This document profiles 44 journalists killed in 2021 in the course of doing their job.

The profiles are presented in alphabetical order.
Abdiaziz Mohamud Guled

Country of Origin: Somalia
Circumstances: Suicide Bomber
Date of death: 20th November 2021

Somali journalist Abdiaziz Mohamud Guled was killed in a suicide bombing attack in Mogadishu on 20 November 2021. He was travelling in a car with Sharmarke Mohamed Warsame, the director of Somali National Television (SNTV), when a person wearing an explosive vest approached the stationary vehicle and detonated the device.

Guled was a prominent critic of the Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab. He was well-known for his interviews with detained members, with his broadcasts attracting large audiences. Al-Shabaab later claimed responsibly for the attack, claiming that it had been ‘hunting’ Guled due to his coverage of the group.

Al-Shabaab has repeatedly targeted journalists working for government-owned media outlets like SNTV. The network’s editor, Abdullah Amin Mohamud, said that Guled ‘was the biggest target’ due to his interviews with Al-Shabaab militants captured by Somali forces. A statement by Somalia’s Information Minister, Osman Abokar Dubbe, said Guled was ‘targeted’ because he ‘gave everything for the state-building process.’

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1BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-59352179
4CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/abdiaziz-mohamud-guled/

Photo credits: The Times of Africa
Ajay Lalwani was a local news correspondent for Royal News TV and the Daily Puchano. He reported on issues concerning Pakistan’s minorities, notably the Hindu community. Lalwani was an active member of the Sindh Journalist Council and a media freedom activist.

He was shot and killed in Pakistan while having his hair cut at a barber shop in the city of Sukkur in Sindh province. He was hit multiple times and taken to hospital where he died from his wounds later that evening.

Local colleagues are convinced that Lalwani was targeted because of his work as a reporter. It is believed that Lalwani was singled out because of his reporting on alleged abuses of power by the city’s administrators and police force. Prior to his death, there were frequent and sometimes violent confrontations between local journalists and the police in Sukkur, with police officers allegedly filing false charges against reporters in an effort to prevent them from exposing instances of corruption.

Following demands from Lalwani’s parents and local journalists, the deputy inspector general of police for crime and investigation for Sindh Province ordered that the investigation of Lalwani’s killing be transferred from Sukkur to police in the nearby district of Kashmore.

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Ajay Lalwani  
**Country of Origin:** Pakistan  
**Circumstances:** Shot  
**Date of death:** 18th March 2021

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8 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/ajay-lalwani/  
9 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/ajay-lalwani/  
10 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/ajay-lalwani/

Photo credits: CPJ
Alexander Lashkarava was a 37-year-old cameraman working for the independent station TV Pirveli in Tbilisi, Georgia. On 5 July, he was one of 50 journalists attacked while covering demonstrations against a planned LGBT Pride rally in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

Lashkarava and his colleague Miranda Bagaturia were setting up to film in an NGO office when they were attacked by more than 20 demonstrators. Though both colleagues survived the violent assault and were later discharged from hospital, Lashkarava was found dead a week later.

The cause of Lashkarava’s death has not been announced, but Georgia’s interior ministry has launched a criminal investigation into his death. The police subsequently alleged that he had suffered a drug overdose, however this explanation has been rejected by his family.

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Aleksandre Lashkarava

Country of Origin: Georgia
Circumstances: Unknown
Date of death: 11th July 2021

12 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/aleksandre-lashkarava/
13 https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-57797467
16 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/aleksandre-lashkarava/

Photo Credits: RSF
Alfredo Cardoso Echeverría was the founder and editor of the online magazine Las Dos Costas, and a contributing photojournalist for several media outlets in Acapulco in Mexico’s Guerrero State.\textsuperscript{17}

On 31 October he was taken from his home by armed men. Hours later he was found shot dead inside his car in the nearby Loma Bonita neighbourhood.\textsuperscript{18} Prior to his death, both he and his family had received threats in relation to his work.\textsuperscript{19}

Despite the arrest of a suspect in November in relation to the murder, no one has been prosecuted and the motive for the killing remains unclear.\textsuperscript{20} Guerrero State Governor Evelyn Salgado condemned Echeverría’s murder and announced the creation of an initiative to improve protections for human rights activists and journalists.\textsuperscript{21}

\textsuperscript{17} CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/alfredo-cardoso-echeverria/
\textsuperscript{19} Alarabiya News, https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2021/11/01/Mexican-journalist-Alfredo-Cardoso-dies-two-days-after-being-shot
\textsuperscript{20} CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/alfredo-cardoso-echeverria/

Photo credits: Alarabiya News
Avinash Jha

Country of Origin: India
Circumstances: Burned to death
Date of death: 12th October, 2021

Jha worked for news website BNN News investigating corruption and malpractice within local private medical clinics. Prior to his death he had identified a series of fake clinics around Benipatti, leading to their closures and the arrest and prosecution of those involved. Two days before he went missing, he announced on his Facebook page that he would initiate a new investigation into illegal clinics on 15 November.

