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The year 2015 began with the murder of eight journalists at the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*. Cartoonists have an ability to get under the skin of militants and politicians alike, with satire that transcends borders and languages. That makes them vulnerable; around the world, they have been forced into hiding, imprisoned, and killed, as CPJ documented in the special report, “Drawing the Line: Cartoonists under threat.” But in the wake of a brutal attack that was intended to enforce silence, it was also cartoonists who responded most eloquently.

DEAR CPJ SUPPORTER,

The January 7 attack on the office of *Charlie Hebdo* left 12 dead and served as a chilling reminder that in the global struggle for free expression, there is no safe haven. Days after the attack, millions came together in Paris to express their horror and defend their rights.

At the front of the march, political leaders from around the world marched shoulder to shoulder. But free expression wasn't what united them. Instead, many leaders exploited the *Charlie Hebdo* tragedy to give their domestic anti-terror policies a patina of international legitimacy.

Turkey, represented in the march by Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, was perhaps guilty of the greatest hypocrisy. The government there consistently uses its vague anti-terror law to suppress critical speech, jailing dozens of journalists and prosecuting many more.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was also in Paris. Back home, Russian authorities were rooting out “extremists,” purging the Internet of critical commentary, and using legal and economic pressure to force the few remaining independent media organizations out of business.

Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry marched for Egypt, which has sought to cast its brutal crackdown on civil society, including the media, as a legitimate response to the terror

threat. By mid-year 2015, 18 journalists were behind bars in Egypt.

This terror dynamic—in which journalists are caught between the violence of militant and criminal groups and the repressive policies of governments—presents a unique challenge for press freedom. CPJ has responded by deepening its research, expanding its assistance and security support, and confronting governments at every turn.

CPJ's research is systematic and sustained, and our database of journalists killed since 1992 is the world's most comprehensive. Our data helps drive global responses, including U.N. action to protect journalists in conflict zones, changes to U.S. hostage policy, and industry efforts to improve training and standards.

In 2015, CPJ updated its security guide to address ever-evolving threats to digital security. We provided direct support to journalists escaping violence and persecution, including dozens fleeing Syria.

Through reports, briefings, and direct engagement, we confronted the worst offenders. We carried out a mission to Egypt, calling out government efforts to exploit the threat of terrorism to justify repression. We helped put press freedom on the agenda when U.S. President Barack Obama visited Ethiopia in July—a strategy that led to the release of at least 10 journalists

imprisoned there. In October, after an international campaign, members of Ethiopia's Zone 9 blogging collective were cleared of trumped-up terrorism charges.

We challenged other countries that, while not the worst abusers, were failing to live up to their own standards. In Nairobi, we took the Kenyan government to task for weakening media protections. In Brussels, we called on the European Union to strengthen press freedom protections within its borders in order to exercise greater influence outside them. In Washington, we urged the White House to protect online security in order to ensure the integrity of journalistic communication.

We took these actions because we believe, like you, that in the information age, those who provide the news we depend on must be protected from violence and persecution. The killings in Paris were a reminder that our struggle is long and hard. With your support, we will continue to fight for the rights of journalists and against laws, practices, and policies that restrict their work.

Sincerely,

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.

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A SPECIAL CPJ REPORT CALLED ATTENTION TO RISKS FACED BY ZULKIFLEE ANWAR ULHAQUE ("ZUNAR") AND OTHER CARTOONISTS.

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CPJ HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK AND CONTRIBUTORS IN: WASHINGTON, SAN FRANCISCO, SÃO PAULO, BOGOTA, MEXICO CITY, BEIRUT, ISTANBUL, ABUJA, BANGKOK, LONDON, BRUSSELS



# FIRST RESPONDER FOR JOURNALISTS IN CRISIS

CPJ’s Journalist Assistance program provides direct aid to journalists whose needs cannot be addressed by advocacy alone. Since 2001, CPJ has offered direct assistance to more than 1,000 journalists from 54 countries.

In Syria alone, CPJ has provided emergency aid to more than 100 journalists forced into exile since the current conflict began.

“As a result of our work, our homes were burned and our families were threatened. Every time we would move to a place, we would be in danger,” said Awad Alali, a 27-year-old reporter who relocated to Europe with CPJ’s help in late 2014.

