





The Committee to Protect Journalists promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. CPJ takes action wherever journalists are censored, attacked, imprisoned, or killed for their work. Our advocacy helps to ensure the free flow of news and commentary.

DEAR CPJ SUPPORTER,

As you flip through these pages, you will read stories about journalists from all over the world who have faced reprisal for their reporting. One of those stories is that of Can Dündar, a Turkish editor and CPJ's 2016 International Press Freedom Awardee who was imprisoned and has since faced legal action, official harassment, and even violence simply for reporting news about his own country.

In mid-2015, Dündar, chief editor of the Turkish daily *Cumhuriyet*, published a story that alleged Turkey's intelligence service had sent weapons to Syrian rebel groups. The next month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said, "The individual who has reported this as an exclusive story will pay a high price."

That November, Dündar was arrested with his colleague and accused of disclosing state secrets, espionage, and aiding a terrorist group. They were held for three months—until Turkey's Constitutional Court ruled that their detention violated their rights. When their trial began, CPJ was there. In May, Dündar was sentenced to prison, but was freed pending appeal.

Dündar happened to be outside of Turkey during the July 15 coup attempt. In August, the journalist said he would not return to Turkey until the government had lifted the state of emergency. He also resigned from *Cumhuriyet* because, he said, Turkey was exploiting the failed coup so as to eliminate its opponents.

The crackdown on the Turkish media is sweeping. Dozens have been jailed, and even more, like Dündar,

have been forced into exile. In March, we began publishing a "Turkey Crackdown Chronicle" to document the attacks against and detentions of journalists, as well as other press freedom violations, in the country. We continue to call on the Turkish government to halt its crackdown on the press and seek meetings with government officials so we can tell them, face to face, that democracy does not exist without a free press.

It's not just governments that pose a threat to journalists. In Bangladesh, for instance, bloggers are killed simply for criticizing religion. They are hacked to death during the day, with machetes and knives. They are fleeing for their lives and are fleeing as fast as they can. We know that because we have helped them run. Our Journalist Assistance team has provided support to several secular bloggers who have gone into exile after receiving threats in reprisal for their work.

And in Ukraine, journalists and news outlets have been under threat since the Russian annexation of Crimea that tore the region apart in 2014. We have conducted two missions to Kiev and spoken to and supported journalists there. But we are not always successful at protecting our colleagues. On July 20, we learned that Pavel Sheremet, CPJ's 1998 International Press Freedom Award winner, died when a bomb blew up the car he was driving in Kiev. Investigators say they are seeking to determine if journalism is the primary motive in his murder.

Turkey, Bangladesh, Ukraine—the climate for press freedom in these

countries reminds us that journalists today are not only in peril when they are reporting from a war zone, but also when people forget that journalists are observers and instead treat them like targets.

It is for these reasons that we at CPJ do what we do. By defending journalists, we defend freedom of expression, human rights, and democracy. We believe that people everywhere, all over the world, should have access to the information they need so they can make informed decisions and hold their governments accountable.

But we must be stronger, louder, and better at what we do. So we are forming a new Emergencies Response Team, which will help us ensure that journalists stay safe, whether broadcasting from a war zone like Syria or uploading a sensitive story in China. You can read more about our new initiative inside this report.

CPJ has worked to uphold press freedom for 35 years. We have relied on the generous support of our friends every step of the way. Thank you for standing up for press freedom and the right of journalists everywhere to report the news.

Joel Simon
Executive Director



UNITED STATES

ADVOCACY BY CPJ AND OTHER GROUPS LED THE **PENTAGON TO UPDATE** ITS LAW OF WAR MANUAL.

CUBA

CPJ RELEASED A SPECIAL REPORT ON CUBA, WHERE A NEW BREED OF **INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM HAS TRANSFORMED THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE.** (P. 9)

COLOMBIA

FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS, A COLOMBIAN JOURNALIST WAITED FOR JUSTICE. THIS YEAR, TWO **SUSPECTS WERE CONVICTED** IN THE ATTACK ON HER. (P. 19)

SWITZERLAND

AFTER YEARS OF ADVOCACY BY CPJ AND OTHER GROUPS, THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE IN AUGUST CREATED A **PRESS FREEDOM COMPLAINT MECHANISM.**

TURKEY

SINCE MARCH, CPJ HAS PUBLISHED A **"CRACKDOWN CHRONICLE"** DETAILING PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS. THE ABUSES CONTINUE. (P. 13)

GAMBIA

IN THIS TINY WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY, **JOURNALISTS ARE SILENCED** AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ABOUND. (P. 7)

UGANDA

CPJ **TRAVELED TO KAMPALA** IN FEBRUARY, WHERE WE SPOKE TO JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE CLIMATE FOR PRESS FREEDOM.

