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CPJ  **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**



FOR 36 YEARS CPJ HAS PERSEVERED IN THE FIGHT TO DEFEND JOURNALISTS AND UPHOLD PRESS FREEDOM ACROSS THE GLOBE. WE MEET WITH LEADERS OF COUNTRIES WHERE JOURNALISTS ARE ROUTINELY CENSORED, ATTACKED, KILLED, OR IMPRISONED FOR THEIR WORK. WE PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO JOURNALISTS FORCED TO FLEE THEIR COUNTRIES. AND WE DOCUMENT AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST THOUSANDS OF VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE PRESS.

During this same period, there have been serious challenges to press freedom in the United States. Immigrant journalists have been murdered, reporters have been jailed for failing to reveal their sources, and leakers have been prosecuted under the Espionage Act. Even as we spoke out about these issues, we counted on the U.S. to stand up for press freedom around the world. CPJ successfully worked with the State Department, Congress, and the White House to put pressure on leaders of other countries to embrace a free and open press.

But the world is different today. As press freedom challenges have mounted domestically, the U.S. has been unwilling or simply unable to stand up for press freedom abroad. The rhetoric from the White House threatens to undermine the rights of journalists and delegitimize journalism itself.

As you will see in these pages, CPJ has expanded its work in the United States. But the loss of U.S. influence also means we have to expand our global work, engaging more regularly with the authorities in places where journalists face threats, harassment, or intimidation; censorship under restrictive laws and regulations; detention or imprisonment; and, worst of all, murder.

We traveled to Myanmar this year, where we spoke to government officials and called on authorities to repeal restrictive laws used to convict journalists of defamation and imprison them. In July, we met with the president of Ukraine to raise our concerns about the lack of progress in the investigation into the 2016 murder in Kiev of Pavel Sheremet, CPJ's 1998 International Press Freedom Award winner. And in May, we met with the president of Mexico to discuss the overwhelming impunity in the murders of Mexican journalists. We didn't know at the time that just over a week later, Javier Valdez Cárdenas, our 2011 International Press Freedom Award winner, would be shot dead.

We have a stake in ensuring that journalists are able to report the truth all over the world. We fight for press freedom because we know our efforts make a difference. We fight because we believe the public has the right to be informed and hold governments accountable. We fight because we believe every individual has the right to free expression.

Our work is possible only because of your support. While many of you have been CPJ supporters for years, we gained thousands of new friends in 2017 thanks to Meryl Streep, who made a moving speech at the Golden Globes. We are also grateful to Samantha Bee, who hosted the "Not the White House Correspondents Dinner" to benefit CPJ, as well as the numerous others who donated, hosted fundraisers, and wrote us heartfelt letters. Thank you for standing with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Simon'.

Joel Simon
Executive Director

🔥 **CPJ** promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. **CPJ** ensures the free flow of news and commentary by **taking action wherever journalists are attacked, imprisoned, killed, kidnapped, threatened, censored, or harassed.**

UNITED STATES

CPJ INCREASED ITS ADVOCACY IN THE U.S. FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT TRUMP.

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MEXICO

CPJ MET WITH THE PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS JOURNALIST MURDERS, BUT DAYS LATER CPJ'S 2011 IPFA WINNER, JAVIER VALDEZ CÁRDENAS, WAS KILLED.

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VENEZUELA

JOURNALISTS WERE UNDER ATTACK DURING THE PROTESTS THAT SWEEPED THE COUNTRY. CPJ'S EMERGENCIES RESPONSE TEAM WAS THERE TO HELP.

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UNITED KINGDOM

CPJ LAUNCHED ITS EMERGENCIES REPORT ON JOURNALIST SAFETY AND SECURITY AT THE FRONTLINE CLUB.

SPAIN

CPJ PARTNERED ON THE 2017 INTERNET FREEDOM FESTIVAL AND HELD SESSIONS ON ONLINE HARASSMENT.

GAMBIA

UNDER A NEW PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TOWARD COMBATING IMPUNITY.

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BRUSSELS

CPJ HOSTED A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE CHALLENGES JOURNALISTS FACE IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE.

SWITZERLAND

CPJ SPOKE AT A UNITED NATIONS SIDE EVENT ON PRESS FREEDOM IN BAHRAIN, EGYPT, AND YEMEN.

CAMEROON

A BROADLY DEFINED ANTI-TERROR LAW IS CASTING A CHILL ON PRESS FREEDOM.

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UKRAINE

CPJ MET WITH THE UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT AND CALLED FOR JUSTICE IN THE MURDER OF PAVEL SHEREMET, CPJ'S 1998 AWARD WINNER.

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SYRIA

CPJ HAS PROVIDED FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AT LEAST 14 SYRIAN JOURNALISTS IN 2017.

IRAQ

CPJ CONDUCTED A MISSION TO ERBIL TO ASSESS SAFETY AND ASSISTANCE SUPPORT FOR JOURNALISTS.

