

The Year in Focus:

IFJ Asia-Pacific Regional Office

2005 has been a year marred by devastating natural disasters. While much of the Asia-Pacific region was still recovering from the 2004 tsunami, South Asia was hit with a brutal earthquake on 8 October. The quake destroyed the lives of many journalists and media workers, mostly across the Pakistani-controlled Kashmir region. Three journalists died, and over 50 lost their homes, family members and equipment.

Aside from those who died in natural disasters, 33 journalists and media workers were killed this year. The Philippines, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh remained the most dangerous areas, but a worrying trend of violence has also emerged in Thailand. The majority of victims in the Asia-Pacific region were not killed in crossfire between warring groups, or by accident while they were reporting in conflict areas. Most of the people on this list were directly targeted and killed because they were journalists. There is a culture of violence and intimidation directed towards journalists in Asia, and the brutal accounts listed in this report reflect that dangerous culture.

The Philippines once again earned its place as the most dangerous country for journalists in the Asia Pacific region. Ten journalists were killed in the Philippines this year, while their killers escaped any form of justice. This culture of violence and impunity led the IFJ to conduct a mission to the Philippines in January and February of 2005. The mission produced the report *A dangerous profession – Press freedom under fire in the Philippines*, and led to current plans for a media safety office in the Philippines. The International News Safety Institute (INSI) also carried out safety training for journalists in the Philippines in November.

The crisis in Nepal has been the most worrying of the year. Nepal's comparatively small death toll does not reflect the harsh conditions Nepalese journalists have faced since the royal coup in February paved the way for a series of crushing restrictions on press freedom. On 9 October, King Gyanendra promulgated a new media ordinance forbidding any FM radio news programs, banning news critical of the royal family, and increasing defamation penalties ten-fold. Hundreds of journalists lost their jobs or were arrested or detained without explanation. Worse still, when peaceful rallies were organised to protest these many injustices, police intervened with violence and mass-arrests.

One of the few positive elements to emerge from all this destruction was the inspiring show of solidarity for Nepalese journalists. Hundreds of organisations and individuals worldwide lent their support to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) in their mission to pressure the government to free captured journalists. The IFJ led a mission to Nepal in February, and participated in a second International Press Freedom mission in July. The outcome of these missions was the IFJ report *"Coups, Kings and Censorship"*, and the launch of a global campaign to pressure King Gyanendra to restore press freedom.

Bangladesh also stood out as particularly dangerous, with the ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) openly threatening and attacking journalists. A bomb explosion at a press club in Khulna killed bureau chief Sheikh Belahuddin Ahmed, and wounded several other journalists. Many journalists reported receiving death threats for covering politically sensitive stories, and intelligence agents even threatened the families of exiled reporters.

In Sri Lanka, the intimidation tactics seen in the lead-up to the 2004 elections were repeated this year to control the media's reports on the November elections. Tension between the warring groups of the Tamil National Army (LTTE) continued to escalate, with journalists repeatedly caught in the crossfire. To combat this violence, the IFJ developed several conflict sensitive training modules and a handbook on conflict reporting to help Sri Lankan journalists confront the challenges of their fragile peace process.

In September, the IFJ was extremely pleased when the Association of Taiwan Journalists (ATJ) announced the launch of a Chinese language edition of *Live News: A survival guide for journalists*. *Live News* is the IFJ's essential guide for journalists working in trouble spots, whether at home or abroad. Also, on World Press Freedom Day (May 3) the IFJ released the Third Annual IFJ Press Freedom Report for South Asia to highlight the professionalism of journalists working in adverse circumstances. The IFJ continues its focus on safety in the Asia-Pacific region, with new projects aimed at changing the culture of violence against journalists in many countries.



Jacqui Park - Asia-Pacific Regional Office Director

AFRICA

AMERICAS

ASIA PACIFIC

EUROPE

MIDDLE EAST & GULF

Country	Journalist	Media staff	Under investigation
Afghanistan	2	0	1
Bangladesh	3	0	0
China	1	0	0
India	3	0	0
Indonesia	1	0	1
Nepal	2	0	0
Pakistan	6	0	0
Philippines	8	0	2
Sri Lanka	2	2	0
Thailand	1	0	1
TOTAL	29	2	5



Philippines
Photo: AP



Philippines
Photo: AP



Pakistan
Photo: AP



Philippines
Photo: AP



Philippines: Journalists demonstrate on world Press Freedom Day, 3 May
Photo: AP



Nepal
Photo: AP



Sri Lanka, journalists protest at the killing of Sivaram Dharmaratnam
Photo: AP



Thailand, press freedom protest
Photo: AP

Journalists make their voices heard

All over the region, journalists demonstrated their discontent and desire for increased freedom...

Not included in 2004 report

DECEMBER 2004

28 DECEMBER – BANGLADESH

Md Mujibur Rahman: Md Mujibur Rahman, 35, a photojournalist for the local daily *Dainik Ajker Khabar*, was killed on assignment in a road accident at Churkhai on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. Mujibur Rahman was fatally injured when a Dhaka-bound bus coming from the opposite direction knocked down his motorcycle. He died on the spot.

FEBRUARY 2005

2 FEBRUARY – PHILIPPINES



Edgar Amoro: Edgar Amoro, a key witness to the murder of his friend, journalist Edgar Damalerio, was shot dead in Pagadian, in the southern island of Mindanao. Amoro working for local radio DXKP was under a justice ministry witness protection scheme. Two men shot him dead at point blank range as he left a high school in Pagadian. He died later in hospital. On 29 November, a Cebu City Regional Trial Court handed down a life sentence to former policeman, Guillermo Wapile for the murderer of Edgar Damalerio.

7 FEBRUARY – PAKISTAN

Allah Noor

Amir Nawad:

At least two gunmen fired on a busload of journalists with AK-47

assault rifles, killing freelance cameraman Amir Nawad and journalist Allah Noor instantly. Nawad worked for several media agencies, including *Associated Press Television News* and Noor was a reporter for *The Nation* and also worked for Pakistani channel Khyber TV. The two journalists were travelling near Wana, the main town in South Waziristan and were on their way back from covering the surrender of a suspected pro-Taliban, Pakistani militant named Baitullah Mehsud. Two other journalists riding in the bus were injured. Anwar Shakir, a stringer for Agence France-Presse, was wounded in the back during the attack, according to news reports. Dilawar Khan, who was working for Al-Jazeera, received minor injuries. Several days after the attack, an unknown group calling itself “Sipah-e-Islam” (Soldiers of Islam) took responsibility for the killings in a letter faxed to newspapers. It accused some journalists of “working for Christians” and of “being used as tools in negative propaganda...against the Muslim mujahedeen.” Local journalists blamed officials for not doing more at the time of the murders, saying no real investigation into the murders took place.



Photo: AP

11 FEBRUARY – BANGLADESH

Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed: Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed, a bureau chief with the daily *Sangram* newspaper, died of heart failure in the Combined Military Hospital in the capital Dhaka. Ahmed and three other reporters were wounded in a bomb explosion on 5 February at a press club in Khulna, 85 miles southwest of Dhaka. Other journalists injured in the blast were Sheikh Abu Hasan, bureau chief of daily *Prothom Alo*,

Sheikh Jahid Hossain, staff photographer of daily *Jugantor* and Tutul Ahmed, staff reporter for the daily *Loksamaj*. The Maoist group Purba Bangla Communist Party claimed responsibility for the attack in a letter signed by the group’s regional leader, Sayeed Hasan Suman. The letter threatened more journalists with similar fates. After Belaluddin Ahmed’s death, editors from across the political spectrum formed a group called the Forum to Protect Journalists. The group rallied in the capital, marched to the National Press Club, and called for justice in the murders of journalists.

