



Committee to Protect Journalists

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As prepared for delivery

In the decades I've supported the Committee to Protect Journalists at this dinner, I never imagined I would be up here saying this: There is a New War on Journalists.

Not just new battles, but an entirely new war ... a 21st-century war, with blurred geographic lines and intense digital media.

Terrorists are the shock troops in this new war.

They are not like the censors of old. *Today's terrorists will kill a journalist not to stop a story, but to create one.* They recruit in social media. They practice press release by execution. This is a fundamental tactical shift.

Terrorists are the most visible part of the New War on Journalists, but not the only part.

A new boldness courses through closed governments, up and down the military chain of command, and in the minds of criminals and autocrats everywhere.

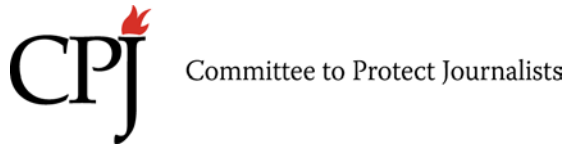
They see traditional media struggle to adapt to the new digital age. They see well-resourced international correspondents dwindle.

We are no longer the ones who set agendas and shape opinion ... and they seek to exploit those weaknesses. They prey on the freelancer and the local reporter.

This new war is producing unprecedented casualties.

The years 2012 and 2013 amounted to the worst two-year period on record for the Committee to Project Journalists: 144 journalists were killed and some 200 more were behind bars at any given time.

So far in Syria, 73 journalists have been killed. That is the same death rate as the Iraq War, the deadliest since CPJ's detailed records began in 1992. In Syria, more than 90 journalists have been abducted since 2011; CPJ estimates that tonight, 20 are still missing.



Journalists have always faced danger. But this is a horrifying new story. Around the world, reporters continue to go where the news leads them. Yet today, in too many nations, a press pass is a target.

The simple days are gone when traditional media could expect a measure of cooperation because people needed us to get the story out.

That means it has never been more important to support CPJ than it is right now.

A new war requires a new response.

To begin that response, five foundations—Ford Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, the New Venture Fund, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation—have joined together to create a New Initiatives Fund at CPJ.

Together, the five partners have already committed more than \$800,000 to CPJ, over and above tonight's dinner proceeds.

CPJ's new initiatives will fight back in several ways. They will enable faster and better data and reports, and therefore stronger analysis and advocacy. CPJ will increase work on safety issues, particularly for reporters without institutional support, such as freelancers and local journalists.

CPJ will build stronger alliances in support of free expression. It plans to do more with family members and news organizations on behalf of targeted journalists.

Finally—and perhaps most importantly—the New Initiatives Fund will help CPJ begin to build new and aggressive digital strategies, critical elements in the protection of today's journalists.

As we in this room know, almost any journalist can become a target. I remember vividly being here in 1995 and listening to International Press Freedom Award winner Veronica Guerin, a reporter at the *Sunday Independent*.

She talked about how the rising power of drug-related crime in Ireland meant that a number of the Irish journalists writing about it, not just her, were threatened with death.

I met her husband, Graham, and her young son, Cathal. Seven months later, two men on a motorcycle pulled up next to Veronica Guerin's car and shot her six times.

After her murder, Ireland began to crack down on drug dealing. But that didn't erase the tragedy of her death or the silencing of her voice.



Committee to Protect Journalists

Tonight, you will hear the stories of journalists who risk everything so we may see the world the way it really is. In this New War on Journalists, truth is not the first casualty—people are, the people who seek truth.

We help them, we protect them by helping CPJ and I thank you with all sincerity for your support.

Tonight, as in years past, in addition to the new grants I just announced, Knight Foundation will match, dollar for dollar, the donations made at the reverse auction later this evening. We match your support because this is such a critical moment.

The courageous people you will meet tonight are our best hope in the New War on Journalists. Help them. They are our best hope—and we should be theirs.