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Writing the Story of Transformation

Impunity Project Works To Solve Crimes Against Journalist

Authors

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Commissioned by

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Abstract

The Impunity Project was created to end impunity for attacks against journalists in the Americas. The Inter-American Press Association is one of very few organizations making this work one of its main agendas. Over the past 18 years there have been 299 journalists murdered in the Americas. Since the start of the Impunity Project, the IAPA has deeply investigated 57 murder cases. There have been 63 sentences in 25 of those cases. The number of jail sentences for crimes against journalists in the Americas has more than doubled because of the IAPA effort.

The Impunity Project of the Inter American Press Association
Final Summary Report 2003-2006
November, 2006

Executive Summary

The Impunity Project was created to end impunity for attacks against journalists in the Americas. The IAPA is one of very few organizations making this work one of its main agendas. The Project uses three main strategies to do its work:

- A **Rapid Response Unit** which investigates attacks against journalists and helps ready them for legal action,
- An **advertising campaign** to bring these cases to the attention of the public, policy makers, and officials who can intervene, and
- A **training program** to prevent future attacks against journalists by giving them skills to avoid or lessen the risk in dangerous situations.

Over the past 18 years there have been 299 journalists murdered in the Americas. Since the start of the Impunity Project, the IAPA has deeply investigated 57 murder cases. There have been 63 sentences in 25 of those cases. The IACHR has accepted 10 out of 18 cases submitted by the IAPA. This organization is paying attention to these cases and is forcing nations to do likewise. The number of jail sentences for crimes against journalists in the Americas has more than doubled because of the IAPA effort. This is in part due to the **Rapid Response Unit** which was created by the IAPA in 2000. The unit, comprised of four journalists, conducts prompt, on-site investigations into new cases of violence against journalists. The investigations put pressure on the authorities to solve crimes.

The **ad campaign** of the IAPA is intended to aid their judicial work by making these cases visible and stirring public sentiment. The IAPA has created 42 print ads and 23 broadcast spots (16 radio and 7 TV) for this campaign. Among broadcasters, the IAPA concentrates on state-owned radio and TV stations to place ads. The success achieved in the advertising campaign is in no small part a result of placing it in the IAPA, with its reputation and access to 1,300 member publications that are committed to the cause. The number of newspapers participating in the campaign has steadily increased over time. Few organizations could manage to get 340 newspapers to publish ads in 43 consecutive months. Overall, newspapers have contributed over \$11 million dollars. Ads are being noticed by policy makers. There have been numerous policy, legal, and political changes that have taken place as a result of the IAPA work in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, and other places—changes that lift up the issue of impunity and provide better protection for journalists.

The **training** of journalists to reduce their risk of harm is the prevention side of the Impunity Project and is producing change among journalists and some news organizations. Since 2003, 1,013 people have participated in 23 IAPA trainings in 10 countries. Those who attend rate them favorably. Of 364 training workshop evaluations received from 11 workshops, participants gave them an overall effectiveness rating of 87% of a possible 100%.

A recent survey of 91 workshop training participants showed that incidents of violence against journalists declined significantly after the trainings. Eighty-nine percent feel the training they received has resulted in fewer dangerous incidents for them. Eighty-four percent have changed the way they report news, 69% have changed the way they do their jobs, 61% have changed their views of journalism problems, and 18% say they do not report on the same subjects as prior to the training – a finding that may suggest some self-censorship. Just over half of newspapers or media companies where these trainees are employed have a strategy in place to protect staff.

The success of the IAPA in this work appears undeniable. These three major strategies, the Rapid Response Unit, the ad campaign, and the trainings are bolstered by frequent missions to policy makers and other officials in countries most affected by violence against journalists and by forwarding petitions to officials, signed by those responding to the advertising campaigns.

This work is challenging and time consuming. The legal cases move forward and backward. They require a dogged constancy to gain action, and still often end in frustration. It often takes years to mount enough pressure to gain action in these cases, many of which are old and forgotten.

Given these results, it is difficult to contemplate giving up any of the pieces of this project. Some of its strategies respond to events that have already occurred (the Rapid Response Unit, the legal work, the pressure through petitions), while other parts of the project are preventive (the training and the policy and legal change work designed to alter the system of protection). The IAPA might be encouraged to examine each of these strategies however, to see if their experience over these years leads them to more cost effective ways to use each of these tools.

The IAPA has three main departments they focus on within the Freedom of the Press arena. They estimate that 40% of their resources are dedicated to the Impunity Project, 40% to Freedom of the Press, and 20% to the Chapultepec Project. However, there is much overlap in these percentages since all three of these areas are entwined. Within the Impunity Project lies the Rapid Response Unit. The IAPA estimates that 35% of the RRU work is devoted to old cases, 30% to new cases, and the remaining 35% to other activities within the RRU.

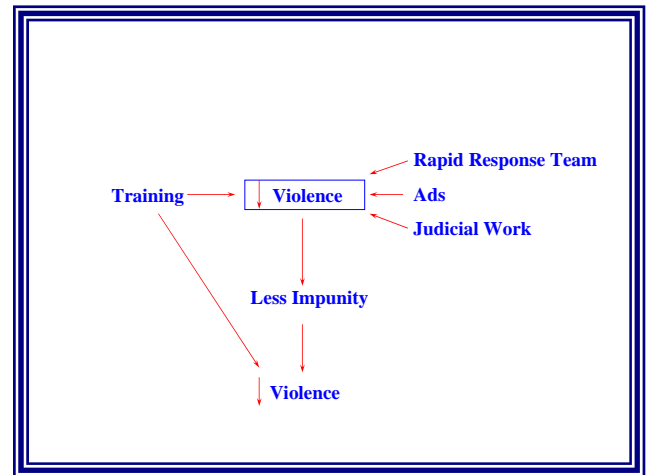
While the IAPA has the data to show progress as a result of each of these activities, even after 11 years, there is not yet enough pressure, enough sentencing, enough training and enough policy change to stop attacks against journalists. This work will need to continue so that there will not only be less impunity but less violence in the first place because punishment seems assured.

In closing, the IAPA Director of Freedom of the Press had the following comment in regard to continued funding of programs: *“Why should the U.S. continue to spend billions of dollars per year battling narcotics trafficking and production, or why should it continue to fight terrorism, if the statistics show that both are clearly on the rise? For these rising numbers alone, the IAPA must continue its fight. What would the numbers be if we weren’t fighting and investing in our cause?”*

Introduction

The long-term goal of the Impunity Project of the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) is to deter crimes against journalists and to campaign for arrests in attacks against journalists. Additionally, the IAPA trains journalists in safety practices and distributes educational materials on that topic. Through these trainings it is hoped that fewer journalists will be killed in situations that might otherwise have been avoided.

Over the past three years, the IAPA Impunity Project (now 11 years old) has engaged in several activities and has gathered data showing results on the rapid response team (unit), murder rates, arrests and convictions, advertising about the project, readership of the ads, website responses, legal and policy changes, trainings and workshops, and collaborations with other associations dealing with impunity. Additionally, over the past three months, a survey was developed by Philliber Research Associates (PRA) and the IAPA to ask workshop participants about the results of their participation. This report summarizes this information.

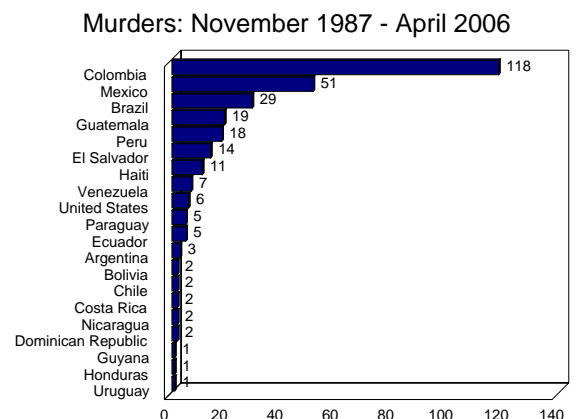


As seen here, the IAPA employs a straightforward model to affect change and accomplish its Impunity Project goals. Training along with the assistance of the rapid response team, advertising, and judicial work are designed to lead to less violence in the short-term which leads to less impunity, which in the end leads to less violence.

The Rapid Response Unit

The violence against journalists in the Americas includes murder, kidnapping, attacks, and threats. When this project began little or no progress was being made in punishing those engaged in such acts. The IAPA stated in a March 2005 Brazil resolution that “*Most investigations into the murders of journalists fall short of identifying those who masterminded the crimes. Most officials settle for identifying the middlemen in these crimes, and only after many years – if ever – are the culprits sent to prison; as a result, many cases end up forgotten and buried under a heavy police load. Many witnesses refuse to talk for fear of reprisals, while witness protection services are weak and fail to provide the financial and psychological assistance that witnesses need.*” These conditions appear to be widespread in the Americas. In addition, in many cases those responsible for crimes in the Americas are politicians or members of the police and blatantly and/or repeatedly escape prosecution.

Over a period of 18.3 years (November 1987 through April 2006), there were 299



journalists murdered in the Americas. Thirty-nine percent of these murders have taken place in Colombia, 17% in Mexico, and 10% in Brazil.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reports 338 journalists killed from 1996 through 2005 worldwide and ranks Iraq as the deadliest country for journalists during that time period¹. However, Colombia is ranked as second, even though there is no discernable prolonged military conflict.

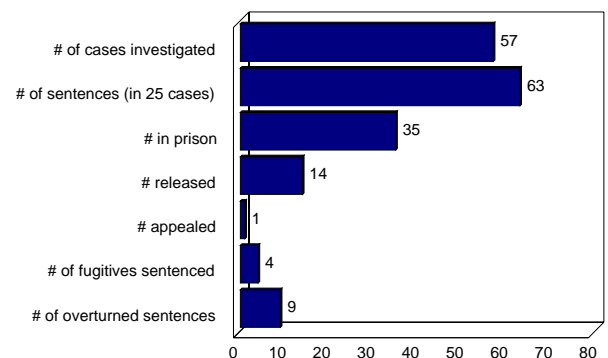
Deadliest Countries, 1996-2005

Country	Journalists Murdered
Iraq	60
Colombia	28
Philippines	26
Russia	23
Sierra Leone	16
India	15
Bangladesh	12
Serbia and Montenegro	10
Afghanistan	10
Mexico	9
Algeria	9
Brazil	9

In Mexico alone, nine journalists were killed since 2004. In response to this, Project Phoenix, a team of eight investigative reporters, was formed by more than 40 newspaper publishers who signed a declaration of support in August, 2005 for journalists facing daily violence. The creation of this team was an IAPA achievement.

Since the start of the Impunity Project the IAPA has deeply investigated 57 of the murder cases in the Americas. There have been 63 sentences in 25 of those cases. Thirty-five cases ended in prison terms and fourteen ended in release. Nine sentences were overturned and one sentence is in the appeal process. These data are cumulative rather than by year due to changes in cases over time. In some instances, cases that start out with imprisonment are overturned or appealed, sentences may be reduced, or offenders are released on bail. For example, in the Jose Luis Cabezas' case seen on the following page, perpetrators were caught, prosecuted, and sentenced. However, some of those convicted were released after only serving a fraction of their sentences or were put on probation.

Cumulative Status of Prosecutions



The IAPA resolution in October of 2005 deplored the release of those sentenced for the crime. Most “outcomes” are mixed in this way. In addition, many of these cases are ongoing. Some have been active for more than ten years. In the last four years, the IAPA has adopted 48 resolutions on the issue of impunity that have generated hundreds of letters sent to governments and organizations. Overall, press freedom has declined in the Americas and no matter how many people are sent to prison for crimes against journalists it could take decades for this type of program/intervention to have an effect on larger press freedom issues.

The number of jail sentences for crimes against journalists in the Americas has more than doubled because of the IAPA effort. This is in part due to the Rapid Response Unit which was created by the IAPA in 2000. The unit, comprised of four journalists, conducts prompt, on-site investigations into new cases of violence against journalists. The investigations put pressure on

¹ From Attacks On The Press In 2005, A Worldwide Survey by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

the authorities to solve crimes. There is however a larger number of arrests and convictions in cases that the IAPA has not followed up closely – at least thirteen convictions in eight cases – simply because they are recent or there are significant doubts that the murders occurred for professional reasons. Of the 60 cases investigated to date (this includes three very recent cases in the past few weeks in addition to the 57) there were 26 convictions. Forty people are serving time in prison, three are fugitives from justice, twelve have already completed their sentence and are now free, and ten convictions were overturned.

The work of the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) is fundamental and is devoted not only to the 57 old cases (60 as of November 3, 2006) but a high percentage – 30% – of it involves, as was established in the RRU's objectives, investigation into whether or not the murders occurred because of the victims' work as journalists.

The crimes unconnected with journalistic activity, perhaps five to ten each year, are not taken into account by the IAPA, despite the time that may be devoted by the RRU to the investigations. More than 50 other murders recorded in semi-annual reports on press freedom in the last five years were identified as homicides not related to journalistic activity.

The RRU also investigates new cases that are taken up by the IAPA in its reports on press freedom, even though they might be less visible because they cannot be submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights² (IACHR) due to the fact that all domestic legal resources have not yet been exhausted. These cases, also investigated by the RRU, are included in the IAPA semi-annual resolutions with the relevant details and serve as the basis for missions that are sent from time to time to each country.

The 57 cases are closely monitored, enabling the IAPA to maintain pressure on the authorities concerned over the years. These cases remain open and if the IAPA were to not follow them up the governments would simply shelve them and they would become subject to a statute of limitations. This persistence on the part of the IAPA is thanks to the RRU keeping a constant watch on the cases.

The RRU also has other objectives that it carries out periodically:

- Monitoring cases of violations of press freedom in each country, so as to add further substance to the semi-annual reports;
- Contact with district attorneys;
- Interviews with victims' family members;
- Accessing official records;
- Compiling legal and criminal records;
- Monitoring new legislation that could affect or worsen impunity;

² The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is one of two bodies in the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights. It receives, analyzes and investigates individual petitions which allege human rights violations, observes the general human rights situation in member States and publishes special reports regarding the situation, carries on-site visits to countries to engage in more in-depth analysis which usually results in the preparation of a published report, conducts conferences and seminars, and submits cases to the Inter-American Court.

