

Avviso

UNESCO World Press Freedom Day / Youth Newsroom / May 3, 2015

One of a kind opportunity in Riga

“THE NEED TO “BREAK THE STORY” has always been one of the characteristics of journalism. However, in the age of the 24-hour news cycle and digitalization where a multitude of communication technologies including social media are able to spread information instantaneously, the need to break the story is immense. This has at times lowered the quality of the reporting”; contemporary journalism and its problems are commented by Mr. Ming Kuok Lim, Program Specialist at Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO. In the fast pace and continuously changing times that we live in today it is ever more crucial for journalists to adapt, while at the same time trying to uphold the basic principles and work ethics of journalism.

Every year May 3rd marks the date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom. On this day the press freedom around the world is evaluated and a tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession is paid. Over 100 national celebrations take place each year to commemorate this day. UNESCO leads the worldwide celebration by identifying the global themes and organizing the main event in different parts of world every year.

For the first time in history the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day's main events will be celebrated in the Baltic region. Over 400 journalists, leaders from civil society groups, government officials, activists, and educators from over 80 nations as well as representatives from UNESCO, OHCHR, and UN WOMEN will gather in Riga, the capital of Latvia, during World Press Freedom Day. Journalists from around the world will be coming to Riga to discuss the issues that media is facing today, expressing their point of view and exchanging their experiences. Anda Rožukalne, the Chairman of the Board of the Latvian Association of Journalists, considers this a great opportunity for journalists that are based in Latvia. “The big significance for a large number of the Latvian participants is the chance to be in the middle of the main dis-

cussions concerning media and journalism around the world, and understanding what is important for them, how they compare to others around the world, and what they can learn from these events. This is a one of a kind opportunity, and we don't know when another is going to come,” comments Anda Rožukalne.

In Riga UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2015 main events will be celebrated May 2-4. During these dates a number of conferences and events are being organized. During May 3-4 there are a number of main events taking place, among them the Opening Ceremony, Plenary Sessions, Parallel Roundtable

Sessions, and the Award Ceremony of the prestigious UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Day that will take place at the new National Library of Latvia. This year's global theme is “Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, and Media Safety in the Digital Age”. “It was chosen to reflect the need to highlight the importance of quality reporting in any situation, the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of UNESCO,” comments Mr. Ming Kuok Lim.

The international day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 following a Recommendation adopted at the 26th Session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991. This in turn was a response to a call by African journalists who in 1991 produced the landmark Windhoek Declaration on media pluralism and independence. ●

Anna Ūdre

Latvian

Preses brīvība

English

Freedom of press

Japanese

報道の自由

Finnish

Lehdistönvapaus

Danish

Trykkefrihed

German

Pressefreiheit

Spanish

Libertad de prensa

Estonian

Pressivabadus

French

Liberté de la presse

Italian

Libertà di stampa

Icelandic

Prentfrelsi

Latin

Libertas imprimendi

Flemish

Persvrijheid

Portuguese

Liberdade de imprensa

Russian

Свобода массовой информации

Swedish

Tryckfrihet

Turkish

Basın özgürlüğü

Ukrainian

Свобода преси

Chinese

新闻自由

Arabic

ةفاحصلا ةيرح

Lithuanian

Spaudos laisvė

Putting a spotlight on press freedom



By Ming Kuok Lim, program specialist in the Division for Freedom of Expression and Media Development of UNESCO

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (WPF) on 3 May is UNESCO's flagship awareness-raising event that put a spotlight on current issues related to press freedom and freedom of expression including that of journalists' safety.

The date, proclaimed by the United Nations in 1993, it is an occasion to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world; to defend the media from attacks; and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

Over 100 national and regional celebrations take place each year to commemorate this Day. UNESCO leads the worldwide celebration by identifying the global themes and organizing the main event in different parts of world every year.

2015 is an especially meaningful year for UNESCO to reflect on these issues of fundamental human rights as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding. This year, the main event takes place in Riga, Latvia in collaboration with the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The global theme this year is *"Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, and Media Safety in the Digital Age"*.

UNESCO chose to put a spotlight on quality journalism because is necessarily one of the building blocks of sustainable development, and it is most appropriate that we discuss media's relation to the objectives of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is being finalized this year.

Furthermore, in times of crisis and conflict people turn to trusted sources of information and journalists need to practice the highest of professional standards to build such trust. This is especially relevant in this era of information over-

load and proliferation of content, the special kind of communication which in journalism is more relevant than ever. We depend on its specific contribution to help us turn information into meaningful knowledge. So we need high quality journalism, which reflects the work of both men and women, and we need to protect the people who produce this resource.

WPF 2015 also focuses on the issue of gender equality in the media especially as it is the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Twenty years after the landmark declaration, women remain under-represented throughout the media in many parts of the world. It is important for UNESCO to highlight these issues as gender equality is one of our global priorities.

The ability of journalists to operate safely in both online and offline environment is an ongoing concern for UNESCO as the leading UN agency in promoting safety of journalists as well as the global coordinator of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. These issues will be discussed at length during WPF. ●

Journalism cannot exist in a cage



By Vita Dreijere, editor-in-chief of UNESCO WPF Youth Newsroom

I REMEMBER THE DAY when I heard that Latvian daily newspaper "Diena" where I grew up as a journalist was sold. The previous owner, a big Swedish media company "Bonnier", almost threw our newspaper in hands of shady owners that left doubts about their willingness to strengthen the quality of journalism. Later it proved that our doubts were very reasonable.

It is over. It was the first impression in the meeting where editorial staff was informed about these changes. Although

for few more years we tried to fight and produce the content according to the interest of the audience not the owners, our newspaper became weaker and weaker and started to agonize. When the owner swept out the previous editorial management totally, it was clear - we lost the fight. It was over.

Journalism cannot survive in the cage. It can fully realize its functions only in the conditions of autonomy. It sounds utopian at this time when media feel constant commercial pressures. When they have to maximize the audience by using cheap and simplified strategies that put quality journalism aside. When they have to reduce costs at the expense of investigative and analytic journalism. When they feel the need to race with social media in the competition for the fastest news and by doing that sacrifice the basic principles of verification.

Most important aspect of quality journalism is trust and not the attention - I can agree with this statement. But in reality commercial pressures have turned the vector of journalism in totally opposite direction - away from the trust.