GULF/QATAR

CPJ CONDEMNED THE ORDER BY GULF COUNTRIES TO QATAR TO SHUT MEDIA OUTLETS, INCLUDING AL-JAZEERA.

SOUTH KOREA

CPJ PARTICIPATED IN A PANEL ON U.N. EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORIST USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES.

MYANMAR

A CPJ DELEGATION VISITED THE NATION, MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS, ADVOCATES, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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JAPAN

CPJ CO-HOSTED A CONFERENCE ON PRESS FREEDOM AND JOURNALIST SECURITY AND JOURNALISM WORKSHOPS AT TWO UNIVERSITIES.

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CPJ HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK WITH STAFF IN WASHINGTON, DC AND CALIFORNIA

WE ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTORS IN **BANGKOK, BEIRUT, BOGOTÁ, BRUSSELS, COTONOU, ISTANBUL, KIEV, LIVERPOOL, LONDON, MEXICO CITY, NAIROBI, NEW DELHI, SÃO PAULO, AND TAIPEI.**

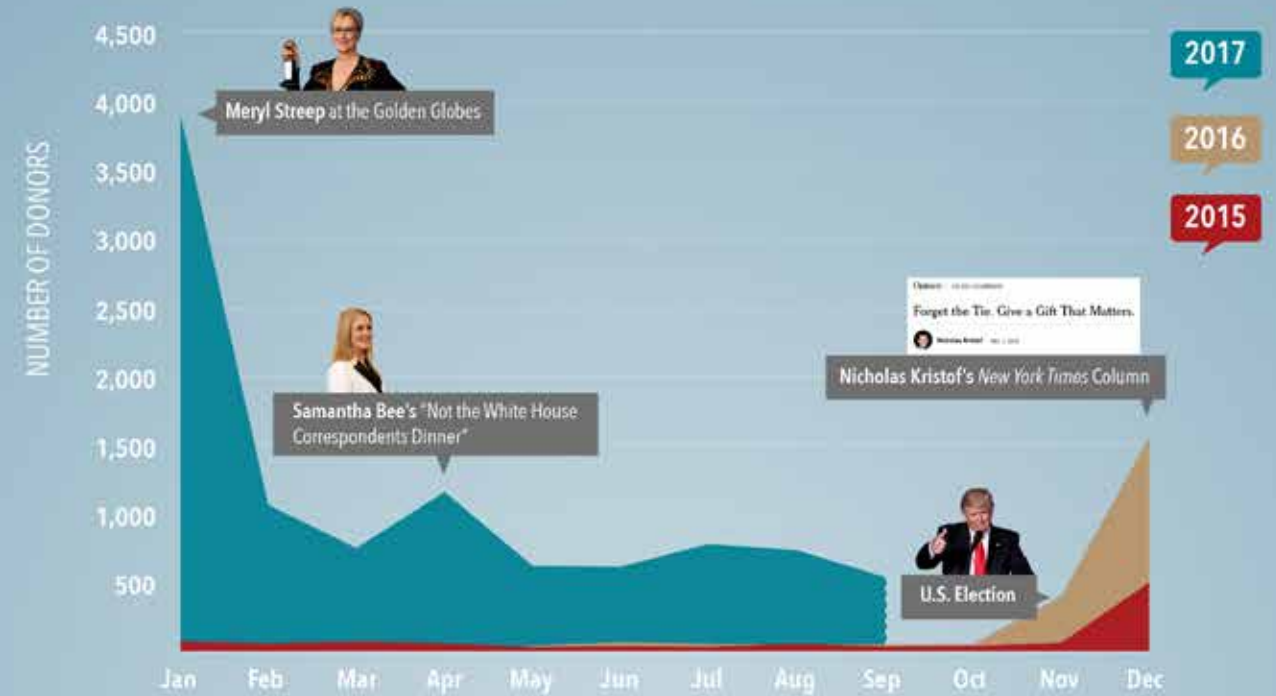
THE COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS SAW AN UNPRECEDENTED RISE IN VISIBILITY AND SUPPORT FOLLOWING THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2016. DONATIONS FIRST SPIKED AFTER A SHOUT-OUT FROM *NEW YORK TIMES* COLUMNIST NICK KRISTOF IN DECEMBER. THEN, IN JANUARY, MERYL STREEP ASKED THE AUDIENCE AT THE GOLDEN GLOBES TO “JOIN [HER] IN SUPPORTING CPJ.” IN APRIL, SAMANTHA BEE HOSTED THE “NOT THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER” IN WASHINGTON AS A BENEFIT FOR CPJ.

These high-profile endorsements helped CPJ reach audiences outside of journalism networks and the news industry. We received hundreds of moving letters and donations from numerous fundraisers hosted by concerned citizens.

