

PRACTICING SAFE JOURNALISM IN CONFLICT CONDITIONS

A Safety Guidebook for Pakistani Journalists

How media practitioners can stay safe and professional in Tribal Areas & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



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INTRODUCTION

The Journalists' Minefield

I remember the shock of seeing an AK-47 hanging from the shoulder of Hayatullah, a tribal journalist from North Waziristan. It looked like an ungainly appendage that had no business being on the shoulder of a journalist. He said by way of explanation, "The government has told us it can't give us any protection against the armed groups, so we have to take care of ourselves." It was August 2005.

In January 2006, Hayatullah was kidnapped after doing a story on perhaps the first of the drone attacks in North Waziristan that contradicted the government's stance that they were not happening. Six months later, he was found dead. His killers have not been arrested to this day. The same year, his younger brother, Bashir Khan, was also killed, followed by the death of his wife in a bomb attack in 2007.

Hayatullah reported for the Urdu daily Ausaf, and freelanced for foreign news organisations. Reporting on the growing militancy and military operations in the tribal areas had him worried. "I think one day I'll be killed for my reporting," Hayat told the writer Eliza Griswold, whom he helped report from North Waziristan.

Today, many journalists in Pakistan, especially those living and working in the tribal borderlands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan share Hayatullah's concern. "Reporting on a region where the fate of the 'war on terror' will be decided is like courting death every day. It's not a job for the faint of heart," says Iqbal Khattak, Pakistan representative for the international watchdog Reporters Without Borders, which ranked Pakistan 151 out of 178 countries for press freedom in 2010.

Since the military operations began in the tribal areas, journalists have found that reporting often comes at a price. Journalists are not just victims of random violence, but are targeted with intent. Indeed, the Tribal Union of Journalists blames all sides of the conflict for "purposely targeting" journalists. Tribal reporters – most of whom have no formal journalism training – have had to learn the hard way about reporting conflict. "What you say about the successes of military operations may be perceived as reporting failure of armed groups and the other way round," says a journalist from South Waziristan. "You have to verify news and give the other party a chance to respond if you want to live to do another story." This, however, poses another difficulty: With the military covering the 'truth' through a spin of its own, and the militants in hiding, how does one confirm information?



It does not help that desk editors based in the urban metropolises of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad often stress controversial terms and information in stories filed by tribal journalists, spelling disaster for the reporter on the ground. “If the headline says that soldiers have been ‘martyred’ and insurgents ‘killed’, you will have a visitor from the armed groups to give you a bit of ‘advice,’” says a journalist from Mohmand Agency. The word ‘martyr’ bestows the dead with the religious connotation of dying with honour whereas ‘killed’, seen in that perspective, is taking away the honour from armed groups who see their fighting as a struggle for an honourable, religious cause.

Sudhir Ahmad Afridi, a journalist from Khyber Agency, recalls how a fellow television journalist had to frantically call up the editor to remove the word ‘militants’ for an armed groups in the agency from a news-scroll. If the channel had continued with the word ‘militant’ inserted by the editors or most of the time, telephone. “Journalists are caught between the authorities, who want to kill stories, and the insurgents, who want only ‘their’ kind of reporting,” he says. “Truth and the journalists are the first casualties of such repressive tactics.”

In the absence of a sense of security, even those journalists who do stay on in the tribal areas are naturally given to increased levels of self-censorship. Many are forced to spend more time watching their backs than following up on facts. No wonder, then, that few can make sense of the murky war in the tribal areas. At the same time, others who have the flexibility choose to stay quiet. Journalists elsewhere in Pakistan may be up against agents of censorship such as the regulatory authorities, the government, army, judiciary and intelligence agencies, but these are at least oppressors with a face and a clear reason to control information. In the case of tribal areas, where militants, sectarian organisations and armed tribesmen hold sway, journalists are up against shadowy perpetrators who often treat them as spies rather than reporters. For those in the business of seeking truth and gathering information, journalism in these areas is not just a vocation for gathering news but one that by its very definition invites trouble.

In response to the spike in incidences of threat and intimidation of journalists in Pakistan in recent times, Intermedia (www.intermedia.org.pk), an independent Pakistani media development organization, has put together this practical safety guidebook for journalists covering conflict. The guidebook has been prepared in consultation with media professionals including reporters, editors and newsroom staff to include best practices for protection of journalists working in a theatre of conflict. Practical and concise, journalists would be able to carry it in pocket and consult it for quick reference. In addition to chapters on rights, threats and safety guidelines, it has contacts for journalist bodies and support groups that reporters can reach out to in case of infringement of press freedoms or direct threats. This guidebook also brings together safety guidelines suggested by journalist unions, media professionals and organizations upholding press freedoms in the hope to make it available to reporters in one compact handbook. —Introduction by Aurangzaib Khan of Intermedia



CHAPTER ONE

Threats Faced in the Line of Duty

In August 2011, Intermedia reached out to journalists in the border areas of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to assess threats they faced while covering conflict. Through a thematic questionnaire that went out to some 45 journalists, they were asked to identify the nature and scope of threats reporters faced and what media organizations and those working for press freedoms can do to help them stay safe. The journalists considered for the survey included representatives of press clubs in FATA, reporters working in FATA, reporters and newsroom editors working in bureau offices in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the tribal union of journalists. The sections below give responses and insight from the questionnaire into what local reporters, bureau office and newsroom staff covering conflict in the region believe are key threats to journalist safety and how they may be mitigated.