His burned body was discovered by his family three miles outside Benipatti. On 14 November, the police arrested 6 suspects. BNN News Chief Editor Kanhaiya Kashyap said that he believed Jha was targeted specifically for his journalism.
Benjamín Morales Hernández

Country of Origin: Mexico
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 3rd May 2021

Benjamín Morales Hernández was the founder and director of local news media Noticias Xonoidag, a local news outlet on Facebook. His reporting focussed on local news, including politics and culture. Prior to his death he had been covering local election campaigns in Sonora.27

His body was discovered in his car on the roadside between the towns of Caborca and Sonoyta near the Mexican-US border. He had suffered multiple gunshot wounds.28 According to the police his body was accompanied by a warning, though police have declined to publish its contents.29

Prior to his death he reported having received threats to his life.30 The day before his abduction he reported that he had again received anonymous death threats on his Facebook page, and now feared for his life.31

29 data/people/benjamin-morales-hernandez/  

Photo credits, RSF
Bismillah Adel Aimaq was a radio broadcaster and human rights activist. He was the managing editor of local radio, Sada-e-Ghor, and covered local news and politics in Ghor.\(^\text{32}\)

He was returning to the provincial capital, Feroz Koh, after visiting his family in a nearby village when gunmen opened fire on the car he was driving.\(^\text{33}\) They killed him, but left the others travelling in the vehicle unharmed.\(^\text{34}\) Aimaq had survived at least one other attempt on his life months before his death; on 7 November, he wrote on his personal Facebook account that unidentified people had shot at his house and car.\(^\text{35}\)

No one has claimed responsibility for Aimaq’s murder. Despite being implicated, a Taliban spokesperson denied that the group was connected to the killing.\(^\text{36}\)

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\(^{35}\) CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/bismillah-adel-aimaq/

\(^{36}\) CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/bismillah-adel-aimaq/

Photo credits, IFJ
Borhan Uddin Muzakkir

Country of Origin: Bangladesh  
Circumstances: Shot  
Date of death: 19th February, 2021

Borhan Uddin Muzakkir was a journalist with Bangla Samachar and news website bartabazar.com.

He was fatally shot in the neck while reporting on clashes between rival factions of the ruling Awami League (AL) in Companiganj. At least nine people were shot during the demonstrations.

It is unclear who fired the fatal shot. However, Muzzakir’s elder brother suggests that CCTV footage may be able to identify his killer. The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, is amongst those who have called for a comprehensive investigation into his death. However, to date, no one has been arrested for his murder.

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37 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/borhan-uddin-muzakkir/

Photo Credits: IFJ
Chennakeshavalu

Country of Origin: India
Circumstances: Stabbed
Date of death: 8th August, 2021

Chennakeshavalu was a journalist for local news channel EV5-TV.

He was stabbed repeatedly in the back with a screwdriver by a suspended police officer, Venkata Subbaiah, and his brother in the south-eastern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh after exposing Subbiah’s involvement in illegal gambling and a tobacco smuggling ring. Following the exposé, Subbaiah was suspended from duty. After calling Chennakeshavulu to arrange a meeting to settle their dispute, Subbiah and his brother attacked him before fleeing the scene. Chennakeshavulu was taken to a local hospital where he died from his injuries. Subbiah was subsequently dismissed from the police, and he and his brother placed under arrest.

41CPI, https://cpj.org/data/people/chennakeshavalu/

Photo credit: Maktoobmedia
Danish Siddiqui was an Indian photojournalist based in Delhi, who led Reuters multimedia team.\(^4\) He received the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for documenting the Rohingya refugee crisis.\(^5\)

He was killed while covering a clash between Afghan security forces and the Taliban near Kandahar ahead of the US withdrawal.\(^6\) Initial reports said that Siddiqui was talking to shopkeepers when the Taliban launched an attack, and he was killed in a subsequent crossfire. However, later it was discovered that he was killed after soldiers withdrew from Spin Boldak and mistakenly left Siddiqui and the two commandos who were accompanying him behind in the belief that they had also withdrawn.\(^7\)

A British ballistic expert consulted by Reuters found that Siddiqui was shot multiple further times after he was killed. Security officials with the former Afghan government and Indian government officials told Reuters that based on photos, intelligence, and an examination of Siddiqui’s body, his body was mutilated while in Taliban custody after his death.\(^8\) “While I enjoy covering news stories - from business to politics to sports - what I enjoy most is capturing the human face of a breaking story,” Siddiqui had said.\(^9\)

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\(^6\) The Wire, https://thewire.in/media/danish-siddiqui-reuters-in-photos

\(^7\) CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/danish-siddiqui/

\(^8\) CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/danish-siddiqui/

\(^9\) CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/danish-siddiqui/


Photo Credit: CPJ
David Beriáin

Country of Origin: Spain  
Circumstances: Shot  
Date of death: 26th April, 2021

David Beriáin Amatriáin was a freelance Spanish journalist, producer, and documentary anchor, who covered conflicts all over the world from Colombia to Afghanistan.51 He had received multiple awards for his work including the prestigious Miguel Porquet award in Spain.54

He was killed during an attack on his convoy by Nusrat al-Islam militants whilst documenting the government’s fight against poachers near Burkina Faso’s Arli National Park.35 Following Beriáin’s killing, Chiqui Esteban, the graphics director for The Washington Post, posted on Twitter that Beriáin ‘knew this could happen and accepted it’.56

54 LinkedIn, https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-beriain-amatriain-8b781170/?originalSubdomain=es  
55 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/david-beriain/  
56 https://twitter.com/chiquiesteban/status/1387053824251101185