In late 2017, CPJ launched a campaign to mobilize our new supporters in the fight for press freedom in the U.S. and around the world.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

With help from high-profile support for CPJ's programmatic work, the number of CPJ's individual donors increased by more than 10 times from 2015 to 2017.



OTHER SUPPORT

In just one year, CPJ's social media followers and newsletter subscribers increased dramatically.



From October 1, 2016, through October 1, 2017

WHEN A GROUP OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS FOUNDED CPJ 36 YEARS AGO, IT WAS TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO REPORT THE NEWS IN REPRESSIVE AND HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS.

Over the years CPJ has also been active in the United States. In 1994, we published a report on the murders of immigrant journalists in the U.S. In 2013, CPJ published a major report on press freedom under former President Barack Obama. Throughout, we have engaged with the U.S. government on issues that include surveillance, protection of sources, and prosecution of whistleblowers.

But the situation is different today, in many ways unprecedented. Since President Donald Trump was elected in November 2016, his rhetoric and that of his administration have cast a chill on the media environment. On Twitter in February, he called the media “the enemy of the American people.” In May, he laughed after the head of Homeland Security joked that he could use a ceremonial saber on journalists. And at an August rally in Phoenix, the president called journalists “sick people” and “liars” who “make up stories” and “don’t report the facts.”

CPJ usually hears this kind of anti-press rhetoric from leaders of countries like Turkey, China, and Russia. The U.S. has historically been an ally for journalists around the world, and its support has been vital in helping CPJ free imprisoned journalists or win convictions in murders. So statements like these from the leader of the United States do great damage.

CPJ got to work.

We began strengthening our reporting and research, which are at the heart of our advocacy. We appointed our first-ever Washington advocacy manager who has expanded our outreach to Congress, and we met with the offices of U.S. senators to urge them to help improve press freedom. We reached out to the Department of Homeland

Security to raise our concerns over secondary searches of journalists and their devices at U.S. borders, and we joined the Fly Don’t Spy campaign, which opposes collecting social media passwords from foreigners visiting the U.S. We are hiring a U.S. correspondent to help us document violations.

CPJ is also working closely with other press freedom groups. In August, we launched the “U.S. Press Freedom Tracker,” in partnership with the Freedom of the Press Foundation and more than two dozen other organizations, which documents press freedom incidents in the United States, including journalist arrests, equipment seizure, and attacks.

And we are increasing our visibility. Our expertise in press freedom has been sought after much more frequently this year as the issues with which we have grappled for more than three decades have come to the forefront in the United States. In the first nine months of 2017, CPJ has been cited in more than 10,000 media reports on press freedom in the United States.

But that’s not all. Our Emergencies Response Team is monitoring journalist safety in the United States. In January, the team published a safety advisory to journalists covering the U.S. inauguration and the surrounding protests. We are also leading an international mission of press freedom groups to Washington in early 2018, and we will continue to hold and co-host events with journalists and media experts to ensure that press freedom in the United States remains in the public conversation. After all, promoting press freedom and defending journalists are our priority. Without the press, who would inform the public and hold government and business leaders accountable?

IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 2017, CPJ HAS BEEN CITED IN

10,000 MEDIA REPORTS

ON PRESS FREEDOM IN THE U.S.

Journalists covering a protest near President Trump’s inauguration get caught by a stun grenade deployed by police.

REUTERS/BRYAN WOOLSTON



IN THE HANDS OF LONGTIME PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA, A BROADLY DEFINED ANTI-TERROR LAW IS CASTING A CHILL ON PRESS FREEDOM IN CAMEROON.

The law—passed in 2014 as part of the government’s effort to counter the militant group Boko Haram—can be used to indefinitely detain individuals accused of terrorism. It carries a maximum penalty of death. Yet CPJ has found that authorities are using the law against journalists who report on the militants or unrest in the country’s English-speaking regions. One such journalist is Ahmed Abba.

Abba was arrested in the regional capital of Maroua in 2015 and questioned about the activities of Boko Haram. The reporter for Radio France Internationale’s Hausa service covered attacks by the militant group and refugee issues. He was held for seven months before being tried on charges of terrorism. In 2017, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

For more than two years, CPJ has advocated for Abba’s freedom. We published alerts, letters, and op-eds on his case and featured him in CPJ’s “Free the Press” advocacy campaign, a year-long effort to free journalists imprisoned on anti-state charges. In 2017, CPJ honored him with an International Press Freedom Award (p. 25).

Abba’s case is symbolic of the country’s deteriorating media environment. In 2017, authorities arrested other journalists under the anti-terror law, banned newspapers deemed sympathetic to protests, suspended news outlets, shut down the internet, and prevented outside observers, including CPJ, from entering the country by delaying the visa process.

Then, in late August, authorities released three journalists who were in pretrial detention

since early 2017, and ended proceedings against them. The journalists had faced trial by military tribunal under the anti-terror law.

