**Rule of Law and How Best to Protect Journalists**

FMI World News

September 2022


Moderator: Emily Williams, Bloomberg Government; Panelists: Donald Gilliland, Contributions Editor, The Hill; Suzanne Spaulding, Senior Advisor, Homeland Security International Security Program, CSIS

Panelists discuss the ramifications of the phenomenon of fake news.

Williams: Certain types of misinformation have been part of news gathering since the news gathering began. I wonder how you see it changed, the evolution of misinformation. It seems that people now days tend to gravitate towards the “fake news”.

Gilliland: Significant change occurred in 20th century. Biggest challenge seems that people now-a-days tend to gravitate towards the “fake news”.

We must not lose our ability to argue. This is how we defeat the false narrative. So argue. ARGUE!

Moderator: Andra Simonyis, non-resident Senior Fellow–Atlantic Council; Panelists: Enric Andrés Simonyi, Managing Editor, ABA Newspaper; Željko Ivanović, President of the Board and former Editor-in-Chief, Vijesti.me, Montenegro

Incontro l’Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa went through many stages before they became the countries we know now. Arabs generally were not in control of power for the last thousand years—being controlled by many other nations. For most, their independence started only some 50-60 years ago. The West needs to understand and respect the culture and history of journalists in the Arab countries. Incontro the region is how the information is received. With social media, we are no longer dealing with real news sites or real news organizations. Social media is always active with political information led to you 24/7. A lot of people think that the See Fake News, p.2

**In Memoriam to Journalists Killed**

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Panelists: Shaun Waterman, Cybersecurity Correspondent, Newsweek; Tlnl Media Fellow, Panorama; Vanda Felbab-Brown, Director, Initiative on NATO Armed Actors/Clwc, Director, Africa Security Initiative, The Brookings Institution; Abdalmahmoud Fakoury, Al Jazeera, Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief; Jessica Jarrett, Press Freedom Editor, Voice of America; Elias León Muñoz, Executive Director, International Women’s Media Foundation

Moderator: Jen Judson, President, National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

According to the committee to protect journalists there have been 51 journalists killed around the world since the beginning of 2020. In 2020 there were 50 journalists and media workers killed and in 2021 there were 45 total. You may have noticed but we still 3 and a half months left in the year which shows me that journalists’ deaths are on the rise. The world is a little less safe for journalists than it was last year and the year before it.

LINK to full remarks by Jen Judson and stories of journalists killed in 2022.

**Rule of Law and How Best to Protect Journalists**

Panelists: Joel Starr, New York University; Panelists: Wael El Shaar, Middle East Eye Correspondent / Writer, TLN Senior Fellow; Hollie McKay, CEO Kyiv Independent (Ukraine), CEO Nacional (Croatia), CEO Nacional; Jennifer Griffin, Fox News, recipient of Tlnl Gold Medal for Public Service. (Additional photographs, page 4.)

National Security: There are also threats through the social media —used especially by the criminal groups. There is a great deal of self-censorship as journalists don’t want any longer to work on covering issues because of the threats. And what should sink in is that—in Mexico—there is 48% impunity for homicides—that is, out of 100 only 2 criminals are sentenced.

Muslin: We see the use of digital and online violence particularly against women journalists. There was ample research of salacious nature of internet and of the threats. And what should sink in is that—in Mexico—there is 48% impunity for homicides—that is, out of 100 only 2 criminals are sentenced.

