

# IPI IMPACT REPORT 2023



IPI's mission is to advance media freedom and safeguard independent journalism. We closely monitor and report on developments across the world, we advocate for change and resolving of individual cases, and we provide funding, cooperation, networking and skills exchanges for independent media.

Throughout its 70+ years, the IPI global network, supported by the solidarity of its members, has defended journalists from attacks and promoted quality, independent journalism. Today, it is a growing association of over 1,000 editors, journalists and media executives committed to media freedom that spans nearly 100 countries.

As set forth in our **2023-2025 Strategic Plan**, our work aims to protect and promote the conditions that independent journalism needs to fulfil its vital public function:



An environment where journalists and media can work freely and safely.



A financially sustainable media ecosystem with the means and resources to deliver public-interest news and withstand external pressures.



Media outlets that can innovate to engage audiences and serve the needs of their communities.



Collaboration and solidarity among journalists and media to meet the challenges of the moment.



**IPI Strategy and Theory  
of Change 2023-25**

IPI's theory of change is founded on the following pillars:

- Evidenced-based **ADVOCACY** for press freedom
- Support for **INDEPENDENT MEDIA**
- Driving **COLLABORATION** and **SOLIDARITY** among media

# OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



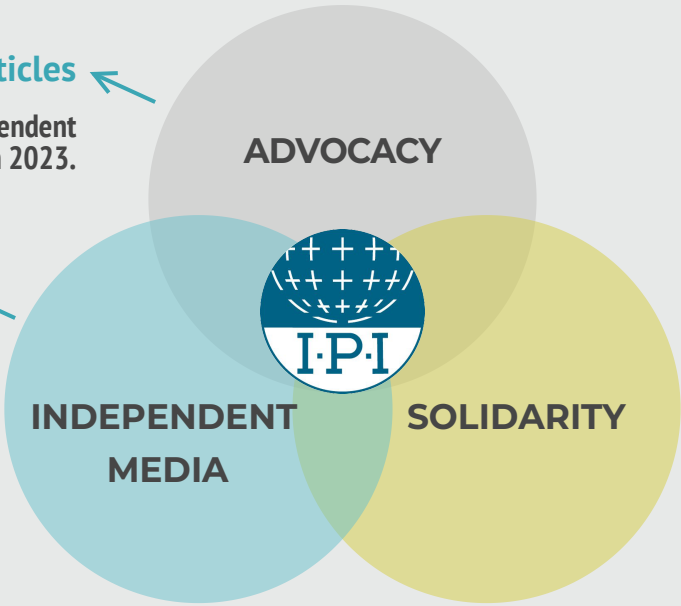
460 statements, calls, articles  
relating to press freedom and independent  
journalism globally in 2023.