SYRIA

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FIRST JOURNALIST WAS KILLED COVERING THE SYRIAN CONFLICT, CPJ CONTINUES TO DOCUMENT **THE DEVASTATING TOLL** THE WAR HAS TAKEN ON THE PRESS. (P. 15)

AZERBAIJAN

CPJ WELCOMED THE RELEASE OF AZERBAIJANI INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER **KHADIJA ISMAYILOVA**, WHO WAS JAILED IN DECEMBER 2014.

IRAN

WASHINGTON POST REPORTER **JASON REZAIAN** WAS FREED FROM PRISON IN IRAN. HE WAS THE LONGEST HELD U.S. JOURNALIST IMPRISONED IN THE COUNTRY.

CHINA

CPJ PUBLISHED BLOGS ON **CENSORSHIP AT WEIBO** AFTER A FORMER WEIBO EMPLOYEE GAVE CPJ DOCUMENTS THAT SHED LIGHT ON HOW THE SITE FILTERS NEWS.

IRAQ

CPJ PUBLISHED AN **INTERACTIVE MAP** PROFILING THE JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA WORKERS KILLED BY ISLAMIC STATE.

INDIA

CPJ PUBLISHED A REPORT URGING INDIA TO **PROSECUTE KILLERS OF JOURNALISTS** AND INVESTIGATE ANTI-PRESS ATTACKS. (P. 11)



CPJ HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK WITH STAFF IN WASHINGTON AND SAN FRANCISCO. WE ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTORS IN ABUJA, BANGKOK, BEIRUT, BOGOTÁ, ISTANBUL, LIVERPOOL, MEXICO CITY, NAIROBI, NEW DELHI, AND SÃO PAULO.

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CONFRONTING EMERGENCIES

Ahmed Abd al-Qader is the co-founder and director of the Syrian journalist collective *Eye on the Homeland*, in the Turkish city of Urfa. *Eye on the Homeland* is one of several independent media outlets that established operations in Turkey once the conflict began in Syria.

In November 2015, CPJ provided Abd al-Qader with a relocation grant after his brother, Ibrahim, was killed by members of the extremist group Islamic State. The following March, we supported Abd al-Qader again after he was attacked by two men outside his home. The journalist escaped but said he believed the assailants were part of Islamic State and feared they were trying to stab him to death, just as they had killed his brother.

Then, in June, Abd al-Qader was shot several times by gunmen believed to be affiliated with the Islamic State. The journalist's jaw was shattered, but he survived. CPJ's Journalist Assistance program provided part of the costs of his surgery, and JA Coordinator Nicole Schilit worked with partner organizations to coordinate payment for his medical care and relocation with his family.

In July, Abd al-Qader had an interview with the French embassy in Ankara. They received visas and Schilit helped coordinate support to pay for their move. The family is now in France.

"Ahmed is an inspiring person and a dedicated journalist," Schilit said. "It is for journalists like him that CPJ's Journalist Assistance program was created, and it is because of journalists like him that we are so proud to do this work."

For 15 years, CPJ has provided financial and other support to journalists like Abd al-Qader. But as the media landscape—and, with it, the dangers and risks to journalists—has changed so dramatically in recent years, we have decided we will do more to meet this challenge. We plan to merge our work in journalist assistance and safety to form an Emergencies Response Team, whose members will provide comprehensive, life-saving support to journalists working in hostile environments. We have also hired a Journalist Safety Specialist, who will expand our ability to respond in emergency situations.

We know our support matters. In September 2016, Abd al-Qader sent us a note. "Let me send this message to all employees in CPJ for all the help [they] have been providing to us. What you are doing is a great work. It makes us feel that there are good people who feel what we feel and feel the size of danger that surrounds us. ... We at *Eye on the Homeland* thank you for standing with us."