Incontro there is a surprise by the naiveté of many concerning what is going on in the world, especially what goes on in the former communist countries. That said, Željko—I want to say this to you: nobody wanted to listen when we sound the alarm in Hungary. We were saying—you first See Democracy, p.6

JENNIFER GRiffin
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA INITIATIVE
WINS GOLD MEDAL

Moderator: Peter Roff, Newsweek Contributing Editor and Columnist, Tlnl Media Fellow; Panelists: Berislav Jelinić, CEO Nacional (Croatia), Daryn Shaheen-Shahidi, CEO Kyiv Independent (Ukraine), Anne-Elisabeth Moutet, Columnist, The Telegraph, Tlnl Media Fellow and Carl Szabo, Vice President of Public Affairs, NetChoice

Roff: American experience with news, which keeps a very stiff-arm from mainstream media in the government, and what the provider of information, is in contrast does not have the same kind of impact in the U.S. as online media is in Europe. The National Public Radio (NPR) and public broadcasting...
Fake News, from p1

Suzanne Spaulding

Spaulding: News on our digital platforms today has become a tool to manipulate, control, and spread disinformation. The ecosystem of today’s digital media world has become a tool to spread lies and manipulate. It is time to find our way to a better media system that is just for the good of American democracy.

Suzanne Spaulding is a former U.S. intelligence official and current member of The Atlantic Council. She was previously the Chief of Staff, Director of National Intelligence, and National Director of Counterintelligence.

Donald Gilliland

Gilliland: A real news organization will correct and fix mistakes and errors—propagandists don’t. You must bring your critical faculties every time you turn on the phone.

Donald Gilliland is a former journalist and media critic. He is President of the International Federation of Journalists and was a correspondent for the Washington Post and the New York Times.

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For distinguished reporting and writing that illuminates the actions of powerful institutions either positively or negatively impacting global peace and security.

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Next Generation Journalism Reporting

For younger journalists who are covering international conflicts, government corruption, or violation of human rights.

About the TLN Freedom of the Media Initiative

The TLN Gold Medal will be awarded to a foreign news organization or individual for a distinguished example of investigative reporting that exposes wrongdoing by government, corporate and public institutions.

For a younger journalist’s courageous accounting of sexual abuse, and loss of public trust in institutions.

Musałam: A real news organization will correct and fix mistakes and errors—propagandists don’t. You must bring your critical faculties every time you turn on the phone.

Musałam is a young journalist from Syria. By the way, there were widespread efforts to thwart their work by targeting their supporters who wish to bring attention to these stories.

For a younger journalist’s courageous accounting of sexual abuse, and loss of public trust in institutions.
Daryna Shevchenko