14 FEBRUARY – THAILAND

Kiat Saetang: Kiat Saetang, managing editor of the bi-monthly newspaper *Hat Yai Post*, was shot dead near a central market in the town of Hat Yai, in Thailand’s southern province of Songkhla.

Saetang, 54, was on his motorbike approaching a small street near the market when he was shot three times from behind by one of two men on another motorbike. Two bullets hit Saetang in the back and he was killed instantly. The unidentified assassins immediately fled the scene. Saetang’s wife, Suchin, told the police she believed the killing was linked to his exposés on the misconduct of local Hat Yai politicians. She also confirmed that he had received telephone threats before he was killed. The Thai Journalists Association and the Southern Journalists Association of Thailand, to which Pongkiat belonged, condemned the murder and called on Thai national police to conduct a fair and open investigation into the case.

28 FEBRUARY – PHILIPPINES

Arnulfo Villanueva: Community newspaper columnist Arnulfo Villanueva was gunned down in Naic, Cavite, just south of Manila. A local village official found Villanueva, 43, a columnist for *Asian Star Express*

Balita along a road at Barangay Timalan. His body was pierced with shotgun bullets.

Naic Police Chief Pablo Zorilla said police are tracking down a woman, who was seen riding with the journalist on board a motorcycle shortly before he was killed.

Police are still investigating if Villanueva's murder was related to his profession. The journalist reportedly criticised some local officials over illegal gambling in some parts of Cavite province.

MARCH

2 MARCH – INDIA

Asim Nath: a Delhi-based chief reporter for the Bengali daily *Aajkaal*, was crushed to death by a bus near Gol Dak Khana in New Delhi. He was rushed to the nearby Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. Nath was on his way to cover a parliamentary session when he was killed. The driver of the bus has been arrested on charges of causing death due to rash and negligent driving. He is survived by his wife Seema and one-year-old son, Aakash. Nath had been working with *Aajkaal* for over 15 years covering Parliament and Congress affairs.

9 MARCH – PHILIPPINES

Romeo Sanchez: Romeo Sanchez, a radio broadcaster for DZNL radio in San Fernando City was killed in Baguio City, 350 kilometres north of Manila. Sanchez was with two companions inside a flea market in Baguio when the attacker approached and shot him once with a 9-millimetre pistol. He died on the spot, while the attacker walked away casually after the killing. Police described the killing as a well-planned operation.

24 MARCH – PHILIPPINES



Photo: AP

Marlenee Garcia-Esperat: Marlenee Garcia Esperat, 45, a columnist with the *Midland Review* in Tacurong City, Mindanao, was shot in the head in front of her children. Attackers barged into Esperat's house in the early evening and shot her once in the head. The gunman and his accomplice escaped from the scene on a motorcycle. Her husband, George, told a local radio station that his wife had many enemies because of her exposés. Garcia-Esperat was under police protection as a result of death threats. The Philippine National Police Chief, General Arturo Lomibao told reporters "the motive is work-related." In a radio interview, George Esperat said that his wife had "made many enemies because of her exposés" and that she had received death threats via text message. He also suggested Garcia-Esperat's murder was connected to a corruption story that she wrote, accusing a police officer of involvement in illegal logging activity. In April, murder charges were brought against the two officials from the local Department of Agriculture, but a judge dismissed them on 31 August because of what he termed insufficient and conflicting evidence. During her time as ombudsman for the Department of Agriculture, Garcia-Esperat filed legal actions against several officials accusing them of graft. She spent two years in the witness protection programme due to her ombudsman discoveries, before she started work as a full-time journalist in 2004.

31 MARCH – NEPAL

Khagendra Shrestha: On 31 March, Khagendra Shrestha, an editor and publisher for the *Dharan Today* newspaper died from injuries he had sustained when he was shot by unidentified attackers three weeks earlier on 15 March. He was rushed to BP Koirala Institute for Medical Sciences and later taken to a local hospital in the Indian town of Siliguri for treatment where he remained in a coma. The Royal Nepalese Army blamed Maoists for the attack, who have not yet reacted to the allegations.

APRIL

29 APRIL – SRI LANKA



Photo: AP

Sivaram Dharmeratnam: Sivaram Dharmeratnam, 46, was a senior editorial board member of the pro-Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam website *Tamilnet.com* and a military and political columnist for the English language *Daily Mirror*. He was found shot dead from gunshot wounds to the head several hours after four unidentified attackers had abducted him from a restaurant in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. His colleagues identified the body, which was found in the Colombo suburb of Talangama. He had received threats in the weeks before his death and pro-government media had accused him of being a spy for the Tamil Tigers.

MAY

4 MAY – PHILIPPINES

Klein Cantoneros: Cantoneros, a “block-time” radio broadcaster known for denouncing corruption died after he was shot over seven times by motorcycle-riding attackers in Dipolog City on the southern island of Mindanao. Cantoneros, 32, who frequently criticised local officials for alleged corruption and illegal gambling on his talk radio programme, “Nasud, Pagmata Na” (People, Wake Up), on DXAA-FM, was attacked when he was returning home close to 1.30am. He was found holding his own .45-calibre pistol, and appeared to have fired back at his attackers. His colleagues told radio DZBB that Cantoneros had identified his assailants before undergoing surgery and that he had received several death threats before he was killed. A special task force dedicated to solving Cantoneros’ murder was formed in May, headed by Dipolog City Philippine National Police Chief Tomas Hizon, but in spite of the arrest of one suspect in September no further progress has been made.

10 MAY – PHILIPPINES

Philip Agustin: Philip Agustin, 53, publisher and editor of the *Starline Times Recorder*, was shot dead in the village of Maltic, north of Manila. An unknown assailant attacked the publisher at his home in Dingalan town. Agustin’s paper had published a report calling on the Dingalan mayor, Jaime Ylarde, to account over allegedly missing government funds. Agustin had received threats prior to his death. Agustin’s family told police that his articles about local corruption and official inaction against the illegal logging trade were the likely motives for his murder. Witnesses in May identified three suspects. The alleged gunman, Reynaldo Morete, arrested on 14 May, identified Ylarde as the instiga-

tor of the crime. The other suspects remain at large.

17 MAY – AFGHANISTAN

Shaima Rizaee: Shaima Rizaee, 24, a former entertainment presenter for Tolo TV in Kabul died after she was beaten and shot in the head. Rizaee hosted the daily music programme, “Hop”, until March 24, when she was fired after Tolo TV came under pressure from a government panel of religious scholars known as the Council of Ulemas, who condemned the channel for broadcasting anti-Islamic programmes. Police suspected a connection between her work at Tolo TV and her killing. Rizaee had been missing for several months before her body was found.

