

10 YEARS AFTER 9/11



Journalism IN THE SHADOW OF terror laws



European
Federation of
Journalists



INTERNATIONAL PRESS CENTRE, RESIDENCE PALACE
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2011

10 years after 9/11

Journalism in the shadow of terror laws

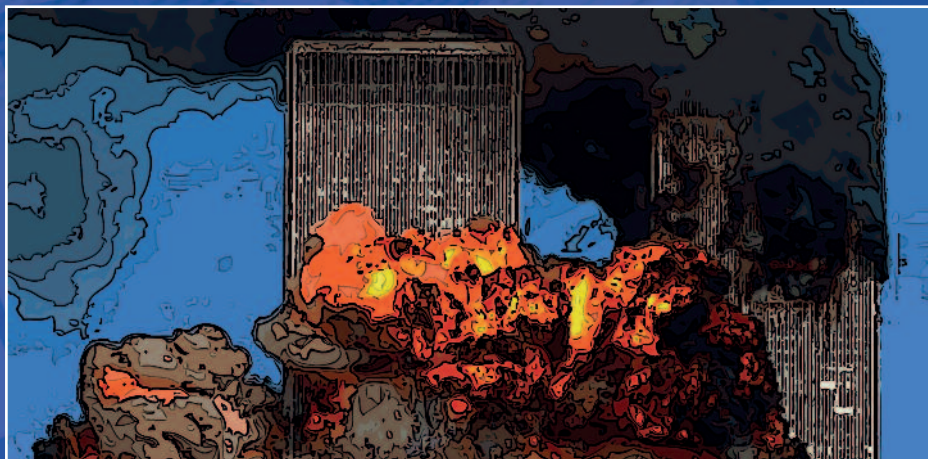
2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on New York and Washington, when almost 3000 people were killed in spectacular acts of terrorism involving hijacked planes and high profile strikes at the political and business community of the United States.

These strikes have been followed by a dark decade particularly for journalists and media staff who have been among the most prominent victims.

The IFJ and its regional organisation the European Federation of Journalists have decided to focus on the legacy of the so-called “war on terror” and its impact on journalists and their work at a world conference of journalists in Brussels on September 10th and 11th.

At the conference entitled “10 years after 9/11: Journalism in the shadow of terror laws”, journalists, human rights advocates and campaigners, trade unionists, academics and politicians will highlight this crisis for free speech and for press freedom. Member unions around the world and our regional groups will put a spotlight on the laws and policies that are being used to undermine journalists’ rights and civil liberties.

The 9/11 attacks unleashed a decade of conflict and tragedy across the globe. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; fresh terrorist strikes in Great Britain, Spain, Indonesia and Turkey; state-



sanctioned torture in the name of democracy; and a range of unprecedented laws and policies that have enfeebled civil liberties and human rights protection everywhere.

In every corner of the world, journalism has been diminished by the shadow of terrorism. Unscrupulous politicians have taken advantage of public anxiety and, in the name of counter-terrorism, governments have introduced laws, forms of surveillance and monitoring of peoples' lives that are self-serving and increase the power of the state.

Journalists have been subject to restrictions on their freedom of movement. Spies have infiltrated newsrooms. Telephones have been tapped. Prosecutions have been launched to discover sources of information.

At the same time there have been numerous incidents of secret governmental co-operation to increase covert surveillance of citizens travelling from country to country and, worse, to sanction and condone the detention and torture of people alleged to be implicated in terrorist activities.

Saturday, September 10th

- 10.00am **Opening**
Jim Boumelha, IFJ President
One Minute Silence for the victims of Terrorism
Arne Konig, EFJ President
Beth Costa, IFJ General Secretary
- 10.30am **Keynote Addresses:**
John Nichols, The Nation
Tony Bunyan, Director, Statewatch
Dunja Mijatovi, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Mary Robinson, tbc
- 12.00-13.30pm **Round Table:**
Taking liberties: Impact of anti terror legislation on civil liberties
Gilles De Kerschove, EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator
Roberto Natale, European Federation of Journalists
Antonio Elorzacan, El Pais
Martin Scheinin, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counterterrorism
Moderator:
Beth Costa
- 13.30 – 14.30pm **Lunch**
- 14.30-16.00pm **Panel One: *War on terror: When journalists become targets***
Sami Al Haj, Al Jazeera journalist imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay for six years
Hervé Ghesquière, journalist at France 3, former hostage in Afghanistan
Guilana Segrena, Italian Journalist, Il Manifesto, former hostage in Iraq
Moaiad Al Lami, President Iraqi Journalists' Union
Moderator:
Jean-Paul Marthoz
- Panel Two: *Anti-terror laws: Journalism under threat***
Ben Hayes, Statewatch
Shiv Malik, Times Newspaper, British investigative journalist who fought successfully a court production order
Pervaiz Shukat, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists
Michael Bjerre, Danish Journalist prosecuted for refusing to reveal his sources
Moderator:
Arne Konig
- 16.00 16.30pm **Break**

16.30-18.00pm **Panel Three: *Maintaining journalism standards: Overcoming self-censorship***
Agnes Callamard, Executive Director, Article XIX
Younes M'Jahed, President, Journalists' Union Morocco, IFJ Senior-Vice President
Claude Angeli, Editor, Canard Enchaîné
Grigory Shvedov, Editor, Caucasian Knot
Moderator: **Olivier Da Lage**

Panel Four: *Confronting the law: Coalitions of resistance*
Jason Parkinson, UK photographers' campaign "I'm a photographer, not a terrorist"
Speaker from the "Set Turkish Journalists Free" campaign
Kamel Amarni, General Secretary, Syndicat national des journalistes algériens
Moderator: **Jim Boumelha**

18.00pm End Day I

Day II Sunday, September 11th

10.00am **Working Groups Report Back**

Panel One: *War on terror: When journalists become targets*

Panel Two: *Anti-terror laws: Journalism under threat*

Panel Three: *Maintaining journalism standards: Overcoming self-censorship*

Panel Four: *Confronting the law: Coalitions of resistance*

12.30 – 13.30 Final Statement and Recommendations

Concluding Session and Final Conference Statement

13.30 – 14.30pm **Lunch**

At this conference the IFJ will reaffirm its call for:

- A review of all laws covering matters of national security and public welfare that restrict the movement of journalists and the rights of media to investigate public authorities and to report and publish freely;
- The introduction of freedom of information laws that guarantee citizens the right of access to official information;
- The elimination of all laws that criminalise acts of journalism, including defamation of institutions and religions;
- Official recognition of professional accreditation issued by independent journalists' groups, including the International Press Card of the IFJ.



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