

# INTERNATIONAL safety FUND

## 2005 report

**IN A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED DEATH AND TRAGEDY IN JOURNALISM, THE IFJ INTERNATIONAL SAFETY FUND, WHICH PROVIDES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES, HAS PROVIDED ALMOST €100,000 IN URGENT AID.**

The Safety Fund, which is made up of money raised by individual journalists and IFJ unions, has taken up cases in 30 countries and intervened to provide special support for the media victims of natural disasters and accidents. It has also helped to pay the hospital bills of injured journalists, has flown threatened colleagues to safe exile and contributed to legal costs in court actions to defend journalists rights in countries where often poverty and social conflict makes it impossible for journalists to help themselves.

The Safety Fund has also given assistance to families of journalists in countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Belarus, Nicaragua, Philippines, Bangladesh and Somalia.

The IFJ International Safety Fund covers the following two main areas of assistance:

1. The IFJ Safety Fund is designed primarily as a once-off emergency assistance fund for journalists and media staff who are injured in the line of duty, primarily in the so-called "hot-spots" of the world and in cases where the media employing the journalist/media staffer is not capable of covering such costs. This assistance can be in the form of travel, medical or subsistence costs.
2. The Safety Fund can also be used on case-by-case limited basis to assist in legal fees for journalists/media staff that again cannot find sufficient support from their employer. Finally, the Safety Fund can provide immediate assistance for the families of journalists and media staff whose 'bread-winner' has been killed and who have no means to sustain themselves.

Whenever the IFJ gives assistance there is a monitoring and reporting process to ensure that the money goes to where it is intended. During 2005 the IFJ revised the Safety Fund rules. These are available on request from the IFJ headquarters.

Over the years the IFJ Safety Fund has been used to produce publications as part of the IFJ Safety Programme. These have included the IFJ Safety Fund brochure (see image on right) produced in English, French Japanese and Spanish and the IFJ Safety Manual, Live News (see Press Freedom and Safety at [www.ifj.org](http://www.ifj.org)) for journalists travelling to conflict ar-



eas. Live News has been produced in Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian and Spanish.

These publications provide basic guidelines on the dangers which may occur, and what measures journalists can take to minimise risks. They are distributed to journalists free of charge.

When a journalist is attacked, everyone in journalism is affected. When a journalist is helped to overcome intimidation and violence it strikes a blow for press freedom and our rights which is of benefit to the whole community.

The Safety Fund is not just a practical source of aid and comfort, it is also a symbol of international goodwill that encourages journalists to carry on even in times of struggle and distress.

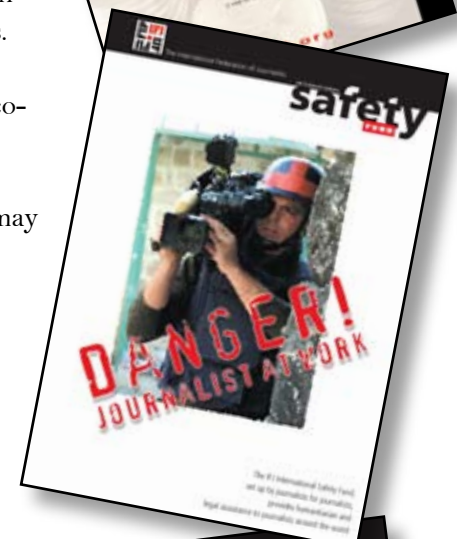
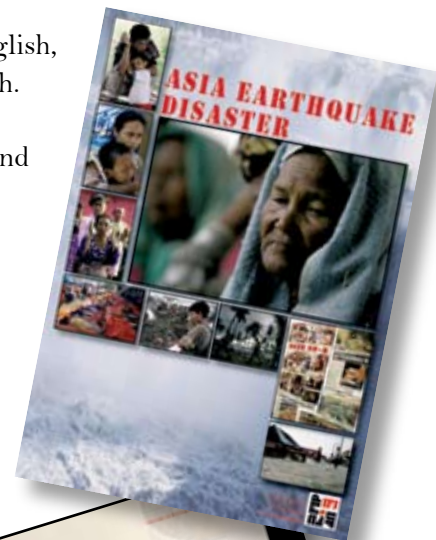
The type of relief provided by the IFJ Safety Fund, the speed with which it can be used, and the flexibility built into the system means that it is a unique source of solidarity for journalists.