A Pakistani cameraman shoots video in front of a bullet-riddled wall at a Peshawar school attacked by the Taliban. CPJ has created an Emergencies Response Team to aid journalists on the front lines of unrest.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AFP/FAROOQ NAEEM

IN GAMBIA, FEW PROMISES OF PRESS FREEDOM

A man rides a bicycle through a border town in Gambia. CPJ helped set up a working group to ensure the country's journalists get the help they need.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AFP/SEYLOU



VIOLENCE AND IMPRISONMENT ARE COMMON UNDER PRESIDENT JAMMEH'S ADMINISTRATION.

In the small West African country of Gambia, you criticize the president at your peril.

For independent journalists and human rights defenders, violence and imprisonment have become common under the administration of President Yahya Jammeh. One radio station, Taranga FM, was shut down arbitrarily three times in the past five years, and its manager, Alagie Abdoulie Ceesay, detained twice in 2015.

Information on these and other press freedom and human rights violations is hard to come by in a country where authorities are known for silencing journalists. In an effort to overcome this challenge, CPJ this year partnered with Human Rights Watch and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, as well as exiled Gambian journalists, to set up a Gambia Working Group. The group shares contacts, coordinates information, and develops joint advocacy strategies, as well as co-signs letters and issues joint press releases.

Through this working group, CPJ has helped ensure that a greater number of Gambian journalists within the country and in exile are aware of the support our organization can

provide. We have developed a robust network of contacts in the country, who apprise us quickly of press freedom violations.

CPJ also coordinated an amicus brief filed to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) court this year on behalf of three Gambian journalists charged with sedition and publishing false news. The journalists, who are now in exile, said they were tortured while in custody. CPJ worked with lawyers and enlisted the support of other organizations, including Amnesty International, Freedom House, Reporters Without Borders, and PEN International, for the amicus brief, which argued that sedition laws silence critical journalists. In May, CPJ was told that the oral argument would be heard by the court in late fall.

CPJ knows that our advocacy works. Just a few months ago, we received a note from a journalist thanking CPJ for our assistance in helping him flee Gambia a few years ago. In a video that the journalist recently helped to produce, he discussed his own case as well as the risks that others face in the country.

"As long as there is life," he said, "there is hope."

HOPE AND OPTIMISM FOR CUBAN JOURNALISTS

In the spring of 2003, when the world was focused on the Iraq War, the Cuban government ordered the arrest of nearly 30 journalists over a three-day span. The journalists were convicted and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 14 to 27 years in a crackdown known as the “Black Spring.”

In the years that followed, the Cuban government continued its persecution of independent journalists and the media. In 2015, Cuba was ranked among the world’s most censored countries, according to CPJ research.

While Cuba still has restrictive laws on press freedom in the Americas, the government has made small openings. In 2011, authorities released the last of the journalists arrested during the 2003 crackdown. In 2013, the government implemented a law that allowed critical bloggers and political dissidents to travel abroad for the first time in decades. The country’s telecommunications sector began to open following a series of reforms and the installation of a high-speed fiber optic internet connection and publicly accessible Wi-Fi points. And, on March 20, 2016, U.S. President Barack Obama became the first sitting American president to visit the island nation since 1928.

To further explore the state of journalism and free expression in Cuba, CPJ’s Americas program interviewed bloggers, reporters, and editors for a special report, “Connecting Cuba: More space for criticism but restrictions slow press freedom progress,” that was published in September. The report is accompanied by a graphic that illustrates how Cubans stay connected in an offline world.

In the past five years, Cuban journalists told CPJ, the media landscape has changed dramatically and press restrictions have loosened. Now, critical reporters, journalism graduates, documentary filmmakers, and pro-revolutionary bloggers are opening new spaces for free expression and entrepreneurial journalism. Today, nearly 3,000 blogs, on topics ranging from politics to gardening, are estimated to be based in Cuba and in Cuban communities globally. News websites have sprung up, providing alternatives to state-run media. Online ventures range from independent news websites, blogs, and webzines featuring sports, fashion, and entertainment.

“We are exhausted, but we are enjoying this,” the founder of one news website told CPJ. “I am optimistic. The reason we exist is due to all the changes in Cuba.”

WHILE CUBA STILL HAS RESTRICTIVE LAWS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SMALL OPENINGS.



Cubans use a Wi-Fi hotspot in Havana. Government reforms are starting to open up the country’s media landscape.