- Accompanying IAPA officers at meetings with government representatives or in the Attorney General’s Office;
- Collaborating in the production of videos and photos;
- Collaborating in the organization of seminars and training courses;
- Providing information for inclusion in the press freedom reports;
- Drafting resolutions on impunity;
- Conducting investigations for brochures/books such as the “Risks Map for Journalists;” and
- Providing support for the hemisphere conference.

As seen below Colombia, Brazil and Mexico have seen the greatest activity.

Country	# of cases	# of sentences	# in prison	# released *	# appealed	# of fugitives	# overturned
Argentina	6	9	1	8			
Bolivia	1	1		1			
Brazil	20	26	18	4	1	1	2
Colombia	12	14	6	1		1	6
Costa Rica	1						
Guatemala	3	1					1
Haiti	1						
Mexico	8	6	4			2	
Paraguay	3	1	1				
Peru	1	5	5				
Uruguay	1						
Total	57	63	35	14	1	4	9

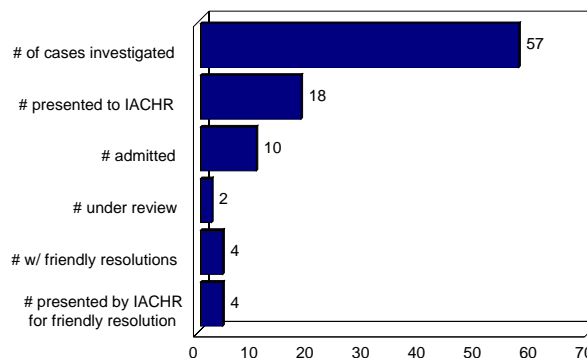
*Released indicates finishing sentence, died in prison, reduced sentences, and/or paid bail.

IAPA has presented 18 of these cases to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Ten have been admitted, two are under review, four had friendly resolutions, and four were presented by IACHR for friendly resolution.

The following tables summarize the status of the 57 murder cases the IAPA has deeply investigated and followed. Most of them are currently being transferred to the Inter American Judicial system. Cases appearing in blue are those submitted to the IACHR.

Additionally, Appendix A contains approximately 100 cases the IAPA has also been involved with during the past few years but not to such an extent as these 57. According to IAPA staff, the cases in Appendix A have not generated the same amount of work for various reasons – some because they are relatively new.

Cases Presented to the IACHR (1997-2005)



Case	Current Status / Response
Argentina	
Jose Luis Cabezas - murdered, 1997	March 2003 – with the exception of one perpetrator, all sentences were reduced (one person died in jail). March 2005 – court releases two perpetrators. April 2005 – court releases last perpetrator. October 2005 – IAPA deplors the release of the convicted murderers.
Ricardo Gangeme - murderd, 1999	September 2002 – those accused were acquitted. No further arrests or convictions.
Mario Bonino – murdered, 1993	No arrests. None convicted. In November 2003, representatives from the Press Workers Union of Buenos Aires (UTPBA) met with Human Rights Secretary Eduardo Luis Duhalde, who promised to reopen the file with support of IAPA RRU.
Rodolfo Jorge Fernandez Pondol – disappeared, 1977	Alleged perpetrators were members of the armed forces. Government has compensated widow. Evidence suggests disappearance was work related. In 2004, IAPA urges government and IACHR to investigate complaints filed by victim’s family. No response.
Zelmar Michelini – kidnapped, tortured, killed 1976	Alleged perpetrators were members of the armed forces. March 2005 – IAPA demanded gov’ts of Uruguay and Argentina solve crime. After 28 years, the courts are following case.
Marcelo Ariel Gelman – body found, 1989	Alleged perpetrators were members of the armed forces. In June 2005, the president of Uruguay announced an exceptional mention of Gelman’s wife, in the law of forgiveness from the military involved in violating human rights between 1975 and 1985.
Bolivia	
Juan Carlos Encinas – murdered, 2001	Alleged perpetrators were members of the armed forces. No arrests – 8 detainees freed. One perpetrator sentenced to six years in prison. He did not serve sentence – paid bail instead.
Brazil	
Manoel Leal de Oliveira – murdered, 1998	Mayor suspected of being mastermind. Three suspects named in murder. September, 2003 – one sentenced to 18 years in prison. IAPA submits case to IACHR which agrees to follow-up. DA’s office continues investigations. October 2005 – IAPA asks that murder cases fall under federal jurisdiction. December 2005 – intermediary in murder went to trial and was acquitted.
Ronaldo Santana de Araujo – murdered, 1997	Perpetrator testified the former Mayor hired him to commit murder. He was sentenced to 19 years in prison. Case submitted by IAPA to IACHR. October 2004 – investigation continues of former Mayor. March 2005 – charges filed against widow for changing her statement in exchange for payment. October 2005 – IAPA asks that cases fall under federal jurisdiction. February 2006 – IAPA accepted recommendation of IACHR for a friendly agreement with government of Brazil.
Jose Carlos Mesquita – murdered, 1998	Suspects at large. September 2003 – one perpetrator sentenced to 16 years in prison. October 2004 – police continue investigation as result of IAPA pressure. March 2005 – no arrests made. Police complain of lack of resources. October 2005 – IAPA asks that cases fall under federal jurisdiction. New leads emerge after a suspect was murdered during shooting spree.
Nivanildo Barbosa Lima – murdered, 1995	No arrests, no convictions. October 1995 – investigation shelved – autopsy results conclude death was result of natural causes. November 2003 – new DA took on the cases following IAPA investigation. October 2004 – new investigator took over case. March 2005 – no advances in case. October 2005 – IAPA asks that cases fall under federal jurisdiction and for case to be reopened.
Ivan Rocha – disappeared, 1991	Three perpetrators put on trial. One was acquitted, two were sentenced to five years but were later acquitted – no body was ever found. Case submitted to IACHR. Case closed in 1994 for lack of evidence. Investigation was shelved in March 2005.
Domingos Savio Brandao de Lima – murdered, 2002	Five people arrested – one the accused murderer. December 2003 – one sentenced to 18 years in prison. June 2005 – two sentenced to 15 & 17 years in prison. Murderer has been in prison in Uruguay. October 2005 – waiting on extradition. One perpetrator escaped prison and is at large.

Case	Current Status / Response
Tim Lopes - murdered	Six perpetrators received lengthy prison sentences. One received a light sentence in exchange for cooperation.
Luis Antonio da Costa – murdered, 2003	One perpetrator sentenced to 32 years in prison.
Mario Coelho de Almeida Filho – murdered, 2001	One perpetrator released from prison – won a habeas corpus appeal and resumed job as city commissioner despite being a suspect in other crimes. June 2005 – acquitted due to lack of evidence. Another perpetrator had already been in prison. October 2005 – IAPA asks that cases fall under federal jurisdiction and presented case to IACHR. It was accepted.
Jose Wellington Fernandes (aka Zezinho Cazusa) – murdered, 2000	One perpetrator accused of shooting – sent to prison for 19 years. Mayor ordered murder – captured in January 2003 and arrested on 30 other charges of administrative irregularities. February 2004 – he was found guilty of management irregularities. March 2005 – case sent to supreme court. Has not been tried for murder.
Mario Eugenio Rafael de Oliveira – murdered, 1984	Six suspects. Five were sentenced to prison but three were released early for good conduct. Except for one, all served the minimum sentence. March 2005 – masterminds still at large.
Aristeu Guida da Silva – murdered, 1995	Five perpetrators. One planned and paid for murder but was killed. One sentenced to 28 years in prison. In December 2003, the IACHR proposed a friendly resolution between the gov't and IAPA. Two perpetrators are at large. October 2005 – one perpetrator appealed case. January 2005, IACHR repeated its request to the gov't to provide information to IAPA.
Zaqueu de Oliveira – shot at, 1995	Perpetrator shot at journalist after altercation. Perpetrator claimed journalist was armed. Case submitted to IACHR by IAPA. Irregularities in investigation – witnesses were not called to testify. February 2006 – IAPA accepted a recommendation from IACHR for a friendly resolution by the gov't on the case.
Reinaldo Coutinho da Silva – murdered, 1995	Four people investigated – none charged. October 2003 – prosecutor asked for a court ruling to allow him to review telephone records of one suspect. October 2004 – investigation on hold. October 2005 – no new information.
Edgar Lopes de Farias – murdered, 1997	Two suspects investigated – both killed. Questioning also involved four policemen sent to prison for extortion. None arrested. July 2000 – judge rules investigation still just beginning. 2003 – case forwarded to Special Forces Against Organized Crime (UNICOC). October 2005 – possibility to reopen case. IAPA asks that cases fall under federal jurisdiction.
Maria Nilce Magalhaes – murdered, 1989	Four suspects (one a police officer). December 2000 – case at a standstill – example of impunity in a report of the Committee on Congressional Investigations (CPI). One perpetrator case thrown out due to mental capacity. October 2003 – one suspect arrested. October 2004 – one case awaiting trial. October 2005 – five accused still awaiting trial. IAPA asks that cases fall under federal jurisdiction.
Nicanor Linhares Batista – murdered, 2003	10 suspects. October 2003 – eight suspects arrested, one arrested and released. Superior court judge and mayor were indicted as masterminds of crime. May 2004 – superior court calls for investigations into judge and mayor. October 2005 – legal proceedings continue. One suspect died during a confrontation with police. IAPA asks that cases fall under federal jurisdiction.
Edgar Ribeiro Pereira de Oliveira – murdered, 2003	Two suspects identified and arrested. Preliminary investigations indicate that the murder was not related to his profession as a journalist.
Jorge Lourenco dos Santos – murdered, 2004	No suspects. Widow was bribed during testimony at police station. Alleged masterminds hold powerful positions in community and are hindering investigation. October 2005 – chief of police in charge of investigation was replaced.
Jorge Vieira Baleado – murdered, 2001	Four suspects. Legal actions against accused masterminds (secretary of mayor's wife, management secretary of mayor, and two others) dismissed due to lack of evidence. October 2005 – IAPA resolution reported threats against witnesses and that the prosecutor rejected rulings on evidence.
Colombia	
Jairo Elias Marquez –	No one arrested/convicted. July 2001 – investigation dropped after one suspect died and

Case	Current Status / Response
murdered, 1997	the other had evidence against him rigged. A former legislator – suspected mastermind is serving a 39 year prison sentence for other homicides. Case submitted to IACHR by IAPA. IAPA asks for case to be reopened. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Amparo Leonor Jimenez – murdered, 1998	One suspect (former congressman and cabinet member) arrested and extradited to Colombia. June 2002 – high court convicted man charged with murder after overturning acquittal by lower court. Human Rights Unit investigates mastermind. October 2005 – advances made in identifying masterminds. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Gerardo Bedoya – murdered, 1995	Case submitted to IACHR by IAPA. Attorney General agrees to look into motives of case which was originally deemed an act of passion. March 2005 – no progress. October 2005 – no progress. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Jaime Garzon – murdered, 1999	Two perpetrators and one suspected of murder who is the leader of a paramilitary group. He was sentenced to prison as mastermind. Other members of military also involved. Case tried by 7 th Specialized Court due to IAPA influence. March 2004 – perpetrators found not guilty. November 2004 – Attorney General reopened case.
Nelson Carvajal – murdered, 1998	Four suspects – all released due to lack of evidence. IAPA submitted case to IACHR and was accepted. August 2005 – IACHR requests hearing / sent observations of case. October 2005 – IACHR held meeting with IAPA and gov't to consider friendly resolution. December 2005 – resolution drafted calling for progress to be made.
Guzman Quintero Torres – murdered, 1999	March 2003 - two perpetrators sent to prison for 39 years. Case submitted to IACHR. October 2005 – advances made in determining masterminds. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Guillermo Cano – murdered, 1986	Two suspects named but were murdered. Drug trafficker named as mastermind – sent to prison for 16 years but only served six (sentence reduced). Three others sentenced to 16 years as well but had their convictions overturned. Case submitted to IACHR and accepted. February 2001 – IACHR proposed amicable agreement which IAPA rejected.
Carlos Lajud Catalan – murdered, 1993	Case submitted to IACHR who agreed to follow-up and proposed an amicable agreement in February 2001 which IAPA rejected. One suspect charged and acquitted. Three charged, sentenced to 40 years, and acquitted. October 2003 – acquittal appealed due to IAPA insistence. Suspected mastermind is former mayor. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Ernesto Acero Cadena – murdered, 1995	Suspect acquitted. IAPA insists case to be reopened. March 2005 – no progress in case. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Hernando Rangel Moreno – murdered, 1999	January 2000 - former mayor taken into custody and freed two months later. Case submitted to IACHR by IAPA. October 2005 – case in evidence gathering stage. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Elizabeth Obando – murdered, 2002	The head of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) gave the order for murder. No one arrested. March 2005 – no progress in case.
Orlando Sierra Hernandez – murdered, 2002	Four perpetrators. Politician pointed out as mastermind. One perpetrator at large. July 2004 – investigation partially closed. Case assigned to special prosecutor. One perpetrator sentenced to 28 years and another to 19 years in prison. January 2006 – Human Rights Unit promised to work on case.
Costa Rica	
Parmenio Medina Perez – murdered, 2001	Seven perpetrators. A priest and a business man accused of being masterminds. October 2005 – all nine sent to trial.
Guatemala	
Irma Flaquer – murdered, 1980	No one has been charged, tried, or convicted. It is believed that the crime resulted from a conspiracy among the military, police, and government. An amicable agreement was reached between IACHR, IAPA, and government.
Jorge Carpio Nicelle – murdered, 1993	Suspects released. Senior military officers may have been involved. Prison sentence of one person was overturned in October 1997. IACHR involved. July 2004 – gov't admits the state has responsibility in this matter.
Larry Lee – murdered, 1999	IAPA investigations found that he was killed for unrelated work reasons.

