

Annual report 2011



COPENHAGEN 2012

International Media Support (IMS) is a non-profit organisation working to support local media in countries affected by armed conflict, human insecurity and political transition. In more than 50 countries worldwide, IMS helps to strengthen professional journalism and ensure that media can operate in challenging circumstances.

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Cover photo: Demonstrations on the streets of Cairo, February 2011. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

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ABBREVIATIONS



A woman uses her mobile phone to take a photo of demonstrations in Cairo, February 2011. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS



Persistency and a wide-ranging, long-term commitment to engage with and stand up for those who want reform is a precondition for any durability of the transitions that have been initiated globally.

2011

FOREWORD

2011 has been a year marked by whirlwind developments in the world of media. Revolutions swept through the Arab world and political reform was initiated in Myanmar and South Sudan, providing a window of opportunity for press freedom. These developments were seriously counterbalanced by the notable decline in the situation of media in Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, as well as the Americas and Sub-Saharan Africa.

IMS' strategic approach to media development in countries undergoing transition continues to be that of a holistic media sector approach. This is done in close partnership with other international and national media organisations. All building blocks of the media sector must be addressed to achieve a sustainable foundation for free and independent media – from media laws that protect the rights of journalists to strong national journalist associations to the professionalisation of media. Each of these parts must function well to promote and support democratic development and good governance.

Building on eight years of experience and credibility gained amongst long-term partners in the region, IMS was quick to respond to the immediate needs of media in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia following the uprisings. In Egypt, supporting the building of a National Coalition for Media Freedom consisting of media and civil society workers who provided input to the new media laws, was a natural priority for IMS. This was a deliberate strategic choice to align our work with national efforts and to ensure national ownership.

Our partnerships with likeminded international and national organisations to support media around the world were vital to addressing the new situation of media in these transitional countries. In October 2011, within days of Colonel Gadaffi's death, IMS co-organised a mission to Libya with Arab and international media support organisations to assess the needs and priorities of the country's media. The mission set the scene for greater coordination and harmonisation of international efforts for media in the country.

In Bahrain and Syria where the situation turned from bad to worse in the course of 2011, IMS chose to mount strategic campaigns together with other international partner organisations to provide safety for journalists and advocate for the release of media and human rights defenders. Persistency and a wide-ranging, long-term commitment to engage with and stand up for those who want reform is a precondition for any durability of the transitions that have been initiated globally.

While the optimism that followed in the wake of the Arab uprisings in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt is somewhat on hold as people wait for real change to happen, the message of media professionals is clear. There is no turning back.



Jesper Højberg, Executive Director of IMS. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

In Myanmar in 2011, the government set in motion a number of democratic changes including a media law reform. In response to the positive developments in Myanmar, IMS carried out a broad analysis of the country's media sector. IMS is now working with the Myanmar media community, government and other international media support organisations to help shape the future of media development in Myanmar.

The work to feed the ongoing media reform process in the country will include interlocking parts such as the training of civil servants and journalists in media law, strengthening the media infrastructure by increasing access to information in the rural areas of the country, and improving journalists' skills – in other words, a holistic media sector approach. Training and education of journalists is admirable, but without media laws that protect the rights of journalists, and allow them to practice their skills, training has little impact.

Our global work on investigative journalism to strengthen media's role as a watchdog of power holders in society went from strength to strength in 2011. We now observe that this particularly important form of critical journalism has boomed following the Arab uprisings. The strong interest in using journalism as a tool to hold governments and power holders accountable, was mirrored by the participation of hundreds of investigative journalists in the IMS-supported Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) Conference in Amman, and the Global Conference on Investigative Journalism in Kyiv, Ukraine. In our 10 years of existence we have supported more than 600 journalistic investigations that have uncovered corruption and fraud and led to the ousting of presidents and correcting of malpractices.

In this year of IMS' tenth anniversary, I am proud to say that our ability to respond quickly to emergencies, our perseverance on partnerships with local and international organisations and a continued focus on the importance of building national coalitions for local ownership and unity in the countries we work in, has enjoyed global resonance and affected developments in these countries.

But it is our partners in the countries in which we work that have courageously made change happen, sometimes putting their lives at risk. These media workers have continued their crucial work in 2011 to impart information to their societies and provide platforms for debate, while serving as an inspiration to the rest of us.

Jesper Højberg

IMS Executive Director

10 YEARS OF MEDIA SUPPORT AROUND THE WORLD

2011 marked the 10-year anniversary of IMS. IMS was set up in 2001 in the wake of the tragic events in Rwanda and the Balkans where media was being manipulated and used as a tool to fuel violent conflict. IMS now works to support media in over 50 countries marred by conflict, political transition and human insecurity.

Responding rapidly to journalists in need and working in partnership with national and international media organisations is at the heart of our approach to media development. We believe that all areas of the media sector must be addressed to achieve a sustainable foundation for independent media – from media law reform to the building of journalist associations, and practical journalism skills training.

Over the years IMS has worked with thousands of journalists and media workers in more than 70 countries:

- Training journalists in safety procedures and conflict sensitive journalism in countries like Afghanistan, Philippines and DR Congo. In Afghanistan, more than 600 journalists have received training since 2008.
- Rapid response to needs of media in emergencies and conflict in countries like Haiti, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan.
- Over 10 years, nearly 600 investigations of corruption and misuse of power have been conducted through networks for investigative journalism around the world.
- Monitoring media coverage of 18 elections in 12 countries to improve the quality of media content.
- Broadcasting life-saving information through local media to disaster-affected populations in Haiti and Somalia.
- 92 collaborations between Danish and Arab media workers established.
- Supporting over 75 documentary films including several award-winning productions.
- Developing new approaches to international partnerships and coordination in media development.