JULY

3 JULY – PHILIPPINES

Rolando “Dodong” Morales: Ricardo “Dodong” Morales, a “block-time” host on a programme for Radio dxMD was inside his car in General Santos City when attackers stopped him and opened fire with pistols and assault rifles, killing him instantly and wounding his companion. Morales, 43, was shot 15 times. The gang-style attack happened shortly after Morales left Radio dxMD, where he had built a reputation as a hard hitting commentator of hard local politicians linked to drug syndicates. Morales was an anchorman for the *Tingog sa Barangay (Voice of the Village)* program of Radio Mindanao Network. Just a week before the ambush Morales had reportedly accused several Barangay (village) officials of involvement in summary executions. In August, police in General Santos City arrested and filed murder charges against two suspects in Morales’ murder, including the alleged mastermind. Morales’ wife said that her husband had received several death threats by text message beginning in November 2004 because of his crusade against illegal drugs. She

said that he continued to broadcast despite the threats “because it was a public service,” and that he worked at the radio station on a volunteer basis. Morales had received a threatening letter shortly before his killing, warning the commentator to halt his criticism of local officials and illegal drugs.

AUGUST

12 AUGUST – SRI LANKA

Relangi Selvarajah: Relangi Selvarajah, a popular radio and television broadcaster, and her husband, were shot dead by unknown attackers in Bambalapitiya, Colombo. The attackers shot Selvarajah, 44, and her husband, Senathurai, in the office where they ran a travel agency. The LTTE Tamil Tigers had criticized Selvarajah for broadcasting anti-LTTE programmes. Selvarajah had previously worked as a TV presenter with the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) and was working as a journalist with Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC). She also produced the SLBC programme “Ithaya Veenai,” a program known for criticizing the LTTE.

24 AUGUST – INDONESIA

Elyudin Telaumanua:

MISSING PRESUMED DEAD

Elyudin Telaumanua, 51, a journalist for the daily *Berita Sore* newspaper, was kidnapped by a group of people in Teluk Dalam Kabupaten, Southern Nias on 24 August. Just before he was killed, Telaumanua had reported on criminal gangs, local corruption and irregularities in local elections. Although the police had identified several suspects, no arrests have been made due to witnesses refusing to testify. Witnesses reported six men chasing Ely and taking him away. Later witnesses saw the men, including Samagaho, the head of the Bawogamowo village, take Ely inside a house and beat him to death.

ASIAN TSUNAMI

Journalists and Media Staff Killed and Missing in Aceh, Indonesia



KILLED

1. **Muharram M. Nur**
(Kontras Tabloid)
2. **Ridwan Ishak**
(Kontras Tabloid)
3. **Erismawati**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
4. **Emrizal**
(Harian Serambi Indonesia Daily)
5. **Muhamad Amin**
(Media NAD Tabloid)
6. **M. Jarimin**
(RRI)
7. **Taufan Nugraha**
(Radio 68H)
8. **Zainal Abidin**
(Medan Pos Daily)
9. **Darli**
(Medan Pos Daily)
10. **Amdina**
(Eks Post Tabloid)
11. **Yarmen Dinamika**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)

**** Over 50 additional cases of missing journalists and media staff have been reported by the IFJ affiliate, Aliansi Journalis Independen (AJI).**





MISSING

- 1. Safwan**
(Analisa Daily, Medan)
- 2. Mohamad Rokan**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 3. Erwin Sjafri**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 4. Karta Gusti**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 5. Najmudin Umar**
(Kompas Daily)
- 6. Razali Idris**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 7. Zainun**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 8. Yarmen Dinamika**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 9. Ismail**
(Detektif Magazine)
- 10. Saidulkarnain Ishak**
(Antara, National News Agency)
- 11. Darmawan**
(Republic Indonesia Radio - RRI)
- 12. Syafrudin**
(Republic Indonesia Radio - RRI)
- 13. Saleh Adami**
(Suara Indonesia Baru)
- 14. Said Alwi**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 15. Tondi Rizal Putra**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 16. Syahrul Rahman**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 17. Aswin S. Coki**
(Republic Indonesia Radio - RRI)
- 18. Muharram M Nur**
(Kontras Tabloid)
- 19. Yusuf**
(Serambi Indonesia Daily)
- 20. Ismail**
(Majalah Delta dan Romeo)
- 21. Taufan Nugraha**
(Radio 68H)
- 22. Ferdiyan**
(Radio Prima FM Banda Aceh)
- 23. Asnita Alwi**
(Radio Prima FM)
- 24. Dina Keumala**
(Radio Prima FM)
- 25. Eva Victoria**
(Radio Prima FM)
- 26. Yulia Yuswar**
(Radio Prima FM)
- 27. Mila Gayo**
(Radio Prima FM)
- 28. Meliyani**
(Radio Prima FM)

AFRICA

AMERICAS

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Conflicting witnesses say the body was then thrown into the ocean off the Nias Genesi coast, and may have been burned or buried later. Ely's colleagues believe he may have been killed because of his coverage of the upcoming election in Southern Nias.

29 AUGUST – SRI LANKA

D Selveraja: D Selveraja, a security guard at the *Sudaroli* printing press, was killed when grenades were hurled at the door of the building where he worked. Journalist, Iliya Abdulla, proofreader Kamalanathan, and a visitor were also injured in the attack. There had been repeated attacks on the *Sudaroli* newspaper, and the editor had received threatening phone calls.

29 AUGUST – INDIA

Bhimashi Mannapur:

Devdas Shahade:

Two journalists were killed on the spot when the Tata Sumo they were traveling in on their way to cover a ministerial function collided with a Maxi Cab near Koulgudda Cross on Athani- Kagwad road. The journalists were identified as Bhimashi Mannapur (35) of Karnataka Times, a Kannada daily published from Gokak, and Devdas Shahade (35) of Mahasatta, a Marathi daily published from Sangli.

SEPTEMBER

1 SEPTEMBER – INDONESIA



Erman Tasrial: *Singgalang* reporter Erman Tasrial was killed in a heli-

copter crash along with 5 officers as they were on their way to Padang after inspecting a forest fire in Solok regency. The MI-2 helicopter crashed amid heavy rain in the national park situated some 20 kilometers from Padang.

OCTOBER

4 OCTOBER – NEPAL



IFJ President Christopher Warren and then President of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists, Tara Nath Dahal, at a press conference in Kathmandu, Nepal
Photo: AP

Maheshwor Pahari: Journalist Maheshwor Pahari, who was in detention for a year and a half for being a supporter of the Maoist ideology, died on the evening of 4 October in a hospital in Pokhara northwest of Kathmandu. Pahari, 32, had been sick for one-and-a-half months before he finally died of Tuberculosis after being held with 100 other prisoners in a cell designed for 20 people. His family members criticised the government for not providing him timely treatment in detention and said that he had been denied proper medical treatment. Before his imprisonment, Pahari worked for the *Rastriya Swabhiman* weekly published from Pokhara. Security forces arrested Pahari from Lwanghalel in Kaski on 2 January 2004. The journalist was in good health when arrested and was held incommunicado for several months. Local doctors had recommended Pahari be transferred to Kathmandu for better treatment, and members of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) in Pokhara offered to pay to send him. But officials refused, citing security concerns. Pahari was held under an anti-terrorism law that has

been used to jail journalists since it was introduced in November 2001.

8 OCTOBER – PAKISTAN

Sardar Hanif:

Abdul Hafeez:

Javed Iqbal Butt:

Sardar Hanif, a journalist working for the daily Jang, Abdul Hafeez, an editor of Juraat and Javed Iqbal Butt a photographer for Jinnah were killed in the earthquake that devastated the Kashmir region on 8 October and had a grave impact for many journalists. Hanif, Hafeez and Butt all lost their lives in the disaster, and many others were affected. Between 10 and 20 other journalists were injured, and at least 50 suffered personal losses. Many lost their homes and relatives, with several journalists losing their entire families.