The biggest THREATS to safety and security faced by journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

1. Non-state actors including armed groups
2. State actors including security forces and agencies and government officials
3. Professional negligence
4. Foreign agencies and victims of terrorism
5. Killing of journalists in targeted attacks (from armed groups and security forces)
6. Threats to life, family and property if journalists don't yield to pressure from the above to follow their line
7. Bombings, including suicide attacks, where journalists run the risk of becoming targets
8. Threats from religious groups, especially those with sectarian inclinations
9. Criminals
10. Different pressure groups, including political, social and business
11. Kidnapping (by both armed groups and security agencies)
12. Lack of experience and conflict reporting skills in case of journalists
13. Lack of interest on part of organizations to provide security to staff working in volatile regions
14. Lack of in-house safety protocols for managers and practitioners in media organizations
15. Lack of safety trainings for media persons
16. Threats from organized gangs



The biggest THREATS to safety and security faced by journalists in FATA:

1. Non state actors and armed groups
2. State authorities such as security forces, agencies and political administrations
3. Drug traffickers and smugglers
4. Reporting tribal disputes
5. Threats from warring parties who want to control information or report an incident in a way that favours them
6. The Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR)
7. Abduction and intimidation by state and non-state actors
8. Bomb blasts
9. Target killing by state and non-state actors
10. Mutual differences between tribal journalists who seek to harm each other and in the process harm themselves and their profession
11. Socio-cultural environment in FATA
12. Fragile nature of jobs – no accreditation, salaries or organizational support
13. Lack of conflict reporting skills and training on safety issues
14. Ignorance of or lack of understanding and appreciation of professional ethics
15. Threats from religious and sectarian outfits
16. Restriction on freedom of movement
17. Restrictions on access to information
18. Cultural constraints: the tribesmen are conservative and sensitive to issues attacking tradition. A journalist cannot report honor killing, for example, without inviting a direct threat

Principal CAUSES of threats facing journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA:

1. State authorities
2. Terrorism, terrorists and the prevailing security situation
3. Lack of understanding on safety issues within media community
4. Lack of attention to professional ethics within media community
5. Lazy journalism that leads to negligence or inattention to facts
6. Lack of investigative skills among journalists
7. The drive for breaking news that affects attention to verification
8. Lack of interest by media organizations to take security of their journalists seriously
9. Biased reporting. Not taking all sides of the story into account. Being partial to the ideas of one group (militants, religious and political) at the cost of others.
10. Absence of professional neutrality in handling news stories
11. Improper reflection of cultural taboos, values and sensitivities in reporting
12. Exposes on issues of governance and corruption
13. Sensational and exaggerated accounts
14. Targeting a specific ideology or school of thought in a story
15. Lack of safety training and safety resources/gear for journalists
16. Lack of online safety where journalists are more relaxed about their biases and views
17. There are no focal persons in FATA to talk to media on part of the government. And a journalist might file a story without the official version. This regularly constitutes a threat to the



journalists.

18. Some journalists are in journalism to give legal cover to personal non-journalism pursuits leaving them vulnerable
19. Some journalists work as public relation officers for different militant groups, political parties, political administration, and even as informants of intelligence agencies for financial gains, leaving them vulnerable..

Did you face threat/pressure from outside media organisation in the line of your work over the past 12 months (July 2010 to August 2011):

- An equal number of respondents said yes and no

Did you face threat/pressure from within your media organisation in the line of your work over the past 12 months (July 2010 to August 2011):

- More said no than yes

Key threats experienced by journalists regularly in FATA and KP:

1. Detention (by state or non-state actors)
2. Injury in bomb blasts
3. Direct and indirect threats for failing to conform with instructions/agenda of threatening parties
4. Targeted with intent to intimidate or even kill
5. Kidnapping (by state or non-state actors)
6. Censorship of stories, both outside and within media organisations
7. Exile/displacement due to work-related issues (in case of FATA and Swat)
8. Restrictions on mobility
9. Restrictions on access to information

Do journalists in FATA and KP report threats they face?

- More said yes than no

Who were the threats reported to?

1. To employers in media organizations
2. To foreign embassies
3. To the relevant chapter of the journalists' union (Tribal Union of Journalists, in particular)
4. To the state authorities (the federal interior ministry and police, in particular)
5. To the local press club
6. To colleagues

What was the general response to reporting threats to the parties above?

1. Verbal support
2. Ignored
3. Still waiting for justice
4. Active/actionable support from union
5. Documentation of report and complaint



CHAPTER TWO

Practical Steps for Journalists to Reduce Threats and Risks

What can be done to reduce risks and threats to journalists in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa?

1. Trainings on safety and security for journalists
2. Guidebook on safety techniques
3. Implement safety protocols within media organizations
4. Document threats for possible action
5. Analysis of threats, its publicity and advocacy for journalists rights and press freedom
6. Dialogues between media and state authorities
7. Holding state agencies accountable for harassing and killing journalists
8. Bringing perpetrators of killings and intimidations of journalists to justice
9. New laws and mechanisms guaranteeing protection of journalists
10. Training and orientation in conflict sensitive reporting.

What are the practical measures/steps journalists can take to minimize harm and ensure safety while covering conflict?

1. Do accurate and balanced reporting, not biased; avoid one-sided reporting
2. Have only professional interaction/relationship with all parties to the conflict
3. Journalists facing threats in their hometowns should move to a safe city.
4. Avoid becoming party to a particular group; stay impartial and don't develop close ties with armed groups
5. Do not exaggerate, embellish or sensationalize facts; avoid controversies and allegations
6. Follow basic cultural values even when breaking with tradition
7. Understand ethics and be ethical in reporting and editing
8. Life is precious: know what the risks are and don't do stories that pose threat to your life
9. Use safety gear such as helmets and bullet proof jackets when going out to report in active conflict theatres
10. Keep a low profile, don't move around much, especially after dark – don't go out to report without informing your supervisor and/or colleagues
11. Avoid your byline on stories with risky information
12. Pay attention to diction, style, words, phrases and their connotations. For example using words



- like halak (killed) or sharpasand (miscreants) that invokes violent reaction from armed groups
13. Be conflict-sensitive in reporting
 14. Be trained on safety measures of being on-field and off-field
 15. Be vigilant to security/threat environment around you; read up and actively seek information on threats
 16. Do not entertain news and information from anonymous sources
 17. Ask your media organization in writing for support in case of a risky beat as well as inform your local press club and journalists union on their response
 18. Avoid going alone to report from a dangerous area with a possibility of threat
 19. Alert media houses and journalist organizations so steps could be taken to avert the threat – sit down with your colleagues to devise a written plan to avoid and report risks
 20. Know the geography and nature of people and place you will be reporting on
 21. Avoid going near active and live hostile/assault zones; keep considerable distance from the venue of immediate incident/action
 22. Learn basic first aid techniques
 23. Stay away for a considerable period of time from the site of a blast/suicide attack in case there is a follow-up attack
 24. Keep consequences in mind while reporting sensitive and dangerous issues
 25. Take care while unearthing a scam, reporting active militancy, a specific incident or an exclusive report
 26. Never violate curfew and never travel in an active conflict zone without proper permission from the authorities

What are the practical steps news/media organisations can take to minimise harm and ensure safety of its journalists covering conflict in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa?

