



International
Press
Institute

THIS IS WHAT WE DO.
THIS IS WHO WE ARE.



The global network of editors, media
executives and leading journalists for
media freedom



The members of IPI's global network share a common mission: to defend media freedom and the free flow of news wherever they are threatened.

None of our activities and initiatives around the world would be possible without the active support and engagement of our members. Let them tell you about the work we do!

JOURNALIST SAFETY

Promoting journalist safety and combating impunity are among IPI's top priorities. At least 110 journalists around the world lost their lives due to their work in 2015, according to our annual Death Watch. The vast majority were murdered in cold blood or killed while covering violent conflict.

In December 2015, together with Al Jazeera and other key international partners, we launched the International Declaration on the Protection of Journalists, bringing new momentum to the fight for safety.

Together with our North American Committee, we initiated the pioneering Global Safety Principles for Freelancers to help protect an especially vulnerable group of journalists. Thanks to a global campaign, the Principles have been endorsed by over 80 leading international media outlets.

“After a terrible time of tragedy and loss for the community of global journalists, IPI helped to get the ball rolling on a new culture of safety with the Global Safety Principles for Freelancers and then took a strong leadership role on the Declaration on the Protection of Journalists in London. I am proud to be on the North American board and truly grateful for all of the advocacy work IPI is doing every day in every corner of the world.”



Charles M. Sennott, Founder and Executive Director, The GroundTruth Project; Co-Founder, GlobalPost

ONLINE JOURNALISM

Governments and private interests are increasingly seeking to limit the free flow of news in the digital space. We're fighting back.

OnLine is IPI's new programme that seeks to expose and counter a range of threats against media freedom and free expression online, including technical attacks, smear campaigns and the online harassment of journalists.

In 2015, we launched OnLine in two pilot countries, Turkey and Jordan. We're creating a clearer picture of what journalists are up against and building networks to find effective solutions.

Journalists anywhere can report online threats or technical attacks through IPI's secure platform, ontheline.media, built by the team behind the whistleblowing site GlobaLeaks. Through our partners, we can help provide an emergency digital response as well as legal assistance.

“I am excited to be working with IPI in an important and new area that is causing much concern and worry to people of all walks of life. I expect the OnLine project in Jordan will provide a safe and effective means to address the worries about restrictions on freedom of expression, online interferences and cyber bullying.”

Daoud Kuttab, Director General, Community Media Network (CMN); IPI Executive Board Member



We campaign for media laws that protect journalism’s watchdog role and meet international standards. In 2015, we launched our MediaLaws Database to map the global legal environment for the press, starting with defamation laws in Europe and the Caribbean.

Over the past five years, our work has led to the repeal of criminal defamation in three Caribbean countries and partial repeal in two others. In 2015, our advocacy in Europe helped reform the infamous “press killer” law in Greece and pass progressive changes to libel law in Lithuania and Slovenia.

Our reference manual for European journalists and lawyers on defamation and free expression is now available in five languages, with four more on the way!

“ *Working with media development and press freedom in vulnerable countries for more than 20 years has taught me the importance of legislation and the need for organisations like IPI, which fights persistently against the criminalisation of journalism. Many countries, including those in the West, have legislation that allows for governments to close media outlets or even imprison journalists. I am thankful to IPI for its efforts and proud to have been part of its missions.*

Leif Lønsmann, Senior Advisor, Media & Culture, former Director of Radio, Danish Broadcasting Corporation

MediaLaws
DATABASE

Our annual World Congress is the preeminent global media freedom gathering. More than 200 editors and journalists converge to debate trends and exchange best practices in an inspiring networking event. But the Congress is also a powerful engine for change. In 2015, we brought our Congress to Myanmar to support the historic opening of democracy and the emergence of a free and vibrant press there.

Thanks to the incredible spirit of our members and partners around the world, we organised a variety of events in 2015 to raise public awareness on challenges to the free flow of news, including:

- A public discussion on press freedom and democracy in Turkey as part of Concordia University’s “Thinking Out Loud” series
- Our keynote address at this year’s Alfred Fried Photography Award ceremony, delivered by the extraordinary Giles Duley
- Teaming with Vienna’s This Human World film festival to screen “Rosewater” – and treating festivalgoers to a Q&A with Iranian journalist Maziar Bahari himself

“ *It was more than a conference. Being there meant like being on an island of press freedom in Myanmar. There could not have been a better way to remind the regime of its obligations towards free press. The presence of the best in the business and heroes of press freedom made it an awe-inspiring event.*



Umar Cheema, investigative reporter, The News (Pakistan); Founder, Center for Investigative Reporting in Pakistan

MISSIONS

Missions are IPI's most effective form of intervention. We're on the ground, building dialogue and directly advocating for change.

In 2015, IPI carried out media freedom missions to seven countries on three continents. In Turkey, where journalism is under siege, we stood in solidarity with our members. In Jordan, we pushed back against restrictions to online media. And in Spain, we led a global coalition to protest a new "gag law" and threats to public media independence. Our missions last year also took us to Portugal, Sri Lanka, Lithuania and Greece.

“ *... This mission has sent a strong message to the media in Turkey, saying 'you are not alone'. We know that this will not immediately change the situation in the field. But it will have an impact on public opinion and raise awareness in society*

Ferai Tinç, Former Foreign Editor and Columnist, Hürriyet; IPI Executive Board Member



ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS

IPI monitors and investigates violations of media freedom wherever they occur – day in and day out. Through our website, social media and global network of contacts, we shine an international spotlight on abuses, ensuring that those who wish to silence the media can't hide.

We publicly condemn the most serious violations and campaign for real change. And we engage directly with governments to protect journalists' basic rights.

We're fighting for IPI World Press Freedom Hero Fred M'membe, arrested in Zambia for doing his job. Joining forces to build the Culture of Safety Alliance for journalist safety. Launching a global campaign to free Syria's Mazen Darwish. Wherever we are, it's thanks to our members that IPI's voice is heard and carries weight.

“ *...We are where we are because of the international solidarity we share...
...If it wasn't for that we would have perished many years ago. Our commitment to the IPI is not optional, it's mandatory for us.*

Fred M'membe, Editor-in-Chief, The Post (Zambia)



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IPI's members are media representatives of all types who share a commitment to media freedom and independent journalism. We support one another and stand united in defence of our common values. We work for real change where it's needed most.

With your support, our voice will be louder and our impact will be greater. Join us – become an IPI member! Contact Christiane Klint: cklint@freemedia.at

Follow our monitoring, project and advocacy work through our website, www.freemedia.at, and through our Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn channels.