Hiti: Haiti's first fund for investigative journalism established to instil a culture of investigative reporting and provide junds for journalists

WHERE WE WORK 2011





An Egyptian voter shows off her finger dipped in ink, a method to prevent double-voting at the country's elections in November 2011. Photo: Michael Irving Jensen/IMS

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

2011 was the year of unexpected and radical change in the Middle East and North Africa. Media played a significant role in the process of change. The uprisings in the countries across the region marked a historic break with decades of authoritarian regimes. The use of new and social media by young people was central to uniting people in their call for political and social change.

In the immediate aftermath of the uprisings, media workers in countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Libya were suddenly faced with historic opportunities to utilise the media's full potential in the newfound space for media freedom. In other countries such as Bahrain, Yemen and Syria, persecution and harassment of media workers increased in the course of 2011. In Morocco and Jordan, the intensions to carry out political reform remained unfulfilled at the end of 2011.

The changing political environments in several MENA countries called for IMS to adopt a twopronged approach to media development – one focused on the needs of media in the immediate transition period following the uprisings and one with a more long-term development perspective which addresses the media sector as a whole. At the same time, IMS was able to apply its experience from other conflict zones when dealing with the volatile situation in Bahrain, Libya and Syria.

Middle East and North Africa

In 2011, IMS' work in MENA countries undergoing political transition such as Egypt and Tunisia aimed to address media reform opportunities, improve standards of journalism for media and provide support to media actors in danger. IMS also focused on creating partnerships amongst local and international media support organisations to ensure that ownership of the media development process was anchored in national organisations and that activities by international organisations were coordinated to the extent possible. This work was underscored by constant IMS staff presence in the three countries, enabling IMS to build closer relationships with partners and adjust activities to the constantly changing context.

IMS' eight years of experience and credibility gained amongst long-term partners in the MENA region meant that IMS was able respond rapidly to the needs of media in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.

In **Egypt**, IMS supported the creation of the National Coalition for Press Freedom which consists of 18 representatives of Egyptian human rights organisations and prominent journalists. The Coalition has provided input to the drafting of new



Tony Scott and Ida Ebbensgaard from Danish radio channel P3 broadcast live in November from the popular online station Horytna in Cairo covering Egypt's first free elections in three decades. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

laws regarding media, broadcast regulation and how to structure the media sector – and worked to influence constitutional decisions on freedom of speech. In addition to securing national ownership of changes instigated in the media sector, national alliances are key to supporting a country's media sector infrastructure.

In **Tunisia** IMS worked in cooperation with the country's regulatory reform body INRIC and the World Association of Community Radio Broad-casters (AMARC) to provide technical advice on radio licensing procedures to be included in the media law. The support to INRIC enabled them to contribute towards the revision of media legislation, concluded by the passing of new media laws in late 2011. Unfortunately, these have yet to be formally implemented.

The revolution in Tunisia in January 2011 made it possible to decentralise and diversify media to reach rural populations outside Tunis starved of locally oriented information. Together with AMARC, IMS organised six workshops for 140 young people on how to produce **community media** – media owned by communities, written by communities for their communities in order to increase access to information outside cities around Tunisia.

"Democratisation is not only to be able to elect a government," says Director of Radio Gafsa, Mr. Ben Hamad Zackair. "It is also to be able to read a newspaper or listen to the radio which talks about your city and your problems."

The IMS-supported Arab human rights and media network, **Arab Working Group for Media Monitoring**, monitored the Egyptian and Tunisian media's coverage of a range of social and political issues between July and December 2011



Printing press in Iraqi Kurdistan. Photo: Helle Wahlberg/IMS

Monitoring election coverage in the Tunisian newspapers in October 2011. Photo: Amirouche Nedjaa

in the run-up to the first free elections in both countries in decades. Monitoring the coverage of media in periods of political transition or elections is crucial as these are moments which can impact on a nation socially, politically and economically. The monitoring results were used to create a dialogue with media professionals on how to improve standards of journalism.

In **Libya**, IMS was one of the first media support organisations on the ground in the country's north-eastern city of Benghazi in the days following the city's liberation from long-time ruler Colonel Gadaffi. In 2011 IMS produced an overview of the existing and new media actors in north-east Libya to provide a platform from which to plan support to the media sector together with national and international partners.

IMS has trained more than 200 journalists in the role of media in democracy, conflict sensitive journalism, basic journalism skills, and advised on business models for media and radio programming in 2011. IMS worked with the radio station Shabab Libya FM on listener phone-in programmes, giving a voice to the people. IMS also advised the first independent TV station in Libya, Libya AlhurraTV, on the editing and production of news programmes.

Work on two media centres, one in Benghazi and one in the capital Tripoli is underway following an unprecented gathering of 65 media representatives from northern Libya in 2011 organised by IMS. The media centres will be an important contribution to the media infrastructure in Libya, offering facilities from which to work and providing journalists with basic skills training and advice on how to set up a media business. In **Bahrain**, crackdowns by authorities on media workers and freedom of expression actors prompted IMS to engage in an advocacy campaign with international partner organisations throughout 2011 which caught the attention of Western governments.

Following the life sentence of long-term IMS partner, Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja for allegedly instigating anti-government protests, IMS participated in an international fact-finding mission to Bahrain in November 2011 that documented the human rights breaches by authorities. The report was shared widely with international media and power holders.

In Iraq, internal strife between different political and religious groups has impacted heavily on the freedom, safety, and financial viability of the media. IMS' approach has therefore been to unite media workers from different parts of the country around shared interests with an underlying conflict-resolution dimension. Working with a group of 11 media outlets from varying political and religious backgrounds, IMS provided training workshops in media business management, looking at ways to restructure their organisations and use advertisement and online presence for financial sustainability. The independent Hawlati newspaper in Kurdistan is now establishing a distribution company which will offer special deals to other newspapers in the region.

In 2011 new **technology and social media** showed its potential to unite citizens across countries, gender, religious and political affiliations in the Arab region.



POST-GADAFFI: "NOW WE CAN SPEAK"

Launched in April 2011 by a group of enthusiastic young people, Radio Shabab Libya FM was one of the first radio stations to operate out of north-eastern Libya in Benghazi following the city's liberation from Gadaffi.

