

More than 1,000 journalists and other news media workers have died trying to cover the news over the past 10 years. Most were not international war correspondents but local professionals trying to shine the light of truth into the darkest recesses of their own societies -- murdered to silence them and intimidate their friends and colleagues. Shamefully, in 8 out of 10 cases of murder, no one is brought to justice. This issue of impunity for the killers of journalists is of deep concern not only to the news community but to international bodies such as the UN Security Council, expressed in Resolution 1738 on the deaths of journalists in conflict, UNESCO, in many resolutions over the years, and the Council of Europe. The safety of journalists is key to development programmes worldwide -- the end to corruption, the war on poverty and proper sustained development cannot succeed where there is no freedom of the press or of expression. And neither of these can happen where journalists work in fear of their lives. Yet safety is largely ignored in media development programmes. They train journalists to be fearless reporters of truth, yet when the trainees exercise this new-found skill too often they blunder unprepared into great danger and risk their lives. More than 90 per cent of the 250 news men and women killed in Iraq since 2003 have been Iraqis, exercising their "press freedom" for the very first time. Out of \$250 million spent worldwide on media development programmes last year a pittance was devoted to the key issue of journalist safety. INSI, a unique coalition of news organisations, journalist support groups and individuals, is the only organisation in the world solely focused on safety. And it struggles to raise the money for safety training courses for news media workers in the South who are unable to afford their own protection. We seek EUR 15 million over the next five years from the international donor community to run sustained training and other safety programmes -- a drop in the ocean of media development aid and a tiny amount even compared with the \$20 million spent on safety in 2007 by just four of the largest industry organisations. These organisations are a mere handful of news companies worldwide -- the vast majority of companies around the world do little or nothing. So thousands of endangered journalists rely on INSI for life-saving support and we struggle with pathetic resources to meet the demand.