

# GLOBAL FALL 2007 JOURNALIST

eMprint Digital Edition



**Journalists rally behind kidnapped colleague**

**[CLICK HERE](#) for Table of Contents**



## Features

### On Guard

Journalism acts as a gatekeeper of democracy. Now, security guards are being used against the press, as attacks on journalists in India and Russia demonstrate.

By Sarah Paulsworth

### Freed in Gaza

A militant group in the Gaza Strip released BBC correspondent Alan Johnson after holding him hostage for 114 days. Journalists around the world united for his cause.

By Jay Bushinsky

### ABOUT THE COVER:

Journalists and diplomats observe a moment of silence for kidnapped BBC journalist Alan Johnston during a rally near the United Nations headquarters in New York City on May 3. Militants kidnapped Johnston in Gaza City on March 12. They released him on July 4.  
(EPA/JUSTIN LANE)

**MORE** ►►

## Features CONTINUED

---

### **Oppressed**

A Nepalese newspaper struggles to meet a commitment to its readers in refugee camps.

By Laura Elizabeth Pohl

### **10 Years After: Hong Kong Alive & Well?**

Ten years after the UK gave colonial power to the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong residents dispute the extent of press freedom.

By Doreen Weisenhaus

### **The Economist in Stereo**

The Economist jumped online with a new rendition of its ever-popular print product. The print edition is read verbatim and can be downloaded via Podcast.

By Ross Taylor

### **How the Arab World Views Washington**

Arab news bureaus are increasingly present in Washington D.C. as they send relevant news on the U.S. back home.

By Adam Schreck

### **Cell Phones to Aid Election Coverage**

Kenyan journalists become more mobile, efficient and expedient as their country soon votes for its next government.

By Gladys Kemunto

---

## ABOUT GLOBAL JOURNALIST

[CLICK HERE](#) for contact information and staff directory.

## Departments

---

### **Death Watch**

#### **Journalist's Journal**

The use of online database makes journalists' work more relevant.

By Daniel Lathrop

### **World Watch**

#### **Point of View**

Public trust is always a worthy fight for journalists.

By Peter Preston

### **Book Review**

The foolhardiness of a reporter leads to a book within a book.

By Steve Weinberg

### **Final Word**

Practical pressure from news organizations can be treated.

By Stuart H. Loory

# GLOBAL JOURNALIST

eMprint Digital Edition

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 3

*Global Journalist* magazine reports on the state of press freedom around the world, covers developments in international journalism and serves international journalists.

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Publisher</b>         | Dean Mills  |
| <b>Editor</b>            | Stuart H. Loory   |
| <b>Managing Editor</b>   | Patricia Smith  |
| <b>Art Director</b>      | Sheila Johnson  |
| <b>Assistant Editors</b> | Debrin Foxcroft<br>Eunjung Kim<br>Hsin-Yin Lee<br>Yue Li<br>Besa Luci<br>Dwayne Mamo<br>Doug Meigs<br>Pamela Mulumby<br>Michelle Queiser<br>Sarah Smart |
| <b>Designer</b>          | Liz Forkin  |
| <b>Online Production</b> | Maria Ines<br>Miro-Quesada  |
| <b>eMprint Designers</b> | Morgan Cook<br>Qianyi Huang   |
| <b>Administration</b>    | Patricia Kelley   |

*Global Journalist* welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas and query letters Please address *Global Journalist* at:

132A Neff Annex  
Columbia, MO 65211, U.S.A.  
Tel: 573-884-1599; Fax: 573-884-1699

**GlobalJournalist@missouri.edu**



without a **free** press  
without a **voice**

We **promote** and **defend** a free press.  
Support international journalism by  
subscribing to *Global Journalist*  
[www.globaljournalist.org](http://www.globaljournalist.org)

## Death Watch

### Afghanistan

**Zakia Zaki**, 35, director of Radio Peace in Parwan province, was shot seven times by unidentified gunmen on June 6 in her home in the town of Jabal as Siraj. Zaki headed Radio Peace since it opened after the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

### Brazil

**Luiz Carlos Barbon Filho**, 37, a columnist for the local daily *Jornal do Porto*, was shot to death by unidentified gunmen while sitting at a bar terrace in Porto Ferreira on May 5. Barbon was known for his investigative reporting on political corruption.

### Democratic Republic of Congo

**Patrick Kikuku Wilungula**, a freelance photographer who worked for the *Agence Congolaise de Presse*, the Kinshasa-based weekly, *L'Hebdo de l'Est* and *Union Magazine*, was shot dead near his home in Goma, capital of the eastern province of Nord Kivu on Aug. 9. He was reportedly approached by two

armed men in military uniforms who shot him in the head when he attempted to run. Witnesses said the gunmen took his camera, but not his mobile phone or money.

**Serge Maheshe Kasole**, 31, news editor of the UN-backed *Radio Okapi* in the eastern city of Bukavu, capital of Sud-Kivu province, was shot point-blank by unidentified gunmen as he was about to get into his UN-marked car on June 13. He had previously received threats, sources said.

### Guatemala

**Mario Rolando López Sánchez**, 64, a producer for *Radio Sonora*, was shot dead outside his home in a northern neighborhood of Guatemala City on May 3. López was shot four times as he was walking from his car to his home.

### Haiti

**Alix Joseph**, station manager and host of a cultural show

## Death Watch

on Radio-Télé Provinciale, was murdered by two unidentified gunmen outside his wife's house in Gonaïves on May 16, 170 kilometres north of Port-au-Prince.

### Iraq

**Adnan Al-Safi**, 40, a journalist working for the Kuwaiti-owned satellite channel Al Anwar, was killed in the Otaiyiyah neighborhood of northern Baghdad July 27; a sniper shot him in the head as he returned home from work. Safi also worked as a reporter for the Sawt-al-Iraq (Voice of Iraq) news agency.

**Mustafa Gaimayani**, editor of the weekly newspaper Kirkuk Al-Yawn, and **Majeed Mohammed**, a sports reporter for the paper, were killed when a suicide bomber drove a truck packed with explosives into the offices of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani's party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in central Kirkuk on July 17. The explosion also wounded seven other editors. Gaimayani and Moham-

med had been preparing Kirkuk Al-Yawn for publication at the time of the blast. Gaimayani and Mohammed also worked as correspondents for Kurdish-language weekly Hawal.

**Khalid W. Hassan**, 23, a reporter and interpreter for The New York Times, was shot while driving to work in Baghdad's south central Seiydia district on July 13. Shortly before his death, Hassan had called the newspaper's Baghdad bureau to say that he was taking an alternative route to the office because his regular one was blocked by a security checkpoint. Minutes later, Hassan called his mother, saying that he had been shot. The details of the attack remain unclear.

**Namir Noor-Eldeen**, 22, a photographer with the Reuters News Agency, was killed during what witnesses described as a U.S. helicopter attack on July 12 in the Al-Amin Al-Thaniyah neighborhood of eastern Bagh-

dad. Initial reports stated that the air strike took place during clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents, but witnesses later said there were no clashes, according to Reuters. Eleven other Iraqis died in the attack.

**Louaï Souleimane**, a reporter with the Mosul-based newspaper *Nineveh Al-Hurra*, was found dead on June 28 in the Al-Zuhur neighborhood after he was shot by unidentified gunmen. The Christian organization Baoit Nahrain publishes *Nineveh*.

**Sarmad Hamdi Al-Hassani**, 43, a journalist with Baghdad TV, was abducted from his home in Baghdad's western Al-Jamia neighborhood on June 27, and his body was found at the morgue the next day. Baghdad TV is owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party.

**Hamed Sarhan**, employee of a privately-owned Iraqi news agency, was ambushed and killed by unidentified gunmen



EPA/POOL AP POOL

This photo of Russian photographer Dmitry Chebotayev was taken with a mobile phone, March 7.

as he drove home from work in the south Baghdad district of Al-Saydiya Jun. 26. Gunmen stopped his car and shot him several times. Sarhan had worked as a journalist for more than 30 years, contributing to a number of newspapers and magazines as well as the National Iraqi News Agency.

**Dmitry Chebotayev**, 29, a freelance photographer who had been embedded with U.S. forces,

## Death Watch

was killed alongside six American soldiers on May 6 when a roadside bomb exploded in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad. Chebotayev had been on assignment for the Russian edition of Newsweek magazine, and was compiling a story on the efforts of U.S. forces to control roads in Diyala province. He was the first Russian journalist to be killed in Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

**Rahim Al-Maliki**, a poet and television host for two Al-Iraqiya TV programs, was among 13 people killed in a suicide attack at a Baghdad hotel on June 25. Al-Maliki had been covering a meeting of tribal leaders who were announcing their decision to join U.S.-led forces against factions linked to Al-Qaeda. Al-Maliki was filming the event when the bombing took place.

**Zeena Shakir Mahmoud**, 35, a former radio broadcaster with The Voice of Mosul and a newspaper journalist with Al-Haqiqa,

was shot to death on June 24 while going home from work. Mahmoud was attacked in the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Intisar, in eastern Mosul. Al-Haqiqa is affiliated with the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

**Filaih Wuday Mijthab**, 53, a reporter with the government-run daily newspaper Al-Sabah was found dead in a Baghdad morgue four days after being abducted by armed men. On June 13, gunmen in three vehicles intercepted Mijthab while he was traveling to work in Baghdad's eastern Shiite neighborhood of Al-Habibya. Insurgents have frequently targeted Al-Sabah and other state-run media because of their ties to the U.S.-supported Iraqi government.

**Aref Ali**, 32, a journalist working for the independent Aswat Al-Iraq news agency, was killed by a roadside bomb on June 11. He died while on assignment near the town of Khalis, north of Baghdad, where violence had spiked

## Death Watch

as Al Qaeda and Sunni insurgents battled U.S. and Iraqi troops.

**Mohammed Hilal Karji**, a journalist with Baghdad TV, was kidnapped outside his home in south Baghdad on June 8. His body was found at the morgue the next day. The Iraqi Islamic Party owns Baghdad TV.

**Sahar Hussein Ali Al-Haydari**, 44, correspondent for the NINA, Aswat Al-Iraq and contributor to other Iraqi media outlets, was gunned down by unknown assailants in the northern city of Mosul on June 7. Al-Haydari had been shopping in Mosul's Al-Hadbaa neighborhood when four assailants shot her and fled. According to Aswat Al-Iraq, the "Emir of the Islamic State in Mosul," listed Al-Haydari's name on a death list of journalists and police officers that had been circulated throughout Mosul earlier in 2007.

**Nazar Abdulwahid Al-Radhi**, 38, a correspondent for Aswat Al-Iraq, as well as Radio

Free Iraq, was murdered in the southern city of Al-Amarah in the Maysan province on May 30. Al-Radhi had been covering a journalism workshop for Radio Free Iraq and was standing with colleagues outside the Al-Arousa Hotel when a group of three gunmen opened fire on the group. Al-Radhi was hit by four bullets and killed on the spot; a number of other journalists were injured. The Aswat Al-Iraq news agency reported that nearby Iraqi police did not intervene during the attack.

**Abdul Rahman Al-Issawi**, a reporter for the the NINA, a contributor to several newspapers and satellite TV channels, and a journalism professor, was killed when a group of unidentified gunmen raided the Al-Issawi home in Amiriyat al-Fallujah, near the city of Fallujah in Anbar province on May 28. The gunmen forced Al-Issawi, his father and brother, out of the house and killed them at a nearby location. According to local reports,

## Death Watch

members of the Al-Issawi family heard the shooting and engaged the gunmen. Five family members were killed in the clash.

**Ali Khalil**, 22, a news editor for the Iraqi daily *Azzaman*, was abducted while leaving a relative's house in Baghdad's southern Shurta Raba neighborhood on May 20. Gunmen abducted Khalil while he was driving with his family. His body was found four hours later. Khalil had been shot several times in the head and back and appeared to have been beaten. *Azzaman* is operated by the *Azzaman Group*, which is owned by Iraqi media tycoon Saad Al-Bazzaz, head of radio and television under Saddam Hussein until 1992. The paper is known to be critical of the Iraqi government.

**Alaa Uldeen Aziz**, 33, a cameraman and **Saif Laith Yousuf**, 26, a soundman with U.S.-based ABC News station, were gunned down by assailants in two cars while the journalists traveled

home from work at the station's Baghdad bureau on May 17.

**Raaed Mustasher**, 43, owner and director of the Al-Raad media company, and two of its journalists, **Nibras Abdul-Razzaq Al-Obaid** and **Aqil Abdul-Qadir**, were killed on May 9 when unidentified gunmen intercepted the journalists' vehicle on a road southwest of Kirkuk. The Al-Raad media company publishes several newspapers and magazines.

**Iman Yussef Abdallah**, a journalist for the Sound of Mosul, a radio station operated by a group of Mosul trade unions, was shot dead along with her husband on April 12 while traveling by car in the eastern part of the city. Their bodies were then set on fire by the unknown assailants.