In Ukraine, people’s lives depend on what and how fast the social media platforms figure out—in a way, it is the nature of the beast. It’s how social media works, from basic functionality to advanced features. Despite the power of social media, there is no single platform that can monitor and control every aspect of its operation. The platforms are responsible for the content they host, but they also have legal obligations to protect users from harmful content. In the case of Ukraine, the situation is critical. Social media can be a powerful tool for spreading information, but it can also be used to spread misinformation and disinformation. It is essential to find a balance between freedom of speech and responsibility for content. Social media platforms must take proactive measures to prevent the spread of fake news and misinformation. At the same time, users must be aware of the risks associated with social media and use it responsibly. It is crucial to find a way to coexist with the internet service providers and the content producers; their survival is necessary if we want to maintain the ecosystem of media and social media. The challenge is to balance freedom of speech with responsibility for content, and it is up to us to find a solution.
Rule of Law, from p. 1
that these journalists are silenced. We take the approach that it is crucial for newsrooms to protect their journalists and their freelancers. We do recognize the difficulties the newsrooms are facing in addressing such issues and issues. I cannot overstate the scope of these attacks. The fact that the Washington Post journal would have to not only think about the story that is being written, make sure that she has taken everything offline at least a week before she reports it and then make sure she stays offline for two weeks after she reports it. Imagining being a jour- nalist that must remain three weeks offline because of writing about the extreme's groups in Montana, or wherever. De- spite those perceptions, she is still incredibly targeted and in danger. Latest I heard from her is that one of her stalkers went to the protest here in Washing- ton, D.C. asking people if any- one to the protest here in Washing- on about the extreme's groups weeks offline because of writ- ing in the Washington Post jour- nalists—they have moved to protect their jour- nalists—one it is in that the journalist who gets killed, it is first and foremost a blow to press freedom, and it is, but it is first and foremost a blow to the journalist who gets killed. If you blow a blow to their family as their lives and clear that their lives and official advocates when it is in providing the asylum process. It is particularly amongst the Middle Eastern youth. We all need to think about how far to protect journalists online. Back to the duty of care that newsrooms must protect their jour- nalists and not only journalists increasingly to security training and to training for online harassment. We have trained 27 news- rooms here and abroad (both big and small).—journalists do get hassled on the U.S. press whose freedom re- mains a very important value—journalists do get hassled and do get killed. It is very important to remember that. In the case of Shireen Abu Ahlek—we often hear that the killing of a journalist is a blow in press freedom and it is, but it is first and foremost a blow to the journalist who gets killed. A blow to their family as their lives got turned upside down forever and that's a huge problem for most of us who continue to be alive and en- ages in this profession. In the case of Shireen—if there's ever a silver lining in the killing of the journalist, one it is in that it has reminded us all of these other journalists we are now talking about—yet again. We all have in the U.S. and Mexico is a great case in point—how often do you hear about the people who are killed right across the border. Not ev- ery day, unfortunately, and the numbers of journalists killed there is staggering. For Shireen—it is this sus- pected-covered and sustained pressure put on the Israelis, put on the U.S. government, put on international public opinion has not remained and to continue to pay attention to the ap- peal of Shireen and I hope that for all of the tragedy of her killing, she will remain a symbol of the масс of journalists who get killed and we don't often hear about it. Press attention and press-coverance can lead to good things in terms of building pro- fessional accountability and dealing with the issue of impunity. The lawyers of Shireen's fam- ily have submitted the case to the International Criminal Court (ICC) (today), the Union of Palestinian Journalists have done the same, and we at Al Jazeera, our lawyers are preparing the case to submit it to ICC. We do not know if this would lead to the prosecution of that particular Israeli solder who killed Shireen but is that not stopping anyone from say- ing that we will continue to pursue it. Jerreat: We are in danger of normalizing something (attacks on the press) that should not be normalized. What struck me recently when speaking to the international legal team defending Jimmy Lai, a founder of Apple Daily in Hong Kong. In 2020, Hong Kong passed the National Se- curity Law. Very quickly, Lai was charged in what many see as an emblematic case. He is in prison, facing multiple cases. International lawyers de- scribe this tactic as “lawfare”— flying seemingly uncrowned charges against one person. Ranya Atyaud in India who in January faced a tax evasion charge—often used as an at- tack on journalists. In the same month, she faced over $26,000 online death and rape threats. And this is a new pheno- menon—used to completely call themselves a journalist—which is good—in a way. You want the world to rec- ognize. Everybody has a voice, everybody has a place at the table. However, not everyone, that has a place at the table, has either something good or constructive to bring to it or anything to add to the safety of us journalists doing our job in a very complicated world. Online journalism is obvious.

Elisa Lee Munoz
The litigation around these issues is really in- credibly behind the need. We need to think about how we are protecting journalists online. We have trained 27 newsrooms here in Washington and abroad (both big and small).—journalists do get hassled. It is very important to remember that.
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA INITIATIVE
FMI WORLD NEWS September 2022

Freedom of the Media 2022 Award Ceremony

TLN Gold Medal for Public Service for a U.S. based news organization/individual, is awarded to Jennifer Griffin, national security correspondent for Fox News, for her outstanding commitment to the highest standards of journalism, including her advocacy and support for U.S. veterans through numerous organizations and events.

TLN Gold Medal for Investigative Reporting for an international news organization/individual, is awarded to Olga Rudenko, editor-in-chief of the Kyiv Independent in Ukraine, for her outstanding courage in defending freedom of expression in Ukraine, her efforts to promote reliable reporting on Russia’s war on Ukraine, and her continued work in exposing corruption and injustice.

TLN Freedom of the Media Award for International Reporting is awarded posthumously to Shireen Abu Akleh, Al Jazeera Arabic, for her outstanding courage and professionalism in bringing news from the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, and for the way she inspired many others, particularly women, to pursue careers in journalism.