International participants of our Youth Newsroom project draw much

harsher scene in their articles about the challenges for press freedom in their countries: media systems in many countries experience attempts of corrupted elites to smother any efforts of independent journalism. Journalists in those countries often not only struggle with elites who use their legal and financial instruments to limit all the manifestations of independent journalism, but also experience real death threat. But despite very serious threats many journalists in these countries risk with their lives to cover the things that their crooked power systems have tried to hide from the public. These journalists deserve respect but it is not enough. They need support.

During UNESCO World Press Freedom Day events in Riga about 30 young journalists from all over the world will work in the Youth Newsroom project. They are young people who have not lost their professional ideals and I am sure that they cannot imagine journalism in the cage. I hope that participants of Youth Newsroom will bring not only extra energy for this event but also gain useful experience that later will be used in their home countries. ●

What are the biggest challenges in journalism?

Journalists of different countries give insights in the biggest challenges journalism has to face

EDWARD LUCAS, THE ECONOMIST

The greatest challenge for journalism is the tension between fairness and truth. We don't balance astronomers with astrologers. But when it comes to issues such as Ukraine, all too often we balance facts with lies.

RIKARD JOZWIAK, RADIO FREE EUROPE

In one sense I think that we currently live in a time when being a journalists is a lot easier than it once was. This is mainly due to the great advances in technology. With cheap internet broadband and social media such as Twitter, there are so many great sources of information and one finds news and information so quickly and easily. The paradox in this however is that there suddenly are so much news from so many corners that it becomes hard to verify the authenticity at times, especially since most journalists are under extreme time pressure. One simply has to make many tough calls before publishing anything and this is a major challenge. While it's great that so many more "voices" are out there, there is also a danger that people intentionally try to obfuscate facts. This is a problem both for individual journalists and also for the general public who must make a decision on what "news" they take in and how to interpret it.

ANN CAHILL, IRISH EXAMINER

With news now a commodity that needs to be updated every moment thanks to the internet, and with so much entertainment masquerading as news, the traditional role of a journalist becomes very difficult. How do you get the citizen to take notice of the facts they need to know to participate in democracy? How do you get the time to properly research stories when demands are increasing to feed the on-line beast? How do you decipher the spin and propaganda from the facts? And how do you convey the complexity of reali-

ty when professional communicators convince politicians and others to present issues are black or white?

MIRKO ŠTULAR, RADIO SLOVENIJA

There are many challenges in contemporary journalism. One of the biggest is definitely a changing media usage/consumption, namely what the attitude of (younger) people towards the media is like; radio is no exception. How to address the audiences, how to grab the attention of new listeners with quality content? Is it just about the form or more about the content itself? Why students of journalism rather go for Facebook than TV? Have traditional media missed a chapter in building relations with new-coming audiences? These are the questions to be addressed and we are all trying without having simple and clear answers.

There's one thing I can say for sure: the coming users (readers, listeners...) will not put much effort to find the way to media content, exactly the opposite, it's for media to find it, whatever media we talk about. As for journalism itself, it's being redefined, enlarged, and changed particularly adapting to very different and rapidly changing patterns of media consumption. But the basic principles like credibility, independence, watchdog role etc. are still the same, despite the value of information being the lowest ever.

SERGEY ERZHENKOV, TV RAIN

The main challenge - in conditions where the choice is almost gone, and almost all the media of our country broadcast only one point of view - that of the government, it is essential to offer to people an alternative. I deliberately did not use the word "truth" ("to give people the light of truth"). Firstly, because it sounds too lofty, and secondly, because everyone has their own truth. What is truth or me, for someone else is mere-



Fighting terrorism, but hitting journalism

Peter Greste: the situation with freedom of the press has got worse

HOW FAR is the experienced hotspots journalist Peter Greste willing to go to protect the freedom of press in the Third world countries? "I think, probably stop short of getting arrested again," he laughs.

When "Al-Jazeera" journalist Greste and two of his colleagues got arrested in Egypt and later also got sentenced to seven years in prison nobody laughed - neither Peter and his family, nor everyone who concerned about press freedom. Peter Greste had to spend 400 days in Egyptian prison and he got released only after huge pressure of diplomats and civic society. The case is still ongoing - Peter has left Egypt but the other two journalists although are out of prison, are not allowed to leave the country.

Peter Greste who has worked as a hotspots journalist for more than 20 years is critical about the negative route of press freedom. In his opinion the situation with press freedom has got a lot worse since the start of war on terror.

What do you understand by words "freedom of the press"?

To me freedom of the press really means the ability of journalists to work and report, to explore the work of governments, without any kind of hindrance, without any kind of legal restraint. It means the ability of the press to do his job as a watchdog. The problem is that most governments particularly don't like that role, it means that we are able to look into the work of the governments, to keep up the public conversations, but also to keep the public eye of the work that governments do.

Did you have any illusions about freedom of the press before you got sentenced to seven years in Egypt?

I don't think I had illusions. I've worked in a lot of countries across Africa and elsewhere, where press freedom has been a major issue. Where we haven't been able to work freely, we've been very limited in the work we do; we've been under very heavy pressure of the governments. And likewise I've seen the freedom of the press rooted even in Australia. But I've certainly got a very real sense of what that means when we were arrested.

What should people realize before they choose your profession?

It can be very dangerous. The way that media is working at the moment tends to push freelancers into those environ-



“ Peter Greste: It's created anti-terrorist legislation, which again places journalists in a firing line in Australia

ments and push themselves quite hard to trying get the stories that they think clients will want. The problem is that too many freelancers wind up in very dangerous places without either the right kind of training and experience or the institutional backup that they need from news organisations, the right kind of body-guards, the right kind of security or buy body-armor, have the right kind of proper body armour, have the right kind of first-aid kits, have the escape routes that they need to get out of trouble and someone they can call if they find themselves under arrest or in a serious situation. Anybody can get killed, the most experienced journalists can find themselves getting killed, arrested or se-

riously injured. But the danger is far higher for freelancers that are pushing the limits, because they want to get a decent story or trying to cut the corners, because they want to save money.

What do you think - will your case change something about freedom of the press in Egypt?