Case	Current Status / Response
Haiti	
Jean Leopold Dominique – murdered, 2000	Three perpetrators awaiting trial – three others freed. One at large.
Mexico	
Victor Manuel Oropeza – murdered, 1991	Case submitted to IACHR and accepted. Two suspects freed after testifying under torture. Police suspected of being linked to drug traffickers and of masterminding murder. October 2003 – gov't considered reopening case. March 2004 – IAPA and gov't signed agreement to review case. April 2004 – working group formed to review case. September 2005 – working group and State Attorney agreed to continue working on case. Next meeting to occur in June 2006.
Hector Felix Miranda – murdered, 1988	Two people sent to prison for 25 and 27 years. Case submitted to IACHR and accepted in 1999. October 2003 – gov't considered reopening case. March 2004 – IAPA and gov't signed agreement to review case. April 2004 – working group assigned to review case. May 2004 – representatives from prosecutors office presented recommendations. March 2005 – second meeting of working group. September 2005 – working group and State Attorney found omissions and inconsistencies in investigation.
Philip True – murdered, 1998	Two suspects. Each sentenced to 20 years in prison. March 2005 – two suspects remain at large.
Benjamin Flores Gonzalez – murdered, 1997	Four people detained and sentenced – two were acquitted. Two received 25 year prison sentences. October 2004 – four arrest warrants issued against co-conspirators. January 2006 – situation unchanged.
Alfredo Garcia Marquez – murdered, 2000	IAPA investigation found he was killed for reasons unrelated to work.
Pablo Pineda Gaucin – murdered, 2000	IAPA investigation found he was killed for reasons unrelated to work.
William Uicab Salas – murdered, 2000	IAPA investigation found he was killed for reasons unrelated to work.
Francisco Ortiz Franco – murdered, 2004	Three suspects. Drug cartel accused of murder. Attorney General's Office brought the case to federal jurisdiction. January 2006 – investigations ongoing; those involved remain at large.
Paraguay	
Salvador Medina Velasquez – murdered, 2001	Six possible perpetrators. One sentenced to 25 years in prison. Five defendants remain at large.
Benito Ramon Jara – murdered, 2000	IAPA investigation found he was killed for reasons unrelated to work.
Samuel Roman – murdered, 2004	Eight suspects at large. March 2005 – no trials or rulings. October 2005 – prosecutor in charge of investigation was replaced. IAPA requests assistance of Paraguay government since it's a border crime.
Peru	
Alberto Rivera Fernandez – murdered, 2004	March 2005 – trial proceeding slowly. November 2005 – Investigation of Mayor and assistants. February 2006 – two masterminds sentenced to 25 years in prison; two other accomplices sentenced to 30 years. A third was sentenced to 10 years.
Uruguay	
Julio Da Rosa – murdered 2000	IAPA investigation found that he was killed for reasons unrelated to his profession as a journalist.

The following are examples of two in-depth cases of journalist impunity.

Alfredo Jimenez Mota – disappeared, April, 2005 in Mexico

Alfredo Jimenez Mota disappeared in April, 2005. Some of the leads being investigated by the Organized Crime Special Investigation Unit (SIEDO), a dependency of the Attorney General's Office, are linked to the work Mota was doing concerning the families running drug trade in Sonora. Others point to possible unlawful activities of local and federal government officials.

Investigators are exploring six out of ten theories they started with. They are still unclear as to what might have happened to Mota or who might have abducted him and possibly killed him. The authorities are working on a theory that a drug trafficker executed in November of 2004 (Raul Enrique Parra, leader of a gang known as "Los Gueritos" or "Los Numeros") and whose tortured body was found dumped near where police were carrying out a crime scene investigation might have been responsible for Mota's disappearance. They regard it as highly possible that also involved were police officers who had fed information to Mota and whom he regarded as reliable sources.

The Mota case has become emblematic of the cycle of assaults that in the past two years have taken the lives of a dozen journalists in Mexico. It alerted media and human rights organizations around the world which, like the IAPA, have called numerous occasions on Mexico's President Vicente Fox to act to put an end to such occurrences, all of which have gone unpunished.

Alberto Rivera Fernandez, Radio Journalist – murdered April, 2004 in Peru

On April 21, 2004 journalist and former congressman Alberto Rivera Fernandez, president of the Ucayali Journalists Federation, was murdered by two unidentified assailants at his place of business located in the city of Pucallpa (500 miles northeast of Lima). He was shot twice in the chest.

Rivera, whose journalistic style was controversial and aggressive, hosted the program "Transparencia," broadcast daily via radio. Rivera was known for his radical opposition to local and regional authorities, especially the mayor who Rivera said was linked to drug and land trafficking and illicit logging.

Through investigation it was determined that other journalists were involved in the murder. Some supported Rivera and others supported the mayor. Since this murder involved other journalists it was considered an atypical case by the Human Rights Commissioner.

In September, 2005, a journalist and colleague of Rivera confessed to being the mastermind behind the murder. In February, 2006, the Special Criminal Court in Coronel Portillo province found 5 people guilty (including the mastermind) of the murder. One was sentenced to 10 years in prison, two to 25 years, and two to 30 years in prison. In addition, the judge ordered the defendants to pay civil damages of 50,000 soles to the closest family members of Rivera. Four of the five defendants announced they would appeal the decision.

A second criminal trial which involved the mayor, a former city commissioner, another city government official, and the hit-man was to begin in March 2006. All have been arrested.

The Advertising Campaign

The advertising work of the IAPA is intended to aid their judicial work by making these cases visible and stirring public sentiment. The IAPA has created 42 print ads and 23 broadcast spots (16 radio and 7 TV) for this campaign. Among broadcasters, the IAPA concentrates on state-owned radio and TV stations to place ads. They report that it is much more difficult to get in-kind contributions from radio and TV as compared to print media. Moreover, U.S. newspapers have been hesitant to place ads regarding impunity issues in Latin America, claiming a lack of interest in the U.S. However, Hispanic media and free newspapers respond well. To the right is an example of a typical IAPA ad. The IAPA lists the journalists name, what happened to him/her, and what the public can do to help. The success achieved in the advertising campaign is in no small part a result of placing it in the IAPA, with its reputation and access to 1,300 member publications that are committed to the cause. Few organizations could manage to get 340 newspapers to publish ads in 43 consecutive months.

Unpunished Crime.
Héctor Félix Miranda. Murdered April 20, 1988.

Hector Félix Miranda was editor and a columnist of the weekly Zeta in Tijuana, Mexico. He was shot and killed at point blank range in his car, in reprisal for his articles exposing corruption and drug trafficking. The murderers who pulled the trigger are now in jail, but those who ordered the killing are still free. Fifteen years after the murder, their crime continues to go unpunished.

ACT NOW: JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO END IMPUNITY!

If you are outraged by this unpunished murder, demand action.
Write to:
Vicente Fox, President of the United States of Mexico
Official Residence, Los Pinos
Paseo 1. Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
CP 11850, MEXICO, D.F. MEXICO
Tel: (5255) 5277-2376

If you would like to sign a petition to President Fox asking him to push for the reopening of the case in order to investigate and bring to justice those behind the murder, as well as encourage that crimes against journalists be transferred to federal jurisdiction so that there is more transparency and greater guarantees, please go to www.impunidad.com and we will forward your petition.

Enter American Press Association
1801 SW 3rd Avenue
Miami, FL, USA 33129
Tel: 305-634-2400. Fax: 305-635-2272
info@impunidad.com

Sponsored by

This project is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

80219

The IAPA uses many avenues to get the Impunity ads published in the press and aired on radio and TV:

- They have direct contact with the editor of each news outlet and the IAPA officers make their request in a special and particular way to some. For example, one IAPA officer makes requests to members of the Press Freedom Committee.
- The IAPA staff approach the media in each country via the network of the IAPA regional vice chairmen.
- Assistance is requested from journalists attending some of the Press Institute seminars.
- Daily follow-up via telephone and email occurs by the IAPA staff.
- The IAPA receives assistance from journalists in the Rapid Response Unit in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico.
- The IAPA has the backing and assistance from various national press organizations in Latin America: ANDIARIOS (Colombia), ANP (Chile), ANDEP (Ecuador), Peruvian Press Council, ADEPA and ADIRA (Argentina), Venezuelan Press Bloc, ANJ (Brazil), and AME (Mexico).
- The IAPA receives assistance from the radio stations in Latin America, the print media in the campaign that have radio stations, and most especially through the International Association of Broadcasting (IAB), which co-sponsors the radio campaign.

- The IAPA also receives assistance from the national television associations in each country through the IAB

The assistance and participation of the IAB illustrates how the campaign is conducted: *“The ‘Let’s End Impunity’ radio campaign is in its first stage of implementation and distribution. Attention is being paid to certain details and adjustments to improve its scope and coverage. Audio clips have been distributed in the following ways:*

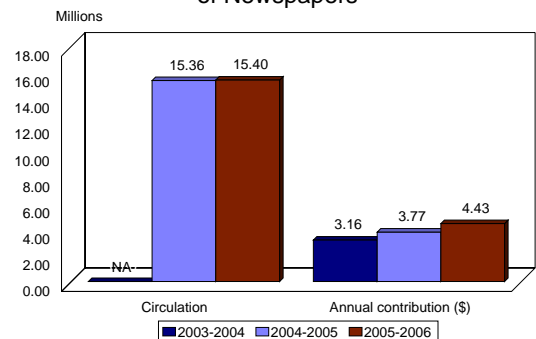
- 200 CDs were given to radio stations and participants at the last IAB General Assembly.
 - CDs were sent to radio broadcasting associations in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Audio clips were made available to IAB members on the organization’s website.
 - More than 100 downloads of the audio clips were made by individual radio stations and broadcasters.
 - Radio associations were asked to promote the campaign among their respective members in each country and to facilitate copies of the CDs.
 - Some associations have a radio program with all its members, which will include the campaign’s audio clip as is happening, for example, in Uruguay on ‘La Voz de ANDEBU.’
- Work on the campaign is moving forward. The IAB-member radio broadcasting associations in Latin America and the Caribbean include more than 6,000 radio stations. The IAB’s General Manager is researching the technical capability of having a simultaneous broadcast via satellite of all the audio clips of the campaign, on May 3, World Press Freedom Day, with new promotional aspects.”*

The number of newspapers that have participated in the campaign has increased steadily over the past three years: 203 in 2003-2004, 271 in 2004-2005, and 337 in 2005-2006. The funds generated and the circulation or readership have also increased steadily over time. Overall, these newspapers have contributed over \$11 million dollars.

The IAPA reported the following readership data for the 2005-06 year: “The readership of U.S. periodicals is audited and controlled by the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC), and indicates 2.5 readers per copy. The recorded readership in Latin America by investigations in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico has calculated an average of 3.3 readers per copy. By this measure, the Impunity ads that appear monthly are seen by 50 million readers in the continent.”

There is concrete evidence that the ads are being noticed by policy makers. Six cases have been reopened in response to pressure from the IAPA and their ads: three in Brazil, one in Colombia, one in Mexico, and one in Peru. In each of these cases the respective governments have been pressured and are complying to provide amicable solutions. In fact, in Mexico, a Special Prosecutor’s Office for Attention to Crimes Committed Against Journalists was created with the help of President Vicente Fox. Additionally, for the first time in history a court in a Peruvian province solved a case promptly under pressure from the ads.

Circulation & Annual Contribution of Newspapers

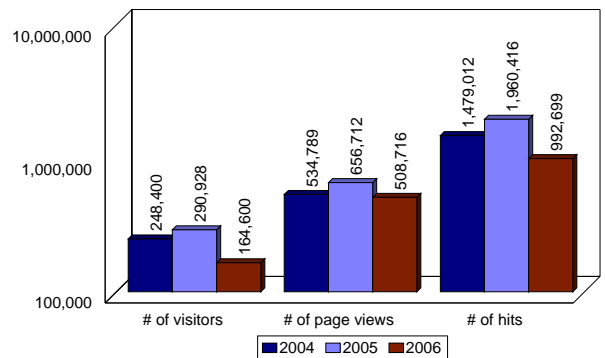


Public website and other written responses to the ads and the willingness of the public to sign petitions are both substantial. The IAPA receives numerous letters/requests to sign petitions. In fact, from January 1, 2006 through April 10, 2006 the IAPA reported having 490 names on petitions. These petitions are regularly forwarded to relevant officials in each case. Examples of communiqués received include:

- *“I am appalled by the execution of, and lack of justice for, Martin La Rotta. Please add my signature to a letter asking Colombia’s President Alvaro Uribe Velez to pursue this case and end impunity for the murderers. Please accept the enclosed money order in order to continue publicizing the unpunished murders of members of the press. I believe freedom of the press is a cornerstone of a free society.”*
- *“I am writing in support of your demand for action in the case of Alfredo Jimenez Mota, the reporter from El Imparcial in Hermosillo, Mexico who was kidnapped and murdered earlier this year. It is my profound hope that this crime will not go unpunished and that his investigations will bear fruit.”*
- *“I am writing to join you in expressing outrage over the unpunished murder of Hernando Rangel Moreno, the Columbian journalist who called for a civil strike to protest corruption, abuse of power and poor services in El Banco Magdallena Province. It is disgraceful that his murder on 4/11/99 has, to this day, not led to any effective investigation.”*

Of course, public outcry over impunity in crimes against journalists is just a small portion of website activity at the IAPA. As seen to the right, website activity has increased over time. In 2005, the IAPA website had nearly two million hits by over 290,000 people. In the past year the number of unique hits has increased by 20%. The Website has been instrumental in the distribution of the anti-impunity ads and in obtaining the commitment of the general public to join the campaign.

Website Stats



Note: 2006 consists of data through June 12, 2006.

In addition to these ads, a documentary covering the case of a journalist killed in Colombia was completed at a cost of about \$62,000 dollars in October of 2005. It will be presented in Cartagena in March of 2007. There are also two videos available on their website – one in Peru on the Declaration of Pucallpa and another in Mexico on the Declaration of Hermosillo.

The Risk Map for Journalists, published in late February, will continue to function as a promotional tool in fighting impunity and violence. As of September 2006 more than 2,500 books (in three languages) have been distributed to journalists, students and associations/organizations in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States and Venezuela.

Additionally, a conference on impunity which was scheduled for 2006 was postponed until 2007. It will be a gathering of Supreme Court judges from all over the Americas.

Policy and Legal Changes

There have been numerous policy and legal changes that appear to result from the IAPA work.

Mexico

For the first time in Mexico, after several meetings with President Vicente Fox, the IAPA was able to place cases of murdered journalists under federal jurisdiction. Legislators also presented another bill that provides for increased penalties for the murders of journalists under the Federal Criminal Code. As a result, the Mexican Attorney General's Office placed under federal jurisdiction the investigation into the disappearance of one journalist and the murders of three others.

