

Facts and Figures on the Safety of Journalists, 2013-2014

Essential Statistics (source UNESCO)¹

- Since 2006, over 700 journalists have been killed in the line of duty
- More than one in ten of these killed journalists have been local correspondents and reporters
- This year alone, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova condemned over 70 cases of killed media personnel (up until September 2015)
- On average, one journalist dies every five days in the pursuit of his/her profession
- With 40% of the victims, print media has the most cases of killed journalists. Television comes second with 28% while Radio represents 21% of the victims. The remaining statistics are 6% for Web-based journalists and 5% for journalists active on multiple platforms. The traditional media accounts for 89% of all victims.
- The rate of voluntary response by UNESCO Member States to requests by the Director-General for information about judicial follow-up to killings has risen from a 30% response rate in 2013, to 42% in 2015.
- The responses received in 2015 cover 46% of 641 unresolved cases for the period 1 January 2006 up to 31 December 2014. This is an increase in the extent of information as compared to previous periods, there was no information submitted received in more than half the cases.
- The rate of resolving the cases of killed journalists remains extremely low: based upon the information which UNESCO did receive from Member States, the proportion of cumulative cases which are reported as judicially resolved was 5% in 2012, rising to 8% in 2014.

¹ See the website on Safety of Journalists of UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/>

Excerpts from the forthcoming report *World Trends on Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015*

World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015 provides a substantive analysis of key developments in press freedom in the digital age, focusing on issues related to online hate speech, protection of journalism sources, the role of internet intermediaries in fostering freedom of expression, and the safety of journalists. These areas are explored at the international and regional levels, with special focus given to gender aspects.

As the second edition in the *World Trends* series, this new report sheds light on trends in the shifting media landscape transformed by the spread of digital technologies. It is expected to serve as a key reference for governments, civil society, media, the private sector, academics and students. The Study will be launched on 2 November, 2015.

Extract from the chapter on Safety of Journalists:

UNESCO is the UN agency with a specific mandate to defend freedom of expression and its corollary, press freedom. The Organization raises awareness about the killings of journalists, media workers and social media producers who are attacked as a result of doing journalism. Ending impunity for crimes against journalists has remained an important part of this work during 2013 - 2014.

On this basis, UNESCO's Director-General, through mandate of the Organization's Intergovernmental Council for the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), has continued to condemn each verified killing during the period reviewed. She has further continued to request the Member State affected to voluntarily submit information on judicial follow-up. Since a decision of the IPDC in 2012, States which respond may indicate

whether they wish their response to be placed on UNESCO's dedicated webpage,² which records the killings and the associated statements by the Director-General.

In 2013 and 2014, UNESCO's Director-General publicly condemned the killings of a total of 178 journalists, media workers and social media producers engaged in journalistic activities.

In 2013, the number amounted to 91 deaths, a quarter lower than in 2012. However, this figure still represents the second highest number of journalists killed since 2006. After several years of relative calm in Iraq, the number of journalists killed there rose to 15 in 2013, making it the most dangerous country for journalists for that year. However, by comparison, the highest and second highest recorded number of killed journalists in Iraq were 33 deaths in 2007 and 29 deaths in 2006.

In 2014, the Director-General issued public statements on 87 cases of killings of journalists. The ongoing armed conflict in Syria has continued to inflict a high toll on journalists' lives with ten journalists killed in 2014.

As in previous years, the vast majority of killed journalists were locally-based. In 2013, seven out of 91 (8 percent) journalists killed were foreign correspondents. In 2014, the number of foreign correspondents killed increased sharply to represent nearly 20 percent of the death toll (17 cases out of 87). Twelve of these cases took place in the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

In terms of type of media, television journalists (including crew and support staff) suffered the most loss with 64 deaths in the period of 2013 and 2014. This is followed by print journalists (including photographers, vendors and support staff) with 61 deaths. Killed radio journalists numbered 50. Three journalists who worked predominantly for web-based media were killed in

² See the dedicated website UNESCO Condemns Killing of Journalists at www.unesco.org/new/en/condemnation

the same period. Taken together, the ‘traditional media’ accounted for over 98 percent of the lost lives of people engaged in journalistic activities.

Broken down by region, a total of 64 killings of journalists (36 percent) took place in the Arab region, making it the most dangerous region for journalists to work in 2013 and 2014. A total of 10 killings of journalists took place in Central and Eastern Europe, 23 cases took place in Africa, 30 cases occurred in Asia and the Pacific, and 51 cases took place in Latin America and the Caribbean. No cases were recorded in Western Europe or North America during the two-year period under review.

In the period (2013 and 2014), men continued to form the vast majority of killed journalists. A total of 164 out of 178 journalists killed were men (92 percent).

The most recent biennial IPDC Report on Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, by the Director-General, released in 2014, recorded that fewer than one in ten killings of journalists have led to a conviction.³ The Report continued to urge Member States “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 her/him of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by UNESCO”.

The rate of response from Member States remains low, similar to earlier trends.⁴ In 2013, 17 out of 57 countries (30 percent) where killings of journalists had taken place and had not been resolved, responded to the formal request for information. In 2014, 13 out of 59 countries (22 percent) responded to the official request.

³ This Report is produced in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO’s IPDC, at its 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th Sessions in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014 respectively.

⁴ In 2011, an official request for updated information was sent out to 38 countries where killings of journalists took place, with 19 out of 38 countries responding over the period of 2011-2012, a figure of 50%. Considered over the longer period of killings occurred between 2007 and 2012, as reported in the 2014 UNESCO report *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development*, 42% of the Member States had provided a response by mid-2013.

The full report can be accessed starting 2 November 2015 at
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/world-media-trends-2015>