22 OCTOBER – AFGHANISTAN

Maiwand: Maiwand, an 18-year-old working for local radio station *Da sole Paigham* (Message of Peace), was killed in a bomb attack on a military convoy in the southeastern province of Khost. While the attackers remain unknown, some believe Maiwand was killed by his enemies, and other reports say the bomb was placed by the Taliban.

NOVEMBER

2 NOVEMBER – THAILAND

Santi Lamaneenil: Santi Lamaneenil, an owner and journalist of *Pattaya Post* newspaper, was found dead in the back of his car outside the beach resort of Pattaya. His body was found blindfolded, his hands were tied, and he had suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the head. Police believe there were at least three assailants and said that Lamaneenil's killing could have been connected to

his work as a journalist. He had recently reported on illegal operations in late-night entertainment venues. His wife told police that Santi had stayed with relatives intermittently in recent months for fear of abduction or attack. Lamaneenil also contributed freelance work to Channel 7 television and *Khaosod* newspaper.

8 NOVEMBER – CHINA

Zhou Wenguang: Wenguang, a photographer for Xinhua News Agency, was killed in a traffic accident on his way to cover mine cave-ins in China's North Hebei Province. Wenguang suffered grave injuries when the press car he was travelling in overturned and fell into a roadside ditch whilst trying to avoid a pedestrian who had suddenly appeared in front of the vehicle. Zhou suffered grave injuries at the scene and died later in hospital.

17 NOVEMBER – BANGLADESH

Gautam Das : Gautam Das, 28, district bureau-chief and reporter for the *Daily Shamokal* was found strangled in his office in the town of Faridpur, west of Dhaka. His hands and legs were broken and a rope was tied around his neck. Friends and colleagues have reported that it was common for Das to sleep overnight in his office due to its distance from his home. According to local reports, Das had previously received death threats. He had a history of writing on local extortion, local businesses, drug dealing and just before his death on the activities of Islamic militant groups. On 19 November, police arrested Tamjid Hossain Babu, the son of a local MP, in connection with Das' murder. Local journalists said police arrested three other suspects.

18 NOVEMBER – PHILIPPINES

Ricardo "Ding" Uy: Ricardo "Ding" Uy, a radio announcer for DZRS-AM, was gunned down outside his home in Sorsogon City, southeast of Manila. Uy, 49, was shot five times in the head, torso and mouth with a .45 caliber pistol by a lone attacker on a motorcycle. He died shortly after at a nearby hospital, Uy was also president of the Media Reporters Association of the province and a Bayan Muna provincial coordinator for Sorsogon. He had received threats before he was killed and was known as a critic of the army

20 NOVEMBER – PHILIPPINES

Robert Ramos: Robert Ramos, 39, a reporter for the weekly tabloid *Katapat* based in Laguna was shot twice in the head in front of a market in Barangay Loc, Cabuyao, Laguna. Police continue to investigate the motive behind the attack. Ramos was waiting for a ride home from work when two motorcycle-riding assailants shot him. He was pronounced dead at the scene. On 1 December, police identified two suspects in the murder, who believed the reporter had tipped off authorities about their illegal sales of pirated DVDs and CDs from a shop in Cabuyao.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1 – PHILIPPINES

George Benaojan: George Benaojan a reporter for DYDD radio and a columnist for *Bantay Balita* in Talisay City, Cebu, was shot by an unidentified attacker. Police continue to investigate the motive behind the attack. Benaojan, 27, died at a local hospital shortly afterward. He had been talking to a man in a market when the gunman approached and shot the journalist in the mouth, neck, and chest. Benaojan had been

receiving death threats and had reported on alleged corruption in the local customs bureau for DYBB and *Bantay Balita*, a publication distributed among customs personnel. Benaojan was known for reporting on official corruption and had survived an attack in August 2004 when three men ambushed him and two colleagues.

4 DECEMBER – PAKISTAN

Nasir Afridi: On 4 December, Nasir Afridi, the president of Darra Adam Press Club and a correspondent for *Khabrain*, a daily Urdu language newspaper, was shot and killed while driving in his car in Northern Pakistan. Afridi was on his way to the press club to attend a meeting, when he was killed by a stray bullet from a battle going on between the Bazi Khel and the Mala Khel tribes. A truck driver was also killed in the attack. Bazikhel tribesmen had taken a tribesman from the Mulakhel tribe hostage and a fight ensued between the two warring factions. A bullet hit the journalist that proved fatal and he died on his way to hospital.

12 DECEMBER – AFGHANISTAN

Fahim Ihsan: Fahim Ihsan, 30, a reporter for the Mazar state television was found dead under mysterious circumstances after receiving death threats and being beaten in connection with his controversial and critical reports on local government officials on his television program *Shere-Ma-Khane-Ma* (My City, my home). The Afghan Independent Journalists' Association (AIJA) continues to investigate Ihsan's death.

21 DECEMBER – SRI LANKA

K. Navarathnam: K. Navarathnam (about 45), a newspaper delivery person of Tamil language news paper *Yal Thinakkural*, was shot dead in northern capital of Jaffna. *Yal*

The Year in Focus: The European Federation of Journalists

AFRICA

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Arne König, European Federation of Journalists
Chair

The fragile conditions for democracy in Russia and many countries of the former Soviet Union means that journalists who are trying to report freely and to expose official corruption are the first to come under pressure from shadowy political and criminal groups. The killings of six journalists -- two from Azerbaijan, two from Russia, one from Belarus and one from Kosovo -- all of them cases involving reporters and media reporting on high-level corruption illustrate a political and democratic crisis that has deepened in the last year.

Journalists who stand up to political corruption and editors who are renowned for taking a critical line are in the front-line of a constant struggle for human rights. One supreme example is Elmar Huseynov, in Azerbaijan, who was killed on 2 March and who personified the sacrifice that journalists are forced to make to get to the truth behind the exercise of power in countries that have yet to embrace fundamental principles of open democracy and good governance.

The deaths in Russia also underscore a worsening media crisis where the regime of Vladimir Putin continues to put pressure on journalists who do not follow the government line, where the war on terrorism in Chechnya is still used to intimidate media, and where independent journalism has all but disappeared as a concept in the national television networks.

Meanwhile, in Kosovo, a reporter from the controversial and nationalist newspaper Bota Sot was killed in circumstances in June that raised worrying questions about official vigilance and responsibility. Two weeks before his death Ajeti Bardehul informed the United Nations Temporary Media Commission about threats to his life and apart from advice to go to the police like any other citizen, it appears that no special attention was paid to this report.

Would the same response have come had he been working for one of Kosovo's more independent newspapers rather than for a paper that had been censored and fined by the UN Media Commission for its lack of professionalism? In Belarus the authoritarian regime of President Lukashenko continues to drive the voices of dissent further and further underground. The IFJ is calling for a full investigation into the brutal and tragic killing of Vasily Grodnikov, a freelancer for the opposition newspaper, Narodnaya Volya.

Although the situation in Western Europe was better than the rest of the region, the sentencing of Al-Jazeera journalist Tayseer Allouni to seven years jail in Spain in a controversial case over his alleged links with terrorist groups raised again the question of how anti-terrorist policy in Europe, as elsewhere has a potentially devastating impact on journalism. This issue was dealt with in detail in a special IFJ Report with the civil liberties group Statewatch on Journalism, Civil Liberties and the War on Terrorism, which was released during the year.