CPJ acts as a first responder in crisis situations. Just as importantly, we work to develop networks that help with longer-term needs. This year, CPJ, in partnership with other media groups, set up the Syria Media Safety Resource as a one-stop shop for information to help local journalists work more safely, and to streamline their access to emergency assistance.

We also traveled to Nairobi and Kampala in April to assess the most urgent needs of a wave of displaced East African journalists—many of them fleeing a renewed crackdown in Ethiopia—and to work with partner organizations to identify resources for long-term support.

Ultimately, our objective is to ensure that journalists can live and work safely in their home countries, and our direct assistance is coupled with advocacy to achieve that goal.

In Burundi, President Pierre Nkurunziza’s unconstitutional bid for a third term this spring brought protesters to the street and an attempted coup. In the subsequent crackdown, journalists were attacked and threatened, and news outlets shut down and even burned to the ground. At least 100 journalists fled the country over a four-month period, mostly to neighboring Rwanda.

CPJ met with Burundian journalists in exile in Kigali to help develop a network of support. We provided grants through local partners to support their needs. CPJ also continues to press Burundian authorities to reopen news outlets and allow journalists to return to a safe working environment.

A Burundian riot police officer sprays tear gas on opposition protesters in Bujumbura on April 27, 2015. Authorities reacted to protests and an attempted coup by cracking down on the media, forcing more than 100 journalists to flee Burundi.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELOGE WILLY KANEZA / AP PHOTO

Bottom left and bottom center: Demonstrators in Bujumbura.

Bottom right: Journalists gather on World Press Freedom Day in Bujumbura to protest government actions against the press.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEROME DELAY / AP PHOTO





# PUSHING DEMOCRACIES TO PROSECUTE KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS

**“AUTHORITIES SEEM MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT BLOGGERS ARE WRITING THAN GOING AFTER THEIR KILLERS.”**

In August, Niloy Neel became the fourth Bangladeshi blogger in six months to be hacked to death after criticizing religious extremism. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the nominally secular ruling Awami League party have done little to speak out for justice in these crimes, allowing political interests to trump rule of law.

“Authorities seem more concerned with what bloggers are writing than going after their killers,” blogger Ananya Azad, who fled Bangladesh in June following death threats, told CPJ.

The killings pushed Bangladesh onto CPJ’s Global Impunity Index, which spotlights countries where journalists are murdered and their killers go unpunished. This year’s other addition of South Sudan is emblematic of the challenges to achieving justice in areas wracked by war or where illegal armed groups actively menace journalists. But more than half the countries on the index are, like Bangladesh, democracies, where the main obstruction to prosecuting those who silence journalists is a lack of political will.

Impunity in the killing of journalists is a stark and violent threat to the functioning

of democracy. CPJ joined the new Working Group on Freedom of Expression of the Community of Democracies—an intergovernmental coalition that aims to strengthen democratic institutions—and worked successfully to make the campaign against impunity the group’s first priority. We also met in Brussels with the European External Action Service, the EU’s foreign policy arm, to urge it to raise impunity cases in its bilateral relations.

In the past year, we have also secured commitments from heads of state in Pakistan and Colombia to streamline the investigation and prosecution of attacks on journalists. Progress is slow, but there is reason for hope. Our advocacy was instrumental in bringing about convictions in at least five cases of murdered journalists around the world in 2015. In three of these cases, the mastermind was convicted, including the landmark conviction in Colombia of the politician who ordered the 2002 murder of popular editor and columnist Orlando Sierra Hernández (see p. 21).



Bangladeshi activists protest the killing of blogger Niloy Neel in Dhaka in August 2015.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / AFP / COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

# WHEN IT'S IMPORTANT TO LOCK ALL THE DOORS

The technology that allows journalists to gather and publish news with unprecedented ease and speed also brings vulnerabilities. Reliable encryption is a fundamental precondition to keeping conversations with sources private and mitigating attacks against newsroom infrastructure. But encryption has come under attack.

For the past year, the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice have pushed for the creation of technical “backdoors” to unlock data for criminal investigations—a move that would make systems vulnerable to malicious actors and make it easier for authoritarian states to hack into computer systems and devices. At the same time, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron has threatened to ban encrypted services and devices, while regulatory practices of countries including Pakistan, Cuba, and Ethiopia interfere with the right of individuals to encrypt communication.

