

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides analysis of the 593 killings of journalists as condemned by the Director-General of UNESCO between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2013 with an emphasis on cases which took place in 2012 and 2013.

With 123 killings, 2012 constitutes the deadliest year for journalists since the report was first compiled in 2008. In 2013, the overall number of killings was 91 deaths, a decrease by a quarter compared to 2012. However, this figure still represents the second highest number of killed journalists since the report was first presented.

“Traditional media” have been the most affected by fatal attacks. Print journalists constitute the largest number, with 244 journalists killed (41 percent). This is followed by journalists working in television with 154 killed (26 percent) and radio with 123 killed (21 percent).

The vast majority of the 593 journalists killed over this period have been local (around 94 percent). Approximately 94 percent of all killed journalists are men. Nevertheless women journalists face specific risks in their work including sexual attacks and harassment which is not reflected in the statistics of fatal attacks.

Overall, the Arab States region registered the highest number of killings of journalists at 190 deaths (32 percent) of the total. Asia and the Pacific region accounted for 179 deaths (30 percent), Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region for 123 deaths (21 percent), African region for 76 deaths (13 percent), and Europe and the North America region for 25 deaths (4 percent).

There is an overall downward trend of the number of journalists killed annually in the Europe and North America in the period from 2006 to 2013 inclusive. Similarly, there is an overall decline in the Asia and the Pacific region after the peak in 2009. During the same period, there is a sharp increase in the number of killings of journalists in the Arab States region, peaking in 2012. In the LAC region, there is an upward trend of number of journalists killed over the same period. Overall, the number of killings which took place in the Africa region has remain static with the exception of the 2012 and 2013 which had seen an increase.

Since UNESCO began requesting information for the Director General's reports to IPDC, covering the period of killings from 2006 onwards and up until the end of 2013, 36 out of 62 countries where killing(s) of journalist(s) had taken place, responded to the Director-General's requests for information. In terms of the numbers of journalists killed, the Director-General cumulatively received information on 211 out of 593 cases of the killings of journalists over the period from 2006 to 2013 inclusive. Out of the total of 593 cases, the received information showed that 39 cases were resolved, representing 6.6 percent of the total. Of the remainder, 172 cases or 29 percent were still ongoing in various stages of judicial inquiry, and no information was received concerning 382 cases or 64.4 percent of the cases.

Broken down by region, two out of 76 cases which took place in Africa were resolved (representing a rate of 2.6 percent); two out of 190 cases (1 percent) were resolved in the Arab States region; 12 out of 179 cases (6.7 percent) were resolved in the Asia and the Pacific region; ten out of 25 (40 percent) cases were resolved in Europe; and 13 out of 123 cases (10.5 percent) were resolved in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

This report is in accordance with the Decisions on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of IPDC at its 26th, 27th, and 28th sessions in 2008, 2010 and 2012 respectively. These Decisions urge Member States “to inform the Director-General of UNESCO, on a voluntary basis, of the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators and to notify her/him of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by UNESCO” and request the Director-General to provide an analytical report on the basis of her/his condemnations and the responses received from Member States concerned.