



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

## IPDC'S MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM



ON THE **SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS** AND THE **ISSUE OF IMPUNITY**

# SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND IMPUNITY

In the past decade 827 journalists have been killed for carrying out their jobs: reporting the news and bringing information to the public. This amounts to a shocking

average of one death every five days. Worse still, in nine out of ten cases the killers go unpunished. This context of impunity encourages further killings, which leads to a vicious cycle of violence and impunity of attacks against journalists. Even in war, the civilian status of journalists should be respected.

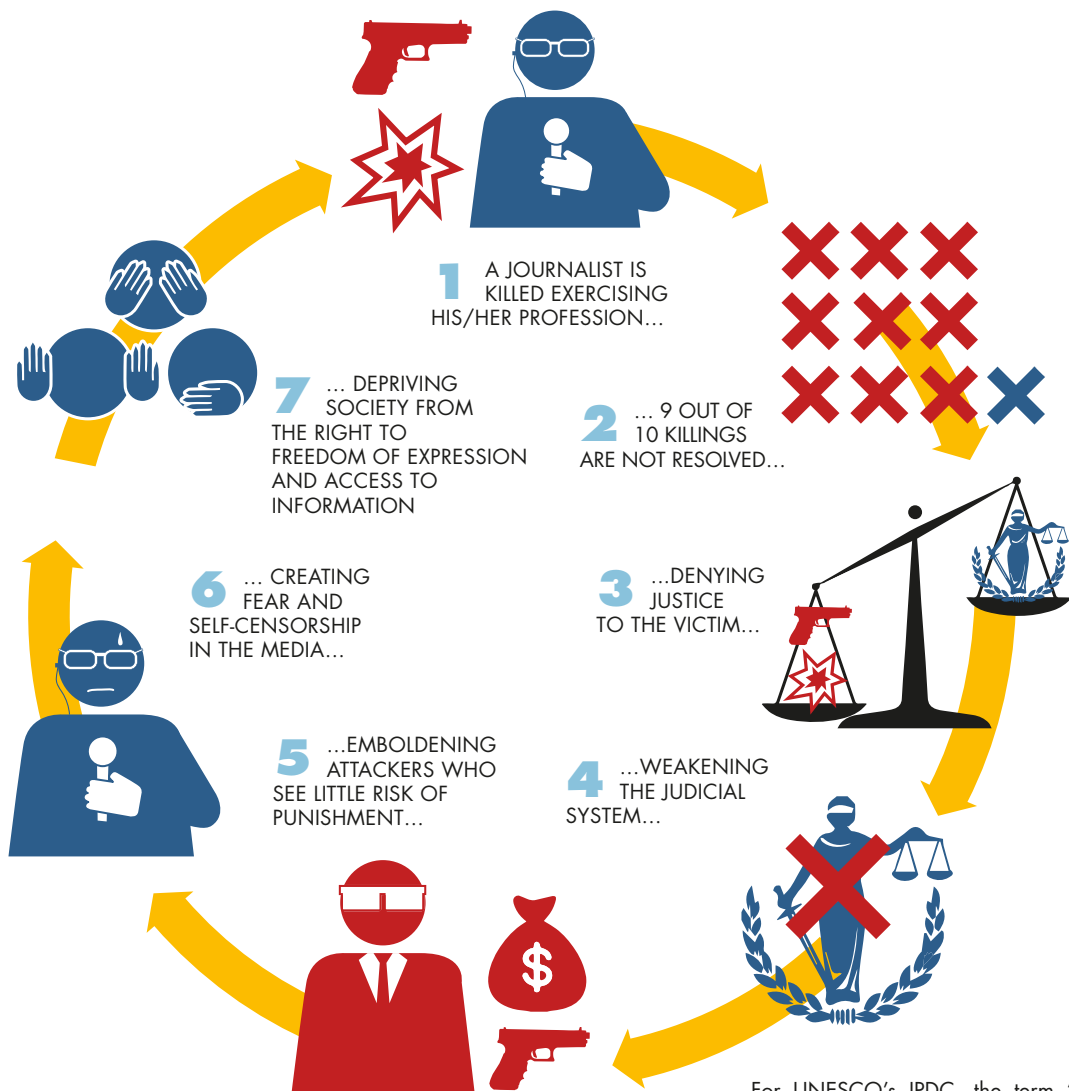
UNESCO warns that this impunity damages societies by creating self-censorship and the covering up of serious human rights abuses, corruption and crime. Furthermore, impunity for attacks on journalists is often symptomatic of worsening conflict and of the breakdown of law and justice systems.

## NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS KILLED PER REGION 2006-2015

	ARAB STATES	ASIA & PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	AFRICA	CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	WESTERN EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA	TOTAL
2006	45	21	12	3	3	0	<b>84</b>
2007	41	10	5	9	0	1	<b>66</b>
2008	12	17	4	4	9	0	<b>46</b>
2009	5	43	14	11	3	1	<b>77</b>
2010	8	25	19	8	4	1	<b>65</b>
2011	18	14	25	3	2	0	<b>62</b>
2012	50	26	21	26	1	0	<b>124</b>
2013	30	20	25	13	2	0	<b>90</b>
2014	41	12	26	11	8	0	<b>98</b>
2015	37	22	25	16	4	11	<b>115</b>
	<b>287</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>827</b>

# THE CYCLE OF IMPUNITY

## THE FAILURE TO BRING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE CREATES A VICIOUS CYCLE



For UNESCO's IPDC, the term "journalists" covers "journalists, media workers and social media producers who generate a significant amount of journalism". (IPDC Decision 2014).

# IPDC: A HISTORY OF WORK FOR THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND AGAINST IMPUNITY

## 1997

- In its 29th session, the UNESCO General Conference invites the Director-General to condemn assassination and any physical violence against journalists as a crime against society, and urges that the competent authorities discharge their duty of preventing, investigating and punishing such crimes and remedying their consequences (29C/Res.29).
- It is the birth of UNESCO's and IPDC's work on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.

## 2008

- The first ever DG Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity is presented to the IPDC Council.
- The 26th IPDC Council requests a new DG Report be prepared in 2010.

## 2010

- The second DG Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity is presented to IPDC Council.
- The 27th IPDC Council requests a new Report by 2012 including a list of state responses.
- It is also decided to work towards a future UN-wide approach on this same issue, laying the foundation for the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

## 2013

- The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, creating an International Day to End Impunity against journalists on 2 November (A/RES/68/163).

## 2012

- The third DG Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity is presented to the IPDC Council.
- The 28th IPDC Council officially requests a DG Report be developed every two years by the IPDC and requests priority for projects on journalists' safety.
- The UN Human Rights Council adopts a resolution encouraging the creation of journalist protection programmes (A/HRC/RES/21/12).

## 2011

- UNESCO adopts a resolution at its 36th General Conference authorising the Director-General to monitor the status of press freedom and safety of journalists. This lays the foundations of UNESCO's World Trends Report series (36C/Res.53).
- Since then, the IPDC contributes to the report series with data.

## 2014

- The 29th IPDC Council urges the inclusion of the safety of journalists as a gateway to achieving Goal 16 of the SDGs.
- The fourth DG Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity is presented to the IPDC Council.
- The UN Human Rights Council adopts a resolution strongly condemning the prevailing impunity (A/HRC/RES/27/5).
- The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution calling upon States to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for journalists (A/RES/69/185).

## 2015

- The UN Security Council requests journalists' safety be included in UN Secretary-General reports on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/RES/2222).
- IPDC data contributes to this.
- The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution condemning unequivocally all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers and urging member states to do their utmost to prevent violence, threats and attacks against them (A/RES/70/162).

## 2016

- The UN Human Rights Council adopts a new resolution on the safety of journalists, setting out its most comprehensive agenda yet for states to end impunity for attacks (A/HRC/RES/33/2).
- The fifth DG Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity is presented to the IPDC Council.
- IPDC data contributes to first UN Secretary-General Report on SDGs.