The IFJ does not try to duplicate work that is being done by others. We are in regular contact with other organisations working in the field of journalists safety and freedom of expression. These include the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute, Reporters Without Borders, the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, the Writers in Prison Committee, the Rory Peck Trust and the World Association of Newspapers.

Information is exchanged, and, where necessary, an individual may receive co-ordinated assistance from more than one source.

Nonetheless, without the IFJ Fund, many would have gone unaided. Some may have starved, others might have died.

The IFJ Safety Fund can only continue to assist journalists if its future is secured. In order to go out, money must come in.



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[www.ifj.org](http://www.ifj.org)

## Solidarity in Action: 2005 Assistance from IFJ Safety Fund Nears €100,000 in Year of Record Death Toll

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#### SPECIAL ASSISTANCE CASES IN 2005

**Tsunami:** The IFJ Safety Fund which established a special crisis fund for the victims of the tsunami in 2004 has now been responsible for the donation of over €60,000 to its affiliates in both Indonesia and Sri Lanka. A further €30,000 raised during the year is now being distributed for follow-up relief work. An expert from the National Union of Journalists of the UK & Ireland went to the region in November to discuss with the IFJ's affiliates support for strategies to rebuild the media landscape in these two countries.

**Pakistan:** A special fund was also set up in May 2005 in the name of former IFJ Senior Vice-President Gustl Glattfelder. A part of this fund combined with the Safety Fund to total €10,000 is being given for immediate assistance to journalists and their families affected by the October earthquake disaster in Pakistan. The IFJ has been told by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists that 3 journalists have been killed and close to 25 journalists are missing or injured and that many media families are among the homeless and those affected by the disaster.

**Nepal:** A total of €6000 has now been donated to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) to assist journalists under attack and in exile since the Royal coup in February.

**Guinea:** A total of up to €3000 is being administered through the IFJ Africa Regional Office to assist victims of a tragic road crash in the Guinea Bissau region of Gabu, some 200km from the capital Bissau. The tyre of the mini-van in which they were travelling burst and the van somersaulted. Two journalists, Sori Baldé working for Televisão da Guiné-Bissau (TGB) and Aruna Djanmanca from the newspaper Kansaré died on the spot.

**Iran:** following the Tehran military aircraft disaster in which 68 journalists and media staff died the IFJ Safety Fund made available an immediate €5000 to help the Iranian Association of Journalists cope with the urgent needs in the aftermath of the tragedy.

#### CASES OF ON-GOING ASSISTANCE (JANUARY – DECEMBER 2005)

Amounts of between €700 and €3000 have been paid out to support individuals and groups in the following cases:

**Dominican Republic / Haiti:** Support was given, in cooperation with

the Committee to Protect Journalists, for two Dominican journalists and one Haitian journalist who had been receiving constant death threats for their investigative work into crime and corruption, following the murder of their colleague, Juan Andujar in September 2004.

**Colombia:** At the beginning of the year, assistance was given to support a Colombian radio journalist who exiled from the North of the country to the capital in Bogota while waiting for a transfer to a third country. He had received threats and his father was killed by the FARC, his mother threatened by the paramilitaries and his cousin killed by criminals:

**The Gambia:** Assistance was given to two female media staffers working with AFP correspondent, Deida Hydera, when he was killed on December 16 2004. The money facilitated the transportation of both colleagues to Senegal where they could receive medical attention to gun-shot wounds after being left for over a week without care in Banjul.

**Ecuador :** In April, the IFJ joined Amnesty International and Frontline Defenders in supporting the emergency evacuation of a radio director who along with his family had received numerous death threats for his critical work on crime and corruption.

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**Ethiopia:** On 9 May, the IFJ helped an Ethiopian journalist and executive member of the IFJ Ethiopian affiliate, EFJA, who was applying for asylum in the UK and could not return to his country due to threats to his life. His application was being supported by the IFJ UK and Irish affiliate, the NUJ.

