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**REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

VOLUME II

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR
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INTRODUCTION

1. The year 2007 once again was marked by violence for journalism in the region. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (“Office of the Rapporteur” or “Office of the Special Rapporteur”), this year at least 16 people were killed for reasons that could be related to their work in journalism or to their right to freedom of expression.¹ Although the figure is slightly lower than in 2006, the number continues to be significant for the region.

2. Although progress was made in the investigations of murders of journalists that took place this year and in prior years, the situation of impunity—propelled by the lack of due investigation into the murders of journalists—continues to be of concern. Impunity in turn leads to additional murders. Since it is known that there may be no punishment for committing this crime, those who kill reporters can continue doing so or threatening to do so without suffering any consequences. This in turn generates self-censorship. In view of the lack of State guarantees to the right to life, journalists are forced to stop investigating and reporting about certain issues.

3. At least 200 cases of aggressions and threats against media employees in various countries have also been verified during 2007. Considering that the number could be much higher, since many such situations are never reported, impunity is also a cause for concern in these cases, particularly since often investigations are never even begun. This generates self-censorship and at times forces journalists and their family members to leave their hometowns and even their countries. Cases were also reported involving acts of aggression against journalists committed by private individuals or in the context of public demonstrations, a situation that also calls for the adoption of measures on the part of the State to prevent such acts or to protect reporters.

4. Another situation that has particularly concerned the Office of the Special Rapporteur in 2007 has to do with measures reported during this period that go against pluralism, an essential component of freedom of expression and democracy. Pluralism requires being able to express different opinions through different media outlets, and ensuring that these can reach the largest possible audience. Democracy requires the free debate of ideas and opinions, even when these are unpleasant or make the government uncomfortable.

5. The States Parties to the American Convention on Human Rights should comply with their international obligations regarding freedom of expression. These include abstaining from actions that adversely affect pluralism as well as adopting positive actions to guarantee it. One situation that has an adverse effect on pluralism is media-ownership concentration and monopolies, whether public or private.

6. The Office of the Rapporteur believes it is important for States to adopt actions such as putting into force anti-monopoly laws on ownership and control; adopting legislation to establish open, public and transparent bidding for radio-electric frequencies; and giving independent bodies’ decision-making authority on such matters.

7. In December 2007, four rapporteurs and experts in freedom of expression signed the Joint Declaration on Diversity in Broadcasting, in which they said that in order for States to fulfill their obligations in this area, the measures they adopt should encompass the diversity of media outlets and ownership, as well as diversity of content.

¹ Information about journalists or members of the media who were murdered for reasons presumably related to their work as journalists can be found in Chapter II, in the general evaluation of the region and in the evaluation of the countries where these events occurred.

8. In 2007, positive steps were seen in the region in terms of pluralism. These included a decision by Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice declaring unconstitutional provisions of the Radio and Television Law that negatively affected pluralism, and the approval in Uruguay of a law that provides for awarding frequencies through open, transparent bidding. Progress was also seen in the area of community radio broadcasting.

9. However, the Office of the Special Rapporteur notes with concern that on the pretext of fostering pluralism, public powers have been used in countries of the region to try to silence media that are critical of the government, for example through threats and arbitrary or discriminatory decisions in awarding television and radio frequencies. In addition, public funds are being used to create and finance media outlets that are characterized as being of a public service or community nature. These lack full financial and management independence from the governments that create them, and often end up serving as government propaganda machines and not as vehicles that encourage pluralism.

10. On another front, this year the Office of the Special Rapporteur received information about important legislative advances in various Member States in such matters as the repeal of "*desacato* laws," the decriminalization of defamation and slander, access to information and community radio broadcasting.

11. The observations expressed here by the Office of the Rapporteur are expanded in the following pages of this annual report. The report complies with the mandate established by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) for the work of the Office of the Rapporteur, as well as with mandates assigned by the General Assembly in its various resolutions. The basic structure of the current annual report has changed with respect to previous years. It begins with a general chapter on the mandate and competence of the Office of the Special Rapporteur and continues with a description of the activities carried out during the year. The second chapter focuses on evaluating the state of freedom of expression in the region as a whole and then in each country. This year, the annual report does not include theoretical studies of international jurisprudence in this area, as in prior years. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has decided to concentrate this type of analysis in special studies that will be published separately from the annual report. One example of this was the publication this year of the Special Study on the Right of Access to Information.²

12. Thus, Chapter II of this report analyses the regional situation of freedom of expression in 2007, and then does the same type of evaluation for each country. It also includes the alerts, reports and information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur this year, classified by country. The methodology to prepare that chapter continues to be essentially the same as in prior years, although its presentation has varied in terms of how events are classified.

13. Through its existence, the Office of the Rapporteur has used some of the cases that have occurred to highlight the challenges facing those who seek to exercise their right to freedom of expression: the murders, acts of aggression and threats against journalists; the absence of and deficiencies in laws guaranteeing access to information; and the existence of *desacato* laws and the criminalization of slander and defamation in many States of the region. As was indicated at the beginning of this introduction, this year some of these situations unfortunately were repeated and in some cases even aggravated. Chapter II also calls attention to other aspects related to the issue of

² A press release on the Special Study on the Right of Access to Information is available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=715&IID=1>.

freedom of expression in the Americas, such as indirect restrictions to free expression or the discriminatory use of official advertising.

14. This annual report also reflects the work plan of the Office of the Special Rapporteur, which is structured according to priorities in the area of freedom of expression in the region. As in 2006, the Office of the Rapporteur continued to use its daily monitoring system to follow the situation of freedom of expression in the region. Every day, the Office of the Special Rapporteur receives information from different sources, such as nongovernmental organizations, journalist associations, media outlets and an e-mail alert network. When the developments reported are particularly serious, such as in the case of murders, press releases are issued to deplore the act and urge State authorities to conduct a full investigation and punish those responsible. All this information is compiled, and at the end of each quarter a press release is issued reviewing developments in each country and providing the Office of the Special Rapporteur's preliminary evaluation of the situation.³

15. In 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur provided assistance to the IACHR in several individual cases in progress that reflect landmark situations in which States were being denounced internationally for violations of the right to freedom of thought and expression. The Office of the Special Rapporteur believes that advancing individual cases on this issue within the inter-American human rights system constitutes a particularly important aspect of its mandate. This makes it possible not only to obtain justice in the case in question, but also to continue creating case law that contributes to a greater prevalence of the right to freedom of thought and expression in the region.

16. Follow-up study also continued on the status of investigations of cases in which journalists were murdered in the region from 1995 to 2005, for reasons apparently related to their journalistic activities. As part of that effort, the Office of the Special Rapporteur asked for specific information from each State, as well as from nongovernmental organizations, on concrete aspects of the investigations. Based on the results, a study will be published in the coming months analyzing the status of each case and the general situation of impunity in the region regarding this serious problem.

17. Meanwhile, the Office of the Special Rapporteur began to work on another special study on the state of freedom of expression in each country in the last ten years, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Rapporteurship. States and civil society organizations were also asked to provide specific information for the preparation of this report.⁴ The Office of the Rapporteur plans to publish the report in the coming months.

18. Also in 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur continued to keep up a demanding schedule, making various trips to promote the right to freedom of expression and participating in numerous conferences and seminars. It is important to note as well that during the year training seminars were organized for journalists on the use of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights, and one working visit was conducted to a member country.

19. In 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur relied on the valuable contributions of Camila Aponte, Luis Paredes, Juan Pablo González, Cecilia La Hoz Barrera and María Dolores Miño, who participated in our internship program. The Special Rapporteur recognizes the hard work and

³ This practice began in the second quarter of 2006. The quarterly reports issued by the Office of the Special Rapporteur can be found in the Annexes section of this report.

⁴ The questionnaire that was sent to the States is included in the Annex.

important contributions made by the staff of the Office of the Rapporteur and by each of the interns in the promotion and protection of freedom of expression.

20. The current report, therefore, reflects an entire year of critical work carried out by staff, interns and others who contributed to the work of the Office of the Special Rapporteur. The intense effort undertaken in recent years by the Office of the Special Rapporteur has strengthened its role as an essential reference point in the area of freedom of thought and expression. One essential element in that effort has been the unwavering support of the sectors with which the Office of the Rapporteur regularly interacts, including States, nongovernmental organizations, journalists, media outlets and academic institutions.

21. The strengthening of the Office of the Rapporteur has led, in turn, to a substantial rise in expectations in terms of its performance and results. Meeting this demand requires—along with the institutional and political support the Office of the Rapporteur has received since its creation—attention to the matter of financial support, since without that, it cannot function or carry out the activities included in its mandate.

22. In this regard, the Office of the Rapporteur would like to call attention to the financial contributions it received in 2007 from the OAS Member States, which have provided substantial support so it can carry out its tasks, as well as from diverse funding sources. Special mention is made of support received in December 2007 from Canada for a project to strengthen the Office of the Rapporteur's efforts in favor of the right to freedom of expression. This initiative, called "Project Freedom of Expression in the Americas," constitutes one of the largest financial contributions the Office of the Special Rapporteur has received in its ten years of existence.

23. It is hoped, then, that this 2007 annual report will continue helping to progressively increase the respect for the right to freedom of thought and expression in the region, and thus continue helping to strengthen democracy and development through a greater practical application of the fundamental right each person has to think freely and to express his or her thoughts by any means.

24. The Office of the Rapporteur would like to note that as 2007 came to a close, the IACHR was focused on debating the draft reform of regulations governing the rapporteurships that operate within its sphere, including a definition of rapporteurships, the length of their mandates and their periodic review. However, in the opinion of the Office of the Special Rapporteur, some of these provisions could affect its autonomy and independence. The Special Rapporteur, Ignacio Alvarez, sent a letter to the commissioners outlining the importance of preserving the independence and autonomy of the Office of the Special Rapporteur in complying with the mandates entrusted to it by the IACHR as an indispensable condition for the Office of the Special Rapporteur to be able to effectively continue its efforts to promote and protect the right to freedom of expression in the region.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Mandate and Competence of the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression

25. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression is a permanent entity with functional autonomy and its own budget. It was created in 1997 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in the exercise of its authority and competence, and operates within the Commission's legal framework.⁵ From the time it was established, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression has had the support not only of the IACHR but also of the States, civil society organizations, the communications media, journalists and, most importantly, victims of violations of freedom of expression. Such victims have found the Office of the Rapporteur to be an important source of support to reestablish the necessary guarantees for the exercise of their rights, or to ensure just reparations as warranted by their particular situation. In 2006, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) approved Resolution 2237 (XXXVI-0/06), reaffirming the right to freedom of expression and recognizing the important contributions of the Office of the Special Rapporteur's 2005 Annual Report, and requested a follow-up of the issues addressed in that report. In 2007, the OAS General Assembly approved Resolution 2287 (XXXVI-0/07) in which the Member States were invited to consider the Office of the Special Rapporteur's recommendations related to defamation, namely by repealing or amending laws that criminalize *desacato*, defamation, slander and libel. In 2007, the OAS General Assembly also approved Resolution 2288 (XXVII-0/07) which underscores the importance of the right of access to public information, takes note of the reports by the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the situation regarding access to information in the region, urges the States to adapt their legislation and calls on the Office of the Special Rapporteur to offer advisory support in this area.

26. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is an OAS body whose fundamental purpose is to promote the observance and defense of human rights and to serve as a consultative body in this area. The responsibilities of the Commission derive fundamentally from the American Convention on Human Rights ("the American Convention" or "the Convention"), the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the OAS Charter. To that end, the Commission investigates and decides on reports of human rights violations, conducts on-site visits and prepares draft treaties and declarations on human rights, as well as reports on the human rights situation in the countries of the region.

27. In terms of the right to freedom of expression specifically, the Commission has addressed this issue through its system of individual petitions and cases, in which it has ruled on cases involving censorship, crimes against journalists, and other direct or indirect restrictions on freedom of expression. In addition, it has issued decisions on threats to or restrictions on the communications media through special reports. The Commission has also analyzed the situation of freedom of expression and information in its various on-site visits and in its general reports. Finally, the Commission has adopted precautionary measures in order to act urgently to prevent irreparable harm to persons.⁶ These measures were adopted to make possible the full exercise of freedom of expression and to protect journalists.

⁵ Articles 40 and 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

⁶ Article 25.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure states that: "In serious and urgent cases, and whenever necessary according to the information available, the Commission may, on its own initiative or at the request of a party, request that the State concerned adopt precautionary measures to prevent irreparable harm to persons."

28. During its 97th regular period of sessions, held in October 1997, mindful of the grave threats and problems standing in the way of the full and effective development of the right to freedom of expression—critical for consolidating and developing democracy—the Commission decided, by the unanimity of its members, to establish an Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, on a permanent basis, with functional independence and its own operational structure.

29. During its 98th special period of sessions, held in March 1998, the Commission defined in general terms the characteristics and functions of the Office of the Rapporteur and decided to create a voluntary fund to provide it with economic assistance. That same year, the Commission appointed Argentine attorney Santiago A. Canton as Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. When he left the post in 2002, the IACHR named Argentine attorney Eduardo A. Bertoni as Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression; he served in that position until December 2005. Subsequently, on March 15, 2006, the IACHR appointed Venezuelan attorney Ignacio J. Alvarez as Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

30. In creating the Office of the Rapporteur, the Commission sought to give particular priority to raising awareness about the full respect for freedom of expression and information, considering its fundamental role both in consolidating and developing democracy and in denouncing and protecting all other human rights. It also sought to make specific recommendations to the Member States on matters related to freedom of expression and information, so that progressive measures might be adopted in its favor, and to prepare specialized reports and studies on the issue to be able to take prompt action on those petitions and other communications that indicate that this right is being violated in an OAS Member State.

31. In general terms, the Commission noted that the duties and mandates of the Office of the Rapporteur should include, among others: 1. preparing an annual report on the situation of freedom of expression in the Americas and submitting it to the Commission for its consideration and inclusion in the IACHR Annual Report to the OAS General Assembly; 2. preparing thematic reports; 3. compiling the information needed to prepare the reports; 4. organizing promotional activities entrusted to it by the Commission including, but not limited to, presenting papers at relevant conferences and seminars, briefing government employees, professionals and students on the Commission's work in this area, and preparing other promotional materials; 5. immediately informing the Commission about urgent situations that warrant the adoption of precautionary measures, or of provisional measures that the Commission may request of the Inter-American Court, to prevent grave and irreparable harm to human rights; and 6. providing information to the Commission on the processing of individual cases related to freedom of expression.

32. The Commission's initiative to create a permanent Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression enjoyed full support in the OAS Member States during the Second Summit of the Americas. At that Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas recognized the fundamental role that freedom of expression and information plays in the area of human rights and within the democratic system, expressing their satisfaction with the creation of this Rapporteurship. Thus, in the Declaration of Santiago, adopted in April 1998, the Heads of State and Government expressly stated that:

We agree that a free press plays a fundamental role [in the area of human rights] and we reaffirm the importance of guaranteeing freedom of expression, information, and opinion. We

commend the recent appointment of a Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, within the framework of the Organization of American States.⁷

33. In addition, at this same Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas expressed their commitment to support the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. On this point, the Summit Plan of Action recommended that governments:

Strengthen the exercise of and respect for all human rights and the consolidation of democracy, including the fundamental right to freedom of expression and thought, through support for the activities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in this field, in particular the recently created Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.⁸

34. During the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, Canada, the Heads of State and Government ratified the mandate of the Office of the Rapporteur, adding that their governments would:

Continue to support the work of the inter-American human rights system in the area of freedom of expression through the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, as well as proceed with the dissemination of comparative jurisprudence, and seek to ensure that national legislation on freedom of expression is consistent with international legal obligations.⁹

B. Principal Activities of the Office of the Special Rapporteur

35. Since it began its work in November 1998, and in the course of exercising its mandate, the Office of the Special Rapporteur has participated in various events, such as seminars and presentations, to make its mandates and objectives known. Widespread awareness about its existence has allowed the Office of the Rapporteur to successfully perform the duties entrusted to it. Tasks related to the promotion, dissemination and defense of the right to freedom of expression have been geared primarily toward conducting working visits, participating in international forums, coordinating efforts with nongovernmental organizations, advising States on draft legislation related to freedom of expression and making the Rapporteurship known through the media. The main purpose of these activities was to raise awareness and better inform the different sectors of society about the importance of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights, international standards on freedom of expression, comparative case law in this area, and the importance of freedom of expression in the context and development of a democratic society.

36. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has become a strong proponent of legislative reforms in the area of freedom of expression. Through the ties established with the Member States and various civil society organizations, this office has begun a collaborative process to implement initiatives that promote the reform of laws limiting the right to freedom of expression and the inclusion of laws expanding the rights of citizens to participate actively in the democratic process through access to information.

⁷ Declaration of Santiago, Second Summit of the Americas, April 18-19, 1998, Santiago, Chile, in "Official Documents of the Summit Process from Miami to Santiago," Volume I, Office of Summit Follow-up, Organization of American States.

⁸ Plan of Action, Second Summit of the Americas, April 18-19, 1998, Santiago, Chile, in "Official Documents of the Summit Process from Miami to Santiago," Volume I, Office of Summit Follow-up, Organization of American States.

⁹ Plan of Action, Third Summit of the Americas, April 20-22, 2001, Quebec, Canada. Available at www.summit-americas.org.

37. Since the creation of the Office of the Special Rapporteur, advisory studies have been carried out and recommendations made to some Member States to modify laws and legislative articles in effect that adversely impact freedom of expression, so as to bring them in line with international standards for more effective protection of the exercise of this right. In preparing its thematic and annual reports, the Office of the Special Rapporteur also sends requests for information to the Member States.

38. Through its informal hemispheric network for the protection of freedom of expression, the Office of the Rapporteur receives information on the status of freedom of expression in the Member States. This information is sent by different organizations that defend this right, by journalists in general and other sources. In those cases in which it considers that there may be a serious violation of freedom of expression, the Office of the Rapporteur issues press releases expressing its concern to the authorities and making recommendations. In other cases, the Office of the Rapporteur turns directly to the State authorities to obtain further information and/or to ask that reparation be made for the harm that has been done, and communicates with petitioners to clarify any questions. The Office of the Rapporteur has created a database made up of a substantial number of media outlets, organizations that defend freedom of expression and human rights, lawyers specialized in the issue and universities, among others, through which it disseminates its press releases and/or any other information it deems relevant.

39. Disseminating information about its activities and mandate has made it possible for various sectors of civil society to turn to the Office of the Rapporteur to protect their right to seek issue, distribute and receive information. The following list of activities carried out by the Office of the Special Rapporteur in 2007 serves as an example of that:

1. Individual Case System

40. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has substantially increased the number of draft reports on individual cases submitted for the consideration of the IACHR. In that regard, the Office of the Rapporteur believes that individual cases, besides providing justice in the case in question, make it possible to draw attention to landmark situations affecting freedom of thought and expression and create important case law applicable both for the inter-American human rights system as well as for the courts in the countries of the region.

41. The Office of the Special Rapporteur believes that the individual case system constitutes an essential element within its overall strategy of promoting and defending the right to freedom of thought and expression in the region, through the different mechanisms offered by the inter-American human rights system.

42. In November 2006, the IACHR had approved a draft report on the merits prepared by the Office of the Rapporteur on Case 12.450, regarding the criminal prosecution and punishment imposed on journalist Eduardo Kimel for the publication of criticisms of a public official. On April 10, 2007, the case was submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. On October 18, 2007, the Office of the Rapporteur participated in a hearing during the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' XXXI Special Period of Sessions held in Colombia. On that occasion, the Office of the Rapporteur advised the IACHR in the public hearing on the merits and contingent reparations and fees in the case of Eduardo Kimel v. Argentina. The State recognized, before the Court, its international responsibility for the acts and violations alleged by the Commission, and an agreement with the victim was signed during the public hearing. However, the State was not in agreement with the reparations sought by the Commission; thus the legislative reform is currently in litigation before the Court.

43. Between the 127th and 128th periods of sessions, the IACHR submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights two additional cases on which the Office of the Special Rapporteur had worked or rendered advice. One of the cases it worked on is that of Luisiana Ríos *et al.* v. Venezuela, in which the petition involves restrictions to freedom of expression through threats, acts of harassment, and verbal and physical aggressions against journalists or media employees who are or have been linked to the *Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV)* channel between 2001 and 2004, and the omission of preventive actions and subsequent lack of effort on the part of the State to investigate such incidents. The Office of the Special Rapporteur rendered advice in the case of Gabriela Perozo *et al.* v. Venezuela, in which the petition has to do with a series of acts of harassment, persecution and aggressions suffered as of 2001 by individuals linked to the *Globovisión* television channel, including journalists, related technical personnel, employees and management, and the subsequent lack of due diligence in the investigation of such incidents.¹⁰

44. Between the 129th and 130th periods of sessions, the IACHR presented another case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in which the Office of the Special Rapporteur had offered counsel. The case is that of Santander Tristán Donoso v. Panama, in which the petition has to do with the State's responsibility for divulging a telephone conversation by the attorney Tristán Donoso; the subsequent opening of a criminal prosecution for crimes against honor, in reprisal for Mr. Tristán Donoso's accusations regarding this act; the lack of investigation and punishment of those responsible for such acts; and the lack of adequate reparations for the violations suffered.¹¹

45. In March 2007, the IACHR approved two draft reports on admissibility prepared by the Office of the Rapporteur, one on Petition 415/03, related to three former judges from San Luis Province who had been removed from their posts after a confrontation with the provincial executive branch and the other on Petition 232/05, related to the prosecution and criminal punishment imposed on Mr. Carlos Baraona Bray for making statements in which he indicated that a State official had been involved in the alleged commission of illegal acts.