I don't want to talk in terms of Egypt of this aspect. Our case is ongoing and I think I need to be a bit careful about how I respond. I think that what our case has done - it has drawn attention very much to the fact that people everywhere, around the world recognize the importance of the press and that they are willing to fight to keep that. I was absolutely blown away by the kind of support that we got - from governments, from diplomats, from AID-agencies, from our professional colleagues, but also from ordinary members of the public in every country on the planet. It was absolutely extraordinary and I hope that governments everywhere take note of that.

Has the situation with freedom of the press changed in last few years?

I think it's got a lot worse. I'd push this back to the start of "the war on terror", after 9/11, when George Bush declared "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists". What that did it was that got rid of the middle-ground that journalists work in. It meant that you pick up the telephone and you talk to Islamists, for example, in the name of trying to understand, in the name of trying to be balanced, accurate and fair in your reporting. Governments would immediately pay attention to the work that you are doing. And I think we've seen that rooted over the years in Australia. There is a new legislation, which is designed to stop whistle-blowers from the government talking to the press. It's created anti-terrorist legislation, which again places journalists in a firing line in Australia; it makes us the targets of security services if we start doing this kind of work. And likewise by going to work in a place like Syria, trying to find out on what's going on, you can get your head chopped off. And if you do the work of someone like "Charlie Hebdo", not just satirising, but critically looking at the ideology behind the extremists, again you can find yourself being attacked by extremists themselves. And so we are under attack by both sides.

Has the situation changed worldwide or only in regions like third world countries or America?

If we look at the statistics, it seems to be a global trend. If you have a look at the Committee to Protect Journalists, it says that the last 3 years were the worst since records began in 1991, for journalist deaths. The number of journalists who have been arrested and have been in detention are also rising. There are some areas that are improving, but overall the

situation is getting quite serious. We need to pay a lot of attention to this, to try and keep the issue very much alive.

How did you and your colleagues get arrested in Egypt?

We were at the "Marriott hotel", it happened at night. I was getting ready to go out for the dinner, when there was a knock on the door; the police came in and started searching the room, arrested me and took me down to a police holding cell. And the same with my colleague - Mohamed Fahmy, he was in the hotel as well, they raided his room and they also raided the house of the Baher Mohamed.

At what point did you understand that you won't be there for just a day or two?

When we were formally charged and the trial began, we knew that this was going to take weeks, perhaps months to go through, but we always thought that we would be acquitted again, because knew that there was no evidence, we hadn't done anything wrong, we felt that the courts would see that very, very clearly. And when the judge actually convicted us it was a massive shock to us. And I don't think that any of us anticipated that we would be convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison.

Did you lose hope at one point that you won't get out earlier?

Along the way I think - yes, there were moments. But we're still on trial, I'm still on trial even when I'm out of prison, and my colleagues are on trial, they can't leave Egypt. The Egyptian authorities, we believe, are working within the rule of law, it appears that they are. But again we need to make sure that the rule of law is followed and that we are acquitted. We need to make sure that justice is actually done, if it's not, then my colleagues can find themselves back in the prison, and if I try going through a country that has an extradition treaty with Egypt, I could also find myself under arrest and back in Egypt.

After the release you told that you won't quit your job, did you consider on quitting your job while you were in the prison?

No, never! I've always felt that I'm a journalist and this is really what I want to do. Perhaps sometimes I considered changing the way I work, but never quitting.

How did your family react to your statement that you will continue your job?

I don't think that my mom was particularly impressed. But one of the things my parents have always said is that it is important for us to follow our dreams, to do the things that are important for us. And this is important to me. And they recognize that even if they don't like it, this is who I am, it's what I do and it's what I want to continue doing. ●

Roberts Šteinbergs

Full interview with Peter Greste - www.youth-newsroom.com

Reprisals against journalists

	2012	2013	2014
Media workers killed	7	6	11
Journalists who fled from their home countries	73	77	139
Journalists killed	88	71	66
Journalists kidnapped	38	87	119
Journalists attacked or threatened	1993	2160	1846
Journalists arrested	879	826	853
Citizen journalists killed	47	39	19
Citizen journalists arrested	144	127	122

Deadliest countries for journalists

The deadliest countries for journalists in 2014 (As of October 2014)

Country	Journalists killed
Syria	10
Iraq	5
Ukraine	5
Israel and Palestinian Territory	4
Pakistan	3
Brazil	2
Paraguay	2
Afghanistan	2
Egypt	1
Somalia	1

Source: Committee to Protect Journalists <https://www.cpj.org/killed/>



Mazen Darwish - winner of UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

MAZEN DARWISH, a lawyer and press freedom advocate, is the president of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression (CMFE), founded in 2004, and one of the founders of the Voice newspaper and syriaview.net, an independent news site banned by the Syrian authorities.

In 2011, Darwish established Media Club, the first Syrian magazine about media affairs. He has been detained since February 2012, when he was arrested with colleagues Hani Al-Zitani and Hussein Ghareer. On 15 May, 2013 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution demanding that "the Syrian authorities immediately release all persons arbitrarily detained, including the members of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression." In January 2014, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) addressed a communication to the Syrian authorities denouncing the arbitrary detention of Darwish and his Media Centre colleagues and called for their immediate release.

Source: UNESCO

Cartoonist: We may draw as whatever we want

THERE ARE POLITICIANS who don't greet him on the street, but the cartoonist Māris Bišofs continues to portray not only politicians, but also other absurdities. After 37 years spent abroad the cartoonist now lives in Latvia and draws cartoons for magazines "lr" and "Rīgas Laiks" and proudly remembers the time when he was working for the American press, for example "The Time Magazine", "The Washington Post" and "The New York Times". He has lived also in Paris that experienced the terrorist attack to satirical magazine "Charlie Hebdo".

The magazine "Charlie Hebdo" was the target of two terrorist attacks, in 2011 and in 2015, presumed to be in response to a number of controversial Muhammad cartoons it published. What is your attitude as artist about the ongoing events?

First of all, I don't work now internationally. Once I did: when I lived in New York, then I worked in large editions. I have never so directly addressed my caricatures to politicians. In my life it's all been a lot intellectual, I illustrated politicians through the parables. With a hint of some kind of a different perspective. If, let's say, it was Russia, also the president of United States, it was never as a portrait of him with a bigger nose than he has. I have never worked in this way. I am not doing things the way "Charlie Hebdo" did. At the same time, I believe that it isn't permissible to kill someone, even though they themselves have searched for scabies. Also, the wise guy Lars Vilks in Sweden, he was already looking for problems himself. He was unknown to the world, only through scandal he is known all over the world.