“In a country like Ethiopia where journalists are consistently watched, [we] need to protect their communications and their data to do reports on sensitive issues,” Endalkachew Chala, one of the co-founders of the Zone 9 blogging collective, told CPJ by email. “I believe encryption is a lifeblood for freedom of expression.”

## “ENCRYPTION IS A LIFEblood FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.”

At a Tech Summit we hosted in San Francisco in June, leaders from the media and tech sectors were brought together to find ways to improve digital security. Several participants promised to work toward the adoption of advanced security procedures, including by adopting HTTPS and STARTTLS encryption, which protect web and email traffic by default. CPJ introduced robust implementations of both protocols earlier this year.

We also led a fight against the efforts of Western governments to compromise Web security through the implementation of backdoors. Together with other civil society groups as well as the world’s leading technology companies and top security experts, we sent a letter to U.S. President Barack Obama urging support for strong encryption. CPJ’s Technology team then traveled to Washington to take our case directly to senior White House and Senate Judiciary Committee staff, strengthening momentum on the issue. In October, the Obama administration backed off on a proposal to compel technology companies to create backdoors, though the fight is far from over.

The FBI and U.S. Department of Justice pushed for the creation of technical “backdoors” to unlock data for criminal investigations. CPJ called on Western governments to safeguard encryption in order to protect the integrity of journalistic communication, and keep digital data safe from malicious actors and authoritarian governments.

ILLUSTRATION BY ERICK MONTES





# JOINING TOGETHER TO NAVIGATE DANGER



A journalist is caught in a cloud of tear gas as Turkish protesters clash with police during May Day rallies in Istanbul.

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
SCOTT PETERSON / COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

The world is an increasingly dangerous place for journalists. Technological advances and newsroom cutbacks have transformed newsgathering, putting freelancers, local reporters, and citizen journalists on the front lines. Repressive governments and violent forces are seeking to manage their own image and shut down critical voices. Journalists are confronting digital censorship and surveillance on an unprecedented scale. And in the past three years, they have been killed and imprisoned in record numbers.

Our Journalist Security Guide provides a vital resource for the protection of journalists everywhere. The section on Technology Security was updated this year to give journalists crucial tools to protect against digital attacks, and keep confidential information private.

Local journalists are by far the most vulnerable. In Syria, for example, they continue to bear the brunt of the onslaught against independent media and supply the bulk of the news that now trickles out of the conflict zone. CPJ, in partnership with other media groups, set up the online Syria Media Safety Resource to help local journalists work more safely. It provides tools for physical security, including risk assessment

and proof-of-life templates, as well as digital security information related to identity protection and encryption.

The changing economics of the news business have prompted many of the world's largest media companies to rely on the work of freelancers. The 2014 murders of reporters James Foley and Steven Sotloff in Syria focused the world's attention on the risks faced by international freelance journalists.

CPJ played an instrumental role in advancing the Global Safety Principles, which commits news organizations to treat freelancers on dangerous assignments as they would treat staff. Journalists in turn pledge to take appropriate training and precautions. So far, some 70 media outlets and press freedom groups have signed on, including Agence France-Presse, Al-Jazeera, The Associated Press, BBC, Bloomberg, *The Guardian*, Reuters, and *Vice News*.

Among the audience at the launch of the Principles held at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York was Diane Foley, the mother of James Foley.

"I am so encouraged by this gathering," she said. "It's a huge step."



# MYANMAR BACKTRACKS

Newspaper reporter Kyaw Zaw Hein, center, talks to journalists after his release from prison in a presidential amnesty on July 30.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KHIN MAUNG WIN / AP PHOTO

After a promising period of liberalization in 2012, President Thein Sein's government has resumed many of the previous junta's suppressive policies towards the press. Despite a new media law that broadly protects press freedom, and an end to more than four decades of pre-publication censorship, Myanmar's media policies are reverting to those of the past.

The use of legislation and lawsuits to silence critical voices has created a climate of fear. The 2014 Printers and Publishers Registration Law bans news that could be considered insulting to religion, disturbing to the rule of law, or harmful to ethnic unity. National security-related laws are used to threaten and imprison journalists who report on sensitive military matters.

CPJ's representative traveled to Myanmar twice in 2015 to meet with local journalists and report on the challenges they face, including in covering the lead-up to historic general elections held on November 8. In a private meeting with Myanmar's Ministry of Information in March, CPJ called for the release of all journalists jailed in relation to their work.