2. Precautionary Measures

46. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has played an active role on the issue of precautionary measures during this period. Through its daily monitoring system carried out in 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur identified various situations in which it actively promoted the request for precautionary measures from the IACHR. It was possible to protect the lives and personal integrity of five journalists from Radio Calenda in Oaxaca, Mexico, who had been subject to threats and attacks on the part of the president of the municipality where the radio station operated and by individuals aligned with him. Precautionary measures were also granted to two journalists in Honduras who were threatened and attacked under different circumstances.

3. Public Hearings

47. In the context of general hearings on the human rights situation in one or more States, or on issues of general interest, the IACHR has taken notice of many issues related to the situation of freedom of thought and expression in the Hemisphere.

48. During the 127th period of sessions, in March 2007, a hearing was held on the status of freedom of expression in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico. The hearing was requested by the

¹⁰ IACHR Press Release No. 40/07. *IACHR Concludes its 128th Period of Sessions*. Available at: <http://www.cidh.org/Comunicados/English/2007/40.07eng.htm>.

¹¹ IACHR Press Release No. 54/07. *IACHR Concludes its 130th Period of Sessions*. Available at: <http://www.cidh.org/Comunicados/English/2007/54.07eng.htm>.

June 7 Association of Journalists and Communications Media, the Paseo de Centenario Association of Journalists, the Association of Communications Media of Sinaloa, and the Mochis Association of Journalists, and at the request of these organizations, the State was in attendance.

49. Also in March 2007, during the same period of sessions of the IACHR, another public hearing was held on the right to freedom of expression in the Americas, requested by the International Federation of Journalists, the Federation of Journalists of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Colombian Commission of Jurists. The IACHR received information on the situation of freedom of expression in Latin America, especially in Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico. The hearing applicants emphasized the precarious working conditions for journalists in the region. IACHR President Florentín Meléndez expressed his commitment to work with the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression on a thematic report on working conditions for the region's journalists; foster communication channels between the Colombian judiciary and journalists; and visit Mexico and Colombia along with the Office of the Rapporteur on this issue.

50. During the 128th period of sessions, in July 2007, a hearing was held on the situation of freedom of the press in Mexico, at the request of the following organizations: Article XIX, the National Center for Social Communication (Cencos), the Manuel Buendía Foundation, Reporters Without Borders, the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters in Mexico (AMARC), the National Union of Press Reporters, the Network to Protect Journalists and Communications Media, and the Transparency Collective. They outlined, among other issues, their concern about assassinations and the rise in violence and threats against journalists, and the increase in attacks against the media. They requested an on-site visit to Mexico by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, effective punishment for those who commit crimes against the media, and the expansion to the local level of the decriminalization of the crimes of defamation and slander, among other points. The representatives of the Mexican government indicated that the risk involved in the work of journalism has to do with public insecurity and organized crime, and maintained that the State does not shirk from investigating these acts.

51. Also in the 128th period of sessions of the IACHR, the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters and Article XIX organizations underscored the importance of strengthening laws and practices on licensing for access and usage of radioelectric frequencies in the region, so as to guarantee the exercise of freedom of expression. The petitioners affirmed that the region is faced with a system for licensing radioelectric frequencies that silences large sectors of the population through legal frameworks limiting access to the frequencies. The hearing applicants also expressed their opinion that it is crucial for the IACHR to participate in the debate, since the region is going through a historic time of transition from analog to digital technology and that governments are beginning to legislate in this area.

52. In the same period of sessions, in July 2007, a public hearing was held on the situation of freedom of expression in Venezuela, at the request of the State. Representatives of the State indicated that the country has some 90 newspapers, some 70 television channels, most of them privately owned, and some 700 private radio stations, and that the vast majority of all these media hold an opposition editorial stance. Nevertheless, they said, the government had not confiscated publications, nor had it closed newspapers or audiovisual media. They affirmed that restrictions to freedom of expression in Venezuela come from privately owned communications media.

53. During the 130th period of sessions of the IACHR, representatives of Peruvian civil society requested a public hearing to provide information about their concern regarding what they called a growing trend toward criminalization of social protest. They referred to a series of recent legislative decrees adopted by the Peruvian State which are intended to criminalize social protest. The State indicated that these legislative decrees were the result of discussions among the Ministry

of Justice, the executive branch and a group of seasoned judges and prosecutors. It added that the provisions of these decrees are necessary in order to effectively combat crime and protect democracy.

4. Working Visits

54. From September 26 to 27, 2007, the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression conducted a working visit to Haiti. He was accompanied by IACHR attorney Ismene Zarifis; Candis Craig, a consultant with the Office of the Rapporteur; and the press and communications coordinator, Leticia Linn. During the visit, the Rapporteurship delegation met with representatives of the State, civil society organizations, representatives of media outlets and journalists. At the conclusion of its visit, the Office of the Special Rapporteur issued a press release with observations about the situation of freedom of expression in Haiti and recommendations on the issue.¹²

5. Promotional Workshops

55. From May 16 to 18, 2007, specialist Alejandra Gonza of the Office of the Rapporteur and the former press and communications coordinator, María Isabel Rivero, traveled to Guatemala to give two training workshops for journalists on the inter-American human rights system and mechanisms for protecting freedom of expression. On May 16, one of the workshops was held in Guatemala City and on May 18, the second took place in Cobán. More than 30 journalists and members of nongovernmental organizations that work on such issues participated in both workshops.

56. From May 22 to 24, 2007, the Special Rapporteur, specialist Alejandra Gonza and then-press and communications coordinator María Isabel Rivero offered two training workshops on the inter-American human rights system and its mechanisms for protecting freedom of expression. The first seminar took place May 22-23 in Tegucigalpa, the second May 24 in Catacamas. Participants in both workshops included members of the media and representatives of nongovernmental organizations that work on such issues.

57. From September 19 to 22, 2007, the Special Rapporteur, specialist Alejandra Gonza, IACHR press chief María Isabel Rivero and the press and communications coordinator Leticia Linn traveled to El Salvador to offer two training workshops for journalists on how to use the inter-American human rights system in defending freedom of expression. One of the workshops took place September 19-20 in the city of San Miguel, at Gerardo Barrios University, and more than 45 journalists, students and members of nongovernmental organizations participated. The second workshop, held at the Central American University in San Salvador, also had more than 40 participants.

6. Studies and Publications

Special Study on the Right of Access to Information

58. In August 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur published the Special Study on the Right of Access to Information.¹³ The main purpose of the study is to analyze the impact of the

¹² Press Release No. 178/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Concludes Visit to Haiti and Makes Recommendations*. Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=711&IID=1>.

¹³ Press Release No. 175/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Asks for States' Commitment in Ensuring Access to Information*. Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=715&IID=1>.

decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case of Claude Reyes *et al.* and the capacity of this case to serve as a reference point for States on how to move forward on this issue. The study reviews regional and international precedents on this issue, outlines principles that should be included in any legal framework, and evaluates conditions that should be taken into account in establishing a system of restrictions to this right. The publication of this study was widely reported in the region's press.¹⁴

Special Study on Impunity

59. The Office of the Special Rapporteur believes that impunity in cases in which journalists are assaulted or assassinated constitutes one of the most serious problems affecting freedom of thought and expression in the region. Thus, the Office of the Special Rapporteur decided to undertake a special study on the status of investigations related to murders of journalists in the region for reasons that could be tied to their journalistic activity.

60. In this regard, information was compiled about journalists murdered in the region between 1995 and 2005. States, NGOs and victims' families were asked for information on such aspects as: whether or not the material or intellectual perpetrators of the crime had been convicted by lower or higher courts; whether anyone had been preventively detained due to the murders; or whether there were open investigations underway of these acts. The end result of the study will include a table with the names of the journalists who have been murdered during this period for reasons that could have to do with the exercise of their work, along with information about the results of the investigations in each case, the percentage of cases in which there has been an effective conviction of those responsible and the percentage of cases that reflect a situation of impunity.

Special Study on the Situation of Freedom of Expression in the Region

61. The Office of the Special Rapporteur is in the final stage of preparing a special country-by-country study on the situation of freedom of expression in the region, on the occasion of this year's tenth anniversary of the creation of the Office of the Special Rapporteur. Several States and NGOs have responded to the questionnaire that was sent to them. Staff members of the Office of the Special Rapporteur are in the process of finishing up this project.

7. Daily Monitoring of the Situation of Freedom of Expression in the Region

62. In 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur continued to monitor the situation of freedom of expression in the region. This is done through the use of a table that is updated every day, with the date, country, nature of the events and source of information. Such information, received from various sources, is analyzed on a daily basis to then determine the course of action that should be taken, such as sending letters to States, issuing press releases, giving impetus to requests for precautionary measures from the IACHR, and including the information in the Office of the Special Rapporteur's quarterly press release as well as its Annual Report.

8. Quarterly Reports on Freedom of Expression in the Region

63. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in 2007 continued publishing quarterly reports on the status of the right to freedom of thought and expression in the

¹⁴ The Special Study on the Right to Access to Information is available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/section/Estudio%20Especial%20sobre%20el%20derecho%20de%20Acceso%20a%20la%20Informacion.pdf>.

region. This mechanism was created taking into account that the dynamic situation of the right to freedom of thought and expression in the region demands responses from the Office of the Special Rapporteur that might not have the same impact, timeliness and effectiveness if they were issued solely in the Office of the Special Rapporteur's annual report, published around March of the year following the period covered in the report.

64. In the quarterly report, the Office of the Special Rapporteur not only summarizes the information received during the quarter through its aforementioned daily monitoring, but also evaluates positive and negative aspects observed in the region during the period, both generally and on a country-by-country basis. To this end, the Office of the Special Rapporteur published a press release on the April-to-June period¹⁵ and is preparing releases covering the July-to-September and October-to-December quarters in 2007.

9. Press Releases

65. The press releases issued by the Office of the Special Rapporteur receive widespread coverage and constitute one of the key mechanisms for its work. The Office of the Special Rapporteur's current communications policy in this regard is to issue specific press releases on positive or negative situations that warrant an immediate statement (for example, a key legislative advance in a particular country or the murder of a journalist for reasons that may be related to that person's work) and to centralize the treatment of other issues in the quarterly press releases and the annual report.

66. As an example, through November 2007 the Office of the Special Rapporteur had issued eight press releases condemning the assassinations of the following journalists: Miguel Pérez Julca (Peru)¹⁶, Amado Ramírez (Mexico),¹⁷ Saúl Martínez (Mexico),¹⁸ Luiz Carlos Barbon Filho (Brazil),¹⁹ Alix Joseph (Haiti),²⁰ Alberto Palma Godoy (Paraguay),²¹ Javier Darío Arroyo (Colombia)²²

¹⁵ Press Release No. 182/07. Evaluation of Freedom of Expression in the Second Quarter of 2007: Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Violence against Media and Anti-Pluralism Measures. Available at: <http://www.cidh.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=716&IID=1>.

¹⁶ Press Release No. 163/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Deplores Murder of Journalist in Peru and Calls for Due Investigation.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=690&IID=1>.

¹⁷ Press Release No. 165/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Deplores Murder of Journalist in Mexico and Calls for Due Investigation.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=693&IID=1>.

¹⁸ Press Release No. 166/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Requests Exhaustive Investigation into Murder and Disappearance of Journalists in Mexico.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=696&IID=1>.

¹⁹ Press Release No. 167/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Requests Exhaustive Investigation into Murder of Journalist in Brazil.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=695&IID=1>.

²⁰ Press Release No. 169/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Deplores Murder of Journalist in Haiti and Demands a Diligent Investigation.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=698&IID=1>.

²¹ Press Release No. 176/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Deplores Murder of Journalist in Paraguay and Demands an Investigation.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=709&IID=1>.

²² Press Release No. 177/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Requests an Investigation on Colombian Journalist's Murder.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=710&IID=1>.

and Carlos Salgado (Honduras)²³. It also issued a press release to express its concern about the withdrawal of official advertising from a daily in Guyana²⁴ and another to announce the publication of the Special Study on the Right of Access to Information.²⁵

10. Participation in Seminars and Conferences

67. Following is a description of promotion and outreach activities carried out in 2007 by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression through seminars and conferences.

68. On January 18, 2007, the Special Rapporteur made a presentation at a conference on freedom of expression in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at the headquarters of the United States Congress and hosted by congressional representatives.

69. During the first quarter of 2007, the Special Rapporteur made a series of presentations at American University, George Washington University and Notre Dame University, in the United States.

70. From April 25 to 26, 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in the XIX Session of the Peru Lecture Series, organized by the University of San Martín de Porres in Lima. The Rapporteur met at that time with representatives of the Peruvian academic sector and communications media, and publicly presented the 2006 Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

71. From May 3 to 4, 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in the International Conference on Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, held in Medellín and organized by UNESCO.

72. From May 7 to 8, 2007, the Special Rapporteur conducted a visit to Chile to give a presentation at the Chile 21 Foundation and the NGO Proacceso, and to meet with members of the local media.

73. From May 30 to 31, 2007, Alejandra Gonza, specialist with the Office of the Rapporteur, participated in and presented a paper at an international seminar on "The Right to Defend Human Rights and Freedom of Expression." The event was held in Mexico City and convened by the Federal District Commission on Human Rights, among other organizations.

74. In June 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in the Caribbean Journalists Seminar held at the headquarters of the Organization of American States at the initiative of the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

75. On June 14 and 15, 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in and presented a paper at the Second Meeting of Government Spokespersons of the OAS Member States, held in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Special Rapporteur talked to the spokespersons of the Caribbean countries' Presidents and Prime Ministers about his plan for the Office of the Special Rapporteur to

²³ Press Release No. 180/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Deplores Murder of Journalist in Honduras and Demands an Investigation.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=713&IID=1>.

²⁴ Press Release No. 172/07. *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Urges the State of Guyana to Adopt Objective and Transparent Criteria for the Allocation of Official Advertising.* Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=703&IID=1>.

²⁵ Press Release about the Special Study on the Right of Access to Information. Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=715&IID=1>.

conduct promotional visits to all the Caribbean countries. The spokespersons of the Caribbean governments issued a joint declaration welcoming the initiative by the Office of the Special Rapporteur and offering their complete support.

76. On June 28 and 29, 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in a seminar on "Mexico and the Inter-American System for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights," held in Mexico's Federal District. The seminar was organized by the Ibero-American University and the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, and sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

77. From July 9 to 12, 2007, the Special Rapporteur traveled to Bolivia, where he gave a series of presentations and met with different sectors of society, both in La Paz and Sucre.

78. On August 18, 2007, the Special Rapporteur taught a class as part of a program for journalists pursuing a master's degree in human rights at the Ibero-American University in Mexico City.

79. From September 5 to 7, 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in the 129th period of sessions of the IACHR, held in Paraguay. He met at that time with nongovernmental organizations and gave a conference at the National University on community radio broadcasting.

80. On September 19, 2007, the Special Rapporteur gave a presentation on international standards on granting radioelectric frequencies, during a conference organized by a Commission of the Congress of Mexico and by nongovernmental organizations.

81. On September 23, 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in a seminar in Austin, Texas, on "Press Freedom Monitoring and Advocacy in Latin America," organized by the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas.

82. On October 18, 2007, specialist Alejandra Gonza of the Office of the Rapporteur visited Colombia for the XXXI Special Period of Sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. There, Dr. Gonza participated as an IACHR advisor in a public hearing on merits and contingent reparations and fees, held in the case of Eduardo Kimel v. Argentina.

83. From November 29 to 30, specialist Alejandra Gonza of the Office of the Rapporteur participated in and made a presentation at an international seminar on "Warning Systems and Methodology for Documenting and Following Up on Aggressions against Journalists and the Media in Mexico." The event was held in Mexico City, organized by various associations.

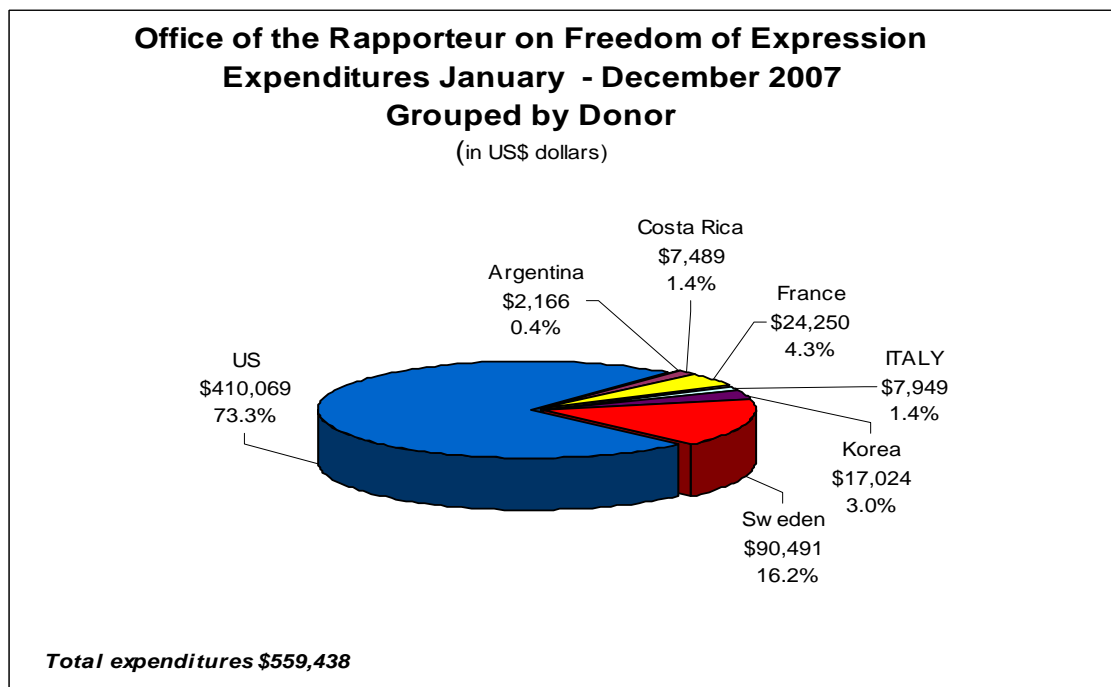
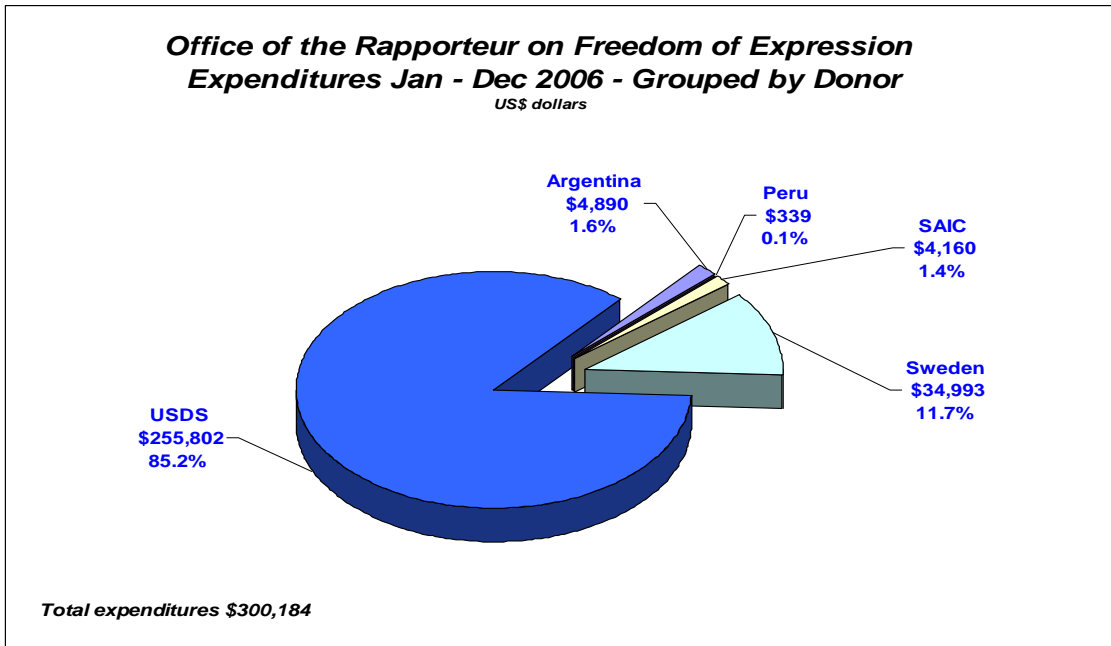
84. On December 7, 2007, the Special Rapporteur and specialist Alejandra Gonza of the Office of the Rapporteur attended the 2007 Meeting and Joint Declaration of the Special Rapporteurs for Freedom of Expression, held in the Netherlands and organized by Article 19 and the Institute for Information Law of the University of Amsterdam. Along with the Rapporteurs for Freedom of Expression of the United Nations, Europe and Africa, the Special Rapporteur signed a joint declaration on the need to promote diversity in access to communications media, particularly with respect to electronic media such as radio and television.