Country	Journalist	Media staff	Under investigation
Azerbaijan	2	0	0
Belarus	1	0	0
Kosovo	1	0	0
Russia	2	0	0
TOTAL	6	0	0

MARCH

2 MARCH - AZERBAIJAN



The funeral of Elmar Huseynov
Photo: AP

Elmar Huseynov: Elmar Huseynov the founder and editor of the Russian-language independent weekly news magazine *Monitor* was shot seven times by an unidentified assailant in his apartment building. Huseynov, who had been harassed and pursued by the authorities many times in recent years, was killed as he entered his apartment. The national state prosecutor set up an enquiry into what he said was a “brutal premeditated murder” and committed to following all leads, including links between the killing and Huseynov’s journalistic activities.

The *Monitor* has carried many reports of corruption and abuse of power by government members, including President Ilham Aliiev. Some independent media say Huseynov was killed because of these reports. Huseynov’s father Sabir told the French news agency, Agence France-Presse he was sure “someone in the government” had ordered his son’s murder. “We’d been expecting it,” he said.

Huseynov was sentenced to jail for

six months in 2001 for supposedly libelling Baku mayor Gajibala Abutalibov. He was also fined the equivalent of 10,000 Euro in July 2002 over an article criticising the army. Attacks on the independent media have increased since the IFJ sent a mission to Azerbaijan in October 2003 following controversial elections.

MAY

21 MAY - RUSSIA

Pavel Makeev: Pavel Makeev, a 21-year-old cameraman with Puls television station, in Azov (near Rostov-on-Don), was found dead under suspicious circumstances. His body was found by a roadside outside Azov, after he had finished a report about illegal dragster racing. Police investigators said his body was located about 15 meters from a pool of blood and appeared to have been dragged along the road.

Makeev’s video camera and cell phone were missing. Police said they discovered the car that allegedly hit Makeev, but no arrests have been reported. The investigation was transferred to the Rostov regional prosecutor’s office.

Makeev’s colleagues conducted their own investigation because Rostov prosecutors would not discuss the case and closed the investigation, claiming an “absence of evidence of a crime. Local journalists noted that reporters who have tried to cover drag racing have often been threatened. Finally in September, Rostov

prosecutor Vasily Afanasiev said that his office had reopened the case. Makeev worked for Puls for two years and was regarded by his colleagues as a talented and professional cameraman.

JUNE

19 JUNE - AZERBAIJAN

Alim Kazimli: Alim Kazimli, 51, a photo correspondent for the main opposition daily *Yeni Musavat* for over ten years, died on 19 June as a result of a beating he received on 28 December, 2004 at the Narimanov police station in Baku that left him paralysed on his left side. He fell into a coma on 17 June and then died of a brain hemorrhage. On 28 December last year, Kazimli went to the Office and Registration and Identification (ORUL) at the Narimanov district police department in Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku, to get Azeri internal passports for him and his wife. A confrontation ensued when Kazimli protested alleged bribe-taking and chaotic conditions in the office. When Kazimli identified himself as a correspondent for *Yeni Musavat* and demanded an office manager correct the problems, the manager struck Kazimli on the head with a telephone. Kazimli was immediately rushed to a Baku hospital where doctors diagnosed him with a stroke. He was released from the hospital in March 2005, but continued receiving medical treatment at home. Kazimli did not return to work, his condition deteriorated, and

finally he fell into a coma several days prior to his death.

25 JUNE - KOSOVO

Bardehul Ajeti: Bardehul Ajeti, a Kosovar correspondent for the *Bota Sot* daily paper was shot near Pristina on 3 June and died later on 25 June in an Italian hospital from his injuries. According to the IFJ affiliate, the Association of Professional Journalists of Kosovo (AGPK), he was attacked near Pristina after his car had broken down and was then shot from a passing car.

On 17 May, 28-year-old Ajeti, had appealed in vain to the UN-led administration for protection following an article published about him in another newspaper. Baton Haxhiu, Executive Director of the AGPK told the IFJ that Ajeti wrote daily editorials for *Bota Sot*, which is allied with the governing Democratic League of Kosovo party and that he often criticised opposition party figures in his editorials.

29 JUNE - RUSSIA

Magomed-Zagid Varisov: Varisov, a prominent journalist and political analyst, was shot and killed in Mahachkala, the capital of the Russian republic of Dagestan. Varisov, a columnist for *Novoye Delo*, Dagestan's largest weekly, was returning home with his wife when unidentified assailants opened fire on his car. He was fatally wounded and died at the scene. His wife was unharmed while their driver was hospitalised with injuries. Police believe that the attackers targeted Varisov because of his critical reporting on organised crime and terrorism.

During 2005, Varisov had spoken of threats against him and had written about those threats in articles for *Novoye Delo*. Varisov complained that unknown individuals were following him, and he unsuccessfully sought protection from Mahachkala law enforcement authorities.

OCTOBER

18 OCTOBER - BELARUS

Vasily Grodnikov: A freelance correspondent for the opposition newspaper, *Narodnaya Volya*, Grodnikov was found dead with a head wound in his home in Zaslauje, near Minsk. According to reports, the journalist's family believes that he was murdered. *Narodnaya Volya*, which is frequently critical of the Belarusian authorities, has suffered ongoing harassment for its reporting.

Authorities had harassed *Narodnaya Volya* in retaliation for its criticism of President Aleksandr Lukashenko. State-run kiosks were not permitted to sell the newspaper. Authorities had recently ended its printing contract, forcing it to use a printer in the neighboring Russian city of Smolensk.

The Interior Ministry said that Grodnikov had died of a stroke while an autopsy at the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital concluded that the cause of death was head trauma. The Minsk regional prosecutor's office continues to investigate the case.

The Year in Focus: Middle East and the Gulf

The struggle for press freedom and democracy in the Middle East continues to be overshadowed by a pattern of violence in which media people are prominent among the victims. The war in Iraq and the continuing conflict in Palestine make reporting from these regions highly dangerous and political instability between Syria and Lebanon has seen high profile targeted killings of independent journalists.

At the same time, towards the end of the year, a tragic air crash in Tehran, which claimed the lives of 48 journalists and media staff, highlighted the dangers facing journalists whenever they leave the office.

There were 35 cases of journalists killed in Iraq all of them Iraqis, with the exception of United States freelance writer Steven Vincent. Most of the victims were killed in or around Baghdad although there were 10 media deaths in Mosul.

Many of these colleagues were employed by US backed media such as the Al-Hurra satellite network, Nineveh TV a local affiliate of Al-Iraqiya TV, which is part of the US-backed Iraqi Media Network and Al-Sabah newspaper. This pattern of killings illustrates that journalists working for media subsidised by foreign donors, especially from the United States, are particularly at risk.

Local journalists' groups were particularly shocked by the targeted killing of Mohammed Harun Hassan, secretary of the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate who was gunned down on 19 October in Baghdad. He was a prominent editor and journalists' leader who spoke out against corruption both inside journalism and outside it.

The IFJ remains concerned over the lack of proper reporting and investigation into cases of media deaths at the hands of United States soldiers. In 2005 there were five deaths, bringing to 18 the number of journalists and media staff killed by US troops since March 2003. The cases of Dler Karam Ali, Yasser Salihee, Maha Ibrahim, Ahmed Wael Bakri and Waleed Khaled reinforce the arguments in favour of an independent process of investigation and reporting. So far, the US military carries out its own investigations and normally produces reports, which, if they are published at all, are unconvincing and full of self-justification.