After a visit by the IAPA and other press organizations the following was announced in Mexico:

1. The Attorney General's Office will install a special communications telephone for reporters to call in complaints when they are threatened or assaulted while doing their jobs;
2. Representatives of special public prosecutors' offices in the Attorney General's Office promised to handle cases of assaults or threats to journalists exclusively in each of the states throughout the country;
3. The Attorney General's Office pledged to launch a series of 10 training courses on human rights for Mexican journalists.

In February 2006, the Special Prosecutor's Office on Crimes against Journalists (created by the Mexican President) began operations; however crimes against journalists related to organized crime are not included.

Colombia

Under Colombia's new Criminal Code in 2001, legislators increased sentences for those who murder, kidnap or torture journalists. It made these acts aggravated offenses.

In response to an IAPA request, the government created a special unit within the Attorney General's Office to investigate and protect journalists. This sub-division was set up to carry out investigations into attacks against journalists. In a resolution adopted in 2002, the National Division of State Attorneys for Human Rights and International Civil Rights Law decided to increase the number of public prosecutors in this sub-division. In 2005, this sub-division promised to review the murders of 15 journalists.

Brazil

In 2004, the Brazilian National Congress passed a constitutional reform to the Judicial Branch that allows for those crimes against humanity, such as torture and extermination, including the murder of journalists, to fall under federal jurisdiction.

Guatemala

The government will reinstate the Special Prosecutor's Office to reopen the judicial review of the case of journalist Irma Flaquer, who disappeared in 1980 (see case description to the right). A friendly resolution exists in this case.

Political Changes

One of the most important initiatives of the IAPA project occurred during the second Summit of the Americas in 1998. President Clinton supported an IAPA request for the creation of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression position within the Organization of American States (OAS). Prior to this the presidential advisor spoke on the crimes committed against journalists and how they impacted democracy. The creation of this new position within the OAS was important because the Impunity Project was now included on the international public agenda.

Irma Flaquer was kidnapped in Guatemala in 1980. During her kidnapping, her 24-year-old son was shot and later died. She was forced into an automobile and was never seen again – she was likely killed that evening. The IAPA believes this was a result of her articles about political repression by the government, corruption of public and military officials, oppression of the populace, and human rights violations. No one has been charged, tried, or convicted in this case. Some believe the crime resulted from a conspiracy among the military leadership, police, and the government.

In response to an IAPA request, in 1998, the General Assembly of the OAS approved a resolution regarding crimes against journalists – an item that now is part of the Inter-American Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression. They also asked to improve legislation to provide for the trial and conviction of those responsible and involved in murder, that international financial support be conditioned on a nation's respect for press freedom, and that the statute of limitations not expire on crimes against journalists. A few months later, a resolution was adopted regarding the statute of limitations request (UNESCO Resolution 120).

IACHR

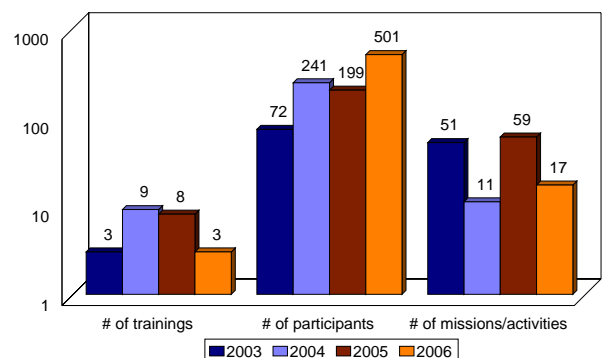
Through the submission of cases to the IACHR it has been possible for the IAPA to reach amicable solutions with the governments of Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil, and Mexico. That has resulted in the reopening of cases, the review of case files, reparations being paid to victim's families and action by public prosecutors contributing to the battle against impunity.

The Trainings

The trainings offered by the Impunity Project are designed to help journalists protect themselves from attack. These trainings are the prevention side of the project.

Since September, 2003, 1,013 people have participated 23 IAPA training sessions, seminars, and workshops in the following countries: Argentina (5), Colombia (1), Ecuador (1), Guatemala (1), Haiti (3), Honduras (2), Mexico (4), Paraguay (1), USA (3), and Venezuela (2).

of Trainings and Participants Attending



Note: 2006 only depicts data through April.

Topics covered include working in hostile environments, violence, gangs, investigative reporting, reporting under risk, survival training, security, professional risks, covering disasters, danger zones and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Those who attend the IAPA trainings rate them favorably. Overall, of the 364 training workshop evaluations received over the past three years from 11 of the 23 workshops, participants rated their effectiveness at 87% of a possible 100% (on 4 or 5 point scales ranging from excellent to poor depending on language – Spanish or Portuguese). The ratings were converted to percentages for continuity.

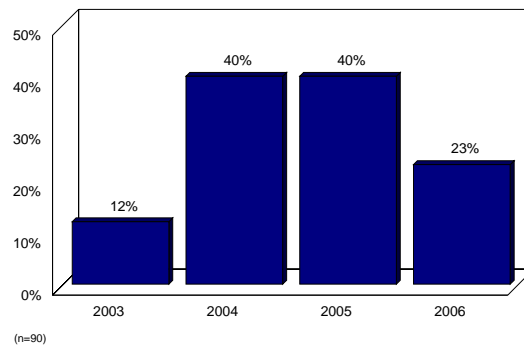
Training Topic, Location and Date	# of Evaluations	Overall Rating
Journalists in hostile environments: Argentina, April 2006	23	85%
Journalism, violence, and gangs: Honduras, February 2006	125	90%
Drug trafficking: Investigating and reporting: Mexico, January 2006	65	86%
Training seminar for managing editors: Haiti, November 2005	8	72%
Reporting under risk: Haiti, August 2005	26	78%
Reporting under risk in the city: Honduras, June 2005	20	85%
Training, key to security in journalism: Haiti, October 2004	18	92%
Professional risks and covering disasters: Guatemala, July 2004	18	88%
Journalism at risk: Paraguay, May 2004	21	85%
Survival for reporters in danger zones: Virginia, November 2003	6	92%
Investigative reporting and new reporting tools: Venezuela, September 2003	34	91%

In addition, the IAPA has held 138 missions or other activities to numerous countries in the Americas, the U.S, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Tunisia during this time period.

As stated previously, a survey was designed by PRA and the IAPA (see Appendix C) to determine if anything had changed for workshop participants in their jobs or in the way they cover news since attending one or more of the workshops over the past four years. Contact information was not available for some of the participants. Still, 272 participants were sent surveys and 91 or 33% responded after six emails from PRA and numerous contact efforts made by the IAPA urging their response. Thirty-five of the 272 participants had incorrect email addresses and thus did not receive the survey. Thus, the actual response rate is closer to 38%.

The majority of survey respondents attended an IAPA workshop in either 2004 or 2005. Twelve percent reported attending more than one workshop in multiple years. Seventy-six percent reported the IAPA workshop they attended was very useful, while 24% said it was useful. Sixty-eight percent of the participants reported attending a workshop on hostile environments and 54% reported attending one on reporting under risk. Other topics covered include: survival training (28%), security (23%), covering disasters (23%), drug trafficking (18%), violence and gangs (11%), investigative reporting (11%), the IACHR (7%), or other topics (5%).

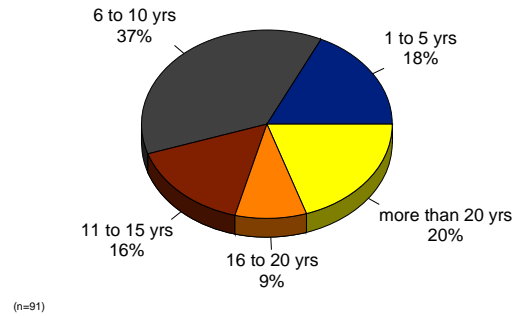
Year attended IAPA workshop



Survey respondents practiced journalism in the following countries: Mexico (23%), Peru (13%), Argentina (12%), Ecuador (11%), Brazil (10%), Guatemala (7%), Colombia (6%), Honduras (4%), Venezuela (4%), U.S. (2%), Chile (1%), Paraguay (1%), Uruguay (1%), or a combination of two of these countries (4%).

The majority of survey respondents have been journalists for one to ten years, while a fifth have been doing their jobs for more than twenty years.

How long have you been a journalist?



Journalists were asked if they had ever been coerced, harassed, threatened, or assaulted and if this had happened since attending an IAPA workshop. As seen below, incidences of violence against journalists have declined significantly since their participation in a workshop (a significant difference is one that is unlikely to be due to chance alone). This however, may be partially a function of how long they have been journalists and how recently they attended a workshop. Still, the results are encouraging.

Journalists who have been...	Ever	Since attending an IAPA workshop
...coerced	25%	13% **
...harassed	34%	19% **
...threatened	57%	20% ***
...assaulted	39%	10% ***
...other	12%	12%
Average # violent acts:	1.67	.74***

Difference is statistically significant when **p<.01 / ***p<.001.

As a result of participating in an IAPA workshop, 84% say they have changed the way they report news (all survey comments appear in Appendix B). Most report they have taken greater security precautions, they are more focused, they wear protective clothing or clothing that is more situation-specific, or have changed the way they write about certain issues.

Additionally, 69% have changed the way they do their jobs. Again respondents largely mentioned taking greater security precautions.

Sixty-one percent say they have changed their views of journalism problems. Examples of changed views include: realizing that their situations may not be as severe as other journalists practicing in other areas in the Americas and gaining a clearer view of general security risks while doing their jobs.

Eighty-nine percent feel that the training they received has resulted in fewer dangerous incidents for them. Examples of respondent comments include: not taking unnecessary risks, being more careful when on assignment, and again, taking more precautions.

Since attending an IAPA workshop, 82% say they continue to report on the same subjects as prior to attending while the rest (18%) say they do not report on the same subjects. Participants mentioned changes in sources, reporting styles, and/or topics.

As seen here, nearly all of the respondents disagreed with the following two statements: ‘When journalists get harassed or injured it is usually because of something they have done that was immoral or stupid’ and ‘It is often smart to just not write or report on certain topics so as to stay out of danger.’

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
When journalists get harassed or injured it is usually because of something they have done that was immoral or stupid.	1%	2%	55%	42%
It is often smart to just not write or report on certain topics so as to stay out of danger.	1%	7%	51%	41%

Respondents were asked to indicate how often they did certain things to protect themselves while doing their jobs (on a four-point scale where 4=very often, 3=often, 2=somewhat often, and 1=hardly ever/never). Higher numbers indicate more frequent activity. Respondents report that they very often carry identification, take into account that stories in remote places far from authorities or medical services carry a greater risk, dress according to the circumstances to blend in with the people and not stand out, or report on stories long-distance instead of going to the actual story location. Respondents hardly ever or never carry a weapon, wear olive green colored clothing, point with their fingers when on assignment, or open maps in public. Again, these results are encouraging.

How often do you...	Average score
Carry identification.	3.62
Take into account that stories in remote places far from authorities or medical services carry a greater risk.	3.25
Dress according to the circumstances to blend in with the people and not stand out.	3.06
Report on stories long-distance instead of going to the actual story location.	3.02
Carry (keep) a list of telephone numbers and addresses of people you can trust wherever you are.	2.87
Designate a person to be your support contact who knows where you are going, the expected return date and who knows whom to contact in case of emergency.	2.87
Have a bright light on in front of your house at night.	2.73
Use caller ID or voicemail on your personal telephone.	2.71
Change routes between work and home.	2.53
Study a map before going to the place where you will be working, identifying hideouts or ideal places to tape/film without being seen or without becoming a target.	2.48
Carry a basic first-aid kit when on assignment.	2.38
Mark your vehicle clearly with the word PRESS.	2.07
When driving home, circle the entire block and turn your high beams on.	1.99
Carry a white handkerchief.	1.84
Keep your stories anonymous.	1.80
Change hotels when you are on assignment.	1.74
Stop your vehicle in the same lane as motorcycles.	1.66
Change sections of your newspaper.	1.54
Keep your vehicle dirty from trips.	1.45
Trust strangers when on assignment.	1.39
Avoid checkpoints.	1.36
Move around in police vehicles or rental vehicles that resemble police vehicles.	1.25

How often do you...	Average score
Open maps in public.	1.22
Leave your city for a while or move away.	1.18
Point with your finger when on assignment.	1.14
Wear olive green colored clothing.	1.11
Carry a weapon.	1.06

Just over half of the respondents said their newspaper or media companies have a strategy in place to protect its staff. About three-quarters said their media companies have safety measures at their headquarters and other locations or that the receptionists have been trained to prevent unknown individuals from entering.

	% Yes
Our newspaper or media company has a strategy in place to protect its staff.	54%
Our newspaper or media company has safety measures at its headquarters and other locations.	75%
The receptionists at our newspaper or media company have been trained to prevent unknown individuals from entering.	70%

Respondents were asked to indicate how often their newspapers or media companies did certain things to protect their journalists (on a four-point scale where 4=very often, 3=often, 2=somewhat often, and 1=hardly ever/never). Higher numbers indicate more frequent activity. Respondents report that their media companies often publish attacks and threats against journalists and press freedom that affect other newspapers or media outlets or monitor those entering/leaving the building with hidden cameras. Additionally, respondents said their media companies did not send amateur journalists alone to cover hostile environments. However, it seems that newspapers or media companies do not rotate journalists assigned to hostile areas very often.

How often does your newspaper or media company...	Average score
Publish attacks and threats against journalists and press freedom that affect other newspapers or media outlets.	2.92
Monitor those entering/leaving the building with hidden cameras.	2.61
Rotate journalists assigned to hostile issues.	1.93
Send amateur journalists alone to cover hostile environments.	1.65

Examples of final comments made by survey participants include:

- *“I would like to thank you for having participated in these courses because they open up our minds about the problems that we have upon covering the news. I believe that the work that you carry out to capacitate the journalists is great, especially in the case of northern Mexico where drug trafficking is a real threat for journalism.”*
- *“Once again, thank you so much. What you give us is much more than training. Personally, you have helped me believe in myself, starting from being chosen at the newspaper to sending me here, I learned things that surely I have already applied and will apply, and I got to know Argentina and many colleagues/journalists. Thanks again.”*
- *“It would be invaluable to find a way to mandate this course in Colombia - all journalists in my country should be prepared for covering hostile zones/areas.”*

Challenges & Facilitators of the Work

When an area is a 'hot-spot' (an area fraught with crime) attention to a problem may be easier but the work for journalists becomes harder. Journalists become afraid to report findings. It is easier for journalists to work in capital cities than in remote parts of their countries because in capital cities journalists are more visible and are better protected. When journalists get murdered in capital cities, journalists have more solidarity. Journalists in large cities are seen as more important because they work for large companies. In the interior this is not the case. Crimes on the borders between countries can be difficult because law enforcement officials lose jurisdiction and of course, neither country wants to take the case. An example of this occurred on the border of Paraguay and Brazil where prosecution of a case has been difficult.