PHOTOGRAPH BY REUTERS/JESLEI MARCELINO

INDIA'S JOURNALISTS FACE HARASSMENT, ATTACKS



INDIA'S LEADERS HAVE SHOWN LITTLE POLITICAL WILL TO ADDRESS IMPUNITY IN ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS.

Despite being the world's largest democracy and having a vibrant press, India's leaders have shown little political will to address impunity in attacks on journalists.

At least 27 journalists have been murdered in India in relation to their work since 1992, when CPJ began keeping records. More than half of them reported on corruption or politics. Yet no one has been convicted, leading India to be included on CPJ's Impunity Index—which spotlights places where journalists are slain and their killers go free—for nine consecutive years.

In March, CPJ traveled to India to investigate the cases of three journalists believed to have been murdered in reprisal for their work, and to speak to their families, colleagues, and lawyers, as well as other journalists and press freedom advocates. In a special report, "Dangerous pursuit: In India, journalists who cover corruption may pay with their lives," published in August, we highlighted the lack of progress in the investigations into the journalists' deaths and issued recommendations to Indian authorities, calling on them to condemn journalist murders and to successfully investigate and prosecute the cases.

The climate for press freedom in India is deteriorating, with journalists increasingly facing harassment and threats from right-wing elements. In the central state of Chhattisgarh, the scene of a decades-long conflict between security forces and Maoist rebels, police harassment and abuse from both sides have caused journalists to stop working on critical stories or even leave the area. Earlier this year, Malini Subramaniam, a contributor to the news website *Scroll* and a 2016 International Press Freedom Awardee, was forced to flee the state after being harassed by police and a vigilante group (p. 23).

Journalists are also jailed in retaliation for their critical reporting. In late 2015, when CPJ conducted its annual prison census, at least four journalists were behind bars, two of them in Chhattisgarh. In January, we spearheaded a letter by a coalition of press freedom and human rights groups to the state's chief minister, asking him to ensure a safer working environment for journalists. Then, in March, two other journalists were arrested in Chhattisgarh. CPJ published news alerts calling for them to be freed. In mid-year, authorities released them, as well as one of the journalists listed in the December prison census.

A policeman raises his baton as he approaches a cameraman and protesters in Delhi. The photographer who took this photo was also beaten by police, who destroyed his camera.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RAHUL M.

IN TURKEY, CRACKDOWN ON PRESS GOES INTO OVERDRIVE

Since a failed attempted coup by rogue military officers in July, Turkey's clampdown on the press has intensified. Although authorities had been pressuring the media for months, the attempted coup created a pretext for President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Justice and Development Party, or AKP, to crack down not only on the press they perceived as supporting Fethullah Gülen, an exiled preacher they accuse of leading a terrorist organization, but also their opponents at large.

Within days, the AKP announced a state of emergency. The government shut down more than 100 broadcasters, newspapers, magazines, and publishers, and detained more than 100 journalists, accusing them of having ties with the coup plotters. State regulators censored dozens of websites, and the press credentials of more than 600 journalists were revoked. The purge also extended to critical journalists and to pro-Kurdish media.

In the aftermath, opposition and independent Turkish news sources began reporting a rumored "black list" of journalists they feared would be arrested by police. Can Dündar, chief editor of the opposition daily *Cumhuriyet*, was one of them. The day the list began circulating on social media was the same day CPJ announced that Dündar was being

honored with its 2016 International Press Freedom Award (p. 23). The journalist tweeted, "Being at the top of the list of journos to be arrested in Turkey and awarded by CPJ on the same day? Wow! Thanks CPJ."

In May, Dündar was convicted on charges related to a report alleging the government was sending arms to rebel groups in Syria. In August, he resigned from his position at *Cumhuriyet* because of government pressure. The next month, Istanbul airport officers prevented his wife from traveling to Europe and confiscated her passport without giving a reason.

CPJ is working hard to address the problems for the Turkish press. In December 2015, CPJ and Reporters Without Borders held a press conference in Brussels, in which we urged the EU to ensure that protecting journalists' rights remains a key part to Turkey's accession negotiations. In March, we traveled to Turkey and met with journalists who have been dismissed from their jobs or prosecuted over their reporting. The same month, we began documenting daily the numerous cases of journalists who face detention, prosecution, or exile in a "Turkey Crackdown Chronicle." Our Journalist Assistance program is providing support to journalists under threat in the country, and our Journalist Security Guide has been translated into Turkish.