C. Funding of the Office of the Special Rapporteur

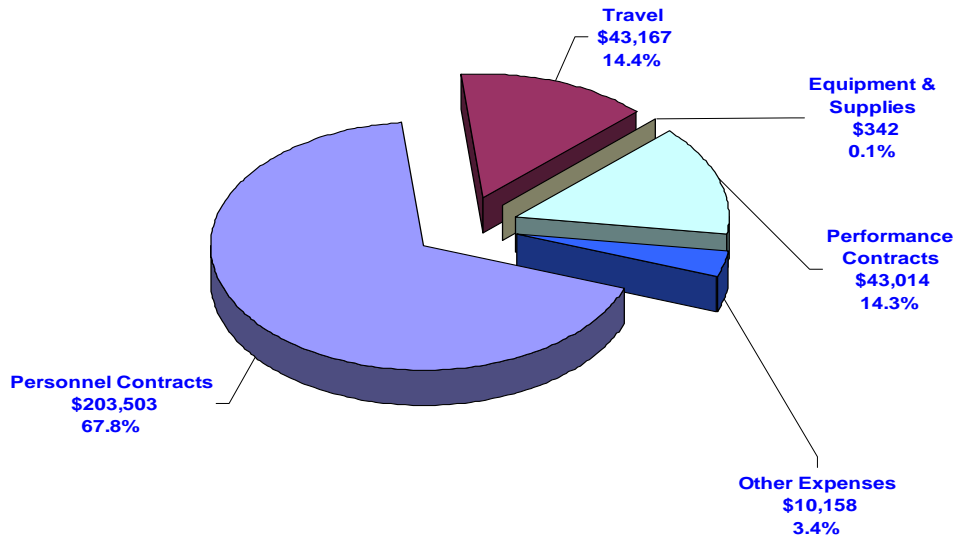
85. The Office of the Special Rapporteur funds the total costs of the salaries of the Special Rapporteur and the staff of the Rapporteurship, as well as their activities (special studies, advisory services, on-site visits to countries in the region, organization and implementation of

seminars on freedom of expression, among other activities), with contributions from the OAS Member States and from States that have observer status with the organization.

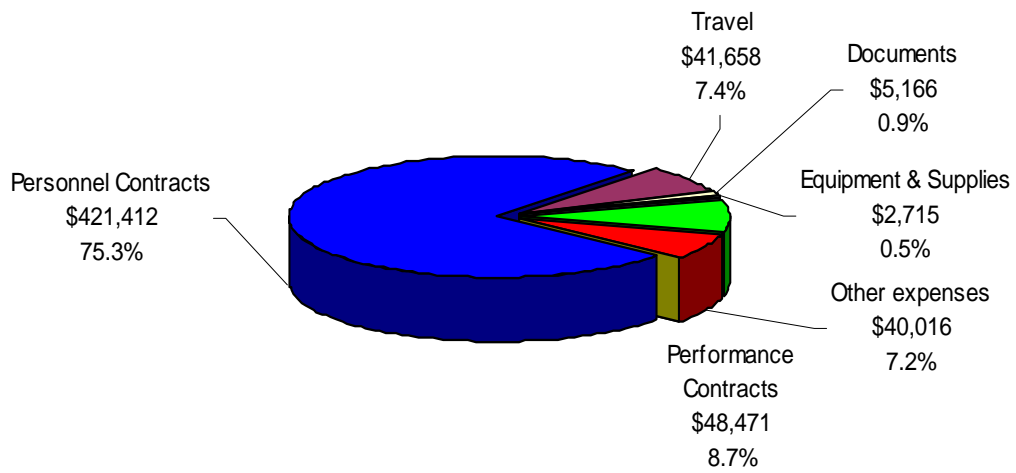
86. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has decided to publish its 2006 and 2007 budgets on its Web page, along with information about allocations of the funds it has received and the countries that have provided this financial support. In this regard, the Office of the Special Rapporteur in 2006 spent a total of (U.S.) \$300,184, while from January to October 2007, its total expenditures were (U.S.) \$559,438. Information on expenditures by category and by donor countries is included in the following graphs:



**Office of the Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression
Expenditures Jan - Dec 2006 - Grouped by Category**
US\$ dollars



**Office of the Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression
Expenditures January - December 2007
Grouped by Category**
(in US\$ dollars)



Total expenditures \$559,438

CHAPTER II

SITUATION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE REGION

A. Introduction and Methodology

87. This chapter describes specific aspects related to the situation of freedom of expression in the countries of the region in 2007.

88. The chapter is divided into four sections: Section A consists of the introduction and an explanation of the methodology used; Section B has to do with the evaluation of the situation of freedom of expression in the region in 2007; Section C details the most important developments related to the exercise of freedom of expression in the Member States during the year; and Section D contains tables with the information received in 2007 by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, broken down by country. These tables are included in the 2007 quarterly reports, in which the Office of the Special Rapporteur evaluates the situation of freedom of expression in the region, a practice it began in 2006.

89. The States Parties to the American Convention have the obligation not only to respect the human rights enshrined in this instrument but also to guarantee that they are exercised. This implies that the States are obligated to investigate and punish those responsible for all acts of violence, including those committed by persons who are not agents of the State. Consequently, this report includes not only the murders, threats and aggressions allegedly committed by State agents, but also those in which the alleged perpetrators are private individuals.

90. The evaluation of the state of freedom of expression in the region presented in Section B and the evaluation by country in Section C were based on information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, which is detailed in the tables in Section D. Information gathered during working visits and seminars was also taken into account. In addition to a summary of information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, Section D includes sources for the information and Internet links, when these are available.

91. In the last three annual reports, Section C categorized each year's most significant developments in accordance with the approved Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression. For this new annual report, the Office of the Special Rapporteur concentrated its efforts on evaluating in general terms the key issues that have emerged in the area of freedom of expression during the year in the region as a whole, then did a detailed, country-by-country analysis. Both evaluations took into account the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, although for this report the analysis and developments were not organized according to each principle.

92. The Office of the Special Rapporteur receives information about freedom of expression from different sources, analyzes it on a daily basis and takes whatever action it deems appropriate, such as issuing press releases and sending requests for information to the States.

93. In doing the evaluation for this annual report, the Office of the Special Rapporteur took into account all the allegations and information regarding the state of freedom of expression that it received during 2007. In previous reports, events that were representative of the situation in each country had been listed and then grouped according to the principles that were being violated. For the 2007 annual report, the idea was to take all the information received and use it as the basis on which to make a specific evaluation of the situation in each Member State.

94. Another aim of the new report was to provide a space for registering all the information and allegations received during 2007. That is the purpose of Section D and its tables.

95. As in previous annual reports, both in the Section B evaluation of the state of freedom of expression in the region and in the Section C country-by-country analysis, there is a marked predominance of developments in the field of journalism, which is a reflection of the information received.

96. However, in addition to the customary alerts, allegations and relevant information, in 2007 the Office of the Special Rapporteur received—in response to the questionnaire (annexed to this report) sent out as part of the groundwork for the Special Study on the Situation of Freedom of Expression in the Americas— written replies from States, civil society organizations from different countries, academic sectors and individuals.

B. Evaluation of the Situation of Freedom of Expression in the Region

97. As in previous years, the Office of the Rapporteur has evaluated the situation of the right to freedom of expression in the Americas. In 2007, this evaluation is based primarily on the study of the following aspects: 1. violence against the communications media: murders and aggressions; 2. censorship; 3. criminal prosecutions; 4. abusive use of official authority; 5. pluralism and diversity in radio broadcasting; 6. access to information; and 7. confidentiality of sources.

1. Violence against the media: murders, threats and aggressions

- Murders

98. In 2007, violence once again became a particularly urgent issue for journalism in the region, mainly because of two clearly identified problems: murders, as well as aggressions and threats directed at the media as the result of their exercising the right to freedom of thought and expression. It is important to note that both of these problems share the characteristic of not being limited to acts of aggression carried out by agents of the State; alerts were also registered in which the acts of aggression were linked to private individuals in view of the lack of prevention and guarantees by the State.

99. In that regard, Principle 9 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression establishes that: “The murder, kidnapping, intimidation of and/or threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of communications media violate the fundamental rights of individuals and strongly restrict freedom of expression. It is the duty of the state to prevent and investigate such occurrences, to punish their perpetrators and to ensure that victims receive due compensation.”

100. According to the information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, at least sixteen murders and three disappearances apparently related to the work of journalism were recorded this year. In those twelve months, such murders of members of the media were registered in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and the United States.

101. For the second year in a row, Mexico was the country that saw the highest concentration of murders during the 12-month period, registering a total of six murders and three disappearances. Two reporters, a spokesman on security issues for the government of Sinaloa and three newspaper deliverymen were murdered for reasons apparently related to their work in journalism, and another three journalists disappeared. The majority of these reported cases could be related to organized crime operations, which underscores the vulnerability of the media in this situation.

102. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has reacted forcefully, condemning such acts as those just mentioned. It issued press releases in cases in which journalists were murdered, urging the States to duly investigate to determine the causes of the crimes, punish the perpetrators and intellectual authors, and make reparations to the victims' family members when appropriate.²⁶

103. In this regard, the Office of the Special Rapporteur emphasizes that murder is the most brutal and violent way to violate the right to freedom of thought and expression and to stop the free flow of information and ideas, becoming in effect the worst act of censorship. The persecution and murder of individuals for exercising the right to freedom of thought and expression are characteristics common to dictatorships; when seen in democratic systems, they weaken democracy.

104. Thus, the Office of the Rapporteur underscores the importance—for the protection of freedom of expression—of overcoming impunity by determining those responsible for the murders. In that regard, in 2007 some progress was made in several investigations into murders of members of the media that took place during the year or in the past. As an example, in Brazil, the person behind the assassination of the Paraguayan journalist Samuel Román, who died in 2004, was convicted of the crime. In Haiti, two of those responsible for the murder of Jacques Roche were sentenced to life in prison; meanwhile, a commission that includes journalists is helping to facilitate the investigations into the murders of other journalists. In the Dominican Republic, journalist Facundo Lavatta's killer was sentenced to 30 years in prison, as was the murderer of Juan Andújar. In the United States, Chauncey Bailey's murderer was caught a few days after the reporter's death and confessed that he had killed him because of articles he had published. In Colombia, demobilized paramilitary members confessed their responsibility in the murders of journalists Martín Larrota Duarte and José Emeterio Rivas Rivas.

105. Nevertheless, the lack of due investigation into certain murders of journalists in 2007 and in previous years has been a cause of permanent concern for the Office of the Special Rapporteur. These crimes frequently remain unpunished, giving rise to new murders and an increase in self-censorship.

106. The Office of the Special Rapporteur again urges the States to promptly investigate these cases and to apply the greatest possible effort to ensure that these crimes do not remain unpunished. Especially in the case of Mexico, it reminds the State that it should not only investigate and penalize, but also adopt all necessary measures to prevent such acts as those registered in 2007 from being repeated, taking actions to address the problem of violence against the media. In addition, the Office of the Special Rapporteur reminds States that they can also be held responsible internationally for the lack of an effective investigation of crimes perpetrated by organized crime. The Office of the Special Rapporteur urges States not to back away from efforts to resolve cases that are pending.

- Aggressions and Threats

107. Besides murders, as was mentioned previously, violence against journalists and media employees in the Hemisphere also manifests itself through aggressions, threats and attacks against individuals or their workplaces. Those who are victims of acts of this nature are defenseless and vulnerable both to those who threaten and attack them to bring about their silence, as well as to the State itself, which does not protect them.

²⁶ The Office of the Special Rapporteur's press releases can be found at:<http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/artListCat.asp?catID=1&IID=1>.

108. The Office of the Rapporteur has reiterated on numerous occasions the fundamental duty of the State to prevent acts such as those mentioned, as well as its duty to adopt all necessary measures to protect those who are in a situation of risk. The IACHR has also established that the failure to conduct a serious, impartial and effective investigation and to punish the perpetrators and intellectual authors of these crimes violates not only the guarantees of due process but also the right to inform and to express oneself publicly and freely, thus generating international responsibility on the part of the State.²⁷

109. In 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur received information about aggressions and threats against members of the media that took place in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

110. Of the various acts reported, the Office of the Rapporteur has identified, among others, physical aggressions and threats against media employees for work-related reasons, as well as attacks against media outlets, which continued to affect the full exercise of freedom of expression.

111. In the first place, the Office of the Rapporteur has observed that in 2007 these threats and aggressions came from the most diverse sectors, including agents of the State. Information has been received about threats and physical aggressions against journalists and media employees perpetrated or ordered by members of the police or military, administrative officials, governors, mayors and legislators, among other high-level government officials. According to the information received, acts of this nature were registered in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

112. Information has also been received about aggressions carried out by private individuals. This situation was seen particularly in Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela, during the coverage of public demonstrations. In order to effectively guarantee the rights enshrined in the American Convention, the State Party has the general obligation to protect all persons within its jurisdiction, not only when it comes to actions of its own agents but also in relation to the actions of private third parties.²⁸

113. One of the most worrisome consequences of acts of aggression, harassment and threats has to do with the need for victims and their family members to leave the place where danger is the daily currency. Some journalists resolve to stay or to ignore the warnings and continue their investigations, living in permanent fear. In rare cases, they can count on police protection. By choosing this path, many members of the media end up paying for this decision with their lives; this was demonstrated again in 2007 by the fact that various members of the media who were murdered had warned beforehand that they had been receiving threats.

114. On that point, the Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its deep concern regarding information it receives constantly about journalists who have been forced to leave the cities where they live and work, or even their countries, either alone or accompanied by their families, due to the possibility that the death threats against them may be carried out. According to the information received, this problem has been seen particularly in Colombia, where at least five

²⁷ IACHR, Report No. 50/99, Case 11.739 (Mexico), April 13, 1999.

²⁸ Case of Carlos Nieto *et al.* Provisional Measures. Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, July 9, 2004, ninth "considering" paragraph; Case of Carpio Nicolle *et al.* Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, July 8, 2004, seventh "considering" paragraph; and Case of "El Nacional" and "Asi es la Noticia" Newspapers, footnote 2, twelfth "considering" paragraph.

journalists had to leave the country after their lives were threatened, and at least two others decided to leave their homes for a time. In Mexico, as well, at least one case was reported of a journalist who left the country. A journalist in Honduras left when he received a threat following the murder of one of his colleagues.

115. In that regard, the Office of the Rapporteur urges the States in which journalists at risk have been displaced or exiled to adopt all necessary measures to ensure that those who wish to return to their homes can do so under security conditions that allow them to freely do their work. If, on the other hand, the journalists wish to remain elsewhere, the State should adopt measures to ensure that they can remain with dignity in the place they have chosen and can count on security measures and the economic support they need to be able to keep their jobs and family relationships to the extent possible. The State should generate mechanisms to grant them real means of protection and to ensure that those who are seriously threatened can find themselves out of danger.

116. Secondly, in 2007 the Office of the Rapporteur has also registered aggressions against the headquarters of various media outlets, which have had a significant intimidating effect on the exercise of freedom of expression. In Mexico, unidentified individuals left a human head with threatening messages on the doorstep of at least two newspapers. The daily *Cambio de Sonora* decided to close down after its headquarters was the target of two attacks with grenades tossed by unknown persons. At another newspaper where three deliverymen were murdered, several reporters turned in their resignations within a short period of time.

117. With regard to this issue, the Office of the Special Rapporteur once again expresses its deep concern about acts of this nature. Violent attacks against media facilities instill fear, leading those who work there to be afraid to go near their workplace because of the potential danger to their lives and physical integrity— particularly considering the violence and cruelty of the acts reported in 2007. The Office of the Rapporteur believes that such acts, because of the potential risks they imply—particularly to the life and personal integrity of those linked to the media—could lead to self-censorship or the involuntary distortion of news reporting.

118. In addition, it is essential that the State investigate and punish those responsible for such acts. The lack of action and subsequent investigation by the State leads to such acts being repeated.

119. Thirdly, the Office of the Rapporteur emphasizes that aggressions and threats against journalists and the media in many cases were linked to the electoral processes and popular referendums that took place in the current year. On this point, in the context of electoral processes, freedom of thought and expression in both of its dimensions constitutes a fundamental foundation for debate, the formation of public opinion and the opposition that must necessarily exist in every democracy. This debate allows for greater transparency and oversight of future authorities and their administration.²⁹

120. It is of concern to the Office of the Special Rapporteur that at such a time in which freedom of expression is especially necessary in all its dimensions, there are so many attempts to silence the media and their employees through aggressions and threats. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has received reports in this regard from countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Jamaica and Venezuela.

121. Finally, it must be noted that violence against media employees and media outlets described in this chapter, along with a failure to investigate and adopt adequate measures to protect

²⁹ I/A Court H.R., *Case of Ricardo Canese*. Judgment of August 31, 2004. Series C, No. 111, para. 88.

those who report on sensitive issues, could produce the damaging effect of self-censorship both by those who have been threatened as well as by their co-workers and colleagues who choose silence over danger. In fact, the gravity of the situation and the fear it generates keeps individuals who are threatened from even denouncing the situation they are experiencing, both because of inertia on the part of the State and because of the complex relationship between organized crime and State agents. As a result, both media management and journalists often decide to stop reporting on and investigating those issues that led to the threats, thus weakening the access to information that is in society's interest.

122. The public is often unaware of the existence of self-censorship, or it may not realize to what degree this affects the journalists and media it relies on to be informed. However, society pays a high price when this type of situation is imposed, since in a democratic system it is essential that the media be able to inform about the reality of society and that citizens exercise their right to be informed about issues that concern them.

2. *Censorship*

123. Censorship is one of the problems the Office of the Special Rapporteur follows closely in the region. In that regard, Principle 5 of the Declaration of Principles holds that: "Prior censorship, direct or indirect interference in or pressure exerted upon any expression, opinion or information transmitted through any means of oral, written, artistic, visual or electronic communication must be prohibited by law. Restrictions to the free circulation of ideas and opinions, as well as the arbitrary imposition of information and the imposition of obstacles to the free flow of information violate the right to freedom of expression."

124. Although prior censorship is expressly forbidden in the American Convention,³⁰ the Office of the Rapporteur received information about prior censorship cases that occurred in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

125. Of the cases registered, the Office of the Rapporteur notes that the problem of censorship reemerged with new force in Brazil, where laws allow the judiciary to prohibit the disclosure of information. In this regard, the Office of the Special Rapporteur received information to the effect that on at least six occasions, Brazilian courts ordered different media outlets not to publish certain information or not to mention a certain person, in some cases public officials, in information they issued or published. Court decisions with similar objectives were also reported in Colombia and Argentina.

126. On this point, the Rapporteurship recalls that the State has international responsibility for acts or omissions of any of its branches or bodies that violate rights that have been enshrined internationally.³¹

127. In this regard, at least two cases in Argentina also came to the attention of the Office of the Special Rapporteur. The management of a public radio station in the province of Santa Cruz decided to cancel a program after a presenter urged the provincial government to pay attention

³⁰ Article 13.2 of the American Convention establishes that: "The exercise of the right provided for in the foregoing paragraph shall not be subject to prior censorship but shall be subject to subsequent imposition of liability, which shall be expressly established by law to the extent necessary to ensure: a. respect for the rights or reputations of others; or b. the protection of national security, public order, or public health or morals." Article 13.4 establishes that: "Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, public entertainments may be subject by law to prior censorship for the sole purpose of regulating access to them for the moral protection of childhood and adolescence."

³¹ I/A Court H.R., *Case of Ximenes Lopes*. Judgment of July 4, 2006. Series C, No. 149, para. 172; I/A Court H.R., *Case of Baldeon Garcia*. Judgment of April 6, 2006. Series C, No. 147, para. 140.

to salary demands being made by professors. According to the information received, management justified its decision by saying that these types of statements should not be made on a public radio station. Also in Argentina, a judge ordered an end to broadcasts via a *Channel 7* relay antenna in the city of San Rafael, Mendoza, based on a law indicating that only State-owned relay antennas are authorized for “reasons of national security,” according to information received by the Office of the Rapporteur.

128. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes that censorship is prohibited in all its forms and that the State should tolerate and promote the existence of pluralistic programming that allows for the creation of public opinion based on a diversity of sources and opinions.