The government's crackdown intensified in the run-up to the elections.

Five journalists with the independent weekly newspaper *Unity* are serving seven years in prison with hard labor for reporting on a secretive military facility. Three journalists and two publishers of the independent newspaper *Bi Mon Te Nay* were sentenced to two years in prison on charges of defaming the state, and then released as part of a mass amnesty. In June the government began defamation proceedings against 17 staff members of the newspaper *Eleven Daily*.

Former exile-run media outlets that returned to Myanmar in recent years have faced steady harassment after an initial grace period. Journalist Saw Yan Naing, who returned from exile to report from inside Myanmar, worries that his freedom will be short-lived.

"Journalists have begun to practice independent reporting—something that I never expected," he wrote in an article for the Global Investigative Journalism Network. "But I still worry that Burma could go back anytime. There are invisible limits on press freedom, especially when it comes to reporting on military affairs and the Burmese Army."

Without a press free to cover sensitive topics, Myanmar's fragile transition to a civilian democracy risks being rendered illegitimate.

"WITHOUT A PRESS FREE TO COVER SENSITIVE TOPICS, MYANMAR'S FRAGILE TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN DEMOCRACY IS AT RISK."





# HOLDING KENYA TO ITS PROMISE

**“LEGAL AND PHYSICAL HARASSMENT ARE MAKING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR JOURNALISTS TO WORK FREELY IN KENYA.”**

During U.S. President Barack Obama’s July visit to Kenya, the country’s strong economic growth and stability were on full display. But alongside these improvements, Kenyans are grappling with corruption, land disputes, and a recurring terrorist threat. Journalists who cover these and other sensitive topics are subject to harassment, threats, and even violence.

While Kenya’s constitution guarantees freedom of the media, President Uhuru Kenyatta’s Jubilee coalition has introduced several bills that undermine self-regulation and allow for harsh fines and jail terms for journalists. These laws, combined with economic pressure from the government, are leading to a climate of self-censorship.

“This is one of the most hostile regimes we have seen to press freedom,” David Ohito, digital content editor at Kenya’s Standard Group, told CPJ. “Consider the number of laws proposed, those enacted, and those that we have challenged in court and remain suspended, and you see a media situation in Kenya that is worse than in the single-party era.”

CPJ launched a special report, “Broken Promises: How Kenya is failing to uphold its commitment to a free press,” during

a mission to Kenya ahead of Obama’s visit. We found that a combination of legal and physical harassment, as well as concentration in media ownership, are making it increasingly difficult for journalists to work freely in Kenya.

After initially dismissing CPJ’s report, Kenya’s cabinet secretary for information, communications and technology, Fred Matiang’i, spoke frankly with our delegation. We urged action regarding unsolved journalist murder cases, and pressed the Kenyan government to repeal its criminal defamation law. In a press conference following the meeting, Matiang’i said that police investigations into journalists’ murders would ensure justice.

“Nothing will tempt us to encroach on press freedom,” he said.

But as we observed at the press conference, if a commitment to delivering justice is to have meaning, it must bear results. We continue to press Kenyatta and his government to publicly reaffirm their commitment to the role of an independent and robust press and nurture it as a cornerstone of Kenya’s democracy and a vital part of its development.

Police arrest a man protesting security legislation that could be used against the press on December 18, 2014, in Nairobi. The law was among a series of legislative actions that have contributed to a climate of self-censorship in Kenya.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON MAINA  
AFP / COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES





# ANTI-TERROR ACTIONS PUT TUNISIAN PRESS AT RISK

Hard-won press freedom advances in Tunisia, the birthplace of the Arab Spring, are under threat after two major terrorist attacks this year increased fears over security.

Since the March and June attacks in Tunis and Sousse, which killed more than 60 people, the government has introduced new legislation that could be abused to silence the media. Security services are sensitive to criticism, leading to legal harassment of critical journalists and even physical assaults and threats. Journalists are also subject to threats by Islamist extremists, leaving the press squeezed between terrorists and those who purport to fight terrorism.