How do these developments affect your attitude to the freedom of expression?

Here in Latvia I don't have any contact with it. I have nothing to fear. Yes, I previously didn't draw politicians, but it has never been interesting for me. When I came to Latvia, I saw all the beastliness that's going on, I had anger and I started to draw it all.

Perhaps those who drew cartoons for "Charlie Hebdo" were also angry about what was happening in France?

It may be quite possible. It is known that, as the Pope said, that one should not offend any religion, fleeing of religion. This is not acceptable.

How about the artists - have they achieved their goals in this situation?

I think that definitely. At the same time cartoonists are now scared, they think ten times before drawing.



“
Māris Bišofs:
I never thought about borders. I have no such thoughts in my head. I have lived in free countries for so long

If we assume that cartoonists should not ridicule religion, how about each country's national symbols?

Who are worried about that? Cartoonists may draw whatever they want. If we have self-esteem, then we do not pay attention to that. If we don't have self-esteem, then we start to worry about everything.

Is there something that should not be caricatured?

In the world everyone lives in their own country with its own laws. France is a democratic country, they have accepted that they can do so, but someone believes, however, that it is not to be allowed. I've noticed that people don't have the self-esteem. Russians don't have the self-esteem if they are so worried about everything. In America, for example, I

lived more than 20 years there, Afro-Americans were different, they have calmed down a little bit now. They also felt deprived and depressed, they were slaves. They were bred for generations full of bitterness, they were all very touchy. Then the Afro-Americans couldn't be drawn. When the liberalization started, when people understood that they are also people that should be treated in the same way as white persons, the situation changed.

Is all based on self-esteem?

To a large extent yes. I think that the same about Arabs, they are also less educated, once they resort to weapons.

Have they, in your opinion, achieved their goal?

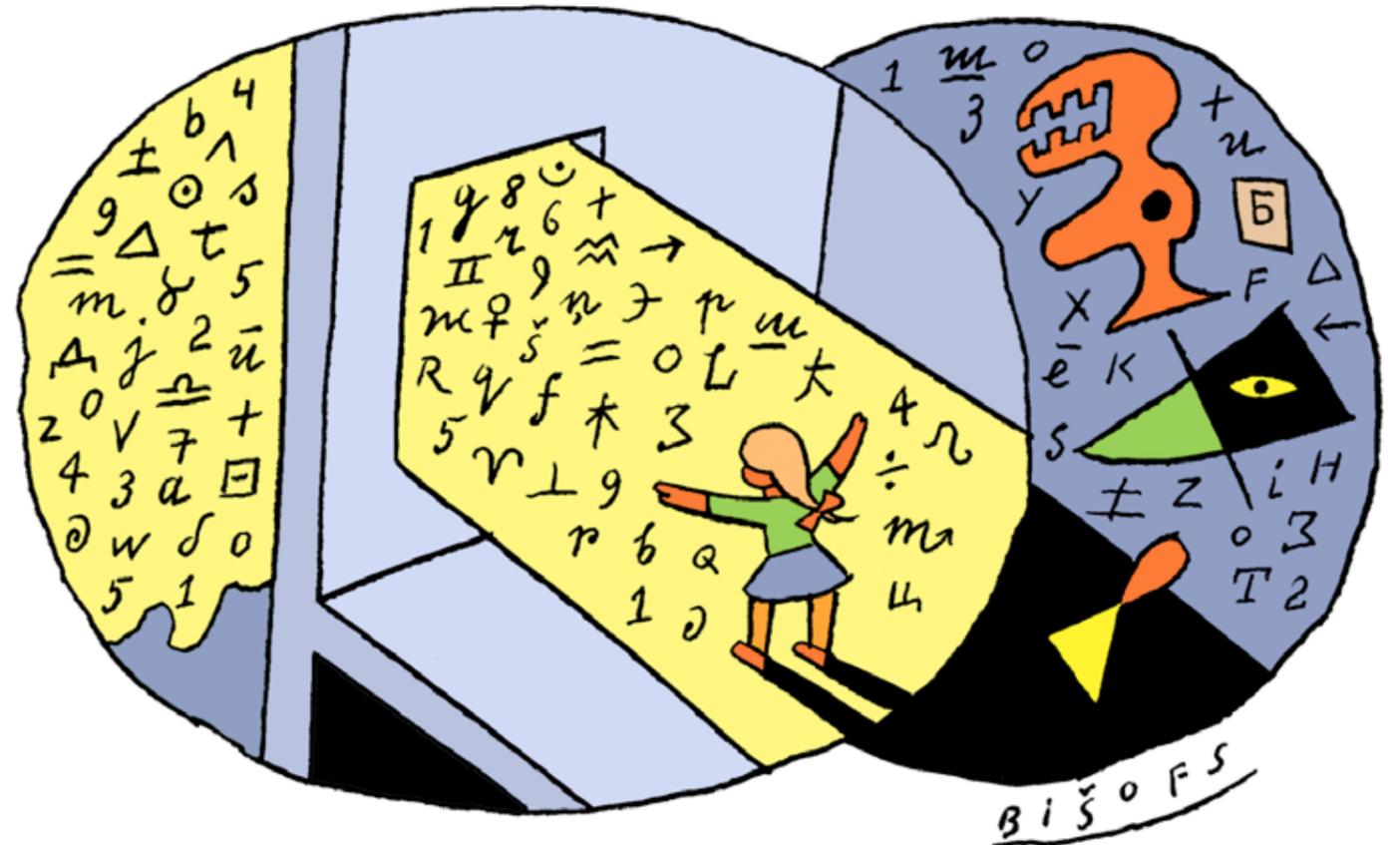
In a way, yes, because people are now afraid of them. I don't think it's all over, but now cartoonists will think before drawing.

Do you think about the possible consequences for your cartoons?

No, never. I can never anticipate what a sick person can think. I have ridiculed President of Latvia Andris Bērziņš because in my opinion he is talking nonsense, maybe I have even humiliated him. But I don't worry about it, because we have, thank goodness, a democratic country.

