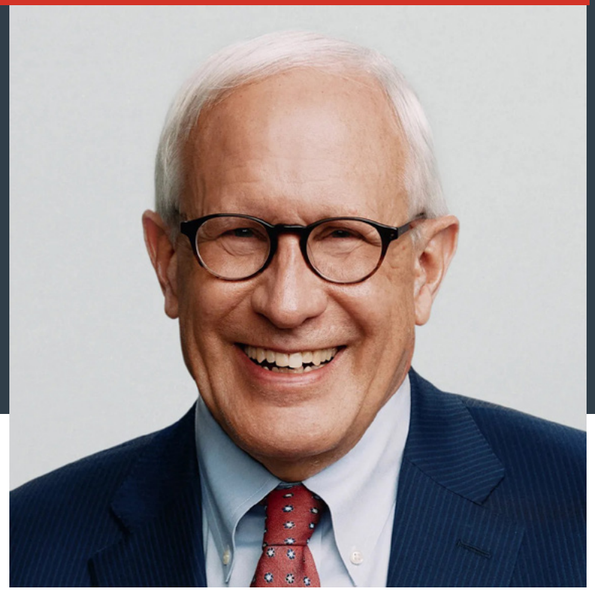


(Photo: Ramla Dahmani)

Sonia Dahmani
TUNISIA

Sonia Dahmani, a lawyer, writer, and prominent media commentator known for her bold defense of human rights and civil liberties, is serving a nearly five-year sentence on multiple anti-state charges after condemning racism in Tunisia. Her arrest in 2024 drew widespread international condemnation. She has become a symbol of the shrinking space for dissent in Tunisia, once regarded as a beacon of media freedom in the region.

Dahmani rose to fame for her sharp and outspoken commentary on radio and television, where she addressed issues such as Tunisia's political climate, the erosion of judicial independence, shrinking civil liberties, prison conditions, and migration policy.



(Photo: The New York Times)

Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award Winner

David McCraw

CPJ's Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award is presented annually to an individual who has shown extraordinary and sustained commitment to the cause of press freedom.

The 2025 award honored David McCraw, lead newsroom lawyer for The New York Times and the organization's senior vice president and deputy general counsel. McCraw has worked at The New York Times for over two decades, supporting Times journalists reporting from high-risk areas and responding to crises when journalists have been kidnapped or detained abroad.