Another challenge is the acceptance of cases by the IACHR. The IAPA has been the first organization to get the IACHR to accept cases (so far they have accepted 10 out of 18). With this acceptance comes the acceptance of the case by the government in the respective country. The process is long, sometimes taking ten or more years.

Another challenge lies in whether journalists are respected by peers. When journalists are not well respected it makes it difficult for authorities to work on cases, especially when they themselves are corrupt.

When the IAPA is able to apply pressure on a government to reopen a case, the local authority frequently argues that it is too late to do anything or that there is not enough time to act. They argue using technicalities rather than taking action to further investigate.

Conclusion

The Impunity Project was created to end impunity for attacks against journalists in the Americas. The IAPA is one of very few organizations making this work one of its main agendas. The Project uses three main strategies to do its work:

- A Rapid Response Unit which investigates attacks against journalists and helps ready them for legal action,
- An advertising campaign to bring these cases to the attention of the public, policy makers, and officials who can intervene, and
- A training program to prevent future attacks against journalists by giving them skills to avoid or lessen the risk in dangerous situations.

These three major strategies are bolstered by frequent missions to policy makers and other officials in countries most affected by violence against journalists and by forwarding petitions to officials, signed by those responding to the advertising campaigns.

This work is challenging and time consuming. The legal cases move forward and backward. They require a dogged constancy to gain action, and still often end in frustration. It often takes years to mount enough pressure to gain action in these cases, many of which are old and forgotten.

Still the success of the IAPA in this work appears undeniable:

- the sentencing rate in these cases has more than doubled;
- the IACHR is paying attention to these cases and is forcing nations to do likewise;
- both print and broadcast media have contributed over \$11 million in advertising space and time to support the advertising campaign and the number of companies participating has grown steadily;
- policy and legal changes have been achieved in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, and other places—changes that lift up the issue of impunity and provide better protection for journalists;
- more than 1,000 journalists have been trained to protect themselves and the vast majority of these have taken actions to do so following this training;
- these journalists report fewer threats and violence since their training.

Given these results, it is difficult to contemplate giving up any of the pieces of this project. Some of its strategies respond to events that have already occurred (the Rapid Response Team, the legal work, the pressure through petitions), while other parts of the project are preventive (the training and the policy and legal change work designed to alter the system of protection). The IAPA might be encouraged to examine each of these strategies however, to see if their experience over these years leads them to more cost effective ways to use each of these tools.

While the IAPA has the data reported above to show progress as a result of each of these activities, even after 11 years, there is not yet enough pressure, enough sentencing, enough training and enough policy change to stop attacks against journalists. This work will need to continue so that there will not only be less impunity but less violence in the first place because punishment seems assured.

Appendix A: Additional IAPA Cases

The following tables reflect approximately 100 cases the IAPA has been involved with during the past few years but not to such an extent as the 57 shown previously. According to IAPA staff, these cases have not generated the same amount of work for various reasons – some because they are relatively new.

Case	Status
Brazil	
Jorge Viera da Costa	Four people sentenced to four years in prison. IAPA praises government.
Samuel Roman – murdered, 2004	Suspects sentenced to jail but remain at large. One is a mayor who remains free. IAPA requests assistance of Paraguay government. Prosecutors are awaiting investigation results.
Jose Carlos Araujo – murdered, 2004	
Nadja Haddad – shot and injured, 2005	IAPA calls for investigation.
Jose Candido de Amorim Filho – murdered, 2005	IAPA calls for investigation.
Ricardo Gonzales Rocha – murdered, 2005	IAPA seeks investigation.
Colombia	
Flavio Bedoya Tovar – threatened/attacked, 2001	Under preliminary investigation. No headway in case. IAPA urges new investigation.
Pablo Emilio Mota Medina – threatened/attacked, 1999	Under preliminary investigation. No headway in case. IAPA urges new investigation.
Francisco Castro Menco – threatened/attacked, 1997	Under preliminary investigation. No headway in case. IAPA urges new investigation.
Gustavo Ruiz Cantillo – murdered, 2000	Not been assigned to the Unit to Investigate Crimes against Journalists for investigation / IAPA requests further investigation. No headway in case. IAPA urges new investigation.
Alvaro Alonso Escobar – murdered, 2001	Not been assigned to the Unit to Investigate Crimes against Journalists for investigation / IAPA requests further investigation. No headway in case.
Mario Prada Diaz – murdered, 2002	Not been assigned to the Unit to Investigate Crimes against Journalists for investigation / IAPA requests further investigation. No headway in case.
Gimble Perdomo – murdered, 2002	Not been assigned to the Unit to Investigate Crimes against Journalists for investigation / IAPA requests further investigation. No headway in case.
Luis Eduardo Alfonso – murdered, 2003	Not been assigned to the Unit to Investigate Crimes against Journalists for investigation / IAPA requests further investigation. No headway in case.
Jose Eli Escalante – murdered	
Oscar Salazar – murdered	IAPA urges Attorney General’s Office to increase the pace of investigation.
Augustin de Jesus Rodriguez – murdered	IAPA urges Attorney General’s Office to increase the pace of investigation.
Nine journalists have been kidnapped and threats continue	IAPA urges the Committee for the Protection of Journalists to ensure protective measures and investigation to be carried out as quickly as possible.
In 2005, two journalists were killed, 18 were threatened, and two went into exile	IAPA requests government implement effective security measures and investigate crimes.
FARC guerilla forces blew up a radio station, towers, and exploded car bomb	IAPA requests government implement effective security measures and investigate crimes.
Jose Emeterio Rivas –	Proceedings against mastermind (mayor) commencing. Mayor held but released due

Case	Status
murdered, 2003	to lack of evidence. IAPA requests persons responsible charged. Investigation concluded. Proceedings occurring against former mayor.
Oscar Polanco – murdered, 2004	Case remains under jurisdiction of regional units which may jeopardize prosecution. IAPA urges Attorney General’s Office to assign cases to unit established to prosecute crimes against journalists. No changes.
Martin La Rotta – murdered, 2004	Case remains under jurisdiction of regional units which may jeopardize prosecution. IAPA urges Attorney General’s Office to assign cases to unit established to prosecute crimes against journalists. No changes. IAPA urges president to speed up investigation.
Jaime Alberto Madero – murdered, 2004	Case remains under jurisdiction of regional units which may jeopardize prosecution. IAPA urges Attorney General’s Office to assign cases to unit established to prosecute crimes against journalists. No changes.
In 2005, 12 of 28 investigations around the country have been closed or hindered by restraining orders on court proceedings.	IAPA urges Attorney General explain failure of the unit assigned to prosecute crimes against journalists.
William Soto Cheng – murdered, 2004	IAPA asks government to implement effective security measures.
Port of Barrabcabermeja – 5 journalists threatened, 1 disappeared, 1 kidnapped/tortured, and 1 threatened by the colonel of a battalion.	IAPA asks government to implement effective security measures.
Martin Alirio Vina – murdered, 2005	IAPA deplors the death and offers sympathy to family. Asks for investigation.
Benjamin Fernandez Gonzalez – attempted murder, 2005	IAPA deplors attempted murder and calls on authorities to speed up investigation.
Hugo Barragan – murdered, 2005	IAPA calls on government to investigate.
Colombian newspaper attacked, 2005	IAPA condemns attack. No reporters injured. IAPA seeks investigation.
Daniel Coronel, threatened – 2005	IAPA urges investigation.
Hollman Morris – threatened, 2005	IAPA urges investigation.
Carlos Lozano – threatened, 2005	IAPA urges investigation.
Hernando Marne Sanchez Roldan – murdered, 2005	IAPA urges investigation.
Radio and TV station bombed, 2005	IAPA urges investigation.
Julio Palacios – murdered, 2004	IAPA urges investigation.
Hernan Escheverri – kidnapped, 2005 by FARC	IAPA demands he is freed immediately.
Lucio Flavio de Faria Pinto – beaten, 2005	
Costa Rica	
Ivannia Mora Rodriguez –	Murder unsolved. IAPA asks for increased investigative efforts.

Case	Status
murdered, 2003	
Two newspapers attacked, 2005	No injuries but IAPA seeks investigation.
Cuba	
23 journalists imprisoned, 2003	IAPA calls for immediate release of all journalists imprisoned for expressing their ideas.
Dominican Republic	
Narciso Gonzalez – disappeared, 1994	Case stalled/unsolved. IAPA urges government to reopen the investigation. No law enforcement person will admit he was abducted despite witness testimony. IAPA asks for government to expedite the proceedings.
Orlando Martinez – murdered, 1975	Appeals court reviewing conviction of accused killers. IAPA urges the government to continue the trial of those responsible for the murder. Nothing further. IAPA asks for government to expedite the proceedings.
Gregorio Garcia Castro – murdered, 1970s	Nothing further. IAPA asks for government to expedite the proceedings.
Juan Andujar – murdered, 2004	IAPA urges perpetrators to be brought to justice. Crime unsolved. IAPA asks for government to expedite the proceedings.
Euri Cabral – murder attempt, 2004	IAPA urges perpetrators to be brought to justice and urges government to take measures to guarantee safety. IAPA asks for government to expedite the proceedings.
Ecuador	
Julio Garcia – died during demonstration in capital, 2005	Suspected mastermind awaiting trial. IAPA requests investigation.
Radio station bombed, 2005	IAPA condemned the attack and seeks in investigation.
Guatemala	
Jorge Mynor Alegria – murdered, 2001	Suspected mastermind awaiting trial. IAPA requests investigation.
Hector Ramirez – deceased	Death unsolved. IAPA requests investigation.
Mario Bonino – murdered, 1993	IAPA asks case to be reopened.
Ronald Wadell – murdered, 2006	Police are investigating.
Haiti	
Brignol Linder – murdered, 2001	Murder unsolved. Serious irregularities and obstacles in investigation. IAPA requests investigation and punishment for those responsible. Circumstances surrounding murder have yet to be resolved. IAPA urges authorities not to close investigations.
Michelle Montas (Jean Leopold Dominique's widow) – attempted murder	Murder attempt outside home. Bodyguard killed. Radio station activity suspended. Radio station workers threatened/attacked. IAPA requests investigation and punishment for those responsible.
Gerard Denoze – murdered, 2001	Murder unsolved. IAPA requests investigation and punishment for those responsible. Circumstances surrounding murder have yet to be resolved. IAPA urges authorities not to close investigations.
Abdias Jean – killed by police, 2005	Witnessed execution of 3 people by national police. IAPA reiterates to authorities a desire for further investigation.
Robensen Laraque – died after covering a shoot out, 2005	IAPA urges the government to report on the investigation.
Jacques Roche – kidnapped/murdered, 2005	IAPA condemns murder and seeks investigation to see if it was work related.
Raoul Saint-Louis – shot, 2005	IAPA seeks investigation.
Claude Bernard Serant – assaulted, 2005	IAPA urges protection for journalists.

Case	Status
Jonel Juste – assaulted, 2005	IAPA urges protection for journalists.
Honduras	
German Antonio Rivas – murdered, 2003	IAPA requests authorities to identify killers and prosecute those responsible.
Journalists harassed by leader of National Congress, 2005	IAPA asks government to put an end to harassment.
Mexico	
Jesus Blancornelas - attacked	IAPA asks president to reopen case and investigate.
Jose Miranda Virgen – accidental death?, 2002	No investigation into death and relationship of reporting. IAPA calls upon authorities to keep case open and investigate.
Felix Fernandez Garcia – murdered, 2002	Investigation has produced nothing. IAPA urges authorities to keep case open and solve murder.
Saul Antonio Martinez Gonzalez - murdered	IAPA urges authorities to keep case open and solve murder.
Jose Luis Ortega Mata – murdered, 2001	Mastermind arrested and released. Nothing further. IAPA requests the Attorney General's Office report on findings thus far.
Francisco Arratia Saldierna – beaten, tortured, murdered, 2004	Suspected accomplice found. Mastermind still at large. IAPA asks the Attorney General's Office to continue investigation. Accomplice charged and confessed journalist was killed due to column in media. Murderers and mastermind still at large. IAPA urges continued investigation.
Gregorio Rodriguez Hernandez – murdered, 2004	Murderer and accomplice detained. Mastermind not detained. IAPA asks Attorney General's Office to finish investigation. Seven people arrested including mastermind. Two people detained, one accused of murder, the other an accomplice. IAPA urges further investigation.
In 2004, threats and pressure against journalists in northern states increased	Journalists threatened/cars burned. No cases solved. IAPA asks authorities to determine if crimes were related to work in journalism.
Leodegario Aguilera Lucas – kidnapped/killed, 2004	Charred body found 4 months later. Possibly the victim's? No conclusions as to reason for death. Three arrests have been made. IAPA asks Attorney General's Office to investigate whether death was work related. IAPA demands a conclusion to the case to see if the death was work related.
Roberto Javier Mora Garcia – murdered, 2004	Suspect killed in prison. Investigation stalled. IAPA asks Attorney General's Office to investigate further to determine if death was work related. Case has been dropped.
Alfredo Jimenez Mota – kidnapped, 2005	Whereabouts unknown. Investigation has made no progress. IAPA urges the Attorney General's Office to expedite investigation.
Guadalupe Garcia Escamilla – shot, died 11 days later, 2005	Investigation has made no progress. IAPA demands the Attorney General's Office solve the murder.
Raul Gibb Guerrero – murdered, 2005	Investigation underway. IAPA demands the Attorney General's Office solve the murder.
Jesus Reyes Brambilia – murdered, 2005	IAPA demands the Attorney General's Office solve the murder.
Jaime Orozco Tres – seriously injured during attack on newspaper, 2006	IAPA urges investigation.
Pedro Perez Matividad – attacked, 2005	IAPA urges investigation and for protection of journalists.
Jorge Cardona – attacked – his car was struck by 48 bullets, 2005	IAPA calls for immediate investigation.