3. *Criminal prosecutions*

129. Another consequence for those who disclose information or critical opinions of authorities is the existence of criminal prosecutions for *desacato*, defamation, libel or slander. These judicial actions have the effect of dissuading the exercise of freedom of expression.

130. Principal 10 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression states:

“The protection of a person’s reputation should only be guaranteed through civil sanctions in those cases in which the person offended is a public official, a public person or a private person who has voluntarily become involved in matters of public interest. In addition, in these cases, it must be proven that in disseminating the news, the social communicator had the specific intent to inflict harm, was fully aware that false news was disseminated, or acted with gross negligence in efforts to determine the truth or falsity of such news.”

131. Principle 11 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression establishes that: “Public officials are subject to greater scrutiny by society. Laws that penalize offensive expressions directed at public officials, generally known as ‘desacato laws,’ restrict freedom of expression and the right to information.”

132. In 2007, public officials—as well as private individuals—continued to arbitrarily use criminal law in order to silence journalists and others, on the pretext of seeking to protect someone’s honor or reputation. In that regard, the Office of the Rapporteur received information about convictions that were handed down against journalists or media employees accused mainly of crimes against honor in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Office of the Rapporteur also expresses its concern once again about the situation of journalists in Cuba, which continues to be the country with the greatest number of members of the media in prison for exercising the right to freedom of thought and expression, and reiterates its request to the State that it release them.

133. During the year the Office of the Rapporteur received with concern various reports about journalists who were detained for some hours in police stations after having covered some news event. Such was the case of four reporters in Mexico, who in August were detained by a group of federal military and police personnel when they were covering an anti-narcotics operation. The journalists were accused of having marijuana and bearing weapons, but in September the authorities dismissed the charges against them.

134. New criminal prosecutions were also begun against reporters in order to punish or silence criticism. In Ecuador, for example, the President of the Republic, Rafael Correa, filed a *desacato* complaint against Francisco Vivanco Riofrío, president of the editorial board of the newspaper *La Hora* because of an editorial questioning the president’s administration.

135. These criminal prosecutions are possible because many OAS Member States have not brought their criminal legislation in line with standards established in the decisions, opinions and reports of the bodies of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights, as well as with recommendations in the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, particularly Principles 10 and 11.

136. The IACHR has noted that the criminal concept of *desacato*—which affords special protections for the honor and reputation of public officials as well as the State itself and its symbols—is incompatible with the right to freedom of expression contemplated in Article 13 of the American Convention. In a democratic society, public officials and the State, instead of receiving such special protection, should be exposed to a greater level of criticism that allows for more public debate and democratic control regarding its actions.

137. In recent years, *desacato* laws have been repealed in 10 countries, which demonstrates a positive trend toward eliminating this type of law. This should be taken into account by the authorities of those States in which these laws remain in effect. The Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates its recommendation to the Member States that still have *desacato* laws to repeal them.

138. In this regard, the Office of the Special Rapporteur underscores as a positive step federal legislation approved in Mexico to decriminalize the crimes of defamation, libel and slander at the federal level. This means that prison sentences will no longer be imposed but rather civil penalties in all cases. Mexico thus becomes a vanguard State in decriminalizing crimes against honor.

139. As far as the criminal concepts of defamation, libel and slander, standards of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights have established that it is disproportionate for a democratic society to criminally punish offenses against honor and reputation that stem from the dissemination of information on matters of public interest. Criminal prosecutions related to the dissemination of information in the public interest provide a disincentive for the investigation and discussion of issues relevant to society and stifle criticism, which has a negative impact on democracy.

140. The Office of the Special Rapporteur recalls that journalists provide a service that is essential to a democracy and have the right to do their jobs without being worried about being sent to prison or subject to disproportionate civil penalties as a result. The protection of honor and reputation in such cases should be carried out through the right to set the record straight or respond, and by means of proportional civil penalties, determined through processes that take into account the parameters established in Principle 10 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression.

4. *Abusive use of public authority*

141. In 2006, the Office of the Special Rapporteur had already observed a growing trend toward intolerance of criticism on the part of various governments in the region, which was reflected at the time in the frequent use by public authorities of subtle means to coerce the press. Taken as a whole, these indicated a troubling situation and trend. In 2007, this trend continued and found new ways to express itself.

142. In addition to the illegitimate and misguided use of public authority to coerce the press through discriminatory policies in the placement of official advertising, discrimination in access to official sources and dismissals from media outlets due to governmental pressure, among other

actions, this year saw the impact that statements made by high-level officials have had on the exercise of freedom of expression in some countries.

143. One extreme example happened this year in Colombia, where that country's President, Alvaro Uribe, called a radio station and publicly criticized journalist Gonzalo Guillén. Following that presidential intervention, Guillén received 24 death threats and had to leave the country, according to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur. Another exchange between President Alvaro Uribe and journalist Daniel Coronell led the reporter and his crew to be declared military targets of a paramilitary group. In Venezuela, threats by President Hugo Chávez to not renew a channel's license came to a head with the shutdown of *Radio Caracas Televisión's* broadcasts over the airwaves.

144. These examples, which have been among the most significant in this area in 2007, are but a sampling of the power that statements by high-level officials can have on the exercise of freedom of expression, beyond any concrete actions that subsequently may or may not be taken against a media outlet or against journalists. In this regard, heads of State play a critical role in making room for tolerance and democratic co-existence; thus, they should exercise special care in terms of the impact their statements may have on freedom of expression and on other human rights, such as the right to life and to personal integrity.

145. The Office of the Special Rapporteur recalls that indirect restrictions to freedom of expression are prohibited by the American Convention³² and that Principle 13 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression establishes that: "The exercise of power and the use of public funds by the state, the granting of customs duty privileges, the arbitrary and discriminatory placement of official advertising and government loans; the concession of radio and television broadcast frequencies, among others, with the intent to put pressure on and punish or reward and provide privileges to social communicators and communications media because of the opinions they express threaten freedom of expression, and must be explicitly prohibited by law. The means of communication have the right to carry out their role in an independent manner. Direct or indirect pressures exerted upon journalists or other social communicators to stifle the dissemination of information are incompatible with freedom of expression."

5. *Pluralism and diversity in radio broadcasting*

146. In connection with the previous point, the Office of the Special Rapporteur recalls that it has previously expressed its concern about information received to the effect that "the possible consolidation of practices that impede the existence of diversity and pluralistic expression of opinions, given the concentration of ownership of communications media, including print media as well as radio and television".³³ In 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur received information about various measures adopted by governments that are associated with these types of practices.

147. With regard to this issue, the Office of the Special Rapporteur recalls that Principle 12 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression establishes that: "Monopolies or oligopolies in the ownership and control of the communication media must be subject to anti-trust laws, as they conspire against democracy by limiting the plurality and diversity which ensure the full exercise of people's right to information. In no case should such laws apply exclusively to the

³² Article 13.3. "The right of expression may not be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of government or private controls over newsprint, radio broadcasting frequencies, or equipment used in the dissemination of information, or by any other means tending to impede the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions."

³³ IACHR, Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. 2002, Vol. III. OAS/Ser.L/V/II. 117. Doc. 5 rev., March 7, 2003, Chapter II, para. 20.

media. The concession of radio and television broadcast frequencies should take into account democratic criteria that provide equal opportunity of access for all individuals.”

148. The Office of the Rapporteur has interpreted this principle, indicating that the existence of monopolies or oligopolies constitutes a serious obstacle to disseminating one’s own thoughts and receiving different opinions: “In modern society, mass communications media, such as television, radio and the press, have an undeniable power in the cultural, political, religious [...], formation of society’s inhabitants. If these media are controlled by a small number of individuals, or by a single one, this in fact creates a society in which a small number of persons exercise control over information and, directly or indirectly, over the opinions received by the rest of the society. This lack of pluralism in information is a serious obstacle to the functioning of democracy. Democracy requires the confrontation of ideas, debate and discussion. When this debate does not exist or is weakened due to the fact that sources of information are limited, this directly contravenes the principal pillar of democratic functioning”.³⁴

149. The Office of the Special Rapporteur emphasizes in this regard that ownership concentration and monopolies and control of the media, whether by the State, individuals or corporations, affects pluralism, an essential component of freedom of expression.³⁵

150. The Joint Declaration on Diversity in Broadcasting—signed in December of this year by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights’ Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information—indicates on this issue that “undue concentration of media ownership, direct or indirect, as well as government control over the media, pose a threat to diversity of the media, as well as other risks, such as concentrating political power in the hands of owners or governing elites.”

151. Information was received in 2007 about efforts by some States to advance solutions in this area. In Uruguay, a law was finally approved in December requiring the State to promote and guarantee the existence of community radio and TV stations. It includes nondiscretionary procedures for assigning frequencies and provides for holding public hearings for granting and renewing concessions. In Chile, draft legislation was proposed to create community radio services. The Office of the Special Rapporteur also applauded the decision by Mexico’s Supreme Court of Justice declaring unconstitutional certain articles of the Radio and Television Law that affected pluralism.

152. However, in some countries in the region there were also judicial and administrative orders to close community radio stations, as well as some police operations and seizure of equipment. In Guatemala, where a Roundtable for Dialogue was being held between government representatives and community radio stations to draft a law on community radio stations, with the support of the Office of the Special Rapporteur, the executive branch—circumventing the roundtable discussions taking place—approved a regulation to close all radio stations operating without permission. In Bolivia, a presidential decree regulating the provision of telecommunications services in rural areas establishes that no member of the three branches of government will be able to operate radio stations, nor may representatives of political parties, unions or chambers, nor may priests, ministers or representatives of any religion. These radio stations, according to the decree,

³⁴ IACHR, Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. 2000, Vol. III. OAS/Ser.L/V/II.111, Doc. 20 rev., April 16, 2001, para. 55.

³⁵ IACHR, Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. 2006, Vol. II. OAS/Ser.L/V/II.127 Doc. 4 rev., March 3, 2007, Chapter IV, para. 4.

must abstain from transmitting partisan or proselytizing messages. Elsewhere, the government of Venezuela carried out its decision not to renew *RCTV*'s license to broadcast over the airwaves, while the Supreme Tribunal of Justice granted the new public television channel the use of *RCTV* equipment without mediating any payment. The license of the *Venezolana Televisión* and *Venevisión* stations were renewed without any explanation from the government as to the differences in treatment given to these stations and to *RCTV*.

153. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has stated that "it is the state's duty to guarantee equal opportunities for all with respect to the discrimination-free receiving, seeking out, and sharing of information through any communication channel whatsoever, eliminating all measures that discriminate against the equal and the full participation of individuals or groups in their countries' political, economic, and social life",³⁶ and it has also said that "the traditional mass media are not always accessible for disseminating the needs and claims of society's most impoverished or vulnerable sectors. Thus, community media outlets have for some time been insisting that strategies and programs that address their needs be included on national agendas".³⁷

6. *Access to information*

154. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has also closely followed the exercise of the right of access to information, which continues to be problematic in the majority of Member States. The facts point to a culture of secrecy that imposes obstacles to implementing policies on access to information.

155. Information has been received about cases in which information is denied by a significant number of State agencies, and the interested parties are forced to file a petition to gain access. Thus a recourse intended to be used in exceptional cases is being used as a matter of routine to obtain information which cannot be accessed otherwise. In Argentina, various petitions have had to be filed to obtain public information, with positive results, and to a lesser extent this also occurred in Peru and Uruguay, according to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur.

156. Still, progress has been made in this area in 2007. In Mexico, the right to information was incorporated into the Constitution of Mexico as an individual guarantee of all Mexican citizens, and within a year state laws must be adapted to be in line with these constitutional principles. In Paraguay and Honduras, representatives of the government and civil society began talks on possible draft legislation to guarantee access to information. In Argentina, a court ordered the provincial government of Neuquén to provide information that two organizations had requested, and in its decision said that a failure to provide the information requested would violate the constitutional right of access to information.

157. However, much remains to be done in terms of guaranteeing this right; thus the Office of the Special Rapporteur urges the States to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the broadest access to the information in their power, in accordance with the standards of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights. Such measures include adopting laws in this area, implementing policies to promote transparency and access to information, and training public officials.

³⁶ IACHR, Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. 2006, Vol. II. OAS/Ser.L/V/II. 127 Doc. 4 rev., March 3, 2007, Chapter IV, para. 4.

³⁷ *Ibid*, para. 38.

7. *Confidentiality of sources*

158. As in previous years, in 2007 journalists were coerced by authorities and the courts to reveal the identity of their confidential sources of information and to turn over their files and notes.

159. The most troubling case occurred in the United States, where freelance journalist Josh Wolf remain incarcerated for more than 200 days for refusing to reveal the identity of his sources. Also this year, the U.S. Congress reopened the process of studying a federal “shield law” that would protect journalists from having to reveal their sources of information in federal courts.

160. The Office of the Special Rapporteur recalls that Principle 8 of the Declaration of Principles establishes that: “Every social communicator has the right to keep his/her source of information, notes, personal and professional archives confidential.”

Conclusion

161. Some positive steps were taken in the area of freedom of expression in the region during 2007, whether at the legislative and judicial levels or in terms of government actions. However, many of these have turned out to be lateral steps, in view of deeper problems that require immediate action—such as the issue of violence against the media. The problems and obstacles faced in the exercise of this right therefore continue to be serious and troubling.

162. Although expressions of goodwill on the part of the State to act in this area are welcome, these must be accompanied by effective actions. Modifying legislation and putting policies into effect to ensure that members of society can broadly exercise freedom of thought and expression requires a greater political will by the OAS Member States in order to move forward in this area.

163. In a democratic system, the right to freedom of expression is essential. Its exercise deepens and enriches democracy. It is for that reason that the Office of the Special Rapporteur again urges the States to maximize their efforts to strengthen the respect for this fundamental right and to guarantee its full exercise, in order thus to contribute to the consolidation of the region’s democracies.

C. Country-by-Country Evaluation of the Situation of Freedom of Expression

164. This section of the annual report evaluates the situation of freedom of expression in 2007 in the OAS Member States. This evaluation took into consideration the alerts, reports and information received during the year by the Office of the Special Rapporteur. This information has been entered into the tables that accompany the quarterly press releases, which are included in Section D of the annual report. The evaluation of each country has taken into account noteworthy developments in 2007, which serve as the basis for the Office of the Special Rapporteur’s remarks.

165. These observations do not intend to exhaust all possible points of analysis in the area of freedom of expression, but rather to emphasize what the Office of the Rapporteur considers priority issues in the context of the information received about each country. The information flow is less fluid in some cases than others; such is the situation with some of the Caribbean countries, for example. Thus the Office of the Special Rapporteur again urges the Member States, civil society organizations and individuals to send in all information they consider relevant regarding freedom of expression in their respective countries.

1. Antigua and Barbuda

166. Two journalists were expelled from this country on June 12 and 13, 2007. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, former *Antigua Sun* editor Vernon Khelawan, who is originally from Trinidad and Tobago, had traveled to this country to work on a cooperation program between UNESCO and the Association of Caribbean Media Workers. Lennox Linton, a journalist of Dominican nationality working for *Observer Radio*, was also expelled. Representatives of the government of Antigua and Barbuda indicated that the reporters did not have their immigration papers in order.

2. Argentina

167. In 2007, the Office of the Rapporteur has observed both progress and setbacks in different areas related to the right to freedom of thought and expression in Argentina. Of particular note are the alerts and reports on aggressions, censorship, criminal procedures and the placement of official advertising.

168. In terms of official advertising, the Office of the Special Rapporteur calls attention to the decision handed down by the Supreme Court on September 5, 2007, against the provincial government of Neuquén for the withdrawal of official advertising from the Río Negro newspaper in 2002. The court decision indicated that the withdrawal of official advertising constituted an indirect restriction to freedom of expression, as it was not based on reasonable and justified criteria. The Office of the Special Rapporteur also views positively a decision by a court in Neuquén ordering the government to turn over information on advertising costs that had been requested by two organizations. In this regard, the Office of the Rapporteur underscores the importance of the participation of different sectors involved in drafting the legislative proposals that spell out criteria for distribution, transparency, control and placement of advertising. This participation was evident in the fact that the House of Representatives' Committee on Freedom of Expression invited civil society to present comments on the issue.

169. The Office of the Rapporteur also welcomes the inclusion, in the Criminal Code of Entre Ríos province, of the right to confidentiality of journalistic sources.

170. The Office of the Rapporteur also notes that it received alerts regarding acts of censorship as the result of a court decision that ordered an end to broadcasts via the Channel 7 relay antenna in the city of San Rafael, Mendoza. This went against two presidential decrees that had facilitated the arrival of open, free public television across the country. In the province of Santa Fe, the printing plant of the daily *El Observador* was also closed as the result of a decision made by the Municipal Council of the San Lorenzo Mayor's Office, on the grounds that the plant did not have the authorization it needed to operate. The owner of the plant held that the measure was taken in response to the newspaper's editorial stance, which ran contrary to the government administration. In that regard, the Office of the Special Rapporteur recalls that censorship is prohibited in all its forms and that the State should tolerate and facilitate access to public television in all regions of the country, since pluralism of information enables public opinion to be formed based on a diversity of sources and opinions.

171. The Office of the Rapporteur laments that it continued to receive reports of aggressions and threats against journalists during the year. In particular, it notes its concern regarding events that occurred in August 2007 in Salta, where police officers assaulted a reporter for *El Tribuno*, Darío Illanes, and detained him for more than an hour in the Juvenile Detention Center when he was gathering information about a riot that had happened the day before. This concern extends to the journalist Carlos Fuman, who reported experiencing harassment and persecution since 2006. In September 2007, Furman was detained and beaten by police officers in

a jail in the city of Santa Elena, in Entre Ríos. The Office of the Special Rapporteur urges the Argentine government authorities to take all necessary measures to guarantee that these reporters can exercise their right to freedom of expression without suffering these types of consequences, and to investigate and punish those responsible for such actions.

172. Although at least three court decisions have been reported that reject criminal charges on matters of public interest—a situation that presupposes considerable progress in providing domestic judicial protection in the area of free expression—reports continue to be received about the undue application of criminal law through the application of libel and slander charges. The Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its concern over criminal convictions of journalists for defamation and slander. It underscores that concern in two cases in particular. In September 2007, in Salta, journalist Sergio Poma received a suspended sentence of one year in prison, and was barred from exercising his profession as a journalist for one year, as the result of a slander charge brought by the governor of Salta, Juan Carlos Romero. That same month, in Salta province, the director of the digital newspaper *Salta Libre*, José Acho, received a two-year suspended prison sentence and was fined 20,000 pesos for moral damages, due to a complaint for slander and libel presented by the folk singer Oscar Esperanza Palavecino. The court ordered that the singer's name no longer be mentioned on that Web page or in other media outlets. The Office of the Rapporteur notes that in cases such as these, civil law is the least detrimental course for seeking to protect the honor of public individuals or denouncing when freedom of expression has been abused in matters of public interest. The burden is to prove that the person in question intended to cause harm; acted in full knowledge that he or she was disseminating false information; or acted with clear negligence in determining whether the information was true or false, in accordance with Principle 10 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression.

173. On another matter, the Office of the Special Rapporteur received information about the existence of recurring problems in the placement of official advertising. Reports were also received about cases involving discrimination in access to information, particularly in the context of the electoral campaign.

3. Bolivia

174. The Office of the Special Rapporteur takes note of a presidential decree, issued this year by the government of Bolivia, regulating the provision of telecommunications services in rural areas. The decree establishes that no members of the three branches of government may operate community radio stations, nor may leaders or representatives at any level of political parties or groups of voters, unions or chambers, nor may priests, ministers or any representative of churches of any creed, religion or sect. The same decree indicates that community radio stations should abstain from broadcasting partisan or proselytizing messages of any nature. However, these provisions do not apply to some thirty recently created community radio stations, because these fall under the category of cultural and educational media. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes that this appears to generate inequality in legal treatment for this type of broadcaster.

175. In 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur received various reports of aggressions perpetrated against journalists and media outlets. In this regard, it underscores its particular concern for those that took place in the context of the debate about constitutional reform. In August 2007, various demonstrations organized around the Constituent Assembly led to physical aggressions against reporters and against the installations of *Radio Patria Nueva*.

176. In November, five journalists were attacked in Sucre, where the Constituent Assembly was underway. That same month, and in the context of demonstrations related to the new Constitution, the Catholic radio station *ACLO*, whose programs are broadcast in the Quechua language and which is produced by local indigenous communities, had to suspend its programming

because of threats received from students identifying themselves as with the opposition. The *ATVA* channel and the *Radio FIDES* and *Radio Panamericana* networks were also attacked in November by a group of pro-government demonstrators, following a rally with President Evo Morales in favor of constitutional reform. The Office of the Special Rapporteur urges the authorities to take all necessary measures to guarantee the security of reporters when they are doing their job as journalists.