Do you hear feedback about your work, read comments?

I'm not interested in that. Some shout at me, but I still have self-respect. I don't care about the comments.



What you are trying to focus on when drawing cartoons?

Not only to different absurdities and thefts, also about how politicians outflank their constituents: a speech before the elections, then they steal from the country. I hate it all! It should not be that way! I don't care what they think about the fact that I depict them in my cartoons; I don't believe that I will be physically attacked.

How much the range of topics of your cartoons in America and in Latvia differ?

Everywhere people are people. Similarly, breaching the laws of the United States, also there is corruption. However, in America there are laws, there has already been a civilization for some time firmly established. There it cannot act as they can here. Politics has never been my "element". There are people who draw those faces, but I've never tried to draw a man with his facial similarities. First, I don't know how. Second, I'm not interested in it.

What is freedom of speech for you?

For me it doesn't mean anything, I do my work as I believe in it. If one day I will be arrested or called to the Security Police, then I will know that I can't do it in that way. Then something will change in this country. At the moment I speak what I want.

Are there any borders for you in art?

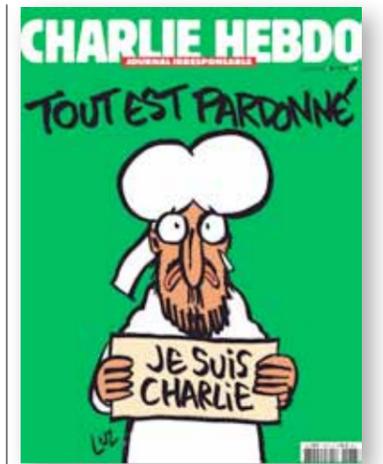
I don't see any. I can say that the President of Latvia Andris Bērziņš is a villain, it's also in my drawings. I think

about it, I just draw it as I feel. I never thought about borders. I have no such thoughts in my head. I have lived in free countries for so long, that my head is "planted" in completely different manner. Latvians have asked me about the drawings: "Can it be drawn so?" It means: "Are you afraid?" I have drawn that for many years.

What feelings guide your work currently?

I have a talent, otherwise I wouldn't have done what I did in America at the highest level at "The New York Times" and other international newspapers. I did the covers of magazines, it was a great achievement. America, however, is highly competitive. I had good reputation, I was honored, I had work and I earned money when I lived there. Why did I come back? I wanted to live here. America is America. It's a different country. I love America, but I lived there for long time. It's a dynamic country, everything is changing there, and nothing stands still. I came to Latvia when I had less work. There you can't live on old fame for a long time. There are people who become well-known and then disappear. For me it was a long period. Perceptions change, also technology, they use more often computers, which I don't manage well. Young people with other beliefs come onto stage. I was not so world-famous to stay there. ●

Krista Alksne



About „Charlie Hebdo”

"Charlie Hebdo" is a French satirical weekly magazine that publishes cartoons, reports, also polemics and jokes about religion (Catholicism, Islam, Judaism), politics, culture etc.

"Charlie Hebdo" editorial board was the main target of two terrorist attacks. First in 2011 and second in 2015. In the second attack 12 people were killed, including editor Stéphane Charbonnier.

After the attacks, the phrase *Je suis Charlie*, French for "I am Charlie", was adopted by supporters of free speech and freedom of expression who were reacting to the shootings.

Investigative journalism struggling for independence

CUT. THEN CUT SOME MORE. And when only essentials are left you have to keep cutting. The crisis wasn't kind to anyone in media. As journals and newspapers vanished one by one unable to earn and conquered by Internet where everything is seemingly for free, many journalists including those who worked on investigations lost their jobs and leaving independent media an easy prey for those who would like to have a cute lap dog who barks when asked to.

"Investigative reporting has always been hard to fund. Traditionally it is the most expensive and yet smallest and rarest of media products. So it's often the first thing that is cut when income is poor," states Drew Sullivan, editor of OOCR (the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Program).

CHAIN REACTION

The earnings of media have risen recently, but still they don't even come close to those of times before crisis. It's a chain reaction – no money, no investigation crew.

Even journalists in US, which some would call the cradle of investigative journalism, are troubled when facing the Internet and rapid changes of how people are getting their news, their content, strutting further into digital era and leaving old media behind.

Global Investigative Journalism network's research declares that 20 of 30 countries ranked investigative journalism as the most effective tool against corruption. It only underlines that investigative journalism is important. But "Pew Research's State of the News Media 2013" shows that till the year 2020 only 10% growth on news analyst profession in USA is planned.

Yet still some journalists see themselves particularly in investigative journalism and they manage not only to survive, but carry out notable and important investigations that do make change. We asked some of them – how to finance investigative journalism when media companies do not have money?

PAY THROUGH DONATIONS

Since 2011 the centre for investigative journalism "Re:Baltica" has been working in the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania). This is a non-profit organization and its main aim is to perform long-term, in-depth cross-border investigations of socially important issues, with a



“The idea is that if this is a public service, let's get the public to pay for it through donations

primary focus on social equality, fighting corruption and lack of transparency. The financial base comes from donations from other organizations. Mostly USA based and American descendants of Latvian immigrants. One of the founders of "Re:Baltica" Inga Sprinģe suggests it is so because Americans are more into charity culture than, for example, Latvians. Sprinģe says that in the very beginning she had an opportunity to get money from USA foundations (The Soros Foundation and US government). That is why also now most of donations come from USA and other countries. EU isn't interested in supporting journalism.

"There are a lot of European Union foundations, but unfortunately none of

them are for journalism", says Inga.

OCCR has a similar scenario gaining its funding from US organizations (The Open Society foundation and USAID) and UN and working in collaborations with other investigative journalism networks.

"The idea is that if this is a public service, let's get the public to pay for it through donations. This has worked for some non-profit media. The Washington Post and Kyiv Post are commercial media that have taken money from institutional donors to subsidize their investigative reporting. Organizations like mine, OCCRP, are funded through governmental and institutional donors," Drew Sullivan tells. Investigative journalist centres can earn some money by selling books, trainings, membership etc., but Sullivan warns that these earnings won't cover all expenses. Even 50 % is highly optimistic.

WORK ON ENTHUSIASM

"Currently, there is no simple recipe of making it as an investigative journalism organization," Sullivan admits.