# IPDC'S MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY

Through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO has been mandated to implement a system to track the killings of journalists and the status of judicial follow up to these deaths. The purpose of such a system is to break the cycle of violence and impunity for attacks against journalists. With the co-operation of Member States, NGOs, media, civil society and the wider public, a mechanism has thus been put in place. It works effectively to contribute to the knowledge needed for the safety of journalists to be secured.

**The IPDC-mandated mechanism has three main components:**

**1 An information collection process** that allows gathering official information on the judicial status of killings of journalists recorded by the Director-General of UNESCO (after close monitoring and verification procedures by UNESCO), and which allows the Organization to monitor the situation and report on it through different international monitoring and reporting channels. The most visible result of this process is the biennial **UNESCO Director-General Report on the safety of journalists and the Danger of Impunity presented to the IPDC Council**;

**2 A system of Special Allocations of funds** to support the Organization's interventions on the ground in order to reinforce national and/or regional efforts to improve monitoring and reporting levels on safety and impunity; and

**3 An annual project submission cycle** which gives priority to media development projects submitted by local partners, which are designed to improve monitoring and reporting standards at national and regional levels, and/or to improve the overall safety of journalists through relevant policies and actions.

# ① INFORMATION COLLECTION AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE TO DATA

It was in 2008, deeply concerned by the increased frequency of acts of violence against journalists in many parts of the world, that the IPDC Council adopted the decision which led to UNESCO's monitoring of impunity.

The 2008 Decision requested the Director-General to present to the IPDC Council an analytical report "including updated information on the Director-General's

condemnations of the killing of journalists". The Decision also urged all Member States concerned to "inform the Director-General of UNESCO, on a voluntary basis, of the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators and to notify him [or her] of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings".

On this basis, every March, UNESCO sends information requests to states with a 3-month deadline. The responses serve as a key input for the analytical report that is presented every two years to the IPDC Council, called ***The UNESCO Director-General Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity***. It offers an overview of both the killings of journalists noted by the Director-General throughout the biennium, and the status of judicial processes in the wake of the killings.

The Report's presentation at the biennial session of the IPDC Council has become a significant opportunity for States to report on progress made in their countries. It provides a knowledge base for them to discuss the growing violence against journalists and the continued high rate of impunity for those responsible.

The mechanism whereby UNESCO collects the data for the Director-General's Report also feeds other important international monitoring exercises. These include:

- the Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council;
- the monitoring of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16, (through indicator 16.10.1 on the safety of journalists);
- the biennial UNESCO report on *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development*, as per the mandate of UNESCO's 36th General Conference.





REQUESTS  
INFO



MEMBER STATES

RESPOND



DEVELOPS



CONTRIBUTES TO



INFORMS



INFORMS



DG Report to the IPDC on  
the Safety of Journalists  
and the Issue of Impunity



WORLD TRENDS  
REPORT



SDG monitoring  
(Indicator 16.10.1)



The Universal Periodic  
Review at the UN  
Human Rights Council

HELPS



MEMBER STATES



NGOs



CIVIL SOCIETY

ASSESS, MONITOR AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL PROTECTION AND/OR MONITORING MECHANISMS FOR JOURNALISTS



## 2 SUPPORTING NATIONAL MONITORING AND PROTECTION MECHANISMS FOR THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

One component of the IPDC information mechanism is the financial support provided by the Bureau to national efforts to monitor and report on the safety of journalists.

### MEETING TO ASSIST IRAQ TO RESPOND TO THE DIRECTOR- GENERAL'S REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A meeting of 15 Iraqi senior officials from government, the country's Council of Representatives and representatives of the Iraqi media profession was held in Baghdad in November 2016 to discuss practical approaches to strengthening Iraqi information-sharing and reporting on the safety of journalists. The success of this roundtable, which was convened on the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, is highlighted by the identification of the Ministry of Justice as focal point for reporting on safety of journalists, supported by a Committee from other relevant ministries and entities.