In order to try to combat this safety crisis in Iraq, the International News Safety Institute (INSI) carried out safety training for Iraqi journalists in October.

Beyond Iraq, the deaths in Beirut of Samir Qasir and Gebran Tueni – both highly critical of Syrian influence in Lebanon – showed that independent journalists are prime targets when political tensions begin to emerge. The killing of Tueni led the IFJ to postpone a planned regional meeting of Arab journalists in Beirut at the year's end.

The need to take the campaign for justice for journalists and for politicians to speak out in defence of independent media in the region during 2006 is most horrifyingly reinforced by the case of Daif Al Ghazal in Libya. This writer who had published articles critical of the regime, paid a terrible price for his profession in June when he was captured, tortured beyond recognition, with his fingers severed, and finished off by a shot to the head.

AFRICA

AMERICAS

ASIA PACIFIC

EUROPE

MIDDLE EAST & GULF



PLANE CRASH IN IRAN



Country	Journalist	Media staff	Under investigation
Iran	43	5	0
Iraq	31	4	0
Lebanon	2	0	0
Libya	1	0	0
TOTAL	77	9	0

FEBRUARY

9 FEBRUARY - IRAQ



Photo: AP

Abdul Hussein Khazal Al-Basri:

Attackers killed Abdul Hussein Khazal, a 40-year-old Iraqi journalist working for Al-Hurra TV, and his son as they left their home in the Maqal area of Basra. Khazal, who joined the US-funded television station in April 2004, also worked as a correspondent for the US-funded station Radio Sawa. Khazal was a member of the political office of the Islamic Dawa Party, an influential Shiite movement, and the editor of a local newspaper in Basra. He served as the head of the press office at Basra City Council. In spite of the possibility that Khazal was killed because of his political connections, Al-Hurra News Director Mouafac Harb disputed reports of Khazal's Shiite political affiliations and said the reporter 'was killed because he was a journalist.'

12 FEBRUARY - IRAQ

Dler Karam Ali: On February 9, Dler Karam Ali, a Kurdish journalist working for the *Al-Ittihad Al-Islami* and *Al-Ofoq Al-Islami* newspapers and also a member of the IFJ affiliated Kurdistan Syndicate of Journalists was shot and injured by US forces on the road between Baghdad and Darbandikhan in Northern Iraq. He was passing through a US military checkpoint on his way to cover the elections when US soldiers on duty asked the car to stop, the driver refused and the soldiers started shooting at the car fatally injuring Karam Ali. He died in hospital three days later.

25 FEBRUARY - IRAQ

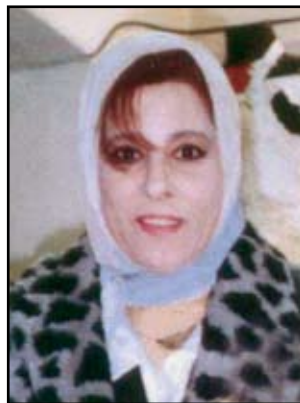


Photo: AP

Raledah Mohammed Wageh

Wazzan: On 25 February, the body of 35-year-old journalist Raledah Wazzan, a news anchor with the Iraqi state TV channel Al-Iraqiya was found five days after she and her

son were kidnapped by masked attackers in the centre of the northern city of Mosul. According to reports Wazzan's murder was claimed on the Internet by an armed Iraqi group linked to Al-Qaeda, but this could not be verified.

25 FEBRUARY - IRAQ

Unidentified Driver: The unidentified driver of Mohammad Sherif Ali, an Iraqi journalist working for Al-Hurra was killed after gunmen attacked their car in Iskandiriyah, south of Baghdad. Ali survived with serious injuries.

MARCH

10 MARCH - IRAQ

Laik Ibrahim Nowruz Al-Kakaie:

Nowruz Al-Kakaie, Kurdistan TV's bureau chief in Kirkuk (250 kilometres north of Baghdad) was shot dead as he was driving in the Hay Al-Askari neighbourhood on his way to his offices. His driver, who was wounded in the attack, survived his injuries. Kurdistan TV is the satellite television station of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

14 MARCH - IRAQ

Hussam Hilal Sarsam:

Hussam Hilal Sarsam was shot and killed while attempting to escape suspected insurgents in the city of Mo-

sul. Sarsam, 27, was a cameraman working for Kurdistan TV. He was abducted on 13 March in front of Mosul University. According to local sources, the following day his captors returned him to the same location, where they killed him in front of a number of pedestrians. Colleagues and a family member said burn marks were found on Sarsam's upper body, an indication of possible torture. His Kurdistan TV identification cards and a media card issued by U.S.-backed coalition forces were placed on his corpse by his killers. Sarsam had worked with Kurdistan TV since January 2004 and had videotaped confessions of insurgents held by Iraqi police in Mosul that were aired on a program on Kurdistan TV called *Al-Irhab ala Haqiateh* (Terrorism Exposed). His colleagues and a family member suspected his murderers were motivated by his filming of the detainee confessions.

AVRIL

1 APRIL - IRAQ

Ahmed Jabbar Hashim: Hashim, a reporter working for the Baghdad-based daily *Al-Sabah*, part of the US-backed Iraq Media Network, was kidnapped on March 25 by an unidentified armed group. His decapitated body was discovered on 1 April. Insurgents have frequently targeted journalists working for US-backed news outlets in Iraq. Some journalists reported that Hashim might have been killed because he had also done work for US media. Eight armed men in three cars ambushed the journalist while he was taking his daily route home. They decapitated him and sent a recording of the killing to *Al-Sabah* as a warning.

14 APRIL - IRAQ

Fadhil Hazem Fadhil

Ali Ibrahim Issa:

Two Al-Hurriya television journalists were killed in twin suicide

bombings while en route to an event honoring the new president at the time, Jalal Talabani. The journalists were traveling in a car with a reporter and a driver when the bombs exploded outside the Interior Ministry in Baghdad. The reporter and driver were injured but survived.

15 APRIL - IRAQ

Shadman Abdulla Izzedine:

Saman Adawi Izadeen:

On April 15, the IFJ affiliate, the Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate reported the killing of two television journalists, Shadman Abdulla Izzedine and Saman Adawi Izadeen, both working for Kirkuk TV. Unidentified assailants gunned down Izzedine as he was driving on the main highway from Kirkuk to Baghdad. Izadeen was also shot by insurgents while driving to the Kirkuk TV offices. Kurdish journalists in Kirkuk said that their car was fired on by a group of armed men driving in a black Nissan. Local journalists also said that Kirkuk TV's anti-insurgent stance has made it vulnerable to attack from armed groups, and they believe Izzedine, a prominent personality on Kirkuk TV, was targeted for his work with the station.

16 APRIL - IRAQ

Ahmed al-Rubai'i: Reporter and editor, Ahmed al-Rubai'i, working for the US-backed daily *Al-Sabah* newspaper was abducted and beheaded in Baghdad apparently by a group known as al-Jihad and al-Tawhit. Al-Rubai'i also worked in the media department of the Iraqi National Assembly. No body was found. International news sources reported that on 6 June, police arrested members of a criminal gang who admitted to killing several people. Rubai'i's press pass was found among the identity cards in their possession.