Photo Credit: CPJ
Dawit Kebede Araya
Country of Origin: Ethiopia
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 19th January, 2021

Dawit Kebede Araya was a broadcaster for regional state Tigray Television. He had just returned to work after Tigray TV had been forced to suspend broadcasting due to the escalating conflict.\(^{57}\)

He and a friend were shot dead by Ethiopian soldier whilst driving back from a party near their homes in Mekelle in violation of a government curfew.\(^{58}\) Two other passengers in the car survived and were later detained.\(^{59}\)

Before Araya’s death, police had detained cameraman Kumerra Gemechu for covering the Tigray conflict for the Reuters news agency. He was held for 12 days before being released without charge.\(^{60}\) Reporter Lucy Kassa’s home in Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa was also raided by armed men who threatened to kill her if she kept on investigating the conflict in Tigray.\(^{61}\)\(^{62}\)

It is unclear whether Araya was specifically targeted.

\(^{59}\)CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/dawit-kebede-araya/
\(^{60}\)BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-56263704
\(^{61}\)BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-56263704
\(^{62}\)CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/dawit-kebede-araya/

Photo credits: twitter
Diego Charles

Country of Origin: Haiti
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 29th June, 2021

Diego Charles was a reporter for Vision 2000 Radio and digital publication, Gazette Haiti. He was also the founder of Larepiblik Magazine, which he co-founded alongside Antoinette Duclaire, a vocal government critic and member of the opposition Matris Liberasyon.63

Both men were shot dead outside Charles’s house in the Christ-Roi neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince.64 Later that afternoon, gunshots were heard in proximity to the site of the attack in what relatives believe was a deliberate effort to discourage witnesses from cooperating with police. At the time of his death, Charles was investigating the unsolved 2020 killing of Monferrier Dorval, the president of the Port-au-Prince Bar Association.65 Charles and Duclaire had both acknowledged receiving deaths threats.

Whilst the police have opened an investigation into the murders, no arrests have yet been made.66 67

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65 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/diego-charles/

Photo credit: CPJ
Fredy Fernando López Arévalo

Country of Origin: Mexico
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 28th October, 2021

Fredy Arévalo was a veteran journalist and editor of the magazine Jovel, correspondent for El Financiero and El Universal, and news anchor at the XERA-Radio Uno station. 68

He was shot dead outside his home in San Cristóbal de las Casas in front of his wife and children. 69

López had reported on organized crime and drug trafficking in the region, as well as the presence of armed groups operating outside of the city. Colleagues remain convinced that his murder was prompted by his work. 70 71

70 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/fredy-fernando-lopez-arevalo/

Photo credits: sdpnoticias
Gerardo Antonio Moreno Aranda

Country of Origin: Mexico
Circumstances: Drowned
Date of death: 4th October, 2021

Gerardo Aranda covered drug trafficking and migration for the US news outlet, Breitbart News. He was investigating the spread of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), a trafficking group led by the notorious drug lord Nemesio Oceguera Cervantes, and its increasing use of paramilitaries.  

Aranda’s body was found in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the state of Chiapas. Officials concluded that he had drowned, though investigations continue to establish whether his death was the result of foul play. Aranda had not reported receiving threats as a result of his work.

Commenting on his death, Juan Carlos Osorio, a former colleague and friend said, 'his goal was always to expose the truth, although the term sounds trite, Gerardo was an honest journalist'.

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72 https://es.elpais.com/elpais/2021/10/07/actualidad/1633754864_698885.html
74 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/gerardo-antonio-moreno-aranda/
75 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/gerardo-antonio-moreno-aranda/

Photo credits: CPJ
Giorgos Karaivaz

Country of Origin: Iraq
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 9th April, 2021

Giorgos Karaivaz was a Greek investigative journalist who specialized in organized crime. He worked for the private television channel Star Channel and was also founder of the news website Bloko. He was well-known for his coverage of local Greek law and police stories.76

Karaivaz was shot dead by two individuals as he returned home in Alimos, southern Athens.77 More than a dozen bullet casings were recovered from the scene, and police said the murder was clearly carefully planned. "It was a professional hit," an investigating officer told Reuters.78

Karaivaz had not requested police protection, nor reported any death threats, according to the Associated Press. Greek government spokeswoman Aristotelia Peloni said the murder "shocked us all. "Authorities are already investigating in order to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to justice," she said.79 Police are investigating whether the killing was linked to Karaivaz’s reporting on alleged ties between the Hellenic Police and organized crime, and his coverage of the 2018 killing of a former police officer under investigation for such ties.80 It is unclear whether the death was work-related.

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77 BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe-56705631
80 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/giorgos-karaivaz/

Photo credits: CPJ
Gustavo Sánchez Cabrera

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

**Circumstances:** Shot

**Date of death:** 17th June, 2021

Gustavo Sánchez Cabrera was the director of the Noticias Minuto a Minuto news website and Panorama Pacífico TV. He was also a reporter for the Panorama Pacifico, a Facebook-based news outlet in the coastal city of Huatulco where he covered local politics, crime, and corruption.  

He was shot and killed when riding on a motorcycle with his 15-year-old son in his home state of Oaxaca. He received a single gunshot to the head, whilst his son sustained mild head injuries from the ensuing crash.