The radio was one of the first stations to broadcast listener phone-ins as a result of digital voice recorders and a telephone hybrid provided by IMS. This equipment enabled the station to open its phone lines to the public.

Since then, the station's popular phone-in programmes have provided citizens with a chance to voice their opinions freely. "A first experience for many," says Mr. Yassid, one of the two young founders of the radio station:

"When we opened our phone line we discovered we had a lot of very enthusiastic listeners. The phone wouldn't stop ringing. We try to give all of them – officials, the political opposition, and ordinary people on the street – a chance to express themselves in our programmes.

"Before the fall of Gadaffi nobody could say anything critical about him or his regime. If they did, they would be killed. But now we can voice our opinions and ideas freely. Now people can speak, and we can know what they really think – we can now know the truth," says Mr. Yassid In Iraq, IMS was behind an initiative to establish the first **Social Media Network in Iraq**, which unites bloggers in the Kurdish north and Arab south of the country. The network which already has bloggers connecting on its website throughout the country and in the Arab region, encourages young activists to share experiences and broaden the country's online platform for social and political debate.

At the Egyptian newspaper Al Masry Al Youm (AMAY), IMS trained and equipped the newspaper's staff with mobile phones to employ **Mobile Journalism (MOJO)** during elections in November 2011. The mobile phone application allowed the reporter to package photos, sound, footage and text in one file and send it to their editor for quick uploading on the newspaper's website, speeding up the reporting process.

The growth of online journalism tools and techniques prompted IMS to partner the popular online Egyptian radio station Horytna with Danish national radio's afternoon show "Pressen på P3" (The Press on P3) for them to share knowledge and experience – an IMS process known as **Twinning.** Over a week, Pressen på P3 broadcast from Radio Horytna's facilities in Cairo during



Billboard in Benghazi, Libya, May 2011. Photo: Michael Irving Jensen/IMS

Protests in Tunisia, February 2011. Photo: Michael Irving Jensen/IMS

FOLLOWING THE MONEY TRAIL

Corruption, illegal money transactions and offshore bank accounts in Geneva and the Virgin Islands.

The dubious business practices of oil and gas tycoon Hussein Salem came under close scrutiny by two Egyptian journalists in 2011 following a course in investigating corruption and illegal money trails organised by the IMS-supported Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ).

"Nobody knew where Hussein Salem's money came from or how he transferred it out of Egypt," says Ali Zalat who together with his colleague Abdulrahman Salabi from the Egyptian newspaper Al Masry Al Youm investigated the wealth of the tycoon who was also an ally and advisor to former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.

"After months of investigating, we found a lot of corruption and illegal deals involving money under the table. Before our country's revolution we could never have investigated high-level corruption like this."

Described as one of the most secretive businessmen in Egypt and owner of a network of companies inside and outside Egypt, Hussein Salem was detained in his house on Mallorca in June. Ali Zalat and Abdulrahman Salabi's investigation is now being used in the public prosecutor's case against him. Demonstrations in Bahrain, March 2011. Photo: Al Jazeera English (CC BY-SA 2.0)

the Egyptian elections in November 2011 reaching their young population segment in Denmark with news from a part of the world their listeners would usually not tune into.

In a bid to strengthen the position and visibility of female journalists in **Morocco**, a group of nine Moroccan female journalists and bloggers working for both independent and state media were partnered with the Danish network of female journalists, K2. Eight months after the two groups met, the women established a network for female journalists in Morocco, the Réseau des Femmes Journalists, which addresses issues of concern to female journalists.

IMS' support for **documentary filmmaking** in the MENA region through the training and partnering of young Danish and Arab filmmakers was illustrated at the Copenhagen Film Festival CPH:DOX in November 2011, where IMSsupported documentaries from MENA countries were screened under the heading Free Radicals. Through collaboration between The National Film School of Denmark, Screen Institute Beirut and Tehran Film School, six short films were produced, and screened at film festivals in Denmark and the Middle East.

THE FORGOTTEN REVOLUTION

Set inside Bahrain's Salmaniya hospital, the documentary film "Shouting in the dark" details the desperate situation of the Bahraini people in the spring of 2011. Screened at the Copenhagen documentary film festival CPH:DOX in November as part of a programme on the Arab revolutions organised by IMS, the film gave visual proof of the Bahraini government's ruthless oppression of its own people.

The lifetime imprisonment of IMS' longtime partner Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja in June served as a prime example of the crackdowns on media, human rights defenders and civilians in Bahrain. Together with a number of other international organisations, IMS campaigned for the release of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja in 2011. Despite some international attention to Al-Khawaja's case and his hunger strike in early 2012, the Bahraini regime remained intransigent and continued the crack-down on its people.



A female radio presenter in Afghanistan. Photo: Lars Schmidt

ASIA, AFRICA & LATIN AMERICA

The independence of Africa's newest country South Sudan and the intensification of a democratic reform process in Myanmar were two significant highlights for press freedom in Africa and Asia in 2011 where the overall situation of press freedom deteriorated. In Latin America, the safety of journalists also took a turn for the worse.

IMS' work on the three continents in 2011 was characterised by a cross-cutting focus on the professionalisation and safety of journalists to improve the freedom and working environment of media. This was done in close partnership with local, national and international media support organisations. IMS' media safety mechanism continued to broaden in scope in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Philippines in 2011, a methodology which IMS also applied in the MENA region following the Arab uprisings. In countries such as Myanmar and South Sudan, in the midst of political transition, IMS is looking to address new media reform opportunities, standards of journalism and access to media in a broad media sector approach.

Africa

South Sudan became the world's newest nation in July 2011. Citizens were given the opportunity to vote for secession from the north in January 2011 and the Southern Sudanese media had the crucial task of enabling voters to make informed choices through objective and fair media coverage of the referendum.