23 APRIL - IRAQ



Photo: AP

Saleh Ibrahim: Saleh Ibrahim, a local television cameraman working for Associated Press Television News (APTN) was killed when gunfire broke out near the city's al-Yarmouk Circle after an explosion in the northern city of Mosul. Both Saleh and his brother-in-law, AP photographer Mohamed Ibrahim, had gone to cover the explosion. The journalist told AP that gunfire broke out and both men were struck, although the report did not indicate who fired on them. Saleh Ibrahim was taken to a local hospital, where he died shortly after arrival. Mohamed Ibrahim, treated for shrapnel wounds, was detained at a hospital by US troops and released the following day.

MAY

15 MAY - IRAQ

Najem Abd Khudair:

Ahmad Adam:

Ali Jassem Al Rumi:

Abd Khudair worked as a correspondent in Kerbala for *Al-Mada*, a private Iraqi newspaper. Adam worked as a freelancer for *Al Mada* and Jaseem Al-Rumi was working as a trainee writing for *Al Safeer* newspaper. They were murdered on a road in Latifiyah, a town proximately 40 kilometres south of Baghdad. According to local sources the three journalists were on the way to their hometown of Karbala after leaving

killed in 2005

the office of their newspaper offices in Baghdad to get their assignments for the week. Armed assailants ambushed their car, slit their throats and left their bodies on the side of the road.

31 MAY - IRAQ

Jerges Mahmood Mohamad Sulelman:

Unidentified assailants shot and killed Sulelman, a news anchor at Nineveh TV in Mosul. Co-workers reported Sulelman worked for the station for just 20 days before he was killed. He was shot as he approached Nineveh TV's offices, about 200 meters from the building. Colleagues said Sulelman had not received any prior threats, but they suspect he was targeted because he was an employee of Nineveh TV. Insurgents have frequently targeted Nineveh TV's offices with gunfire and mortars. Nineveh TV is a local affiliate of Al-Iraqiya TV, which is part of the US-backed Iraqi Media Network.

JUNE

02 JUNE - LEBANON



Photo: AP

Samir Kassir: Samir Kassir of the *An-Nahar* newspaper died instantly when a bomb exploded under the driver's seat of his car outside his home in the mostly Christian Ashrafiyeh neighborhood in east

Beirut. The attack came four days after the start of the country's parliamentary election. Anti-Syrian groups were quick to blame Damascus and its Lebanese allies for his murder, alleging the involvement of the Syrian-backed President, Emile Lahoud. Kassir had been writing columns for the past ten years with *An-Nahar*, a daily Arabic newspaper and was married to Giselle Khoury, another prominent Lebanese journalist working for *Al-Arabiya* and currently residing in the United States. He was well-known for his anti-Syrian positions and his criticism of the "Lebanese police state" and had been harassed and threatened for years. Kassir was the most prominent Lebanese figure to be killed since the 14 February assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, which plunged the country into its worst political crisis since the 1975-1990 war.

2 JUNE - LIBYA

Daif Al-Ghazal Al-Shuhaibi: On 2 June, Libyan journalist and writer Daif Al Ghazal, was found dead in a suburb of Benghazi over 900 kilometers east of the capital, Tripoli. Two armed men claiming to be state security officers reportedly kidnapped Al-Shuhaibi on 21 May. Al-Shuhaibi wrote articles critical of Libya's governing party the Movement of Revolutionary Committees (MRC) for the London-based online newspaper *Libya Al-Youm* (www.libya-alyoum.com). The autopsy report referred to many signs of torture with most of his fingers severed, and multiple bruises and stab wounds to the body. A shot to the head killed him. Al-Shuhaibi, 32, also wrote for four years for the daily newspaper *Al-Zhaf al-Akhdar* (The Green March), which belongs to the MRC. However, he then took a strong stand on the corruption prevailing within the MRC and decided to stop writing for the government press. According to local sources, Al-Shuhaibi was briefly detained and questioned by Libyan security agents in April 2005.

22 JUNE - IRAQ

Jassim Al-Qais: Jassim Al-Qais, working for Iraqi daily, *Al-Siyada*, and his son were shot dead as they were traveling on a road ten kilometers north of Baghdad. Al-Qais was at the wheel of his Kia when armed men opened fire killing him and his son on the spot. The motive for the murder remains under investigation.

24 JUNE - IRAQ

Yasser Salihee: Yasser Salihee, an Iraqi special correspondent for Knight Ridder, US newspaper group, was shot to death in Baghdad. The shot appears to have been fired by a US military sniper, though there were Iraqi soldiers in the area who also may have been shooting at the time. Salihee, 30, was driving alone near his home in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Amariyah when a single bullet pierced his windshield and then his skull. He was shot as his car neared a joint patrol of American and Iraqi troops who had stopped to search a building for snipers. The US army continues to investigate the incident. US Humvees blocked three of the entry points to the intersection that Salihee was approaching. It's unclear how well Salihee could have seen the troops, and whether they were standing in the road and waving motorists away, or taking cover by the side of the road in case of a sniper attack.

25 JUNE - IRAQ

Maha Ibrahim: Maha Ibrahim, a news editor with the local television station Baghdad TV, was killed when US troops opened fire after apparently coming under attack in a Baghdad neighborhood. Ibrahim and her husband, who also worked at the station, were on their way to the station, owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party. According to her colleagues,

Ibrahim's car was hit as US troops attempted to disperse a crowd of people from a Baghdad road. They said Ibrahim was wounded in the stomach and that she died on arrival at a local hospital. Ibrahim's husband survived the shooting.

28 JUNE - IRAQ



Photo: AP

Ahmed Wael Bakri: US troops allegedly killed an Iraqi television director and news producer working for Al-Sharqiyah television when he drove near a US convoy on his way home near southern Baghdad. The US military said it had no reports of the incident. Bakri was trying to pass by a traffic accident and wasn't paying attention to a US convoy when troops allegedly opened fire at his car. US soldiers fired at the car 15 times, and Bakri later died at Yarmouk Hospital.

JULY

1 JULY - IRAQ

Khaled Sabih Al-Attar: Al-Attar, an Iraqi television producer for the state news channel Al-Iraqiyah was kidnapped in the north of Mosul city and his body was found a few hours later in an empty lot on the west side. He had been shot to death. Al-Attar, 43, worked for a satirical program called "I don't give a damn", which made fun of the carelessness of staff in government offices. Al-Iraqiyah's headquarters has been the target of several attacks because of the station's ties to the US-supported Iraqi Government.

23 JULY - IRAQ

Adnan Al-Bayati: Adnan Al-Bayati, a freelance Iraqi television producer and interpreter, was killed at his home in the Al-Adhamiya neighborhood of Baghdad in the presence of his wife and daughter. Al-Bayati had been working for Italian television stations Rai, Mediaset and TG3, and for the magazine *Panorama*. Italian media believe Al-Bayati was targeted because of his work for TG3. The Web site Articolo 21 said that "Al-Bayati fell victim to revenge attacks by Sunni terrorist groups who do not let Iraqis work with foreigners, especially with western news media, above all Italian media."

AUGUST

02 AUGUST - IRAQ



Photo: AP

Steven Vincent: US freelance reporter, Steven Vincent, was shot dead by unknown assailants in Basra. Vincent was abducted with his female Iraqi interpreter, Noor Al-Khal, at gun point by five assailants in a police car as they left a currency exchange shop. His bullet-riddled body was found on the side of a highway south of the city a few hours later. Al-Khal was seriously wounded and was hospitalised. Vincent was shot several times in the head and body. In an opinion article published in *The Times* on

July 31, Vincent said police in Basra had fallen under the sway of Shiite religious groups, and he strongly criticised British authorities in charge of police training for tolerating such influence. Vincent had been in Basra in recent months working for the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *New York Times* and the *National Review*. He had been writing a book about the city. Vincent was the first US journalist to be murdered in Iraq.

