PROTECTING SAFETY OF JOURNALISM ONLINE & OFFLINE IN THE #NETGOV ECOSYSTEM

Guy Berger, Director, Freedom of Expression, UNESCO
UNESCO definition

*The term ‘journalists’ covers:*

“journalists, media workers and social media producers who generate a significant amount of public-interest journalism”. 
Coming up:

1. Safety – offline *and* online
2. Digital safety
3. Safety research
4. Good practice: judges
THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS
AND THE DANGER OF IMPUNITY

REPORT BY
THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
TO THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE IPDC
(THIRTIETH SESSION)

UN’s official statistics
UNESCO Condemns Killing of Journalists

827 journalists killed 2006-2015
At least 82 to date for 2016
At least 24 in Latin America
• Toll in both conflict & non-conflict areas
Most reporters are local

I was reporting protests in my country, I was attacked while traveling home.

Total number of journalists killed: local vs. foreign (2006-2015)
#ENDimpunity
for crimes against journalists

2 November 2016
RECORDED KILLINGS AND STATUS OF JUDICIAL INQUIRIES 2006-2015
Making progress

- **UN Plan of Action since 2012**
- Norms: 9 Resolutions in UN over 4 years
- 65% response rate to UNESCO impunity query
- New mechanisms / systems in countries
- Aligning govts / media / NGOs / UN actors / and Internet actors
- Good momentum …
UNGA resolution A/RES/70/125

• Note with concern that there are **serious threats** to freedom of expression and plurality of information, and

• Call for the **protection** of journalists, media workers and civil society space.

• Call upon States to take **all appropriate measures necessary** to ensure the right to freedom of opinion and expression
The UN Sec Gen report on SDGs
Digital dimensions

Risks:

• Widened exposure
• Digital footprints
• Devices
• Cyber threats, attacks, trolls and imposters
• Comms with & identity of sources
Digital dimensions

Responses:

• International standards for governments & intermediaries for protecting online FoE.
• Individuals / media houses, need digi-quette.
• Tracking the digital trail of attackers
UNESCO and Ibero-American Judicial Summit agreement reinforces freedom of expression and journalists’ safety

A Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation on issues of freedom of expression, access to information, transparency and the safety of journalists was signed on 17 November by UNESCO’s Director-General, Irina Bokova, and the Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of Uruguay, Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, on behalf of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit. Mr. Pérez Manrique is also the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit.

The agreement reinforces the capacity of UNESCO and the Summit in their shared objective to improve freedom of expression and information, transparency and journalist safety. The agreement specifically highlights the role of the judicial system in ensuring and protecting fundamental human rights.
Knowledge for empowerment
Journalism Safety Indicators

Pilots: Pakistan, Guatemala, Honduras
Full reports: Kenya, Nepal, Iraq
**Indicator:** all media actors promote safety in digital comms

- Journalists are **aware** of digital dangers and protection measures
- Journalists effectively **use** protection in digital communication including appropriate software and other precautionary measures.
- Opportunities exist for **training** in public key cryptography and are taken up
- **Employers** and others provide software and equipment that enables journalists to protect communications
**Indicator: Intermediary entities respect journalism safety**

- Internet and telecoms companies have **secure** facilities that protect journalists’ data from hackers.
- Internet and telecoms companies have clear, **transparent** and proportionate policies as regards releasing private data to law-enforcement authorities and others.
- Internet and telecoms companies **report** periodically on items above.
- Internet and telecoms companies have data-protection policies that **entitle** clients to track any 3rd party engagement with their data.
Summing up

1. “Coin” has 2 sides: digital & non-digital
2. Digital side impacts on #netgov rights – prevention, protection, and prosecution of perpetrators
3. Journalism safety indicators = a framework for mapping progress
Keep in touch

UN PLAN OF ACTION
ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS
AND THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is issued to help share information on the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Through this bimonthly newsletter will include information on the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. It includes development from the first-phase countries (Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan, and South Sudan), various ongoing and upcoming initiatives that could contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the UN Plan of Action.