IMS-supported media mentors thus fanned out across northern and Southern Sudan in early January 2011 at media houses such as Liberty FM and Spirit FM to train more than 150 journalists and editors in a nation-wide journalist mentoring programme that provided editorial training and aimed to improve media content. Mentoring focussed on how to manage newsrooms, edit a news package and sound bites, interviewing techniques and how to report sensibly on sensitive issues. The mentorships carried out in alliance with the Sudan Media and Elections Consortium, resulted in strengthened media coverage up to and after the referendum.

The safety and freedom with which media in South Sudan could operate was also given a boost through dialogue meetings between media and security forces who have a difficult relationship. At these meetings, guidelines for how to deal with one another were discussed to establish mutual understanding.

While a new country was born with South Sudan, neighbouring **Somalia** and **Kenya** suffered



A media monitor at work during the Southern Sudan independence referendum, January 2011. Photo: Brigitte Sins/IMS

the worst drought and famine in years. Together with Internews and other partners, IMS carried out interviews with 600 refugees using smartphone-based surveys that looked at the access to life-saving information for displaced Somalis in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya. The survey results revealed a serious information gap between the humanitarian aid sector and the refugees in communicating vital details about where to register upon arrival, where to access basic health services and how to locate missing relatives.

"Lack of humanitarian, life-saving information can add to the suffering of people whose lives are already a daily struggle for survival. Humanitarian information should be an integral part of any humanitarian intervention," says Finn Rasmussen, Head of IMS' Africa and Latin America programme.

To meet the needs for life-saving, **humanitarian information**, IMS is supporting the set-up of a local branch of the Nairobi-based Somali Star FM



Waiting to vote at the Southern Sudan independence referendum, January 2011. Photo: Brigitte Sins/IMS

radio inside the Dadaab refugee camps. Parallel to this effort, Radio Ergo, a radio service run by IMS Productions Aps, carries a daily broadcast on humanitarian issues such as immunisations, health and hygiene for the Somali population. The programmes are popular and are rebroadcast by 11 partner radio stations daily.

Latin America

In **Haiti** where IMS also took part in strengthening communication between humanitarian organisations, authorities and the disaster-affected public after the devastating earthquake in January 2010, Haiti's Journalism Union opened two regional press centres in 2011 in Petit Goave and Jacmel with the support of IMS. The centres have become an important contribution to the media infrastructure in the country, providing much-needed facilities and a meeting space for journalists.

Asia

In 2011, IMS continued its work in **Afghanistan** to ensure a safer and freer environment for journalists working in conflict. The core of IMS' work in Afghanistan has been an extensive roll-out of our country-wide, broad-based **media safety mechanism**. This package includes a monitoring unit run by MediaWatch that collects data on



violations against journalists around the country; a 24-hour telephone hotline system for journalists; a Safety Committee Action Team consisting of Afghan media organisations that makes decisions on how to react on individual cases reported through the hotline; safety houses in undisclosed locations that function as safe havens for persecuted journalists; and a safety fund for journalists.

The Danish Union of Journalists' Safety Fund managed by IMS which helps journalists in emergencies with legal support, medical aid or short term placements in safe locations assisted three Afghan journalists under threat in 2011.

REPORTING FROM THE WORST FAMINE IN DECADES



"We left after our animals died during the drought and our farmlands dried up. There was nothing left for us at home and I had nothing to feed my children."

Alongside tens of thousands of other Somalis, Fatuma Ahmed Ali was forced to leave her home in search of food when the Horn of Africa saw one of the worst humanitarian crises in decades. Over the summer and fall of 2011 the region's severe drought and famine left hundreds of thousands of people in Somalia and its neighbouring countries in dire need of reliable information on how to cope with the disastrous consequences of the crisis.

The humanitarian radio service Radio Ergo, supported by IMS Productions Aps, works to meet this need through daily one-hour broadcasts on health issues, livestock and farming tips and other topics.

With a network of professionally trained Somali correspondents on the ground across Somalia, Radio Ergo plays a role in providing Somalis in even the most remote conflict-stricken areas a voice and receive quality information.

Radio Ergo, Internews, IMS and partners also carried out a large-scale survey of the needs for humanitarian information on issues such as where to get medical help, and where to register upon arrival in the refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya. The survey (pictured) found a major communications gap between humanitarian organisations and the population they seek to help, hampering aid efforts.

SAFETY FUND HELPS JOURNALISTS IN DISTRESS

A female independent radio journalist in Latin America had been investigating a story for a local radio about a new mayor that had ties to drug-related organised crime groups. In a region where drug lords set the agenda, she became a walking target – and the reaction to her investigation was immediate. An assassin was sent to kill her, but in an improbable coincidence she found that she knew her assassin. He took mercy on her and warned her of what was coming. This allowed her to take measures to protect herself through the support of funds provided by the IMS-managed Danish Union of Journalists' Safety Fund.

The safety of journalists is essential to enabling journalists to work freely and independently. In October 2011, IMS' portfolio of safety and protection work for journalists around the world was boosted by taking on the management of the Danish Union of Journalists' Safety Fund consisting of donations made by the union's members in solidarity with their international colleagues under threat. The assistance covers urgent legal and medical help, evacuation and temporary placements, and support to families of victimised journalists. More than 80 Afghan journalists from 11 provinces took part in IMS' safety and protection training in 2011. In a comprehensive approach that surpasses basic first aid education, journalists were introduced to conflict sensitive journalism – how words and photos can be sensitised to avoid exacerbating conflict – and to ethical practices in journalism. The more than 600 journalists safety-trained by IMS since 2008, now carry out risk analyses prior to venturing out into dangerous territory and carry safety kits. An estimated 70 per cent of journalists in Afghanistan are now also aware of the safety hotline system available to them.

In neighbouring **Pakistan**, one of the most volatile regions for journalists is along the border to Afghanistan where there is a marked information vacuum. A history of conflict and the influence of religious extremist groups working along the border between the two countries creates an insecure environment. IMS has thus sought to bring together and create dialogue between Pakistani and Afghan journalists in a bid to promote the media's role in stimulating peaceful relations between the two countries.