### Mexico

**Saúl Noé Martínez Ortega**, 36, a crime reporter for the newspaper *Interdiario* in Agua



(EPA/RAHAT DAR)

**Pakistani journalists light candles in respect of fallen colleague Javed Khan.**

Prieta, Sonora state, was found dead on April 23 outside the town of Nuevo Casas Grandes in the neighboring state of Chihuahua. Armed individuals abducted Ortega in Agua Prieta on April 16.

## Pakistan

**Noor Hakim Khan**, a correspondent for the Daily Pakistan and a vice president of the Tribal Union of Journalists, was one of five people killed by a roadside

bomb in the Bajaur region of the North West Frontier Province on June 2. Hakim was returning from covering a jirga, a traditional court.

**Javed Khan**, cameraman for the Islamabad-based daily Markaz and the UK-based television station DM Digital TV television, was shot dead on July 3 while covering clashes between security forces and militant students around the Lal Masjid

## Death Watch

(Red Mosque) in Pakistan's capital city, Islamabad. At least 10 people died in the clashes.

**Noor Ahmed Solangi**, a journalist with the Sindh-language daily *Khabroon* was shot dead by unknown individuals in Pirjo on June 17. The journalist's murder led to demonstrations by journalists' organizations.

**Mehboob Khan**, 22, a freelance journalist, was killed on April 28 by a suicide bombing aimed at Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao during a rally in the town of Charsadda in the North West Frontier Province.

### Palestinian National Authority

**Issam Mohammed Awad Al-Joujou**, a journalist for the website *Palestine Live*, was killed by gunmen in Gaza City on May 15 while going to cover clashes between Fatah and Hamas.

**Suleiman Abdul-Rahim al-Ashi**, 25, an editor for the Hamas-affiliated *Palestine Dai-*

*ly*, was killed by gunmen wearing uniforms of the presidential guard on May 13. The gunmen stopped a taxi carrying al-Ashi and **Mohammad Matar Abdo**, a manager responsible for distribution and civic relations, in a Fatah-controlled area southwest of Gaza City. The two men were reportedly beaten before being shot in a public street.

### Paraguay

**Tito Alberto Palma Godoy**, 47, a Chilean journalist for local radio station Mayor Otaño and Asunción-based Radio Chaco Boreal, was shot dead by gunmen in military uniform on Aug. 22 at his home in the town of Mayor Otaño, near the Brazilian and Argentinean border. Palma's partner, Wilma Martínez, was wounded in the leg.

### Philippines

**Vicente Sumalpong**, an announcer for the state-owned radio network, *Radyo ng Bayan*, was killed by an unidentified gunman on June 25, in the town

## Death Watch

of Bongao in Tawi-Tawi province. Sumalpong's colleague, Vema Antham, and nephew, Roi-lan Borja, were wounded in the attack.

**Dodie Nuñez**, a photojournalist for the regional newspaper *Katapat*, was returning to his home in Cavite province, south of Manila, when three motorcyclists stopped his bus and shot him dead on May 21.

### Somalia

**Ali Iman Sharmarke**, founder and managing director of the radio network *HornAfrik*, and Mahad Ahmed Elmi, who hosted a popular radio show for the same station, were killed on Aug. 11 in the capital, Mogadishu. Mahad Ahmed Elmi was shot dead in front of his office. Ali Iman Sharmarke died when his car was blown up as he returned from Mahad Ahmed Elmi's burial.

**Abshir Ali Gabre**, 35, and Ahmed Hassan Mahad, 24, news editor and reporter, respectively, for *Radio Jowhar*, a pri-

vate station in Jowhar, 55 miles north of Mogadishu, were killed on May 16 in an ambush on the motorcade of Mohammed Omar Deele, governor of the Middle Shabelle province. Gabre and Mahad, who were covering the governor, were riding in the first vehicle of the motorcade when gunmen opened fire. The governor was unharmed, but at least six people were killed in the incident.

**Mohammed Abdullahi Khalif**, a contributor to the private radio station *Voice of Peace* in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, was killed in crossfire on May 5 while covering an army raid on an illegal gun market in Galkayo.

### Sri Lanka

**Sahadevan Nilakshan**, 22, a Tamil journalism student and editor of the student union-linked *Chaalaram* magazine, was shot by unidentified gunmen at his home near Jaffna on Aug. 1. The shooting occurred

## Death Watch

during curfew in an area heavily guarded by the Sri Lankan military. Nilakshan was studying at the Media Research Training Center at Jaffna University.

**Selvarajah Rajivarman**, 25, a journalist working for the daily Tamil-language newspaper Udayan, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Jaffna on April 29.

**Subash Chandraboas**, 32, editor of the Tamil monthly Nilam, was shot dead in his home in Vavuniya on April 16. Chandraboas also freelanced for other Tamil publications.

### USA

**Chauncey Bailey**, 57, editor-in-chief of the weekly Oakland Post, was shot dead on Aug. 2 in broad daylight on a street in downtown Oakland, California, by an unidentified assailant dressed in black and wearing a mask. The gunman shot Bailey several times at close range before fleeing on foot.

**Scott Bowerbank**, 42, and **Jim Cox**, 37, pilot-reporter and photographer, respectively, for KTVK-TV (3 TV), and **Craig Smith**, 47, and **Rick Krolak**, 55, pilot-reporter and photographer, respectively for KNXV-TV (ABC 15), were killed when their news helicopters crashed in mid-air on July 27 while covering a police chase in Phoenix, Arizona, on live television.

### Zimbabwe

**Edward Chikomba**, a freelance cameraman who had previously worked for the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, was abducted on March 29 by a group of armed men near his home in Harare. He was found dead two days later near Darwendale, 31 miles west of the capital. Sources suspect his killing is linked to the smuggling out of Zimbabwe of news footage showing badly beaten Movement for Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsvangirai. ■

# In Search of Immortality

A reporter uses online databases to increase the shelf life of stories.

By Daniel Lathrop

**I'M A REPORTER** who plays with databases. More importantly, perhaps, I've become a journalist who encourages citizens to play with data. Many smart people have said that this

is an important new frontier in journalism.

Me, I'm an investigative reporter. I search databases to dig up hard-to-find facts and analyze databases to discover



Matt Ballou, lower left, of Everett, Wash., takes a digital photo for his personal Internet journal — commonly called a “blog” — as he listens to Dean Machamovitch, Microsoft Corp. general manager of Longhorn, at the Gnomedex Technology Conference in Seattle on June 24.

## Journalist's Journal

hard-to-find patterns. Because of that, and because journalists are all part packrat, I have stacks of CDs and floppy disks on my desk containing data that I or my colleagues have gathered over the years.

Right now, in my newsroom (The Seattle *Post-Intelligencer*) and many others around the world, there is major ferment about the role of news databases on the Web. Gannett is mandating a “data desk” at every newspaper, and washingtonpost.com has some of the smartest journalists in the country working on interactive news databases, such as “Faces of the Fallen.”

This is also an area of endeavor in which independent, small and one-person news operations can take on Big Media and win. But more on that later. First, let's talk about my newsroom.

My colleagues and I use an editorial front-end software system called CCI NewsDesk (also used by *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*) to write stories, edit and revise

them, store notes, plan our story budgets and lay out pages. At the heart of CCI lives — what else? — a database.

When we're done writing and editing, we export from CCI's database and import the story into the Microsoft SQL Server database, which provides the drive train of our Web site.

The stories and pictures we put into those databases are the result of hard work hunting down and gathering up facts and hours spent crafting prose or making photographs, as well as the intelligence and judgment of a lot of editors and copy editors. Data are picked, peeled and prepared into a gourmet meal of information.

As this magazine was going to press, I was working with others on an ambitious effort to make the *Post-Intelligencer* Web site a repository of data — giving the public access to the ingredients from our pantry. I hope you'll take the time to check it out at [seattlepi.com/data](http://seattlepi.com/data) because I can't get into too many specifics before those efforts go public.

## Journalist's Journal

So instead I'll tell you the story of the Center for Public Integrity, the nonprofit news organization where I was database editor before joining the staff of the *Post-Intelligencer* last year.

One of my first projects at CPI was to update the system we used to track the finances of the 2004 presidential and vice presidential candidates. In the database, we took the candidates' financial details, which were stored on paper at various government agencies, and put them on the Web.

The project was a perfect example of how to make use of material online, material that would otherwise simply litter a reporter's desk once the story was done. I won't pretend that it generated a terrific amount of traffic, but it did make the center the go-to source for information on the finances of the presidential candidates. That's no small thing, given that the wealth of Teresa Heinz-Kerry, wife of candidate Sen. John Kerry, was a major topic of discussion since

before the Iowa caucus until after Election Day.

In fact, the CPI has developed a niche in taking hard-to-find or hard-to-use information and making it available to other reporters and to citizens in the course of mounting its award-winning investigative reporting projects. While at the CPI, I worked on making lobbying records easily searchable, creating media ownership profiles for every media market in the U.S. that noted the political influences of those media owners, and creating the first-ever database that tracked the corporate junkets taken by every member of Congress and their staffs.

Each of those projects involved writing substantive stories of the kind that would run in a newspaper, but the life those projects have had, and continue to have online, exists because the research that led to those stories becomes a resource for others. Each of those projects involved the work of dozens of members of the CPI's staff. The

## Journalist's Journal

“LobbyWatch” project would have been impossible without the close collaboration of political editor Alex Knott (now editor of “Congressional Quarterly’s PoliticalMoneyLine,” an online database reporting the location of money in politics), web developer Han Nguyen (who is now making a much better living at a Web consulting shop) and researcher/writer Elizabeth Brown (now working elsewhere in the nonprofit sector).

The reference we created included materials gathered from government Web sites, lobbyists, media sources and public records, and it provided groundbreaking insight into Washington, D.C.’s political influence industry. The key was to use databases and the Web to make every piece of information we had gathered available to the general public in a user-friendly way.

The Web is more than just an opportunity to use photos, videos, audio and text together in a new way. The Web allows us to create journalism with a shelf

life that is “always on” when readers search for it. It gives daily journalists the power to immortalize their work, a power once reserved for authors and documentarians.

So along with collecting video, audio and text to create great news stories, we can have an impact by publishing interviews, databases, documents and other materials we gather in the course of reporting. Doing so can make our work relevant for the long haul. ■



*Daniel Lathrop is a specialist in Computer Assisted Reporting and member of The Seattle Post-Intelligencer investigative team. He has taught CAR at the college level, and his past jobs include work at the Center for Public Integrity, The Daytona Beach News-Journal and The Ames Tribune in Iowa.*

## Reporter convicted of slander

A judge in the northwestern province of Salta convicted radio journalist Sergio Poma of criminal slander on Sept. 3.

**ARGENTINA** Judge Héctor Martínez sentenced Poma to a one-year suspended prison term and a one-year professional ban. Martínez also ordered the sentence published and broadcasted in local media. Poma owns FM Noticias in Salta, the capital of the province, and he has hosted the radio program “Código de Investigación” – “Code of Investigation.” His conviction dates back to a May 2004 incident when he accused local governor Juan Carlos Romero of corruption related to drug trafficking.

The Committee to Protect Journalists condemned the ruling. “Politicians and public officials in a democracy such as Argentina should not use outdated criminal defamation laws to shield themselves from criticism and scrutiny,” said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon.

## Azerbaijan’s difficult relationship

Both the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders have called upon the government of Azerbaijan to stop persecuting independent and opposition journalists.

**AZERBAIJAN** This comes after the Azeri supreme court upheld a libel conviction against Eynulla Fatullayev, editor of the Russian-language Realny Azerbaijan and Azeri-language Gundelik Azerbaidjan newspapers. Both newspapers are virtually inoperable after Azeri officials raided their offices and confiscated all of their computers, alleging suspicion of terrorism.



Azerbaijani reporter Rafiq Tagi, left, and editor Samir Huseinov of the newspaper Senet seen during a trial in Azerbaijan, March 5.

In addition, on Sept. 4 the National Security Ministry charged Fatullayev with tax evasion. If convicted, the charge carries a six-month prison sentence or a two-year freedom restriction.

Fatullayev drew unfavorable attention from the government when he began investigating the death of fellow editor Elmar Husynov in 2005. That year, he also published a story, “Karabakh Diary,” detailing how Armenian forces allowed Azeri civilians to escape Khodjali, a town that suffered major tragedy in 1992.

According to the Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety, Sakhit Zakidov of the daily *Azadlyg* and Faramaz Allahverdiev of the weekly *Nota Bene* suffer from poor health conditions in prison. Allahverdiev is in critical condition after an operation performed in the prison hospital.

.....

### Government accuses U.S. of bribery

On the state-owned radio network *Patria Nueva*, government official Juan Ramón Quintana

accused the U.S. of paying journalists and columnists to destabilize the country’s democracy.

Quintana directed the blame toward USAID, which has paid more than \$90 million to social and economic development programs in mostly rural Bolivia. Quintana’s statement did not name specific journalists or incidents and angered many in the country’s press. The Journalist Association in La Paz, which represents some 1,200 reporters, challenged the government of Evo Morales to prove the claim on Aug. 4. The Federation of Press Workers in La Paz also insisted that the Bolivian government should at least name the accused.

