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Mexico and Gaza Strip with the highest number of journalists killed

Despite a nearly 9% drop in the number of arbitrarily imprisoned journalists worldwide between 2022 and 2023, 521 media professionals will start the new year behind bars (up from 569 in 2022). Of the 521 journalists imprisoned, more than half (296) are awaiting trial.



So far in 2023, 45 journalists have been killed worldwide in the line of duty, the lowest number since 2002 due in large part to the reduction in murders in Latin America, according to the annual report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The 2023 figures stand out for the "significant decrease" in the death toll in Latin America, with six journalists killed compared to 26 in 2022



Journalists killed in Mexico

Last year, the global death toll reached 61. You have to go back more than 20 years to find a lower total than this year, with 33 reporters killed in 2002, when more than a third of the cases were related to the conflict in the Middle East.

Mexico, the deadliest country for the profession after the Gaza Strip, recorded four journalists killed in 2023, up from 11 the previous year, although this decline does not reflect increased safety for the press, RSF noted.

In addition, the NGO pointed out that of a total of 84 journalists reported missing in the world, almost one in three is Mexican.

RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said the global casualty "does not in any way reduce the tragedy in Gaza." "The work of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the media themselves" or "greater prudence?" The causes of the decline are multiple and "debatable".

The global tally as of December 1 "does not include journalists killed outside the line of duty, those who were not killed, or those whose deaths remain unknown," RSF said.



The organization lists a total of 63 journalists killed in the Middle East since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on October 7, although most did not die in the line of duty.

In addition to 13 journalists killed "by Israeli fire" in Gaza, according to RSF, this war has resulted in the death of three journalists working in Lebanon and another in Israel killed by Hamas.

The conflict in Ukraine claimed the lives of two journalists in 2023, including AFP reporter Arman Soldin (who died in early May), out of a total of 11 since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

Mexico

Mexico maintains its place on the podium of the most dangerous countries for journalists in 2023 in Latin America: of the 84 journalists who disappeared on the planet; 43 occurred in Latin America and 31 in Mexico. In addition, in 2023, 521 Mexican journalists were imprisoned, 54 kidnapped and 45 murdered, according to the latest report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

The report notes that four murders have been recorded in Mexico in 2023, less than half of those counted last year. However, RSF warns that this does not mean that journalists work more safely, as exemplified by the case of three kidnappings of reporters and the armed attacks against four journalists at the end of this year.



[Mexico was the deadliest country for journalists in 2022](#)|Chaco Newspaper

"Taking into account the record number of violence recorded in 2022, several journalists are more systematically calculating the risks to which they are exposed, leading to an increase in self-censorship and the proliferation of information black holes in the region," says the report entitled Balance 2023.

The photojournalist and editor-in-chief of the digital media outlet La de 8 News, Juan Carlos Hinojosa Viveros, has been missing since July 6, 2023. His disappearance joins those of the other 30 Mexican journalists who have not been heard from.

Of the 31 disappearances registered in Mexico, 8 are enforced disappearances. These include the cases of Mexican journalists Mauricio Estrada Zamora (La Opinión de Apatzingán) and Ramón Ángeles Zalpa (Cambio de Michoacán), who disappeared in 2008 and 2010 respectively, and which RSF and Propuesta Cívica submitted to the UN on 2 November 2022.

Palestinians



Since the beginning of Israel's war against the Palestinians, in just two months, 17 journalists have lost their lives in the course of their duties, only one of them an Israeli. These figures bring the number of journalists killed in conflict zones this year to 23, up from 20 in 2022. Journalists covering armed clashes in northern Cameroon, northern Mali, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine have also been killed.

The drop in the number of journalists killed can be partially explained, in certain areas, by improved safety for reporters. In armed conflicts, information professionals are generally better prepared (training, equipment, etc.).

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Edited by [Maria Piedad Ossaba](#)

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