AUGUST - IRAQ

Rafed Mahmoud Said Al-Anbagy: Al-Anbagy, a 36-year-old news anchor and director at Diyala TV, part of the U.S.-backed Iraq Media Network, was shot dead in Za'toun neighborhood in the city of Baaquba, east of Baghdad, while covering a football match. Al-Anbagy was interviewing one of the team's coaches when gunmen opened fire, killing both men. Al-Anbagy was shot in the head. Local sources say they believe Al-Anbagy was killed because of his on-air criticism of insurgent groups and former Baathists and that Al-Anbagy had received several death threats for his reporting.

28 AUGUST - IRAQ



Photo: AP

Waleed Khaled: Waleed Khaled, a soundman working for Reuters, was shot dead by US military forces in Baghdad. Khaled, 35, was shot in the face and chest at least four times, as he drove with cameraman Haidar Kadhem to check a report of an incident involving police and gunmen in the western Hay Al-Adil district.

Kadhem, the only known eyewitness, was wounded and was held by US forces at an undisclosed location for three days following the attack. Kadhem told reporters at the scene that he heard gunfire and saw a US sniper on the roof of a nearby shopping center. Lieutenant Steve Boylan, a US military spokesman in Iraq, said Kadhem was detained "due to inconsistencies in his story." Waleed left behind a seven-year-old daughter and his wife, who was four-months pregnant at the time of his death.

SEPTEMBER

17 SEPTEMBER - IRAQ

Hind Ismail: Hind Ismail, a 28-year-old reporter for the local daily, *As-Saffir*, was kidnapped in the northern city of Mosul. Police in the southern suburb of al-Muthana found her body the next morning with a single bullet wound to the head. Staff members believe insurgents targeted the newspaper because it supported the new Iraqi constitution, urged citizens to vote, and frequently covered news and press conferences held by Iraqi police. The day before her abduction, Ismail had covered a police press conference. According to her colleagues, Ismail was tortured by her captors and forced to reveal the names of other staffers at the newspaper. The day after Ismail's death, insurgents circulated a list of newspaper staff and posted it on the walls of mosques in Mosul. On September 20, *As-Saffir* journalist Firas Maadidi was also killed.

17 SEPTEMBER - IRAQ

Sabah Mohssin: Sabah Mohssin, a driver for the Iraqi TV station Al-Iraqiya, was killed in Baghdad on 17 September.

19 SEPTEMBER - IRAQ

Fakher Haider: Fakher Haider, a 38-year-old Iraqi working as a reporter for the *New York Times* was found dead in the southern city of Basra after being kidnapped by masked assailants. He was found with his hands bound and a single bullet wound to the head. Four masked assailants in a dark Toyota vehicle arrived at his family home in an apartment complex in central Basra after midnight. They said they were from the intelligence services and that they needed to speak to Haider in connection with an investigation. They bundled him into their vehicle and told his wife and family not to interfere. Haider had worked for the *New York Times* for over two years and also worked for Merbad TV in Basra, the *Guardian* of London, *National Geographic*, and other publications. Haider was married with three small children. According to local sources, his killing was connected to investigations that they had been undertaking concerning local security forces being under increasing control of militias loyal to two competing Shi'ite political groups.

20 SEPTEMBER - IRAQ

Firas Maadidi: Firas Maadidi, 40, the Mosul bureau chief for *As-Saffir* and chief editor of the local daily, *Al-Masar*, was killed outside his Mosul home in al-Noor neighborhood. Maadidi died in hospital after being shot in the head six times by unidentified assailants. The murder came just days after the slaying of Hind Ismail, a 28-year-old reporter for *As-Saffir*.

21 SEPTEMBER - IRAQ

Ahlam Youssef: Ahlam Youssef, an Iraqi engineer working for Al-Iraqiya television was gunned down in Mosul. Youssef was driving in her car with her husband, who was

also killed, and her son, who was wounded in the attack.

OCTOBER

19 OCTOBER - IRAQ

Mohammad Harun Hassan: Harun Hassan, editor-in-chief of the *Nabdh Al-Shabeb* newspaper, was gunned down by unknown attackers in Baghdad city centre. He was known for being a well-respected senior journalist and an influential trade union activist who was Executive Secretary within the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate. Harun Hassan was on his way to meet the editor-in-chief of the Baghdad paper *Al-Qarar* in the early afternoon when he was shot four times while driving near the Al Nahda quarter. In weeks before his death, he told colleagues that he had been threatened, told to resign his position at the syndicate, and lower his public profile.

NOVEMBER

7 NOVEMBER - IRAQ

Ahmed Hussein Al-Maliki: Ahmed Hussein Al-Maliki, an Iraqi journalist working for *Tall Afar* (Today), an independent weekly covering local news, was found dead in the northern city of Mosul. He was shot, probably not long before his body was discovered. Insurgents kidnapped al-Maliki as he was leaving an Internet café in a northern district of the city two months prior to his death. No group to date have claimed responsibility for his abduction.

28 NOVEMBER - IRAQ

Aqeel Abdul Ridha:

Muqdad Muhsin: Aqeel Abdul Ridha and Muqdad Muhsin working for the state-run Al-Iraqiyah TV network were killed in Baghdad. Gunmen inside a car opened fire on

both Abdul Ridha and Muhsin in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Adil.

DECEMBER

06 DECEMBER - IRAN - 68

48 journalists and media staff were among the 94 passengers and crew killed in a military flight that crashed soon after takeoff in Tehran. The plane hit a Tehran apartment block and burst into flames killing at least 115 people. The media victims were predominately Iranian radio and television journalists heading to cover military manoeuvres in southern Iran. The crash occurred when their plane, a C-130 four-engine turboprop, crashed in the Azari suburb of Tehran, also killing 21 people on the ground. The air force plane developed engine trouble soon after take off. The plane circled back for an emergency landing but crashed into a densely-populated residential area. Among the media victims were at least 30 state

broadcasting network employees. The IFJ has supported calls for an immediate investigation into the cause of the crash, the latest in a string of fatal air accidents in Iran in recent years. Iran has an ageing, poorly-maintained fleet of aircraft due in part to US sanctions imposed in the 1990s which prevent it from buying US-built planes or spare parts.

**Full list of names -
See pages 4 - 6**

12 DECEMBER - LEBANON



Gebran Tueni: Gebran Tueni, managing director and editor of the Beirut independent daily *An-Nahar*, was among four people killed in the explosion that destroyed his car in the Mekalis area of mainly Christian east Beirut. Police say a parked car packed with explosives blew up as Tueni's car passed. The killing took place just a short time before the report of a United Nations special investigator into the February 14 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri was due to go to the United Nations Security Council. Earlier, an interim report said the evidence pointed towards the involvement of Syrian officials and their Lebanese allies in Hariri's killing. In June a columnist at *An-Nahar*, Samir Kassir, who also criticised Syrian policies, was killed by a car bomb. Lebanese Druze leader and politician Walid Jumblatt says that Gebran Tueni and *An-Nahar* were being threatened for a long time by Syria.