Protesters rally in support of the government in Istanbul. Authorities have increasingly targeted the press since the failed attempted coup in July.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AFP/OZAN KOSE



FIVE YEARS ON, SYRIAN JOURNALISTS STILL IN PERIL

Syrian freelance cameraman Ferzat Jarban was last seen on November 19, 2011, being arrested while filming an anti-government protest in the province of Homs. His body was found the next day.

Jarban was the first journalist killed in Syria in relation to his work since CPJ began keeping records in 1992. In the five years that have passed since his death, CPJ has documented at least 100 other journalists killed in the country. Most of them were local and covered the war. This death toll has caused Syria to be ranked as the second deadliest place for journalists, behind only Iraq, where at least 173 journalists and 56 media workers have been killed since the 2003 invasion.

As the Syrian conflict continues into its sixth year, conditions for journalists there are still deteriorating. The press is under threat not only from the government, which routinely targets journalists, but also from militants like the extremist group Islamic State, and rebel forces. Journalists face threats, harassment, abuse, and even murder. Many are abducted, and even more are forced to flee.

In the past five years, CPJ's Journalist Assistance program has supported more than 100 Syrian journalists. We have provided financial support and other aid, such as letters of support and legal assistance. We have liaised with partner organizations in the global Journalists in Distress forum to provide help to journalists under threat in Syria. And we have kept up intensive documentation to expose the dangers of the country that, for four consecutive years, has been the deadliest place for journalists in the world.

While the Syrian government and militants in the country can seem immune to international pressure and advocacy, this may not always be the case.

Our research helps journalists to weigh the risks and benefits of entering Syria to cover the brutal conflict. We hope that one day our documentation will contribute to the forming of a new era in Syria—a time when killers and other perpetrators can be held to account, a time when the conflict is over and it is safe for refugees, including exiled journalists, to return home.

IN THE FIVE YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE THE DEATH OF THE FIRST JOURNALIST KILLED IN SYRIA, CPJ HAS DOCUMENTED AT LEAST 100 MORE.



A Syrian government soldier gestures as forces gather in a deserted refugee camp. For four years, Syria has been the deadliest place for journalists.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AFP/GEORGE OURFALIAN

ENSURING SAFER COMMUNICATION FOR JOURNALISTS

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SAFER WAY TO REQUEST CPJ'S SUPPORT.

In December 2015, CPJ received a Facebook message from an individual in the U.S. requesting help for an Iraqi journalist who had been threatened by the extremist group Islamic State. When CPJ's Middle East and North Africa team responded, they asked for further communication to take place on SecureDrop, an encrypted system that allows journalists to submit information without revealing their identity or location.

After communicating via this system, our MENA team vetted the case and our Journalist Assistance program helped provide support. The journalist was soon granted a humanitarian visa for another country.

It was a team effort, and a successful one.

Since CPJ launched SecureDrop, a number of journalists have used it to request help. Instructions are posted on CPJ's website so that journalists are able to easily access and use the system, which is checked daily by CPJ staff.