In a report published in September, called “Journalists Not Terrorists,” CPJ chronicled the abuse of anti-terror legislation against the Cameroonian press, including the imprisonment of journalists like Abba. We interviewed local editors and reporters, many of whom were too frightened to be quoted by name. The day the report was launched, Communications Minister Issa Tchiroma-Bakary wrote a series of posts on Twitter, saying that in Cameroon “there is no risk in practicing journalism or voicing one’s political views.” In another tweet, he wrote, “Journalists are free.” The next day, he released a statement, calling the report “vitriolic.”

Throughout 2017, CPJ met with and reached out to the diplomatic community, and African, U.S., and EU leaders to urge them to raise issues around anti-press violations in Cameroon. In a letter to President Biya in April, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-III) called for the release of jailed journalists. In June, Congressman Donald Payne Jr. wrote to U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, requesting an investigation into human rights abuses in the English-speaking regions of the country.

With Biya’s supporters urging him to seek another term in 2018—the president has been in power since 1982—journalists in Cameroon have a long road ahead of them. CPJ will continue to stand by their side.

Girls walk on a road in Maroua, the town where Ahmed Abba was arrested in 2015.

REUTERS/JOE PENNEY



MEXICO RANKS AMONG THE
MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRIES
 FOR JOURNALISTS IN THE WORLD



A CPJ delegation meets with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto in May.

LOS PINOS

CPJ IN THE FIELD

When Javier Valdez Cárdenas arrived on stage at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York in November 2011 to accept CPJ's International Press Freedom Award, the room erupted in applause. Here was a brave journalist—an investigative reporter and editor in Mexico—beloved by his colleagues and liked instantly by anyone who met him.

“Where I work,” Valdez said in his speech that night, “it is dangerous to be alive.”

He was right. On May 15, 2017, less than six years after his speech at the CPJ dinner, Valdez was shot dead in his home city of Culiacán.

The news hit CPJ hard. Our staff had known and worked with Valdez for years.

Valdez was killed just 11 days after CPJ met with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto as part of a mission to discuss the high levels of impunity in journalist murders. CPJ also released a special report on the issue while in Mexico. Of the 38 journalist murders, including that of Valdez, that have taken place since 1992 in the country, 33 of them are completely unsolved.

During our meeting, Peña Nieto told CPJ that combating impunity in journalist murders and ensuring the safety and protection of journalists would be a priority for the remainder of his administration. He also guaranteed funding for a federal protection mechanism for journalists, which would have run out of money in October. “We need to consolidate the new justice system, but this is not an excuse,” he told CPJ.

A mural in Monterrey, Mexico, of Javier Valdez Cárdenas, a journalist who was killed in May. Valdez received CPJ's 2011 International Press Freedom Award.

AFP/JULIO CESAR AGUILAR

CPJ also raised concerns about the federal prosecutor's office's poor record in investigating crimes against freedom of expression. Mexico's attorney general, Raúl Cervantes Andrade, who attended the meeting, told CPJ the government was replacing the federal prosecutor with someone with experience who has “the support and recognition of [freedom of expression] organizations.” A few months later, it did.

CPJ met with the Mexican Embassy in Brussels, where we directly advocated for the fulfillment of President Peña Nieto's commitments to CPJ. And we spoke to the EU's European External Action Service to discuss impunity in journalist murders in Mexico.

Mexico, where law enforcement is weak and political will is lacking, ranks among the most dangerous countries for journalists in the world. With little to discourage violence against the press, criminal gangs, cartels, and corrupt officials are able to silence critics as they please.

Patricia Mayorga knows this all too well. The correspondent for Mexico's national magazine *Proceso* covers human rights and other issues in Chihuahua state, but was forced to flee in 2017 after she received threats. CPJ provided her with assistance. In 2017, Mayorga was honored with CPJ's International Press Freedom Award (p. 25).

CPJ will continue to call for successful investigations, prosecutions, and convictions in journalist murders in Mexico. As Valdez's widow, Griselda Triana, said at a memorial that CPJ co-hosted for Valdez in July, “If all that is left is to demand justice, we must cry for it.”



CPJ VISITED MYANMAR TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPEAL ITS REPRESSIVE LAWS

Kathleen Carroll, CPJ board chair and former executive editor of The Associated Press, answers questions at a press conference hosted by CPJ and PEN Myanmar in June.

CPJ/STEVE BUTLER

CPJ IN THE FIELD



Myanmar ended decades of military rule in 2016 when the National League for Democracy (NLD) won a parliamentary majority. Headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate and longtime advocate of democratization Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD assumed power in a landslide victory.

While Myanmar's newfound democracy has taken steps toward improving human rights and other issues for the country, it still has a long way to go. In late 2016, authorities banned journalists from entering northern Rakhine state, where ethnic Rohingya, a Muslim minority group, were facing abuse. Then, in August, violence erupted in the state, causing hundreds of thousands of Rohingya civilians to flee the country.

Reform, especially for the press, is taking longer than the world had hoped.

