

**UNESCO News Organizations Standing Up for the Safety of Media Professionals**  
**6-month Follow-up Survey Responses**  
October 2016

Thank you for sharing your progress, action items, and challenges encountered regarding journalist safety following the UNESCO conference and working session this past February. Please find here a summary of the recent feedback.

**Follow-up on UNESCO conference and working session:**

**Increased security protocols, trainings and resources**

Consejo de Redaccion in Colombia has developed new security protocols since the working session, and are currently in the process of adapting them for specific use in different scenarios.

Rai Radio in Italy has also continued their analysis of security needs, looking at their current framework and outlining possible future actions for implementation.

Dawn continues with their increased security at headquarters, with one 'safe room' now operational including protective gear, while a second room is currently being prepared.

Sveriges Radio continues their work on methods and curriculum for training journalists in the field. Recently they executed a training seminar around kidnapping. They have also begun using an intelligence platform to collect real time risk information.

Welad Elbalad Media Services in Egypt drafted posters around journalist safety to be put up in their offices in order to cultivate a more safety conscious culture. They are also updating their procedures manual with a new section on safety measures.

Another media organization has accelerated their hostile environment trainings worldwide, giving both general HEFAT as well as specific civil unrest training, while additionally implementing a three-year plan to provide sufficient security gear to all bureaus.

**Increased collaborations, partnerships and knowledge sharing**

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) continues data exchange between members, as well as conducting internal and external safety courses, with external courses done through partnership with INSI. They are also developing a new network of security officers, liaising with security officers in the United States. They have furthermore been involved in advocacy efforts lobbying the United Nations Secretary General to appoint a special representative for the safety of journalists, with a campaign launched September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile the Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety and the Philippine Press Institute have both been heavily involved in building collaborations and coalitions within their own countries. The

Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety has been working on building institutional relationships with police to aid in the fight against impunity. The Philippine Press Institute has been in constant talks with media organizations in the Philippines to reinforce mechanisms to safeguard rights of media workers. They have prioritized getting insurance and as well as providing safety workshops for media workers covering their recent elections.

### **New Action Items**

#### **Stronger internal procedures and protocols**

Dawn is preparing their additional 'lock down' room, as well as working on relocating correspondents from particularly insecure regions.

Sveriges Radio is working to implement in house procedures around specific security topics as well as improving personal protective gear, risk analysis methodology, and in house training.

Rai Radio hopes to draft and adopt a new updated security policy, including developing specific safety and security protocols for media professionals working abroad.

Another media organization would like to develop security training programs for other media organizations as well as open up an internal security blog to select outside media outlets. They would also like the work on their efforts to provide improved insurance coverage to freelance journalists.

#### **Greater collaborations with organizations and institutions**

The European Broadcast Union (EBU) is working on collaboration with UNESCO to build an interagency action plan for the safety of journalists.

The Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety is continuing to build six safety hubs established as 6 press clubs throughout Pakistan.

Rai Radio is organizing a training course on safety and security for journalists, that will take place in Perugia this month. It will include 12 journalists from the public broadcasters of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Additionally, Rai is hosting and coordinating the EBU workshop "Network and Learn for Security Officers" in Rome November 24 – 25, that is focused on topics such as covering terrorism, the refugee crisis, and risks of kidnapping.

Multiple organizations have plans to address change at the policy or institutional level, coordinating with legislators, police, or national governance bodies. The Pakistan Media Coalition would like an intervention through new policy frameworks, drafting a model journalists' protection law at the state level. Welad Elbalad Media Services is also focused on new legal frameworks, given Egypt's new press freedom laws currently in the process of being approved. The Philippine Press institute will continue to lobby for legislation, continuing their ongoing work

advocating for journalist's rights, free speech, freedom of information and fighting against impunity, while increasing public engagement around these issues. They would also like to continue to collaborate with regional organizations as well as working to expand training and resources available to journalism and communications students before they become journalists. Rai Radio wants to implement an agreement with national institutions to design and implement joint training activities around safety and security of media professionals.

### **Challenges Encountered**

The major challenge mentioned by more than half of respondents is limited resources, which while a pain point for all organizations, seems to be a particular challenge for smaller, independent news organizations. Consejo de Redaccion, EBU, the Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety, Dawn Media, and Welad Elbalad Media Services all mentioned the shortage of funds and resources as a challenge.

Organizations additionally reported a lack of time and awareness around security issues internally which hinders further attention to the issue. Other challenges reported were lack of government support for journalists' safety as well as for press freedom more generally, and lack of good information and intelligence for accurate risk assessments.

### **Potential Solutions**

Increased resources, including staff, trainings and grants were mentioned as solutions to security challenges faced by organizations. Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety expressed a desire for the moral and technical support of international forums. Dawn Media and Philippine Press Institute both expressed a need for greater pressure from international media organizations on their governments to take the necessary steps to fight impunity. Additionally, it better cooperation between media organizations to share cost, especially in relationship to benefits for stringers.

### **Continued Collaboration and Best Practices**

Organizations continue to collaborate in a number of ways and suggest many best practices for increased collaboration as well as journalists' security.

EBU continues to undertake all their actions in partnership with international organizations or institutions, or with their own members. They would benefit from a shared repository of best practices and resources for journalists' safety as well as an updated data base of risk countries.

The Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety requests continuing to share knowledge and experiences through international meetings and conferences.

Rai Radio continues to collaborate through specialized networking activity, but would benefit from a platform through which to share safety and security information, as well as thematic workshops and trainings

Dawn Media continues to collaborate with international organizations such as the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters San Frontiers, the World Editors Forum and WAN-IFRA. They have had great successes with their “Editors for Safety” Network, an example of their commitment to coordination and collaboration when a journalist is targeted. In particular, they have had success using Whatsapp to coordinate in the case of a journalist in distress.

Sveriges Radio points to their publisher’s cooperative as a model that could be replicated in other nations as a means to protect journalists’ safety and security. Additionally, they recently initiated cooperation between the EBU and a US journalist safety organization.

Another media organization speaks to the need for security to be put on the agenda of all major journalism conferences, as well as the building of a specialized network of safety blogs or network to regularly share information in addition to facilitating meetings around safety across organizations.