In February 2011, IMS gathered media practitioners from Pakistan and Afghanistan at a conference organised with partners Intermedia Pakistan, Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Redr Pakistan and The Killid Group. The conference resulted in the establishment of an advisory board which will focus on joint initiatives between media houses from both countries.



Afghan newspapers. Photo: Lars Schmidt

Radio Ergo editor Abdulkadir Mursal, June 2011. Photo: Radio Ergo

Myanmarese newspapers welcoming US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, November 2011. Photo: Lars Bestle/IMS



A young man reading the sports news in Myanmar. Photo: Lars Bestle/IMS

In Pakistan, IMS has conducted safety training for news editors and managers which resulted in the adoption of a standard safety protocol distributed to key media outlets. In a bid to assist journalists in distress, IMS was also party to establishing the Pakistan Journalism Safety Fund which is locally managed in Pakistan. The Fund is a means by which to assist journalists who feel threatened, need legal assistance or need to flee the country due to their profession. This is the first of its kind established in Pakistan with the inclusion of unions, press clubs and civil society activists.

In **China**, where authorities in 2011 increased their control of both old and new sources of information, social media such as microblogs – the local version of Twitter – played an increasingly important role as a supplement to official news. To remain relevant, the mainstream media saw an increased need to enhance the quality of journalism; an area which IMS works on in partnership with a leading publishing house and universities by organising courses for journalists that include tools for professional reporting on the web.

The democratic reforms which took speed in **Myanmar** in 2011 when a civilian government took over after 50 years of military rule, constitute one of the main gains for press freedom in Asia in 2011. Motivated by promises of new media laws underway by the new civilian government, the release of political prisoners, increased space for the political opposition to operate and an easing of censorship, IMS carried out an analysis of the country's media landscape to provide a framework for future media development.

The analysis demonstrated a gap in support for Myanmar's rapidly growing media sector in areas such as skills development, professionalisation of the new generation of journalists, and access to information for the larger public. Sharing international experience in the field of media legislation with Myanmar officials and local media actors will be equally important to the media law reform process in the country.

In partnership with local media, the government and international media development organisations in Myanmar, IMS is working to ensure that activities to support media are well-coordinated, timely and effective. In a broad approach to the Myanmar media sector, IMS' focus in 2012 will be on strengthening the media law reform process, increasing access to media in rural areas and improving journalism skills to build media that can support the country's democratic process.



A cameraman wearing a safety vest in Azerbaijan provided by the IMS-supported Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety. Photo: IRFS

EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS & CENTRAL ASIA

F or media in countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, 2011 was characterised by a notable downturn in press freedom. Media in Belarus, Azerbaijan and Ukraine saw a tightening of state control of both traditional and online media which increased self-censorship. New laws were introduced that restricted media freedom and there was an increase in the persecution and harassment of independent journalists.

While media in the Central Asian country of Kyrgyzstan struggled to find their feet in a volatile political transition period following ethnic conflict in 2010, authorities in Tajikistan tightened their hold of media, leaving little space for independent media to maneuver. A common factor in both countries was the "self-censorship for self-preservation" that prevailed amongst media and a severe financial crisis facing all non-state media outlets.

IMS' approach in countries where the political context severely narrows the scope for supporting media has thus been to work in close partnership with likeminded local and international organisations in selected areas such as media law reform, strengthening local media institutions and associations, supporting media, civil society and youth initiatives, and using new ICT and digital media options to enhance freedom of speech and access to information.

Caucasus

In Azerbaijan, where press freedom and the safety of journalists saw a notable decline in 2011, the vital role of the IMS-supported Azerbaijan Media Center (AMC) as a neutral platform for civil society and public debates became increasingly evident. In 2011 the center, now run in partnership with Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, hosted an array of training sessions for Azerbaijani journalists and editors in investigative journalism, photography, social media and business journalism. 15 live debates took place via Internet TV on issues related to freedom of speech. The center is an important contribution to the media infrastructure in Azerbaijan, uniting civil society and media which both have strong roles to play in educating and informing society.

Young people in Azerbaijan have also found a voice in the center. The launch of the Voice of Youth Radio project saw 10 young people trained in traditional and new media and resulted in the production of 35 radio programmes for young people. A part of the Azerbaijan Media Center will be dedicated to an Azerbaijan Youth Media Center from spring 2012 to provide a space for young



Aspiring Azerbaijani journalists. Photo: Andreas Sugar/IMS

people to produce multimedia materials on important social, economic, and political issues.

However, without a secure environment for journalists to work, there is little opportunity to make use of new-won journalistic skills. In response to a rise in threats and attacks on journalists, the IMS-supported Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety introduced a 24hour telephone hotline for journalists who feel threatened and who are in need of advice and support. This has been supplemented with the training of 25 journalists, rights defenders and youth activists in online security.

Eastern Europe

In **Belarus**, 2011 was the year in which the authorities proclaimed "a war against independent media", according to IMS' media partners in the country. Demonstrations that started against the regime in December 2010 following presidential elections, led to more than 3500 arrests of which more than 100 were journalists. However, independent media news websites experienced a 150-200 per cent rise in audience views in the course of 2011 (source: BAJ), indicating a public demand for non-state-driven news. Through its partner in spirit, the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ), IMS has monitored the situation of freedom of information in the country.

A joint report titled "No Justice for Journalists in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine" released by IMS and Article 19 in June 2011 documents the disappearances and killings of journalists in the three countries in the last decade and the lack of government action to investigate these. The report includes case studies of violence against journalists in the region and recommendations on how to combat impunity.



Launch of the report "No Justice for Journalists in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia". Photo: George Torode/Article 19

In **Ukraine**, in spite of an increasingly restrictive environment, the year began on a positive note with parliament's adoption of the Law on Access to Public Information in January 2011 following a 2.5-year advocacy campaign by Ukrainian civil society, IMS and other international organisations. The law will ease the work of journalists and media, securing them the right to access requested information within a reasonable timeframe. To raise awareness of the law, 50 lawyers and civic activists trained by IMS to pass on their knowledge of the law went on to educate 210 media workers, civil society and local government officials from six regions in Ukraine in how to understand and apply the new law.

