If You Run Into Trouble…

There are a number of organizations that serve both international and local journalists who encounter harassment or abuse in the pursuit of their work. These organizations have a broad range of functions and services, and everyone working overseas should be aware of them and learn how to draw on their support — both for their own sake and in support of local colleagues who are often highly vulnerable.

IFEX

http://www.ifex.org

A few years ago a large number of press freedom organizations created IFEX, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange. IFEX has biannual meetings to discuss issues and strategies. The IFEX Clearing House, based in Toronto, coordinates information from some 40 participating organizations around the world, and publishes the weekly IFEX Communique summarizing incidents of actions against the press around the world, as well as actions that IFEX organizations have taken on them.

IFEX now has a website that includes the means to search for information on press conditions in every part of the world, by country. Every journalist setting off overseas should review the information on the countries where he or she will be working. The site also includes information IFEX and participating organizations. If a journalist is a subject of, or witness to an abuse, he or she should report it to IFEX, which will forward it to the organizations. (These reports can be made on a confidential basis.)

The roster of IFEX participants has been growing, especially among regional organizations in developing countries. The following list includes some of the larger groups. It is also useful to call or visit their offices before setting off for an assignment, especially if it has the potential for risk.

Article 19

33 Islington High Street
London N1 9LH
United Kingdom

tel: (0171) 278 9292
fax: (0171) 713 1356
e-mail: article19@gn.apc.org

Researches and publishes report on thematic and regional issues in freedom of expression, including broadcasting and elections; hate speech and broadcasting issues; press law and the role of the United Nations and international courts.
Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists
490 Adelaide Street West, Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1T2
Canada
tel: 416 703 1638
fax: 416 703 7034
e-mail: ccpj@web.apc.org
Oversees the IFEX Clearinghouse and other IFEX functions, as well as representing Canada in the press freedom community.

Committee to Protect Journalists
330 7th Avenue, 10th floor
New York NY 10001
tel: 212 465 1004
fax: 212 465 9568
e-mail: info@cpj.org
Researches and protests abuses of individual journalists and their publications and outlets. Has regional specialists for each area of the world. Publishes the annual Attacks on the Press report surveying press conditions around the world.

Freedom House
120 Wall Street
New York NY 10005
tel: 212 514 8040
fax: 212 514 8050
e-mail: kguida@freedomhouse.org
Surveys general freedom of expression and other indicators of civil liberties around the world.

Human Rights Watch
485 5th Avenue, 3rd floor
Highly informed regional monitors of local human rights conditions, including press freedom issues. Numerous, extensively researched reports.

**Index on Censorship**

33 Islington High Street

London N1 9LH

United Kingdom

tel. (0171) 278 2313

fax. (0171) 278 1878

e-mail: indexoncenso@gn.apc.org

The "journal of record" on freedom of expression. The magazine, issued in a *Granta* format, is an excellent place to research (and to publish) information on freedom of expression issues.

**International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)**

Rue Royale, 266, B-1210

Brussels, Belgium

tel: 32 22 223 2265

fax: 32 22 219 2976

e-mail: ifjsafenet@gn.apc.org

Federation of national journalists unions. Extensive research and activism on journalists’ safety issues as well as workplace concerns. Issues an international press card that can be useful to freelancers.

**World Association of Newspapers (FIEJ)**

25, rue d’astorg
International publishers’ organization that takes strong stands on countries with policies contrary to press freedom.

**Reporters Sans Frontieres**

5, rue Geoffrey Marie

75009 Paris

France

Paris

tel: 33 1 44 83 8484

fax: 33 1 45 23 1151

e-mail calvanet@calvacom.fr

Surveys press conditions with special strength in the francophone world. Sometimes provides material assistance to beleaguered local news organizations in conflicted zones.

**World Press Freedom Committee**

11690-c Sunrise Valley Drive

Reston, Virginia 22091

tel: 703 715 9811

fax: 703 620 6790

e-mail: freepress@wpfc.org

Monitors international press law and helps press freedom initiatives in emerging democracies. Also monitors UNESCO policy.
Also note:

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

JOURNALISTS HOT LINE

19, avenue de la Paix, CH 1202

Geneva, Switzerland

tel. 41 227 346 001

fax. 41 227 348 280

e-mail: boegli@icrc.org (Urs Boegli, Head, Communications Department)

The ICRC Journalists Hot Line makes use of the ICRC’s unrivaled ability to communicate with individuals held in detention and to negotiate with warring parties in a conflict on behalf of civilians, including journalists.
INTRODUCTION

In 1990, the International Reporting class at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism taught by Don Shanor produced a guide to international freelancing. These pages are an effort to update some of the information in that publication.

It was produced as a special project by students in the elective, "Elements of International Reporting," in the spring of 1997. It is our hope that the project can be updated and expanded over time, for the benefit of the Journalism School community. The information regarding U.S. publications is accurate as of early 1997. (Some other listings may contain slightly older information.)

Special mention goes to Brigitte Sion, the editor-in-chief of the project, who showed excellent organizational skills in overseeing the team and seeing the product through. She received valuable assistance from Christine Dinsmore, who also worked additional shifts to see the project through. Their initiative and persistence is much appreciated, as is the work of the other team members.

"Elements of International Reporting" is a relatively new course at Columbia that seeks to develop a post-Cold War perspective on international coverage, allowing for major shifts within both the industry and the thematic approach to the field. It combines material on the impact of technology and trade relations on international affairs with a the first journalism school curriculum on international human rights reporting for journalists. This guide is especially appropriate as an outgrowth of the class, since many of the most innovative international stories appear in unexpected news outlets, and freelancing can lead to important opportunities for young reporters.

Anyone who would like to offer comments, corrections, or updates on this material is encouraged to send them to me at the address below, and I will attempt to incorporate them into future versions. I would like to thank all of the students involved in the project for their dedication, and wish them every success in their lives and their careers.

Anne Nelson

International Coordinator

Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

2950 Broadway

New York NY 10027

tel: 212 854 5141

fax: 212 854 7837

e-mail: nelblack@aol.com
Dear Brigitte:

Sorry I missed my deadline (sound familiar?) Here’s the stuff. I checked it over even if I’m a little bleary at this point.

I can’t get my floppy drive to work. If this copy isn’t dark enough call me. I’ll be in 9:30 Friday morning. I think we have Alicia all day Friday to do the copying and we can figure something out. Thanks again for your terrific work.

AN