One thing is startlingly clear from the 2015 list of journalist casualties – journalists are now primary targets as extremists wage a war on freedom of expression.

From the brutal attack on Charlie Hebdo at the start of the year to the murder of citizen journalists in Syria and beyond its borders, ISIS and associated groups have made it clear that they see the killing of journalists as a means of spreading their message, spreading fear and seeking to control the news from within Syria. And national borders are no barrier to where they will take their violence.

This is a trend which has been growing over past years – but not as starkly as we saw it in the last 12 months. As UNESCO and others gather in Paris in February to debate the safety of journalists, this trend places the gathering toll firmly at the heart of international concern about free expression and international development. Although the numbers remain shocking, and impunity for the killers of journalists remains the norm, the international community is taking the issue more seriously than ever.

But we should also note that most of those killed are not involved in major civil wars or international conflicts – they are local journalists going about their normal work of seeking to hold power to account and to shine light on crime and corruption. And the figures illustrate how the risk is global – touching on most continents around the world. The killing of journalists outside of the international spotlight is as serious as the murders in Paris, which prompted global horror and response. Anywhere journalists are targeted and killed for doing their job undermines free speech and civil society.

It is essential that those concerned about these figures continue to draw them to the attention of governments, courts and NGOs to maintain attention and build the case for seeking international action to end impunity and protect the freedoms which underpin civil society. This is not just an issue for those in the media – it is an issue which touches on everyone who wishes to live openly and freely, wherever they may be.

– Richard Sambrook, INSI Chair

All photographs © AFP.
JOURNALISTS KILLED: THE NUMBERS

Country of journalists’ death

- **Syria**: 10
- **Turkey**: 4
- **Ukraine**: 2
- **Iraq**: 7
- **Yemen**: 7
- **Somalia**: 6
- **Kenya**: 1
- **Burundi**: 1
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**: 1
- **Mozambique**: 1
- **Uzbekistan**: 1
- **Kazakhstan**: 1
- **India**: 5
- **Pakistan**: 4
- **South Sudan**: 7
- **Philippines**: 7
- **Indonesia**: 1
- **France**: 8
- **Poland**: 1
- **Libya**: 6
- **Ghana**: 2
- **Brazil**: 7
- **Colombia**: 4
- **Mexico**: 6
- **USA**: 2
- **Guatemala**: 3
- **Honduras**: 4
- **Azerbaijan**: 1
- **Paraguay**: 2
- **Burundi**: 1
- **Poland**: 1
- **Egypt**: 1

Country of journalists’ origin

1 killed from Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Mozambique, Paraguay, Burundi, Poland and Egypt.

2 killed from Ukraine, USA, Japan and Ghana.

3 killed from Guatemala.

4 killed from Colombia, Honduras and Pakistan.

5 killed from India and Libya.

6 killed from Brazil, Mexico and Somalia.

7 killed from France, Iraq, Philippines, South Sudan and Yemen.

11 killed from Syria.

TOTAL KILLED: **111**
Aftab Alam was murdered by gunmen in Karachi. Four media workers were killed in Pakistan in 2015.
“Although the numbers remain shocking, and impunity for the killers of journalists remains the norm, the international community is taking the issue more seriously than ever.”

– Richard Sambrook, INSI Chair

**JOURNALISTS KILLED: THE NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional position</th>
<th>Status of journalist in country</th>
<th>Context of death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journalist/media worker 107</td>
<td>Local 104</td>
<td>Peace time 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support worker 4</td>
<td>International 7</td>
<td>International armed conflict 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National armed conflict 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shot 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blow up 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decapitated 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stabbed 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaten 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other non-natural 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road accident 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Three “bodies found”, one other burned to death.

**Perpetrator**

- Armed militants: 27
- Crossfire: 14
- Individual(s): 12
- Police: 2

**TOTAL KILLED**

111

3 Accidents are not included here.
4 Individuals identified as suspects.
“Most of those killed are not involved in major civil wars or international conflicts – they are local journalists going about their normal work of seeking to hold power to account and to shine light on crime and corruption.”

– Richard Sambrook, INSI Chair
Deaths unrelated to war reporting

TOTAL KILLED UNRELATED TO WAR
57

War/conflict zone reporting

TOTAL KILLED IN CONFLICT
54

Legal outcome

TOTAL
80

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1 This does not include accidents, crossfire, aerial bombardments, suicide bombings, suspects who killed themselves after the event, and the Paris shootings where suspects were killed by police.

2 Suspects have been identified or arrests made.