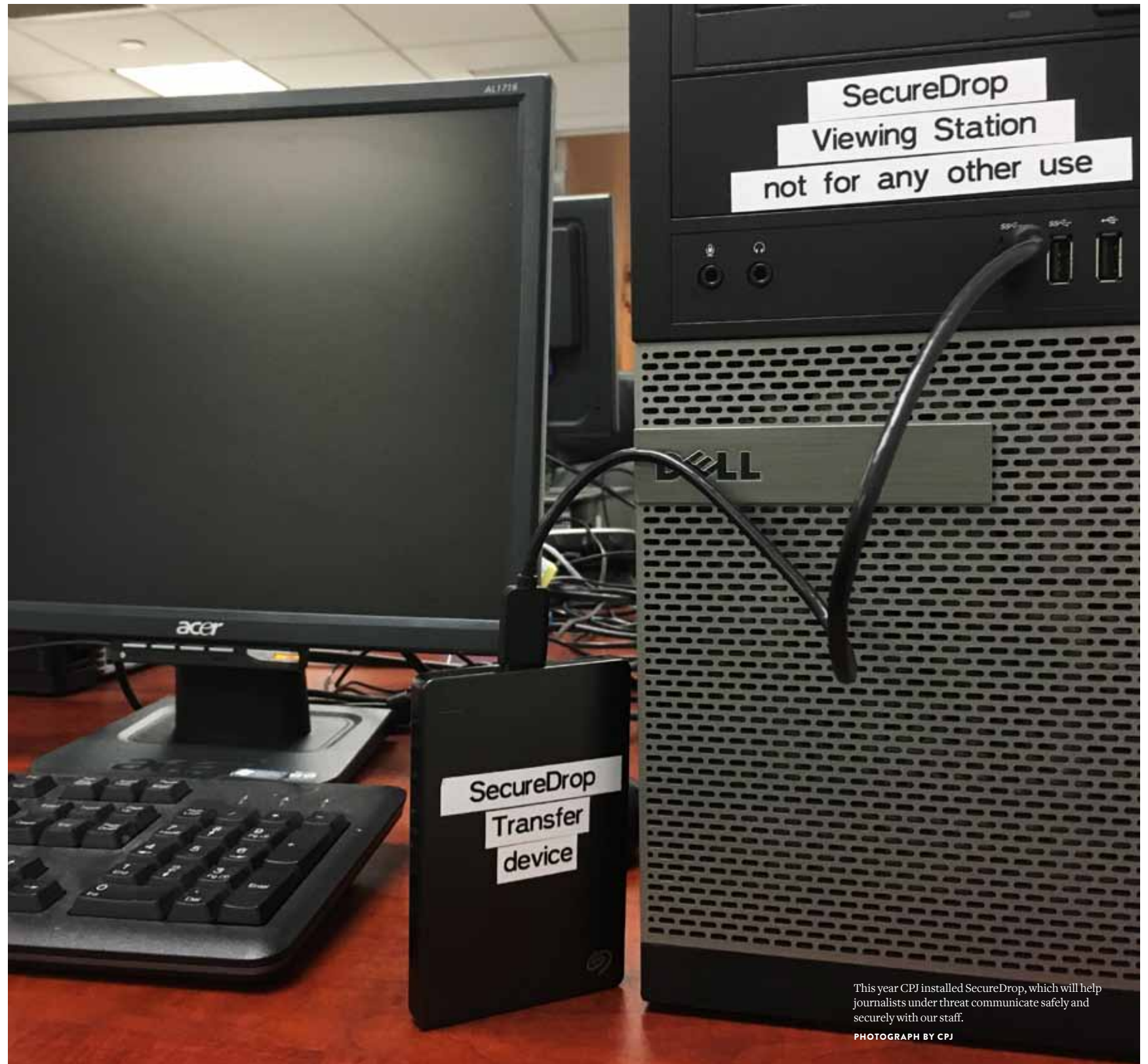
"In a time of unprecedented, technologically mediated threats to journalism both online and offline, CPJ's adoption of SecureDrop will

help us to more effectively protect journalists who need it the most," said Tom Lowenthal, CPJ's San Francisco-based Staff Technologist.

To use SecureDrop, CPJ uses Tails (an operating system meant to preserve anonymity and privacy), a printer, an air-gapped computer (one that has never been connected to the internet), and other equipment to securely access information sent by users. The user is provided with an individualized code name to safely convey information to CPJ. Once the documents have been submitted, they cannot be decrypted by any computer connected to the internet, including the SecureDrop server.

Our Technology Program worked with the Freedom of the Press Foundation to build and set up the system. Once it was ready to be used, Lowenthal physically transported it to CPJ's New York headquarters. Our Technology team installed, tested, and refined the system and trained staff in how to use it.

"There has never been a safer way to request CPJ's support when you're under fire for your reporting," Lowenthal said.



This year CPJ installed SecureDrop, which will help journalists under threat communicate safely and securely with our staff.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CPJ

‘A DAY OF VINDICATION’

For more than a decade, Colombian journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima has sought justice. “My last 15 years and six months have been a mixture of pain, anger, infinite love for my work, obstinacy, and, yes, hopelessness,” she wrote in the 2016 edition of CPJ’s annual publication, *Attacks on the Press*.

On May 25, 2000, Bedoya was drugged and kidnapped at the gates of La Modelo prison in Bogotá while reporting on paramilitary death squads for the daily *El Espectador*. The assailants bound and blindfolded her, then drove her to a town three hours away, where they beat and raped her, all while telling her in graphic detail about other journalists whom they planned to kill. The men left her on a highway, hours from Bogotá.