Reports suggest that he believed an attempt on his life to be imminent following numerous death threats. In July 2020, he survived a murder attempt outside his home and was subsequently placed into a federal protection programme. However, many key security measure including police surveillance and police escorts had not yet been implemented.

The Oaxaca state prosecutor’s office has said it will conduct an exhaustive investigation into Sánchez’s murder.

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86 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/gustavo-sanchez-cabrera/

Photo credit: RSF
Jacinto Romero Flores

**Country of Origin:** Mexico  
**Circumstances:** Shot  
**Date of death:** 19th August, 2021

Jacinto Romero Flores was a reporter for radio broadcaster Ori Stereo FM. He hosted Digalo Sin Miedo (Say It Without Fear), a popular call-in radio show covering crime, corruption, and alleged abuses of power by local authorities. He also hosted El Enano del Tapanco, a weekly Facebook-based talk show in which he and guests discussed state and national politics.

He was shot and killed by unidentified attackers while driving his car. Prior to his death, Flores had received a series of threats including from a local police officer in Texhuacan after he reported that another officer from the force had discharged his firearm at a party. Flores had been enrolled in a protection programme, however security measures were considered “moderate to light.”

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89 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/jacinto-romero-flores/  
90 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/jacinto-romero-flores/  
93 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/jacinto-romero-flores/

Photo credits: CPJ
Jamal Farah Adan

Country of Origin: Somalia
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 1st March, 2021

Jamal Farah Adan was a freelance journalist for three of Somalia’s most popular radio stations: Radio Daljir, Radio Galkayo and Radio Garowe.

He was a prominent critic of the Islamist group Al-Shabaab. In a December 2020 video he urged residents of the town of Galkayo to rise up against the militant group and accused local officials of conspiring to help some of its members to escape justice.  

He died after being shot three times outside his family-run shop. Prior to his death, Adan had received numerous threats following his coverage of Islamist group Al-Shabaab.

Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for his murder via their broadcaster, Radio Andalus, accusing Adan of apostacy, subversion, and spying on members of the Muslim community. The presenter broadcast a series of recordings said to be of Adan, in which he criticised Al-Shabaab and its leadership.

In a statement issued following Jamal’s killing, Puntland’s regional president, Said Abdullahi Deni, whose government controls the northern part of Galkayo, condemned the killing and directed security personnel to arrest the perpetrators.
Jesus Yutrago Malabanan

Country of Origin: Philippines
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 8th December, 2021

Jesus Malabanan was a freelance journalist and contributor to Reuter’s coverage of Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte’s drug war. His reporting had led to numerous death threats for which he requested police protection in 2017, prompting him to relocate to Calbayog City on the island of Samar.99

He was shot on 8 December by an unknown assassin while watching television in his family shop.100 It is widely believed that he was killed due to his reporting of the war on drugs.101

99 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/jesus-malabanan/

Photo credits: The Times
Joel Mumbere Musavuli

Country of Origin: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Circumstances: Hacked to death
Date of death: 13th August, 2021

Joel Musavuli hosted the weekly Raia Funguwa Macho (Open Your Eyes, Citizens) radio programme which covered human rights abuses by armed groups in the DRC, including the army. His coverage resulted in several deaths threats and arrests, though he was reportedly released from detention on one occasion after he was identified as a journalist.

On 13 August 2021, several men armed with machetes and wearing civilian clothes attacked Musavuli in his home in the village of Bucha-Kenya. His attackers identified themselves as members of the local Mai-Mai militia and claimed to be acting in response to “what he has been announcing on the radio,” specifically reporting on Mai-Mai movements and activities. His wife was also attacked, pushed to the ground, and left with a wound on her neck.

It is still unclear whether the police have launched an investigation into his murder, or whether any arrests have been made or charges brought against suspects.

Photo credit: CPJ
Lokman Slim

Country of Origin: Lebanon
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 4th February, 2021

Lokman Slim was a Lebanese publisher, political activist, and commentator.

His body was found inside his car a day after he was reported missing. He had been shot four times in the head.\footnote{https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/4/lebanese-anti-hezbollah-activist-found-dead-in-this-car}

Slim was a prominent critic of Hezbollah as well as Lebanon’s ruling party, and had frequently received death threats for his criticism of the group. In 2019, he alleged that Hezbollah’s leader was responsible for efforts to intimidate him following his coverage of protests in the country.\footnote{https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20210204-lokman-slim-prominent-hezbollah-critic-shot-dead-in-south-lebanon} Prior to his death he had stated publicly that Hezbollah bore some responsibility for the 2020 Beirut port explosion.\footnote{CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/lokman-slim/} His sister has since claimed that ‘probably there’s an ideological and political background in the assassination’.\footnote{Ibid}

Whilst Hezbollah condemned Slim’s killing, Jawad Nasrallah, son of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, tweeted that “the loss of some people is in fact an unplanned gain #notsorry.” He later deleted the message and claimed he had not been referring to Slim.\footnote{The Guardian, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/04/hezbollah-critic-lokman-slim-found-dead-in-lebanon} Lebanon’s prime minister condemned the “heinous crime”, which the EU’s ambassador called an “assassination”.\footnote{BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-55933222}
Maharram Ibrahimov

**Country of Origin:** Lebanon  
**Circumstances:** Landmine  
**Date of death:** 4th June, 2021

Maharram Ibrahimov worked for Azerbaijan’s state broadcaster, where he covered regional security issues.