"I think media must model themselves after Silicon Valley start-ups. Most money earned in the media sphere has come from such start-ups as Craigslist, Google, YouTube, etc. They tend to be more platforms than media. I think, as media, we need to reinvent ourselves by reliably serving niche needs that are beyond just media," he assumes.

"The quality of investigative journalism mostly depends on money," Inga Sprinģe acknowledges. Latvian investigative journalists mostly do it because of enthusiasm. It is almost impossible to earn a lot of money working as an investigative journalist. But if they need to live from the money they get then the results are appropriate.

Perhaps time will bring an answer. Unfortunately there is no such luxury as sitting and waiting for a miracle. Keep up or perish into oblivion. Perhaps in time of social media and 5 minutes of fame journalists just have to make investigations "share-able". A thing that just so desirable, cool and important that it "breaks the Internet", as they say when describing a cool stunt that a celebrity pulls. Today's and future journalists' task is to get more interest in their work from society. "If there is demand then there is supply," confirms Inga Sprinģe. ●

Anna Bērziņa and Lāsma Gaile

Women under-representation in media management? Not Latvian case

IS GENDER INEQUALITY in decision-making positions a common problem also in the media field? Journalists in many countries could answer: "Yes!" At the same time there are countries that do not recognize serious discrimination by gender and exclusion from decision-making positions. Latvia is one of the countries that has reached almost a parity of woman at the top level in media. Three women who hold leading positions in Latvian media share their views on the issue – what does it mean to be a woman in media decision-making bodies?



Firstly seen as woman

INGA GORBUNOVA, CEO and publisher at "Dienas Žurnāli", revealed that both - men and women - have their one unique perspective of the world and that it is only beneficial to the editorial office to include both. She also admits that she has faced a lot of weird situations and only through this experience knows how media field perceives her as a woman - manager: "The difficulty that I have felt is that no matter what you do, you firstly will be seen as woman. For example, one will accuse woman for being too moody because of the lack of happiness in family or some things wouldn't be seen as troubling as if they had been a result of a man's work."

She also states that sometimes it is impossible to declare that being a woman in this field of professionals is easy, because of the comments made: "There also may come a situation that if you are viewed as young and good-looking woman, you will have to work double as hard than man to prove that those are not the only qualities you have. From my most recent experience, one of the participants of a public discussion in front of me told that inclusion of a woman in a discussion already excludes the possibility of a normal conversation. I also have received comments about disability to be comprehensive on different fields of media content."

Inga reveals that she forgives this misunderstanding, because firstly people judge her by her women magazine job experience, not knowing her previous experiences and qualities: "Despite these misunderstandings, I strongly believe that not only being a woman takes a lot of effort, but being a manager or editor one firstly and most importantly must work with oneself, because there is nothing more tragic than a hysterical individual in a position of a chairperson." ●



The root of changes – our beliefs

BAIBA ZŪZENA, CEO at MTG TV Latvia, as she reveals, considers herself very lucky because of the MTG politics which is based on gender equality and the first category which is taken as priority in estimation of workers' capacities and achievements, not the gender: "My experience in Latvia is going strong with the statement that women are capable of being strong personalities for big media owners and media content producers such as journalists, editors etc."

She admits that there are several jobs that are taken by men in majority, for example, engineers, but that is, as she states, because of reasons which are related to choices made by each person such as job specifics and lack of employees that have this certain education/profession.

Baiba Zūzena stresses that among members of the board in Latvian TV3 and LNT are women, that's the reason why she assumes that the field of media can't be accepted as place where we can always face the gender inequality. The root of the problem, as she claims, is somewhere else: "The first step towards changing opinion in society about the "right" or "inappropriate" profession for men/women has to start in changing our own beliefs about this topic. We should emphasize the main reason which can lead everyone closer to achieving something - the ability to develop and improve our talents and knowledge in the field of our interests. And what is most important, if the company accepts those principles of self-improvement, that's already a good start towards beneficial performance of the company's product - success lays in the power of synergy." ●

Kristīne Lemberga and Madara Joņina



Talent matters, not the gender

NELLIJA LOČMELE, the editor-in-chief of Latvian weekly magazine "IR", admits that she has never experienced discrimination while working in media. She also admits that gender disbalance in journalism may have been caused by overall financial weakness of media and it will be ever bigger challenge for media organizations to attract and sustain talented professionals.

She stresses, that being in a leading position, the gender does not matter. What matters is the talent, the ability and willingness to lead people, to have a breadth of vision, to take responsibility and being able to delegate it to others, and of course a vision for the future.

In the editorial office of "IR" women make up the biggest part of the employees, but Nellija Ločmele emphasizes that not only the gender diversity, but also the age, education, and the life experience diversity matters, so they can create valuable articles for their readers, in order to show and solve interesting issues, involve different opinions. ●

From Russia, with love

Timchenko about freedom of the press in Russia: "There is no such thing!"

GALINA TIMCHENKO was the editor in chief of "Lenta.ru" till March of 2014. She was released from her duties after publishing an interview with Andrei Tarashenko, one of the leaders of Ukrainian nationalist group called *Pravy Sektor* (Right Sector), which took part in Euromaidan.

After Timchenko's dismissal, a part of journalists, working for "Lenta.ru", left their jobs by their own will. Since October 2015 Timchenko is the main editor of "Meduza.io", also known as "Medusa project" – a new, independent medium for Russian speakers, based in Riga, Latvia. Many of "Lenta.ru" ex-journalists are working now at the "Meduza.io". Meduza's team states that their mission is to provide people in Russia with the subsistence minimum of information and news that have been verified and credible information.

When asked about the situation about the freedom of press in Russia, Timchenko's answer was short: "There is no such thing!" The censorship of media was the reason why Timchenko and her team left their motherland Russia, and came to a small country in the heart of the Baltic States. The investors of the "Medusa project" are not known and will not be revealed, because "they (the investors) are putting themselves at risk". However Timchenko assures that the investors are not connected with media or political forces.

HOW DID THEY GET TO RIGA?