Case	Status
Nicaragua	
Maria Jose Bravo – murdered	Murderer sentenced to 25 years in prison. IAPA expresses approval of quick decision.
Carlos Guadamuz – murdered, 2004	IAPA welcomes the sentencing of the murderer and calls for continuing investigation of mastermind.
Carlos Jose Guadamuz Portillo – murdered, 2004	Killer caught and confessed though true mastermind still at large. IAPA urges thorough investigation.
Peru	
Jaime Ayala Sulca – murdered	IAPA requests investigation to solve murder.
Jaime Bustios Saavedra – murdered	IAPA requests investigation to solve murder.
Over the past 20 years, 16 journalists have been killed	IAPA urges authorities to find and punish those responsible.
Antonio de la Torre Echeandia – murdered, 2004	IAPA requests authorities pursue inquiries until killers are found.
Paul Garay Ramirez (a close collaborator of Alberto Rivera Fernandez) – physically assaulted twice	Assailants identified and linked to a government official and union leader. IAPA demands protection for Ramirez and perpetrators brought to justice.
Todd Smith – murdered, 1989	IAPA urges president to investigate.
Uruguay	
Dostin Armand Pilon – police raided home in search of a tape implicating members of police in child prostitution, 2005	Judge apologized for his action but did not rescind the order.
Venezuela	
Jorge Tortoza – murdered, 2002	Murder unsolved. IAPA encourages the government to strengthen the murder investigation. IAPA insists the authorities continue investigating.
Mauro Marciano – murdered, 2004	IAPA calls upon government to continue investigation until guilty parties are brought to justice. Case unsolved.
Edar Rengifo – murdered, 2005	IAPA urges investigation.
Gustavo Acevedo – kidnapped/murdered, 2005	IAPA urges investigation.

Appendix B: Survey Comments

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed the way you report news? If yes...what have you changed?
Positively. I take precautions.
More precautions.
I have more secure procedures.
I am more careful and my survival skills and sense of preservation increased. When I return to dangerous areas I take with me the skills/tools that I learned.
Precautions to avoid unnecessary risks.
More precaution and care.
I am more cautious. Not only when covering an event but when giving instructions to my coworkers about certain events to cover.
More focus on people.
I take more precautions.
In strategy. After the SIP course I learned how to take care of myself and how not to expose myself to danger. It is better to be a live journalist than a death one.
Now I am more cautious when covering news in difficult areas. Besides I am more aware of how to react in cases of danger. Without been paranoid I consider myself more cautious and I don't trust too much in luck.
Now I know my limits and I identify more clearly the risks I can face.
I work more carefully with news related to drug trafficking.
I plan activities for security purposes.
Never avoid dialogue.
Now I look at my surroundings before I do anything and I always try to be protected and secure.
In the news coverage I take more precautions, to avoid any risks I didn't do before.
I am more cautious.
I am more cautious.
How to focus on an event and the precautions to take.
I take more precautions before coverage and I always have in mind what we learned at the seminars.
Every time I have to cover news in far away areas or when covering natural disasters or fires I take with me tools and materials that can help me in case I have to stay a longer period of time there.
Perception of the situation.
When I need it I use special shoes that protect my feet, I always carry an extra set of clothes in the car. I started to exercise to have a better physical condition. I have a better diet among other things. During the course I discovered my capacity to do more things and this gives me security in many ways.
While covering the news I take precautions
I learned to identify risks when covering news and I feel more secure.
Every seminar leaves experiences that promote changes in our way of thinking and how we cover news.
More precaution.
I am alert depending how potential the risk is, I act after evaluating the possible risks.
More accurate with information.
More careful with coverage, to have a lower profile and without unnecessary exposure.
The way I cover news, especially related to drug trafficking and organize crime. Even though sometimes it depends on the newspaper where one works, there are a lot of media that do not cover this type of topic, it's not in their agenda.
Precautions when covering certain types of information.
I have better tools/skills to work more consciously.
When I write about drug trafficking I generalize the problem within the context of our country or internationally. Locally I have stopped writing and covering the information that arrives on my desk.
I am more focused.
In prevention.
I have come to understand, in the course, the great risk that one has when covering an event, even one that can look unimportant.
Profound analysis/observation.

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed the way you report news? If yes...what have you changed?
I have more precaution and I am more observant of my surroundings.
The way of covering news and how information is given.
I have a wider view, not only about the effects of journalistic work on the people who receive it, but personally.
We are more cautious.
The covering of the news is more rational and less impulsive. Where there is danger I take protective measures.
When I travel to other places I am always prepared.
I have taken more precautions, especially while covering news in Haiti.
Precaution in cases of shootings, security measures when communicating on foot or in an automobile – emergency precautions when covering news outside of the city. Mental capacity and strength for possible situations when negotiation is needed with aggressors, drug traffickers or kidnappers.
In prevention.
When covering protests, you have to get there before they start and until they finish to discover and inform events that other journalists do not cover. There could be great characters and great stories to tell.
I do not expose myself that much when facing risky situations and I try to look for information in a smart way.
The best lesson I learned from the course is that I need to protect my life above any other thing. Sometimes I expose myself to too much danger trying to take a picture for the newspaper's cover. Nevertheless, during the course we learned that you can acquire/achieve the same information while being on the outside of a dangerous situation.
I am more cautious and I make sure I know about the place where I go to cover news.
With more precaution.
It is important how qualified one is.
Now I take more precautions.
How I can reduce risks.
Now I am more cautious thanks to the training I received.
Now I am more cautious and I think about the reaction that the people that are part of the news I cover have, since I cover a police blotter.
More critical vision.
I do it with the same interest but with more precaution.
I am more cautious when I cover news in conflict areas.
More interest in problems related to citizens.
Precaution measures and attention.
I am more aware of the dangers and I am more cautious in the way I relate myself with certain news sources.
Following the instructions received at the course.
Acting very carefully when facing risky situations
Following the instructions received at the course.
Acting carefully when covering news especially when covering news about drug trafficking and police.
Applying the knowledge learned at the course.
Adopting specific security measures.
I am more careful and more professional.

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed the way you do your job in general? If yes...What have you changed?
I am more careful.
Now I take more precautions.
I try to work more cautiously.
Security.
I have not substantially changed due to lack of objective conditions.
I am more aware of my security when covering news and in my daily life as well.
Focus more on the importance of the people in the stories.
I work more cautiously.
In my daily life I live with 24 hour vigilance of four police agents due to the threats received from drug traffickers. Since the course, I have learned how to manage my time and my security following the teachings received.

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed the way you do your job in general? If yes...What have you changed?
Definitely. Like I have mentioned before, now I am more prudent, I evaluate the risks and I establish alternative plans to follow not only when I am covering news in dangerous areas but in my work in general.
I have adopted safer strategies in each investigation, with scheduling, transportation, source contact. I am more conscious and I am more alert as well.
More confidence and more efficiency in my journalistic work because of my knowledge on how the aggressors think.
To preserve the different broad criteria.
Of course, with all of the training and learning received, especially in courses like this. A journalist learns a lot by listening and sharing experiences on how to cover news.
I have improved my journalistic techniques.
I have applied a lot of the skills learned during this course.
I am more cautious and I am more conscious that when facing risky situations is important to put into practice what I have learned in order not to expose myself.
I am more conscious about what can represent a risk during my work.
Although the main part is referred to prevention, I think that one of the fundamental parts should be about new sources, since this is the area in which I have worked in the past three years.
My methods, and my sources of information, as well as my personal and professional care that I must have when covering news.
I am more cautious.
Above all when I travel within my country I take precautionary measures.
Analyzing possible scenarios that can happen when one is covering news.
More protection for the journalist.
I think that I have acquired more consciousness of the dangers that surround certain circumstances. I take more precautions.
I protect myself better. I use a bulletproof vest and I approach more cautiously the conflict scene.
I analyze the risks of covering certain information especially the kind of information that can put me in physical risk (drug trafficking and kidnappings).
I take my role as a journalist with more responsibility.
More professional and skilled work.
Basically what I previously explained. I believe the course works, as a beginning to know your own limits.
Work organization and methodology.
Now, I try to cover problems and more complex topics. Because the course was for correspondents in conflictive zones, I can apply what I learned to cover terrorism and drug trafficking but in areas not as hostile.
In security topics.
I practice what I learned.
I have greater responsibility now and greater compromise with my readers.
I work with more precaution especially at public events.
In the course I learned how to interact with victims of violence and kidnappings. Now I know the intensity and the amount of stress they suffered and I treat them with more respect.
Generally basic security measures.
I prepare myself better before covering any news.
I questioned my previous coverage methods.
I try to look at things from a different perspective to understand it better. I try to put myself in someone else's shoes, especially in the case of authorities and in this way to know how far I can go as a journalist without risking too much.
I take more precautions.
I am more secure, calm and confident.
I take a deeper look into news stories.
I am more of a preventive journalist.
With more professionalism.
I take more precautions.
More speed with general work.
I am very careful about the veracity of the sources and I do not take any risks.
More understanding and tolerance towards citizens.

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed the way you do your job in general? If yes...What have you changed?
Type of coverage and investigation.
I am more cautious and I take into consideration other things that I didn't before.
Using the knowledge acquired in the course.
Acting more carefully.
I am more aware about any sign of danger. I am more conscious about my job and my life as a reporter.
I am more careful.

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed your views of journalism problems? If yes...What views have you changed?
They are more serious than what I imagined.
No risk is a minor one.
Greater consciousness of risks.
That my problems are not as serious as those in other places in South America.
More than anything the security and protection problems on a journalist's integrity. The Peruvian media do not worry about providing life and health insurance to investigative journalists. Besides, in many occasions it has not prioritized itself on being the first ones with the story instead of life. But, overall, it does not worry itself about organizing internal survival courses, hostile job environments, etc. They always expect other companies (Armed Forces, journalist protection institutes, etc.) do it.
The problem is that we reproduce formats that, upon being common, they are predictable by a more alert and demanding public.
The journalism profession is a risky one no matter what information is being covered (natural disaster or hostile situations, etc.) and that the journalist has to protect his integrity at every moment.
It changed in the sense that I came to know, colleagues from other countries that were going through the same difficulties that I was. The sensation of abandonment in which a threatened journalist falls into many times, for me, has also come to an end.
The fact that it is necessary to highlight the events in a global environment and not see the isolated circumstances. And the contextualization in Latin-America. The projection and a certain analysis based on similar experiences in other countries.
Yes, indeed. The workshop helped me to realize that many times in which a journalist becomes injured is not necessarily because of someone else's fault. Many times not being alert, lack of forecast and imprudence are the key elements that can cause us to be injured.
There have been many, some of them are: I now understand that security is each journalist's fundamental responsibility, but without the support/back-up of informative media, it is as vulnerable. I have come to know that it is indispensable identifying the risks, not in only avoiding them, on the contrary, the ignorance on them place us in a worse situation and, in Mexico, there is very little conscience of it. I am also aware that we are not prepared to face any real threats and that the lack of solidarity places us in a very fragile situation.
Greater responsibility due to society.
That many of them are generated by the journalist him/herself due to fear or imprudence upon trying to gain news.
First of all, to observe and to listen to all those involved since the journalist is not always right. Secondly, to maintain ourselves attentive to the recommendations of others.
I am more conscious of the risks.
I did not have a great deal of knowledge in regard to the risks present in being in hostile zones.
I value much more the work of those colleagues that not only live in risky situations, but that also are exposed to them in a permanent form.
In the way of working in regard to news related to organized crime, as drug trafficking.
I constantly question the relation among risk and life objectives.
Besides identification, conscience and knowledge of the profession's risks, I came to know about how little it has advanced in regard to the lack of support that journalist have on some editorial aspects, social security/safety, training and specializing in areas like science or in general journalism investigation, among many others. I believe that they are more serious then what they appear to be, however, to me, there is one that is even more serious and somehow I confront it frequently. It is the issue of self-censoring, above all in some subjects in which it emphasizes on drug

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed your views of journalism problems? If yes...What views have you changed?
trafficking or any another related to organized crime, like abduction, homicides, laundered money etc. The intensity to which I am referring to carries the indifference of administration and justice authorities' implicitly, including preventives and society in general. At least in different Mexican companies where it emphasizes the north zone, and which it adds others daily, active and ex law organizations (police officers) or governmental corporations/systems at all levels, are involved in this type of activities. One can only trust a few within this panorama, the journalist places him/herself as the target for criminal organizations, many times not only because of what they publish, but because of what they know or because of what others think they know. You can also not lose sight of what, above all, anyone can be utilized to send "messages" or "to frighten" the journalistic community, in order to maintain them in silence. All in all, it is the lack of security, the certainty among the vulnerability of which we have very little conscience on which takes us to a greater unprotected level on all laborer, family, personal and social implications.
I had an idea of the risks related to this profession and also because of the elaborate work tasks and testimonies of co-workers; however, I now have the skills to rise above some of them.
One learns that journalists play a very important function in confrontations and that conflicted groups try to benefit from the journalistic figure, also in some conditions, it could be possible that groups do not have any interest in having certain measures or actions that they take published and in that sense the journalist becomes a negative character, with the risks that that can bring.
Overall, more safety in public demonstrations, picketing with law enforcement, etc.
Physical preparation and the lack of the English language.
The risks and dangers of seeking information makes us aware when one's life is in danger. The facts are reconsidered in order to decide how deeply convenient it is to get to that information. When it is decided that this is too risky, a space is left open allowing another investigator to take hands in the matter and advancement is a new informative phase.
To acknowledge that the risks of journalism are real and not fiction like it was thought to be, I am actually a witness of the disappearance of one of my co-workers within the company I work in.
I know my country's reality better now in regards to a journalist job/task.
In that every time that I see an abducted journalist, I know that behind the photograph or image there is a person, and that perhaps it could be me. It changed in that I have a more realistic perception of the events now.
It is a high risk profession.
I am more cautious now in regards to the risks of doing a cover/report.
It is believed that in a disaster the one to blame is he who causes the tragedy and many times the social issues are not published.
Human pain is more understood in catastrophic situations.
I have greater conscience on the need of the journalistic work. The journalist is not alone, even though many times he/she has to work alone on specific investigations or reports. But in any case, he/she should lean on his/her colleagues, in the media in which he/she belongs to and on the organizations that defend him/her, just in case he/she is faced with abusive or compulsive situations.
I have never before stopped to think about the vulnerability and the little security that we have while working. We now ask for that protection for us and our co-workers.
On the journalist's security and the need to take precautions before covering/reporting on any risky situations.
Conscience of the risks involved while covering/reporting disasters or dangerous matters and conflicts in general.
Protection norms/rules before and during journalistic covering/reporting.
Overall, in the personals, in the way of obtaining information in dangerous situations.
During the seminar, I was able to learn about the situation in which journalists in other countries live. Fortunately in Ecuador, harassment and threats that members of the press suffer are not as serious or radical as in other countries. Talking with foreign colleagues, especially with those that come from countries like Colombia, Brazil or Paraguay, help us to learn about the journalistic situation in Latin America, and the importance for SIP to focus many of their resources in trainings of that nature.
I took more conscience on the problems within being able to exercise journalism in countries near to mine, including in other Argentine provinces. It also helped me to see that in some places they are still trying to do investigative journalism in spite of the high risks.
One must be calmer and know what to say and how to say it.
Upon obtaining greater professional knowledge.
That before going out to cover/report information I have to know the zone/area and the type of people one is going to

As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed your views of journalism problems? If yes... What views have you changed?
deal with.
That I, many times believed that the risks ran on behalf of the business that I work for, when in fact a great part of those risks are due to the journalist's irresponsibility.
I respect Latin-America's views on all subjects more now.
That we are exposed to being attacked but we have guilds and institutions that help us.
It has helped me see that this profession can be risky.
The vulnerability in which we find ourselves in and without any kind of protection.
That people with envy have penetrated the guild too much.
I am more conscientious now of my professional and social responsibilities regarding the covering/reporting of the information and the risks that I am exposed to.
I started to have a clearer view of security matters in my day-to-day work.
I understand that our class needs to be more cooperative, to promote greater exchange and to study more.