Morales and Bolivia’s predominantly privately owned media have had a poor relationship since the president’s 2006 election, according to the International Press Institute. IPI reported in its 2006 World Press Freedom Review that, “Morales and members of his administration have accused

## BOLIVIA

media proprietors of being ‘land-owners’ and representatives of the ‘oligarchy.’”

### Jail time for reporter in Cuba

On Aug. 15, a municipal court in Havana convicted journalist Albert Santiago du Bouchet Hernández of illegally obtaining

**CUBA** a handkerchief signed by Fidel Castro. Castro gave the handkerchief to María Encarnación González Guerra in 1957 for her involvement with the revolutionary 26 of July Movement.

The court sentenced du Bouchet to two years of prison, plus two years of prison-labor followed by two years of judicial supervision. Reporters Without Borders condemned the ruling: “Imposing a heavy sentence on him for the supposed theft of a handkerchief is grotesque and disgraceful. His trial was as summary as the one in 2005, and relied on evidence that could well have been obtained under threat. We call for him to be ac-

quitted on appeal.”

Du Bouchet had completed a one-year sentence for “civil disobedience” in May. For the previous conviction a lawyer did not represent him, and he served 22 months in prison.

### Closure in death of editor

**HAITI** On Aug. 30, a Port-au-Prince court sentenced Alby Joseph and Chéry Beaubrun to life in prison for murdering journalist Jacques Roche. The conviction came 20 days after President René Préval appointed a committee to review unsolved murders of members of the Haitian press.

The committee, developed by Préval and local press freedom group SOS Journaliste, consists of nine journalists from separate media outlets. The sentencing in the Roche case marks the committee’s first high profile success.

Roche was the editor of Port-au-Prince newspaper Le Matin’s art and culture section. He was kidnapped on July 10, 2005 and

found dead four days later. A number of other suspects connected to his murder await trial.



**Hundreds of mourners attend the funeral of Haitian journalist Jacques Roche in Port-au-Prince on July 21, 2005.**

## KGB documents released

The Lithuanian Genocide and Resistance Center has begun displaying archived KGB documents on the Internet. The documents list suspected traitors and individuals sentenced to death, reveal the KGB's inner workings and shed light on its predecessor, the NKVD. They consist mainly of directives sent to the main headquarters in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia during Soviet rule.

LITHUANIA

Dalia Kuodyte, the center's director, said that if the documents illuminate the names of Lithuanian KGB agents or informants, their names will not be divulged.

The documents can be accessed at <http://www.kgbdocuments.eu/>.

## .....

### Hamas threatens journalist

Hamas plans to revive a 1995 press law, which would put restrictions on the Palestinian media. Under Yasser Arafat the law was never enforced. It would ban publication of "secret information" about the police, security forces, their weapons, movements, training camps, or information that would endanger national unity, incite crimes, hatred, division and religious dissent.

Hamas also set up a committee, the Government Committee for the Media, as a "reference point for journalists, which is aimed at simplifying the gathering of information about the govern-

ment,” according to a statement released under Hamas’ Information Ministry in the Gaza Strip.

The statement gave the committee the right to conduct raids against media groups and “to summon their members over issues relating to their work,” Agence France-Presse reported. “We will not deal with organizations which do not have authorization or do not respect the rules,” the statement said.

Hamas attacked a group of journalists covering a protest against Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip on Aug. 24. The next day, Hamas tried to arrest AFP reporter Sakher Abu El Oun. His colleagues formed a human chain around his home and blocked their entry. Abu El Oun leads the Gaza branch of the Palestine Journalists Syndicate and is known for criticizing the Hamas government.

“We are witnessing clear political interference in journalism,”

said IFJ General Secretary Aidan White. “The organization of journalists is a matter for journalists alone, not for regulation by divisive political forces.”

### New cartoons cause offense

In another case of offensive cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammed, Pakistan and Iran summoned Swedish diplomats

to their foreign ministries on Aug. 29 to protest the publication of a cartoon showing the Prophet Mohammed with the body of a dog. The cartoon, drawn by Lars Vilks and published in the newspaper *Nerikes Allehanda*, appeared on Aug. 18 and was meant to act as commentary on self-censorship, freedom of expression and religion.

“The publication of this cartoon, which seeks to attack the character of the Prophet Mohammed, is unacceptable, rejected and condemned,” said Nasser Jawdeh, a representative of the Jordanian government.

About 60 people protested in front of the newspaper's offices on Aug. 25, and Vilks has reported receiving death threats. Groups in Egypt and Turkey have also joined in protest. The publication recalls the Danish cartoons in 2005 from the newspaper Jyllands-Posten, which caused violent protests in several Muslim countries in early 2006.

Lennart Holst, the Swedish diplomat in Islamabad, said "he was sorry if the publication had hurt Muslim feelings," according to Swedish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anna Björkander. However, Björkander added that "otherwise the Swedish government has no opinion on the matter."

**Journalist shot**

Radio journalist and station manager of station RGMA-Bacolod, Ferdinand "Bambi" Yngson, was shot on July 25 on his way to work in the Philippines, according to local news reports. He was immediately taken to a hospital

in Sagay City and then transferred to another local hospital after his condition stabilized.

**PHILIPPINES**

Police arrested a suspect identified as Romeo Corbo, an official at the Land Transportation Office. Yngson frequently accused the LTO of corruption.

The shooting occurred the day before Reynato S. Puno, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, met with the Committee to Protect Journalist to pledge his commitment to protect press freedom.

**Government wiretaps journalists.**

Members of Poland's special services police force entered the apartment of freelance journalist Sylwester Latkowski on Aug. 30 to arrest former Interior Minister Janusz Kaczmarek in connection with the leak of a classified anti-corruption operation, reported Reporters Without Borders.

**POLAND**

This comes on the heels of a report looking into the phone tapping of journalists who are outspoken in their criticism of the Polish government. According to Reporters Without Borders, the Polish Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro and Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski ordered the phone taps.

“Today’s secret service raid on the home of a journalist as he and a colleague were preparing an article for *Polityka* on the tapping of the phones of journalists and opposition politicians is disturbing,” Reporters Without Borders stated. “We call on the authorities to establish a special parliamentary commission to look into the tapping of journalists’ phones.”

Kaczmarek revealed the phone tapping in a closed-door meeting of the parliamentary commission for the secret services on Aug. 22. Opposition leaders, Pawel Gras of the Polish Civic Platform and Jerzy Szmajdzinski of the Democratic Left Alliance said that Kaczmarek had named

at least two journalists who had been tapped — Wojciech Czuchnowski of *Gazeta Wyborcza* and Maciej Duda, a former reporter for the national daily *Rzeczpospolita*.

Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro denied that opposition leaders and journalists were under surveillance by intelligence services, according to the official Web site of the Polish government.

Reporters Without Borders condemned the practice of wire-tapping journalists, stating, “It is unacceptable that a European Union member allows such practices to take place.” According to Reporters Without Borders, Kaczmarek is willing to give further testimony to a special parliamentary commission.



### **Politkovskaya case arrests**

On Aug. 27, Russian police arrested 10 suspects in last October’s killing of journalist Anna Politkovskaya. Yuri Chaika, prosecutor general, said the 10 suspects were

**RUSSIA** active and retired police officers and security guards, and they were acting under the guidance of someone else. He hinted that the person could be Boris Berezovsky, a billionaire Russian businessman, who lives in London.

Soon after the arrests, Russian tabloid *Tvoi Den* released the names of 11 suspects in the case. *Novaya Gazeta* reported that this media leak came as a “total shock” to the prosecutor general’s office.

*Gazeta.ru*, an online Russian newspaper, reports that of the 10 detainees, two have since been released — Aleksei Berkin and Oleg Alimov — and a third, Sergei Khadjikurbanov, may have an alibi. In addition, according to *Gazeta.ru*, the Moscow District Military Court ruled Pavel Riaguzov’s arrest illegal, and the involvement of Dmitri Grachev — Khadjikurbanov’s mechanic, not a police officer or security guard — seems spurious.

On Sept. 5, the prosecutor general’s office announced the

replacement of lead investigator Pyotr Garibian with Sergei Ivanov, who is chief of the office’s high-level cases; Garibian will continue to serve as an investigator on the case. The reason given for the change of leadership was the large amount



AP/MISHA JAPARDZE

**Demonstrators put candles at portraits of killed journalist Anna Politkovskaya during a rally to commemorate the slain reporter in downtown Moscow last year.**

of work to be done. However, Reporters Without Borders reports that the change may also be explained by the fact that an oversight committee for highly sensitive cases is due to begin work on Sept. 7.

The change is problematic to Dmitri Muratov, editor in chief of Novaya Gazeta, the newspaper for which Politkovskaya worked. He spoke on Russian radio station Ekho Moskvu, and said that it is yet another effort by the siloviki, the slang for those loyal to Russian President Vladimir Putin, to “ruin the case.” However, he told Interfax that the editorial office will continue to work with the investigative team, especially as Garibian remains involved.

.....

### Journalists threatened in Rwanda

Journalists must reveal sources when questioned, and they will be held accountable for using information from sensitive documents, government officials said during the television program “Kubaza Bitera Kumenya” (Ask in Order To Know) on state-owned Radio Rwanda and Television Rwandaise.

Finance minister James Musoni accused journalists of work-

ing with “negative forces” and opposing countries that paid the journalists for their services. Army spokesperson Maj. Jules Rutaremara followed Musoni’s comments by defining media critical of the government as a “negative force.”

Journalists suspect the government is retaliating against articles published by independent weeklies such as Umeseso, Umuco and Umuvugizi, which have been critical of government decisions and scandals.

Charles Kabonero, publisher of Umuseso, told Reporters Without Borders that these comments go beyond halting his paper’s production, which he has temporarily suspended, and puts the lives of journalists and their sources at risk.

“We fear for our lives,” says Kabonero. “When members of the government call us enemies of the country, it serves as a green light to all those inclined to go after us, as they can now claim they are protecting the country’s interests.”

## Media faces increased pressure

Political pressure on the Slovenian media may be on the rise, according to concerns expressed by the International Press Institute, and its affiliate, the South East Europe Media Organization.

Both organizations have reported instances of political pressure on journalist's writing about the country's current center-right government and president Janas Janza. Another allegation leveled at the Slovenian government is that the nation's leaders are exploiting business relationships with companies that have financial assets in domestic media organizations.

In early summer, reporters from Slovenia's most influential newspapers began leaving their positions. One of the newly unemployed, Barbara Surk, claimed she was forced to leave the magazine Delo, which specializes in Middle East issues, after she was offered a low salary.

Matija Grah, Delo's Vienna correspondent, was removed from the staff after the government complained about his reporting on the heated debate over bilingual street signs in the Austrian region of Kaernten, which contains a sizable Slovenian minority.

SEEMO Secretary General Oliver Vujovic said that such practices are particularly distressful because of Slovenia's presidency of the European Union in 2008.

"Countries who assume the presidency of the EU must lead by example, and I am concerned that it will send a mixed message to other countries about how to influence media coverage," he said.

IPI Director Johann P. Fritz said, "The exercise of editorial independence is fundamental to the credibility of a media organization, and for governments to seek ways of undermining this principle is deplorable in a country that is a member of the European Union."

## Journalist in hiding after threat

Sri Lankan journalist Iqbal Athas faced death threats after disclosing the Sri Lankan government's possible misconduct in the procurement of MiG-27 fighter jets from Ukraine in an article published on Aug. 12, 2007. Via an e-mail sent to press freedom organizations around the world, Athas said he feared for his life and went into hiding.

According to Reporters Without Borders, on Aug. 18 a man arrived at the Sunday Times office where Athas works. The man claimed to be an officer in the Air Force and delivered a death threat to W. G. Gunaratne, who translates Athas' work into Sinhala.

Athas' investigative work on defense issues has drawn prior threats, prompting the government to provide police protection to him. However, the protection was withdrawn two weeks ago — just after publication of Athas' story on the MiG-27 fighter jets.

Global press organizations have urged European and U.S. embassies to offer protection to Athas.

SRI LANKA

## Turkey blocks Web site

Turkey's judiciary has blocked a third Web site this year for "offensive" content. WordPress.com, which includes several Internet diaries, was blocked following complaints by religious leader Adnan Oktar.

TURKEY

When entering the Web site, Internet users are met with the sentence in both Turkish and English, stating "Access to this site has been suspended in accordance with decision no: 2007/195 of T.C. Fatih 2.Civil Court of First Instance."

The previous two sites that faced the Turkish government's censorship were alternative dictionary Web site "Eksisözlük" or "sour dictionary" (<http://sozluk.sourtimes.org/Default.asp?>), which was closed on the grounds that it included writings that vi-

olated Oktar's personal rights. The other Web site Antoloji.com (<http://www.antoloji.com/> a self-described), the "Internet culture and art center," was closed by court decree.

These two sites have since reopened.

.....

### Man arrested for Internet post

An Emirati man, Khaled al-Asli, was jailed on charges of defamation regarding an online article allegedly slandering a local official in the United Arab

**U.A.E.** Emirates of Ras al-Khaimah. According to Agence France-Presse, al-Asli denied writing the article, which was posted under a pen name.