As Ukraine moves away from analogue signals, many popular regional TV and radio broadcasters are left without a digital license. Held in September 2011, the IMS-supported Forum for Digital Broadcasting provided a vital platform for civil society to get involved in the digitalisation reform process and for over a hundred experts and analysts to discuss Ukraine's leap from analogue to digital broadcasting. Although the final cut-off date for analogue signals is not until 2015 many private broadcasters have yet to receive broadcasting licenses. Without broadcasting licenses, some regions could be left with only state media coverage of the country's presidential elections in 2015.

Central Asia

In 2011, **Kyrgyzstan** continued to struggle with the consequences of the June 2010 violence that erupted between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in the country's south, killing hundreds. While the climate for freedom of media generally improved in 2011, the struggle for control of media by power holders and the safety of journalists, especially of Uzbek origin, remained major challenges for media in the country. The conflict also left an information vacuum in the southern part of the country which persisted throughout 2011.

Strong institutions fighting for the rights of journalists are key to a strong media sector infrastructure. To strengthen the position of the Public Association of Journalists (PAJ), one of Kyrgyzstan's main journalist associations, IMS supported PAJ's leading role in media monitoring of election campaign coverage and the general news coverage of the big public broadcaster, NTRBC. PAJ's "terrorism and extremism website" (www.kgcentr.info), a platform on which journalists, researchers and other experts can debate sensitive political and social issues on a regional level, has also contributed to diffusing brewing conflict through dialogue.

A key role of media in post-conflict countries is to provide fair and balanced news to help bridge

UKRAINIAN MEDIA LAW STUDENTS LEARN TO DEFEND RIGHTS OF MEDIA

A team of ambitious media law students from Ukraine took part in the annual "Price Moot Court Competition" at Oxford University with IMS support to boost their skills in court. The contest challenges law students from around the world to compete in a series of simulated court proceedings on issues concerning the right to freedom of expression. The international exposure strengthens the lawyers' abilities to defend media actors in their home country.

Arguing fictive cases concerning online content filtering, national security and Internet privacy, Ukrainian law student Alina Sviderska of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, left the competition feeling inspired:

"The impact of this experience is simply priceless. The stirring topic of freedom of expression encourages us to conduct deep and productive research." She continued:

"The theme this year allowed us to re-consider and assess the situation in Ukraine and to develop our own vision of how to resolve current problems in the field of Internet regulation. While shaping our arguments for our case, we got to explore international practices of other countries in the protection of freedom of expression online. We are now much more ready and enthusiastic about our further involvement in media law and media development in our country."

The Ukrainian team made it to the quarter finals. This is the second time Ukrainian media lawyers take part in the Price Moot Court Competition, the only international contest for law students that focuses on media law.



The Ukrainian team at the 2011 Moot Court Competition. Photo: Alina Sviderska



International Media Law Summer School students. Photo: MLI



Newspaper stand in Kyrgyzstan. Photo: Jane Møller Larsen/IMS

the divide between population groups and fill the information gaps that follow in the wake of conflicts. Kloop Media Foundation in the capital Bishkek, a youth network of bloggers and webjournalists trained in fair and balanced journalism, is doing just this.

IMS encouraged Kloop's young, ambitious management to focus on **media convergence**, utilising its production of web news to start producing radio news for people of different ethnicities in their native languages. This project has resulted in the production of more than 80 radio news programmes in Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek. These have been broadcast by a number of national and regional radio stations throughout the country in 2011 dealing with topics such as elections, ethnic conflict and its victims. The programmes are also available on the Kloop website: radio.kloop.kg. In **Tajikistan**, the potential of engaging young people on the media scene is great with 50 per cent of the population under the age of 21. However, while the political situation is relatively stable, Tajikistan remains an authoritarian state where the authorities control all state and private media by means of economic or judicial pressure. In an **assessment of the media sector** carried out by IMS in 2011, no Tajik editors hesitated to characterise their editorial line as one of strict self-censorship.

"We can choose to survive and inform our audience on some of the important events in society or we can give the full picture and close down." Tajik editor in Chief.

At the end of 2011, IMS gradually started up its new activities in Tajikistan focusing on strengthen-

"NO JUSTICE FOR JOURNALISTS IN UKRAINE, BELARUS AND RUSSIA"

Covered in blood, his head cracked open, Ukrainian journalist Ihor Aleksandrov, was found in the offices of his independent television company Tor after unknown assailants had attacked him. A vocal critic of government corruption, Aleksandrov passed away, never regaining consciousness after the attack. Although members of a local criminal gang were convicted of Aleksandrov's murder, some of the highranking officials believed to be behind the killing were never held to account.

In Belarus, opposition activist and journalist Aleh Byabenin was found hanging from the staircase of his summerhouse outside of Minsk in 2010. Claiming Byabenin had committed suicide, the Belarusian authorities never opened a criminal investigation despite repeated calls from international organisations.

Alongside 20 similar cases, Aleksandrov and Baybenin's killings are detailed in the report "No Justice for Journalists in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia: Impunity and Killings of Journalist Go Hand in Hand", published in June by IMS and Article 19, and re-released in November on the first-ever International Day against Impunity. The report is available on http://bit.ly/JqczNd The report makes recommendations to the authorities in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, as well as to the international community, on the legal and political measures needed to protect journalists and defend the right to freedom of expression in these countries.



Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze murdered in 2000, has become a symbol of the fight against impunity. Photo: Jane Møller Larsen/IMS

ing the media sector infrastructure through support to NANSMIT, a Tajik media umbrella organisation that works with civil society and media outlets on media rights and professional ethics in the country. Through NANSMIT, the aim is to improve access of the mass media to reliable government information by promoting efficient interaction between press services of the government and the media.