1. While it is important for the journalists to be impartial, organisations should do the same, without a tilt towards any of the warring parties and have a written policy that emphasises ethics and professional neutrality
2. Make sure your journalists and equipment are insured
3. Arrange trainings on safety and security for your reporters
4. Train your journalists in journalism best practices including ethics that can help minimise threats and risks
5. Provide safety gear to reporters covering active conflict, particularly in conflict zones
6. Seek your reporters' consent before sending them to a danger zone; never force or push them to file stories that may pose risk to their lives
7. Don't credit your reporters with a byline in case of sensitive information or story/report; don't publish stories with unidentified sources or those that are one-sided; sometimes change the dateline of the story to protect your reporters and correspondents
8. Discourage the trend of breaking news from conflict theatres/field sites at the expense of reporters' safety; don't demand risky stories from your reporters in conflict zones
9. Provide regular salaries that are commensurate with the nature and pressures of job so that journalists and media stay independent and free of yellow journalism.
10. Change the station of a reporter if s/he faces a security problem in a specific area



11. Avoid keeping reporters in the office till late, particularly in conflict zones and allow them flexibility to work from safe areas in case of a security threat.
12. Assign only qualified, senior and trained journalists on conflict reporting
13. Have a written protocol/guide on safety and stay regularly and constantly in touch with reporters covering conflict
14. Make sure your reporters have all information about safety and the situation they will report on; also the conditions in the field, the routes and the terrain; don't send reporters to report from active conflict sites until all security arrangements are in place.
15. Hire a security expert to advise staff on security issues
16. Encourage reporters to report and alert the organization and the authorities to threats
17. Make sure your reporters have proper identification documents, especially when they are in the field
18. Provide internet access, phone and fax facility to journalists to send out alerts
19. In case of FATA, the editors/publishers must talk to high officials for posting a focal person/spokesperson who can bring the government's version to the story
20. Avoid meeting representatives of armed groups after dark; only daylight travel for gathering of news should be a rule
21. Use the telephone to seek comments from warring parties; record the chats
22. Immediately inform all relevant quarters if your reporter goes missing
23. Develop your own in-house safety protocols and emphasize adherence of a code of ethics and standard operating procedures for reporting conflict
24. Actively encourage reporting on development and social issues in conflict theatres to minimise risk to conflict reporters.

What are the professional considerations editors/sub-editors should follow while editing stories to minimise harm to reporters covering conflict?

1. Run the story by the reporter after editing to make sure the sense or tone of the story is not distorted and stays true to what the reporter intended it to be
2. The News Desk, especially in Urdu newspapers, should publish full story filed by the reporter after careful editing. Editors and page makers often cut down stories at the end to accommodate them in the columns assigned; ignoring that it may have information from authorities or armed groups important to the story. Removing response to allegations and controversies often make stories contentious, posing threats to reporter's safety.
3. If the editors want to make changes to a story or add information to a story, it should be discussed with the reporter first.
4. Some reporters feel the stories do not carry their bylines. While this may be important in view of safety of the reporter in case of sensitive information, the newsroom staff needs to consult the reporters who deserved to be credited for a difficult assignment.
5. The newsroom staff should receive orientation about the sensitivities in the field and risks to reporters, preferably from reporters covering conflict so they are alert to the situation on ground.
6. Likewise, they should be mindful of cultural sensitivities especially when the newsrooms are far removed from areas embroiled in conflict such as newsrooms in Karachi, Multan, Lahore and



Islamabad covering FATA, KP and Balochistan regions.

7. The newsrooms should, in consultation with reporters covering conflict and in view of the risks involved, prepare a standard stylebook for covering conflict. The stylebook should be available in the newsroom as well to reporters in the field. The editors should lay emphasis on adherence to the stylebook by both reporters and sub-editors.
8. Expressions and headlines that may expose a reporter to threat or invite trouble should be avoided. Sensational headlines, especially in Urdu press, should be avoided.
9. The newsrooms should ensure that a story is prepared keeping in view principles of responsible, ethical journalism. In case if accuracy, balance, attribution, verification, objectivity, impartiality, completeness, etc., is missing, it should contact the reporter and only carry the story once the missing information is in place.
10. Editors should edit sensational words and phrases that, while exaggerating the situation on ground, may pose risks to reporters often not trained in conflict sensitive reporting. They should make the expression objective and non-opinionated without compromising on facts.
11. Anything that remotely suggests trouble for reporter in the field should not go to the press.
12. Reporters new to the field can be adventurous sometimes. They may file stories harmful to media or them without realising the inherent risks. The editors and sub-editors should be duty-bound to educate such reporters on the sensitivities of the issue(s).
13. Editors should make sure that stories do not employ words like 'terrorists,' 'miscreants,' 'martyrs,' etc., for armed groups to which they object or which may portray them in a favorable or negative way. Use synonymous words for armed groups that do not want to be labeled terrorists, militants or suicide bombers to minimise harm to the reporter.
14. A reporter's story should not be tagged to or joined with that of wire services like AFP, AP, APP, PPI, Internews Pakistan, Online, etc. The agencies, local or international, have the luxury to stay nameless and cover conflict from a distance. Reporters who file stories from conflict zones don't. Don't let the luxury of others translate into loss for your reporter.
15. In case of a confusion or information that is not clear in a story filed by a reporter, editors should contact the reporter instead of relying on other sources of information.
16. Any story about conflict from a wire service should be clearly credited to the service. If there is information in the story not favourable to the armed groups, they threaten local reporters thinking they have filed the story. The armed groups only know the newspaper or TV network and the reporters that work for them. They are not media literate enough to know there are other sources of information that newspapers and TV channels subscribe to.
17. The News Desk should stay in touch with reporters covering the conflict zone; coordination between reporters and sub editors/editors should be improved
18. The News Desk should advise reporters, whenever necessary, on taking precautionary measures
19. The News Desk should make sure that the story carries no opinion, no judgment or criticism from the reporter. All opinion, remarks and comments should come from attributable, as opposed to unnamed, sources.
20. Editors should balance a news story by asking the reporter to include views from all sides of the story and bringing diverse opinion and voices
21. Conflict stories should be edited on the News Desk only with editors/sub-editors with sound