Do you feel that the training you received has resulted in fewer dangerous incidents for you? Please explain:
I have only attended courses, not trainings.
I will not take any unnecessary risks.
In regards to taking greater precautions, yes.
In avoiding situations where danger can appear and to help my colleague avoid it as well, yes.
I have not yet encountered any dangerous incidents since I received the course in Buenos Aires (Journalism in Hostile Zones "periodismo en zonas hostiles", in Caecopaz).
During the cover/reporting, I now take more precautions.
Because I have taken precautions to avoid any insecure situation.
To me personally, no, but to other colleagues that had to cover/report information on certain dangers. The most recent one is the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano. We talked to them about what risks they should avoid, and up to what point they can risk themselves.
In regards to security, there was a greater expectation.
Not very prominent, at the moment, but knowing how to act in areas as sensitive as the electoral campaigns that we are facing in Peru, at this time. Overall, in provinces in which confrontations are seen day to day and journalists are pointed out as "opposing" to a determined party.
In knowing about the precautions that one must have at the time of covering/reporting disasters.
In receiving knowledge on how to administer the dangers, what to do to at least diminish that danger and through the knowledge given by experts, it helped me to change my routine and that way I avoid many of the wrong doings that I used to do before the course and that instead of helping me would expose me to more danger.
Although by fortune I have not been in any risky situation after Nuevo Laredo's seminar, the tools/skills obtained expanded my reference at the time of protecting my integrity without the need to sacrifice the quality of the information transmitted.
For example, a short time ago, I had to participate in an expedition in search of common graves in the jungle, and I remembered a great deal of what was taught in the course. I took first aid implements, packed only what was necessary; I was able to install myself in the jungle using a compass. Above all I was prudent and cautious.
Due to the issues that I manage, security, justice and human rights, they easily place me in difficult settings: however, now, having greater conscience of the threats that I face, I have taken basic decisions on how to conduct interviews in secure places only, to inform several people about where I am and what I am doing, etc. All this, I am sure, has permitted me not to become a victim of threats or pressures.
One must inform as objectively as possible, without being "stool pigeons" or drug trafficking informants, for example.
To be more careful when taking precautions.
The key is in education in order to avoid future inconveniences.
Most definitely, especially because at the seminar we were asked to participate but never to lead according to our emotions.
In risky coverings/reporting, I have learned to detect risky situations and I have avoided them.
At the moment of carrying out trips to risky zones/areas, I now take more into account the security of the team that

Do you feel that the training you received has resulted in fewer dangerous incidents for you? Please explain:
accompanies me.
Above all, I have learned to organize priorities and not to expose myself unnecessarily.
I consider that in the future it can help me, for the time being I thank God that I have not gone through a dangerous situation.
I covered the disconnection of The Gaza Strip in August of 2005. In a given moment, I saw myself as the target in part by the colonists and the mortar shots by the Palestinians. I had followed to the end what was learned, like not to wear any light colored clothes, and to notify the photographer that a camera at 100 meters away looked exactly like a weapon. I came out of this unharmed.
Strategies in regard to how to publish and investigate dangerous matters.
Because being attentive to the environment and to know that one counts on the technical tools/skills to respond to any emergency, permits you to evaluate each one of the situations and to seek alternatives to obtain the same thing therefore avoiding unnecessary risks.
By identifying the risks.
I can see things in a different way with the courses and take care of myself and of the other journalists/reporters a great deal more.
The truth is that I do not to what extent the course has helped me but I do know that I have been in some dangerous zones/areas covered.
I try to predict the risks, and to take precautions taking with me the necessary equipment for each occasion.
There are some coverings/reporting in locations/places that are assigned in which experimenting certain situations in a course, is like if one has already lived that experience without risks and the instructors showed them what was done right and wrong for which in a real risky situation the acquired experiences help unconsciously to react in an adequate/proper form.
In the urban zones the risks are minor, but there have been cases of protests with strong repression on behalf of armed security forces. Preventive measures are taken upon the received teachings. A hostile battle field zone is not the same thing as an urban manifestation, but there are always risks. As a matter of fact, there are antecedents of dead persons in Argentines repressions, as in 2001, with injured journalists and permanent low risks.
The journalist is not a part of it. He/she is the key.
I do not have any concrete proof, but there is a different way to generally face situations.
Take better care of yourself.
I am more cautious now.
The journalist learns to analyze with more field elements, the social surroundings in which he/she should be moving around in. Therefore it is feasible to decide and compare situations and risks. Upon evaluating a setting, like a revolved social surrounding, sufficient precautions are taken, before covering the information.
From the date of the disappearance of our colleague, Rafael Ortiz on July 8, of this year, I have paid special attention to my movements, travel time to my house and vice versa.
In risky cases, I take into account the recommendations that I learned in the seminar.
Like I mentioned before, due to the fact that one knows him/herself in risky situations, one can think twice about where he/she wants to be and what he/she wants to do. Besides, there are some basic questions like first aid that helps in one's daily life.
Yes, because unfortunately I have to recognize that many of those which are in journalism one could say that they are mercenaries of this profession and which expose to us those whom we want to make responsible with society and that makes me take better/more care of myself, especially for the family's sake.
To be alert in cases of criminal attempts, disturbances and first aid prevention.
They are of a great use in Colombia the teaching received in detection of minefields. The course on first aid and immediate treatment of war injuries was also very appropriate.
It created a sense for me to avoid making mistakes in the future.
One time in which I went to cover/report on a Colombian war field, placed on Colombia's borderline. I was more careful with my personal security.
To adopt security measures in complicated places.
One always has in mind the risks that can be present while doing coverage/reporting.
It was very useful information in regard to handling complex situations.
Because of tips on what to take and how to cover/report a disaster.
I cannot respond to this with precision, being that I have not since then lived a similar situation. However, I believe

Do you feel that the training you received has resulted in fewer dangerous incidents for you? Please explain:
myself to be better prepared to confront them.
Risks should be measured for any information that will be covered.
I live in a zone/area where street protesting is somewhat a daily routine. Strikes, marches, disturbances are constant and there is always confrontation with the municipal or national police. Back then, we used to cover those events without any protection against something as insignificant as gases that the police threw to scatter/get rid of the protesters. Now when I am covering those incidents, I know where to place myself in order to do my job better and to protect myself.
We took greater precautions during the electoral process in Haiti.
I am no longer impudent when covering conflicts or armed confrontations and I handle threats and harassment better.
It was a more theoretician seminar than practical.
Yes, overall when I went to the border with Colombia to investigate an incursion of the FARC in Ecuador.
During the state hit that Ecuador suffered the previous year, the situation in the streets turned very violent and the police retention did not discriminate against anyone. In the SIP's course I learned certain security tactics – especially in the urban conflicts workshop – which helped me protect myself from tear gases and other dangers.
If I am in a zone/area that is not hostile to the point of generating physical risks, I change my way of seeing and acting in front of socially determined facts, like manifestations, public incidents, etc.
When covering issues in open spaces, especially natural disasters, I take into account aspects that I did not know about before and I prepare myself better just in case of some contingency.
You have more precaution.
Especially during trips/travel, I take some special medicine (recan).
Sometimes, the empiricism makes us fall in error.
Now precautions are taken.
For example, before going out to do coverage on any disaster, I go get myself vaccines.
Of course, especially in notes related to drug trafficking.
I believe that the knowledge I acquired will help me to protect myself more and also to be able to help colleagues or other persons that have suffered any accident. The risks that event reporters down here run refer to risks with the common underworld, in neighborhoods, etc. We always go when the police are there otherwise they assault us.
To be a little more prudent.
During the daily conferences that we received real cases were exposed to us and the way to avoid them, which when adapted to my media served me a great deal.
Yes, it helped me be more conscious and not to expose myself unnecessarily.
I take care of my job more; I put all the pros and cons of each note on a scale, especially if this one is considered highly dangerous.
When I have tried to obtain information on conflicting zones/areas and they have denied them to me I do not insist on them, I simply have moved in search of another source.
I see from another perspective the great damage that imposes upon small children and youth.
By learning other investigation techniques without putting ones life at risk.
It gave me tools/skills and elements to keep in mind in situations.
In covering shootings and risky situations.
I would not say the incidents, but the risk in each incident, because of the techniques applied.
It diminished the possibility of incidents due to implementation of protective measures that had been taught to me in the course, but the reasons that would always provoke the incidents it's always present.
More or less. The tips given in the course are very interesting, but many of them are hard to use or inapplicable in the slum quarters because of geographical problems of the State of Rio. During our own training this was argued with the military and they had said that we have to receive training in the actual area of Rio.
Because I started to analyze more on the possible risks.
In risk areas I take care to not expose myself.
I find that caution reduces the probabilities of dangerous incidents.
Accurate prevention and bigger care when facing risky situations.

Since attending the workshop have you continued to report on the same subjects as before? If no...what changes have you made?
I have changed of sources.
In the editing we have tried to cover topics that have to do more with the day to day people before those with the day to day official sources.
Before, I used to dedicate myself to political issues but now I dedicate myself to social issues.
To apply the lessons received in the course.
An exhausting search on specific context and endorsing information is carried out first. Trustworthy and dependable sources are sought out as support in order to move around in a conflicting zone/area. A risk agenda and a critical agenda are outlined (Plan B) if things get out of control.
I do not talk about local drug trafficking and I only use official information, statements that politicians and public officials pour out; I very little use my personal opinion and information.
I now investigate more on drug trafficking and corruption.
I have greater coverage average outside my own city and in conflicting situations.
I no longer deal with compromising sources, I try not to accept calls from unidentified persons, I try not to go alone to the covering locations and if there are shots, I do not get too close to the area of conflict. I am always in contact with co-workers in editing and I inform them of what I am investigating.
My job no longer consists so much in reporting but in editing.
I cover the section on economy – its less risky.
To have greater criteria in the processing of news.
Presently, I am being kept working in a unit of magazines but I continue to contribute with jobs for investigation.
I have continued to report on the same issues, but now with more focus on criticism.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your involvement with IAPA or the workshop(s) you attended?
They should give scholarships to those colleagues which newspapers do not have the capacity to send them to these courses and to set a calendar of activities so that all informative media can comply with a minimum of teachings.
Thank you, continue with this.
Very complete seminar, very professional.
Truthfully, I liked this a great deal, more than liked it, I have been able to change the way in which I cover the news. I do not avoid exposing myself to obtain the image that I want, but I do it in a more safe way. I make entering and exiting plans, I move with a great deal of more caution. In my opinion the only thing missing from this course was an experienced journalist that would have had offered us a speech on going and coming, in order to remove journalistic doubts. I am very thankful to SIP for giving me the opportunity of taking the course.
The course to which I attended in Caecopaz had a great level – the instructors were highly professional. SIP and Caecopaz carried out a planned job, carefully prepared, very good and of vital importance. My only observation refers to the last class – the one on correspondent experience in conflict zones/areas: It did not satisfy me at all. I suspect that SIP was able (is within capacity of doing so) to take journalists that have really done coverage in hostile zones/areas or wars. The curious thing is that on the following day in the Book Fair of Buenos Aires there was a conference with real correspondents of war. Otherwise, my great gratitude and true satisfaction.
Only to thank you for the opportunity of getting to know the risks to which we expose ourselves to and how to prevent them.
They are a great aid to the region's journalists. SIP should give more options for communication in order for journalists to receive training on topics of interest and for them to be in accordance with its reality and contribute to their daily jobs.
I attended the course on war journalism. I would like to attend one on peace journalism.
Thank you for supporting these courses.
Yes, it was an extraordinary experience because I have attended courses called "War Correspondents", but did not pass from knowing something about weapons, military vehicles and theoretical classes, but without the psychological pressure that is experienced in real hostile situations. At the same time, the instructor's good level and efficiency in the exercises to avoid accidents and for it to have happened as such, they were prepared to act immediately. I really appreciate this training a great deal and I wish that you continue to do so because of the importance that this has for