Cameraman takes part in a training for Public Association of Journalists (PAJ) in Kyrgyzstan. Photo: PAJ

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Investigative journalism remains a cornerstone in IMS' work to improve the professional skills of journalists and enable media to act as a watchdog over the actions of governments and vested-interest groups. IMS' existing investigative journalism schemes that provide grants, training and networking opportunities for reporters in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, West Africa and the Arab region were joined by new initiatives in Iraq and Haiti in 2011.

In October 2011, IMS co-organised the hugely successful Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, with the participation of more than 500 journalists from 80 countries. The conference was an opportunity for journalists to network with their peers and spar on transnational investigations.

Scoop

Scoop, IMS' trademark investigative journalism grant scheme and network for journalists in 12 countries in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, run in cooperation with the Danish Association of Investigative Journalism (FUJ), became ever more relevant in 2011, as the situation of journalists in many of the Scoop programme countries took a turn for the worse.

140 investigations on issues such as corruption, pollution and human trafficking were published in Eastern and Southeastern Europe and Kyrgyzstan in 2011, sparking public debate or action from authorities. A Scoop-supported cross-border investigation between journalists in Croatia and Serbia revealed the existence of an unknown prisoner camp for Croatian prisoners located in South Serbia during the Balkan war. An awardwinning investigation from Romania revealed a network of child traffickers catering for foreign clients, amongst those an EU official.

Scoop Russia

In the Russian Federation as in other transition countries the media have substantial difficulties in meeting their central democratic role as a watchdog. These difficulties start with financially weak media, who have no resources for research, and end with the strong wishes of the authorities and other power holders to control the media.

With support from Scoop Russia, a grant scheme and journalism training programme for investigative reporting in Russia established in cooperation with FOJO, a media development institute in Sweden and the Danish Association of Investigative Journalism (FUJ), 27 investigations on issues such as corruption have been produced. Journalism training for Russian journalists has focused on the country's media law, how to gain access to information and how to structure an investigation.

Programme for African Investigative Reporting

In the streets of Togo, citizens can buy sachet water under the name of Pure Water. However, in 2011 a Togolese journalist in an investigation revealed that the water was contaminated.

The story of the dirty "Pure Water" is one of 66 investigations produced under the Programme for African Investigative Reporting (PAIR) run by IMS, FUJ and Media Foundation West Africa. PAIR provides grants and works to instill a culture of investigative journalism amongst journalists in five countries across West Africa. More than 40 investigations have been published in the region and has led to four cross-border collaborations on stories.

Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism

In the wake of the Arab uprising in 2011, investigative journalism has become increasingly vibrant, pushing the limits across the Arab world. As a direct result of the political changes in the MENA region, the IMS-supported Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) trained 20 Tunisian and Egyptian journalists under the theme "Follow the money trail", focusing on fact-based investigations dealing with corruption. One story to emerge off the back of the training was used in a trial against an ally of former President Mubarak. Investigative reports on issues such as medical malpractice and human trafficking were carried out in 2011.

Throughout 2011, ARIJ also worked to plan the set-up of investigative units in media houses in Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon. In December 2011, ARIJ hosted their annual conference in Amman with 230 journalists and editors participating from the MENA region discussing their role in the changing region.

Network for Iraqi Reporters for Investigative Journalism

In May 2011, the first network for investigative journalism in Iraq, NIRIJ, was founded with support



The Global Investigative Journalism Conference held in Kyiv, Ukraine in October 2011. Photo: GIJC

Recipients of the FIJH investigative journalism grants present their story ideas. Photo: John Bougher

During the former regime, journalism in Iraq was a mouthpiece of the system. Now as the country's security situation is stabilising, Iraqi journalists are beginning to carry out investigative journalism. Diovan Barwari, Iraqi journalist

from IMS. Despite an only recent history of investigative journalism in the country, Iraqi journalists were awarded first and second prizes for their stories at the ARIJ conference in Amman in December 2011. An Iraqi lawyer supports NIRIJ as a legal adviser prior to publishing any investigative story.

NIRIJ has begun collaboration with the Media College in Baghdad University to provide a semester on investigative journalism, and began publishing an investigative journalism magazine in early 2012.

Investigative journalism in Haiti

The IMS-founded Haiti Grassroots Watch, a consortium of grassroots media, was established in 2010 to investigate issues related to the use of aid money for reconstruction after the 2010 earthquake that shattered the country. In 2011, an investigation into a "cash for work" aid project run by Swiss CHF International, revealed malpractice and corruption, leading the organisation to change its practices. In December 2011, Haiti's first Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJH) replaced Haiti Grassroots Watch. The Fund seeks to instill a culture of quality investigative reporting amongst Haiti's journalists and to "jumpstart a public demand for accountability" in a way that holds government officials, aid agencies and others accountable. Seven journalists were working on investigations funded by the grant in spring 2012.



Award winners at the fourth annual ARIJ conference in Amman, December 2011. Photo: ARIJ



A workshop in Benghazi, Libya with local editors and journalists on media development organised by the International Partnerships Mission to Libya. Photo: Jesper Højberg/IMS

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The promotion of a coordinated and strategic approach to media development on a global scale through partnerships between likeminded international and national media support organisations took another step forward in 2011. Since the first International Partnerships Meeting was held in Copenhagen in 2009, more than 40 organisations are now part of a network of organisations that works to coordinate activities and share information where possible.

Spurred on by the developments in the Arab world, international partnership missions to Libya and Bahrain were carried out to find ways of supporting media in the midst of turmoil and political transition.

Within days of the death of Colonel Gadaffi in **Libya** in October 2011, a delegation of 13 Arab and international media support organisations visited the cities of Benghazi and Tripoli to look at ways of coordinating and optimising their ex-

pertise and collective impact in support of Libyan media and its role in supporting an upcoming democratic process.

The delegation met with local media, held open stakeholder meetings and conducted workshops with Libyan media practitioners to find ways of supporting the many young and energetic media workers who were struggling to live up to international standards of media professionalism after 43 years of dictatorial rule.