knowledge of the sensitivities in the conflict zone.

22. The Desk should not press reporters to file stories in a hurry which often leads to mistakes of serious nature.

What kind of materials/ other assistance that can help journalists do their job better?

- a. In-house protocols and guidelines on safety and security for journalists that should be mandatory for everyone, especially reporters in the field, which should include, among other things, emphasis on reporting, documenting and analysing threats and risks.
- b. Salaries of journalists working in dangerous zones should be commensurate with the risks they face. Even in big news organisations, the salaries of journalists working in FATA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are not on a par with their colleagues working in safer cities. In FATA most journalists are not even paid minimum wages.
- c. Reporters and correspondents should be issued organisational identity documents and accreditation letters.
- d. Insurance of life and equipment
 - a. Security gear such as jackets clearly marked 'Press,' helmets and bulletproof jackets
 - b. Organizational compensation for journalists who have suffered because of covering conflict
- c. All logistics related to news gathering such as travel, stay, communications and meals should be covered by organizations
- d. A safety advisory and reporting hotline should be put in place for journalists covering conflict by every media organisation.
- e. A directory of contacts of press clubs, unions, national and international media support groups, key security agencies, etc., should be available for ALL journalists in the country but particularly in FATA, KP and Balochistan.
- f. Availability and accessibility of editors and senior management of media organisations to provide editorial guidance and support to their staff in conflict zones.
- g. Safe houses for in-country relocation and financial and technical support for journalists facing active threats.



CHAPTER THREE

Guidelines on Safety for Reporters Covering Conflict

In view of the threats and responses suggested by media professionals covering conflict in FATA, KP and Balochistan in the preceding chapter, the following key safety guidelines can dramatically reduce the threat and risk framework for journalists in the field. However, these in themselves aren't enough and additional steps should be adopted keeping in view specific and local conditions in conjunction with the below:

No story is worth dying for: Question your motives for covering a story. Be honest to yourself and your profession. Is it a sense of duty to yourself and the community? Or appeal of danger, or ambition? What, and whose purpose, will the story serve? Will it expose you to danger? Can the story wait and maybe be told another day, in a better way?

Plan ahead, plan carefully: Study the situation you will be working in. Evaluate the risks, your chances of safety and which way circumstances may go. Always assume the worst and be prepared for it in a situation of conflict.

Mind map your entry and exit: A journalist should have working knowledge of all routes, roads, byways and streets or work with someone – a local driver or a fixer – who is familiar with them. While you can carry a map with you, often emergency situations allow little time to consult them. Look at them before you go to field and have a mental image of the major roads and routes. In case maps are not available, have a local person explain them. Or better still, draw you a map. Careful journalists should go around the place familiarising themselves with entry and exit points if time allows.

Leave footprints: Call friends and family from locations as soon as you change them, keep them informed about your movement so they know where you were last and with whom. This can help save time for helpers in case you need to be rescued or traced in a hurry.

Have contacts that can help: Keep handy contacts, phone numbers, addresses of media and media support organizations, colleagues and friends in the community who may be able to help you quickly in times of trouble. While you can depend on them to help you, you must not jeopardise their safety by association with you. Anything irresponsible or unethical you do will have



consequences for them because you have the list of contacts with you. Remember, the contacts should be only for friends of media, not those party to conflict or may be seen or construed as party to conflict.

Follow ethics: Remember you are there to serve the community. Help people trust each other by being truthful, independent, fair, impartial, transparent and accountable for your work. In a situation of conflict, this will also help people trust media through responsible, unbiased and balanced reporting.

Stay objective: Do not become part of the story. Do not let your associations, your biases, your feelings, likes and dislikes affect your reporting. Keep your opinions to yourself and report only facts. The journalistic principle of objectivity and maintaining distance from the subject of your story assumes special importance in case of conflict reporting where people who want to control information will try cultivate or force you to do their bidding.

Stay impartial: You are a journalist first and foremost, there to uphold people's interest. You are not a spokesperson for an armed group or those party to the conflict or beholden to a certain ideology. Do not allow yourself or someone to turn you into one or use you to propagate their stance. If you allow it, you become part of that group or camp, in people's eyes and those in conflict with that group. In the words of one FATA journalist, "be a journalist, not an activist or advisor to a group, military or authorities." Your position of influence as a journalist and access to information flows from community's trust and interest. Don't violate that trust.

Stay independent: Do not give in to pressure tactics or accept bribes, favours and other inducements at the cost of your independence, reputation and safety.

Educate others about journalism: You may be a responsible, impartial journalist upholding ethics and principles of good journalism but it is often not enough when it comes to covering or working in conditions of conflict. To ensure your independence and safety, educate the community and armed groups about your role whenever you can. Tell them you are there to report, not to judge or propagate. And that you mean to do no harm.

Strengthen your fraternity: Journalists, press clubs, Tribal Union of Journalists and other chapters of journalists unions need to support each other and be there for each other in time of danger and conflict. Visible, vocal support for your fraternity, especially those working under perilous conditions, would keep external pressures away from them because you are there to watch over them.