Myanmar remains a hostile environment for journalists. Several laws restricting the media remain in place from the nation's days of military rule. For instance, section 66(d) of the Telecommunications law, which was enacted in 2013, allows for the imprisonment of journalists for two years over defamation charges for online material.

Another law, the Unlawful Associations Act, criminalizes contact with groups that authorities believe pose a threat to national security. In June, three journalists—two from the Democratic Voice of Burma news agency and one from the Irrawaddy media group—were arrested under the act after they reported on an event organized by an ethnic group

that is banned by authorities. The journalists remained in jail for two months before the military dropped charges. CPJ, which has long campaigned for a repeal of the archaic law, condemned the arrests.

In June, a CPJ delegation visited Myanmar to pressure the government to reform and repeal the repressive laws. CPJ held a joint press conference—in a room packed with journalists—calling for legislative reform alongside the freedom of expression group PEN Myanmar. CPJ also met with editors and journalists in Yangon, some of whom had been targeted by the repressive laws in the country.

CPJ spoke to government officials and called on authorities to allow access to Rakhine state so that journalists can cover the plight of the Rohingya. One senior official of the Ministry of Information told CPJ that legislation would soon be introduced to remove criminal penalties under the Telecommunications Law, a pledge that was not fulfilled. While the government later announced that the law would be amended to allow only those directly harmed by online content to file charges, its criminal provisions remain in force.

With media reports covering the atrocities allegedly committed by security forces against the Rohingya, the government's commitment to human rights and press freedom is being called into question. Still, CPJ will continue to press officials in Myanmar to prioritize a more free and open climate for journalists, even as conflict escalates. After all, without them, how would we know the truth?

In Myanmar, journalists protest the arrests of their colleagues in June and call on authorities to release them.

REUTERS/SOE ZEYA TUN

IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR
SINCE PAVEL SHEREMET WAS KILLED AND
STILL NO ONE HAS
BEEN HELD RESPONSIBLE

A CPJ delegation and Pavel Sheremet's family meet with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in July.

KIEV-PRESIDENT OFFICE

CPJ IN THE FIELD



For a journalist working in the former Soviet region, Pavel Sheremet had faced it all: threats, imprisonment, even being stripped of citizenship from his native Belarus. But he never gave up reporting the truth, or advocating and demanding justice for his fellow journalists.

In November 1998, when CPJ honored Sheremet with its International Press Freedom Award, he was not granted an exit visa from Belarusian authorities at the time. So CPJ traveled to Belarus to give him the award in person.

Now, more than a year after Sheremet was killed in a car bombing in Kiev, CPJ is fighting for justice in his murder.

In July, around the one-year anniversary of Sheremet's murder, a CPJ delegation flew to Kiev to launch a special report, "Justice Denied," at a press conference. The report, available in English, Ukrainian, and Russian, criticized the lack of progress in the investigation into Sheremet's killing and urged authorities to act swiftly. It also included recommendations to the Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Russian governments, as well as to the European Union.

While in Kiev, CPJ and Sheremet's family met with President Petro Poroshenko, who said he remained committed to bringing Sheremet's killers to justice. In a move that could invigorate the case, Poroshenko proposed adding an independent, international investigator, in line

with CPJ's recommendations in the report.

CPJ also held meetings with representatives from Ukraine's General Prosecutor's Office, the National Police, and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the three agencies responsible for the investigation into Sheremet's murder.

We will continue to advocate for justice. In 2017, CPJ traveled to Brussels to follow up on our Kiev mission. We also met with the EU delegation in Kiev and several European Ambassadors to Kiev and urged them to speak out. They did. The U.S. State Department, the new Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe representative on freedom of the media Harlem Désir, and a group of organizations who are partners on the Council of Europe's journalist safety platforms, of which CPJ is also part, made public statements calling for justice.

It has been more than a year since Sheremet was killed, and still no one has been held responsible. The lingering impunity in Sheremet's case has had a chilling effect on coverage in Ukraine. Many of Sheremet's colleagues told CPJ that the brazen murder of such a well-known journalist makes it difficult to move on.

For them, the journalist's mother, Lyudmila Sheremet, had a message. "Keep fighting," she told them at his funeral. "Make sure Pavel did not die in vain."

At a July 2016 ceremony, people pay tribute to Pavel Sheremet, who was killed when an explosive device detonated under his car.

AFP/SERGEI SUPINSKY

JOURNALISTS IN YEMEN
NOW WORK IN FEAR
OR NOT AT ALL

CPJ's 2017 IPFA winner, Yemeni journalist Afrah Nasser, speaks on a panel alongside CPJ staff member Sherif Mansour in Geneva.

