

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION*



*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY





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“Ideas cannot be arrested”

Presenting lack of freedom of speech around the world (Somalia, Mexico, Turkey, Bangladesh and the UK).

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(Research Head)

Polyphonia

Promoting freedom of expression...

Promoting free speech, freedom of expression and the right to a liberal life.

Vision

- To work with global charities and NGO's to raise awareness.
- To help conceptualise and execute global campaigns including fundraisers, exhibitions, debates and more.
- To promote peaceful action against oppression, repression.



Present violation of freedom of expression as a global problem



Demonstrate that one of the reasons is government opposition or inaction



Raise awareness about different ways journalists are oppressed, and thus freedom of expression jeopardised



“Index combines reporting and monitoring from around the world to expose and raise awareness of attacks on free speech, with the promotion of events and debate on complex and controversial issues, and direct advocacy and campaigning to drive real change in laws and policies.”
(Index, 2016)

The inspiration of poet Stephen Spender, Index was founded in 1972 to publish the untold stories of dissidents behind the Iron Curtain. Today, it fights for free speech around the world, challenging censorship whenever and wherever it occurs.

It is an international registered charity, with headquarters in London and is supported by a mixture of grants, [donations](#) and sponsorship including:

- Open Society Foundation
- Arts Council England
- European Union
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Google
- The Guardian
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Sage Publications Ltd
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency



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Another Reporter Was Murdered in Veracruz, Mexico — And Journalists Are Terrified

By Oscar Balderas

Anabel Flores Salazar's tortured body was found a day after she was kidnapped from her home. Local reporters say her murder may have been retaliation for her stories on the presence of the Zeta drug cartel in Veracruz.

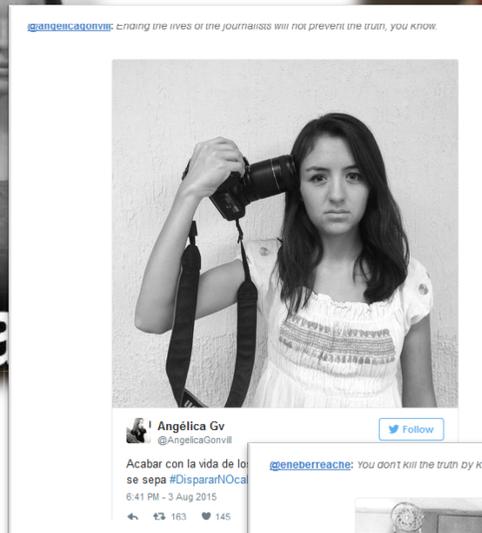
2016 February 10

How Veracruz Became the Most Dangerous State in Mexico for Journalists

By Paul Imison

With hundreds of unsolved disappearances, rampant extortion, frequent kidnappings, and no fewer than 14 journalists killed in the past five years, a climate of fear governs Veracruz.

2015 August 17



MEXICO

“An attempt on the life of a journalist is an attack on society’s very right to be informed.”

Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. Since the beginning of the 21st century many journalists, bloggers, editors and other writers have been murdered and others remain missing. Only few of these crimes have been properly investigated and fewer still have brought prosecutions and convictions. An open letter has been posted to the US chapter of the PEN International website, signed by over 700 cultural figures, calling on President Nieto to investigate these murders and establish mechanisms to protect their lives. The letter inspired an Avaaz campaign that has amassed over 750,000 signatures. Despite the global pressure which helped secure a law federalizing crimes against media workers—the attacks have continued. After the death of the photojournalist Ruben Espinosa Mexico has become even more determined to end this “censorship by bullet” and restoring the right of all Mexico’s citizens to a free and open exchange of information and ideas. Citizens of Veracruz demand the immediate dismissal of the governor of Veracruz, Javier Duarte. Under his reign, 13 journalists have been murdered. *They also insist on an immediate and effective investigation of the assassination of [Rubén Espinosa](#) and many other journalists in Mexico.*



SOMALIA

Somalia has long been one of the most deadly countries for journalists. For many years, the main threat to the media

has come from Al-Shabaab, the Islamist armed group that controls large parts of the country. But apart from them journalists are also now being threatened, harassed, and attacked by Somalia's government and state security forces. With Al-Shabaab, the government, and regional clan members and militia all vying for power, reporters are being targeted from all sides.

Since 2014, four journalists have been killed in apparent targeted attacks, and in Mogadishu, at least six more have survived assassination attempts. Most of them have been shot, others have been targeted with car bombs. Further investigation has not been undertaken.

Those who survived assassination attempts live in fear. They're either too scared to keep reporting or have injuries that mean they can no longer work. Valuable resources are being lost in a country that has already lost so many reporters, not only to killings, but to exile too.



BANGLADESH

According to The Committee to Protect Journalists Bangladesh has been ranked 13th globally with at least 16 journalists killed since 1992. The biggest problem is

the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act that severely restricts the right to freedom of expression in Bangladesh. Those convicted of violating the Act could be sentenced to a minimum of 7 years and a maximum of 14 years in prison. Dozens of media workers– said that they had been threatened by security agencies for criticizing the authorities. The threats were given directly –through phone calls and messages to their editors. Many journalists said they exercised self–censorship as a result. Religious fundamentalist groups have also emerged as an increasing threat to the safety and the Freedom of expression of journalists and online activists and as a force against pluralism, gender equality, non–violence, and diversity.