He was killed along with a colleague and three others when their vehicle struck a landmine in the region of Kalbajar. The mines were reportedly laid by Armenian forces to prevent journalists from entering the region.

Commenting on the incident, Rasul Jafarov, chairman of the Baku Human Rights Club, said ‘these people went to that region for journalistic reasons; they were there doing their jobs, covering topics that are of huge public interest today.’

112.CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/maharram-ibrahimov/  
113.CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/maharram-ibrahimov/

Photo credit: CPJ
Manish Kumar Singh was a reporter for the Hindi-language news channel Surdashan TV. He had been missing for two days when his mutilated body was found in Bihar state. Both of his eyes had been removed by his killers. Singh had received several death threats prior to his death, and his father believes that he was killed due to his investigation of local organised crime. To date, police have investigated two fellow journalists on suspicion of the murder.¹¹⁵

Manish Kumar Singh

**Country of Origin:** India  
**Circumstances:** Unknown  
**Date of death:** 10th August, 2021

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¹¹⁵ CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/manish-kumar-singh/  

Photo credits: CPJ
Manuel González Reyes

Country of Origin: Mexico
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 15th February 2020

Manuel González Reyes directed the news website Agencia Portal Morelos Noticias, which he founded in 2017. He was also a candidate in mayoral elections in Emiliano Zapata. He covered local news, especially business, politics, and crime.

In the weeks before the murder he covered several local murders and shootings, as well as criticising the lack of emergency assistance from state authorities after a mudslide.

He was killed when two men on a motorcycle approached him at a food stand in the Miraval neighbourhood of Cuernavaca, before opening fire. Reyes was shot multiple times and died at the scene. It is unclear whether González had received previous threats to his life or whether the his death was work-related.

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118 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/manuel-gonzalez-reyes/
119 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/manuel-gonzalez-reyes/
120 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/manuel-gonzalez-reyes/
121 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/manuel-gonzalez-reyes/

Photo credits: RSF
Mara Salem Harahap

**Country of Origin:** Indonesia

**Circumstances:** Shot

**Date of death:** 18th June, 2021

Mara Salem Harahap was the editor-in-chief of Lasser News Today, an online news site based in in Pematangsiantar, a city of about a quarter of a million people in the heart of Sumatra. He often reported on drug trafficking in the district. During the previous few months, the 46-year-old had written about a local nightclub in the city that he alleged was linked to organised crime, gambling and drug dealing. In addition to writing about the nightclub, Marsal had also posted about it on his Facebook account.

On the evening of 18 June, Marsal was shot and killed in his car about 300 metres from his home. Six days later, the North Sumatra police chief, Inspector General Panca Putra, announced that two suspects had been arrested – the owner of the nightclub that Marsal had been investigating and an unidentified army official.

In response to the killing, Liston Damanik, the head of the Indonesian Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) in Medan, said “cases like this and atrocities against journalists are increasing, presumably because there is no legal certainty from the police regarding these cases.”

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Marcos Efraín Montalvo

**Country of Origin:** Colombian  
**Circumstances:** Shot  
**Date of death:** 19th September, 2021

Marcos Montalvo was a veteran freelance print and radio journalist and the founder of the newspapers El Reportero, La Variante, El Otro and El Picacho. He reported frequently on local politics, crime, and corruption, and on the influence of organised crime networks including the so-called Cilantro Cartel’s control of the region’s vegetable market.  

He was shot dead while out shopping in Western Colombia’s volatile Valle del Cauca department where attacks on journalists are common. Montalvo’s investigations had led him to receive numerous threats. In 2019, a motorcyclist struck Montalvo with their helmet and warned the journalist to stop reporting on sensitive issues.

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128 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/marcos-efrain-montalvo/  
130 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/marcos-efrain-montalvo/

Photo credits: CPJ
Mina Khairi

**Country of Origin:** Afghanistan  
**Circumstances:** Car bomb  
**Date of death:** 3rd June, 2021

Mina Khairi was a news presenter for the TV Station, Ariana Television Network. She was killed along with her mother by a car bomb attached to the vehicle in which they were travelling in Kabul. Khairi’s sister was also wounded in the attack and died in hospital two days later.  

Khari’s colleague at Ariana claimed that the “killing was an attempt by some group to create panic among journalists and dissuade them from reporting the news.”  

Mina was 23 years old and had a bachelor’s degree in economics. In the month before she was killed, blasts targeted a girl’s school in the area and killed over 90 girls. The television company which Kairi worked for focuses on covering ‘education, health, children’s programming, women’s and world issues. Since her death, no group or individual have claimed responsibility for Khairi’s death. Justice is yet to be served.

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133 Tolo news, https://tolonews.com/business-172630  
135 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/mina-khairi/  

Photo credit: CPJ
Muhammad Zada Agra

Country of Origin: Pakistan  
Circumstances: Shot by drug traffickers  
Date of death: 8th November, 2021

Muhammad Zada Agra was a social activist and the former district president of the Insaf Students Federation, which was the student wing of a political party. He reported on politics, corruption, local drug cartels and criminal groups on his Facebook page Citizen Journalist PK as well as posting on its corresponding YouTube channel.