Noureddine Mbarki, editor of digital newspaper *Akher Khabar Online*, was charged in July under a 2003 anti-terrorism law for publishing a photo showing the car that purportedly transported the gunman in the attack on the Sousse beach. “I was accused with complicity in terrorism and facilitating the escape of terrorists,” he told CPJ. The arrest marked the first time a Tunisian journalist faced terrorism charges since the 2011 revolution.

In early July, the government withdrew a freedom of information bill that was ready for final

parliamentary approval. The parliament then approved anti-terror legislation that provides a broad definition of terrorist crimes. Another draft law would criminalize any criticism of the country’s security forces. Press freedom advocates fear these laws will be used to silence critics of the government.

In October, CPJ launched a special report in Tunis, and met with Tunisia’s president and prime minister to raise concerns about the fallout for the media amid the government’s fight against terrorism. Both leaders vowed to uphold press freedom as the country transitions to democracy, and to protect journalists from the threats posed to them by security forces and extremists.

“Public freedom and freedom of the press are our red lines, and our role is to make them a reality,” Prime Minister Habib Essid told the CPJ delegation.

Essid told CPJ he would consider amendments to bills and existing laws that could be used against journalists. Doing so will be an essential step to ending legislative threats to press freedom, and safeguarding the country’s democratic gains.

A windshield cracked by gunfire near the beach resort town of Sousse. After terrorist attacks killed 60 people, the government introduced anti-terrorism legislation that could be abused to silence the media.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KENZO TRIBOUILLARD  
AFP / COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

“THE PRESS IS SQUEEZED BETWEEN TERRORISTS AND THOSE WHO PURPORT TO FIGHT TERRORISM.”





## MISSING PLAYERS MAR AZERBAIJAN'S GAMES

In September, award-winning Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova was convicted on charges of running an illegal business, abuse of power, and embezzlement, and sentenced to seven and a half years in prison.

Ismayilova has repeatedly denied the charges against her, and CPJ believes she was jailed in retaliation for her work. The reporter built her career investigating high-level government corruption, including business ties involving the family of President Ilham Aliyev.

“Corruption is the reason I am in my prison, but the regime’s corruption, not mine,” she wrote in a letter from jail published in *The Washington Post*. “My arrest proves one more time that we must build a new reality where telling the truth will not require courage.”

A year and a half after the government launched an unprecedented crackdown on human rights, the country’s most prominent journalists and press freedom advocates have been imprisoned, forced into exile, or are in hiding. Azerbaijan ranks among the 10 most censored places in the world, and at least seven other Azerbaijani journalists were behind bars in relation to their work in late 2015.

Baku’s hosting of the inaugural European Games in June brought no reprieve; instead, Azerbaijani authorities sought to silence dozens of human rights

defenders, journalists, and civil society activists in advance of the Games.

Together with Human Rights Watch, CPJ met with the president of the European Olympic Committee, Patrick Hickey, in Dublin to urge him to engage with the Azerbaijani government to ensure that journalists were free to cover all aspects of the Games.

We also joined the Sports for Rights campaign to draw international attention to the crackdown. The group urged the European Court of Human Rights president, Judge Dean Spielmann, to ensure an expeditious review of cases concerning jailed journalists.

Following advocacy by CPJ and others, the German Olympic Sports Confederation joined a call for Azerbaijan to release political prisoners before the Games. Media freedom defender Emin Huseynov, who spent months in hiding, was given safe passage out of Azerbaijan.

Through our Press Uncuffed campaign, CPJ continues to work for the release of Ismayilova and all those who are being held for covering issues vital to the public interest.

Khadija Ismayilova, pictured at work in 2013 as a program host on Radio Azadlyg, the Azeri service of the U.S. government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, was sentenced in September 2015 to seven and a half years in prison.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FABRIZIO GIRALDI / LUZ / REDUX

“CORRUPTION IS THE REASON I AM IN MY PRISON, BUT THE REGIME’S CORRUPTION, NOT MINE.”





## SLOW JUSTICE IN COLOMBIA



Journalists protest the killing of colleague Luis Carlos Cervantes Solano in Medellin, Colombia, in August 2014. CPJ is investigating Cervantes' killing to determine whether it was related to his work.

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
RAUL ARBOLEDA / AFP / COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

At least 47 journalists have been killed in direct relation to their work in Colombia since 1992, largely with impunity. Criminal investigations have been held up for years, delayed by mishandling of evidence and overburdened prosecutors. And while the security situation in Colombia has improved, threats and violence against journalists continue.

