

At least 106 journalists killed in the course of the year

เขียนโดย กองบรรณาธิการเว็บ

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PEC report 2011 (French and Spanish below)

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Geneva, 19 December 2011 (PEC) -- According to the figures registered by the Press Emblem Campaign (PEC), at least 106 journalists have been killed during the current year in 39 countries -- around 2 every week. The revolutions of the Arab Spring resulted in at least 20 journalists killed.

Compared with 2010 (105 killed), the figure on 18th December shows no improvement - while 2009 was a record year, largely owing to the massacre of 32 journalists in the Philippines in one day, for a total of 122 killed. 91 journalists were killed in 2008 and 115 in 2007.

PEC Secretary-General Blaise Lempen said that 2011 was a particularly dangerous year for media work because of the coverage of the uprisings in many Arab countries. In addition to the killing of more than 20 journalists during the Arab Spring, more than 100 others were attacked, intimidated, arrested and wounded in countries of the region, including Egypt, Libya, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

Mexico, Pakistan most dangerous countries

For the second year in a row, Mexico has been the most dangerous country for media work with 12 journalists killed since January. The raging war between the army and the drug cartels in the north explains this heavy toll in Mexico. The casualties could be higher if figures were known for journalists who were victims of enforced disappearances.

Again for the second year in a row, Pakistan comes in second with 11 journalists killed, the majority of whom were killed on the border with Afghanistan.

Iraq is tied for third place with Libya with 7 journalists killed during the Libyan armed conflict. In these 4 countries are concentrated more than one third (37) of all casualties.

Next come the Philippines with 6 killed, Brazil (6) and Honduras (6), then Yemen with 5 killed followed by Somalia (4), then Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Peru, and Russia with 3 each.

Two journalists died in Bahrain, 2 in Thailand. One was killed in each of the following countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Gaza (OPT), Guatemala, Haiti, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Uganda, Panama, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

Latin America the most dangerous region

By region, Latin America leads with 35 killed in one year. The situation is worrying. In

In addition to the killing of journalists, threats and attacks against media and their representatives have increased. Press freedom is threatened in many Latin American

countries by government tactics to obtain control of information and to discredit, intimidate and prosecute journalists, all of which leads to self-censorship. Asia (excluding the Middle East) is the second most dangerous region with 30 killed, then the Middle East and North Africa with 28 killed. In Africa

(excluding North Africa) 9 journalists were killed, in Europe 4 (3 in Russia and 1 in Ukraine).

One year after the beginning of the Arab Spring in Tunisia, PEC president Hedayat Abdelnabi noted that improvements are very slow in the field and that remnants of the past still prevail in curbing freedom of expression. When young people express themselves through social media and internet and flood into the streets in peaceful demonstrations, they are faced with the brutal use of force.

One year later, the security apparatus is still using the tactics of the past, remarked Abdelnabi, and hunting down journalists. As 2011 ends and 2012 starts, says Abdelnabi, impunity must disappear and the rule of law must take precedence over all current conflicting interests. Women journalists in particular paid the highest price when attacked sexually both in Libya and Egypt.

Owing to the gravity and intensity of the situation, the Geneva based NGO with UN consultative status issued 46 press statements and intervened 11 times during the Human Rights Council's discussions this year.

Intentionally targeted

Two thirds of the journalists killed, that is some 70 of the total, were intentionally targeted, especially in Latin America. Others were accidentally killed during demonstrations, in fights, in suicide bombings or in mine explosions. There are half a dozen cases worldwide where the causes leading to the death of journalists are still unclear, stressed PEC Secretary General Blaise Lempen.

Lempen added that 68 of the fallen journalists were killed in countries experiencing armed conflict, popular uprisings, repression, terrorism and crime. Others were killed in countries where peace prevailed.

Some progress

In view of this serious situation, the PEC warmly applauds the governments and international organizations for their growing awareness that the journalism profession faces growing dangers in totally novel situations.

A number of countries have launched initiatives for the protection of journalists, and a number of conferences have been organized to this effect, notably that of UNESCO in Paris in September, one in Vienna organized by the Austria government in November, and a forthcoming conference organized by Qatar and scheduled for January 2012 in Doha.

In the Amman - Dead Sea forum organized by the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ), a resounding call echoed

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throughout the forum for an Arab convention

for the protection of journalists, which would draw on the current document circulated as the PEC's December 2007 draft convention.

For list of casualties please consult: www.presseblem.ch