In October 2021, Agra criticized the Deputy Commissioner of the Malakand Police over his alleged inaction responding to local drug cartels. Agra then posted on his personal Facebook page that the Deputy Commissioner was part of a ‘dirty conspiracy’ and that he was trying to harass and arrest Agra.\(^{136}\)

He had received several threatening phone calls and subsequently declared that if anything happened to him, the Deputy Commissioner would be to blame. Despite these threats, he continued to write about local criminal groups for the local newspaper and on social media.

The following month, Agra was shot dead near his home.\(^{137}\) The Deputy Commissioner was suspended following the murder. Two men associated with local drug traffickers were later arrested, and the motorcycle and rifle used in the killing were found.\(^{138}\)

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\(^{136}\) CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/muhammad-zada-agra/


\(^{138}\) https://www.samaaenglish.tv/

Photo credits: CPJ
Orlando ‘Dondon’ Dinoy

Country of Origin: Philippines
Circumstances: Shot by hired killers
Date of death: October 30th, 2021

Orlando ‘Dondon’ Dinoy worked as a reporter for the Newsline Philippines website and as a news anchor for Energy FM radio.139

He was shot dead in his home.140Whilst the Presidential Task Force for Media Security claimed in a statement that investigators had “strong leads” on a suspect, no one has yet been charged.141 The taskforce’s executive director said that investigators were pursuing several motives for the killing, but claimed that evidence suggested it was unlikely that he had been targeted as a result of his work.142

140 Philippine Inquirer, https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1513721/journalists-slay-linked-to-socmed-posts-gambling
141 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/orlando-donan-dinoy/
142 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/orlando-donan-dinoy/

Photo credits: IFJ
Peter R de Vries

**Country of Origin:** Netherlands  
**Circumstances:** Shot  
**Date of death:** 15th July, 2021

Peter Rudolf de Vries was a Dutch investigative journalist who won critical acclaim for his reporting on the Dutch underworld.

In 1983, he played a key role in the recovery of the kidnapped beer tycoon Freddy Heineken, while his programme examining the disappearance of Natalee Holloway won an International Emmy Award.\(^{143}\) His investigations made him a prominent target. He received numerous death threats during his distinguished career, but refused police protection.

He was shot repeatedly leaving a TV studio in the centre of Amsterdam.\(^{144}\) He was rushed to hospital where he remained in a coma for nine days before dying of his injuries.\(^{145}\) To date, no one has been charged with his murder.\(^{146}\)

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\(^{143}\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_R._de_Vries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_R._de_Vries)  
\(^{144}\) BBC, [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-57853004](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-57853004)  
\(^{145}\) CPJ, [https://cpj.org/data/people/peter-r-de-vries/](https://cpj.org/data/people/peter-r-de-vries/)  
\(^{146}\) CPJ, [https://cpj.org/data/people/peter-r-de-vries/](https://cpj.org/data/people/peter-r-de-vries/)

Photo credit: CPJ
Raman Kashyap

Country of Origin: India
Circumstances: Vehicular homicide
Date of death: 4th October, 2021

Raman Kashyap was a freelance journalist who contributed to the local news channel Sadhna TV. He was killed covering a farmer’s protest in Lakhimpur Kheri. He was one of eight people killed when a car rammed into protestors. His body was then dragged along the road.

Kashyap worked as a schoolteacher and he was married with two children. “He wanted to do some social work and felt reporting was a way of doing something for society”, said one of his friends.

A police investigation led to the arrests of the driver of the car, along with two other suspects. The case has since gone to trial.

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149 The Print, https://theprint.in/india/lakhimpur-kheri-reporter-was-alive-but-police-took-him-to-morgue-not-hospital-brother-agonises/745366/
150 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/raman-kashyap/

Photo credits: The Print
Rasha Abdullah al-Harazi

Country of Origin: Yemen
Circumstances: Car bomb
Date of death: 9th November, 2021

Rasha Abdullah al-Harazi was a photographer and local news reporter who worked for the Emirati news channels Al-Ain and Al-Sharq.\(^{152}\)

Al-Harazi was pregnant at the time of her murder. She was killed by an explosive device attached to her car.\(^{153}\) It was detonated as she and her journalist husband Mahmoud were travelling to hospital for an appointment related to the pregnancy.\(^{154}\) Her husband and son, along with her mother-in-law were also in the car, and suffered major injuries.

Though no one has claimed responsibility for the murder, colleagues suspect that the couple had been targeted by Houthi rebels in retaliation for their critical coverage of Yemen’s civil war.


Renante Cortes

**Country of Origin:** Philippines  
**Circumstances:** Shot  
**Date of death:** 22nd July, 2021

Renante Cortes was the host of a regular political news programme in Cebu City’s DyRB radio station. He had just completed his daily program when he was shot by unidentified assailants riding a motorcycle. He died upon his arrival to hospital.

Cortes was a vocal critic of local politics. Cebu City Police Major, Dindo Alaras, said that Cortez made ‘enemies’ due to his radio commentaries. He added that Cortes’ radio commentaries often brought him into conflict with local political figures.