During a high-level CPJ mission to Colombia in May, President Juan Manuel Santos promised a joint delegation from CPJ and Colombian press freedom group Foundation for a Free Press that combating impunity in crimes against journalists would be a top priority. Santos, himself a former journalist, promised to do more to ensure journalist security in the face of mounting threats, including by strengthening the government's protection mechanism for human rights defenders.

"I care deeply about the issue," Santos said. "I can affirm that my administration will actively collaborate to identify those responsible."

In June, just weeks after the mission, a Colombian court sentenced politician Francisco Ferney Tapasco González to 36 years in prison for ordering the 2002 killing of muckraking columnist Orlando Sierra Hernández. Two others were sentenced in the same case. The landmark convictions followed years of advocacy by CPJ and local groups.

In handing down the sentences, the court said that Sierra's columns criticizing Tapasco "generated resentment towards Sierra Hernández for asking questions about his power, his political leadership."

The case marked the first time in Colombia that all those involved in a journalist's murder were brought to justice, but the three men convicted in the case, including Tapasco, remained fugitives. Then, in late 2015, police captured Tapasco, who was hiding in the central Colombian state of Manizales.

CPJ urged Colombian authorities to take prompt action to prosecute all other attacks on journalists, especially in those cases where there is evidence of criminal acts by local officials. We also recommended that journalist security be addressed in ongoing peace talks between the Colombian government and members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Marxist rebel group known as FARC.

Radio journalist Flor Alba Núñez Vargas was murdered in September in retribution for her reporting. At least two other Colombian journalists have been killed in unclear circumstances this year. Santos must now make good on his pledge and work to ensure that murders of journalists and other attacks are met with justice.



## CPJ IS PROUD TO HONOR THESE COURAGEOUS JOURNALISTS WITH THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS.

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



### CÁNDIDO FIGUEREDO RUÍZ PARAGUAY

Cándido Figueredo Ruíz works for *ABC Color*, one of Paraguay's largest national dailies. He reports from Pedro Juan Caballero, a small town on the border with Brazil which has become a haven for smugglers of everything from cocaine and marijuana to cigarettes and electronics. Figueredo's coverage of drug trafficking, contraband activities, and the collusion between politicians and traffickers has made him one of the most respected journalists in Paraguay. Living under 24-hour police protection for more than two decades, he says he has lost track of the number of death threats he has received. Recently, there has been a dramatic surge in violence against journalists in Paraguay. The climate of impunity increases the risks for journalists and leads to self-censorship. Figueredo's work has helped shine a light on press freedom violations in the dangerous border region.



### RAQQA IS BEING SLAUGHTERED SILENTLY SYRIA

Raqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) is one of the few reliable and independent sources of news left in the Islamic State stronghold of Raqa. The group's Raqa-based members secretly film and report from within the city and send the information to members outside of Syria, who transfer the news to local and international media. RBSS has publicized public lashings, crucifixions, beheadings, and draconian social rules, thus providing the world with a counter-narrative to Islamic State's slickly produced version of events. Members have also reported critically on the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, other rebel forces, and civilian casualties caused by airstrikes. Islamic State has declared RBSS an enemy of God, and murdered at least two of its members. In late October, Ibrahim Abd al-Qader, an early member of RBSS, was found slain in an apartment with another Syrian journalist. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the murders.



### ZONE 9 BLOGGERS ETHIOPIA

The Zone 9 collective was formed in May 2012 in response to the evisceration of the independent press and the narrowing of space for free expression in Ethiopia. With the motto "We Blog Because We Care," the nine-member collective voiced concerns over political repression, corruption, and social injustice. Mostly blocked in Ethiopia, their posts gained a following with Ethiopians in the diaspora. In April 2014, Ethiopian authorities jailed six of its members on terrorism charges. The remaining members are in exile, and one was charged in absentia. By October 2015, all of the Zone 9 bloggers had been acquitted and released. Ethiopia has used its sweeping anti-terror law to imprison more than a dozen critical journalists since 2009, according to CPJ research.



