

Our focus of concern will be the dangers faced by journalists operating in war zones around the world. I have some experience of that kind of work, having reported on conflicts in Tajikistan, Chechnya and Afghanistan. I also spent three years covering the tensions in the Gaza Strip, before being kidnapped there and held hostage by militants for about four months last year. My aim will be to draw on the things that I have seen and been through to illustrate some of the day-to-day realities of working in zones of conflict. I will try to spell out the nature of the various pressures on a journalist in a place like Gaza – the difficulties involved in trying to gauge the dangers and take action to counter them. I intend to talk about ways in which the BBC tries to keep its staff safe, and I hope to highlight the particular need to work to protect locally hired members of any reporting team.