Cortes had survived previous attempts on his life, and he was arrested for a run-in with a government official in 2006. A month earlier, a man and a woman had visited Cortes’s office, to inquire about Cortes’s schedule, but the staff did not pry because they believed the others might have been meeting Cortes for personal reasons.

Despite a police investigation, the murder remains unsolved. Investigators continue to review Cortes’s news commentaries to find possible links to his killing.

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155 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/renante-cortes/  
156 Press Reader: https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/the-freeman/20160804/281586649975530  
157 Ibid
Ricardo Domínguez López was the correspondent for Televisa in Sonora and director of InfoGuaymas, a news website. He was also the general secretary of the Delegation 11 of the National Union of Press Writers (SNRP), an IFJ affiliate.

He was shot on his 47th birthday, in a parking lot in Guaymas town. In November, López denounced the municipal police of Guaymas for creating false accounts to attack and discredit the media. His colleagues stated that López’s death was likely relate to his coverage of crime and security in the region.

He had been the victim of online harassment prior to his death. In March 2021, López called a press conference in which he publicly condemned the death threats he had received and asked the Attorney General’s Office to investigate them. He decided to leave Guaymas because he claimed that he was the victim of a smear campaign in which he claimed that local police in had falsely accused him of having ties to organized crime.

López’ colleagues rejected the claims, stating that ‘journalists in the region, especially those who cover crime and security, are often subject to threats and violence by criminal gangs.’

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158 IFJ, https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/category/latin-america/article/ricardo-dominguez-lopez.html?tx_wbmap_list%5Baction% 5D=detail&tx_wbmap_list%5Bcontroller%5D=Item&cHash=19cb9be22a27e48b8520ab7a6522fd
159 Ibid.
160 Ibid.
161 Ibid.
162 IPI, https://ipi.media/deaths/ricardo-dominguez-lopez/
163 Ibid.
164 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/ricardo-dominguez-lopez/
165 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/ricardo-dominguez-lopez/

Photo credits: IPI
Roberto Fraile

Country of Origin: Spain
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 26th April, 2021

Roberto Fraile was a Spanish journalist and cameraman for Salamanca Television and La 8 de Salamanca with considerable experience operating in conflict zones.\(^{166}\)

He was killed alongside fellow Spanish journalist David Beriáin and Irish conservationist Rory Young, while filming a documentary about poaching in Pama, Burkina Faso.\(^{167}\) They were reported missing following an attack on their convoy by Islamist group Nusrat al-Islam.\(^{168}\)

Fraile’s former employer, the Spanish broadcaster Castilla y León Televisión (CyLTV) broadcaster, described him as “a brave journalist” and “an image craftsman, a patient potter of exquisite taste” who “alternated his day-to-day life with his passion, doing journalism where journalists are not welcome.”\(^{169}\)

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\(^{166}\)https://www.lagacetadesalamanca.es/salamanca/asesinado-el-periodista-salmantino-roberto-fraile-en-burkina-faso-AX7426064

\(^{167}\)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Fraile

\(^{168}\)https://www.eldiario.es/internacional/periodistas-espanoles-asesinados-ataque-burkina-faso_1_7874403.html

\(^{169}\)CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/roberto-fraile/

Photo credit: CPJ
Sai Win Aung was a reporter for Myanmar’s the Federal News Journal. He was killed in an army artillery barrage while covering the plight of refugees in the south-eastern state of Kayin. It remains unclear if Aung was intentionally targeted by the junta in response for his public criticism of its treatment of refugees.

Commenting on his death, the Head of RSF’s Asia-Pacific desk Daniel Bastard, said “Sai Wing Aung paid with his life for his determination to provide his fellow citizens with coverage of the terror that the armed forces have been inflicting on Myanmar’s population since last February’s military coup. He died a hero, and his fight must not be in vain. We urge the international community to impose new targeted sanctions on members of the ruling junta in order to end the current escalation in terror.”

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171 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/sai-win-aung-a-sai-k/

Photo credits: RSF
Saúl Tijerina Rentería was a drone camera operator for Facebook-based news outlets La Policiaca and Noticias en la Web.\(^\text{173}\)

His mutilated body was found in his car in the Mexican state of Coahuila several hours after he had been reported missing.\(^\text{174}\) According to Article 19, Rentería’s body was accompanied by a warning to other journalists which read, ‘this is going to happen to all those in the state or who collaborate with the state.’\(^\text{175}\)

The reason for his murder is yet to be determined, though it appears possible that he was targeted because of his willingness to supply the authorities with drone footage. However, Rentería had not received any previous threats as a result of his work, and subsequent reports suggested he may have had links to one of the region’s drug cartels.\(^\text{176}\)

\(^{173}\text{CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/saul-tijerina-renteria/}\)
\(^{175}\text{https://articulo19.org/article-19-el-comite-para-la-proteccion-de-los-periodistas-y-la-red-de-periodistas-de-noroeste-rechazan-el-asesinato-del-comunicador-saul-tijerina-renteria/}\)
\(^{176}\text{CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/saul-tijerina-renteria/}\)
Shahid Zehri

Country of Origin: Pakistan
Circumstances: Explosion
Date of death: 10th October, 2021

Shahid Zehri worked for the privately owned news channel Metro 1 News, reporting on news and politics in Baluchistan province. He was killed when his vehicle was hit by an explosion. He and another companion were taken to hospital, where Zehri was pronounced dead.