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your involvement with IAPA or the workshop(s) you attended?
journalists. As a matter of fact, on my return, I did an exposé for my colleagues at work, on what was learned and on the importance of always maintaining ones integrity. Thank you for everything.
I am very grateful for the courses that SIP found fit for me to participate in. They helped me get out of my daily confinement surrounded by policies and I was able to learn many things interacting with colleagues of other latitudes their daily experiences as journalists in hostile zones/areas and they helped me put in practice many ideas that made much safer my activity as a journalist in a zone/area full of dangers. Therefore I can only say that the courses from SIP are truly useful and I hope that many other colleagues have the opportunity to be trained/coached to improve their journalistic job.
That it really is a beneficial thing that needs to be multiplied. It would be of great use for me to participate in the following seminar on hostile situations coverage or in cases of confrontations. A thousand thanks to you.
It was an excellent experience, but it would be interesting to do a follow-up to those of us who have participated in the workshops. For example, this survey helps refresh what was learned in the course, therefore it would be good to do a 'maintenance check' of what was learned in the courses, with questionnaires and exercises that can easily be sent by e-mail. Thanks.
They have been fundamental for me and I know that they have been as well for many of the colleagues with whom I have shared those workshops with.
They are very useful.
Again my gratitude for the opportunity SIP offered, to the Peruvian Counsel, to Caecopaz and to the foundation for paying for the expenses. I would like for the courses to continue being offered for the benefit of other colleagues or for myself in investigative journalism. My work zone/area up in "Alto Huallaga" has been affected by 30 years of drug trafficking and terrorism.
They have been fundamental for me personally and for the group in general.
Yes. It is important to continue with the training for journalists, because sooner or later what was learned can be used.
That they continue performing them.
It would please me to be invited to another seminar - they are very productive and they fortify my job.
The course I attended in the CAECOPAZ has really been spectacular. The new knowledge that I acquired along with the advice that the instructors have given us, I know will help me out a great deal. They form part of a person's life experience, and that is very important.
That they have been excellent and that the success is owed, in great part, to Mister Ricardo Trotti's vocation and his team.
Yes, they have worked. From the very moment in which they make the journalist take notice of the risks, as well as of some strategies to reduce that danger. But it still exists among journalists, in many cases, an excess of confidence. Hopefully they will continue with the courses.
It is excellent to count on the support for the professional and personal development, that offers security and it permits us to know in what working conditions colleagues of other parts of the country and of the world work in.
Only to thank you for your contribution to the journalists security, for the tools/skills that they give us and by selecting, commissioning and in obtaining support from professional people, that besides their great commitment with their professional work during the training, they show an enormous human quality, respect and solidarity.
I would like to thank you for having participated in these courses because they open up our minds about the problems that we have upon covering the news. I believe that the work that you carry out to capacitate the journalists is great, especially in the case of northern Mexico where drug trafficking is a real threat for journalism.
Once again, thank you so much. What you give us is much more than training. Personally, you have helped me believe in myself, starting from being chosen at the newspaper to send me here, I learned things that surely I have already applied and will apply, and I got to know Argentina and many colleagues/journalists. Thanks again.
As journalist we wish that the workshops continue in order to be able to continue with our work in a secure and efficient manner.
The knowledge acquired in the workshop's course, is of preparation to act in difficult moments, or extreme circumstances, and it helps us to cover the day-to-day citizen security problems.
Even though I am not able to apply this due to my actual work, having participated in this seminar has been interesting for me.
They are a necessity. And, much more needed, in polarized countries like Venezuela.
To thank you for the invitation. It helped me to expand my panorama on how information in hostile situations should

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your involvement with IAPA or the workshop(s) you attended?
be covered.
It was an excellent opportunity to acquire additional training and at the same time it was also an opportunity to meet and tighten loops with colleagues. The seminar was very instructive and the classes were interesting.
The courses are very good for all the Latin-American journalists and much more so to the "Diario del Sur" Newspaper.
They are very useful since they make the journalistic risks real and they seem to be the only workshops or seminars on work in hostile zones/areas that are received in many medias, whether they are in writing and/or electronic.
I would like to participate in another seminar where one could dialogue with other journalists on how to go about and process disappearances cases of repression against journalists. How to handle the interior of a newspaper, the panic and the psychosis that generates the disappearance of a colleague, whom to go to in order to report this type of disappearances, etc.
They seem to me to be very interesting and helpful to improve and do our jobs better.
They are very interesting and I would like to attend all that I can.
It is a very interesting seminar due to the topics and the contact with other colleagues that permit us to share experiences.
It would be convenient to also carry out this seminar for journalists in hostile zones/areas in Spanish for those colleagues that do not dominate the English language.
Its existence alone, our prudence and other courses like yours will prevent us from making mistakes that might end up being the last we ever make.
The one that I attended was very fruitful.
I am thankful; I learned many lessons in real settings.
Thank you so much for the seminar in which I participated in.
The workshop on disasters was very interesting and useful, it was the max in the Miami case, the place in which it was carried out and where the subscriber lives in, location whipped annually by hurricanes and storms.
I believe that it is prudent and necessary to continue with these seminars.
It would be invaluable to find a way to mandate this course in Colombia - all journalists in my country should be prepared for covering hostile zones/areas.
I attended the seminar, celebrated in Woodstock, Virginia, when I was working as the publisher of the national section of the daily Dominican newspaper "El Caribe", but in actuality I work as an investigation editor in "CLAVE" magazine. My responses correspond to my new job.
First to congratulate you and give you recognition for the displayed effort. To expand the space so more colleagues are able to participate. To extend the interim to acquire more knowledge. To give more time for the practices of exercises and of the theory in general. To include more practical exercises. To ask the media for a more rigorous selection of participants that they send to these seminars and workshops in order to avoid infiltrations or leakage of delicate information.
More of these workshops should be organized in Ecuador.
I already said it in the corresponding evaluation, but it's worth while to emphasize the level of the course to which I attended, and the possibility of putting myself in contact with colleagues from all over the continent. The lessons acquired have helped me beyond the exercise of my profession. There was a personal change of attitude towards the determined routine facts. It is a very valuable training and that will not be wasted, beyond the point that some of us live in zones/areas that are not widely hostile.
Only to thank SIP and Caecopaz, because what I have learned has helped me including in the daily life of vehicle prone-accidents, for example – and really, without the support of the scholarship it would have not been possible for me to take the course of journalism in hostile environments, that helped me to understand the impossible, well at least for now. Hopefully you will maintain the effort, on my part; I will comply by sharing what has been learned with my co-workers. Thank you.
They are useful for the unfolding and development of the journalistic job.
They are very interesting and always leave a great deal to the participants.
That it has helped me a great deal in covering information. I now have more caution when covering information in dangerous zones/areas.
They have been very beneficial and we hope that they continue to give them since they are of great gain.
In regards to the seminar in Virginia, I was left pleasingly satisfied; due to the knowledge we received in general. However I did not feel completely identified with the settings, since I work in a neutral urban area, meaning, in the

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your involvement with IAPA or the workshop(s) you attended?
<p>city, we do not confront the type of problems as our Colombian brothers, for example, that they have the conflict of war in zones/areas of the jungle. Anyway, I found other interesting aspects, like first aid, the workshop on Human Rights Commissions and I remember the simulated shot attacks and the mine fields. Thank you for everything. When a colleague asks me about the course, I recommend it to him/her extensively. It is an interesting experience. Besides finding ourselves next to colleagues from other countries, it's more than exciting.</p>
<p>The date corresponds to the moment in which I left my previous newspaper, a great deal of what is written here does not apply to me, I do not drive, I do not use a car and I have not lived in Venezuela for more than a year now, I do not exercise journalism in the same way. My most recent experience was some intern work in the BBC of London because I reside there now. I hope this helps you.</p>
<p>No, all is well, thank you for inviting us, please do this again.</p>
<p>Excellent, a great learning experience for the journalists. They offer the adequate knowledge so that the journalists know how to act in a dangerous, difficult or conflicting situation. Hopefully you will continue to give these courses.</p>
<p>Only to thank you for the knowledge that you have transmitted to me so that I may know the real panorama that a journalist in any part of the world faces especially in places where organized crime attacks with greater frequency.</p>
<p>For them to continue to carry out this political training to journalists.</p>
<p>That they are invaluable experiences and that somehow they should change or adapt matters related to these serious liberty of expression abuses. In the universities, young people come out of there too 'light' they believe that being a journalist is to go to bars and they can consume wines for free or enter nightclubs without having to wait in line.</p>
<p>For them to continue with this work, congratulations and thank you.</p>
<p>It seemed to me like a great learning experience.</p>
<p>It was excellent</p>
<p>I wanted to clarify that many of the answers above do not apply directly to my activity, therefore for example, "to change of city" is not that I moved my residence, but is about how I constantly travel because of work... another point is about clothes, first-aid, etc., doesn't apply accurately to my work. We have in my office a bullet proof vest, helmet and masks against gases. We use taxis in confrontations with police. Under normal circumstances when we enter a poor area, the slum quarters, when covering the elections we don't have any problem because we clearly show our general intentions. I apply some of the ideas of the course of Journalism in Hostile Environments, exactly in areas where my security is threatened. I am conscious of my surroundings, and routes of escape in case of I need them. Pre-select photographic equipment - always and strictly what is necessary to facilitate the displacement, etc. In conditions of hostile environments, practically all ideas of the course are recollected, and or applied. I am here to help anytime the SIP in any possible form, aiming to extend the security measures to all our colleagues. I want to thank to the SIP for the chance of learning this, as I participated covering the war in Iraq in 2004, before the course, and I had some knowledge but what I was able to reinforce my knowledge.</p>
<p>The course was very good and I would very much like to participate in more workshops of the SIP, mainly about security for journalists. I believe that the newspaper directors would have to be more involved in this. Today in Rio de Janeiro there is a false sense of protection for journalists by using armored cars (that is not secure against certain weapons that are used by outlaws and policemen) and bullet proof vests (that harm more than they protect). But there is no training, rules, nor an evaluation of how professional journalism is.</p>
<p>For the participants of the course that had only lived this theoretically they could be led to some area of risk, to live the reality of the risks, but always with some expert guidance.</p>
<p>Thank you for the chance to participate in the workshop, and I suggest creating better communication strategies for the SIP, as well as new courses of genre. I am here to help.</p>
<p>I am interested in participating in a course of investigative journalism.</p>

Appendix C: Survey

INTER AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) Journalist Survey, July 2006



You participated in one of our seminars, workshops, or training courses over the past four years. We would like to know if anything has changed in the way you do your job since attending. Please take a few moments to complete this short survey and email it back to the research firm that is processing our data for us at accordpra@philliberresearch.com. Please remember that all survey data are confidential. All findings will only be published in aggregate form and we will not share your comments with anyone.

What is your name? _____

Email address: _____

What is the name of your newspaper or media company? _____

Today's date: month / day / year **Position:** _____

1. In what year(s) did you attend an IAPA workshop?
 2003 2004 2005 2006

2. What were the topics covered during the workshop(s) (✓ all that apply)?
 Hostile environments Reporting under risk
 Violence and gangs Covering disasters
 Drug trafficking Survival training
 Investigative reporting Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
 Security Other: _____

3. In what country are you a journalist?
 Argentina Ecuador Panama
 Bolivia El Salvador Paraguay
 Brazil Guatemala Peru
 Chile Honduras Puerto Rico
 Colombia Haiti Uruguay
 Costa Rica Mexico Venezuela
 Dominican Republic Nicaragua Other: _____

4. How long have you been a journalist?
 This is my first year 11 to 15 years
 1 to 5 years 16 to 20 years
 6 to 10 years more than 20 years

5. How useful would you say the IAPA workshop was to you as a journalist?
 very useful not very useful
 useful not useful at all

6. Because of your job, have you ever been (✓ all that apply)...
 coerced
 harassed
 threatened
 assaulted
 other: _____

7. Since participating in an IAPA workshop have you been (✓ all that apply)...
 coerced
 harassed
 threatened
 assaulted
 other: _____

8. As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed the way you report news?

- no
 yes...What have you changed? _____

9. As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed the way you do your job in general?

- no
 yes...What have you changed? _____

10. As a result of your participation in an IAPA workshop, have you changed your views of journalism problems?

- no
 yes...What views have you changed? _____

11. Do you feel that the training you received has resulted in fewer dangerous incidents for you?

- no
 yes
 Please explain: _____

12. Since attending the workshop have you continued to report on the same subjects as before?

- no...what changes have you made? _____

 yes

13. Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements...

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
When journalists get harassed or injured it is usually because of something they have done that was immoral or stupid.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is often smart to just not write or report on certain topics so as to stay out of danger.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Please tell us how often you do the following...

How often do you...	Very often	Often	Somewhat often	Hardly ever / never
Change sections of your newspaper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep your stories anonymous.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave your city for a while or move away.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use caller ID or voicemail on your personal telephone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When driving home, circle the entire block and turn your high beams on.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a bright light on in front of your house at night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change routes between work and home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop your vehicle in the same lane as motorcycles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carry identification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carry (keep) a list of telephone numbers and addresses of people you can trust wherever you are.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study a map before going to the place where you will be working, identifying hideouts or ideal places to tape/film without being seen or without becoming a target.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designate a person to be your support contact who knows where you are going, the expected return date and who knows whom to contact in case of emergency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How often do you...	Very often	Often	Somewhat often	Hardly ever / never
Carry a weapon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Point with your finger when on assignment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust strangers when on assignment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take into account that stories in remote places far from authorities or medical services carry a greater risk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report on stories long-distance instead of going to the actual story location.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark your vehicle clearly with the word PRESS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Move around in police vehicles or rental vehicles that resemble police vehicles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Avoid checkpoints.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open maps in public.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep your vehicle dirty from trips.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carry a white handkerchief.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change hotels when you are on assignment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dress according to the circumstances to blend in with the people and not stand out.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wear olive green colored clothing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carry a basic first-aid kit when on assignment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Does your newspaper or media company have a strategy in place to protect its staff?

- no
 yes

16. Does your newspaper or media company have safety measures at its headquarters and other locations?

- no
 yes

17. Are receptionists at your newspaper or media company trained to prevent unknown individuals from entering?

- no
 yes

18. Please tell us how often your newspaper or media company does the following...

How often does your newspaper or media company...	Very often	Often	Somewhat often	Hardly ever / never
Send amateur journalists alone to cover hostile environments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor those entering/leaving the building with hidden cameras.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rotate journalists assigned to hostile issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publish attacks and threats against journalists and press freedom that affect other newspapers or media outlets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your involvement with IAPA or the workshop(s) you attended?

Thank you so much!!