CPJ/KERRY PATERSON

CPJ IN THE FIELD



THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN YEMEN HAS PUT INCREASED PRESSURE ON JOURNALISTS REPORTING FROM ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Since November 2011, when months of violent protests forced President Abdullah Saleh to transfer power to Vice President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, the country has experienced unrest. In 2014, the Houthis displaced President Hadi to the south, and the next year they took over government institutions. Amid violent protests, attacks on government buildings, and the growing presence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, a Saudi Arabia-led coalition began conducting airstrikes against the Houthis. According to the UN, the civilian death toll in the civil war has reached 10,000, with millions of others needing urgent assistance.

Meanwhile, state institutions in the country have completely broken down, and journalists are finding themselves at increasing risk. All but one of the 13 journalists who have been killed in Yemen since 2015 were caught in the crossfire of war. Others have been attacked, threatened, or faced legal action. CPJ estimates that at least 14 journalists have been kidnapped by the Houthis since 2014.

A climate of intimidation and harassment has prevailed for so long in Yemen that journalists now work in fear—or not at all.

In late March, CPJ traveled to Lebanon to meet with journalists reporting on Yemen from exile.

The mission, which included our Emergencies Response Team, enabled CPJ to speak to the journalists about the challenges of reporting in the country and learn more about the proactive efforts our organization can take to help protect journalists.

One journalist, who left Yemen in 2011, continues to report—from exile—on human rights violations and press freedom issues in the country. Afrah Nasser, an award-winning Yemeni reporter and blogger, began receiving death threats in connection with critical blogs and stories she wrote during the 2011 uprising. Nasser was granted asylum in Sweden in late 2011. From there, she reports on political affairs in Yemen as a freelance journalist. In 2017, CPJ honored Nasser with its International Press Freedom Award (p. 25).

At a June panel co-sponsored by CPJ at the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Nasser spoke about the deterioration of press freedom in her home country. “The war has devastated everything you can imagine—freedom of expression, freedom of the press, the right to food, the right to live in dignity, the right to dream for a better tomorrow,” she said. “Above all, it has devastated Yemenis’ trust in humanity.”

Supporters of the Houthi movement chant during a rally in the capital, Sana'a, in March.

AFP/MOHAMMED HUWAIS



CPJ FOUND THAT **MORE THAN 100**
 JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA WORKERS WERE
THREATENED, HARASSED, DETAINED, OR ATTACKED
 WHILE COVERING THE PROTESTS IN VENEZUELA

THE VENEZUELAN SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN MARCH TO STRIP THE NATION'S OPPOSITION-LED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ITS LAWMAKING POWERS—AND THE REVERSAL OF THAT DECISION TWO DAYS LATER — BEGAN WHAT WOULD BECOME MONTHS OF POLITICAL TURMOIL FOR THE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY.

As Venezuelans took to the streets in April, the waves of protests across the country soon became violent. State security forces confronted demonstrators with tear gas, batons, and rubber bullets. Protesters responded with violence and began erecting barricades, which they sometimes set on fire.

The protests became deadlier, with the most violence taking place in the weeks leading up to a July 30 vote held by President Nicolás Maduro's government to convene a constituent assembly with the power to rewrite the country's constitution. Despite a boycott led by the opposition, the vote took place, resulting in the establishment of a constituent assembly made up mostly of pro-Maduro delegates.

More than 120 people were killed in connection with the protests between April and August, media reports said. Hundreds of others were injured or imprisoned.

CPJ found that in May more than 100 journalists and media workers were threatened, harassed, detained, obstructed, or injured while covering the protests. That number increased dramatically over the following months, during which hundreds of incidents were recorded of violence and intimidation of journalists. According to Venezuelan press freedom groups, state security forces and armed civilian groups were responsible for most of the cases, although protesters also targeted journalists by robbing them, attacking them, and accusing them of being government sympathizers.

CPJ's Emergencies Response Team worked closely with CPJ's South and Central America program to develop a page devoted to the safety of journalists reporting from Venezuela. Working with a security expert in Caracas, the team updated the page each week with detail on the protests and press freedom violations as well as advice to help journalists mitigate, or avoid altogether, physical danger and legal troubles. The page provided contacts for resources on the ground, including medical facilities.

The Emergencies team also published a safety advisory that offered guidance and tips to help journalists stay safe while reporting on the protests. The tips included planning evacuation routes beforehand, knowing the areas they would be working in, and wearing clothing and footwear that would allow them to move quickly.

Several local and international journalists planning to report from Venezuela also reached out to CPJ directly for safety advice. The Emergencies team provided support on safety protocols for journalists from local and international outlets, while also giving direct safety advice to international freelancers looking to enter the country.

CPJ also advised journalists to consult our Journalist Security Guide, which outlines basic preparedness for journalists of all experience levels. The guide details how to stay safe while reporting on protests to ways to prepare a security assessment in advance of a dangerous assignment—whether in Venezuela or anywhere else in the world.

Journalists and police are engulfed in tear gas during a protest in Caracas in April.