**Belarus:** The IFJ provided assistance to the wife of a Belarusian cameraman for Russian Public Television (ORT) who disappeared in Minsk on July 7, 2000.

**Kyrgyzstan:** Support was given to the chair of the Kyrgyzstan Journalists' Union, who had his legs broken during the demonstrations in Kyrgyzstan in March 2005.

**Kurdistan:** Through the courageous help of the IFJ Greek affiliate, the Journalists' Union of the Athens Daily Newspapers, a Kurdish journalist and his son were brought to Athens following the suicide bomb attacks in Irbil on 1 February, 2004 in which 12 journalists were killed. The reporter needed a special operation to have his leg amputated in a hospital in Athens and finally was moved to a hospital in Germany.

**Nicaragua:** Support was given to the family of a Nicaraguan reporter working for La Prensa, who was murdered by the former mayor of El Ayote while covering local elections in Juigalpa.

**Philippines:** The IFJ Safety Fund gave support to the family of a Filipino radio journalist who was killed on 13 May 2002. Two unidentified individuals riding a motorcycle shot the journalist who worked for the public radio DXKP and was an editor of the local Zamboanga Scribe at point-blank range. He had written numerous articles about corruption in political and police circles in the region.

**Afghanistan/Turkey:** Support was given to an Afghan journalist working for Aftab weekly newspaper in Kabul, who fled to Turkey and continues to seek political asylum through the UNHCR process. The IFJ Turkish affiliate, the Progressive Journalists' Association, administered aid and played a vital role in pushing the journalist's case through the UNHCR and the local Turkish administration.

**Palestine:** The IFJ worked with the UK-based Rory Peck Trust to support two Palestinian freelance cameramen who needed special surgery in the UK following injuries they sustained while working for Ramattan studios in the Territories.

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** The IFJ in conjunction with Journalists en Danger (JED) supported the cases of three journalists under fire in Bukavu, East Congo.

**Bangladesh:** Support given to family of a senior journalist from Bangladesh, who was an executive editor for the Bogra-based daily Durjoy Bangla, and was hacked to death near his home in Sherpur in October 2004.

**Nepal:** In March 2005, the IFJ gave assistance to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists to set up safety nodes around the country for journalists in threat following the Royal coup. Support was also given to an investigative reporter who had fled to India after torture and death threats from the Nepalese security forces and the Maoists.

**Tanzania/Kenya:** The Fund supported a Tanzanian journalist who was arrested and tortured for an article he wrote for the English-language newspaper The African on 14/02/2003. The journalist had moved to Kenya, but his family remained stranded in Tanzania. After his article came out the Malawi High Commissioner phoned the Tanzanian authorities to accuse them of "inciting the army to overthrow the president and destabilizing the situation in the great lake zone". Prior to this incident he had written extensively on corruption and the need to have a new constitution in the country (Tanzania) and so his editor moved him from home news to foreign news. His editor was also threatened.

**Nepal:** In March, the IFJ Safety Fund helped with accommodation and subsistence costs for two Nepalese journalists who escaped to New Delhi after the February coup. The IFJ Asia-Pacific office has secured additional funding from International Media Support (IMS) to set up on-going accommodation and subsistence for both these journalists as well as other Nepalese journalists displaced to New Delhi.

**Kenya:** The IFJ Safety Fund gave assistance to an injured Kenyan freelance journalist following a request for joint assistance from both the Rory Peck Trust and CPJ. This assistance will allow Wallace to regain

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the use of his hands which will increase his work output and thereby increase his income.

**Azerbaijan:** The IFJ Safety Fund gave assistance to the family of an Azeri journalist who was killed in March. The journalist was the founder and editor of the opposition weekly news magazine Monitor, and was shot and killed in his Baku apartment building. His murder remains unsolved.

**Dominican Republic:** The IFJ Safety Fund helped a Dominican journalist who was targeted for his work investigating organised crime with Juan Andujar (who was killed last year). The journalist lost his right arm the same day that Juan Andujar was killed and has not been able to return to work since this point due to both the serious injury he sustained and due to the fact that he remains under constant threats to his life.