4. Brazil

177. The Office of the Special Rapporteur deplores the 2007 murders of two journalists for reasons that could be related to the exercise of their profession. It reiterates its call to the authorities that these crimes be investigated, that it be determined whether or not the homicides were related to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, and that the perpetrators be brought to justice. Photographer Róbson Barboza Bezerra, who freelanced for various Rio de Janeiro newspapers, was shot to death on February 8, 2007, when he was returning home. The photographer had filed a complaint about threats and aggressions, on the basis of which a judicial investigation had begun. Meanwhile, journalist Luiz Carlos Barbom Filho, of the *Journal do Porto* and *JC Regional*, was killed in the city of Porto Ferreira. The reporter had written in 2003 about a child prostitution ring that involved politicians and businessmen, and since that time he had received constant threats.³⁸

178. However, the Office of the Special Rapporteur takes positive note of the progress made in the case of Paraguayan journalist Samuel Román, who was murdered in 2004. A jury in Brazil convicted the mastermind of the crime, Eurico Mariano, a former mayor of the city of Coronel Sapucaia, in the state of Mato Grosso, and sentenced him to seventeen years and nine months in prison.

179. The Office of the Special Rapporteur also expresses its concern regarding the cases registered in 2007 of journalists who were attacked by gunfire. This was the case of radio announcer Joao Alckmin, who was attacked in November of this year, and Amaury Ribeiro Junior, a reporter for *Correio Brasileiro*, who was shot three times in September 2007.

180. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, on at least six occasions during 2007, courts handed down sentences prohibiting the media from publishing articles or airing stories on television unless they mentioned or referred to a public official or a relative of a high-level State public official. The Office of the Rapporteur calls on the Brazilian State to make effective the ban on prior censorship enshrined in Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

5. Canada

181. The Office of the Special Rapporteur highlights the November 2007 decision by the Court of Appeal for Ontario regarding a lawsuit against *The Ottawa Citizen*. The decision affirmed the right of the media to publish information in the public interest and said this constitutes a defense in cases involving slander, libel and defamation charges against these media. In another positive development, in September 2007 seven publicly owned companies were found to be subject to the Access to Information Act, which means they will be under greater public scrutiny.

182. The Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its concern over the report it received about the assault perpetrated against *Pakistan Post* journalist Jawaad Faizi. He was beaten

³⁸ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=695&IID=1>.

and threatened in April 2007 for having written about Islam and the religious organization Idara Minhaj-ul-Quran.

6. Chile

183. In October 2007, the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, sent draft legislation to Congress that proposes to legally recognize community radio stations. The initiative recognizes to a limited degree the possibility that these radio stations could obtain economic resources through advertising, the assignment of certain spaces on the radio-electric spectrum and the extension of licenses from three to fifteen years. However, according to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, the draft legislation maintains limits on the signal power of these radio stations and does not open up access to television media or AM radio.

184. On March 26, 2007, Chile's Supreme Court of Justice approved an ordinance that, among other things, prohibited journalists from approaching judiciary officials without permission or bothering them with camera lights—a move that obstructed the exercise of journalism, access to judicial information and the free flow of information. The Office of the Rapporteur views as a positive step the fact that the Supreme Court vacated this ordinance four days later.

185. Meanwhile, the Office of the Special Rapporteur received information about telephone threats received by journalist Ernesto Carmona, in relation to an investigation the reporter was working on about the murder of an Argentine-Swedish cameraman in 1973. In another development connected to this case, according to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, journalist Benjamín Avila and his co-workers Mario Puerto and Arturo Peraldi were arrested when they photographed the residence of former military chief Héctor Hernán Bustamante Gómez, who was allegedly involved in the murder.

7. Colombia

186. The Office of the Special Rapporteur deeply laments the September 2007 murder of Javier Darío Arroyave, of the radio station *Ondas del Valle*, for reasons that could be related to his work as a journalist.³⁹ The government of Colombia informed the Office of the Special Rapporteur in November of this year that investigations were underway to determine the perpetrators of this crime.

187. The Office of the Rapporteur is concerned about reporters' continuing to receive threats because of their investigative journalism efforts, to the point that some members of the media were forced to leave their homes or decided to leave the country altogether. In March 2007, the information director of *Radio Caracol*, Darío Arizmendi, left Colombia, while the coordinator of the investigations unit of the *Diario del Huila*, Germán Hernández, had to leave the city of Neiva, where he lived and worked. In May, reporter Rodrigo Callejas also left his home for fear that death threats against him would be carried out. In August of this year, reporter Juan Pablo Monsalve of *La Noche de RCN Televisión* also left the country after receiving threats related to a corruption investigation he was pursuing. In September, the host of the program *La Verdad*, Geovanny Alvarez Castro, was informed about a plot to kill him and a month later decided to leave the country. Journalist Hollman Morris also left the country in October because he received death threats.

188. In light of these events, the Office of the Special Rapporteur urges the Colombian government authorities to adopt any protection measures that may be necessary to guarantee the right to life and integrity of the threatened reporters as well as of their families.

³⁹ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=710&IID=1>.

189. Another similar case was reported in October 2007, but for different reasons. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, correspondent Gonzalo Guillén of *El Nuevo Herald* was forced to leave the country because of threats he received after the President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, criticized him publicly on two radio stations. Along that same line, according to reports that reached the Office of the Special Rapporteur, days later the leader became enmeshed in a public argument with another reporter, Daniel Coronell, who had returned in June after spending two years outside the country. Hours after the confrontation between Uribe and the reporter, his entire crew was declared a “military target” by a paramilitary group. The Office of the Special Rapporteur recognizes the right to freedom of expression of all citizens, including the President of the Republic, but urges authorities to take into account the potential impact their public statements can have on the life and integrity of other citizens.

190. The Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its concern about the number of aggressions registered in 2007—attributed primarily to members of the military and police—against reporters in the course of doing their job. During the year, other types of cases of intimidation of reporters or media outlets were also reported. Such was the situation faced in August by members of the media in Arauca, who were threatened by a group that identified itself as the FARC with being considered “military targets” if they did not broadcast an entire pamphlet, complete with annexes, on three news programs over the course of two days.

191. It also bears noting that in at least two cases in 2007, the judiciary ordered the media not to publish certain information related to a journalistic investigation or not to inform about the reopening of a judicial investigation into a corruption case.

192. Although the situation of freedom of expression in Colombia was marked by violence, some signs of progress were also reported. In July 2007, Colombia’s Constitutional Court ruled—in a case brought by *RCN Radio*—that it is the media who should regulate themselves when it comes to the content of their programs, not the government of Colombia. This vacated a decision by the Council of the State that had ordered the creation of a committee for the control of content and language of a radio program. On another matter, in May and June, two demobilized paramilitary members confessed their responsibility in the murders of journalists Martín Larrota Duarte and José Emeterio Rivas.

8. Costa Rica

193. Information was received about the detention of and violent aggressions against journalist Adrián Carranza, brought about by agents of the Unidad de Intervención Policial (UIP). This had occurred while the journalist was covering protests by residents of the community of San Pablo against the pro-Free Trade Agreement campaign undertaken by President Oscar Arias.

9. Cuba

194. The Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its concern regarding the number of cases of journalists in prison reported in 2007. According to information received by the Office of the Rapporteur, reporters incarcerated this year include journalist Oscar Sánchez Madan of *Cubanet*, who was arrested and sentenced to prison the same day in an expedited process for “pre-criminal social danger,” a concept in the Cuban criminal code under which a citizen can go to prison for the supposed threat he represents to society even if he has not committed a crime. Meanwhile, the Office of the Rapporteur is also concerned about the situation of Normando Hernández, a journalist serving a 25-year prison sentence since 2003. This year he obtained a humanitarian visa from Costa Rica to receive medical treatment, but the government did not allow him to leave.

195. The Office of the Rapporteur notes the release from prison of *Nueva Prensa Cubana* journalist Armando Betancourt Reina, who had been detained since May 2006 when he was covering the eviction of a family and whose sentencing was delayed for one year. Another journalist, Roberto de Jesús Guerra Pérez, was also released in July 2007, after having been arrested two years earlier in an anti-government demonstration.

196. The year saw continued reports of aggressions, intimidations and harassment by officials from State Security, the Political Police, Rapid Response Brigades and other agencies of the State against journalists who do not follow the official party line. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, on several occasions reporters' houses were searched and work materials were seized, ranging from cameras to news articles. Information was also received to the effect that in February 2007 two foreign correspondents based in Havana—Gary Marx of the Chicago Tribune and César Gonzales-Calero of Mexico's El Universal newspaper—were declared "persona non grata." The Cuban government authorities withdrew their accreditations and ordered them to leave the country. The Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates its concern about the systematic and continued lack of respect for freedom of thought and expression in Cuba.

10. Dominican Republic

197. In 2007, the justice system in the Dominican Republic punished those responsible for the deaths of several members of the media. On May 2, 2007, Edri Vladimir "Vla" Pujols, a member of the "Los Zayayines" gang, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the murder of Juan Andujar, a correspondent for the newspaper *Listín Diario*, who was killed in 2004. Raúl Delgado Paulino was also sentenced to 30 years in prison for the 2006 murder of journalist Facundo Lavatta.

198. Another development of note this year was the ruling by the Contentious, Tributary and Administrative Court of Santo Domingo, which in April 2007 ordered the Presidency of the Republic and the Presidential Office for Restructuring Transportation to turn over to journalist Luis Eduardo Lora all the information he had requested about geological studies for the construction of a public project. The decision was taken in the context of a petition the journalist had filed based on the Law of Free Access to Public Information.

199. The Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates its concern about the persistence of aggressions and threats against journalists in the course of their work, based on the information it has received.

11. Ecuador

200. The Office of the Rapporteur has noted setbacks in Ecuador in different areas related to the right to freedom of thought and expression in 2007. Particularly noteworthy are the alerts related to the use of criminal law to the detriment of freedom of expression, as well as the willingness to impose sanctions by reforming a law through presidential decree.

201. In the first place, the Office of the Rapporteur noted that in 2007 the President of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, filed a charge of *desacato* with the Office of the Public Prosecutor against Francisco Vivanco Riofrío, president of the editorial board of the newspaper *La Hora*, for an editorial criticizing the administration. The Ecuadorian Criminal Code provides for a prison sentence ranging from six months to two years for the crime of *desacato*. This crime is incompatible with the right to freedom of expression established in Article 13 of the American Convention, given that in a democratic society it is believed that public officials, instead of receiving special protections, should be subject to a greater degree of criticism so as to enable public debate and control of their actions. The State should abolish this crime from its domestic law in order to make its legal system compatible with international standards.

202. The Office of the Special Rapporteur is also concerned about the sentence—60 days of unconditional prison time and the payment of a fine for damages and injuries—handed down by the High Court of Justice of Cotopaxi in the case of journalist Nelson Fuentala, a correspondent for the newspaper *La Gaceta*, for the crime of defamation, in response to a charge brought by a commissioner of that province. The Office of the Special Rapporteur recalls that criminal prosecutions related to the dissemination of information in the public interest inhibit criticism, discourage investigation and discussion of issues that are relevant to society, and generate self-censorship, which affects the exercise of freedom of expression. In addition, when criminal laws for the protection of honor are used by public officials, they have the same effect as *desacato* laws. The Office of the Rapporteur notes that public figures who consider that a journalist has caused intentional harm to their honor, with actual malice, should seek civil recourse.

203. The Office of the Rapporteur also notes that the President of the Republic stated in April 2007 that he favored “severe and profound” legal reforms to regulate the press and avoid an “incestuous” relationship between the communications media and financial interests. In June 2007, the president warned that “certain newspapers and media are against the government,” and announced that he would no longer give press conferences and would only answer questions in writing.

204. The President of Ecuador issued a decree in July 2007 that reforms the Regulation of the Radio Broadcasting and Television Law and establishes infractions for the reproduction of videos or audio recordings made in secret and/or without the authorization of those who appear to be involved or who appeared in the video or audio recording in a way that affects the right to privacy and personal honor. An exception is established for videos or recordings made with the media’s or public sector institutions’ own equipment, in order to stop a crime from being committed or to prove the existence of a crime. The National Congress, according to information received by the Office of the Rapporteur, challenged the constitutionality of this decree on the grounds that it restricts the right to freedom of information. In that regard, it is important to recall that limitations to freedom of expression, among others, should be established by a law that is formally approved by the legislature so that the principle of legality is not violated.

12. El Salvador

205. The Office of the Rapporteur views with concern the criminal prosecution undertaken against journalist María Haydee Chicas, who on July 2, 2007, was arrested in Suchitoto while traveling with the board of a nongovernmental organization, during a protest by peasants. The reporter’s detention occurred when she was filming the arrest of the organization’s leaders. Chicas worked for the Association of Rural Communities for the Development of El Salvador. The authorities accused her of committing an “act of terrorism” and sent her case to a special court of instruction. The reporter was facing a possible sentence of 40 to 60 years in prison. On July 20, 2007, judicial authorities released the journalist provisionally, but the “act of terrorism” charges against her were not lifted.

13. Grenada

206. In February 2007, those responsible for *Spice Capital Radio* were charged by the Public Prosecutor’s Office, which accused their station of defaming the Prime Minister of Grenada, Keith Mitchell. The complaint asks the judiciary to bar the radio station from broadcasting similar statements about the country’s leaders.

14. Guatemala

207. The Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates its appeal to the State of Guatemala to investigate the assassination of radio producer Mario López, who was gunned down by three unknown persons on May 3, 2007; to determine if the motive in this case is related to the exercise of freedom of expression; and to punish those responsible.⁴⁰

208. In 2007, information was received about a number of aggressions against reporters and media outlets, in many cases attributed to private individuals. As an example, in February Zinder Jordán Madrid, director of information for *Radio Sultana*, was shot while leaving his house. In April, meanwhile, reporter Rudy Toledo of *Televisión Cable Noticias* in Santa Cruz received a gunshot wound from an unknown person when he was covering the lynching of an alleged delinquent by a group of community residents. According to the information received, acts of aggression against journalists and media outlets appear to have risen during the country's electoral campaign.

209. In February of this year, the government of Guatemala approved a resolution to develop a government policy that gives instructions to occupy and decommission the stations and equipment of broadcasters operating without authorization, which implies the closure of community radio stations. This measure was taken, according to the information given to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, without informing the Roundtable for Dialogue that was created in 2005 to draft legislation that would comply with the provisions of the Peace Accords that have to do with indigenous media outlets, as well as with recommendations made by the Office of the Special Rapporteur in this area.

15. Guyana

210. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, as of November 2006 the government of Guyana has withdrawn official advertising from *Stabroek News*, one of the country's largest newspapers. According to the information available, this decision could be related to the newspaper's editorial stance, which is critical of the government. On June 13, 2007, the Office of the Special Rapporteur requested that the State provide information, within 15 days, on the placement of official advertising in the country.⁴¹ On December 18, 2007, the State answered that the decision was based on an issue of the circulation of the newspaper.

211. Additionally, information was received about the attack on employees of the daily *Kaieteur News* in May 2007, just nine months after five employees of that publication's printing plant had been assassinated. The Office of the Special Rapporteur also received information indicating that journalist Mark Censchop had spent five years waiting to be tried on treason charges, due to his alleged participation in inciting anti-government protests in 2002; he was released from jail on August 27, 2007, under a "presidential free pardon" granted by President Bharrat Jagdeo.

16. Haiti

212. The Office of the Special Rapporteur recognizes the efforts that have been made in Haiti to resolve the murders of journalists committed in the past. In this regard, it emphasizes the creation of an Independent Committee to Support the Investigations into Murders of Journalists, convened by Haitian President René Preval and made up of a group of journalists. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur during its working visit in September 2007, the task of this committee is to help strengthen investigations into the murders of journalists

⁴⁰ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=708&IID=1>.

⁴¹ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=703&IID=1>.

that continue to go unpunished. The Office of the Special Rapporteur welcomes the progress made in legal proceedings in these cases, as well as the life sentences handed down to two of the murders of reporter Jacques Roche.⁴²

213. However, the Office of the Rapporteur notes with regret that in 2007, two reporters were murdered for reasons that could be related to their work in journalism. Photographer Jean-Rémy Badio was shot to death in his house in January. He had photographed members of the armed gangs that for two years have been fighting for territorial control of Martissant, and had received threats as a result. Meanwhile, in May of this year, *Radio Provinciale* director and announcer Alix Joseph was also killed, having received at least 11 gunshot wounds. The Office of the Special Rapporteur again urges the government of Haiti to take the necessary measures to guarantee the security of members of the media who work in the island nation.

17. Honduras

214. In 2007, a journalist was killed in Honduras and another had to leave the country because of death threats he had received. On October 18, 2007, journalist and comedian Carlos Salgado was shot to death when he left the *RCV* radio station where he worked. Salgado tended to criticize the political class on his radio show. Journalists from that station indicated afterwards that they were receiving threats because of their work in journalism.⁴³ The police captured a suspect in the case. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, on November 1 of this year, the director of the same *RCV* station, Dagoberto Rodríguez, left Honduras after being told by the police that a group of hired assassins intended to kill him.

215. Meanwhile, in May 2007, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya announced that all radio and television stations in the country should broadcast, simultaneously and according to a predetermined schedule, government-produced reports and interviews with public officials. According to the president, these broadcasts seek to “counteract media disinformation” about the government administration.

18. Jamaica

216. In July 2007, journalists Cliff Hughes and Emily Crooks received death threats after the media outlet they work for, *Hughes Nationwide News Network*, published the results of an opinion poll. The poll, which appeared before the national elections, showed the opposition Jamaica Labour Party winning the elections over the People’s National Party that was in power. The journalists reported these threats to police authorities.

19. Mexico

217. The Office of the Special Rapporteur views positively a federal law approved in Mexico that decriminalizes at the federal level the crimes of slander, defamation and libel, making Mexican law compatible with inter-American standards and turning this country into an example for the region. Another extremely positive step is the effective incorporation of the right to information into the Constitution of Mexico, as well as the mandate that all state laws related to transparency and access to information be modified within a year to be brought in line with this principle. In addition, the Office of the Special Rapporteur calls attention to the decision in June by the Supreme Court of Justice declaring some articles of the Radio and Television Law unconstitutional and vacating a series of provisions that affected pluralism in media access.

⁴² Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=698&IID=1>.

⁴³ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=713&IID=1>.

218. However, in 2007 the Office of the Special Rapporteur viewed with alarm the recurrence of episodes of extreme violence against members of the media. In April, the *Televisa* correspondent in Acapulco, Amado Ramírez, and journalist Saúl Martínez Ortega of the magazine *Interdiario* were killed for reasons that could be related to the exercise of journalism.⁴⁴ In September, meanwhile, the spokesman for security issues for the government of Sinaloa state, Oscar Rivera, was also gunned down when he was traveling in a government vehicle. Three deliverymen from the newspaper *El Imparcial del Istmo* were assassinated in Oaxaca in October of this year, as they were traveling in a vehicle with the newspaper's logo.

219. In accordance with the information it has received, the Office of the Special Rapporteur also underscores its concern regarding the disappearance, in January of this year, of reporter Rodolfo Rincón of *Tabasco Hoy*, and the disappearances in May of reporter Gamaliel López and cameraman Gerardo Paredes.⁴⁵ In this regard, the State is urged to investigate their whereabouts and find out what happened to these three members of the media.

220. On another matter, the Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its concern regarding the constant attacks and threats that journalists and media outlets have received during the year, sometimes at the hands of criminal organizations, but also on the part of current and former State officials. In June, journalist Misaél Sánchez received a gunshot wound and another reporter, Claudio Tiznado, requested asylum in the United States after having received several threats related to a story he was investigating. Meanwhile, in May, a human head was left at the entrance of the newspaper *Notiver* with a threatening message, and several days later another human head appeared in front of the daily *Tabasco Hoy*, also accompanied by a threatening message. Additionally, the newspaper *Cambio de Sonora* decided to temporarily close after its editorial offices were attacked twice with grenades. At least two journalists, Eolo Pacheco and Lilia Flores, were kidnapped for several hours in July and August, due to stories they were working on. Also worth noting is the resignation in January of the special prosecutor for crimes against journalists, David Vega Vera, after nine months in office.

221. The vulnerability of members of the media in Mexico is of the greatest concern to the Office of the Special Rapporteur, which urges authorities to adopt all measures within their reach to guarantee reporters' life and physical integrity, as well as their right to freedom of expression. Principal 9 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression states: "The murder, kidnapping, intimidation of and/or threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of communications media violate the fundamental rights of individuals and strongly restrict freedom of expression. It is the duty of the state to prevent and investigate such occurrences, to punish their perpetrators and to ensure that victims receive due compensation."

222. On another matter, in November 2007, Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice concluded that there had been no grave human rights violations in the case of journalist Lydia Cacho, who had been incarcerated on a defamation charge. The reporter had accused the governor of Puebla, Mario Marín, and businessman Kamel Nacif, of influence peddling and abuse of authority.

⁴⁴ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=693&IID=1>.