AFP/JUAN BARRETO

IN THE YEARS BEFORE HE WAS KILLED, GAMBIAN EDITOR DEYDA HYDARA WAS KNOWN FOR HIS WEEKLY COLUMN “GOOD MORNING, MR. PRESIDENT.” THE COLUMN, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE INDEPENDENT GAMBIAN PAPER *THE POINT*, WHICH HYDARA FOUNDED, WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT YAHYA JAMMEH.

On December 16, 2004, Hydara and his colleagues celebrated the paper’s 13th anniversary at the office. Later that night, he was shot dead while driving home.

In the years that have passed, no one has been held accountable in Hydara’s murder. In fact, Gambian authorities have made little progress in the case.

But CPJ has not stopped calling for justice. In 2005, we conducted an advocacy mission to the Gambia and met with investigators of the National Intelligence Agency, which was overseeing the investigation. We included Hydara’s case in a special report we published in 2014, called “Road to Impunity.” And over the years we have published several news alerts, statements, blogs, and letters calling for Gambian authorities to hold the killers to account.

But under the administration of former President Jammeh, justice for Hydara was elusive, and conditions for journalists continued to deteriorate.

Then, in December 2016, Gambia elected a new president. The month after President Adama Barrow came into office, authorities released Bakary Fatty, a TV reporter who had been detained for more than two months without charge. And in May, a court in Banjul issued arrest warrants for two individuals suspected in Hydara’s murder. The two suspects are not in the country.

“I traveled to Gambia in 2005 as part of the

CPJ delegation to advocate in Hydara’s case, but I never thought I would see this day,” said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon. “With the suspects at large, justice remains distant. But the horizon just got a bit closer.”

For most journalists who have been targeted for murder, there is often not even a hint at a resolution. CPJ research shows that nearly nine out of every 10 journalist murders is unsolved. This is why CPJ carries out a global campaign against impunity in journalist murders. And each step toward justice matters.

In the decade since CPJ launched its global Campaign Against Impunity, we have helped put impunity in journalist killings on the global agenda. The United Nations established November 2 as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists and passed five resolutions urging member states to address impunity in anti-press attacks. More important, CPJ has successfully advocated for the convictions of dozens of suspects in journalists’ murders.

In 2017, CPJ provided input on ways to strengthen the U.N. Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. CPJ also worked with partner groups, including the International Freedom of Expression Exchange, or IFEX, to make sure impunity remains on the agenda for civil society and press freedom groups around the world.

Still, for journalists like Hydara, there is much more work left to do.

IN THE 13 YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE DEYDA HYDARA’S MURDER,

NO ONE HAS BEEN HELD ACCOUNTABLE

Deyda Hydara and his wife, years before the journalist was killed.

HYDARA FAMILY

CPJ FIGHTS TO ENSURE NO JOURNALISTS ARE JAILED IN REPRISAL FOR THEIR WORK. EACH YEAR, WE MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, CONDUCT ADVOCACY ON THE JOURNALISTS' BEHALF, AND PROVIDE MANY OF THEM WITH DIRECT FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

In 2017, CPJ conducted a campaign, “Free the Press,” to raise awareness of journalists imprisoned around the world on anti-state charges. Our work often pays off. Advocacy by CPJ and other groups helps win the early release from prison of dozens of journalists each year. In the first 10 months of 2017, CPJ helped secure freedom for at least 56 imprisoned journalists.



MOSAD AL-BARBARY

**U THEIN ZAW
MYANMAR**

U Thein Zaw, a reporter for *The Irrawaddy* media group, was arrested in June along with two other journalists. The military said it would charge U Thein Zaw under the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act, which has long been used by Myanmar to restrict reporters’ activities. CPJ condemned the arrests and called on Myanmar to release the journalists. In early September, authorities announced they were withdrawing the charges. U Thein Zaw and the other journalists were released from prison.



REUTERS/ZAW ZAW

**MOSAD AL-BARBARY
EGYPT**

Mosad al-Barbary, the administrative manager of Misr 25, a TV channel affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, was arrested in 2014 and sentenced to life in prison on charges that included publishing false news to support the Brotherhood. Al-Barbary appealed the sentence and, in May 2017, a court acquitted him on appeal and ordered him to be released from prison. CPJ reported on al-Barbary’s arrest and called on authorities repeatedly to free him and all other journalists jailed in Egypt. In September, he told CPJ, “I’m thankful for all your efforts. God bless you.”

CPJ IS PROUD TO HONOR THESE BRAVE JOURNALISTS WITH THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS.

They have faced government harassment, death threats, exile, or imprisonment in their pursuit of the truth.

Through their outstanding work, they continue to push the frontiers of press freedom.

FROM LEFT: CREDIT WITHHELD, PATRICIA MAYORGA, PRAVIT ROJANAPHRUK, ELMERI KAUKO



AHMED ABBA
CAMEROON

A correspondent for Radio France Internationale's Hausa service, Ahmed Abba was arrested in 2015 in Cameroon. Abba, who covers refugee issues and attacks by Boko Haram, was convicted on terrorism-related charges under Cameroon's 2014 anti-terror law. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison and a harsh fine. He was the first journalist featured in CPJ's 2017 "Free the Press" campaign to increase awareness of journalists imprisoned on anti-state charges. His imprisonment serves as a direct warning to other journalists in Cameroon, where press freedom has come under heightened attack since late 2016.