The Baloch Liberation Army, an ethnic separatist group, later claimed responsibility for his death on Twitter. They accused the journalist of being an informant of Pakistani security forces.

177 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/shahid-zehri/
179 Twitter, https://twitter.com/SAMRIReports/status/1447292807136387083

Photo credits: CPJ
Siraj Abishov

Country of Origin: Azerbaijan  
Circumstances: Landmine  
Date of death: 4th June, 2021

Siraj Abishov was a camera operator with the Azerbaijani state broadcaster, AzTV. He was on assignment in Azerbaijan’s Kalbajar district near Nagorno-Karabakh when his vehicle struck a landmine, killing him along with a colleague. There is no suggestion that they were deliberately targeted.

“These people went to that region for journalistic reasons, they were there doing their jobs, covering topics that are of huge public interest today” said Rasul Jafarov, chairman of the Baku Human Rights Club.\(^{180}\)

\(^{180}\)CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/siraj-abishov/

Photo credit: CPJ
**Sisay Fida**

**Country of Origin:** Ethiopia  
**Circumstances:** Shot  
**Date of death:** 9th May, 2021

Sisay Fida was a journalist who worked for the Oromia Broadcasting Network (OBN). He was shot dead near his residence by suspected members of the armed group Oromia Liberation Front in Wellaga Zone of the Oromia region of Ethiopia.\(^1\)

According to a source from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Fida had received a series of death threats as a result of his reporting. At the time of his death he was investigating public opinion of the Ethiopian parliament’s classification of the Oromo Liberation Army as a terrorist organization.\(^2\)

Ahmed Yassin, the UN’s Deputy Director for Peace and Security in Ethiopia, Fida had been targeted by the Oromo Liberation Front "because he was well known in the community and worked for the regional government."\(^3\)

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\(^1\)IPI, https://ipi.media/sisay-fida-ethiopia/  
\(^2\)The Insider, https://www.insider.com/a-journalist-was-killed-in-ethiopia-after-receiving-death-threats-2021-11  
\(^3\)CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/sisay-fida/  
\(^4\)CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/sisay-fida/

*Photo credits: CPJ*
Soe Naing

Country of Origin: Myanmar

Circumstances: Unknown

Date of death: 14th December, 2021

Soe Naing was a freelance reporter and photographer and had been covering events in Myanmar since the military coup on 1 February 2021. He died after in custody after being detained in a military interrogation centre for four days following his arrest while covering a silent demonstration marking International Human Rights Day. His Facebook account was disabled soon after his arrest.

Naing’s death was believed to be the first death of a journalist in custody since the return of the junta in February. His coverage of public protests and crackdowns by the junta’s security forces appeared in a number of reports published by foreign news agencies.

Reporters Without Borders believe that he died under interrogation in jail. The New York Times, citing the local rights group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, estimates that at least 184 detainees who had been “tortured to death” by authorities.

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189 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/soe-naing/
190 RSF, https://twitter.com/RSF_int/status/1470718263554359298?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwtweembed%7Cterm%5E1470718263554359298%7Ctwtgr%5E%7Crcon%5Es1_%&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Ft.co-206716687690886652.ammproject.net%2F2203101844000%2Fiframe.html
191 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/soe-naing/

Photo credits: CPJ
Sulabh Srivasta was a journalist for ABP News and ABP Ganga. He had been investigating links between organised crime and sales of illicit alcohol, coverage which resulted in death threats which were referred to the police. The day before his death, he wrote a letter to state officials in which he expressed concerns for his life and safety. In the letter, he stated that he felt that his and his family’s life was in danger and demanded protection from the police and said that he felt as though someone was following him. His wife, Renuka Srivastava, confirmed that he had received multiple threats in the days prior to his death.

The official investigation into Srivasta’s death concluded that he had been the victim of a motorcycle accident, following the discovery of his body at the roadside. However, his injuries appeared to contradict this as a cause of death, with reports suggesting he had been beaten and had his clothes torn.

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196 CPJ, https://cpj.org/data/people/sulabh-srivastava/

Photo credits: CPJ
Toofan Omarani Tripathi

Country of Origin: Afghanistan
Circumstances: Shot
Date of death: 8th August, 2021

Toofan Omar served as manager of Paktia Ghag Radio and was also a prominent spokesperson for Nai, a nongovernmental organization advocating for media freedoms in Afghanistan.199

He was shot whilst he was travelling from Parwan Province to Kabul and died on his way to hospital.200

Though no group has claimed responsibility for his murder, officials in Kabul said that Omar was targeted by Taliban because of his work.201 A Taliban spokesperson later refused to confirm or deny the group’s involvement in his death.202

His death came as the latest in a long line of attacks targeting journalists.203 ‘Omar was killed by unidentified gunmen...he was liberal man...we are being targeted for working independently,’ said Mujeeb Khelwatgar, the head of Nai.204

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199 CPI, https://cpi.org/data/people/toofan-omar/
201 IPI, https://ipi.media/toofan-omar-afghanistan/
202 CPI, https://cpi.org/data/people/toofan-omar/
204 http://mediaconfidential.blogspot.com/2021/08/rip-toofan-omar-station-manager.html

Photo credits: Mediaconfidencial