

## Facts and Figures on Safety of Journalists

### Background:

- Crimes against journalists and the issue of impunity
  - o Freedom of expression is under siege depriving societies and communities from correct information on issues and matters at hand
  - o A culture of impunity fosters a climate of fear, apathy and suspicion where individuals are afraid to talk about the issues that affect their communities and societies at large
  - o Impunity creates a vicious cycle and a culture of self-censorship
    - Journalists are attacked for reporting on sensitive topics, creating self-censorship in the media as well as in society. A climate of fear for speaking out blocks the public from the truth and has repercussions on the credibility of the judicial system. This is followed by a sense of impunity and lawlessness which emboldens perpetrators and encourages other offenders to attack the media.
- UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity
  - o First concerted effort within the UN Family to address these issues via a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach
  - o First implementation phase in four pilot countries: South Sudan, Iraq, Nepal, and Pakistan (period 2013-2014)

### Quote of Quotes by the Director-General of UNESCO:

*“Journalists must be able to keep the public informed without fearing for their lives. A free and independent press is essential for democracy and rule of law”*

*“These rights are essential for human dignity -- they are also vital for all other rights, for good governance, democracy and the rule of law, for inclusive and sustainable development”*

*“I also call on all governments to strengthen the safety of journalists by ensuring that those responsible for such violence are held accountable”*

*“The loss of individuals who brave danger to ensure that the world is kept informed of events in conflict zones affects to us all”*

### Analysis of Killings of Journalists (Period: 2006-2013)

- o TOTAL: 593 killings condemned by the UNESCO Director-General
  - 2013: 91
  - 2012: 123
  - 2011: 62
  - 2010: 65
  - 2009: 77
  - 2008: 46

- 2007: 59
- 2006: 70
  - ⇒ On average 1 death per week
  - ⇒ 2012 is deadliest year with 123 killings
  - ⇒ 2013 second deadliest with 91 killings
- REGION
  - Arab States: 32% (190 deaths)
  - Asia and Pacific: 30% (179 deaths)
  - Latin America and the Caribbean: 21% (123 deaths)
  - Africa: 13% (76 deaths)
  - Europe and North America: 4% (25 deaths)
- LOCAL ⇔ FOREIGN
  - Local journalists: 94%
  - Foreign correspondents: 6%
- SEX
  - Men: 94%
  - Women: 6%
- TYPE OF MEDIA
  - Print: 244 deaths (41%)
  - Television: 154 deaths (26%)
  - Radio: 123 deaths (21%)
  - Web: 41 deaths (7%)
  - Cross-platform<sup>1</sup>: 31 deaths (5%)
- **IMPUNITY**
  - Only 38 out of 593 cases are considered resolved (6.4%) => more than 9 out of 10 cases remain unsolved
  - 171 cases (28.8 %) are still ongoing in various stages of judicial inquiry
  - In Africa: 2 out 76 cases were resolved (2.6%)
  - In Arab States: 2 out of 190 cases were resolved (1%)
  - In Asia and the Pacific: 12 out of 179 cases were resolved (6.7%)
  - In Europe and North America: 10 out of 25 cases were resolved (40%)
  - In Latin America and the Caribbean: 12 out of 123 cases were resolved (9.8%)
- GLOBAL TREND FROM 2006-2013
  - Europe and North America: overall decline
  - Asia and the Pacific: overall decline after the peak in 2009
  - Arab States: sharp increase with a peak in 2012
  - Latin America and the Caribbean: upward trend
  - Africa: constant until an increase in 2012 and 2013

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<sup>1</sup> Journalists who worked regularly across different media including Print/Web; Print/TV; Film; Radio/TV; Radio/Print; Radio/Web; TV/Radio; TV/Print.