The owner of the site, Majan.net, was also appealing a one-year jail sentence on defamation charges. Mohammad Rashed al-Shehhi was ordered to pay the equivalent of \$19,000 in fines and compensation to another local official who sued his website. Shehhi is included in the

defamation suit filed against al-Asli. His lawyer, Abdullah Omran told the AFP that the court agreed to merge the suits and scheduled the next hearing for Sept. 2.

Reporters Without Borders condemned the action, and The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (HRinfo) said the comment was no more than a "political criticism" of an official, and they called on the court to reverse its decision.

.....

### Dow Jones changes hands

Dow Jones & Co. and News Corp. signed a definitive merger agreement Aug. 1 with a price

**UNITED STATES** tag of \$5.6 billion. Members of the Bancroft family, who collectively owned 37 percent of voting stock, agreed to the sale after the family initially rejected an early-May bid from News Corp. CEO Rupert Murdoch. The Bancroft family spoke with 21 alternative buyers during the three months leading up to Au-

gust, with potential partners including General Electric and Microsoft.

Part of the final agreements included the creation of an editorial board that will decide The Wall Street Journal's top-editors, further distancing Murdoch from the paper's editorial content — one of the concerns voiced by the Bancroft family. The first board members will be former AP head Louis Boccardi; columnist Thomas Bray; former Republican House of Representatives member Jennifer Dunn; former Tribune Co. president Jack Fuller; and Nicholas Negroponte, founder of MIT's Media Lab.

As part of the final negotiations, News Corp. will also “appoint a member of the Bancroft family or another mutually acceptable person to the News



AP/MARK LENNIHAN

**Rupert Murdoch,**  
CEO of News Corp.,  
purchased Dow Jones  
& Co. for \$5.6 billion  
Aug. 1.

Corporation board of directors.” The Bancroft family has owned a majority control of Dow Jones for 105 years.

Potential changes to Dow Jones' structure have circulated in the media. Murdoch is expected to strengthen The Wall Street Journal's presence around the globe and in underdeveloped media markets, integrate his online networking resources to keep the paper current with advertising trends, and use Dow Jones' business resources to create a cable television business channel to rival CNBC (similar to FOX's entry into the 24-hour news market created by CNN). ■

---

**SPECIAL REPORT: RUSSIA**

**BBS Silenced** ▶▶

## Special Report:

# BBC Silenced

**B**OLSHOYE RADIO, a Moscow FM radio station stopped broadcasting the BBC's World Service programs on Aug. 17 and is the third station to do so since last year.

The other two stations, Radio Arsenal in Moscow and Radio Leningrad in St. Petersburg, stopped broadcasting BBC's programs at the end of 2006 and in early 2007, respectively. Radio Leningrad informed the BBC that local licensing authorities required them to stop.

The new owners of Bolshoye Radio, the investment group Finam, received a notice from Russian licensing authorities that broadcasting BBC and Voice of Russia contradicts the station's licensing terms. Finam explained the broadcasts would have complied with the license if the station purchased them and, for instance, aired the programs as exclusively produced for them. The previous owner of the station received the notice from the licensing authority several months earlier, but probably ignored it to avoid extra attention during the sale of the station, Vladislav Kochetkov, Finam's press-secretary, explains.

BBC's representatives insist that broadcasting their programs was legal. Although the BBC is not mentioned in the license, it is in the initial documents that were voted on in order to obtain the license. Also, the license states that only a certain proportion of the Bolshoye Radio output can be made by foreign broadcasters.

“Since 2000, the Russian government has sought to obtain

greater control over information and has tightened its grip on the media, particularly broadcasting,” Johann P. Fritz, director of the International Press Institute, said in a public statement. “In addition, foreign NGO’s have also faced pressure from the authorities. With parliamentary elections later this year, and presidential elections in March 2008, it is possible that the removal of the BBC is part of a policy to control the media during this crucial period.” He also drew attention to the fact that Radio Arsenal stopped broadcasting the BBC’s programs one day after the death of Russian dissident Alexander Litvinenko in London.

In April, Lenta.ru — a Russian online news source — commented on the launch of Bolshoye Radio, saying that media market experts raised doubts about the success of the partnership due to the differences in broadcasting style: BBC is known for sharp and unflattering reports on government, while Voice of Russia is propagandistic, according to some.

Finam refused to comment on this statement, explaining that it is impossible to verify this idea with a large audience. A proper launch of the programming was due in September, and an audience had not yet been formed, although programs were being broadcast to test the signal. The BBC also refused to comment on the statement, and cited the initial documents, which stated that all participants of the project act as integral parts of the output to enable the station “to reflect many, and often contradictory, views on current affairs.”

Members of Finam and the BBC expressed their willingness to solve the problem. Although the content of Bolshoye Radio will change, Finam hopes to continue airing BBC’s programs. The vast majority of the BBC’s audience in Russia continues to listen to the programs via short wave, medium wave and satellite radios, as well as online. ■

# ON GUARD



AP/GAUTAM SINGH

A security person stands guard in Mumbai, India, April 17 outside Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan's residence. Four days later, a photojournalist was injured there during a scuffle with security guards.

## *Security Guards add new threats to journalists doing their jobs*

By Sarah Paulsworth

**A**TTACKS ON JOURNALISTS by security guards are not just preventing journalists from carrying out their jobs by not letting them into a particular building or meeting, but also are actually acting as gatekeepers

and as such are impediments to press freedom in countries with emerging democracies.

In India, security guards dragged, kicked and punched mercilessly female journalist Afrida Hussain of Northeast

Television (NeTV) when she attempted to interview a group of hospitalized women at the Guwahati Medical College Hospital in March. Hussain's hand was broken, and she had to undergo treatment at the International

beaten by security guards in April while covering a meeting of shareholders of the pig farm that was initiated by Faeton holding company in St. Petersburg. Andrei Yershov, editor in chief, told the Russian Commit-

tee for Journalism in Extreme Situations that although Kulgun and other journalists showed their press cards, they were not allowed inside. While journalists were waiting outside, representatives of the pig farm and Faeton came out arguing about something else. When the photojournalist started filming,



ANNA FEDOTOVA/DELOVOI PETERBURG

**Russian photojournalist Andrei Kulgun's case against the security guard who attacked and beat him during a shareholders' meeting in St. Petersburg is still ongoing.**

Hospital, Guwahati. Hussain says she is still suffering both physically and psychologically from this "barbaric incident."

In Russia, Andrei Kulgun, a photojournalist with the newspaper *Delovoi Peterburg*, was

two security guards approached him, and one of them began beating him. The journalists ran to their vehicle, on which the words "Delovoi Peterburg" were written in large letters. However, the security guards jumped

at the car, trying to break its window, before the journalists drove off.

In Azerbaijan, a security guard at Sumgayit State University detained and beat Yukselish Namina correspondent Elchin Hasanov who arrived at the university to investigate alleged corruption in June. Hasanov says he was held against his will, slapped, punched and forbidden from making any phone calls. Several hours later he was handed over to the police, who did not detain the journalist but held his press card for six more hours.

Afrida Hussain of NeTV is being helped by a local lawyer and other organizations. The human rights organization Assam has filed a lawsuit against the security guards, and Hussain's channel also filed a lawsuit. Hussain says she believes these cases will achieve nothing. "I know no action will be taken because it was a conspiracy against our channel and me," she says.

In Kulgun's case, Faeton proposed *Delovoi Peterburg* an amicable agreement. However, the

security guard who struck Kulgun, Alexey Yakovlev, wouldn't apologize, and the case was sent to the public prosecutor, but the office took no action within the 30 days allotted by Russian law. Following this, the St. Petersburg's Legislative Assembly sent an appeal to the Office of Public Prosecutor to urge the legal proceedings, and the case is currently under investigation.

In the case of Hasanov of Yukselish Namina, lawyer Intigam Aliyev from the Legal Awareness Center has sent an inquiry on Hasanov's

illegal detainment by Sumgayit University's security guards and subsequent confiscation of his press card by local police to the Prosecutor Office of Sumgayit City. The lawsuit for moral and material damages was filed in the Sumgayit City Court in July, and when this issue of Global Journalist went to press, the court hadn't yet decided whether to consider this case.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND**  
Safety Institute in Belgium states in its Safety Code that "se-

curity forces must never harass, intimidate or physically attack journalists going about their lawful business;” still some security guards don’t comply with this simple rule.

Deputy Director of the International Press Institute in Austria David Dadge says “security guards should know their rights and the rights of journalists better.”

Journalists also need to respect private property issues and to keep in mind that they are not entitled to special privileges simply because they are journalists. When it comes to public property as in the case of Hasanov, a journalist should be allowed onto the property on the same basis as anyone else, Dadge says.

**DADGE ADVISES JOURNALISTS** to inform the representative of the business that they will be

coming to report and that this information, including their names, should be passed to security guards so that the journalists can enter the property.

Frank Smyth, Washington representative and journalist security coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists’ says, “CPJ would encourage journalists to both clearly identify themselves as journalists and to act like journalists who are observing, say, a demonstration instead of participating in it.”

The Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety in Azerbaijan and several Azerbaijani newspapers print the rights of journalists on the back of press cards to remind security guards and other people that violating the rights of or attacking journalists is a violation of the law.

Once journalists find themselves in such a situation, IRFS advises local journalists in Azer-

**‘All journalists  
should unite  
together and raise  
a voice against  
those who are  
becoming barriers  
to free and fair  
journalism’**

*Afrida Hussain*

baijan to maintain three main priorities: 1) protect themselves, 2) try to summon help, and 3) under no circumstance provoke or reciprocate any aggression. It is also useful to document the incident using dictaphones, photo and video cameras and to pay attention to what the aggressors look like, their names if they say them and badges or markings that reveal anything about their identity, rank and affiliation. According to IRFS, the key is to be subtle. The last thing a journalist wants to do is provoke aggressors. Following that advice will help to bolster a lawsuit, which is probably the next step for a journalist to take.

Here, local lawyers, particularly those specializing in the rights of journalists and the media, are a great asset. As Dadge noted, international organizations are often of little help in such cases because they are not familiar enough with legal regulations in specific countries

**YET, HAVING INTERNATIONAL** journalism organizations take a more active role in monitor-

ing incidents involving security guards might reduce attacks on journalists by security. International journalism organizations would be capable of coordinating joint initiatives between security companies and the press and lobby for better training for employees of private security companies. They could also work on cases where all local appeals and lawsuit have been exhausted to no avail, to help prevent impunity. There are no statistics on exactly how many conflicts between journalists and security guards are occurring throughout the world.

“All journalists should unite together and raise a voice against those who are becoming barriers to free and fair journalism,” Hussain says. ■



*Sarah Pauls with holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of New Hampshire. She is a foreign editor for Turan News Agency and serves as public and international relations coordinator for the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety in Azerbaijan.*

# Freed in Gaza

*Journalists rally  
behind kidnapped  
colleague*

By Jay Bushinsky

**T**HE FREE WORLD BREATHED a sigh of relief when Palestinian extremists in the Gaza Strip released BBC correspondent Alan Johnston.

The Army of Islam, a military group with suspected ties to the Dughmush clan and Al Qaeda, kidnapped the 44-year-old journalist while he drove to the BBC's Gaza office on al-Wihdah Street on March 12, 2007. A white Subaru pulled alongside Johnston's car at 2 p.m., and four armed men seized him, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

At the scene of his abduction, Johnston left a business card on the pavement — deliberately, local reporters assumed.

During the following 114 days of captivity, his kidnappers strapped an explosive belt around his waist at least once and forced him to beg on videotape for acceptance of their demands.

Five days before his release, an e-mail transmitted by the Tawhid and Jihad Brigades based in the Gaza Strip announced that a “previously unknown group had killed Johnston and would release a video of the execution.” The e-mail said Johnston had been killed after Palestinian and British authorities failed to meet demands for prisoners to be freed from Israeli jails.

However, no demand for such a release had been made public since Johnston was seized. This morbid exchange can be regarded as premeditated disinformation intended to influence the behind-the-scenes contacts, presumably underway to extricate Johnston.



EPA/JIM HOLLANDER

**Foreign correspondents gather at the Eres crossing on the Israeli side of the Israel-Gaza strip border April 25 as they protest for the release of BBC correspondent Alen Johnston.**

The kidnapers' motives remain unclear.

According to one well-informed source, they wanted to use him as a means of exerting pressure on the UK for the release of Palestinian-born terrorist kingpin Abu-Qutada and several of his cohorts who are in British custody. Abu-Qutada, whose full name is Sheikh Omar Mahmoud Othman abu Omar, is suspected of being Al Qaeda's

chief recruiter in Great Britain.

Another explanation was financial. Johnston's ransom was suspected to have been \$5 million.

The third rationale was that Hamas wanted to build up tension and suspense regarding Johnston's fate so that it could make political capital as his rescuers.

None of these notions have been verified and insofar as the

proverbial payoff is concerned, it has not been confirmed. Like the other media whose personnel have been detained ad infinitum, the BBC paid no heed to reports that a large sum of money changed hands through clandestine channels.

Then as now, there have been no disclosures of any ransom paid, deals made or conditions met. In the opinion of one of Israel's senior radio journalists, Yitzhak Noy, who specializes in local and international news media, one must not rule out the possibility, if not the likelihood, that "political strings" were attached to the captive's release.