€ 1.24M  
in grants for investigative  
journalism



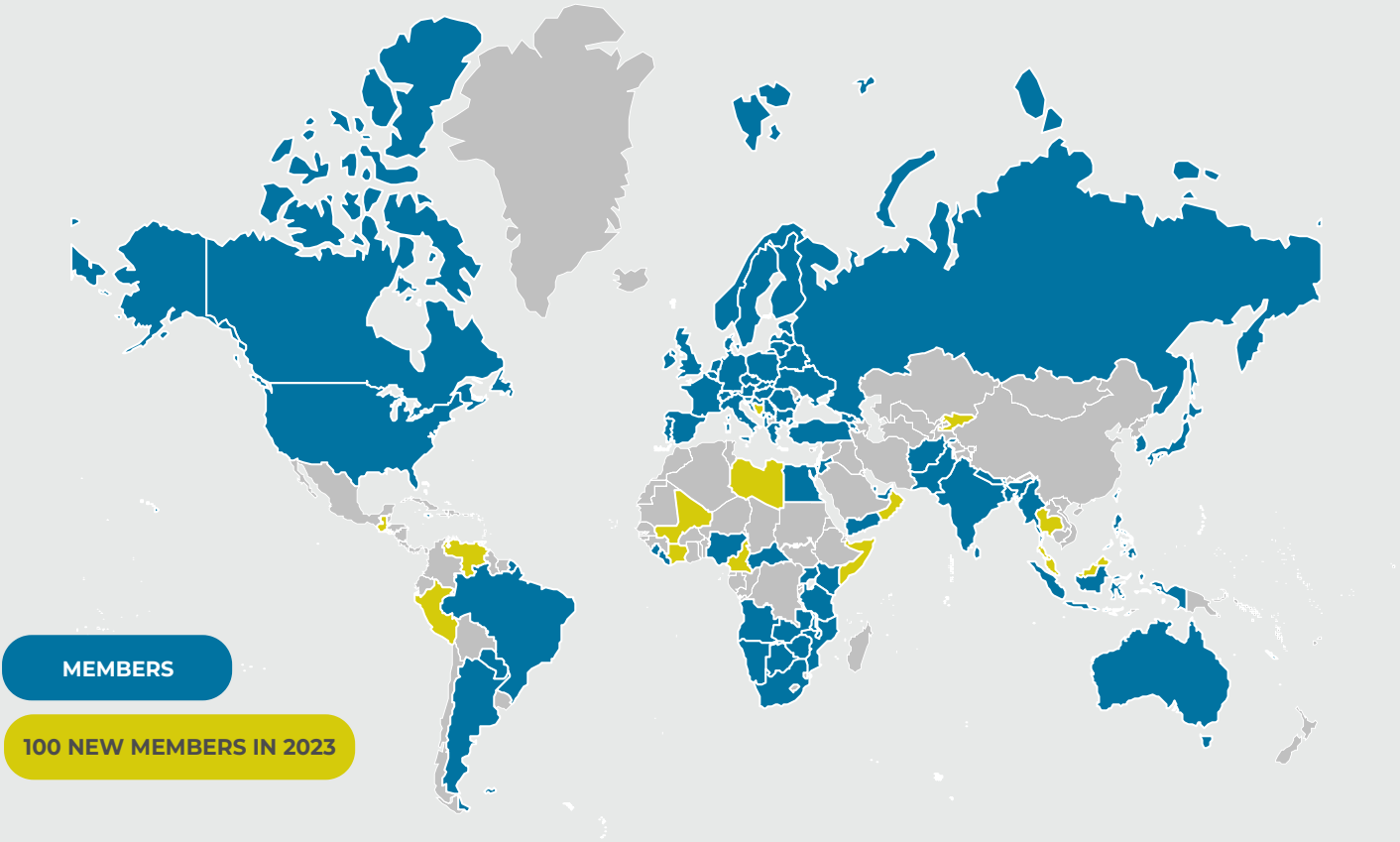
37  
innovative newsrooms supported



## IPI FINANCES

	2021	2022	2023
Income	2,413,756 €	2,518,208 €	3,021,357 €
Expenditure	2,304,348 €	2,385,170 €	2,974,562 €

**IPI NETWORK:** > 1000 members in > 100 countries



# ADVOCACY FOR PRESS FREEDOM

- ➡ In 2023, we carried out **press freedom missions in six countries**.
- ➡ We published more than **400 statements** calling on governments to uphold their obligations to promote and protect media freedom.
- ➡ We worked directly with **multilateral coalitions** such as the Media Freedom Coalition, Freedom Online Coalition and the Council of Europe monitoring platform.
- ➡ We published country reports, in-depth legal briefs, and addressed evolving challenges such as media capture, disinformation, and climate journalism.

We concluded 2023 on a grim note for journalists and press freedom, marked by an **unprecedented number of journalists killed and widespread impunity**. Methods to censor, intimidate, surveil, harass, and imprison journalists are continually evolving. Meanwhile, media outlets are increasingly vulnerable to capture by political and commercial interests, and laws designed to combat terrorism or cybercrime are being weaponized to restrict independent public interest journalism.

In the face of this dire global landscape, IPI continues to be at the forefront of the fight for press freedom, independent journalism, and the safety of journalists across the globe – raising cases of physical and legal attacks against journalists, as well as cases of censorship, cyberattacks and surveillance.

## SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS



We demanded governments to act to end the largest killing of our colleagues, journalists in Gaza through continuous advocacy including at the U.N.. Our monitoring team tracked over 1000 attacks by Russia on media as part of its war against Ukraine, gathering evidence of crimes against the press. In Greece, we arranged for journalists to assess if their mobile phones were infected with spyware amid a surveillance scandal targeting the media. In Turkey, we monitored the trials of journalists across the country, and trained media outlets on protecting their journalists from online attacks. We welcomed the release of jailed journalists and media freedom defenders from Somalia to Kashmir following IPI calls.

## AFRICA PROGRAMME

We grew our Africa programme, expanding our advocacy work in collaboration with our members and produced resources such as “[The Foundations of Press Freedom in Africa](#)” and national-level toolkits on [Zimbabwe](#) and [Senegal](#).