Find strength in numbers: When you go out to report, go with a group of journalists. It is easy that way to be identified as a reporter and easier still because conflicting parties cannot bear pressure on you of any kind when you are there as a group. This is especially important for freelance journalists who usually have little or no organisational support.

Give right of reply: Stick to facts with proof and evidence. In case of a controversy or allegation, always give the party that is accused of a wrong the chance to reply in the same report.



Bring balance to news: Your story should be representative of all parties to a conflict, not just one. Talking to all actors and bringing diverse voices and opinions will ensure That the story is not one-sided; That you, the journalist or media, is not seen as favouring a certain group or stance; That facts are established in case of a controversy; That the report is seen as impartial because the reporter has made an effort to talk to everyone involved; And that the audience is well informed to make their own judgment about facts once they have all sides of the story backed by diverse opinion of people and experts.

Bring people's perspective: Always bring in the people's perspective on an event and development and how they are affected by it. In case of a conflict like the one in FATA where a journalist can only invite trouble if seen to be directly hitting on a party to the conflict, tell people's stories. Tell stories of how they are affected by a conflict. People's voices and perspectives will create pressure on the combatants and actors to resolve the situation.

Mind your language: Stay mindful of the meanings and connotations that words convey. Are your words loaded with a meaning that: Convey to someone out there that the offence that they are being maligned or accused of something is not true; The reporter is taking sides, favouring one party or another ('martyr' vs the 'dead' or 'killed'); or the sense of a quote, comment or remark is not distorted as to convey a wrong meaning.

Be careful with bylines and content: If you are in the Newsroom, do not give byline/dateline in case of a sensitive story or threat, nor change content, even words and quotes, which distort sense of stories. Changes to stories should be made only in consultation with the reporter who filed the story.

Train the Newsroom also: Conflict reporting and safety trainings should not be for reporters alone. The editors and sub-editors should be equally trained in concepts of conflict reporting, the training preferably conducted or designed by involving reporters in the field to bring firsthand insight to the sessions.



CHAPTER FOUR

Regional Standard Operating Procedures for the Field

Khyber Union of Journalists – the union representing journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – has put together the following Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for journalists, camera persons and technical staff.

1. Field staff [Reporters, camera persons, photographer, Digital Satellite New Gathering (DSNG) staff, drivers, guards], especially those covering bomb blasts, army operations, FATA, and other beats related to war against terrorism, must have maximum insurance, preferably war insurance cover.
2. Field workers [Reporters, camera persons, photographer, DSNG staff etc] must be provided with every possible security gear for the coverage of bomb blasts, army/police operations, demonstrations, etc. Bullet proof life jackets and helmets are important in this regard, while a team going to such assignments must also carry a first aid box.
3. TV channels must keep life jackets, helmets and first aid boxes in all vehicles, including DSNG vans.
4. First aid training should be made compulsory for the entire field staff.
5. Managements of TV channels and newspapers should be asked to ensure life insurance cover and security gears for their workers.
6. Journalists' trade unions and press clubs should also make endeavors to provide insurance cover and security gears to their members and other media workers.
7. Reporters, camerapersons, photographers, DSNG staff, drivers and guards must wear bullet proof jackets and helmets, while covering bomb blasts, army/police operations, demos and protests, which may lead to violence in shape of firing, baton charge or teargas shelling, etc.
8. News managers and administration / HR departments of TV channels and newspapers should encourage the field staff to use security gear, while covering aforementioned assignments.
9. In case of bomb blasts, fire and firing incidents, don't go very close to the spot - you can get shot - and provide information from a distance.
10. Avoid getting closer to groups of people standing at bomb blast scenes. [Always keep in mind a second blast].
11. Usually journalists [especially camerapersons] are seen standing in groups at the scene. Avoid



this practice. Always stay scattered.

12. Don't be shy to wear bullet proof jackets and helmets at blast scenes. Forget about the hot weather and people laughing at you. It's your life you have to save.
13. If a proper bullet proof jacket is not possible, organizations can provide cheaper jackets with hard steel sheets in the front and at the rear of them. You have to save yourself from flying shrapnel, pellets and nails, etc., in case of blasts and suicide attacks.
14. DSNG vans and other vehicles of media persons should be parked at the maximum possible distance from the spot as well as from each other.
15. DSNG guards/drivers should be trained and "sensitized to keep an eye on their vehicles and surroundings.
16. Minimum distance from spot for covering an incident should be determined in consultation with the bomb disposal unit. Never go beyond that distance.
17. Be cooperative and polite at the spot with the security personnel as well as common people.
18. Never violate security forces' guidelines.
19. News managers should keep in mind the limitations of their colleagues while sending them to a conflict zone.
20. News managers should avoid sending field staff to the troubled areas after 8 pm. However, if there are proper security arrangement or the incident is too big, this rule can be relaxed.
21. Trainees should never be allowed to go to conflict zones and risky areas as they are neither registered with their organisations nor properly trained for the situation.
22. DSNGs and other vehicles should preferably be plain-colored instead of having prominent colors and logos.
23. Prominence as media people should be avoided
24. Identification signs and boards should be used only at the time of need
25. Apart from news collection somebody from the office should remain in constant touch with the field staff about their well-being and traveling plans.
26. Avoid rumor mongering



CHAPTER FIVE

The Do's and Don'ts of Staying Out of Harm's Way

The following are **22 Steps to Safety** jointly from Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Before you go to report:

- ❖ Know all you can about where you are going and what to expect. Plan your escape routes.
- ❖ Identify your vehicle as “media”. Travel with other journalists.
- ❖ Ensure you have reliable local contacts in the area, or at least travel with someone who is familiar with the location.
- ❖ Dress appropriately. Do not carry anything that may look like a weapon.
- ❖ Keep editors, colleagues, family and friends informed about your journey. Make sure colleagues aware of plans, set time for phoning or texting to confirm safety.
- ❖ Consider how to report on violent areas from a safe distance.