At the time of Johnston's kidnapping, Fatah controlled the Gaza Strip through the Palestinian National Authority. During a visit to Sweden on April 20, 2007, PNA President Mahmoud Abbas told reporters: "Yes, I believe he (Johnston) is still alive. Our

intelligence services have confirmed to me that he is alive."

Abbas also said he knew who was holding Johnston, but declined to give details and did not initiate or authorize any operations aimed at liberating Johnston.

The Foreign Press Association in Israel, of which Johnston was an active member, waged a relentless campaign for his freedom and worked closely with the BBC, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and the local Palestinian press in the West Bank

---

**One must not rule out the possibility, if not the likelihood, that "political strings" were attached to the captive's release.**

---

***Yitzhak Noy***

---

and Gaza Strip.

Leads, tips and often unreliable information poured into the FPA's modest office in Tel Aviv where Executive Secretary Glenys Sugarman of South Africa, herself an experienced foreign correspondent, kept FPA Chairman (and ABC's Israel bureau chief) Simon McGregor-Wood informed.

There was constant and close coordination with the BBC, while Palestinian journalists launched a variety of initiatives aimed at bringing back Johnston alive.

Palestinian journalists refused to cover the Palestinian government, its ministers in particular, as a means of exerting pressure on the government to take swift and effective action; they put up giant portraits of Johnston on public buildings; they marched and chanted the slogan that echoed around the world, “Free Alan Now.”

The FPA demonstration staged by Israel-based foreign correspondents at Checkpoint Erez, on April 25, 2007 may have been the first of its kind.

It was a surrealistic event. The same foreign correspondents, men and women, who have been covering mass protests, vigils and every other kind of collective ef-

fort to advance a cause or make a political point were following suit. They stood side by side in the warm spring sun, holding “Free Alan Now” posters for all the TV cameramen on hand to see and



AP/ODED BALITY

**BBC Reporter Alan Johnston during a press conference at the British consulate in Jerusalem, July, 4. Johnston was released after nearly four months in captivity in the Gaza Strip. He said it was “fantastic” to be free again after an “appaling” ordeal.**

shoot, and listened to speeches made on Johnston’s behalf.

“We salute our Palestinian colleagues and thank them for their courageous efforts on Alan’s behalf,” McGregor-Wood said in one speech.

In another speech, BBC Deputy Head of News Gathering, Jonathan Baker spoke with the fervor of a political leader, “LET HIM GO!” With the words, Baker summed up his message of appreciation for the constant support Johnston received in dispatches, broadcasts and interviews filed by his FPA colleagues.

The International Press Institute followed up two months later by sending a delegation to Ramallah for talks with PNA officials. Its declared purpose was “to maintain pressure” on the parties involved for Johnston to be freed unharmed, said the IPI’s Catherine Porter, who joined that mission.

In June, Hamas routed Fatah forces and seized control of the politically contested Gaza Strip.

Senior Hamas officials negotiated with the Army of Islam, conducted direct talks with one of its leaders, Mumtaz Dughmush, head of the Dughmush clan, but did not bring the leader and his allegedly-renegade fellow clan members to justice.

During the final stages of this ordeal, Hamas’ armed personnel surrounded the building in which Johnston was kept. They were nearby at 4:00 a.m. when his high-tempered jailers received orders to bring him to the home of deposed PNA Prime Minister Ismail Haniya in Gaza.

Haniya was waiting with a coterie of local TV crews and journalists.

On July 4, the pale and visibly fatigued Johnston passed through Israel’s Checkpoint Erez, stopped in Jerusalem and flew home.

“It is just the most fantastic thing to be free,” he said just before leaving the Gaza Strip. ■



*Jay Bushinsky has covered the Middle East since 1996 and established CNN’s Jerusalem Bureau in 1980. He writes for the Toronto Sun and Washington Times.*

## JOHNSTON’S CAPTIVITY

### TIMELINE ►►

## JOHNSTON'S CAPTIVITY

### ACCORDING TO BBC NEWS

#### **WEEK 1**

Alan Johnston's car found abandoned in Gaza City, March 12.

#### **WEEK 2**

Journalists in Gaza and London rally for Johnston's release.

#### **WEEK 3**

Palestinian journalists boycott covering government.

#### **WEEK 4**

Thousands world-wide sign a petition for Johnston's release.

#### **WEEK 5**

Tawhid and Jihad brigades claim to have killed Johnston.

#### **WEEK 6**

President Mahmoud Abbas confirms that Johnston is alive.

#### **WEEK 7**

Christian, Muslim and Jewish vigils in London for his release; process across Middle East.

#### **WEEK 8**

Rallies for his release coincide with World Press Freedom Day, May 4. They take place worldwide (including Beijing and Jakarta).

#### **WEEK 9**

On May 9, Jaish-al-Islam (Army of

Islam) issues videotape containing terms for Johnston's release and displays his BBC identity card.

#### **WEEK 10**

On May 17, Johnston celebrates birthday in captivity. Tehran condemns his kidnappers.

#### **WEEK 11**

Hamas assures Johnston's safety.

#### **WEEK 12**

On June 1, the Army of Islam releases video of Johnston calling on the West to end sanctions against the Palestinian government.

#### **WEEK 13**

Hamas expels Fatah from Gaza Strip.

#### **WEEK 14**

Hamas demands Johnston's release. Many suspect this is a publicity ploy.

#### **WEEK 15**

On June 20, 100th day of captivity passes, and new video released on June 24 with Johnston strapped in an explosive vest.

#### **WEEK 16**

Hamas arrests Army of Islam spokesman. Johnston freed July 4.

# Oppressed *and still on* Press



**E**VEN THOUGH T.P. MISHRA IS THE TOP EDITOR at *The Bhutan Reporter*, a monthly English-language newspaper written by and for Bhutanese refugees, it is his responsibility to pick up the papers from the press and transport them to his rented room, which serves as the newspaper's head office. To say *The Bhutan Reporter* operates on a shoestring budget is an understatement.

*On an average day at the office, Mishra shifts his load of 1,000 newspapers from one shoulder to the other. Someone honks at him. He gracefully navigates through the maze of cars, motorcycles and people competing for space in the streets of Kathmandu, Nepal.*

**N**O STAFFERS ARE paid and the paper's monthly budget of 2,500 Nepali rupees (about \$40) is contributed by the staff's editors, many of whom work as teachers. Subscriptions and advertisements are impossible.

Most of the newspaper's readers are refugees who have lived in camps near Damak, in eastern Nepal, for the



Left: T.P Mishra, editor of *The Bhutan Reporter*, carries 1,000 copies from the printer in Kathmandu, Nepal, to the bus stop on June 7.

last 17 years. They are legally barred from officially holding jobs in Nepal which means they have little disposable income. In addition, the paper cannot solicit advertisements since it is technically an illegal publication; Nepalese law does not allow foreign-owned media — like *The Bhutan Reporter* — to publish their Nepali-news papers

and magazines in the country.

“I always feel responsible to the 23 correspondents stationed in camps and other associate editors stationed in Kathmandu,” said Mishra. “They have been sweating a lot selflessly, therefore the very frequent question I receive is that whether the paper will give continuity to its hard copy print.”



*The Bhutan Reporter's* office is actually a one-room apartment that does triple duty as a bedroom and living room for Editor T.P. Mishra and his family. Manager Vidhyapati Mishra, 26; Associate Editor Ichha Poudyel, 26; Sub-Editor Tej Koumar Chouhan, 28; Chief Editor Kazi Gautam, 26; and Dilly Maya Mishru, 18, T.P. Mishra's sister, listen as he speaks at the June editorial meeting.



Above: Yadu Neopaney, a special correspondent for *The Bhutan Reporter*, works in his room to keep tabs on subscribers and circulation.

Right: A poster from last year's "Basic concepts of news writing" workshop hangs prominently in the entryway to Adhikari's family hut.



Sometimes the answer Mishra gives is “no.” The paper, which began printing in 2004, skips publishing at times due to lack of funds. Back in March, *The Bhutan Reporter* nearly ceased to exist until a story about the newspaper’s plight appeared on Media Helping Media, an online portal for news about freedom of the press in transitional coun-

tries. An 11<sup>th</sup>-hour donation from the World Association of Newspapers saved the newspaper for three months.

Despite the financial hardships, the paper’s reporters and editors remain steadfastly dedicated to journalism.

During a recent editorial meeting at one of the refugee camps, reporters told Mishra that he



*The Bhutan Reporter* Editor T.P. Mishra reads the June edition of the paper hot off the press. The paper lacks advertising and any other means of financial support. Editorial board meetings scrape together the 2,500 rupees (\$40) per month required to keep the paper printed.

must find a way to continue publishing *The Bhutan Reporter* because it was the one thing they had to look forward to in their lives.

“I go to Damak by bicycle to bring (the) newspaper to camps,” said Puspa Adhikari, one of the paper’s special correspondents, referring to the town about an hour’s bicycle ride from the Beldangi refugee camps. “I face lots of difficulties; I have ambition to become an international journalist.”

Adhikari’s dream is the dream of many of the paper’s other reporters. But a lack of educational resources and opportunities may keep dreams from becoming reality. Most of *The Bhutan Reporter’s* staff do not have formal journalism training and indeed, this is sometimes reflected in the newspaper’s stories, which do not always name sources or attribute information. Readers, too, have suggestions for improving the newspaper.

“If this paper could add more reporters they could give more fresh news from on the spot. It is lacking this,” said Kapil Muni

Dahal, a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade Nepali language teacher at a school inside one of the seven refugee camps.

Despite this lack of fresh news, Dahal said, “I share the paper with other people whenever I get it. I read it among the group and translate it into Nepali and the people listen and interact.”

It’s that commitment to readers like Dahal and his friends that keeps Mishra and the rest of *The Bhutan Reporter* staff working on the paper month after month. Their dream is to transform the newspaper into a bi-monthly publication and more.

“We have been working, keeping the aim that one day we will reach establishing this paper as the leading paper of Bhutan,” said Mishra. ■



*Laura Elizabeth Pohl is a freelance photographer based in Hampton Roads, Va. She received her bachelor's degree from American University and her master's degree from the University of Missouri.*



AP/VINCENT YU

Protesters scuffle with police officers during a demonstration for more democracy in Hong Kong.

# 10 YEARS AFTER HONG KONG ALIVE & WELL?

By Doreen Weisenhaus

**W**ith the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to the People's Republic of China from British colonial rule, tens of thousands of its residents demonstrated for democratic reform in the streets. It seems that personal freedoms, including the rights of association and expression, are still alive and well, but a lingering question remains over the city's famed press freedoms — have they survived intact? The answer depends on whom you ask.

If you ask the Hong Kong people, their fears about damage to Hong Kong's free press have diminished over the years. More than half now say they are "not worried" about press freedom, with only one-quarter saying they are somewhat or very worried, according to the Hong Kong Transition Project, overseen by Professor Michael DeGolyer of Hong Kong Baptist University, which has tracked public opinion since the handover.

"Notwithstanding all the dire predictions that absorption into media-repressive China would eventually castrate the feisty local press, the Hong Kong media have at least held their own," Thomas Plate, a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, wrote in the *South China Morning Post*, the city's largest English-language newspaper. "Newspapers still bash the central government. And TV and radio, especially, still operate with a measure of abandon."

And indeed, the news media have played an active and substantial role in aggressively covering developments of the past 10



AP/VINCENT YU

**A protester wears a hat made from a newspaper with Chinese words "Universal Suffrage" written on it during a pro-democracy street rally in downtown Hong Kong in 1997.**

years. Their intense coverage and criticism of problems in the administration of the first Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa contributed to his resignation in 2005.

But if you ask the Hong Kong Journalists Association, the response is pessimistic. A survey it conducted in January of local



AP/KIN CHEUNG

**Fireworks explode over Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China, July 1.**

journalists reported that nearly 60 percent believed that “press freedom had deteriorated” since 1997, in part because of a less open local government, especially under current Chief Executive Donald Tsang.

Some international surveys have downgraded Hong Kong's press freedom rankings. In 2006, Reporters Without Borders ranked it as 58th freest of 168 countries, down from a high at 18th in 2002. It noted, “Hong Kong continues to enjoy real press freedom, but political and financial pressures from Beijing are constantly increasing.”

Those pressures include Beijing's direct intervention in the Special Administrative Region in constitutional matters, particularly on democratic reform. Among the most alarming actions to journalists, however, was the 2006 conviction on the mainland of Ching Cheong of a Hong Kong-based reporter for Singapore's *The Strait Times*.

The first post-handover prosecution of a Hong Kong journalist, Ching was sentenced to five years in prison on charges of spying and passing state secrets to Taiwan. He was arrested in Guang-

zhou while reportedly conducting research related to former Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang, who had recently died. Zhao was purged from power in 1989 after sympathizing with student demonstrators at Tiananmen Square.

Hong Kong media also face financial pressures in the form of advertising boycotts by Beijing-friendly businesses. Jimmy Lai, owner of the city's largest listed and unrepentantly pro-democratic media company, has said that his publications lose millions of dollars a year in withheld advertisements, despite their high circulations.