### IPI Africa Programme

DEFENDING PRESS FREEDOM AND  
THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

## CYBERCRIME

We led the press freedom community’s response to a new global “cybercrime” treaty that would give repressive governments even more tools to target and muzzle the press. We helped expose a criminal DDoS ring targeting Hungarian media as well as IPI’s own infrastructure.

# SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

A cornerstone of IPI's mission is to provide support for the development of independent media, be it through training and grant-giving or exchanges within our global community of members. The digital disruption of the past two decades, and the overall deterioration of media freedom worldwide has had a devastating effect on the resources available to produce journalism, particularly investigative journalism across borders, ever more necessary in a globalised world where watchdogs must be prepared to follow stories across frontiers.

Our two flagship programmes Media Innovation Program (MIE) and IJ4EU are at the core of this support:

MEDIA  
INNOVATION  
EUROPE

## I Project: MIE

Amid the struggle for survival by independent media, **IPI's Media Innovation Program** supported 37 media organizations from 25 countries and four continents.

We supported the development of novel revenue streams and audience-centric editorial products and the reshaping of organizational structures to increase efficiency.

We facilitated global information sharing and support through various platforms, including newsroom visits, case studies, dedicated social media platforms, and flagship events like the annual IPI World Congress and the inaugural Media Innovation Festival in Vienna.



37  
media



from 25  
countries



4  
continents





Investigative  
Journalism  
for Europe

## Project: IJ4EU

Our Investigative Journalism for Europe (IJ4EU) EU-funded program channels public and philanthropic money to teams of independent journalists collaborating across borders on investigations of public interest. In the 2022/23 edition, it provided €1.24 million to finance almost 50 investigations by media outlets and freelancers across Europe, delving into everything from the impacts of the climate crisis to the harrowing realities of human trafficking and the intricate workings of international crime syndicates.



€ 1.24M

in grants



250

individual  
journalists



in 45  
countries

from EU to  
Argentina and  
Myanmar



610

articles published  
in



230

media outlets

**IJ4EU has established itself as the most effective funding model for investigative reporting, with a focus on promoting cross-border, collaborative projects and a diverse range of media outlets,” an independent evaluation of the latest IJ4EU program by the Media and Journalism Research Center concluded.**

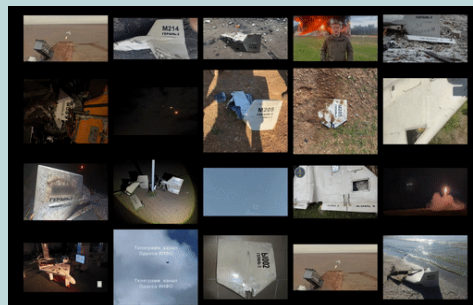
Making front pages across the continent, many investigations had a demonstrable impact. Defusing a Russian ‘Carbon Bomb’ and Russia’s War, Europe’s Burden both led to the sanctioning of EU-based firms shown to be helping Moscow’s war machine in Ukraine. The Forever Pollution Project, a collaboration between 18 newsrooms that revealed alarming levels of toxic chemical contamination across Europe, triggered criminal prosecutions. The West’s Next Plastics Dump led local authorities in Myanmar to order a crackdown on international waste dumping.

Other investigations won international awards and were widely cited in policy and scientific documents. They sparked responses from lawmakers, public institutions, private companies and civil society organisations.

*Defusing a Russian ‘Carbon Bomb’*



*Russia’s War, Europe’s Burden*



*The Forever Pollution Project*



Based on this success, we secured funding for another IJ4EU edition in 2024/25, with €2 million in grants for cross-border investigations in Europe.

# SUPPORT FOR MEDIA AT RISK

Across the world, we're working to support independent media in need. In 2023, IPI provided **€120,000 in emergency support to media in Ukraine**, including projects to keep local media afloat and provide health insurance and medical assistance to female journalists. Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, the IPI network has provided nearly **€250,000 in aid to independent media in Ukraine**.

In March 2023, IPI was on the ground in southeast Turkey to demonstrate IPI's solidarity with journalists affected by the earthquake and help lay the groundwork for rebuilding the devastated local media landscape.