⁴⁵ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=696&IID=1>.

20. Nicaragua

223. In 2007, the Legislative Assembly of Nicaragua approved the Law of Access to Public Information, which obligates State institutions and public-private or private companies that receive State funds to provide information. Even still, one article of the law came under criticism because it establishes that this access to information must be done in a “responsible” way, be provided in a “truthful” manner and be “adequately investigated.”

224. Another development worth highlighting this year is the controversy generated between some media outlets and the government of Nicaragua regarding limitations placed on the delivery of newsprint paper and tax pressures imposed on the media. There is a pending constitutional challenge to the law regulating the tax obligations of media outlets.

21. Panama

225. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes the approval of a reform of the Penal Code that provides for the decriminalization of defamation and slander when those who are allegedly injured are among the public servants mentioned in Article 304 of the Panamanian Constitution, officials elected by popular vote and governors. However, that same reform allows journalists to be criminally punished for disclosing matters of public interest. It also contains provisions that could affect the media’s right to keep sources confidential and could be used to unduly restrict the right of access to public information. These articles are incompatible with the American Convention on Human Rights.

22. Paraguay

226. In July 2007, more than a year after his disappearance, journalist Enrique Galeano of *Radio Azotey* was found in Sao Paulo. Galeano said he had been kidnapped and taken to Brazil, where his captors told him his family would be killed if he did not maintain his silence.

227. On another matter, the Office of the Special Rapporteur deplores the assassination of Alberto Palma Godoy, a Chilean journalist who was living in Paraguay, where he worked for the local radio station *Mayor Otaño* and as a correspondent for the *Chaco Boreal* station. In August, he was gunned down by two individuals who were armed and dressed in military-style clothing, according to the information received. Before his death, the journalist had told relatives that he was receiving death threats because of his work as a journalist. The Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates its appeal to the Paraguayan authorities to investigate this crime quickly and efficiently, in order to determine whether the murder was related to the exercise of journalism and to ensure that the perpetrators are duly punished.⁴⁶

228. Meanwhile, the Office of the Special Rapporteur is concerned about the number of threats received by members of the media during 2007, some of them attributed to agents of the State. As an example, two radio journalists, Vladimir Jara and Víctor Benítez of the *Chaco Boreal* station, reported that they had been threatened by agents of the National Drug Secretariat and that their telephones had been tapped. Information was also received during the year about the closure of several community radio stations, generally on the orders of the local judiciary.

⁴⁶ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=709&IID=1>.

23. Peru

229. A positive development was the sentencing of a former military commander and a former colonel of the Peruvian Army to prison terms of 15 to 17 years and the imposition of fines, for the assassination of reporter Hugo Bustíos in 1988. The perpetrators of the 2004 murder of journalist Alberto Rivera were also sentenced to 25 to 30 years in prison. However, the justice system absolved two officials who had been accused of being the masterminds of the crime. Also worth noting are three initiatives to punish crimes against journalists presented by the president of the judiciary, Francisco Távora.

230. In other developments, the Office of the Special Rapporteur deplores the murder in March 2007 of journalist Miguel Pérez of *Radio Exito*, for motives that could be related to his profession as a journalist. It notes that the authorities have made arrests in this case.⁴⁷

231. Over the course of the year, there were reports of aggressions and threats made against journalists who were doing their job, many of these attributed to municipal personnel or police, or also to private individuals, particularly when the members of the media were covering public demonstrations.

232. Several criminal convictions were also reported involving charges brought against journalists for defamation or slander; these carried penalties that included jail sentences and heavy fines for civil reparations. As an example, in September the publisher of the newspaper *La República*, Gustavo Mohme, cartoonist Carlos Tovar and journalists Angel Páez and Edumundo Cruz were given two-year suspended prison sentences and fined 50,000 *nuevos soles* for civil reparations, in a complaint involving aggravated defamation. Journalist Juan Carlos Tafur was also convicted in August for the same crime, but the judiciary suspended the sentence in exchange for the journalist meeting certain standards of conduct and paying 50,000 *nuevos soles*. In January 2007, journalist Nelson Manrique Gálvez was convicted of aggravated defamation as the result of a complaint brought by Congressman Rafael Rey in 2005. Manrique had been acquitted in March 2006, but that decision was nullified in August 2006, days after Rey assumed the post of Minister of Production.

233. Meanwhile, State officials in June ordered drawings by cartoonist Piero Quijano to be removed from an exhibition entitled "Press Drawings/1990-2007," a decision backed by Peruvian President Alan García, according to the information received. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes that Principle 5 of the Declaration of Principles states that: "Prior censorship, direct or indirect interference in or pressure exerted upon any expression, opinion or information transmitted through any means of oral, written, artistic, visual or electronic communication must be prohibited by law."

24. Suriname

234. According to information received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, in May 2007 a talk show called "Suriname Today" was taken off the publicly owned *Suriname Television Foundation* where it had aired. According to information provided by nongovernmental organizations, the decision to take the program off the air had been made in response to pressure exercised by the country's Vice President, Ram Sardjoe. The program was about to broadcast a special on relations between China and Taiwan. The Vice President had tried to pressure producer Nita Ramcharan to cancel the program, but the journalist refused. Sardjoe then went to the station's authorities so that they would do it.

⁴⁷ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=690&IID=1>.

25. United States

235. The Office of the Special Rapporteur welcomes the U.S. House of Representatives' approval last October of the "Free Flow of Information Act," whose purpose is to protect journalists from being forced to reveal their sources of secret information in federal courts. A different version of this initiative, which is also known as a "shield law," was approved by the Senate Legal Affairs Committee that same month.

236. On another matter, journalist Josh Wolf was released in April 2007 after having spent more than 200 days in jail for refusing to reveal the identity of his sources. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes that Principle 8 of the Declaration of Principles states: "Every social communicator has the right to keep his/her source of information, notes, personal and professional archives confidential." The Office of the Rapporteur received information that a cameraman from the *Al-Jazeera* network, Sami al-Haj, has been detained at the Guantánamo naval base for more than five years without a trial.

237. The Office of the Special Rapporteur laments the murder, in August of this year, of journalist Chauncey Bailey, a former reporter with the *Oakland Tribune* and director of the *Oakland Post*. According to the information received, a few days after the murder, police arrested Devaughdre Brouard, who said he had killed the reporter because of a series of negative stories he had written about Your Black Muslim Bakery, where Brouard worked.

238. Meanwhile, in June 2007 a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by Puerto Rican journalists against FBI agents for excessive use of force and for having violated their right to free expression while they were covering the search of an independent activist's home in February 2006.

26. Uruguay

239. The Office of the Special Rapporteur takes positive note of the December 2007 adoption by the Uruguayan Parliament of a law acknowledging community radio and television stations and requiring the State to promote and guarantee their existence. This initiative provides for nondiscretionary procedures to assign frequencies, as well as public hearings for granting and renewing licenses, among other measures.

240. However, the Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its concern about the April 2007 decision by the Supreme Court of Justice of Uruguay definitively upholding the conviction of journalist Gustavo Escanlar Patrone. The reporter was sentenced to three months in prison for committing the crime of slander, based on a complaint filed by journalism executive Federico Fasano. In January 2006, Escanlar had insulted Fasano during an interview on a television program.

27. Venezuela

241. A series of controversies involving media outlets and members of the media in the area of pluralism, among other issues, characterized the situation of freedom of expression in Venezuela in 2007.

242. In May, the government of Venezuela carried out its decision not to renew *Radio Caracas Televisión's* license to broadcast over the airwaves, and as a result the channel went off the air. On May 25, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice, through a precautionary measure, granted a new publicly owned television station the use of *RCTV's* equipment without establishing any type of payment for the use of this equipment. Meanwhile, on May 27 the television licenses of the *Venezolana de Televisión* and *Venevisión* stations expired and were renewed by the government,

without any explanation for the reasons behind the different treatment accorded these stations in comparison to *RCTV*.⁴⁸ Shortly after *RCTV* resumed cable transmissions in July, the government announced that it would seek to reform the laws so that cable television stations would be required to run simultaneously broadcast presidential messages and the national anthem. It ordered *RCTV* to hook up to the government signal to join the simultaneous broadcasts within a certain time period, warning about its possible exclusion from cable transmissions. The Supreme Court of Justice accepted an appeal presented by the Venezuelan Chamber of Subscription Television; thus *RCTV* and other cable channels that are faced with the same requirement were able to continue transmitting.

243. On another matter, the Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its concern about different claims by members of the media regarding aggressions and threats received during 2007 from public officials as well as private individuals. Information was also received regarding media outlets that were subject to aggressions and threats. Many of these reported events were concentrated around the period of public debate on the proposed constitutional reform that was submitted to popular referendum in December of this year.

244. In this context, the Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates its concern about the situation faced by the newspaper *El Correo del Caroní*, which has been subject to growing and constant harassment by public authorities, especially by the Governor of Bolívar state, Francisco Rangel Gómez. In May 2006, the Regional Parliament of the state of Bolívar ordered the demolition of the building where *El Correo del Caroní* operates.⁴⁹ The Office of the Special Rapporteur has also expressed its concern about the withdrawal of official advertising from this publication for motives that appear to be related to the newspaper's editorial stance.⁵⁰ In December 2007, for the first time in its more than 50 years in existence, the newspaper was unable to circulate a print edition for three days. The newspaper said it had been paralyzed because it lacked newsprint paper, since for the last six months the National Committee on Foreign Currency had not granted the paper importer its quota of dollars—a situation the newspaper attributed to a political problem because of its editorial stance on the proposed constitutional reform. The Office of the Special Rapporteur strongly urges the government of Venezuela to bring an end to the unacceptable situation of constant harassment of *El Correo del Caroní*.

⁴⁸ Statements by the Office of the Special Rapporteur about the *RCTV* case can be seen at the following:

1) Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Note to the Ministry of Foreign Relations on July 6, 2006, reviewed in *Diario El Universal*, Caracas, *Relatoría de la OEA advirtió sobre amenaza de revocar concesiones*, July 7, 2006, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2006/07/08/pol_ava_08A741085.shtml, and Ministry of Foreign Relations, *Comunicado del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela sobre la Nota Emanada el 06 de Julio de 2006 de la Relatoría Especial para la Libertad de Expresión de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos*, Caracas, July 8, 2006, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2006/07/07/pol_art_07105B.shtml.

2) Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Press Release 144/06, *The State of Freedom of Expression in the Region (April – June 2006)*, July 7, 2006, available at: <http://www.cidh.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=669&IID=1>.

3) Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Press Release 161/06, *Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression expresses concern over the situation of Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV) in Venezuela*, December 31, 2006, available at: <http://www.cidh.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=688&IID=1>.

4) Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Press Release 162/07, *Evaluation of the freedom of expression on the last quarter of 2006: The Special Rapporteur expresses concern for vulnerability of journalists in the region*, January 29, 2007, available at: <http://www.cidh.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=689&IID=1>.

⁴⁹ Press release available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=669&IID=1>.

⁵⁰ Interview of the Special Rapporteur, Ignacio Alvarez, broadcast by Globovisión on November 17, 2007, available at: <http://www.globovision.com/news.php?nid=71108>.

245. Also of concern are reports related to obstacles in access to information, such as impeding certain media outlets from attending press conferences held at a State agency. In addition, the Office of the Special Rapporteur calls attention to the order handed down in July 2007 by the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, to expel from the country foreigners who speak ill of his government. This constitutes a clear restriction to freedom of expression and generates an inhibiting effect in terms of expressing a thought or opinion. In this regard, Principle 4 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression states: "Access to information held by the state is a fundamental right of every individual. States have the obligation to guarantee the full exercise of this right. This principle allows only exceptional limitations that must be previously established by law in case of a real and imminent danger that threatens national security in democratic societies."

246. In the area of criminal prosecutions against members of the media or media outlets, *Globovisión* was charged with allegedly instigating presidential assassination, an accusation brought by representatives of the Venezuelan government in late May 2007. A similar charge was filed against the U.S. network *CNN* at that same time. During the year, information was received about different criminal prosecutions initiated by public officials against journalists or media outlets on charges of defamation and slander.

D. Information, alerts and complaints on freedom of expression

247. The following tables gather the information, alerts and complaints received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur during 2007 on freedom of expression. The information is separated by country and within three periods: from January to March, from April to June and from July to August. These tables are part of the quarterly press releases from 2007, where the Office of the Special Rapporteur evaluates the situation on freedom of expression. The content of each table was written based on the information given by the denouncers. The sources are placed near the complaint or information received.

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
No entries were registered in this period.	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
OTHERS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
On June 12, 2007, the former director of the newspaper <i>Antigua Sun</i> , Vernon Khelawan, a native of Trinidad & Tobago, was expelled from Antigua & Barbuda. The next day, Dominican journalist Lennox Linton, from <i>Observer Radio</i> , was also banished from that country. Khelawan said he traveled to Antigua & Barbuda to work for a cooperation program sponsored by Unesco and the Caribbean Media Association, a group that condemned the banishing of both journalists. Representatives of the government of Antigua & Barbuda stated that the journalists did not have their migratory documents in order, including their work permit.	Reporters Without Borders: " <i>Two CARICOM journalists expelled without justification</i> ". Press announcement of June 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22568 // Caribbean Net News: " <i>Trinidad minister responds to expulsion of Caribbean journalists</i> ". Article published on June 19, 2007, available at: http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/news-2128--17-17--.html
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period	

ARGENTINA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
ADVANCES	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On December 20, 2006, the right of journalists not to disclose their sources was incorporated in the Penal Code of the province of Entre Rios.	International Federation of Journalists, <i>Legislación de Entre Ríos, Argentina, reconoce sigilo sobre las fuentes</i> . Article published on March 14, 2007, available at: http://ifj.org/default.asp?index=4745&Language=EN . / PeriodismoEntreRios.com.ar, <i>El nuevo Código Procesal Penal de Entre Ríos reconoce el secreto profesional del periodista</i> . Article published on March 13, 2007, available at: http://www.periodismoentrierios.com.ar/El-nuevo-Codigo-Procesal-Penal-de .
ASSAULTS	
Journalist Carlos Furman, host of the program <i>Destapando la Olla</i> transmitted on <i>Radio 2 de Octubre</i> , in the town of Santa Elena, province of Entre Rios, is still suffering threats and assaults. The harassment began in 2006, after he reported on cases of corruption and nepotism at the local town council. The communicator has been living in an office since his house was shot at in June 2006.	Foro de Periodismo Argentino (FOPEA), report emailed to the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression on January 18, 2007.
On March 2007, armed parties broke into the home of journalist Carlos Russo, editor of the weekly publication <i>Perfil</i> , and stole notes and documents about a case of corruption that the journalist has been investigating since mid 2006, among other items. The stolen notes and documents were related to the "Skanska case", an investigation about alleged tax evasion and bribery during a public bid, which allegedly implicate senior officials of the Government.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Argentina: Roban de casa de periodista documentos sobre caso de corrupción</i> . Alert of April 3, 2007, received by email. / Reporters Without Borders: <i>Ordinary break-in doubted in theft of sensitive files from magazine's editor home</i> . Press release of April 5, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21593 .
THREATS	
On January 4, 2007, journalist María Laura Benítez from <i>Canal 8</i> in Colón, province of Entre Ríos, was threatened to death. She was warned to discontinue her reporting on police misconduct.	RADIODIFUSIONdata, <i>Amenazan de muerte a periodista de LT26</i> . Article published on January 17, 2007, available at: http://www.radiodifusiondata.com.ar/2007/ene07/lt26-amenazas.htm . / FOPEA, <i>Periodista de Entre Ríos recibe amenaza de muerte</i> . Press release of February 9, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81070/ .
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On March 5, 2007, public radio station <i>LU 14 Radio Provincia</i> , of the province of Santa Cruz, decided to suspend the transmission of the program <i>La Ronda</i> after the presenter, María Savorido, urged the provincial government to pay more attention to the teachers' demands for salary increases. The management justified its decision by saying that this kind of comment should not be made in a public radio station.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Political motivation suspected in removal of programme by Santa Cruz provincial radio station</i> . Press release of March 9, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21269 . / RADIODIFUSIONdata, <i>Denuncian censura radial en Santa Cruz</i> . Article published on March 12, 2007, available at: http://www.radiodifusiondata.com.ar/2007/mar07/lu14-laronda.htm .

ARGENTINA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
ALLOCATION OF OFFICIAL ADVERTISING	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
During the first quarter of 2007, non-governmental organizations and communication media continued to report that the allocation of official advertising is used to reward or punish journalists and media companies for their editorial line. The reports indicate that both the federal and provincial governments use the allocation of advertising in a discriminatory fashion.	La Nación, <i>La publicidad oficial como censura</i> . Editorial published on February 14, 2007, available at: http://www.lanacion.com.ar/883380 . / Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, <i>El gobierno de Neuquén no da información sobre publicidad oficial</i> . Press release of April 4, 2007, available at: http://www.adc.org.ar/home.php?IDOCUMENTO=616&iTIPODOCUMENTO=1&iCAMPOACCION= .
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS/THREATS	
On April 25, 2007, a journalist from radio station <i>FM Voces</i> , Javier Giannini, was attacked by custodians and followers of Juan Carlos Blumberg, a candidate for mayor of Lomas de Zamora, province of Buenos Aires. According to information received, when the journalist asked a question that the candidate considered to be aggressive, the latter's political followers began to harass, intimidate, threaten and beat him. When the reporter arrived at his house afterwards, his wife told him that she had been getting threatening telephone calls.	IFEX/ Foro de Periodismo Argentino: " <i>Periodistas atacados en cobertura de acontecimientos políticos, uno recibe amenaza de muerte</i> ". News alert of May 11, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/83299/ // Federación Argentina de Trabajadores de la Prensa: " <i>FATPREN condena agresión al periodista Javier Giannini</i> ". Release issued on April 27 2007, available at: http://www.fatpren.org.ar/Secciones/PartesNacionales428.htm
On May 8, 2007, journalist Juan Bolaños was attacked by security forces of the city of Río Gallegos, province of Santa Cruz. Bolaños reported that while he was covering a protest that was heading towards the house of president Néstor Kirchner, a group of police agents threw him to the ground and hit him, to afterwards try to take his camera from him.	Observatorio Latinoamericano de Prensa: " <i>Periodistas denuncian agresión</i> ". Report 376 of May 12, 2007. // IFEX/ Foro de Periodismo Argentino: " <i>Periodistas atacados en cobertura de acontecimientos políticos, uno recibe amenaza de muerte</i> ". News alert of May 11, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/83299
On May 12, 2007, journalist Juan José Martínez, of newspaper <i>Diario Uno</i> of Mendoza, denounced that he was attacked by three members of the police when he was about to enter a soccer game. A police woman did not let him in, in spite of his having shown his credentials as a member of the press. Two policemen came over and pushed him until he fell in a gutter. One of the guards pointed his gun at him, stated a press release.	Observatorio Latinoamericano de Prensa: " <i>Periodista denuncia agresión</i> ". Report 377, of May 14 2007. // Diario Uno de Mendoza: " <i>Cuando la policía actúa como barra brava</i> ". Article published on May 13, 2007, available at: http://www.unomendoza.com.ar/2007/05/13/nota147168.html
In June 2007, the Journalists' Association of Salta denounced before the Attorney General of the Province, Aldo Saravia, that the director of the weekly publication <i>La Nueva Reseña</i> , Natalio Albarracín, had been receiving pressure from the Police after the newspaper began to closely follow up on the murder of a taxi driver in November 2006 in Rosario de la Frontera. Among the pressure undergone by Albarracín there is the search of his house, and those of his sister and his mother, the two latter searches without a judicial order, stated the APeS. The police authorities said afterwards that those searches sought to find the photograph of a person suspected of murdering the taxi driver.	APES: " <i>Acción judicial de APeS por la libertad de prensa</i> ". Press release published on June 14, 2007 at: http://apesalta.wordpress.com/2007/06/ // Salta Noticias: " <i>La Asociación de Periodistas de Salta pide a la Procuración por un comunicador intimidado</i> ". Note published on June 14, 2007, available at: http://noticias.iruya.com/content/view/414/307/