But Beijing-related concerns aren't the only ones troubling the Hong Kong press. Its own local government has engaged in some worrisome actions. In 2004, an anticorruption agency raided several newsrooms to try to uncover sources for news stories that revealed the identity of a witness in the government witness protection program. A reporter ended up identifying and testifying at trial about her source, a lawyer, who was convicted.

Covert but only mildly reveal-

ing photographs of a Canto pop star undressing after a concert were published in 2006 and were classified as indecent, prompting a government think tank to revive its recommendations for the passage of strict privacy laws.

More worrisome, though, are laws Hong Kong might enact regarding national security, as mandated by Article 23 of Hong Kong Basic Law, its constitution. In late 2002, the government proposed harsh laws over theft of state secrets, subversion, sedition, treason and secession. After more than 500,000 people, including many journalists, marched in 2003 to protest the legislation, the government withdrew its proposals. Chief Executive Tsang is expected to reintroduce new proposals at some future point, likely closer to 2012 when his current term in office ends.

Until that happens, however, Hong Kong is still one of the freest media environments in Asia. Its Basic Law and Bill of Rights Ordinance guarantee press freedom. The local government imposes few limits on media operations or on access to the Internet.

No new laws restricting the press have been enacted nor have any media organizations been shuttered for political reasons.

The culprit for the pessimism in some corners seems to be self-censorship. The journalist association survey reported that three in 10 respondents said they practiced self-censorship when handling news; 40 percent said colleagues censored themselves.

Not offending Beijing is one leading reason. Twenty percent of those who said they censored themselves did so by playing down negative stories about the central government. Politically sensitive stories — such as Taiwan's independence or whether to call Chen Shui-bian “president” or “leader” of Taiwan — give the media pause. In 2004, several radio hosts who had criticized Beijing's intervention in democratic reform abruptly left their popular talk shows, saying they had received threats from mainland sources.

The association worries when members of the media hear comments by Beijing leaders such as those in June by Wu Bangguo, National People's Congress Chair-

man, that there are limits to Hong Kong's autonomy. “However much power the central government decides to assign to the SAR, this is what the SAR gets,” he says.

The association predicts these concerns will grow as more media owners conduct business on the mainland and become friendlier with Communist Party officials. In 2003, seven media owners were appointed as delegates to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a top advisory group.

“Some industry players long for the commercial benefits from being the mouthpieces of Beijing, or else they want to be able to get a share of the pie in the mainland media market,” Lai observed in his own newspaper, the Chinese-language *Apple Daily*, about the self-censorship issue. “They are dooming themselves.” ■

---

*Doreen Weisenhaus is director of the Media Law Project at the Journalism and Media Studies Center at The University of Hong Kong. A lawyer and former city editor of The New York Times, she is the author of Hong Kong Media Law: A Guide for Journalists and Media Professionals (Hong Kong University Press 2007).*



AP/LUCA BRUNO

Editor John Peet meets the press to discuss a survey on the decline of Italy.

# The Economist in Stereo

*Subscribers praise The Economist's new audio edition, but some professionals remain skeptical.*

By Ros Taylor

**IT'S LONELY AT THE TOP,** boasted a classic *Economist* poster in the late 1980s, "but at least there's something to read." Twenty years later, there's something to hear, too.

The entire magazine has been made available as an audio edition. Since July, subscribers have been able to download seven hours of *The Economist's* precise, carefully enunciated

prose in one whopping 130-mega-byte package.

The move is unprecedented. While the UK's Talking Newspaper Association has made a few weeklies available to blind people for decades — *The Economist*, the *New Scientist* and the *Investors Chronicle* among them — this is the first time that a major publication has simply broadcast the text of its articles verbatim on the Web without any attempt to edit them for audio consumption.

Until now, papers and magazines have tended to use podcasts as a way of adding value to their print brands and introducing a younger readership to their products. *The Economist*, whose readership has doubled in the past decade, has taken a far more straightforward approach. But then, the 164-year-old publication has

never quite succumbed to the whims of fashion: Despite all appearances, it still calls itself a newspaper.

**The 164-year-old publication has never quite succumbed to the whims of fashion: Despite all appearances, it still calls itself a newspaper.**

“I think it’s a confident move that suggests our words can live in a different medium,” says Benjamin Franklin, editor of *The Economist’s* Web site economist.com. He says the audio edition was inspired by the availability of cheap broadband and the ubiquity of iPods and other MP3 players. Even in 2003, more than a quarter of *The Economist’s* readers

owned some kind of MP3 player, according to the last reader survey. That proportion will undoubtedly have risen since. Furthermore, such a large download simply wouldn’t be feasible without fast Internet connections.

“I suppose it was really a hunch that this might be some-

thing that would appeal to our readers,” Franklin says. “It might slot into busy lifestyles and give people the freedom to consume *The Economist* in different ways.”

The venture is not *The Economist's* first foray into audio. The magazine has podcasted occasional interviews with authors and discussions hosted by section editors. A couple of eight-minute podcasts released on iTunes, one looking at the week ahead and the other touting highlights from the current issue, sometimes attract as many as 100,000 downloads. But the new edition is the first time *The Economist* has charged listeners to download audio. Subscribers to the magazine pay nothing. Others pay \$8 or \$10 for a back issue, each audio issue lasting six to seven hours. That's more than the cover price of the magazine (\$5.99) but still small beer to *The Economist's* affluent readership, whose average income exceeds \$154,000. And the audio edition carries no advertisements.

Every line of the magazine, from the headline to the obitu-

ary, is read by a team of actors working for a company called Talking Issues. The actors and broadcasters, male and female, were hand-picked by the magazine to ensure they could convey the authority and gravitas associated with *The Economist* brand as well as its dry wit.

“If we'd done it ourselves,” Franklin says, “it would have been impossible, quite simply impossible. We've obviously taken quite some trouble to get the quality right and get the right mix of voices.”

The magazine's famous no-by-line policy made the task easier. Most magazines rely on a stable of well-known contributors and columnists, and readers would have expected to hear them reading out their own stories. *The Economist* faced no such obstacle, which eased the fact that its correspondents are based all over the world and could never file a studio-quality recording.

“There was never any question we would have our own people,” Franklin says. “It just wouldn't have been feasible. We get this out by 5 p.m. on a Fri-

day. In many parts of the world, you can't get the magazine as quickly as that."

The initial reaction from readers has been "extraordinarily enthusiastic," Franklin says.

"We asked people to take a survey once they'd downloaded it to tell us what they think, and we've had remarkably positive feedback."

Business people are apparently listening to *The Economist* in the "dead time" during their daily commute or on the treadmill at the gym. Older readers prefer to listen as they putter around the house, particularly if their eyesight is beginning to fail.

"We rolled it out as a soft launch with a subset of our subscriber to see what load it would place on our servers," Franklin says. Downloads have "consistently been much higher than we were

expecting. So we've been pleasantly surprised by the numbers."

Brian J. East, a former strategic intelligence analyst from Ontario and a longtime subscriber to *The Economist's* print

edition, is one of the converted. He finds the audio version much easier to carry around than the magazine. "It is essentially a verbal briefing, which can easily be loaded onto a minute MP3 player and permits me to multitask."

If seven hours of audio sounds like a lot, Franklin points out that articles and sections can be skipped just like music tracks. Some

listeners won't even bother downloading one or two of the regional sections. Others will skip finance. In any case, *Economist* subscribers are used to setting aside time for their favorite publication, and they read the print edition with unusual thor-



***The Economist* has joined the digital revolution, with its own twist. The magazine is available on iTunes.**

AP PHOTO/JEFF CHIU

oughness. Thirty-five percent of them devote two to three hours to it, and 17 percent spend more than three hours poring over the magazine. The average magazine gets just 45 minutes.

What the listeners miss is *The Economist's* famously witty photo captions, the graphs and charts, KAL's cult cartoon (available on Economist.com in the "Kallery") and the pages of top jobs. East says he would like an audio-visual release — "not a newscast," he explains, "but supporting graphics to the story."

Not everyone is won over by the BBC diction. "How on earth did they manage to make *The Economist* so dull?" asks Jemima Kiss, the *Guardian's* new media reporter and the former editor of journalism.co.uk. "There's something desperately unimaginative about employing a few people to read your entire magazine cover to cover."

Kiss continues: "How many factual radio shows involve one-person monologues? It's hard to listen to and hard to engage with. And anyone who has spent five minutes in broadcasting

— and make no mistake, this is broadcasting — will tell you that writing for print and writing for broadcast are a long way apart."

The magazine should bring together some of its writers to discuss the week's events, she says. "There's a real opportunity here to do something new, something more conversational." That may well happen in the coming months: economist.com has just hired its first multimedia editor.

But is the venerable weekly already on to something? Will other newsweeklies follow its lead in recording their entire contents? It looks unlikely. Several have dabbled in podcasting, but without much success. The British political weeklies the *Spectator* and the *New Statesman* have experimented with a Christmas story and recorded somewhat turgid panel debates ("Will MPs use their communications allowance effectively?"), but the *New Scientist* has dropped its weekly podcast, which ran original interviews and features.

"When push comes to shove, it wasn't making us any money," says the editor of the *New Sci-*

entist, Jeremy Webb, who has worked as a producer for BBC Radio 4 and the World Service. “We couldn’t get any sponsorship for it.” The number of downloads was in five figures a week, but the podcast was using up resources that he believes are better spent on video.

Webb doubts *New Scientist* readers want to have the magazine read out loud to them. “I can only assume *Economist* readers must have a lot of time in cars.”

He doesn’t rule out a return of the podcast if a sponsor comes along — “a lot of people here missed it very much” — but says video gives a much greater return than audio. In recent months, the American weeklies *Time* and *Newsweek* and France’s *L’Express* and *Le Nouvel Observateur* have also ploughed their resources into video rather than podcasting with mixed results.

*The New Yorker*, a magazine that attracts a readership that, although less international, is almost as devoted as *The Economist*’s, has taken a more creative approach. Like *The Economist*, it produces a weekly iTunes

teaser intended to boost sales of the magazine. But it also runs spin-off discussions about stories that have already appeared. In August, visitors to newyorker.com were treated to a reading of an Isaac Babel short story by the writer George Saunders, followed by a chat with *The New Yorker*’s fiction editor.

*The Economist* may take a similar approach. After all, one of its most famous editors, Walter Bagehot, spoke of the need “to be conversational, to put things in the most direct and picturesque manner, as people would talk to each other in common speech, to remember and use expressive colloquialisms.”

It would be a pity if the magazine failed to apply those values to its audio broadcasts, especially since its readers can hardly get enough. ■



Ros Taylor writes for the *Guardian* and its website, *Guardian Unlimited*, and regularly appears on its *Newsdesk* podcast. She currently specializes in British politics and the UK press.

# How the Arab World Views Washington

By Adam Schreck

**B**locks from the White House, a makeup artist touches up Abderrahim Foukara's forehead as the Al Jazeera Washington bureau chief skims right-to-left through his Arabic notes. An anchor at headquarters in Qatar follows with the headlines. "OK, animation on the

air," a producer shouts. Images of the U.S. Capitol and an American flag fill the screen. "Min Washington" (From Washington), the network's weekly U.S. affairs program, is on the air.

With a staff of about 25, Al Jazeera's Washington bureau — not even counting the sta-

Palestinians watch Al Arabiya TV News Channel showing U.S. President George W. Bush. Al Arabiya has one of the largest Arab-language news operations.



AP/MUHAMMED MUHEISEN

tion's new English-language operations — is the largest of any Arab news organization in the United States. But it's hardly alone. More than 20 Middle Eastern newspapers, news services and television stations have correspondents stationed in the capital. What those journalists report — and how they report it — plays a key role in shaping the United States' image in the Muslim world. For a post-9/11, wartime America, that image matters more than ever.

The U.S. State Department's Foreign Press Center estimates that around 150 journalists are voluntarily credentialed to work for various Arabic news organizations in Washington. Many others are part-time stringers who only write occasionally. One State Department analyst who monitors Middle Eastern media estimates that up to a quarter of the Arabic news networks' news hole is filled with coverage of the United States — mostly what happens in Washington.

“America is present in the daily life of every Arab,” says Hisham Melham, a longtime

Washington correspondent who recently became bureau chief for Al Arabiya, Al Jazeera's biggest competitor. “That presence is political, it's economic, it's cultural. So it's incumbent on you to try to provide a kind of critical look at this society.”

The two satellite channels have the largest operations. Al Jazeera's Arabic-language bureau employs four reporters and another four or five producers. The station also has “a steady stream of interns” drawn from the United States, Canada and the Middle East. The modern newsroom — bustling with jeans-clad staffers and sharply dressed reporters — and studio occupy two floors.

“This is a pretty big operation for any country, and obviously countries don't get much more important than the U.S.,” Foukara says.

A few blocks away, inside the landmark National Press Building, sit the recently relocated offices of the Middle East's other major 24-hour news network, Al Arabiya. Created in 2003 with financing from Saudi Arabia, Al Arabiya has quickly come to

rival Qatar-backed Al Jazeera. Inside the utilitarian office, a staff of 12 — nearly all native-born or naturalized U.S. citizens — plus interns work in a space that combines a newsroom with small, bare-bones studios. The bureau employs three full-time reporters and two producers.