PATRICIA MAYORGA
MEXICO

Patricia Mayorga, a correspondent for *Proceso*, a Mexico City-based newsmagazine, has covered the forced disappearances of indigenous people and alleged links between Mexican political parties and organized crime. She is also a founding member of the Red Libre Periodismo (Free Journalism Network), a collective that provides support, networking, and ethics training for journalists in Chihuahua state. After the murder in March 2017 of another Mexican journalist, Mayorga received threats and said she feared for her life. She fled Chihuahua with CPJ assistance. The state has been ravaged by violent crime for more than a decade.



PRAVIT ROJANAPHRUK
THAILAND

Pravit Rojanaphruk is a prominent Thai reporter and a longtime advocate for press freedom. Prior to becoming a columnist and senior staff writer at the critical website *Khaosod English*, he worked for more than two decades at the newspaper *The Nation*. He has maintained his critical tone and probing reporting style despite being under military threat. In 2015, he was summoned to a military base, where he was blindfolded, driven to a house, and held incommunicado in a small room. As a condition of his release, he was forced to sign a form pledging not to become involved in any anti-junta activities. Days later, the president of *The Nation* asked him to resign to avoid the paper facing government pressure.



AFRAH NASSER
YEMEN

Yemeni reporter and blogger Afrah Nasser reports from Sweden on human rights violations, women's issues, and press freedom in Yemen. Nasser began contributing to the *Yemen Times* in 2004 and worked as a reporter for the *Yemen Observer* in 2008. In 2011, as the uprising began in Yemen, she started blogging about human rights violations and gender issues there. Soon after, Nasser began receiving death threats for her critical posts. While at a training session in Sweden that year, Nasser decided to apply for asylum. From exile, she continues to report on Yemen's political affairs as a freelance journalist.

THE COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS IS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, AND FOUNDATIONS WHOSE GENEROSITY MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE. WE ALSO EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO THE MANY CONTRIBUTORS WHO SUPPORTED CPJ WITH GIFTS UNDER \$500, NOT LISTED HERE DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS. THIS LIST INCLUDES DONORS WHO MADE GIFTS DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

(with comparative totals for December 31, 2015)

ASSETS	12/31/16	12/31/15
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$1,664,702	\$1,089,278
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE, NET	5,209,786	3,198,621
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER RECEIVABLE	54,494	100,942
INVESTMENTS	12,092,436	12,179,794
FIXED ASSETS (net of accumulated depreciation)	300,077	182,916
SECURITY DEPOSIT	82,171	83,130
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 19,403,666	\$ 16,834,681
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$ 344,173	\$389,701
DEFERRED RENT	140,233	183,329
CONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION	300,000	300,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	784,406	873,030
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED	1,575,809	1,259,088
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	7,543,451	5,202,563
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	9,500,000	9,500,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	18,619,260	15,961,651
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 19,403,666	\$ 16,834,681

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

MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF EVERY DOLLAR

SPENT BY CPJ GOES DIRECTLY TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

(with comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2015)

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL EXPENSES 12/31/16	TOTAL EXPENSES 12/31/15
SALARIES	\$ 2,030,837	\$ 79,053	\$ 425,992	\$ 2,535,882	\$ 2,419,668
PAYROLL TAXES & BENEFITS	605,143	18,038	123,307	746,488	667,216
PROFESSIONAL FEES (including in-kind)	843,801	200,394	152,997	1,197,192	1,055,691
OCCUPANCY	323,023	12,574	67,758	403,355	394,281
TRAVEL	256,295	1,744	59,614	317,653	372,844
GRANTS	244,008	-	-	244,008	215,376
OFFICE SUPPLIES & MAINTENANCE	31,535	1,912	5,704	39,151	43,893
TELEPHONE & INTERNET	37,798	1,289	6,834	45,921	50,655
PUBLICATIONS, PRINTING & POSTAGE	62,591	1,323	39,308	103,222	119,608
INSURANCE	28,716	1,118	6,024	35,858	40,972
FEES	17,939	1,312	9,072	28,323	61,049
DEPRECIATION	42,873	3,119	9,542	55,534	62,598
BAD DEBT EXPENSE	-	108,970	-	108,970	10,240
OTHER	81,127	3,257	10,720	95,104	78,878
TOTAL	\$ 4,605,686	\$ 434,103	\$ 916,872	\$ 5,956,661	\$ 5,592,969

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AP photographer Ariana Cubillos is knocked down by a water jet from a riot control vehicle as protesters clash with police in Caracas in May 2017.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY AFP/LUIS ROBAYO