For years, Colombian authorities did little to nothing to resolve the case. CPJ wrote letters to the president calling for justice, covered the case in alerts and blogs, and published a special report in 2011, “The Silencing Crime: Sexual violence and journalists,” that highlighted Bedoya’s case.

In 2014, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos announced that May 25 would become the National Day for the Dignity of Victims of Sexual Violence. The date was the same date that Bedoya, 14 years previously, was kidnapped at the jail.

A year later, CPJ joined the Colombian group Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (Foundation for a Free Press, or FLIP) for a meeting with the president, in which we urged him to address the high levels of impunity in attacks against journalists and called for progress to be made in Bedoya’s case. Santos said he would prioritize the issue.

Bedoya returned to journalism after her attack. “I still do not know where I found the strength to return to the newsroom, to my notes and to my tape recorder,” she wrote in *Attacks on the Press*. “What I do see clearly is what motivated me. I understand now that my love for this profession and for my work as a reporter was greater than the pain of my body and my soul.”

In February 2016, a Colombian court convicted Alejandro Cárdenas Orozco, a former paramilitary fighter, in Bedoya’s kidnapping and torture, and sentenced him to 11 years in prison and a fine of more than US\$17,000. The next month, Mario Jaimes Mejía, another former paramilitary fighter, was convicted for kidnapping, rape, and torture, and sentenced to 28 years in prison.

“It’s not a day of celebration,” Bedoya told CPJ after the convictions. “It’s a day of vindication.”



Journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima, flanked by Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton, at a 2012 ceremony at the U.S. State Department in Washington at which Bedoya is honored with an International Women of Courage Award.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AFP/JEWEL SAMAD



Carlos Lauría, CPJ’s program director and senior Americas program coordinator, center left, speaks to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, center right, in May 2015. During the meeting, Santos pledged to prioritize combating impunity in attacks against journalists.

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENCY



These photos were taken by Mahmoud Abu Zeid, an Egyptian photographer also known as Shawkan, who has been behind bars in Egypt since August 2013. He was jailed while covering the dispersal of a sit-in in Cairo.

Shawkan is being honored with CPJ's 2016 International Press Freedom Award (p. 23).

Earlier this year, CPJ held an exhibition at the Bronx Documentary Center featuring some of Shawkan's work. The photos ranged from images of everyday life in Cairo to scenes from the Egyptian revolution.

CPJ IS PROUD TO HONOR THESE COURAGEOUS JOURNALISTS WITH ITS 2016 INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS.

They have faced down extremists, authoritarian governments, and criminal enterprises to hold accountable those in power.



**MAHMOUD ABOU ZEID,
SHAWKAN
EGYPT**

Mahmoud Abou Zeid, a freelance photographer known as “Shawkan,” was detained while covering clashes in Cairo in August 2013. After he was taken into custody, the U.K.-based photo agency Demotix sent a letter to the Egyptian government confirming that he was covering clashes for the agency. Shawkan is charged with weapons possession, illegal assembly, murder, and attempted murder, the same allegations levied against hundreds of protesters detained during the clashes. He denies the charges. In August 2015, one of his lawyers told CPJ that Shawkan should be released because he has been in prison for two years without a trial. The Egyptian criminal code stipulates individuals can be held without trial for a maximum of two years. The next month, Shawkan’s case was referred to court, but the trial has repeatedly been delayed. He is being held in prison in Cairo. His health has deteriorated and he has Hepatitis C. “Tora prison is like a cemetery,” Shawkan wrote in a letter smuggled out of prison in April 2015. “It is a place where dreams come to die.”



**ÓSCAR MARTÍNEZ
EL SALVADOR**

Óscar Martínez joined *El Faro*, Central America’s first online-only newspaper, in 2008 to help carry out an in-depth investigation of Central American migration across Mexico. In 2011, he co-founded a unit “Sala Negra” (Black Room), which quickly gained a reputation for its hard-hitting investigations into extrajudicial killings by police, a taboo subject in El Salvador. In 2012, the *El Faro* staff was threatened after the newspaper published an article describing an organized crime network. In August 2015, Martínez and a colleague were forced to flee the country for three weeks after receiving death threats for an investigation into the killing of eight suspected gang members allegedly murdered by the police. The journalist has a security system, including panic buttons, installed at his house and said that he worries about taking his three-year-old daughter to public parks. Still, he told CPJ, “I don’t think we’ve suffered yet even 1 percent of what those who we write about suffer.”