What to take with you:

- ❖ Additional water, food and fuel for emergencies.
- ❖ Maps, emergency, first aid kit, batteries, contact numbers, reliable fully charged phones.
- ❖ Program an “ICE” number into your phone: Person to call “In Case of Emergency”.
- ❖ Papers that identify you as a journalist and who you work for.
- ❖ Extra cash, a short wave radio to keep in touch with events and a white flag.

What to do on location:

- ❖ No story is worth your life. Do not endanger yourself or others. Safety is your responsibility.
- ❖ Be polite. Treat people with respect. Do not argue. If threatened, get out – fast.
- ❖ Do not move into an area where a bomb has exploded – beware of follow up blasts.
- ❖ Do not leave your vehicle unattended.
- ❖ Avoid bias – operate as a professional journalist. You are not a participant.
- ❖ Seek permission before you bring out a notebook, camera or recorder.
- ❖ Balance risks against benefits before going anywhere dangerous. Relocate to a safer place.



If you get into trouble:

- ❖ Contact your district union and the PFUJ hotline 051-2870221 and alert colleagues, editors, friends and family.
- ❖ If detained, explain your role as a civilian journalist.
- ❖ Never resist if you are kept hostage or someone holds you at gunpoint



CHAPTER SIX

Protecting the Media, Protecting Yourself

The following are “20 Steps to Respond to Threats” by journalists jointly developed by PFUJ and IFJ for Pakistani media practitioners:

As soon as you receive a threat:

- ❖ Document the exact working and circumstances by which threats, direct or veiled, were received including date, time and persons involved.
- ❖ Save threats sent by SMS in your phone memory so that you have evidence.
- ❖ Let others know immediately – your superiors, colleagues and family.
- ❖ Seek support from unions, press clubs, press associations, media groups and international organizations.
- ❖ Report the threat to the police. It is better if you and your editor make the report in writing, citing the circumstances and possible source.
- ❖ Report the threat to PFUJ and IFJ.
- ❖ Ask for police protection only when absolutely necessary and if the police in your area can be trusted.
- ❖ Publicise the threats. Ask friends in the media to help.

If you have already received threats before and they remain unsolved, take the following precautions:

- ❖ Always keep emergency numbers ready, including the PFUJ hotline 051-2870221 and the numbers of your editors, close relatives, trusted police and lawyers. Program them into your mobile phone’s speed dial.
- ❖ Inform your editors, colleagues and family where you are going, your intended time of arrival and expected return. Check in frequently.
- ❖ As much as possible, do not travel alone.
- ❖ Meet unfamiliar contacts in public places and tell your office or trusted colleagues of your plans.
- ❖ Ensure you are physically and mentally fit
- ❖ Vary your routes and routines. Breaking your usual patterns makes your movement



unpredictable for would-be attackers.

- ❖ Know the different entrance/exit points of places you frequent, i.e., your workplace and locations on your beat. Study possible alternative routes.
- ❖ Get local information, for example from a trusted neighbor or a street vendor. They may observe something that would help you.
- ❖ Be careful with phone calls, text messages and other forms of electronic communication that can be easily tracked. Don't keep sensitive documents or recordings in your home, car or office.
- ❖ Identify safe havens or places where you feel you would be safe. Have them ready for emergencies in case you feel you have to lie low for a few days.
- ❖ Know your rights. Learn the national laws and international covenants that protect news people, including the Geneva Conventions as they relate to civilians in areas of war and conflict.
- ❖ Be prepared but do not be paranoid.



CHAPTER SEVEN

Keeping Safe by Adhering to Rights and Responsibilities of Journalists

Declaration of the Duties and Rights of a Journalist (The Swiss Press Council Foundation)

Preface

- ❖ The right to information, together with freedom of expression and criticism, is one of the fundamental liberties of every human being.
- ❖ The rights and duties of journalists devolve from the public's right to have access to fact and opinion.
- ❖ A journalists' responsibility to the public must come before any they bear towards a third party, notably employers and public authorities.
- ❖ Journalists should, of their own accord, adopt the rules necessary to accomplish their mission to inform. Such is the object of the 'Declaration of Duties' below.
- ❖ In order to carry out their journalistic duties in an independent manner, and in accordance with required quality standards, journalists must be able to count on general conditions adequate to the exercise of their profession. Such is the object of the 'Declaration of Rights' that follows.

Declaration of Duties

The journalist who gathers, selects, edits, interprets and comments on information is ruled by general principles of fairness in his or her honest treatment of sources (the people with whom he or she is talking) and the public. The journalist's duties are:

- 1) To seek out the truth, in the interests of the public's right to know, whatever the consequences to him- or herself.
- 2) To defend freedom of information, freedom of commentary and criticism, and the independence and dignity of the journalistic profession.
- 3) Not to publish information, documents, images or sound recordings of which the origin is



unknown to the journalist. Not to suppress information or any essential elements of a story. Not to misrepresent any text, document, image or sound recording, nor people's expressed opinions. If information is unconfirmed to clearly say so. To indicate when photographic and/or sound material has been combined to make a montage.

- 4) Not to use dishonest methods to obtain information, recordings, images or documents. Not to manipulate them, or have them manipulated by a third party with a view to falsification. To prohibit plagiarism in not passing off the work or ideas of others as one's own.
- 5) To rectify any published information that is revealed to be factually incorrect.
- 6) To respect professional secrecy and not reveal the source of any information obtained in confidence.
- 7) To respect peoples' privacy insofar as the public interest does not demand otherwise. To disregard anonymous or unfounded accusations.
- 8) In respecting human dignity, the journalist must avoid any allusion by text, image or sound to a person's ethnic or national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation as well as to any illness or physical or mental handicap that could be discriminatory in character. The reporting of war, acts of terrorism, accidents and catastrophes by means of text, image and sound should respect the victims' suffering and the feelings of their loved ones.
- 9) Not to accept any advantage nor any promise that could limit his or her professional independence or expression of opinion.
- 10) To avoid as journalists any form of commercial advertising; and never to accept conditions laid down by advertisers directly or indirectly.
- 11) To take journalistic directives only from designated editorial superiors; and to respect those directives only when they are not contrary to this Declaration.