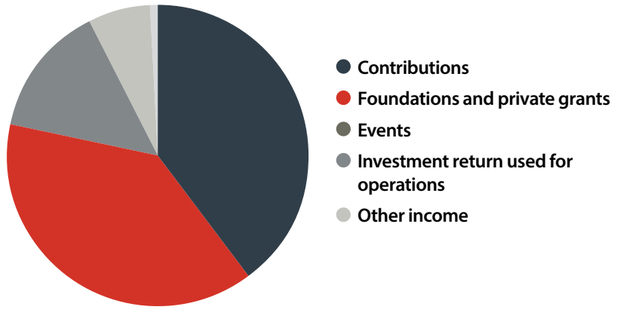
FINANCIALS

Audited statement of activities

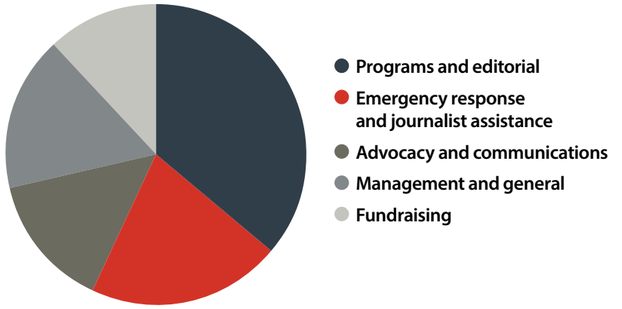
Years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
Operating Revenues		
Contributions	6,669	4,821
Foundations and private grants	6,418	5,553
Events	2,372	1,835
Investment return used for operations	1,126	1,161
Other income	95	46
Total Operating Revenues	**16,680**	**13,417**
Operating Expenses		
PROGRAM SERVICES:		
Programs and editorial	5,775	5,221
Emergency response and journalist assistance	3,341	3,110
Advocacy and communications	2,275	2,032
Total Program Services	**11,390**	**10,363**
SUPPORTING SERVICES:		
Management and general	2,655	2,315
Fundraising	1,893	1,492
Total Supporting Services	**4,548**	**3,807**
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**15,938**	**14,170**
Surplus (deficit) of operating revenues over operating expenses*	742	(753)
Surplus (deficit) related to Funds Without Donor Restrictions**	(368)	(368)
Surplus (deficit) related to Purpose and Time Restricted Funds***	598	90
Endowment and other non-operating activities	1,994	855
Increase (decrease) in net assets	2,965	(176)
Net assets, beginning of year	**32,888**	**33,064**
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	**$ 35,853**	**$ 32,888**

Operating Revenues



Operating Expenses



* In 2024, CPJ nearly doubled emergency grants to journalists, to $1.3 million, and invested in a new journalist database, funded by prior-year reserves.

** Related to fixed assets depreciation.

*** Grants restricted by donors for specific purposes or future years, net of restricted funds spent during the year. The unspent balance carries forward to be used in later years.

Complete financial statements, audited by Sax LLP, are available at cpj.org.

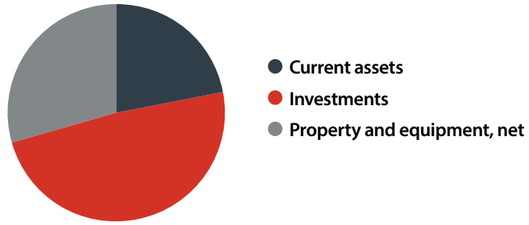
FINANCIALS

Audited statement of financial position

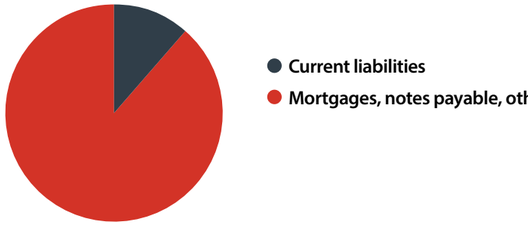
December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current assets	8,983	8,118
Investments	19,916	17,922
Property and equipment, net	11,953	12,321
Total Assets	**40,852**	**38,361**
Liabilities and Net Assets		
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	581	897
Mortgages, notes payable, other	4,418	4,575
Total liabilities	**4,998**	**5,472**
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	14,737	14,364
With donor restrictions:		
Restricted for specific purpose and time	1,363	765
Donor restricted endowment	19,753	17,759
Total net assets	**35,853**	**32,888**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$ 40,852**	**$ 38,361**

Assets



Liabilities



Net Assets



2025 BOARD

Chair

Jacob Weisberg

Vice-Chair

Lydia Polgreen, The New York Times

Board

Rebecca Blumenstein, NBC News
Diane Brayton, The New York Times
Gary Briggs
Sally Buzbee
Phil Chetwynd, Agence France-Presse
Susan Chira
Sheila Coronel, Columbia University School of Journalism
Caoilfhionn Gallagher
Alessandra Galloni, Reuters
Lester Holt, NBC
Roula Khalaf, Financial Times
Jonathan Klein, Getty Images
Peter Lattman, Emerson Collective
Kati Marton
Michael Massing
Katherine Meeks, Fox News
Graciela Mochkofsky, CUNY Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism
Geraldine Fabrikant Metz, The New York Times
Alan Murray
Julie Owono, Internet Sans Frontières and Meta Oversight Board
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Join us in defending journalists worldwide

A man holds clothes belonging to imprisoned journalist Jose Ruben Zamora outside the Palace of Justice in Guatemala City, on November 6, 2025. (Photo: AFP/Johan Ordonez)