At first Timchenko and her team decided to create a medium in European Union, so the Russian authorities could not disturb the media so easily as it would be, if they were in Russia. After that they had to choose a country, they did it by comparing taxes, time-zones and the simplicity to create an independent medium. "In the end we had only two options – Latvia or Estonia. But the weather in Latvia is milder and the city is more beautiful," explains Timchenko. To dispose of Kremlin's influence even more, "Meduza.io" made an application for smartphones, in case their website suddenly gets blocked in Russia.

The editor-in-chief claims, that the situation with Russia's media has gone even worse, since she and her team left: "You can see that in Russian channels every day!" Each day you can see the search for the outer enemy and hear statements of fictional threats, but you will rarely see real news about worldwide events.



“Galina Timchenko: They must understand – either they will be involved in a battle with the system, or they must obey

PUTS THEMSELVES AT RISK

Right now Meduza's team consists of 23 professionals, the main part of the team works in Latvia, however there are eight special correspondents who work in Russia and by doing that they are putting themselves at great risk. Starting from not getting an accreditation to getting beaten up or even killed.

On November of 2010 Russian journalist Oleg Kashin was attacked near his home in Moscow. He got beaten up by two men with an iron bar. In the result Kashin woke up in hospital with broken shins, fractured jaw and injured skull. It's very likely that the attack was not accidental. Lately Kashin was working on reporting political protests to a proposal on building a highway through the Khimki forest. In fact Kashin was not the only journalist who got attacked during coverage of the Khimki highway protests – Anatoliy Adamchuk and Mikhail Beketov got beaten up as well. Adamchuk left his office around 2 AM and was attacked by two men, he was unconscious for 15 minutes. Adamchuk's attack occurred 48 hours after Kashin got attacked. But Mikhail Beketov was attacked earlier – in 2008, after covering the Khimki forest highway potential damage to the environment. Be-

fore the attack he had received some warnings, after ignoring them, his dog was killed and his car was set on fire, then he was attacked. After the attack he underwent eight operations, lost his leg and three of his fingers. He had to spend the rest of his life in wheelchair, Mikhail Beketov died in April, 2013 from cardiac arrest.

After all of these assaults there were large protests and eventually the high-way was never built and none of the attackers were caught. Just like people in James Bond's second movie ("From Russia, with Love"), the journalists in Russia are being silenced in every imaginable way.

DANGEROUS INDUSTRY

These are just few of many situations when Russian journalists suffer for their decent work. Despite the situation, Timchenko does not think that it is much more dangerous to be a journalist in Russia, than somewhere else: "It isn't safe to be a journalist anywhere! In Russia, it may be a bit more dangerous than in other countries, but if you are a journalist in Donetsk People's Republic, Iran, Afghanistan or in any territory, ruled by ISIS, it will be much more dangerous, than in Russia. Journalism is a dangerous industry. It is safe to write about life-style, but even then you can break your leg, while walking on high-heeled shoes".

Organisations that fight for the freedom of press cannot do anything in Russia, states Timchenko. The system is arranged so that absolutely nothing depends on public organisations, the only thing that matters is what people at the Russian presidential administration and Kremlin want.

Of course, many things will depend on new Russian journalists. And that is why Timchenko hopes that people, who plan to take part in Russian media life and become social-political journalists, understand that the situation is far from the best. "They must understand – either they will be involved in a battle with the system, or they must obey the rules set by Kremlin," she states.

At the moment "Meduza.io" is available in two languages – English and Russian. As the content for this media is made mainly for Russians, it is not a surprise that 2/3 of the website audience are from Russia, but the rest of the audience are from Israel, Ukraine, United States of America and Great Britain. ●

Roberts Šteinbergs

Death-threats, bribes and dependence on government

Participants of Youth Newsroom cover the challenges for press freedom in their countries. It discloses serious problems and risks that journalists have to face

Nigeria. Still in chains?

OBVIOUSLY, insecurity affects press freedom because there is no existing law protecting Nigerian journalists who dare to probe institutional or system irregularities. Essentially, the biggest challenge to press freedom in the country is the unwillingness of key actors in the Nigerian system to let the press function as an active player in the process of development. Journalists are considered enemies of the system; cases of extrajudicial killings, abductions, and maiming of journalists who dare to ask questions abound. The death of renowned Nigerian journalist, Dele Giwa on the 19th of October 1986 through letter-bomb remains unresolved till date. Expectedly, many journalists are forced to soft pedal. A case in point is that of a current affairs presenter, Edmund Obilo of Splash 105.5FM, Ibadan Oyo State Nigeria who went on a forced leave after airing an interview with a guest who expressed his reservations for the Alaafin of Oyo, a top royal father. It took the intervention of the station's listeners with the hashtag #bringbackobilo# to restore the journalist's position since the government of the state pitched against him.

Ifeyinwa Aronu

Somalia. Press freedom faces risk

IN SOMALIA, media professionals go on with constant fear of arrest, threat and death, in addition of poor wages, lack of capacity building and sexual harassment against female journalists.

The killings of journalists, intimidation and closure of media centres were continuing as the growth of private independent media houses were increasing



in Somalia in last 15 years.

According to Media organizations Somalia is one of the worst countries in terms of press freedom.

The murder of journalists has become part of the routine without the killers were never brought before justice, although the Somali government is trying to create a bill defending the journalist rights, which the cabinet passed as draft pending Parliament approval.

Journalists in Somalia continued to face many challenges in trying to report on sensitive stories. Al-Shabaab remained the main suspect of targeted killings of journalists.

Abdimahad Abtidon

Paraguay. Drug cartels as a challenge for journalists

LAST YEAR four journalists were killed here. One of them was my workmate. I want to remind of him and cite him here because he deserves it: his name was Pablo Medina, and he was shot to death by order of drug dealers in a northern Paraguayan department called Canindeyú, on October 16, 2014.

Pablo was killed while he was working, as were the others. Drug cartels operate freely in Paraguay and it's one of the great challenges for us, journalists. What is the biggest one? To be able to publish information related to drug cartels without being afraid of someone shooting at you. And to do that, there has to be a

Governmental fight – which is non-existent – as well as more protection for journalist that work in these sensitive areas, especially in the countryside.

Another challenge is to have fair salaries at the main media that employ journalists. The Paraguayan Journalist Union is a weak entity that doesn't protect employees as they should. Because of this, journalists are often unethical and accept bribes from politicians so they can keep their mouth shut.