This threat to free speech was highlighted by two recent slayings of journalists: The senior editor at Bangladesh’s first gay and transgender rights magazine ‘Roopbaan’, Xulhaz Mannan, who also worked at the U.S. Agency for International Development was stabbed to death at his home in Dhaka alongside a friend. This attack follows the murders of four secular bloggers and a publisher by Islamic extremists in 2015.

7 Journalists killed in Turkey since July 2014

2 Journalists killed in Turkey so far in 2016

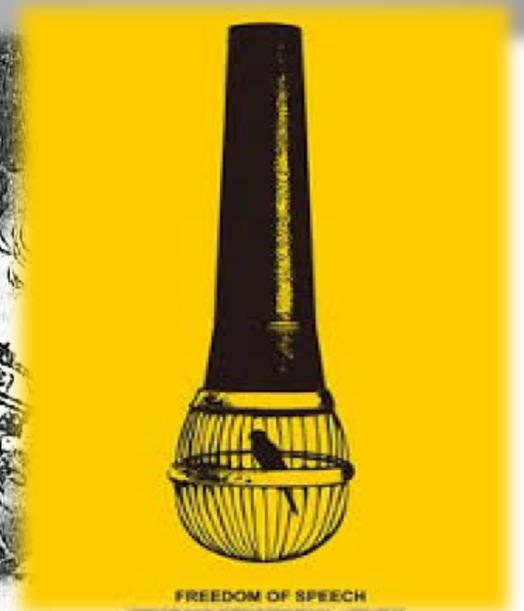


TURKEY

Naji Jerf: The prominent Syrian journalist and filmmaker was shot dead in the head on 27 December 2015 by unidentified gunmen in broad daylight in Gaziantep, Turkey. Jerf, editor-in-chief of the Syrian independent monthly, [Hentah](#), created anti-Islamic State documentaries detailing violent atrocities by the group in caliphate-controlled territory.

Can Dündar: Editor-in-Chief at Cumhuriyet represented the Turkish daily news outlet in receiving a press freedom award, he and another top editor Erdem Gul were arrested and jailed in 2015 on charges of espionage. “We have been arrested,” tweeted Dündar. “Don’t worry, these are medals of honour for us”. Erdoğan himself sued Dündar and accused Cumhuriyet of releasing false information and spying, stating at the time that the journalist responsible would “pay a heavy price”. In May 2016 Dündar was sentenced to 5 years in jail for revealing government secrets regarding Turkey’s links to ISIS.

Serena Shim: The Lebanese-American (born and raised in USA) TV reporter was killed in Turkey in 2014 in a suspicious car crash following her reports of accusations from Turkey’s intelligence agency that she had been “spying”. Shim had been reporting that IS militants had crossed the border from Turkey into Syria in trucks apparently affiliated with NGOs, some of which allegedly bore World Food Organization symbols. She was one of the few reporters focusing on the matter. She was on her way back from Kobani when her car collided with a heavy vehicle whose driver was subsequently arrested, according to Turkish news agency Hurriyet. Press TV disputed this, alleging that both driver and vehicle have disappeared.



UNITED KINGDOM

Germaine Greer has a long history of questioning thinking on transgender issues. In 2009, Greer wrote

an article in The Guardian in which she referred to some trans people as ‘some kind of ghastly parody’. In October 2015, students at Cardiff University started a petition asking for Greer to be prevented from giving a speech on women’s rights because of what they called her ‘misogynistic views’ about transgender people. The petition suggested that hosting Greer was ‘dangerous’ and that universities should instead ‘prioritise the voices of the most vulnerable on their campuses’. Greer’s talk took place. During the question session after the speech, Greer said ‘I don’t believe a woman is a man without a cock. You can beat me over the head with a baseball bat. It still won’t make me change my mind.’

In 2003, The Independent printed a cartoon by Dave Brown showing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon eating a baby while helicopters fired on a city nearby. The cartoon referenced Goya’s Saturn Devouring One of his Children. Sharon complained to the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), via the Israeli Embassy, that the cartoon was anti-semitic and violated the PCC’s editorial code of practice. In its ruling, the PCC said ‘it is not the Commission’s job to interfere with newspapers’ rights to comment on individuals unless there is an issue under the code. “It was the time of the Israeli elections and the Israeli government had deliberately used so-called anti-terrorism measures as a piece of electioneering.’ Brown later won the Political Cartoon of the Year award for the cartoon.



“Ideas cannot be arrested”

An interactive experience to raise awareness via first hand testimony. A talk delivered by Chris Stephenson, a computer sciences lecturer at Bilgi University in Istanbul who was deported from Turkey after being found with invitations to Kurdish New Year celebrations. He was deported without trial and left the country in March 2016. Stephenson’s lawyer will appeal the decision.

When: Saturday 22nd – 5 pm (Duration 40 minutes)

Where: Fourth Floor Cafe Bar (old building LSE)



Freedom of expression is an issue that affects us all, wherever we live. By supporting Index on Censorship you help support censored writers and artists and anyone prevented from speaking freely– no matter who or where they

Index Defender

For a monthly donation of GBP 5, you gain access to monthly events including energising debates, exclusive film screenings, concerts, play readings and exhibitions.

Index Champion

For a yearly donation of GBP 120, you get:

- A year long subscription to the quarterly award-winning magazine
- Invitation to our annual awards gala
- Preferred access to exclusive monthly

Become an Index Advocate

Please contact us on 02072602660 or log onto our website for more information

Volunteer for Index

Please email us on volunteers@indexcensorship.org or log onto our website for more information

Where: London School of Economics – The Atrium Gallery.

When: Monday 17th to Sunday 23rd October, 2016.

Opening hours: 11 am to 8 pm.