“This is one of the key bureaus. The other two are in Baghdad and Palestine/Israel,” Melham says. “The ones that almost break our back financially,” he adds with a smile.

Only a few national papers and state-run news services in the Middle East can afford to maintain full-time correspondents in Washington, and instead rely on wire services or stringers based in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Those that do have bureaus tend to be one-man affairs. George Hishmeh, a columnist for two English-language papers in the Middle East who helped found the Washington Association of Arab Journalists, puts the total number of full and part-time print journalists writing for Arabic news organizations at around 50 or 60.

Two of the most influential Arabic newspapers are based not in the Middle East, but in London. The distinctive green Asharq al-Awsat styles itself as an international paper of record for the Middle East, drawing more than half its readers from Saudi Arabia. The 29-year-old broadsheet maintains a staff of three in tight quarters on the eleventh floor of the National Press Building, and also syndicates translated stories from The New York Times and other U.S. papers.

Down the hall, Joyce Karam works out of a two-room office with an oversized desk and a stack of old newspapers piled in the corner. At 28, she is the sole Washington correspondent for Al Hayat, another London-based pan-Arab broadsheet that’s popular with intellectuals. Her editors are eager for stories from Washington, and she frequently ends up on the front page.

“It’s interesting to cover a democracy like this,” she says. “You cannot do that in many places where I come from.”

Key beats for all the major Arabic news organizations in-

clude the State Department, the White House and the Pentagon. Not surprisingly, stories tend to highlight issues of interest to Arab audiences. Al Arabiya's Melham, while speaking about his own station's operations, sounded a theme shared by other correspondents.

"What we do essentially is two things. We cover those issues relevant to Arab-American relations: the American involvement in Iraq, the Palestine-Israel conflict, economic interests, oil-related issues, and sometimes the Arab-American and Muslim communities," he says. "The other thing we try to do is provide a window on America, to try to explain to people over there what makes the society tick."

The constant flow of daily stories makes meeting that second goal tough. After all, much of U.S. foreign policy — Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Israel-Palestine, Darfur — involves Arab and Muslim nations.

"I'm trying to ... do stories about the lives of average Americans, how are they responding to the war in Iraq — you know,

get out of the official Beltway box," Karam says. But given "the magnitude of the issues on the table, like Iraq and everything, you hardly have time."

To keep up, the correspondents constantly monitor cable news and read *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and the wires. Like most Washington reporters, they rely on the Reuters Daybook — a D.C. tip sheet of the major events of the day — and depend heavily on transcripts of big speeches and hearings provided by the Federal News Service. And of course there's the Internet.

"You have to look at the Drudge Report," says Salameh Nematt, a Jordanian print journalist who until recently was Al Hayat's bureau chief. He's not the only fan of the news and gossip Web site. "It makes it easier for me to (decide) what's important today, or over the last few hours," says Munir Mawari, Asharq al-Awsat's political correspondent.

Despite the pressures, other issues do get covered. For example, an Al Jazeera reporter recently spent time in Los Angeles explor-

ing social issues such as immigration, the new Iranian-American mayor of Beverly Hills, and Americans' love affair with their pets. Al Arabiya recently did stories about Ellis Island, the Library of Congress' preservation of old Middle Eastern manuscripts, and Iranian-Americans' outrage over the Hollywood film "300."

There was a time when Arab public opinion wasn't such a priority for the U.S. government, and reaching sources was tough. Not anymore. Since 9/11, the Muslim world — and the Middle East in particular — are front-and-center in the minds of U.S. policy makers. This has made Arab foreign correspondents popular.

"We are a precious commodity in town these days ... compared to 1980 and 1990, (when) nobody was paying much attention to us," says Mohammed Ali Salih, a long-time correspondent from Sudan who now writes for Asharq al-Awsat. "The joke is that ... before, we were chasing sources. Now they're looking for us."

In fact, when it comes to getting an official response, foreign correspondents may even have

an advantage over American journalists.

"When we contact the White House, we get an answer right away," says Mawari of Asharq al-Awsat. He has had similar success with other government departments. But, he says, the responses tend to be official, and therefore less newsworthy. "The major American media outlets have better sources to get information through indirect channels. We get our information from them. I cannot compete with *The Washington Post* or *The New York Times*, because they build contacts over years and years."

Foreign correspondents in the capital get plenty of institutionalized help. The Foreign Press Center provides foreign reporters with workspaces, newspapers and access to closed-circuit press briefings — services welcomed by journalists for smaller outlets without offices of their own. Perhaps most popular, though, are the center's organized reporting tours to places such as the U.S. Army base at Ft. Riley, Kan. or the Baltimore-Washington International Airport for a behind-the-scenes

look at airport security, costs for which are usually covered by the news organizations. The trips give the State Department a chance to put a positive spin on policy issues and cast American society in a good light. For the reporters, they provide valuable access.

“You can go to places that are very hard to otherwise go on your own,” says Mawari, who through tours met with NATO officials in Brussels, visited Kosovo in an American military helicopter, and toured the U.S. Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla. He says he never felt manipulated or pressured by officials to slant his coverage in exchange for the access.

“Whatever their intention, it doesn’t affect my job,” he says. “They gave me the access, and they never told me to write this way, or not to write. I am in control of my own writing 100 percent.”

Al Arabiya’s Melham, who gen-

erally enjoys good relations with U.S. officials, says there is nonetheless a tension between journalists’ news values and the issues the administration hopes to project through Arab media. His job is to provide “as dispassionate coverage as possible,” he says.

“I have no interest whatsoever in showing the United States in a negative fashion, or to be an apologist for the United States government,” he says.

“When somebody says something nice, we report it. When someone does

something stupid, we report it.” And sometimes, as in the case of abuse by U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison, he says, “you report it, and you cringe.” ■

---

**“When somebody  
says something  
nice, we report it.  
When someone does  
something stupid,  
we report it.”**  
— *Al Arabiya’s Melham*

---



---

*Adam Schreck, a former Global Journalist assistant editor, has written for the Los Angeles Times in Washington and the online and European editions of the Wall Street Journal in Brussels. He now lives in New York, where he reports for the Associated Press.*

With less than 100 days until the general elections in Kenya, news organizations are counting on cell phones for effective coverage of the elections.

# Cell Phones to Aid Election Coverage



AP/KAREL PRINSLOO

Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai speaks on the phone in Ihururu near Nyeri when she won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work.

By Gladys Kemunto

**F**ROM DELIVERING MESSAGES to fish mongers among Lake Victoria's shoreline communities to alerts about roaming wildlife in the Meru Game Reserve near Mt. Kenya, mobile phones have taken communication in Kenya to a new level.

A cell phone isn't only a critical tool dominating socioeconomic aspects of life in Kenya; it's also playing a crucial role in the design and dissemination of election messages as the country prepares for its fourth general elections since the introduction of the multiparty system in 1992. The elections will be held on Dec. 27.

"All presidential candidates now have customized messages that will be disseminated on mobile phones," says Kaplich Barsito, a communication consultant for Kalonzo Musyoka, one of the presidential aspirants. "The mobile will be used as a fundraising tool as the messages will be charged at a premium rate on subscription."

The turning point for mobile phones in Kenya came at the height of Kenya's first referendum campaign for the proposed constitution in 2005. Presidential aspirant Raila Odinga of the Orange Democratic Movement party or ODM, which was saying "no" to the proposed constitution, had visited a rural community in Machakos district.

Musyoka, also of the ODM, was in the U.S. to raise funds for the referendum campaigns. However, with the use of a mobile phone, Musyoka demonstrated that he was still with the party when he called Odinga's cell phone and addressed supporters from the U.S.

Chris Kituto, a technician with Information Communication Technology (ICT), who watched the event on KTN TV, described it as a "miracle."

"It was amazing," he says. "The gathering was electrified that Kalonzo, who was in America, could actually address them 'live' from miles away."

Royal Media Service, which was supporting the proposed constitution, used mobile phones to report about all the "yes" campaigns throughout the country.

The referendum was groundbreaking for mobile phones; it defined their space in coverage and reporting of elections.

"This year, all politicians and journalists can ignore the cell phone at their own peril," says Barsito.

Cell phones in Kenya have proven to be handy as critical research tools.

Barsito says key data is analyzed daily from the several call-in sessions that have been designed by the more than 20 FM stations broadcasting in Kiswahili, Kenya's national language, or in English.

In the early 1990s, before the government's liberalization of ICT, a cell phone was a status symbol in Kenya. Flamboyant former ruling party operatives allied to retired President Daniel Arap Moi were among the few who could afford the expensive gadgets that retailed for about \$4,000. But now, it's possible to get a handset for as little as \$30. Between 1993 and 1999, the cell phone subscriber base remained at a marginal 20,000. But now the total fixed and mobile telephone subscriptions have hit seven million, which makes Kenya one of the fastest ICT growing countries in Eastern Africa.

---

**Kenya is now  
one of the fastest  
ICT growing  
countries in  
Eastern Africa**

---

Today in Kenya, one can easily get information on dating, commodity prices and political breaking news on cell phones using C3 technology, a system of applications, pioneered by Nairobi-based Interactive Media Services. The company offers a wide range of software designed to provide rapid response such as quizzes and games through mobile phones, Internet and radio.

Fifteen years after controls over the information and communication systems crumbled with the single party system, new ICTs have given new platforms for freedom of expression to the people of Kenya. While opening Safaricom's headquarters in Nairobi in July, Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki attributed the phenomenal ICT sector growth to enabling government policy and goodwill. Safaricom is a local agent of United Kingdom-based Vodafone Inc., and was the first cell phone provider to enter the

Kenyan mobile phone market.

Citing conducive ICT sector growth, environment and infrastructure, Celtel, Kenya's second cell phone service provider, moved its African regional headquarters to Nairobi in July.

The government recently granted a license to a third mobile operator, and the state-owned Telkom Kenya has also started operating wireless digital cellular telephone systems.

During the elections, the expansive North Eastern province will appreciate the improved mobile phone networks. Bordering Ethiopia and war-torn Somalia, the province has lagged behind for several years because of negligence. Journalists working in the region are upbeat that improved infrastructure will greatly impact the residents' quality of life.

Said Wabera, who runs a news correspondence service in the region, says that this year, election reporting will be a lot easier.

"In 2002, the vote counting and filing of election returns from the Northern Kenya were

received in Nairobi 24 hours after the ballot was cast," Wabera says. "This year, the results from the province might be the first ones to arrive because each returning officer will announce results on location as per Electoral Commission of Kenya rule."

Wabera thinks that with more journalists having cell phones with multimedia capabilities, the election results will be relayed instantly.

Kennedy Buhere, a western Kenya-based information officer for Kenya News Agency, says mobile technology would reduce the number of election petitions since the information announced would be public.

Buhere recalls the first time that the provincial information office used a cell phone to relay information about a plane crash that involved cabinet ministers in Jan. 2003.

"I did not own a handset, but my boss had just bought hers," he says. "We broke the news. After that, I realized a cell phone was fast becoming the third single most important item besides my pen and notebook."

But perhaps a mobile phone's most important role now is the gauging of public opinion on political issues of the day.

Ogaro Gwaro, a department of information officer says he "faithfully" follows the daily opinion polls now posted on two leading television networks.

"I gauge the opinion, which I then later apply in my daily work," he says.

The opinion polls sometimes attract about 20,000 hits a day, which is 10 times bigger than the regular Steadman Kenya Ltd. opinion polls sample size. Steadman Kenya, an affiliate of Gallup International, has pioneered cutting-edge media research technology in Sub-Saharan Africa since 1984.

"Seventy percent of the opinion poll questions are of political content," says Isaac Bob, a student at the University of Nairobi's School of Journalism. "A journalist can even pitch a story idea from the results of the opinion poll, without fear of being censured."

Nation Media Group, Kenya's leading news provider, hosts a

political breaking news service. By dialing "6667" with the word politics after the number, one gets in the loop about Kenyan politics daily.

"Kenyans sleep, drink and eat politics, and the service is absolutely necessary to amplify political news," says Julius Bosire, Nation Media Group's Kisumu bureau chief.

This service complements Safaricom's own 411, which has more than half a million subscribers. However, as the mobile phone becomes the most important tool for reporters and election monitors alike, ECK is grappling with issues of technology misuse during elections as some politicians may use it to distort information.

Recently, during the national grassroots election for the National Rainbow Coalition-Kenya, Jane Kihara, deputy chief whip, postponed elections in some parts of Kenya using text messages.

Kihara alleged that Raphael Tuju, the party's secretary general and foreign affairs minister, had directed her to cancel the

meeting. The issue caused a lot of confusion in the media.

Julius Mokaya, a senior editor with the Standard Newspaper Group says: "The Electoral Commission should spell out regulations. Again, the electoral officials are yet to clarify whether news agencies can publish results announced by the electoral clerk on location or if they have to wait for official verification."

In its 2002 election monitoring report on Kenya, Carter Center, based in Atlanta, U.S., recommended that the ECK should consider setting up public address systems at every polling station to announce the returns for transparency.

