

*Note on methodology

The 139 cases analysed in this publication were identified in the [RSF violations of press freedom barometer](#) between 2011 and 2020. This database records attacks against journalists only in cases in which RSF can prove or assemble evidence that a journalist was murdered or taken prisoner because of their professional activities. Thus, it does not include those who were killed or taken prisoner for non-professional reasons or in circumstances in which a relationship to their work could not be established. The database also contains cases of non-professional journalists, media contributors, and persons working for media organisations, such as technicians and administrators.

RSF also distinguishes between cases of journalists who were deliberately killed, and those of journalists who died while reporting in circumstances that were considered dangerous. In this summary, we chose to go into greater detail, focusing on the categories, “executed in the workplace,” “executed away from the workplace,” “kidnapped and executed,” and “killed while reporting.”

The summary has also differentiated the type of media for which the victims worked (newspaper, magazine, radio, TV, online news site and personal blog or page on social networks); their position (reporter, photographer, cameraman, editor, director, columnist, presenter, blogger or owner); the main topics they covered; and the sizes of the cities where the crimes took place (cities of 100,000 or fewer inhabitants, of 100,000-500,000 and of 500,000 or more).

Because the number of murdered journalists who had received previous warnings may be greater than the cases listed (that is, some warnings were voluntarily kept secret), RSF worked on the assumption that *at least 45 per cent* of victims had been threatened before they were killed. A deeper analysis is needed to determine if more journalists had requested protection, and the reasons these protective measures were not granted.

Victims were treated anonymously in this study. However, the names of journalists killed in 2011-2020, and their nationalities and media organisations, are available in the [RSF Barometer](#).

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