How safe are journalists in Myanmar?

Original indicators (UN)

1. Journalists and associated media personnel are not subject to threats, harassment or surveillance
2. Journalists and associated media personnel are not physically attacked, unlawfully detained or killed as a result of pursuing their legitimate activities
3. Media organizations are not forced to close down for pursuing legitimate activities, or threatened with closure
4. Crimes against journalists are prosecuted and there is no climate of impunity
5. Media organizations have policies for protecting the health and safety of their staff and freelancers
6. Measures of social protection are available to all staff, including temporary and freelance employees
7. Journalists do not routinely self-censor because of fear of punishment, harassment or attack
8. Confidentiality of sources is protected in law and respected in practice

UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (2012)

- Media require special protections to enable them to operate freely
- Journalists need to be free and safe
- Safety of journalists is an important human rights issue and central to the realization of freedom of expression more broadly

“...condemns unequivocally all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention, as well as intimidation and harassment in both conflict and nonconflict situations

UN General Assembly Resolution on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (18 December 2013)
What are needed to keep journalists safe

- Pass laws to protect freedom of expression, whether for media professionals, bloggers or ordinary citizens
- Implement legislation and improve institutional capacity to do so
- Decriminalize laws like criminal defamation which undermine the status of freedom of expression
- Investigate crimes against freedom of expression in general and media professionals in particular (intimidation, and murder) and prosecute perpetrators

Safety-related training for media professionals, media owners, lawmakers, police forces, lawyers

- Safety fund for journalists in danger
- Network of lawyers for media professionals
- Specific training for female media professionals
- Dialogue with all relevant stakeholders and harmonize activities
- National sensitization campaign

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It's dangerous to be a journalist in the Philippines

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Journalists killed in PH since 1986

147 journalists/media workers killed in the line of duty
221 journalists/media workers killed
26 work-related killings under the present administration

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Culture of impunity

Where journalist murders go unpunished

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Unsolved Cases</th>
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Keeping safe

- Good, ethical journalism
- Correcting journalistic excesses
- Safety in the HOME & OFFICE
  - Securing the newsroom
  - Death threats
  - Keeping your family safe
- Dangerous assignments
  - Responsibility of media owners
  - Rallies and demonstrations
  - Clandestine labs
  - War zones
  - Military convoys and checkpoints

Search, Arrest, Detention

- Home is searched
- Stop-&-frisk operation
- Checkpoint
- During and after arrest
- Detention

Remember that....

- Prevention (90%)
- Intervention (1%)
- Postvention (9%)

Prevention

- Develop a survival mindset
  - 80% mental attitude
  - 20% skill

Prevention

- Recognize, assess & avoid danger (Personal protection principles)
  - Be alert
  - Keep a low profile
  - Be unpredictable
  - Communicate frequently
  - Learn basic skills

- Profile & read body language
- Danger signals & cues
Dealing with dangerous sources

- Avoid personal confrontation as much as you can
- Don’t enter their territory, or make your face too familiar to their thugs
- Find out the support or protection your paper or journalists’ organization can offer you (Freelancer: Set up some support structures of your own)

If you must meet the dangerous source

- Notify the newsroom and leave contact details
- Meet in a public location
- Get someone to accompany you (backup, lookout)
- Develop a code system or hand signals
- Prepare an escape plan

Don’t give out personal information

- Be professional. Don’t get personal, friendly, cute, flirty, funny or macho
- Make sure you give them a means to contact you for comments after you publish—(but never your personal address
- Don’t show fear

Online Security

- Passwords
  - Better and safer passwords
  - 2step verification: Log in with password and then confirm with a verification number sent to your phone
  - Storing passwords

- Phishing
  - Tricking a user to visit a site to enter personal information and passwords or download malware
  - Spear phishing: Personalized message targeting attempted by researching your information or impersonating your friends or colleagues
  - The weakest link: Everyone in your newsroom or collaboration must use safe practices to prevent phishing attacks on others in a trusted group
Online security

- Encryption: Protects content
  - PGP is encryption for email
  - OTR is Off The Record encryption for messaging
- Private or self-destructible email
- Anonymizer: Protects identity of the sender and recipient
- Physical devices: PC, USB drive, external hard drive, cell phone

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