ARGENTINA	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
CLOSURE OF MEDIA	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On June 7, 2007, a federal judge of the province of Mendoza, Héctor Acosta, ordered the ceasing of the broadcasting of the repeater of <i>Channel 7</i> in the city of San Rafael. Acosta issued a measure that suspends the effects of two presidential decrees that authorize the open and free reception of public television in the entire nation. The decision is based on the Law on Broadcasting, which only authorizes repeater stations of the State-owned channel "due to national security reasons", according to a release from AMARC.	AMARC. Release issued on June 23, 2007, sent to the e-mail of the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. // Radios and Television of America. Release issued on May 2007, available at: http://www.rt-a.com/126/126-10.htm // Secretariat of Mass Media: " <i>Pressure for the closure of the repeater of Channel 7 in San Rafael</i> ". Article published on June 11, 2007, available at: http://www.medios.gov.ar/content/view/710/1/
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
In May 2007, the Justice of the Province of Neuquén ordered the provincial government to deliver information to two organizations (Convocatoria Neuquina por la Justicia y la Libertad, la Cooperativa de Trabajo (8300) and the Press Union of Neuquén) regarding advertising expenses. In its decision, Judge Julia Buisson de Bagio stated that the lack of reply from the Government of the Province impaired the constitutional right to public information. The organizations had requested the information for a work regarding the use of official advertising and its impact on the freedom of expression and the quality of information.	Civil Rights Association: " <i>Justice forced the government of Neuquen to deliver information regarding official advertising</i> ". Communication issued on May 31, 2007, received by e-mail at the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and available at: http://www.adc.org.ar/home.php?iDOCUMENTO=616&iTIPODOCUMENTO=1&iCAMPOACCION=&iPAGENUMBER=1 // Radios y Televisión de América. Release issued on May 2007, available at: http://www.rt-a.com/126/126-10.htm
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
PROGRESS	
In October 2007, the Argentine government ordered the arrest of retired general Ibérico Saint Jean, of the former Vice-Minister of Justice, Roberto Durrieu NS and 6 former civil officials of the de facto government of the military dictatorship, for the kidnapping and torture of journalist Jacobo Timerman, who was the founder and director of opposition newspaper <i>La Opinión</i> during the 70s, the time of the military dictatorship.	Cordoba Human Rights Worktable: " <i>Piden prisión de Saint Jean y sus colaboradores</i> ". Article published on October 24, 2007, available at: http://www.derechoshumanoscba.org.ar/spip.php?article1499 // Periodistas-es: " <i>Arrestado un general y siete civiles por el secuestro de Jacobo Timerman en la última dictadura argentina</i> ". Article published on October 25, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=2117
AGGRESSIONS-ARRESTS	
On August 1, 2007, police officers of the Minors' Commissariat of Salta detained for more than one hour and physically attacked journalist Darío Illanes, of newspaper <i>El Tribuno</i> , also leader of the journalists' union opposed to official leadership. The journalist was attacked when he intended to gather information regarding a riot that had occurred the previous day, due to the precarious living conditions of minors in that prison. While the reporter was interviewing some minors in their cells, three policemen dressed in civilian attire pushed him and brutally beat him up. The policemen were removed from office.	Reporteros sin Fronteras: " <i>Un periodista detenido y agredido en una comisaría de Salta: algunos hechos recuerdan las tristes horas de la dictadura militar</i> ". New alert issued August 3, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23149 // Noticias Iruya: " <i>En Salta la policía golpea y envía a prisión a un periodista del diario del gobernador</i> ". Article published on August 2, 2007, available at: http://noticias.iruya.com/content/view/1119/411/ La Capital: " <i>Separaron a tres policías salteños por golpear y detener a un periodista</i> ". Article published on August 6, 2007, available at: http://www.lacapital.com.ar/2007/08/06/general/noticia_408438.shtml

ARGENTINA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY/NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS FROM PRIVATES	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On August 6, 2007, journalist Gustavo Cabrera from the <i>Indymedia</i> news portal and <i>La Conjura TV</i> , was attacked by Jorge Guidetti, owner of company Lavadero Virasoro, when he was in front of the Headquarters of Regional Unit II filming the conflict of the workers of said company. Jorge Guidetti approached him and hit his camera. This aggression takes place in a climate of hostility by the company against news coverages of the strike.	Indymedia: " <i>Hostigamiento y agresión del patrón Guidetti contra nuestro compañero Gustavo Cabrera</i> ". Article published on August 6, 2007, available at: http://argentina.indymedia.org/news/2007/08/538426.php/ / Enredando.org: " <i>El SPR repudia agresión contra periodista de Indymedia y la Conjura TV</i> ". Release dated August 7, 2007, available at: http://www.enredando.org.ar/agencia.shtml?x=34613
On September 13, 2007, journalist Carlos Furman, leader of program " <i>Destapando Ollas</i> " broadcast by <i>FM 2 de Octubre</i> , who was a victim of previous aggressions and threats, was detained and beat up by police officers in a cell at Santa Elena, in the province of Entre Ríos. The journalist had reported about the existence of unidentified bodies and the profanation of tombs to erase evidence at the cemetery of that city. In his article, he had stated that among the corpses there might be that of Fernanda Aguirre, the 13 year-old girl who disappeared in San Benito in July 2004. The journalist was released at dawn on September 14.	La Capital: " <i>Condenan la detención y golpiza a un cronista en una Comisaría entrerriana</i> ". Article published on September 18, 2007, available at: http://www.lacapital.com.ar/2007/09/18/general/noticia_4_17213.shtml // Reporteros sin Fronteras: " <i>Un conflicto profesional degenera en agresión: Reporteros sin Fronteras deplora 'el mal clima' que rodea a la prensa</i> ". News alert issued on September 19, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23707
AGGRESSIONS	
On September 12, 2007, journalist Adela Gómez of <i>FM Radio 21</i> at Caleta Olivia, Province of Santa Cruz, was wounded in the foot by two rubber bullets shot by policemen while covering the protest by union of oil workers of oil company Empasa. The journalist alleged that the attack was on purpose because she was clearly identified as a member of the press. The chief of the operation, as well as the policeman who shot were removed from office.	Committe to Protect Journalists: " <i>Periodista de radio herida cuando cubría protesta social</i> ". News alert issued on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/argentina13sep07_na_Sp.html // Perfil: " <i>Otra vez la violencia 'viajó' con el Presidente a Santa Cruz: Gendarmería reprimió duramente a trabajadores</i> ". Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.perfil.com/contenidos/2007/09/12/noticia_0027.html
POLICE HARRASMENT	
Since July 11, 2007, independent journalist Claudia Acuña, founder of digital press agency <i>La Vaca</i> and its affiliated radio station <i>MU</i> , disclosed having been a victim of police and judicial harassment, confirming that police officers from Police Station No.10 systematically controlled the identity of all persons who visited her house in Buenos Aires. According to the journalist, such measures would be due to her recent disclosures in the press and in her book " <i>Ninguna mujer nace puta</i> ", about the existence of a prostitution network in Buenos Aires that was operating under the auspices of certain authorities. The policemen assured that they were acting by orders of Contraventional Public Attorney's Office No.3, to which she has not been summoned, the journalist said. The Public Attorney's Office refused to raise the police orders, at the request of the journalist's defense attorneys.	Reporteros sin Fronteras: " <i>Una periodista es víctima de acoso policial y judicial tras hacer revelaciones sobre una red de prostitución</i> ". Article published on July 17, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22972/ // El Diario online: " <i>Denuncian acoso policial y judicial contra periodista argentina</i> ". Article published on July 17, 2007, available at: // La Vaca: " <i>Denuncia de lavaca: abuso de poder</i> ". Article published on July 11, 2007, available at: http://lavaca.org/seccion/actualidad/1/1568.shtml

ARGENTINA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On July 25, 2007, by order of the Municipal Council of San Lorenzo, Province of Santa Fe, the print shop of newspaper <i>El Observador</i> was closed without prior notice because the newspaper did not have the corresponding authorization. The director and owner of <i>El Observador</i>, Andrés Sharetta, as well as press organization, ascribe the closing to the action of the editorial line opposing the Mayoress Mónica de la Quintana, because they state that other companies that were in a similar position had not been affected. The newspaper filed an appeal for constitutional protection.</p>	<p>Reporteros sin Fronteras: "<i>Cierran sin preaviso la imprenta de un diario en conflicto con una Alcaldía de la provincia de Santa Fe</i>". Press release dated July 31, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23109// Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>El CPJ insta a gobierno municipal argentino a reabrir imprenta de diario</i>". Letter of protest dated August 7, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/protests/07ltrs/americas/arg07aug07pl_sp.html</p>
<p>On August 16, 2007, according to an alert received, some persons who said to be employees of the Municipality of San Miguel de Tucumán, but that according to the alert received had not shown any identification or judicial order for attachment, seized 20 pictures that were being exhibited in a pedestrian street of the city. Since then, there is no information about the whereabouts of this material. The works were part of an exhibit entitled "Tucumán que arde", in memory of "Arde Tucumán", a cultural and artistic current that confronted the authoritarianism in said province in the late 60's and early 70's, consisting of blow-ups of the back covers of the magazine <i>Barcelona</i>, a satirical publication of Buenos Aires.</p>	<p>IFEX: "<i>FOPEA preocupado por incautación de muestra periodística satírica</i>". Press release published on August 27, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85858.1.html// Periodistas-es: publishes the same note as IFEX</p>
<p>In October, 2007, newspaper <i>El Diario</i> reported to the Office of the Special Rapporteur that the Municipality of Ituzaingó, in the province of Buenos Aires, within the context of the elections in that area, prevented the sale of said paper by means of intimidations exercised by the municipal public powers against the sellers and even the distributors of the newspaper. These actions were due to the denunciations that such paper has published against the Municipal Government.</p>	<p>E-mail sent by newspaper <i>El Diario</i> to the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, dated October 8, 2007// <i>El Diario</i>: "<i>La Administración Descalzo impide que se lea el diario</i>", available at: http://www.eldiariodemoron.com.ar/noticias_ituzaingo.php?action=fullnews&id=5295</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDING- PROGRESS	
<p>In August 2007, the director of Newspaper <i>El Madryn</i>, Marisa Rauta, was acquitted in a suit filed against her by former chamber member Hipólito Giménez. This proceeding was started as a result of a news report published on May 25, 2004, entitled "Impredecibles derivaciones de polémico expediente", stating that the former member of the chamber was under investigation by the Council of Justices because he had signed the nullity of a request for detention against the owners of the firm Conarpesa. The judge deemed that the protection of public honors should be attenuated when matters pertaining to the freedom of press are being discussed in topics of public interest.</p>	<p><i>El Diario El Madryn</i>: "<i>La querrela del ex camarista Giménez preocupa a la prensa</i>". Article published on August 13, 2007, available at: http://www.diariodemadryn.com/vernotti.php?ID=78505 // Interamerican Press Association, 63 General Assembly of the IAPA, Report October 2007, available: http://mercury.websitewelcome.com/%7Esiapiapa/informe.php?id=1&idioma=sp</p>

ARGENTINA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDING- PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On October 5, 2007, judge Adolfo Clavarie, of the Correctional Court No.6 of Santa Fe, acquitted the journalist from Rosario, Carlos del Frade, in a suit for slander and offenses and instigation to extortive kidnapping, presented by the president of football club Newell's Old Boys, Eduardo López. The complaint was for articles written by the reporter that spoke of corruption acts allegedly perpetrated by the soccer director.</p>	<p>Semanario Análisis de la Actualidad: "<i>El periodista rosarino Carlos del Frade podría ir a prisión por denunciar negocios turbios de un dirigente de fútbol</i>". Article published on August 29, 2007. // Sin Mordaza: "<i>Carlos del Frade podría ir preso por investigar a dirigentes de fútbol del Rosario</i>", Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.sinmordaza.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=43649// Indymedia: "<i>Fue absuelto Carlos del Frade de la denuncia del presidente del Newell's</i>". Article published on October 5, 2007, available at: http://argentina.indymedia.org/news/2007/10/552426.php</p>
<p>On September 19, 2007, the Second Chamber of Criminal Appeals of Santa Fe confirmed the trial court's decision dismissing the civil and criminal action for defamation promoted by lawyer Jorge Pedraza against journalists Carlos Cayetano Delicia and Mónica Oller of <i>Sin Mordaza</i>. The web site sinmordaza.com.ar had published a series of articles in which Pedraza was said to be the "accuser" of persons who were politically persecuted during the military dictatorship, and were later victims of such regime. Pedraza filed a complaint for slander. The judicial decision acknowledges the "offensive tone" of the articles, but states that the democratic life could not subsist without the free circulation of ideas and opinions about public matters.</p>	<p>Perfil.com: "<i>Fallan por la libertad de prensa porque el lector no sabe</i>". Article published on October 3, 2007, available at: http://www.perfil.com/contenidos/2007/10/03/noticia_0028.html// Sin Mordaza, Freedom of Press Section dated September 24, 2007, available: http://www.sinmordaza.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=44098 // Diario Judicial: "<i>La libertad de opinión está por encima del derecho a la intimidación</i>". Article published on September 26, 2007, available at: http://www.diariojudicial.com/nota.asp?IDNoticia=33845//</p>
<p>On October 18, 2007, Argentina and the representatives of journalist Eduardo Kimel signed an amicable settlement agreement in a public hearing called on the occasion of the XXXI Extraordinary Period of Sessions of the Interamerican Court of Human Rights held in Bogota, Colombia. Under this agreement, Argentina ratifies its acknowledgment of having international liability for breaching the freedom of expression of journalist Kimel, undertaking to comply with the redress set by the Court. The modification of the criminal legislation regarding crimes against honor will remain in the hands of the Court, which will evaluate and weigh the agreement, fixing the respective redress.</p>	<p>Terra: "<i>Con solución amistosa se cierra el caso del periodista argentino Eduardo Kimel</i>". Article published on October 18, 2007, available at: http://actualidad.terra.es/nacional/articulo/con_eduardo_kimel_1940781.htm// Diario Metro Internacional: "<i>Con solución amistosa se cierra el caso del periodista argentino Eduardo Kimel</i>". Article published on October 18, 2007, available at: http://www.diariometro.es/es/article/efe/2007/10/18/335093/index.xml (only one source existing)</p>

ARGENTINA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY/NOVEMBER 2007)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDING- CENSORSHIP	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On September 3, 2007, judge Héctor Martínez, of Correctional Guaranties Court No.1 of the Province of Salta, sentenced Sergio Poma, journalist and owner of the local radio station <i>FM Noticias</i> and presenter of the news program "<i>Código de Investigación</i>", to one year in prison in suspense and the disqualification for the journalism profession for one year. The sentence was the result of a complaint for slander filed by the governor of Salta, Juan Carlos Romero. Poma had denounced in his program "<i>Usted Opina</i>" various accusations of governmental corruption and alleged bonds between local politicians and drug dealers, for which reason Romero sued.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Periodista radial argentino condenado por injurias</i>". News alert published on September 4, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/argentina04sep07_na_Sp.html // Reporteros sin Fronteras: "<i>La justicia prohíbe a un periodista ejercer durante un año: Reporteros sin Fronteras denuncia que se trata de una decisión indigna y peligrosa</i>". News alert issued on September 4, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/imprimir.php3?id_article=23520/ // Interamerican Press Association: "<i>La SIP lamenta decisión judicial que inhabilita a periodista argentino</i>". Article published on September 5, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountryd_etail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1970</p>
<p>On September 27, 2007, Judge Marcelo Torres Gálvez, of the Correctional and Guaranties Court No 3 of Salta, sentenced José Acho, director of digital newspaper <i>Salta Libre</i> and director member of the Asociación de Periodistas de Salta (APES) to two years of prison in suspense and payment of 20,000 pesos for moral damages, in addition to having to pay the cost of the judicial proceeding. The sentence was issued in the midst of a complaint for slander and offenses filed by folklore singer Oscar Esperanza Palavecino, known as "el Chaqueño Palavecino" due to statements made by the reporter in its web pages that refer to the folklorist in connection with a real estate transaction to the detriment of indigenous communities. The sentence order to stop every reference about the plaintiff in the Internet or any other media. The judicial decision was appealed and is pending to be settled in the Salta superior court.</p>	<p>Noticias Iruya.com: "<i>Segunda condena a prisión de un periodista de Salta en menos de un mes</i>". Article published on September 28, 2007, available at: http://noticias.iruya.com/content/view/1813/307/ // Salta Libre: "<i>Salta zona de riesgo para el periodismo</i>". Article published on September 28, 2007, available at: http://www.saltalibre.net/spip.php?article117</p>
DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL ADVERTISING	
<p>In August 2007, the Committee for Freedom of Expression of the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Congress called 10 non-governmental organizations to give their opinions and contributions for regulating the official advertising or propaganda. Organizations such as ADC and Poder Ciudadano submitted their recommendations considering transparency, control and clear criteria for assignments as some of the distribution criteria.</p>	<p>ADC: "<i>Empezó en el Congreso un debate por la regulación de la pauta oficial</i>". Article published on August 17, 2007, available at: http://www.adc.org.ar/home.php?iDOCUMENTO=634&iTIPODOCUMENTO=1&iCAMPOACCION= // IPS: "<i>Hope for unbiased placement of official advertising</i>". Press release published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ipsnews.org/news.asp?idnews=39253</p>

ARGENTINA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY/NOVEMBER 2007)	
DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL ADVERTISING	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>The Supreme Court sentenced the Government of the Province of Neuquén on September 5, 2007 for the withdrawal of official advertising from the newspaper <i>Río Negro</i> in 2002. The decision states that the withdrawal of official advertising was an indirect restriction of freedom of press, because it was not based on reasonable and justified criteria. It ordered the government of the province to present within 30 days a scheme for the distribution of the publication of advertising, respecting the terms and principles set forth in the decision.</p>	<p>ADC: <i>"La ADC celebra el fallo de la Corte en el caso del diario Río Negro"</i>. Press notice dated September 5, 2007, available at: http://www.adc.org.ar/home.php?iDOCUMENTO=637&iTIPODOCUMENTO=1&iCAMPOACCION= // Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"Decisión de Corte Suprema limita manipulación de publicidad oficial"</i>. Article published on September 7, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/argentina07sep07na_Sp.html // SIP: <i>"La SIP resalta importancia para el continente americano de fallo judicial en Argentina sobre publicidad del Estado"</i>. Press release dated September 10, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1974</p>
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
<p>Journalists associations said that during the government of the then president of Argentina, Néstor Kirchner, there was noted a reduction in the number of interviews granted to journalists and the calls for press rounds and/or conferences. The few calls made consisted more of press rounds, political monologues, not allowing any questions to be made by the journalists, thus affecting the right to the freedom of access to information. This practice was even adopted by some provincial governments.</p>	<p>Diario Clarín: <i>"Dura respuesta de ADEPA, periodistas y dirigentes"</i>. Article published on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.clarin.com/diario/2007/07/13/elpais/p-01004.htm // Noticias Iruya: <i>"Los periodistas consideran boicotear las ruedas de prensa donde no puedan preguntar."</i> Article published on July 13, 2007, available at: http://noticias.iruya.com/content/view/839/504/</p>
<p>On September 5, 2007, the current President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner was subject to a criminal denunciation for discriminating Argentine journalists. The then candidate was denounced of the crime of "breach of duties of public official" because during her political promotional tour in Spain she prevented Argentine journalists to cover the event, while she allowed foreign press workers and those of state agency <i>Telam</i>. The accusers allege that this impediment to have access to information was due to their being Argentine journalists.</p>	<p>Perfil: <i>"Denuncian que Cristina discriminó a periodistas"</i>. Article published on September 6, 2007, available at: http://www.perfil.com/contenidos/2007/09/06/noticia_0065.html // PR Noticias: <i>"Cristina es denunciada por 'discriminar'"</i>. Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.prnoticias.es/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=47846 // Periodistas-es: <i>"Denuncia penal contra Cristina Fernández de Kirchner por discriminar a periodistas"</i>. Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1804</p>
<p>On November 5, 2007, President elect Cristina Fernández ordered the publication of the amount of professional fees paid to the lawyers who defended Argentina in the controversy with Uruguay pertaining to the "pasteras", ventilated in the International Court of Justice. The information had been requested by journalist Pablo Abiad of daily <i>Clarín</i>, but was denied by the government by deeming it reserved. Abiad filed an action for constitutional protection.</p>	<p>ADC: <i>"El Gobierno finalmente informó cuánto cobran los abogados que defienden a Argentina en La Haya"</i>. Press Bulletin published on November 6, 2007, available at: http://www.adc.org.ar/home.php?iDOCUMENTO=647&iTIPODOCUMENTO=1&iCAMPOACCION=</p>

ARGENTINA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY/NOVEMBER 2007)	
OTHER	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>In July 2007, Administrative Litigation Judge, Susana Córdoba, sentenced the Air Force to pay 40 thousand pesos for moral damages (pain and suffering) because it has emitted an Order for Request of Information (OPI 057/97), to spy on journalist Adrián Ventura. These investigations were made against a series of journalists of <i>Clarín</i>, <i>Página 12</i>, <i>La Nación</i> and <i>El Cronista</i>, who had written notes about aeronautics and the decisions of the Supreme Court regarding this matter.</p>	<p>El País: "<i>Condenan al Estado por espiar a un periodista</i>". Article published on July 18, 2007, available at: http://www.clarin.com/diario/2007/07/18/elpais/p-01302.htm // Periodistas-es: "<i>La Fuerza Aérea argentina deberá indemnizar a un periodista por espiarle</i>." Article published on July 17, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1474</p>
<p>On July 23, 2007, Federal Judge of Orán, Raúl Juan Reynoso, informed to the Public Attorney's Office about the broke of the Penal Code 247 article and law 12908 (from the professional reporter code) by reporter Fabián Cardozo, from weekly <i>Intrusos de Orán y Radio A</i>, Salta. Reynoso wanted to take a picture during a judicial hearing about violation of human rights during the dictatorship, Reynoso intended to take a picture and a sergeant did not allow him to do it and told him that he needed an authorization.</p>	<p>Salta 21: "<i>Periodistas analizan la agresión de Illanes y Cardozo</i>". Article published on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.salta21.com/spip.php?article145// Noticias Iruya: "<i>El poder busca intimidar al periodismo independiente, dice la Asociación de Periodistas de Salta</i>". Article published on July 31, 2007, available at: http://noticias.iruya.com/content/view/1090/411// IFEX: "<i>Derecho de periodista a trabajar cuestionado, tras cubrir audiencia sobre violación de derechos humanos</i>". Press release by FOPEA dated August 10, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/layout/set/print/content/view/full/85570/index.html</p>