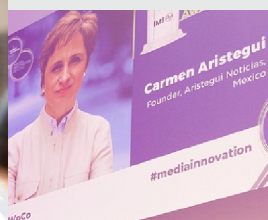
## NETWORKING



**20**  
events in  
2023



IPI World Congress 2023



**300**  
participants



from **25**  
countries

In 2023, we organized 20 events, including a truly global 2023 IPI World Congress and Media Innovation Festival that brought more than 300 journalists from around the world to Vienna. During two dynamic days of expert discussions and networking, we delved into the rapidly changing global and technological landscape for media, focusing on the threats and opportunities of AI for independent journalism. We came together to combat global threats to media freedom and honoured the unwavering resolve of Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui, who was named as the 2023 IPI-IMS World Press Freedom Hero. We also celebrated Myanmar Now as the 2023 IPI-IMS Free Media Pioneer, recognizing the outlet's courageous commitment to reporting amid the military junta's crackdown.

# DRIVING COLLABORATION AND SOLIDARITY AMONG MEDIA

The IPI network continues to flourish, and in 2023 we proudly welcomed over 100 new members. These individuals and organizations have joined our network of more than 1,000 leading editors, publishers, journalists, and media freedom supporters from more than 100 countries. This year we also welcomed five new board members, executives and editors from leading media in South Korea, India, Germany, Malaysia, and Finland, fortifying IPI's expertise and expanding our global outreach.

- 👉 We support a network of central and European media to share solutions to common problems and support **Ukrainian** media who are under attack.
- 👉 Our **South Asia** project brought together media from four countries in the region to coordinate their reporting on media freedom violations in the region.
- 👉 Our support for independent media offers continues opportunities for forging links and cooperation between media **across the globe**.

**Solidarity, resilience, and support among our members, allies, and the wider community is one of our key strengths.**

> 1000 MEMBERS

> 100 COUNTRIES

+ 100 NEW MEMBERS  
in 2023

UNITED IN 1 VOICE

## IPI EXECUTIVE BOARD

### IPI CHAIR

**Khadija Patel,**  
International Fund for  
Public Interest Media,  
South Africa

### IPI VICE CHAIRS

**John Daniszewski,**  
The Associated Press, USA  
**Emre Kizilkaya,**  
Journos.com.tr, Turkey  
**Paula Miraglia,**  
Nexo, Brazil

- **Zaffar Abbas,** Dawn newspaper, Pakistan
- **Raheem Adedoyin,** Herald Newspapers, Nigeria
- **Juno Bang,** The Chosun Daily Newspaper, South Korea
- **Walid Batrawi,** Media expert, Palestine
- **Barkha Dutt,** Mojo Story, India
- **Borja Echevarría,** El País, Spain
- **Márton Gergely,** HVG, Hungary
- **Stephen Gitagama,** Nation Media Group, Kenya
- **David Jordan,** BBC, UK
- **Wolfgang Krach,** Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany
- **Amelia Newcomb,** The Christian Science Monitor, USA

- **Esther Ng Sek Yee,** Star Media Group, Malaysia
- **Elizaveta Osetinskaya,** The Bell, Russia
- **Maria Ressa,** Rappler, Philippines
- **Etaf Roudan,** Community Media Network – CMN, Jordan
- **Bjørn Sæbø,** Rogalands Avis, Norway
- **Laura Saarikoski,** Helsingin Sanomat, Finland
- **Daryna Shevchenko,** Kyiv Independent, Ukraine
- **Hiroki Sugita,** Kyodo News, Japan
- **Johannes Bruckenberg,** ORF, Austria
- **Sami Zeidan,** Al Jazeera Media Network, Qatar

## Our members include media professionals and organizations themselves. Some examples below:

- Africa Uncensored
- Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism
- Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
- BBC, UK
- Columbia University, US
- El PAÍS, Spain
- Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper, Israel
- International Association of Women in Radio & Television, Philippines
- Investigative Reporting Denmark
- Irish Examiner
- Kyiv Independent, Ukraine
- Los Angeles Times
- Meduza, Russia
- Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists
- Nikkei Inc., Japan
- Reuters, UK
- Shantimalika - Women Network for Peace, Kathmandu
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany
- Tamil Centre for Human Rights, Sri Lanka
- The New York Times
- University of Edinburgh, Scotland



## In the past few years we are proud to work together with the following media freedom supporters:

- Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- ERSTE Stiftung
- European Commission
- European Media and Information Fund Managed by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
- Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
- Fritt Ord Foundation
- Global Affairs Canada
- Government of Sweden
- Helsingin Sanomat Foundation
- Isocrates Foundation
- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Open Society Foundations
- IFEX
- UNESCO – Global Media Defence Fund
- Vienna Business Agency