**MALINI SUBRAMANIAM
INDIA**

Malini Subramaniam, a contributor to the news website *Scroll*, has reported on alleged abuses by police and security forces, sexual violence against women, extrajudicial killings, and threats against journalists. She has been questioned, surveilled, and harassed by police and members of a vigilante group over her reporting in Bastar, a district in the restive state of Chhattisgarh. In February, attackers threw stones at her home, while a group chanted “Death to Malini Subramaniam” from outside. She told CPJ that police initially refused to let her file a police report, but eventually registered one that included charges related only to trespassing and property damage. Later that month, police detained and questioned Subramaniam’s domestic staff and allegedly pressured her landlord to evict her. Concerned for the safety of those around her, Subramaniam decided to leave Bastar. Until her departure, Subramaniam was among only a few journalists reporting from Bastar in Chhattisgarh—the epicenter of the conflict between Maoist groups and security forces.



**CAN DÜNDAR
TURKEY**

Can Dündar, former chief editor of the daily *Cumhuriyet*, was arrested in November 2015 and held with his colleague, Erdem Gül, the paper’s Ankara bureau chief, until February. The allegations against them were in connection with a 2015 report in which Dündar alleged that trucks belonging to Turkey’s intelligence agency were used to smuggle arms to Syrian rebel groups. At the journalists’ trial in March, the judge granted the prosecutors’ request to admit President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Turkish Intelligence Agency as complainants, despite the defense saying it would jeopardize the trial’s fairness. During a break in the trial in May, a man shot at Dündar twice outside the courthouse, calling him a “traitor.” The journalist was unharmed. On May 6, the court sentenced Dündar to seven years in prison, reduced to five years and 10 months, and Gül to six years in prison, reduced to five, both on charges of revealing state secrets. Both of them are free pending appeal.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

(with comparative totals for December 31, 2014)

	12/31/15	12/31/14
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 1,089,278	\$ 858,636
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE, NET	3,198,621	3,376,656
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	100,942	64,904
INVESTMENTS	12,179,794	13,042,120
FIXED ASSETS (net of accumulated depreciation)	182,916	135,112
SECURITY DEPOSIT	83,130	83,058
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 16,834,681	\$ 17,560,486
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$ 389,701	\$ 263,950
DEFERRED RENT	183,329	220,196
CONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION	300,000	300,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	873,030	784,146
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED	1,259,088	862,860
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	5,202,563	6,413,480
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	9,500,000	9,500,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	15,961,651	16,776,340
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 16,834,681	\$ 17,560,486

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

(with comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2014)

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL EXPENSES 12/31/15	TOTAL EXPENSES 12/31/14
SALARIES	\$ 1,950,475	\$ 76,719	\$ 392,474	\$ 2,419,668	\$ 2,198,209
PAYROLL TAXES & BENEFITS	528,238	29,675	109,303	667,216	521,720
PROFESSIONAL FEES (including in-kind)	722,507	198,485	134,699	1,055,691	1,015,491
OCCUPANCY	315,895	13,504	64,882	394,281	382,128
TRAVEL (including in-kind)	312,565	7,675	52,604	372,844	410,087
GRANTS	215,376	-	-	215,376	140,886
OFFICE SUPPLIES & MAINTENANCE	34,888	1,635	7,370	43,893	73,055
TELEPHONE & INTERNET	41,037	2,606	7,012	50,655	47,237
PUBLICATIONS, PRINTING & POSTAGE	78,555	432	40,621	119,608	114,300
INSURANCE	30,568	1,194	9,210	40,972	37,281
FEES	18,354	1,154	41,541	61,049	34,587
DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION	49,419	2,256	10,923	62,598	62,297
BAD DEBT EXPENSE	-	10,240	-	10,240	18,640
OTHER	54,405	7,731	16,742	78,878	62,145
TOTAL	\$ 4,352,282	\$ 353,306	\$ 887,381	\$ 5,592,969	\$ 5,118,063

Complete audited financial statements, including auditors' notes, are available at our website, <https://cpj.org>.

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A protester is seen against the backdrop of the
Egyptian flag during a demonstration in Cairo.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY MAHMOUD ABOU ZEID