



INSI

ANNUAL REVIEW

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS SAFETY INSTITUTE

JOURNALISM SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY ACCOUNTABILITY



WE WANT PRESS




FREEDOM

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“Courageous and honest journalism is needed more than ever and the dangers faced by journalists will not diminish.”



Journalists around the world continue to face unacceptable risks as they go about their vital work. In the first six months of 2016, 49 journalists lost their lives in countries from Afghanistan to Mexico; Turkey has become the largest jailer of journalists in the world and digital harassment of reporters is an increasing threat to press freedom.

Richard Sambrook stood down in 2016 as chairman of INSI after five years tirelessly promoting the cause of journalists' safety and I am proud to be able to develop his legacy.

It is increasingly important that we work closely with other organisations in this field on projects like the International Declaration on the Protection of Journalists which was launched this year, and in support of campaigns to outlaw impunity for those involved in the killing of journalists.

INSI's primary role continues to be providing strong practical, current advice and information for our members and others involved in on-the-ground newsgathering and journalism. INSI provides a vital forum for networking and information sharing amongst members around the world via our membership portal, members only alerts and advisories, through regional face-to-face meetings and webinar discussions.

Research commissioned by INSI into the effect on journalists of covering the refugee crisis will inform good practice guidelines for news organisations on deployments of this kind.

INSI is a London based NGO but one of our key aims in the next 12 months is to widen our membership base to make it more international and to reflect the wider media world, including more press and new media outlets.

All of us who work in the news business believe that access to independent news and information is the foundation and cornerstone of free and democratic societies. Courageous and honest journalism is needed more than ever and the dangers faced by journalists will not diminish.

[Sue English, INSI Chair](#)



MEMBERS

The new [members only section](#) of our website featured exclusive reports and advisories on a variety of topics such as covering the Euro 2016 football tournament, working in countries affected by the Zika virus, how to handle trolling and staying safe during the battle for Mosul. We continued to develop our online presence with our social media channels with a significant rise in followers and engagement.

The extensive INSI network of top news executives and journalists came together in France, Rio and again during the battle for Mosul as we hosted email groups allowing members to exchange real time safety information. With Mosul proving particularly dangerous for media workers, the INSI network was invaluable when a life-threatening emergency cropped up on the ground.

Our [webinar discussion](#) on security implications for news organisations operating in Turkey featured panellists from the BBC, BuzzFeed and the Tel Aviv-based Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies. This was an opportunity to discuss the dangers faced by local and international journalists following the government crackdown on press freedom.

Ahead of the introduction of the Investigatory Powers Bill in the UK, which poses a direct threat to freedom of the press, we teamed up with human rights group Liberty to present INSI's first [masterclass on digital security](#). Our members learned practical skills, such as how to use email encryption, anonymous internet browsing and secure, encrypted operating systems.

INSI RESEARCH

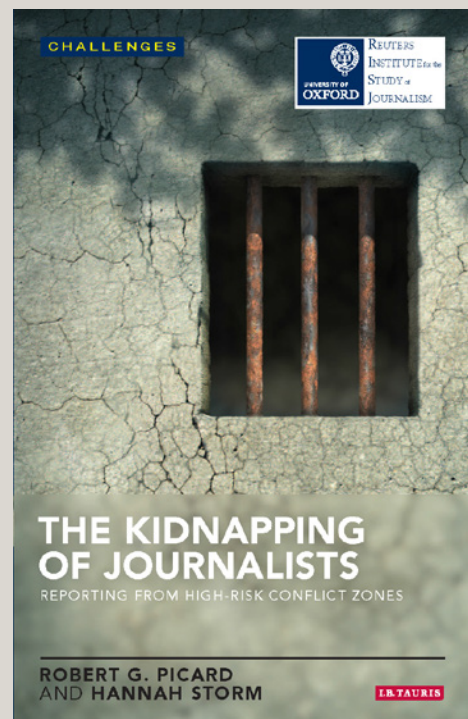
Our research project into the **psychological effects of the refugee crisis on journalists** covering the story is the first of its kind. Conducted by world-renowned trauma expert Professor Anthony Feinstein, the results will be published early next year and are expected to inform additional work on supporting journalists who cover humanitarian crises.

The biannual ***Killing the Messenger*** report showed once again that the killing of journalists knows no limits. They spanned the globe from Afghanistan to Guatemala, Somalia to Georgia, an insidious response from those who feel threatened by the work done by our colleagues shining a light in dark places. For the first time, we have decided to include citizen journalists on a case-by-case basis in places where censorship, self-censorship or war make traditional reporting impossible.

Director Hannah Storm co-authored ***The Kidnapping of Journalists: Reporting from High Risk Conflict Zones*** with Professor Robert Picard from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University. The book highlights the challenges facing news organisations – in attempting to protect journalists and in responding to the kidnap of one of their own – and reporters working in dangerous locations.

As part of the **Council of Europe's working group**, we surveyed close to 1,000 journalists to explore the extent and prevalence of fear and self-censorship and the effect they have on media freedom. The results will be published next year.

We developed and launched the **International Declaration on the Protection of Journalists** together with the International Press Institute (IPI), the Al Jazeera Media Network and the African Media Initiative. The declaration summarises international principles related to the protection of journalists operating in dangerous environments, emphasising the responsibilities of states to guarantee their safety and combat impunity.





INSI EVENTS

Our **regional meetings in Paris and Stockholm**, brought together news executives and journalists from around Europe to discuss the emotional toll of covering the refugee crisis and preparing for the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Journalism in the age of terror and the physical, emotional and online safety of media workers were on the agenda for **INSI's first ever series of regional meetings in Australia**. Hannah Storm met members in Sydney and Melbourne and arranged and participated in industry events and panel discussions on the safety of journalists.

We talked to journalists from the European Journalism Centre in Maastricht, the Netherlands about the importance of journalist safety in the field, and **continued to meet with journalism students** at universities in the UK to advise them on how to stay safe while reporting.

INSI's former chair Richard Sambrook **chaired a UNESCO discussion** in Paris on best practices in the newsroom and ways to strengthen journalists' safety at a time when the profession has never been so dangerous. He also spoke at the International Festival of Journalism in Perugia about **how newsrooms can prepare to cover terrorist attacks**.

TRAINING

We are piloting our **newsroom safety audit** in Mali in partnership with the Swiss NGO Fondation Hirondelle. INSI trainers will work with staff from a local radio station to identify security threats in their workplace and develop solutions to keep the newsroom safer.

Our crisis **management workshop** at IPI's World Congress in Doha, Qatar focused on how to keep teams, newsrooms and reputations safe in a rapidly changing security risk environment.



“It’s been really important learning about first aid, how to behave during kidnapping and surveillance, and how to prepare for a story and not just rush in. Now we have to put this theory into practice.”

– SYRIAN TRAINEE



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