Juan Cálceña Ramírez

Cambodia. Press is not fully free

PRESS FREEDOM in Cambodia cannot yet to be regarded as fully free. Particularly, in Cambodia, journalists are being used for legal attack, physical attack, economic harm, and so on. Cambodia Daily newspaper published an article on October 13, 2014, that a 49-year-old journalist reportedly investigating illegal logging in Kratie province was shot dead. Within hours, police arrested three men—a commune police chief, a military police officer and a Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) soldier—for the murder, officials said.

Therefore to earn a living, some journalists need to investigate wrong-doings of authorities and demand for bribes. Another cause is that some journalists do not receive training or do not attend journalism schools.

Nayheak Khun

Twitterisms



David Burge @iowahawkblog

"Modern journalism in a nutshell: what a story «tells us» is far more important than whether it's true."



Jim Sillars @NaeFear

Checking source of a sensational story, any story, is fundamental in journalism. Why did Mail/Telegraph journalists depart from practice?



Ed Yong @edyong209

"Datum journalism": those health stories that are almost entirely based on one random person's experiences.



PTI @AbuAbdullahPTI

I am surprised at the behaviour of today's journalists, like prostitutes they slept with whoever pays more... RIP ethics & loyalty #Media



Media Council Kenya @MediaCouncilK

Social Media: Journalists need to use social media to engage their audiences in new and inventive ways, while also maintaining ethics.



Laurel-Ann Dooley @Laurelann-dooley

"Your social media presence is your resume." Mira Lowe at SPJ workshop. #spjoppfreelance #freelance #journalism



Marie Boran @marievonboran

A huge part of mobile journalism is that the journo is mobile, not just scanning social media for breaking news! - @documentally #mojocon



Nicole del Castillo @NDelCastillo

"Nothing will replace serious journalism. But social media is elevating our work, even as it holds us accountable." - Griffiths #nbs2015atl

Uruguay. Journalism is too dependent on government money

IN URUGUAY there is no direct censorship, at least not as serious as it happens in other Latin American countries. Formally, there are only some hour restrictions on TV to protect children from images with sexual or violent content. However, we do face an important issue with state advertisement and the strong dependence that generates in our media landscape. This is the main challenge for press freedom in the country.

As far as 25% of media advertisement comes from state owned companies, government agencies, central Administration and local administrations. This makes the government the principal advertiser. There is no regulation of how public advertising money should be spent. This gives the governing party (it has been happening since decades) the freedom to give that money away in a discretionary way, with no other criteria – in many cases – than punishing the critical media and favouring their allies.

Angela Reyes

Myanmar. Press under the grave pressure

POLITICAL REPORTERS in Burma feel press freedom is just a fake as President Thein Sein officially announced in his four years presidency monthly speech "Our country becomes highest press freedom index in South East Asia community".

Burma has promoted a rapid reform process since 2011, but there have been a number of setbacks in 2014, including press freedom.

Reporters covering student movements were attacked and detained for four days in prison by police in March. A journalist for the "Myanmar Post" detained with students identified himself to the police as a reporter covering the news, but the police

officer told him that his hair was so beautiful, grabbed his hair, and slapped his face in front of the public.

"They shouted at me that he is the media. Let's beat him and they ran to me," said Maung Muang Myo from "Union Daily Newspaper". He was assaulted by the police when he reported in Letpadan where the student protesters were based.

Two reporters covering the labour movement were arrested even though they showed their IDs and camera. One of the police grabbed the ID, threw it away, and said: "I don't care if you are media or not. I'm going to arrest all."

After Journalists were attacked intentionally in students' crack-down, journalists realize that government and several civil servants are constantly thinking: "Journalists are enemy of State".

Nan Lwin

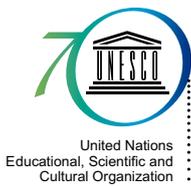
Jordan. The power of forth estate is limited

THE LEGISLATIVE punishments, issued by the Jordanian press and publications law, have pulled backward both the proper implantation of good governance and the access to Information act.

Although Jordan was the first Arab country to issue the access to Information act in 2007, however this law does not provide the international standards related to this act. For instance, according to Article 7 of this law, only Jordanians are granted the right to obtain the information, which disagrees with the international laws that grant this right to every individual, regardless the nationality.

What reduces the effectiveness of the law is that the Right to Information Act does not supersede any other existing legislation currently in force. The Protection of State Secrets and Documents Provisional Law number 50 of 1971, still in force, is the biggest boundary facing the appropriate understanding and application of the legal Right to Information.

Reem Katami



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Press
Freedom Day



Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



LATVIJAS
UNIVERSITĀTE
ANNO 1919
UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA



Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Republic of Latvia



UNIVERSITY
OF LATVIA
FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES



NET MED
YOUTH
NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH



SSE RIGA



SWEDEN

Participants of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day Youth Newsroom

Abdimahad Abtidon (Somalia)
Afef Grimil (Tunisia)
Akram Abdel Rahman (Palestina)
Taika Dahlbom (Finland)
Anna Bērziņa (Latvia)
Anna Ūdre (Latvia)
Angela Reyes (Uruguay)

David Lawal (Nigeria)
Eemeli Martti (Finland)
Emil Johansson (Finland)
Ifeyinwa Aronu (Nigeria)
Janne Puumalainen (Finland)
Juan Calcena Ramirez (Paraguay)
Juuso Parviainen (Finland)
Kārlis Miksons (Latvia)
Krista Alksne (Latvia)
Kristīne Lemberga (Latvia)
Lāsma Gaile (Latvia)

Luca Lönnfors (Finland)
Madara Joņina (Latvia)
Mulugeta Getu (Ethiopia)
Nan Lwin (Myanmar)
Nauris Lukševics (Latvia)
Nayheak Khun (Cambodia)
Ofir Gateno (Israel)
Reem Katami (Jordan)
Riikka Kajander (Finland)
Roberts Šteinbergs (Latvia)
Sabīne Kleinhofa-Prūse (Latvia)

Tommi Kolehmainen (Finland)
Zane Zamberga (Latvia)

Editors

Vita Dreijere – Editor-in-chief
Vikija Valdmane-Rozenberga – Deputy Editor-in-chief
Roberts Viksne – Multimedia Editor
Laura Ardava – Latvian Editor
Dace Eglīte – Layout editor