Journalists who are worthy of this title accept as their duty a strict adherence to the principles of this declaration. While recognizing the laws of each country, they only accept in professional questions the judgment of their colleagues, the Press Council or similar, legitimate organizations determining professional ethics. Thereby, they reject any interference by the state or any other authority.

Declaration of Rights

Full respect by journalists of the duties articulated above requires that they enjoy, at the minimum, the following rights:

- a) Free access to all sources of information and the right to investigate without impediment anything that is in the public interest. Public or private confidentiality can only be invoked against the journalist in exceptional circumstances and with the provision of clearly-defined reasons.
- b) The right not to act in any way nor express any opinion that is contrary to professional rules or personal conscience. As a result, journalists should not suffer any prejudice.
- c) The right to refuse any directive or interference that is contrary to the general policy of the



organisation with which he or she is collaborating. This policy must be communicated in writing before the journalist's employment. It cannot be modified or revoked unilaterally under pain of breach of contract.

- d) The right to transparency as to the ownership of the company for which the journalist works. The right of a member of an editorial team to be informed in time, and to be heard before, any decision that affects the future of the company. In particular, members of the editorial staff must be informed and heard before final decisions determining the composition or organisation of the editorial department.
- e) The right to adequate and continuous professional training.
- f) The right to benefit from work conditions guaranteed by a collective agreement, including the right to be active in professional organisations without suffering discrimination.
- g) The right to benefit from an individual employment contract guaranteeing material and moral security. In particular, an appropriate remuneration - corresponding to the journalist's function, responsibilities and social role - should ensure his or her economic independence.

Other than the rights and responsibilities outlined in the Declaration of the Duties and Rights of a Journalist adopted by The Swiss Press Council Foundation), here below is a rundown of journalists' rights outlined under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR to which Pakistan is a signatory), the United Nations International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights – also ratified by Pakistan - and the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1).

Universal Declaration of Human Rights defines this freedom through the following clauses:

Article 15: The right to form, hold, receive and impart opinions.

Article 16: Free and equal access to information inside and outside state borders.

Article 17: Freedom of speech and expression, equal access to all channels of communication, and no censorship (though restrictions under defamation laws are allowed; see below)

Article 18: The duty to present news and information fairly and impartially.

Article 19: The right to freedom of expression and opinion including “freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information through any media, regardless of any frontier...”

The above clauses, if met, will provide for a broadly free framework within which media organisations and other civil society bodies can operate. The circumstances in which governments



can limit these rights are outlined in article 29 of the universal declaration.

The Political Covenant of the Declaration details the restrictions on these rights article by article, as follows:

- ❖ To ensure respect for the rights and reputations of others (anti-defamation)
- ❖ To protect national security, order public (the circumstances necessary to keep a state governable), public health or morals
- ❖ To prevent incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence
- ❖ Journalists have the right not to be arrested, held in detention or exiled without a legal expression
- ❖ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 9: “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”
- ❖ UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9 (1): “Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.
- ❖ Journalists have the right to not be subjected to any form of torture or inhuman treatment.
- ❖ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 5: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”
- ❖ Journalists have the right to hold opinions and express them in any means they choose, without obstruction by any party or government.
- ❖ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference from and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”
- ❖ UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19: “Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference; Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; This right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.” The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary: For respect of the rights or reputations of others; and for protection of national security or of public order (order public), or of public health or morals; and Journalists have the right to form associations, unions or peaceful assemblies, without interference.
- ❖ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 20 (1): “Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.”
- ❖ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23 (4): “Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.”



- ❖ UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 21: “The right of peaceful assembly should be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (order public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.”
- ❖ UN international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 22: “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests; No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those which are prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (order public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on members of the armed forces and of the police in their exercise of this right; Journalists situated in dangerous areas have the right to be considered as civilians and treated as non-combatants.”
- ❖ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), Article 79 – Measures of protection for journalists: “Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians within the meaning of Article 50, paragraph 1; They shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this Protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians, and without prejudice to the right of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces to the status provided for in Article 4A (4) of the Third Convention; They may obtain an identity card similar to the model in Annex II of this Protocol and this card, which shall be issued by the government of the State of which the journalist is a national or in whose territory he resides or in which the news medium employing him is located, shall attest to his status as a journalist.” Article 50 (1): “A civilian is any person who does not belong to one of the categories of persons referred to in Article 4A (1), (2), (3) and (6) of the Third Convention and in Article 43 of this Protocol. In case of doubt whether a person is a civilian, that person shall be considered a civilian.” Articles 4A (1), (2), (3) and (6) of the Third Convention refers to members of armed parties or organizations and inhabitants of a non-occupied territory who take to arms in order to defend themselves from an approaching enemy.



CHAPTER EIGHT

Pakistan Journalists Safety Fund (PJSF) – Help for Journalists in Distress

The working conditions of journalists in Pakistan are extremely difficult. The myriad threats they face in performance of their work include intimidation, harassment, assault, injuries and even death. With the increase in number of journalists – from 2,000 to 17,000 – as a result of media expansion in the country between 2002 and 2011, the magnitude and intensity of threats to the journalists have also increased. During this period, around 100 journalists have been abducted, more than 200 have been injured or assaulted and nearly 75 journalists have been killed in line of duty.

The militancy fueled conflict in general and incidents like armed resistance from a mosque in Islamabad in 2007, Swat operation and exodus in 2010, and military operation in tribal areas since 2008 in particular have put lives of the journalists in real danger. Moreover, in non-conflict areas of rural Sindh and south Punjab, the journalists are equally in danger and facing threats quite similar to the threats faced by the journalists in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan.

To address this issue, there is a need for efforts to build and support mechanisms that can help equip journalists to remain safe, including safety trainings and equipment and financial resources that can support them in difficult times, including support for their families when they are threatened. Intermedia in collaboration with the PFUJ set up a Pakistan Journalists Safety Fund (PJSF) in mid-2011 with assistance from the International Media Support (IMS) for threatened / harassed / intimidated / injured journalists and families of victims. The fund aims to provide some financial security along with physical and social security to keep Pakistan's threatened journalists safe.