Countervailing these positive developments was **Bahrain**, where a group of international media organisations visited the country on a fact-finding and advocacy mission in November 2011. The mission highlighted breaches of human rights and the government's broken promises of political reform following demonstrations in the country.

The mission members released the report "Justice Denied in Bahrain: Freedom of Expression



The International Partnerships mission to Bahrain meets with human rights activists Zaynab Al-Khawaja (third from left) and Nabeel Rajab (fourth from left). Photo: Adam Shapiro

In the middle of the successive events that occur in the region we must not lose sight of the Bahraini people's plight.

Mina Mamdouh, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, member of the Bahrain partnership mission

and Assembly Curtailed" detailing cases of assault and failures of the government to deliver on promises of reform. The report received widespread attention in media and was part of a long-standing advocacy campaign for the release of media and human rights defenders jailed unlawfully in the country.

In **Bhutan**, a unique media development partnership between the Bhutanese government, IMS, UNDP and UNESCO resulted in a joint assessment of Bhutan's media landscape looking at opportunities and challenges in the Bhutanese media sector. With progress in the area of media law following the country's elections in 2008, the assessment was a first coordinated step towards furthering the country's increasingly pluralistic media sector in a concerted manner.

The assessment identified a need for skillsbuilding of journalists while also supporting the establishment of unions and professional associations for providing a means of self-regulation through codes of ethics for the media.

In **Zimbabwe**, the annual tradition of stakeholder meetings gathering national and international media partners who share a joint media development strategy, continued.

The unique constellation of national and international media and media support organisations, as well as diplomats from embassies whose countries have media support programmes in Zimbabwe, has led to a significant boost in coordination and a sense of shared direction for the development of media. This in turn has increased the overall funding for media organisations in the country.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2011

Funding

	DKK	%
 Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Danida 	55,900,899	58%
 Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Sida 	11,005,560	11%
 Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Norad 	17,554,613	18%
International Donors	12,200,230	13%
Total	96,661,302	100%



Expenditures

	DKK	%
Activities	86,498,758	90%
Administration	7,661,550	8%
Communications	2,127,471	2%
Development	373,523	0%
Total	96,661,302	100%



IMS activities broken down into clusters

All the building blocks of a media sector must be considered and analysed when supporting media in a given country; from the media legislation that ensures media freedom and a safe working environment for journalists, to journalist unions and associations, to infrastructure support such as print/ broadcast equipment, digital technology and capacity building of media institutions, to journalist education that ensures professional media content. Each of these depends on the other for success. These building blocks IMS has categorised into three clusters, broadly termed *Media Freedom*, *Media Infrastructure*, and *Media Content*. One cluster has been added for IMS activities that fall under the category of media sector assessments and for activities that fall within IMS' International Partnerships area.

Activities categorised according to clusters

Total	100%
4. Assessments & International Partnerships	5%
3. Media Content	43%
2. Media Infrastructure	16%
1. Media Freedom	36%



1. Activities in the Media Freedom Cluster

Safety and protection. Includes training in safety and protection for journa- lists, emergency assistance, and the establishment of safe houses, hotlines etc.	33%
Monitoring of media rights violations and advocacy. Monitoring of the situation for journalists who work under harsh legal restrictions and are harassed or otherwise attacked	25%
Media law reform. Advocating for legal reform and supporting the development of an adequate legal framework	10%
Journalist unions and professional associations. Support to the development and strengthening of unions and professional associations	32%

2. Activities in the Media Infrastructure Cluster

Media centres. Support to centres where journalists and media workers can host events, civil society debate, use advanced IT equipment and receive training	21%
Business management. Activities such as development of business plans and distribution systems	28%
Digital communications and technology. Includes support to online media outlets and the use of new technology such as mobile reporting tools	49%
Secure hosting. Includes hosting of websites and financial support to internet access for local media and media organisations	2%





3. Activities in the Media Content Cluster

Investigative journalism. Strengthening investigative journalism in Africa, the MENA region and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	30%
Journalistic skills training. Training in areas such as; the use of sources, how to remain critical and unbiased as a journalist and how to report on conflicts etc.	21%
Elections media coverage monitoring. Monitoring of local media's coverage of elections in the MENA region and Sudan	21%
Gender. Activities with a particular focus on women in the journalism profession	3%
Humanitarian information. Support to local media and training of media workers in covering humanitarian topics in Somalia and other countries	2%
Twinning. Sharing experiences and fostering cross cultural understanding between the Arab world and Denmark	2%
Documentary film-making and photography. Support to the production of documentary films and events such as Cairo Photo Marathon	1%
Strengthening radio programming. Includes support to the production of quality radio programming	20%

4. Activities: Assessments and International Partnerships

Media sector assessments. Pre-engagement assessments and base-line studies of media sector challenges in countries such as Iraq and Morocco	24%
International Partnerships. Activities such as international partnership missions, international and regional meetings to coordinate media support efforts	76%







Board of IMS 2011. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
AMAY	Al Masry Al Youm
АМС	Azerbaijan Media Center
ARIJ	Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism
BAJ	Belarusian Association of Journalists
FUH	Fund for Investigative Journalism in Haiti
FUJ	Foreningen for Undersøgende Journalistik
GIJC	Global Investigative Journalism Conference
IMS	International Media Support
IRFS	Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety
мојо	Mobile Journalim
NANSMIT	National Association of Independent Mass-Media in Tajikistan
NIRIJ	Network for Iraqi Reporters for Investigative Journalism
NIRIJ NTRBC	Network for Iraqi Reporters for Investigative Journalism National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation
NTRBC	National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation
NTRBC PAIR	National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation Programme for African Investigative Reporting
NTRBC PAIR PAJ	National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation Programme for African Investigative Reporting Public Association of Journalists
NTRBC PAIR PAJ PFUJ	National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation Programme for African Investigative Reporting Public Association of Journalists Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists



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Published in Denmark by IMS

IMS authors and editors: Helle Wahlberg & Andreas Reventlow Design and production: Nanette Graphic Design Print: Kolind Bogtrykkeri