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### PAKISTAN ROUNDTABLE OPENS DOOR FOR INFORMATION SHARING ON SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

In October 2016, IPDC supported a meeting in Islamabad where 20 experts from government, civil society and media were able to advance the potential for national information sharing about the safety of journalists.

During the discussion, the representative of the government nominated an official to henceforth receive and consider data from the NGO sector. The authorities retain the role of verifying the information needed, defining the official statistics and sending reports to UNESCO.

Before the meeting, only one of five Pakistan NGOs which track safety and impunity issues indicated that it shared information with government. This situation can now improve.

This event was co-hosted by UNESCO and the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, and reflected joint interests in improving existing monitoring and reporting systems.

Between 2014 and 2016, Pakistan has acknowledged the Director-General's requests for information on judicial follow up to killings. Its last contributed information on the cases concerned was in 2013.



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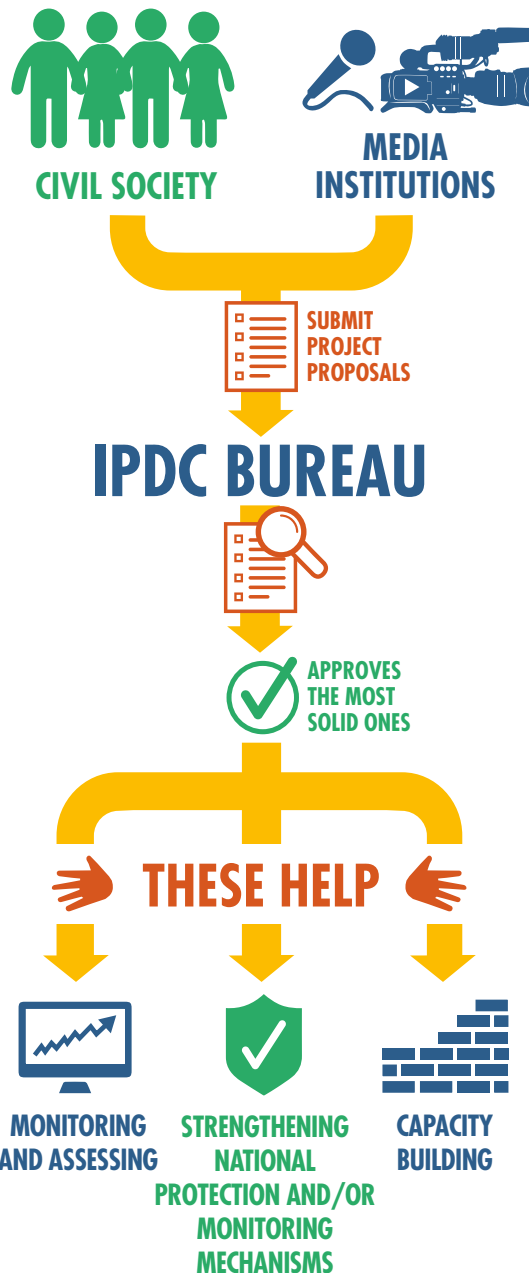
# ③ SUPPORTING MEDIA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT FOCUS ON SAFETY ISSUES

Each May of every year, the IPDC launches its annual cycle of calls for media development project proposals. Project proposals are then submitted to the IPDC by local media organizations or civil society groups. Among them are projects to improve national mechanisms for the monitoring or the protection of journalists. The best proposals are selected for support by the IPDC Bureau, composed of eight Member States. In some cases, the proposals are based on the development needs that are identified through research studies based on the IPDC-endorsed Journalism Safety Indicators (JSIs) or Media Development Indicators (MDIs).

Particular attention is given by the Bureau to proposals from least developed, land-locked and small island countries, as well as from conflict or post-conflict situations.