**Somalia:** The IFJ Safety Fund gave assistance to the family of a junior Somali reporter for Horn Afrik Radio and a presenter of a program called "Mogadishu and Today" broadcast on Capital Voice Radio, an FM station owned by HornAfrik Media Corporation. She was a well-loved figure in the community and used to report societal events in the city and carry out interviews with political figures.

**Nicaragua:** Support was given to the family of a Nicaraguan correspondent who worked for La Prensa newspaper and was murdered on 14 August in Esteli north of Managua. The journalist was also the Presi-

dent of the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists (UPN) and had received death threats on three occasions over reports that he had done on drug trafficking. He was the second journalist for be killed from La Prensa and the third since January 2004 in the country.

**Zimbabwe:** Assistance was given to a Zimbabwean journalist currently temporarily in Namibia, after having been deported from Botswana where he had worked for over two years, linked to his coverage of the country for AFP and IRIN. Due to serious threats to his life and that of his family, he cannot return to Zimbabwe and so the IFJ Safety Fund is being used to support him in Namibia.

**Togo:** The Fund gave assistance to a journalist working for a bi-weekly publication Forum de la Semaine, after he was attacked (gassed) by over a dozen armed individuals in October and ended up in hospital without means to cover his medical fees.

**Ivory Coast:** The Safety Fund provided assistance for a print journalist working for the Ivorian publication Le Journal des Journaux based in Abidjan. In January 2005, the journalist was detained by police and turned over to unidentified individuals who attacked and beat him severely, threatening to kill him for his work as a journalist. He fled to Ghana where he received help from the Ghana Journalists Association but has run out of subsistence for himself and his family, which the Fund is supporting in conjunction with the Rory Peck Trust.

**Cyprus:** The Fund provided immediate assistance to a Cypriot freelance journalist who was assaulted and robbed in a fracas outside a meeting of the European Commission held in conjunction with the UK Presidency in London on July 29. He was detained by police and later released.

## LIVE NEWS:

A Survival Guide for Journalists

In 2003 the IFJ published the media industry's most comprehensive guide to dealing with the risks of reporting in dangerous conditions. It has been translated into thirteen languages and is available from the IFJ Human Rights and Safety Office.



## International News Safety Institute

Launched in 2003, the INSI is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the safety of journalists and media staff. It is a coalition of media, press freedom groups, unions, and humanitarian campaigners working to create a culture of safety in journalism. More information from [www.newssafety.com](http://www.newssafety.com)

## IFJ Gustl Glattfelder Solidarity Fund



*In a year in which earthquakes, hurricanes and floods overwhelmed communities and made the headlines in many parts of the world, the IFJ launched an initiative to provide humanitarian relief for the media victims of natural disasters.*

*The fund was set up in the name of Gustl Glattfelder who died this year after many years service to his union, the Deutscher Journalisten Verband, and to the IFJ in which he served as Senior Vice President and Chairman of the European Federation of Journalists.*

*Glattfelder, who retired in 2004 from all his union positions, died on May 24 from a heart attack following treatment for cancer. At his funeral in his home town of Baden Baden, Germany, on June 1, special mention was made of his dedication and commitment to the cause of international solidarity.*

*When announcing his death, his family relayed Gustl's express wishes, in keeping with his commitment to international solidarity, to donate any practical expressions of sympathy to the IFJ International Safety Fund and from this the IFJ Gustl Glattfelder Solidarity Fund was born.*

*Following the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, Gustl's family expressed their wishes and those of Gustl to support the victims and their families by using the money donated in Gustl's name.*

*"For more than 15 years Gustl was a towering and well-loved figure on the IFJ and EFJ landscape," said the IFJ President Christopher Warren, EFJ Chair Arne Konig and IFJ/EFJ General Secretary, Aidan White. "His support for the victims in Pakistan continues the spirit of generosity that he displayed all throughout his life as a journalist".*

### How to donate

Please send donations to the IFJ member union in your country; the money will be forwarded in a lump sum and will cut the administration costs of the Fund. Alternatively you can send the money to:

The IFJ Safety Fund  
 A/C: BE64 2100 7857 0052  
 Swift Code: GEBABEBB  
 Fortis Bank, Rond Point Schuman 10  
 1040 Brussels, Belgium