TLN Freedom of the Media Award for Explanatory Reporting is awarded to Maria Ressa, CEO of Rappler in the Philippines, for her outstanding commitment to fight corruption, promote government transparency, and safeguard freedom of expression.

TLN Freedom of the Media Award for Commentary and Criticism is awarded to Željko Ivanović, President of the Board and former Editor-in-Chief, and Vijesti in Montenegro, for their valuable contribution in exposing corruption, promoting accountability, and defending freedom of expression in Montenegro and the Western Balkans.

TLN Freedom of the Media Award for the best Next Generation Journalism Reporting is awarded to Vladislav Davidzon, Tablet's Magazine European Culture correspondent & Odessa Review founder, for his extraordinary creativity in exposing to the world stories of ordinary people shaping the history of their time.

TLN Freedom of the Media 2021 Awardees

Fairouz Ziani & Al Jazeera Media Network, (Qatar)—TLN Gold Medal for Investigative Reporting
Michel El Murr, MTV Lebanon, (Lebanon)—TLN Freedom of the Media Award for International Reporting
Natalie Sedletska, Radio Free Europe, (Ukraine)—TLN Freedom of the Media Award for Explanatory Reporting
Mujo Selimović, Oslobodjenje Media Group, (Bosnia and Herzegovina)—TLN Freedom of the Media Award for Commentary and Criticism

Listen to testimonial for TLN awardee Maria Ressa by Sheila Colonel here
Listen to remarks by Teresa Ribeiro here
ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Democracy, from page 1
away small freedoms, then your freedom is already compromised, and then this slide into something of a gray zone between the dictatorship and democracy—where the democratic institutions are actually functioning to the benefit of the authoritarian regime. Institutions are there, but the role of the institutions is more important than the media. If you ask people what they know about public opinion in the region, the lack of media diversity, the lack of full control of the media sector

State of the Media in the Middle East and Gulf

Middle East, from p. 1
pry ground over public opinion—over the public—what would reach the citizens, was born in the 19th century. Government of Qatar—who set up Al Jazeera—the first outlet available across the Arab world. There are English language newspapers in the Middle East countries. The origin of these newspapers came about in the late 19th century. The percentages understood that the foreign diplomats did not speak Arabic. They wanted to make sure that the diplomatic corpus had access to "right stories"...to speak of. Most of these newspapers relied on independent journalists who never developed any other journalistic activities of their own. In the Middle East, dual-language barriers, the local journalists have more access than the foreign journalists.

EGYPT

Matthews: Space for criticism of the Egyptian government is quite limited. It is a trend that has been increasing for years now. This is not just the case with matters that are purely political, but also subjects that are of interest to the people are innocuous. So, if it has gotten to the point where you cannot criticize the leaders, or writing a blog, or putting up a stop sign against overturning backdoors. Much of the space for constructive criticism has vanished and that is a pity. The trend we see of the military moving into the private sector has affected media and maintained as well. The military doesn’t just own concrete plants and factories, but newspapers and increasingly Public Relations firms. Egypt is indeed a very challenging environment for journalism, but it’s such an important country for the region, with a population of over 100 million people, mostly under the age of 25, and Cairo is still a beating heart of the Middle East. One of the saddest things is that we have seen a lot of journalists who would engage in honest, critical, and yet constructive journalism forced out of the media space in Egypt.

SYRIA

McKay: Syria was challenging to get all the sides of the story, excluding perspectives of the government, of the FRD, SDF, and so of many groups operating, neutral voice, with a level of attacks from the people who do not want the other side to even be heard. Even as a foreign journalist, I started my career as a journalist at The Jordan Times, which is majority-owned by the government of Jordan. The Jordan Times is one of the last traditional print-newspapers of the Levant region. It was also a great place to observe and learn about media in the Middle East, along with meeting a lot of really committed local journalists. In some ways the Jordan Times is a proxy case for the lack of investment and interest we are seeing in traditional print-newspapers. During the Arab Spring, there were journalists from the Jordan Times going to Syria. At the time Syria was even closer to correspondents across the region. Unfortunately, today the paper is not there. In Jordan, you have a good buffered for press freedom in the Middle East, and a lot of freedom of expression, more criticism and free expression than many of its neighbors. Today, Freedom House ranks Jordan as not free, and as an expert witness, I think that ranking is restrictive media laws. I know that there is a lot of freedom among journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space. The same message has been taken. With that said, one reason we know this is it’s been interesting for me to learn about journalists about the cyber space.