For more information on how to submit proposals, the local UNESCO office can be contacted. Follow the link to find your closest UNESCO office:

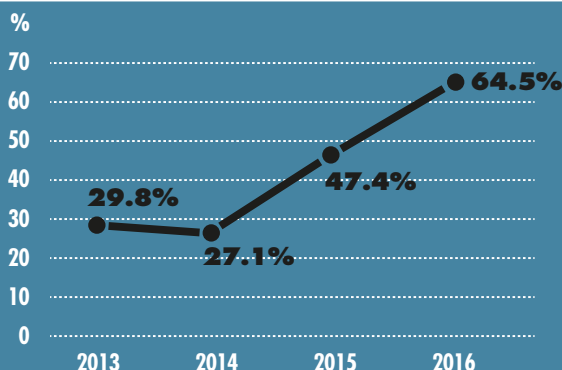
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/about-us/who-we-are/whos-who/>



# WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

Over the years, more and more States have been voluntarily co-operating with the IPDC monitoring mechanism:

**TREND IN MEMBER STATE REPLIES IN 2013-2016**



- Increased attention, evident in the increasing responsiveness, reflects that the Member States concerned are taking the judicial follow up to killings more seriously.
- Governments, media and civil society are empowered with the UN's official information about killings and impunity, and they can accordingly take informed action to address the problems.
- Local partners' efforts are supported on the ground so that their capacity to monitor and report at their level is strengthened.
- The issue of violence against journalists attracts attention and momentum in the wider public – who are the greatest stakeholders in their right to know.

# HOW CAN **YOU** GET INVOLVED?



- If you are a media professional, you can help raise awareness about the reports and the situation of journalists in your country.



**NGOs**

- If you are an NGO, you can use the data provided by IPDC and quote it in your own awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce your action. You can organize events and mobilize support at national or regional levels.



- If you are a concerned individual, you can raise awareness among your contacts and through your networks. You can also organize events at the local level and disseminate the information, contributing to build the social norm that society needs journalists to be able to do their work without fear of violent attack.



- If you are a school, you can organize activities with learners to sensitize them on the importance of freedom of expression and on why journalists' safety is important also for them.



- If you are a journalism educator, a researcher or an academic, you will find that the Director-General's Report to IPDC is a uniquely rich resource for both courses and research.

# THE IPDC'S UNIQUENESS IN THE UN SYSTEM

The IPDC mechanism produces the UN's official figures on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. This is vital information for the UN in its wider observation of human rights in its Member States, and also for the UN's promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 16 on peaceful societies with justice and strong institutions).

Furthermore, the IPDC is the only intergovernmental forum in the UN system set up to mobilize the international community around media development in developing countries.

Through its normative work and its support for practical projects, the IPDC promotes safety of journalists as part of a wider enabling environment for free, pluralistic, independent and gender-sensitive media.

IPDC is the cradle of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and continues to be a key contributor to UNESCO's ongoing leadership of the UN Plan.

## IPDC'S SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Overall, IPDC has four Special Initiatives:

- **Safety of Journalists:** Promoting the safety of journalists and an end to impunity of crimes committed against them, through monitoring and reporting on the judicial follow-ups of killings world-wide.

- **Research based on media-related indicators:** Assessing national media landscapes in order to identify strengths and weaknesses, and propose recommendations on how to strengthen press freedom, media pluralism and independence, using the Media Development Indicators (MDIs), Journalism Safety Indicators (JSIs), Media Viability Indicators (MVIs), or the Gender Sensitive Indicators for the Media (GSIM).

- **Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education:** Contributing to improve journalism education in developing countries by developing new curricula and syllabi in collaboration with journalism schools.

- **Follow-up to SDGs:** Serving as a platform for knowledge-driven media development, by collecting data to follow-up on the implementation of SDG Goal 16, Target 10, Indicator 16.10.1 on the safety of journalists and Indicator 16.10.2 on public access to information.



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# DONOR COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORTED IPDC ACTIVITIES IN 2010-2016



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Bangladesh



Belgium



Denmark



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Finland



France



Germany



Ghana



India



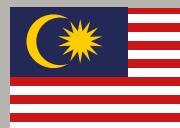
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Latvia



Lithuania



Malaysia



Netherlands



Norway



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



Thailand



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of America



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