*Gustl was a distinguished radio journalist with a long career in German Regional Radio (Sudwestfunk). He became a member of the IFJ Executive Committee at Baia Chia, Italy in 1990 and at the same time entered as the founding President of the EFJ and was the Vice-President of his union the DJV since 1986.*

# INTERNATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE SAFE CONDUCT OF JOURNALISM

*The dangers posed to journalists and media staff working in dangerous situations and conflict zones are the subject of extensive record. The IFJ has recorded the deaths of more than 1000 journalists and media staff over the past ten years.*

*Many journalists are killed, injured or harassed in war zones, either targeted by one side or another or caught in the crossfire of violence. Others are the victims of premeditated assault and intimidation either by criminals, terrorists or by agencies of the state – the police, the military or the security forces – acting secretly and illegally.*

*Very often there is little that journalists or media organisations can do to avoid casualties. There will, inevitably, be accidents, no matter how much care is taken to provide protection and there is little one can do when those targeting media use ruthless and brutal methods to crush journalistic inquiry.*

*However, there are steps that journalists and media organisations should take to minimise the risks to staff. In particular, the following are vital considerations in providing protection:*

*Adequate preparation, training and social protection. It is essential that journalists and media staff be in a state of readiness when difficulties arise. There should be a framework for providing individuals with health care and social protection.*

*Media professionals must be informed and inform themselves about the political, physical, and social terrain in which they are working. They must not contribute to the uncertainty and insecurity of their conditions through ignorance or reckless behaviour.*

*Media organisations must guard against risk-taking for competitive advantage, and should promote co-operation among journalists whenever conditions exist which are potentially hazardous.*

*Governments must remove obstacles to journalism. They must not restrict unnecessarily the freedom of movement of journalists or compromise the right of news media to gather, produce and disseminate information in secure and safe conditions.*

*People Must Keep Their Hands Off Media. Everyone should respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff at work. Physical interference with filming or other journalistic work must be prohibited.*

*With these considerations in mind, the IFJ calls on journalists groups, media organisations and all relevant public authorities to respect the following International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism:*

- 1.** Journalists and other media staff shall be properly equipped for all assignments including the provision of first-aid materials, communication tools, adequate transport facilities and, where necessary, protective clothing;
- 2.** Media organisations and, where appropriate, state authorities shall provide risk-awareness training for those journalists and media workers who are likely to be involved in assignments where dangerous conditions prevail or may be reasonably expected;
- 3.** Public authorities shall inform their personnel of the need to respect the rights of journalists and shall instruct them to respect the physical integrity of journalists and media staff while at work.
- 4.** Media organisations shall provide social protection for all staff engaged in journalistic activity outside the normal place of work, including life insurance;
- 5.** Media organisations shall provide, free of charge, medical treatment and health care, including costs of recuperation and convalescence, for journalists and media workers who are the victims of injury or illness as a result of their work outside the normal place of work;
- 6.** Media organisations shall protect freelance or part-time employees. They must receive, on an equal basis, the same social protection and access to training and equipment as that made available to fully employed staff.



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**FUND**

It's the

**THOUGHT** that **COUNTS**

When

people think of the IFJ Safety Fund, they remember to raise money for it. Hats only go round at conferences where someone thought of the Fund. People only dig in their pockets because they know it exists. Someone has to start the ball rolling. Will you start it next time? Keep the IFJ Safety Fund in mind whenever union members get together.

**How to Give**

Please send donations to the IFJ member union in your country; the money will be forwarded in a lump sum and will cut the administrative costs of the Fund.  
If there is no IFJ member, send the money to:

**the IFJ Safety Fund**

**A/C BE64 2100 7857 0052**

**SWIFT Code: GEBABEBB**

**Fortis Bank, Rond Point Schuman 10, 1040 Brussels**

For more information contact:

the IFJ	<b>Robert Shaw</b>
telephone	<b>+32 2 2352207</b>
email	<b>safety@ifj.org</b>
or visit the IFJ Website	<b><a href="http://www.ifj.org">http://www.ifj.org</a></b>

**[www.ifj.org](http://www.ifj.org)**