The Fund is established and managed by a Steering Committee comprising independent and credible personalities including senior media practitioners and persons with backgrounds of activism and development sector, legal and human rights civil. The criteria and process to extend



financial and material support to threatened journalists is transparent and expeditious as any delay can result in a major problem for the threatened journalist. The Safety Fund has a flexible mechanism to support short-term initiatives on the urgent security needs for Pakistani journalists, particularly those in conflict regions.

Some of the activities supported by the Pakistan Journalists Safety Fund: Urgent in-country relocation of threatened journalists; A hot-line for journalists under attack; Legal assistance to journalists under threat / victims; Assistance to journalists who need short-term safe lodging in-country; Short-term trauma counseling activities; Financial and technical assistance to deserving parties; and any other activities that the Steering Committee can approve. The Pakistan's Journalists Safety Fund can be approached at safetyfund@intermedia.org.pk.



CHAPTER NINE

Assistance Resources for Journalists

For more on journalists' safety and assistance from Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, you can write to PFUJ at aminpfuj@gmail.com.

You can also contact organizations that work for journalists' safety all over the world, including Pakistan, through their websites:

- Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists: <http://pfuj.pk/>
- Intermedia: www.intermedia.org.pk
- International Federation of Journalists: www.ifj.org
- Reporters Without Borders: <http://en.rsf.org>
- Committee to Protect Journalists: www.cpj.org
- Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org/en/region/pakistan
- Human Rights Commission of Pakistan: www.hrcp-web.org
- Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org



About INTERMEDIA – www.intermedia.pk

Intermedia is a Pakistani independent media development and development communications organization. Intermedia's vision statement aims at “supporting freedom of expression, access to information and citizens making informed opinions and decisions as a means of promoting an informed, democratic and tolerant society.” Intermedia's principal activities are centered on building technical and professional capacities and competencies of media organizations, including TV channels, radio stations and newspapers, and media rights bodies through trainings; promoting free media in Pakistan through fair media laws and reforms; and carrying out research, advocacy and analysis on democracy and media-related issues. Intermedia also focuses on building communications capacities of development organizations to help them improve their outreach. Intermedia focuses on improving the quality of civic and thematic dialogue and development communications critical to an open, pluralistic and democratic society by working with civil society groups and development sector organizations in improving their communications capacities in a dynamically evolving media sector.

CAPACITY and EXPERTISE

Intermedia has conducted theme-based trainings for dozens of media organizations, including TV channels, radio stations and newspapers and over 2,200 journalists across urban and rural regions of Balochistan, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Sindh and Pakistan-administered Kashmir (AJK) on political reporting, health, mother and child healthcare, elections, media law, conflict, legal frameworks, politics, development sector, legislatures, humanitarian issues, the perspectives of women and other marginalized groups, etc. The thematic areas of Intermedia expertise and experience in media development and development communications include the following:

- **REPORTING POLITICS** – *building media capacities to report political issues*
Educational workshops for journalists on political processes, parliament and political parties to build their capacities for issue-based coverage of politics
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** – *building technical capacities of the broadcast sector*
Intermedia staff have experience building newsrooms of radio stations; conducting journalism boot camps and thematic trainings for radio and TV reporters; helping design thematic radio and TV programs; and journalism production trainings
- **HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVES** – *building capacities of media on coverage of rights issues*



Training workshops for media on coverage of rights issues as well as incorporating human rights perspectives in everyday reporting; orientation dialogues with universities to encourage student awareness of rights issues

- **HEALTH JOURNALISM** - *building capacities of media on reporting on thematic health issues*
Training of journalists on health issues in general and on issues related to mothers, newborns and child healthcare [MNCH]; building communications capacities of public health officials
- **DEVELOPMENT JOURNALISM** – *building reporting capacities of media on development issues*
Training media on people-centered reporting and incorporating development perspectives in everyday reporting; training development sector and public sector organizations and officials on development communications and production of radio programs on humanitarian and development issues
- **LEGAL REPORTING** – *building media capacities to cover legal and court reporting*
Training workshops for journalists to build their capacities to understand legal processes and the constitution and reporting court proceedings
- **MEDIA LEGAL ADVOCACY** – *educating journalists and stakeholders on the media regulations*
Conducting media law clinics for journalists and media associations to educate them about their rights and responsibilities and awareness about media laws and regulations
- **HUMANITARIAN INFORMATION** – *building local media capacities on reporting disasters and displacements*
Building capacity of local media to produce relevant and reliable humanitarian information for IDPs [internally displaced persons] and host communities, caused by disasters or conflicts, through training, mentoring and equipment upgrades; for reporting on IDP rights and aid; and producing model information radio programs on IDPs issues
- **CONFLICT COVERAGE** – *building capacity of media to cover conflict issues professionally*
Trainings for professional reporting on conflict issues in conflict regions such as FATA, NWFP and Balochistan
- **PARLIAMENTARY WATCH** – *documenting legislative performance of elected legislatures*
Monitoring and documentation of proceedings of the provincial assemblies to evaluate performance of legislators on legislative agendas
- **MEDIA MONITORING** – *monitoring media coverage of thematic issues*
Monitoring mainstream print media for media content analysis of the coverage of issues such as health, politics, elections, etc., through production of thematic periodic newsletters and reports
- **MEDIA RESEARCH** – *researching media issues*



Conducting research on media issues to analyze the dynamics of the burgeoning sector and the trends that are shaping it and producing reports on the state of the media on the national, provincial and local levels in Pakistan

- **MEDIA ADVOCACY** – *lobbying for fair media laws and freedom of expression*
Lobbying for an enabling media regulatory framework; advocating open and unhindered access to information and freedom of expression; chronicling censorship and violations against the media; and conducting orientation workshops for journalists and media groups on media rights and responsibilities
- **MEDIA TRAININGS and WORKSHOPS** – *improving professional media capacities*
Conducting journalism trainings and thematic educational workshops to improve media professionalism and standards

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