Almost five years later, all mainstream media in Kenya have upgraded their systems to receive cell phone images and broadcast news texts using short text messages.

Information and Communi-

cation Permanent Secretary Biantange Ndemo says that by next year, Kenyans might be able to vote electronically.

The government is in the process of setting up 210 e-centers in every constituency with mobile phones and Internet as part of World Bank's \$118 million project aimed at enhancing multimedia communication in rural areas.

"This could make mobile journalism possible," says Penina Kihika, a reporter with Kenyawith Kenya News Agency.

"The mobile phone, which was initially seen as a threat to journalism, is now a savior." ■

---

*Gladys Kemunto has worked as a journalist in Nairobi, Kenya for 12 years. She specializes in development issues and has worked for the Kenya Times and East African Standard newspapers and Royal Media Services. Kemunto is currently pursuing a master's degree in communication at University of Nairobi's School of Journalism.*

---

**"The mobile phone, which was initially seen as a threat to journalism, is now a savior."**

**PENINA KHIKA**  
Reporter/Kenyawith Kenya New Agency

---

# History's Flawed First Draft

By Peter Preston

**S**OMETIMES THE SANCTIMONY of the news business chokes you like a city smog. Sometimes the sound of beaten breasts drowns out perspective or common sense. Sometimes piety and pomposity are journalism's worst enemies.

All of which means, of course, that one little word — trust — seems to dominate every lengthy debate these days. Welcome to Britain ... or America ... or indeed, any trust-heavy part of the world.

Enter the BBC's director general, singing a familiar song. "Public trust is not a new topic for us," Mark Thompson claims incontestably.

"We've always known that it's the foundation on which everything the BBC does is built. We've also known that it is asymmetrical — easy to lose, slow and difficult to regain." He means that the producer of a kids' program taking paid phone calls in a charity contest should have stopped the show when his switchboard went down, rather than pretend to have found a winner. He means that a couple of bits of documentary editing — one crass, because bound to self-destruct the moment it went on air — should have been ruled off limits instinctively.

And is that, you may well ask, all that worries him? Is this the sum of mistrust, wailed over from top to bottom of the British Broadcasting Corporation?



Peter Preston, editorial director of the Guardian Media Group, is an IPI Global Journalist columnist. He was the chairman of IPI from 1995 to 1997.

Alas, there isn't much more.

Print journalists think they do a vital job. So do broadcast journalists (though they can be a bit sniffy about print). Both, under pressure, lay claim to importance, and both claim respect. They want to be revered, not sneered at. But they stray onto marshy ground when they do so.

Crooked conduct is one thing: when some TV quiz shows — not shown on the BBC incidentally — were revealed to have been soliciting calls and cash after a winner had actually been chosen, then the companies that let such slime flow deserved every sanction available. But the dogs of print scorn were unleashed in general, gleeful, yappy mode. The BBC found itself blamed for some lesser misdemeanors, and another great ethical road show started to roll — featuring revised codes, enhanced training, solemn lectures, endless committee meetings and every other portent of utter solemnity available. Trust was bust and trust was a must.

Pause for a second, though,

and ask yourself how journalism itself has been (and still can be) best described? Yes: as a first rough draft of history. And what, pray, does that mean — if not that countless facts and judgments that come our way every week are desperately frail. Briefers only give one side of the story. Eyewitnesses get their testimony wrong. Reporters on the spot misread their notes. Anything that can be got wrong will emerge tattered and torn. Rough drafts, spewed in the usual race against the clock, are inevitably the best we can do.

None of this, to be clear, excuses error or shrugs aside spin. None of this constitutes the slightest cause for pride. But it is a serious fact of journalistic life, and we kid ourselves if we push it aside. Historians writing books over five or ten years get things wrong. We have four hours, perhaps four minutes. We have standards that we ought — honestly — to try to uphold. But honesty also compels us to recognize how unavoidable are the mistakes that dog our trade. We don't like it, but we know things happen

that way. It isn't a matter of trust, but human fallibility. Upset by gross error? Absolutely. But turning trust into some flimsy fence of probity that must be diligently repaired over years of sermonizing? That's stupidity, because — over thousands of broadcast hours and millions of words — it is an impossible test no savvy organization would set itself, let alone hope to pass.

I think the BBC (which I admire and respect) fights the wrong battle when it erects a Maginot Line called Trust (just as I thought the admirable *New York Times* similarly foolish post-Jayson Blair). For once you decree from on high that every report you print or broadcast must be pure, thorough and blameless, you guarantee that some hapless understandable mistake will bring your hopes to dust — and give your enemies another field day. Media men aren't saints; they need to take risks from time to time, to follow hunches and their consciences. Weigh them down with the impossibility of error and they turn dull, dithering

— and excruciatingly pompous. Stop the newspaper, mom, it's got damned tedious. Pass me the remote: I need to change channel.

The essential point's a simple one. We do our job as best we can, knowing how stressed and difficult it can be. Long ago, writing a daily column, I used to fret every morning over what had gone wrong on the way to the printed page. I fretted because I cared, because what I did mattered. But then there was the next day and the one after that. Then the first rough drafts altered and altered again. Then I learned that doing an honest job only came through — if at all — in what was written (and promptly corrected if wrong). Codes and the trappings of professional conduct are a help here. An openness to criticism helps. But show-and-tell doesn't do the trick, or more than set a context. The basic truth is that, as individuals, we just have to strive away and hope, not give ourselves deluded graces. Trust is as good as the last sentence you wrote. And true trust is making sure the reader knows that. ■

# Justified Foolhardiness

By Steve Weinberg

**W**hen Sonia Nazario of the *Los Angeles Times* decided to write an immigration story that would cross national borders, she put her life in danger repeatedly to obtain the truth. I have now read the book three times. My amazement at her courage (some might call it foolhardiness) has not diminished. Nor has my amazement at the techniques she used.

The idea for her investigation began germinating in 1997, during a conversation with Maria del Carmen Ferrez, who cleaned Nazario's Los Angeles home every other week. By then, Nazario, nearing age 40, had established herself as a feature writer at *The Wall Street Journal* before joining the *Los Angeles Times*. She lived comfortably with her husband and could have spent the rest of her career without choosing to risk her physical safety.

During the conversation with Carmen, Nazario learned about four children left behind in Guatemala, 12 years ago, dependent on wages from cleaning houses in the United States. Carmen lacked the money to pay a smuggler to guide her children

back edition, \$14.95)



Steve Weinberg reviews books regularly for this magazine, concentrating on journalistic technique rather than summaries of content.

across the U.S. border. She also worried about their safety in a crime-infested Los Angeles neighborhood. Most of all, she worried about the dangers of the journey itself from Guatemala to Los Angeles. During her own journey in 1985, Carmen had been robbed and left without food. She had heard stories about consequences worse than that, including rape, accidental death, and murder.

Conversations between Carmen and Nazario continued. In 1998, Nazario learned that Carmen's 22 year-old son, Minor, had decided to make the dangerous journey from Guatemala. He longed to see the mother who left him behind so that she could provide food, clothing and education from far away. Unlike many, perhaps most, who attempt the journey, Minor reached his mother.

The more Nazario learned about children's attempts to enter the United States illegally because of longing for their parents, the more coherently her plan evolved. She would locate

one of those children (other than Minor), learn everything she could about the journey and then replicate it to provide readers with close-up knowledge.

She would seek a subject for her book who made the journey through Mexico in a common but extremely dangerous way — by riding on top of freight trains. Nazario would ride El Tren de la Muerte — the Train of Death.

Her research informed her about “the gangsters who rule the train tops, the bandits along the tracks, the Mexican police who patrol the train stations and rape and rob... the dangers of losing a leg getting onto and off of moving trains.” Nazario felt fear, but she kept planning. “As a journalist, I love to get inside the action, watch it unfold, take people inside worlds they might never otherwise see,” Nazario writes. “I wanted to smell, taste, hear and feel what this journey is like. In order to give a vivid, nuanced account, I knew I would have to travel with child migrants through Mexico on top of freight trains.”

## Book Review

Nazario interviewed immigrant children held by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service throughout California and Texas. She contacted directors of shelters and churches in Mexico, along the 2000-mile border with the United States. Eventually, Nazario met Enrique, who had started his journey in Honduras, hoping to reunite with his mother in North Carolina.

She vowed never to get onto or off of a train while moving. (She violated her self-imposed rule once.) A newsroom colleague introduced Nazario to Mexican government authorities, resulting in a letter from the personal assistant to Mexico's President. The letter asked police to cooperate with Nazario's project. That piece of paper kept Nazario from being jailed three different times, helped persuade a migrant rights group to provide protection for her on some of her train rides and led four freight operators to tell conductors about Nazario's mission so they could spot check her welfare.

Starting in Honduras, Nazario interviewed Enrique's relatives and visited his haunts. "I took buses through Central America, just as Enrique had done," Nazario writes. "In Mexico's southernmost state, Chiapas, I boarded a freight train. I took the same path along the rails, traveling up the length of Mexico on top of seven freight trains. I got off where he did, in San Luis Potosi, then hitchhiked on an 18-wheeler from the same spot in the northern Mexico city of Matehuala, where Enrique had hitched a ride to the U.S. border."

In addition to her lessons on high-risk reporting, Nazario discusses how she structured her narrative, how she decided whether to use real names or aliases for her subjects, and numerous other specifics. Enrique's fate provides the tension for non-journalism readers. Nazario's method to see the story to its logical end constitutes a book within a book for journalists. ■

# News Business, Help Thyself

By Stuart H. Loory

**I**N THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF *Global Journalist*, I wrote that we have always been concerned in the news business with ethical issues such as fakery, plagiarism or conflicts of interest. But there are many other practices that have been treated more as practical matters rather than ethical deviances.

Matters of special privilege for journalists—such as using special car license plates to avoid parking tickets, taking Christmas gifts from sources, traveling at government expense, accepting a free meal, mounting a campaign to help a beleaguered colleague or petitioning the government for greater access to officials—were not discussed. Datelining a story was arbitrary as was taking information from a wire service or competing news organizations.

Those were different times for journalists. More importantly, discussing how to deal with the safety of journalists was unnecessary. In most countries with a strong news business, journalists were not viewed as actors on the world stage. They were spectators—respected and protected spectators at that.

The danger to journalists these days—from kidnapping to murder—has raised a new set of prac-



Stuart Loory, an international journalist, is Lee Hills Chair in Free-Press Studies at the Missouri School of Journalism and editor of *Global Journalist*.

tical problems that have ethical components.

As Jay Bushinsky, the dean of international correspondents in Israel, reports elsewhere in this issue, members of the Foreign Press Association in Israel gathered at Checkpoint Ezra on the Gaza Strip–Israel dividing line to protest the kidnapping in Gaza of Alan Johnston, a BBC correspondent, by a little known Gazan terrorist group.

The demonstrators brought placards and banners; they shouted slogans and listened to speeches by a BBC executive and an FPA officer. They did it all for the benefit of television cameras covering the story. The publicity for their cause — Free Alan Johnston — was important. The tactic had some effect. Johnston was released soon after the protest.

In the Dominican Republic, at about the same time, the Inter American Press Association met with supreme court justices from most of the Latin American countries. They discussed what could be done to bring the mur-

derers of journalists to justice and, in that way, to destroy a threat to effective reporting.

IAPA has done much in recent years to create understanding between the judiciary and law enforcement officials on one side and the news business on the other. That kind of activity was unknown in the past. In fact, such cooperation was effective only in countries where the press was controlled by authorities, and such meetings were held to give journalists their marching orders to protect authority.

There are, of course, problems with this kind of cooperation. If journalists in a news organization think authorities are helping them solve the capture or murder of a correspondent, will they show reluctance in following up on stories that may be critical of the government involved? That is a strong possibility. It is also possible that the authorities could use the news organization to do their bidding.

The IAPA meeting had no discussion of what journalists could do on their own to investigate the killings of their colleagues. Investigative reporters excel in many countries in exposing corruption, wrongdoing, murder, oppression and theft. They have made little progress in tracking down and exposing the slayers of their own. It is not too much to ask that they devote more effort here.

In Russia, three reporters of the Moscow independent newspaper, Novaya Gazeta, have been murdered in the past six years. One of them was Anna Politkovskaya. In August, the Russian prosecutor announced charges against 10 men — Chechen hit men, Russian police and investigators, and a member of the FSB, the foreign intelligence service that is the successor to the KGB. The prosecutor said these men were directed by Russian political opponents living abroad with the intent of embarrassing the Putin regime.

Before the ink was dry on

the arrest stories, two of the men, police officers, had been released, and there were some questions about whether they had been arrested in connection with the Politkovskaya murder in the first place.

Politkovskaya's newspaper, Novoya Gazeta, has been conducting its own investigation, and its editors say they hope to have a more conclusive result sometime soon. If the newspaper comes up with a credible list of suspects, it will contradict the policies of news organizations in most countries that believe in letting the duly constituted authorities carry out the investigations. As the Alan Johnston case shows, pressure by news organizations is not counterproductive, and it is not unethical. The news business can apply its talents to fighting for its own rights. And it should. ■