### ZULKIFLEE ANWAR ULHAQUE ("ZUNAR") MALAYSIA

The personal slogan of Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, a Malaysian cartoonist who is better known as Zunar, is: "How can I be neutral? Even my pen has a stand." Zunar is best known for his provocative cartoons that lampoon issues of high-level abuse of government power and corruption, published both in books and on the *Malaysiakini* news website. Malaysian police and authorities have claimed on several occasions that Zunar's cartoons are "detrimental to public order" and run afoul of the country's sedition law. He currently faces nine counts of sedition and up to 43 years in jail in connection with nine critical tweets, amid a government crackdown on dissent. Despite these threats, Zunar continues to draw, challenging the same forces that seek to silence him.

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 to December 31, 2014.

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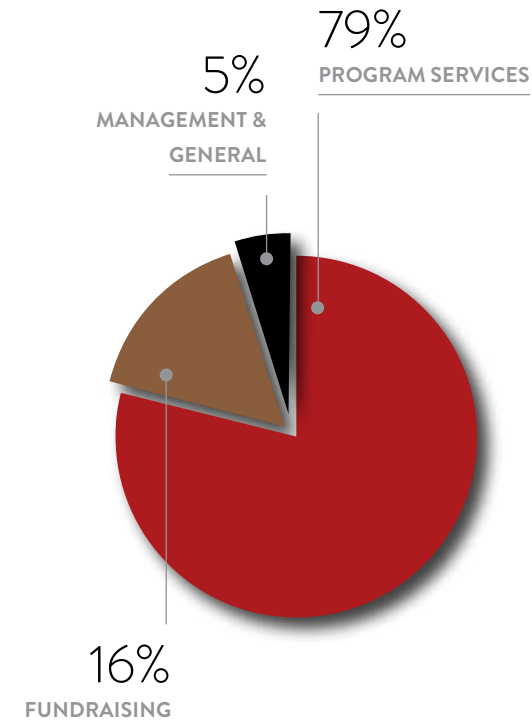


**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014**

(with comparative totals for December 31, 2013)

	12/31/14	12/31/13
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 858,636	\$ 233,661
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE, NET	3,376,656	2,127,905
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER RECEIVABLE	64,904	25,566
INVESTMENTS	13,042,120	12,831,408
FIXED ASSETS (net of accumulated depreciation)	135,112	133,556
SECURITY DEPOSIT	83,058	81,567
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 17,560,486</b>	<b>\$ 15,433,663</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$ 263,950	\$ 321,872
DEFERRED RENT	220,196	250,958
CONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION	300,000	0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>784,146</b>	<b>572,830</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
UNRESTRICTED	862,860	612,205
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	6,413,480	4,748,628
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	9,500,000	9,500,000
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>16,776,340</b>	<b>14,860,833</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 17,560,486</b>	<b>\$ 15,433,663</b>

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, 2014**

(with comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2013)

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL EXPENSES 12/31/14	TOTAL EXPENSES 12/31/13
SALARIES	\$ 1,730,570	\$ 76,585	\$ 391,054	\$ 2,198,209	\$ 1,977,992
PAYROLL TAXES & BENEFITS	436,780	3,710	81,230	521,720	416,945
PROFESSIONAL FEES (including in-kind)	815,970	101,752	97,769	1,015,491	1,144,559
OCCUPANCY	311,284	9,353	61,491	382,128	362,487
TRAVEL (including in-kind)	326,877	-	83,210	410,087	287,640
GRANTS	140,886	-	-	140,886	108,378
OFFICE SUPPLIES & MAINTENANCE	61,546	2,458	9,051	73,055	40,284
TELEPHONE & INTERNET	38,038	2,301	6,898	47,237	41,926
PUBLICATIONS, PRINTING & POSTAGE	26,118	51,588	36,594	114,300	125,422
INSURANCE	26,736	764	9,781	37,281	28,300
FEES	21,968	1,623	10,996	34,587	0
DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION	50,946	1,458	9,893	62,297	45,164
BAD DEBT EXPENSE	0	18,640	-	18,640	0
OTHER	41,938	6,609	13,598	62,145	87,317
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,029,657</b>	<b>\$ 276,841</b>	<b>\$ 811,565</b>	<b>\$ 5,118,063</b>	<b>\$ 4,666,414</b>

Complete audited financial statements, including auditors' notes, are available at our website, CPJ.org.

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In Buenos Aires, a sign pays tribute to  
victims of a series of Islamist militant  
attacks that began with the January 7 assault  
on the *Charlie Hebdo* office in Paris.

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