AFGHANISTAN

McKay: Media space was one of the biggest successes to come out of Afghanistan over the last 20 years. Some incredible...a proxy war ground, like what was the case with people claiming. The fire was still happening in Panjshir, so I went there and there was clearly no fire. But there was a video (from the video game!) that tried to do that. It was as there were very few foreign journalists left, the Taliban would pick it at me and asking why the American outlets were covering these things that are not true, I didn’t know what to say, so the Taliban said—and this is the case—we do not want journalists here. It was quickly that they started closing their open space. So there was much disinformation and it seemed if the narrative was anti-Taliban, it was going to be taken as Gospal against trying to still be a discrediting voice.

ISRAEL

Matthews: Israel has a strong press that is free to be critical of the government, unlike any other place in the Middle East. It’s always interesting for me to speak with sources who see from where the Middle East is. It’s always interesting for me to speak with sources who see this, they disagree with something that I published, or the word...I’ve been in Iraq, and we still willing to speak with me. That doesn’t happen much in the region of the Middle East. There is acceptance and openness to talk with all political sectors. Two countries with vibrant media debates in the Middle East today is Israel and Lebanon. I think one challenge we see in the journalism space in the Middle East today is a blurring of the lines between activism and investigative journalism. This is something that is more pronounced in Arabic news outlets, and in part it is because passions are so high in the region and campuses are so divided. Sometimes this is done without the journalist even realizing it. I believe it is dangerous when serious investigative journalism becomes conflated with essentialist, and an important point is that one way governments discredit articles by labelling it the work of activists with a political agenda or not the work of journalists based on facts. This is a challenge all regions face, because political passions are so high in the Middle East, and much of the space for honest criticism has been taken away, the dangerous thing is that the Middle East is also the home of geopolitical rivalry, and journalism has been caught up in the relationship between regional actors.

Closing Remarks

Joel Starr, TLN Senior Fellow

Read Full Remarks by Joel Starr

ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Editorial Independence and Europe

Zejkko Ivanović

In the last fifteen years, Kijic owned more than ten media outlets, half of them finished in bankruptcy by now, because people don’t want to read fake news. A month ago, Dukanović launched a new TV station and new online portal, through which

Some businessmen connected with him investing more than 4 million Euros. In small Montenegro, there is no way to have the return of this investment in a hundred years so it raises a question for me: what is the reason? This is an investment and those who would forward funds knowing there is no return of investment. Conclusion: is this could be black money from organized crime or drug trafficking through such investment—you can know in advance what to expect from such media outlets.

Enric Borràs

We are also worried by the presence of some business of state-owned TV, Radio, and all media. And please—whatever you do—do not criticize China. It will come back to bite you! Putin is in Russia. My encouragement to you and as the introduction I want to emphasize again that it is important the free media. We are here to help you and we will help you. We will do it because we love you (and we do love you) but because it is in our national interest to help you.

Debra Cagan: We must not lose our voices. We are at risk Against Public Participation (SLAPP) phenomenon. As MEP Diana Riba said the other day, it is a growing threat to social activists, human rights defenders and journalists. Usually, the perpetrators of this kind of litigation don’t think they can win the case, hence rather try to silence critical voices by putting pressure on them and questioning them in front of public opinion.

Remarks by Debra Cagan

TLN Distinguished Fellow

Enric Borràs

Addresses a question to keep fighting.

Enric Borràs: So argue. Argue!

Debra Cagan:

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