BOLIVIA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
ASSAULTS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On January 15, 2007, journalist Daniel Castro and cameraman Álvaro Suárez, of <i>Full TV</i> , were assaulted, allegedly by the then minister of Public Works.	Los Tiempos, <i>Periodistas inician demanda judicial contra Salvador Ric</i> . Article published on January 24, 2007, available at: http://www.lostiempos.com/noticias/24-01-07/24_01_07_nac8.php . / El Nuevo Día, <i>La Fiscalía citará a Ric por la agresión a camarógrafo</i> . Article published on January 24, 2007, available at: http://www.elnuevodia.com/versiones/20070124_006987/nota_257_382288.htm .
On March 21, 2007, a group of journalists of newspaper <i>La Razón</i> was assaulted by demonstrators in Patacamaya, at the south of the city of La Paz. The journalists received insults, threats, and demonstrators threw stones at them. The assailants yelled: "La Razón lies, just like Evo said", in response to the comments made by the President on March 21, 2007.	La Razón, <i>Un grupo de prensa de La Razón fue agredido en Patacamaya</i> . Article published on March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.la-razon.com/versiones/20070323_005854/nota_249_405656.htm . / Observatorio Latinoamericano para la Libertad de Expresión, <i>Campesinos apedrean a periodistas</i> . Article received y email on March 23, 2007.
THREATS	
On January 28, 2007, journalist Juan Carlos Rocha, director of the newspaper <i>La Razón</i> of La Paz, was threatened to death through a telephone call to his residence. The newspaper had been publishing critical editorials towards the current government.	La Razón, <i>Amenazas a La Razón</i> . Article published on January 28, 2007, available at: http://www.la-razon.com/versiones/20070128_005780/nota_247_383973.htm . / La Segunda, <i>Amenazan de muerte a director de diario boliviano</i> . Article published on January 28, 2007, available at: http://www.lasegunda.com/ediciononline/internacional/detalle/index.asp?idnoticia=324064 .
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES/COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS	
Late in June, President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, signed a decree that regulates the provision of telecommunications services in the rural areas of the country, which establishes that no licenses may be granted for operating these radio stations to members of the three powers of the State, political leaders, clergymen of any religion, guilds or chambers, or persons related to concessionaires of broadcasting services. The decree states that the radio stations must "refrain from broadcasting messages of political parties or of any kind of propaganda" and only be limited to educational, cultural or community interest messages.	Hoy: <i>"Government vetoes radio broadcasting licenses for politicians and religious clergymen"</i> . Note published on June 26, 2007, available at: http://www.hoybolivia.com/portal/Noticia.php?id=9863 // La Razón: <i>"A decree sends a warning to community radio stations"</i> . Article published on June 7, 2007, available at: http://www.la-razon.com/versiones/20070627_005950/nota_250_445378.htm // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Concession of frequencies to community radio stations: Reporteros Sin Fronteras writes to president Evo Morales"</i> . Release issued on July 2, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22765
THIRD PERIOD(JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS FROM PRIVATES	
On August 22, 2007, several protests organized against the Constituent Assembly ended in violence against journalists. The Office of the Rapporteur received information about physical aggressions against journalist Juan Quiroga, who works for <i>Patria Nueva</i> , and also about harassments against unidentified journalists of Channel 7 and the <i>ATB Network</i> . There were also reported attacks against the premises of <i>Radio Patria Nueva</i> , which resulted in the destruction of glasses, windows and computers.	Press release received by the General Secretariat of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission on September 5, 2007, sent by the representative of the Standing Assembly for Human Rights of Bolivia (APDHB) // El País: <i>"La violencia impide que la Constituyente reanude sus sesiones"</i> . Article published on September 11, 2007, available at: http://www.elpais.com/articulo/internacional/violencia/impide/Constituyente/Bolivia/reanude/sesiones/elpepuint/20071109elpepuint_23/Tes .

BOLIVIA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS FROM PRIVATES	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On August 28, 2007, two journalists of regional daily newspaper <i>El Mundo</i> were attacked while covering autonomists protest at the department of Santa Cruz. Merchants and protesters attacked the vehicle in which the reporters were traveling. A photographer of the <i>EFE</i> news agency who was taking pictures of the events in Santa Cruz was threatened by youths, who tore up the tires of the motorcycle he was riding to follow-up on the protest.	Reporteros sin Fronteras: " <i>Periodistas agredidos violentamente en una manifestación de un departamento autonomista en el departamento de Santa Cruz</i> ". News alert published on September 3, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23506 // Los Tiempos: " <i>Incidentes violentos en el inicio de la huelga en seis regiones contra Morales</i> ". Article published on September 28, 2007, available at: http://www.lostiempos.com/noticias/28-08-07/ultimas_nac.php .
On September 24, 2007, operator Luis Chungara of <i>Cadena de Televisión "A"</i> and cameraman Rudy Quisbert of the TV Network " <i>UNO</i> " were violently attacked by groups of students when covering a university election at Universidad Mator de San Andres in the city of La Paz. Also attacked was Cristián Rojas, another reporter of Cadena A. The students that attacked them, according to the injured reporters, accused them of belonging to "bourgeois" media .	La Prensa: " <i>Universitarios rompen una cámara y queman ánforas</i> ". Article published on September 25, 2007, available at: http://www.laprensa.com.bo/noticias/25-09-07/25_09_07_alfi2.php // Agencia Boliviana de Información: " <i>Periodistas de La Paz exigen garantías para el desempeño de sus funciones</i> ". Article published on November 16, 2007, available at: http://abi.bo/index.php?i=noticias_texto_paleta&j=20070925224100
On November 9, 2007, five journalists were attacked in Sucre, where the Constituent Assembly was working. Gonzalo Rodríguez and his cameraman Damián Hidalgo, of private channel <i>ATB</i> ; Eduardo Coria, of public radio station <i>Patria Nueva</i> ; Pavel Alarcón, of the website <i>constituyente.bo</i> and Johnnatan Condori, journalist of the educational radio network <i>Aclo-Erbol</i> , were assaulted by groups of drunken youths, after a municipal official (whose administration is against the government of La Paz) called them "journalists of provincial mass media." Two days before, when inaugurating a community radio station in Potosí (Sur), Evo Morales poked at the mass media that belong to a "minority opposition group" and the journalists who "have secured their job" by attacking his government.	Reporteros sin Fronteras RSF: " <i>Más agresiones a la prensa: Reporteros sin Fronteras lamenta las declaraciones del presidente Evo Morales</i> ". Press release issued on November 12, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24335 // Los Tiempos: " <i>Reporteros denuncian y condenan agresiones contra cinco periodistas</i> ". Article published on November 12, 2007, available at: http://www.lostiempos.com/noticias/12-11-07/12_11_07_ultimas_nac18.php // El Comercio: " <i>La violencia vuelve a paralizar la Constituyente en Bolivia</i> ". Article published on November 16, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomercio.com/solo_texto.asp?id_noticia=97659
AGGRESSIONS	
On October 18 and 19, 2007, during the military and police intervention of the Virú Virú airport in Santa Cruz, journalists Uriel Gutiérrez, Analía Alvarez, Aydee Rojas, Christian Peña y Lillo and two unidentified reporters of TV channel <i>Activa TV</i> and the <i>PAT</i> (Periodistas Asociados de Televisión) channel, respectively, were attacked both by military and police agents, as well as by part of the protesters.	Reporteros sin Fronteras RSF: " <i>Seis heridos en operación militar y policial en el aeropuerto de Santa Cruz: la prensa sigue siendo rehén de las tensiones políticas</i> ". Press release issued on October 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24160 // Los Tiempos: " <i>Periodistas cruceños rechazaron las agresiones y se declaran en emergencia</i> ". Article published on October 20, 2007, available at: http://www.lostiempos.com/noticias/20-10-07/20_10_07_ultimas_nac7.php .
On November 25, 2007, Pablo Ortiz and photographer Ricardo Montero; Adriana Gutiérrez and cameraman Pablo Tudela, of private TV channel <i>APT</i> , as well as photographer Aizar Raldes, of the <i>France-Presse Agency</i> , during the confrontations between the police and the militants of indigenous organizations on the other hand, and students and inhabitants of Sucre, hostile to the new Constitution.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Los medios de comunicación víctimas de violencia tras la aprobación de la nueva Constitución: "el diálogo iniciado con el gobierno tiene que continuar"</i> ". News alert issued on November 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24571 // El Deber: " <i>La Policía reprime a periodistas que cubren las noticias en Sucre</i> ". Article published on November 25, 2007, available at: http://www.eldeber.com.bo/2007/2007-11-25/vernotaaldia.php?id=071125172038

BOLIVIA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On November 25, 2007, in the midst of protests over the new Constitution, Catholic educational radio station <i>ACLO</i>, whose programs are broadcast in the "quechua" language and are partly produced by the local indigenous communities, was forced to suspend its programs after being threatened by the radical students of the opposition, some of them members of the Unión Juvenil Cruceñista, responsible for several aggressions and plundering against public mass media.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Los medios de comunicación víctimas de violencia tras la aprobación de la nueva Constitución: "el diálogo iniciado con el gobierno tiene que continuar"</i>". News alert issued on November 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24571// Agencia Boliviana de Información: "<i>Grupos exacerbados logran suspender las emisiones de Radio Aclo Sucre</i>". Article published on November 25, 2007, available at: http://abi.bo/index.php?i=noticias_texto_paleta&j=20071125190920&PHPSESSID=cf133ad22eb1285c2b0d108fa3adc7a3.</p>
AGGRESSIONS AGAINST MEDIA	
<p>On November 26, in La Paz, private TV channels <i>ATB</i>, owned by Spanish press group Prisa, <i>PAT and Unitel</i>, belonging to some entrepreneurs from Santa Cruz, and radio stations <i>Radio Fides</i> and <i>Radio Panamericana</i>, were assaulted by pro-government protesters, after a rally by president Evo Morales in favor of the constitutional reform.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Los medios de comunicación víctimas de violencia tras la aprobación de la nueva Constitución: "el diálogo iniciado con el gobierno tiene que continuar"</i>". News alert issued on November 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24571// La Razón: "<i>Atacan a medios y a periodistas: El Defensor del Pueblo condenó las agresiones. El Gobierno deslinda responsabilidades</i>". Article published on November 27, 2007, available at: http://www.la-razon.com/versiones/20071127_006103/nota_244_512091.htm.</p>
<p>On November 27, 2007, in Sucre there were shots fired against <i>Canal 13</i>, belonging to the State University San Francisco Javier. The director of <i>Canal 13 Televisión Universitaria</i>, Roger Gonzáles, denounced that five bullets hit the facade of the channel's building, which attack was perpetrated -according to witnesses- by unknown persons from a white car.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Los medios de comunicación víctimas de violencia tras la aprobación de la nueva Constitución: "el diálogo iniciado con el gobierno tiene que continuar"</i>". News alert issued on November 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24571// El Comercio: "<i>Balean dos bancos y un canal de TV en Sucre</i>". Article published on November 27, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomercio.com/solo_texto.asp?id_noticia=100263.</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On August 22, 2007, the Telecommunications Superintendence <i>SITEL</i> seized the transmission equipment of Cochabamba's <i>Canal 20</i>, alleging that the television station only had a license to operate in the town of Vinto and not in the city of Cochabamba and Quillacollo. The director of the channel affirms that the seizure is due to retaliations due to the criticism made against the government broadcast by the TV channel, and set it clear that the channel has a permit to operate until 2023.</p>	<p>IPYS: "<i>Superintendencia incauta equipos de canal privado; estudiantes golpean a reportero de radio estatal</i>". News alert published on August 24, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1224 // Periodistas-Es: "<i>El Gobierno boliviano incauta equipos de un canal de televisión de la oposición</i>". Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1725.</p>

BOLIVIA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
DECLARATIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On September 2, 2007, the Minister of the Presidency of Bolivia, Juan Ramón Quintana, affirmed that the United States pays certain journalists to contribute with the plan for de-stabilizing the democracy of Bolivia, in order to de-legitimize the government measures that are sought to be implemented. In turn, the Bolivian press associations asked the government to show proof and concrete names in order to base such accusation, to which the minister replied that the alleged beneficiaries of said cooperation continue to be investigated.</p>	<p>La Razón: "<i>Quintana afirma que Estados Unidos paga a periodistas</i>". Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.la-razon.com/Versiones/20070903_006018/nota_249_474_784.htm // Los Tiempos: "<i>Prensa pide a Morales probar acusaciones sobre pagos de EE.UU</i>". Article published on September 4, 2007, available at: http://www.lostiempos.com/noticias/04-09-07/04_09_07_ultimas_nac2.php.</p>
<p>On November 7, 2007, when inaugurating a community radio station in Potosi, the president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, spoke about the mass media that belong to a "minority group of the opposition" and criticized the journalists who have "secured their job" by attacking his government. The president repeated his accusations against the Bolivian press on November 10, at the closure of the Ibero-American Summit in Santiago de Chile.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Más agresiones a la prensa: Reporteros Sin Fronteras lamenta las declaraciones del presidente Evo Morales</i>". News alert published on November 12, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24335 // El País: "<i>Bolivia: Evo Morales inauguró nueva radio comunitaria</i>". Article published on November 16, 2007, available at: http://lacomunidad.elpais.com/elmundodelaradio/2007/11/16/bolivia-evo-morales-inauguro-nueva-emisora-comunitaria</p>
OTHER	
<p>On July 25, 2007, a group of state officials started- up the equipment of <i>Radio Illimani</i>, owned by the State, which was established as Bolivia's more powerful broadcasting station. The signal of this radio will be connected to that of 25 government stations installed in rural communities. This initiative is carried out with the economic assistance of the government of Venezuela, and is part of the so-called Red Patria Nueva, with repeaters in the nine departments.</p>	<p>La Razón: "<i>El Gobierno avanza en el plan de su red de medios</i>". Press article published on July 16, 2007, available at: http://www.la-razon.com/versiones/20070716_005969/nota_247_453_926.htm // Cadena Global: "<i>Bolivia fortalece medios de comunicacón con fondos venezolanos</i>". Article published on August 16, 2007, available at: http://www.etniasdecolombia.org/actualidadetnica/detalle.asp?cid=5700</p>

BRAZIL	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
MURDERS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On February 8, 2007, photographer Róbson Barbosa Bezerra was murdered by gunshots in Rio De Janeiro. The journalist had presented press reports about threats and assaults and a judicial investigation had been initiated.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Free Lance Photographer gunned down in Rio de Janeiro</i> . Press release of February 12, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20987 . / Federación Internacional de Periodistas, <i>FENAJ y FEPALC condenan asesinato de reportero gráfico en Brasil</i> . Press release of February 12, 2007: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=4631&Language .
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On January 4, 2007, a court in Sao Paulo state ordered blocking access in all of Brazil to the Internet site <i>YouTube</i> . The decision was part of a cause initiated by persons who considered their right to intimacy had been violated, due to a video that had been uploaded in that site. The order to block access to the site was given after the company had agreed to withdraw the video that originated the complaint. A few days later, the same court allowed access to the site but ordered to maintain blocked access to the video that originated the polemic.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Court order blocking access to YouTube called "disproportionate"</i> . Press release of January 9, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/da/layout/set/print/content/view/full/80225/ . / El País, <i>YouTube vuelve a ser accesible en Brasil tras el bloqueo por el vídeo de Cicarelli</i> . Article published on January 9, 2004, available at: http://www.elpais.com/articulo/internet/YouTube/vuelve/ser/accesible/Brasil/bloqueo/video/Cicarelli/elpepuncet/20070109elpepuncet_7/Tes
On January 26, 2007, Regional Electoral Court of Mato Grosso do Sul State notified paper <i>Correio do Estado</i> about a sentence through which the paper was forbidden to publish information about a criminal investigation of the Federal Police that involved the son of the governor of that state. The Court determined that if the name of this person was published in any article, the paper would be fined.	Portal Imprensa, <i>Cale a Boca, Jornalista: TRE proíbe jornal de publicar notícias sobre filho do governador do MS</i> . Article published on January 29, 2007, available at: http://portalimprensa.uol.com.br/new_ultimasnoticias_data_view.asp?code=4494 . / Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo, <i>TRE censura jornal no Mato Grosso do Sul</i> . Article published on January 31, 2007, available at: http://www.abraji.org.br/?id=90&id_noticia=417&PHPSESSID=28ca91c7f3c6d28856fac47574b78bb8 .
On March 4, 2007, a judge of the 40th. Civil Court of the Central Judicial Circuit of Sao Paulo censored a report that was to be transmitted in the program <i>Domingo Espectacular</i> , of <i>TV Record</i> . The program was about alleged corruption involving the mayor of the town of Itaquaquecetuba, Sao Paulo state, and contained the result of a nine-month investigation. The Court's decision was appealed on March 6, 2007.	Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo, <i>Juíza censura reportagem da TV Record</i> . Article published on March 6, 2007, available at: http://www.abraji.org.br/?id=90&id_noticia=434 . / Portal Imprensa, <i>Censura: Justiça acata pedido de prefeito e veta exibição de reportagem da TV Record</i> . Article published on March 7, 2007, available at: http://portalimprensa.uol.com.br/new_ultimasnoticias_data_view.asp?code=4759 .
JUDICIARY PROCESSES	
On February 6, 2007, journalist Alcinéa Cavalcante was processed on the grounds of a complaint filed by a senator of the Republic for the crime of criminal defamation, after having published critical comments involving the senator's family in her personal blog. The senator's family members are public figures in the local political circle.	Portal Imprensa, <i>Liberdade de expressão: Jornalista do Amapá é indiciada por crime de calúnia contra José Sarney</i> . Article published on February 7, 2007, available at: http://portalimprensa.uol.com.br/new_ultimasnoticias_data_view.asp?code=4572 . / ABC Político, <i>Sarney quer amordaçar jornalistas do Amapá</i> . Article published on April 4, 2007, available at: http://www.abcpolitiko.com.br/index.php?secao=secoes.php&tipo=3&sc=22&id=13606 .

BRAZIL	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
MURDER	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On May 5, 2007, journalist Luiz Carlos Barbom Filho was murdered in the city of Porto Ferreira, State of São Paulo. The journalist was in a bar with two friends when two men approached him and one of them shot him twice, and then both fled in a motorcycle. Luiz Carlos Barbom, a columnist of <i>Journal do Porto</i> and <i>JC Regional</i>, had written an article in 2003 about a children's prostitution network that involved four entrepreneurs and five councilmen of the city of Porto Ferrera. In his columns, he used to criticize local politicians. According to the reporter's wife, Barbom was continually receiving threats in the mail and over the phone.</p>	<p>El Tiempo: "<i>Journalist who denounced the children's prostitution network in Brazil was shot to death</i>". Article published on May 6, 2007, available at: http://www.eltiempo.com/internacional/latinoamerica/noticias/ARTICULO-WEB-NOTA_INTERIOR-3546513.html // Jornal da Mídia: "<i>Murder of journalist causes concerns to Unesco and ANJ</i>". Article published on May 8, 2007, available at: http://www.jornaldamidia.com.br/noticias/2007/05/08/Brasil/Assassinato_de_jornalista_preocup.shtml // Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Brazilian journalist who denounced corruption shot to death</i>". Press release published on May 7, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/brazil07may07na.htm</p>
AGGRESSIONS AGAINST MEDIA	
<p>On April 9, 2007, the headquarters of bi-monthly newspaper <i>Tribuna do Povo</i> in the city of Várzea da Palma, State of Minas Gerais, caught fire. According to the preliminary investigations, the fire may have been intentional. The newspaper had published several articles that denounced alleged acts of corruption in the municipality of Várzea da Palma.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Incêndio criminal de uma redação no Estado de Minas Gerais: 'Um episódio que nos faz lembrar outros eventos'</i>". Press Release of April 13, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21720 // IFEX: "<i>Arson attack on offices of critical newspaper in Minas Gerais state</i>". Update of April 13, 2007.</p>
THREATS	
<p>Journalist Justino Oliveira Filho, presenter of the program <i>Aqui e Agora</i> of <i>TV Difusora</i> in the city of Imperatriz, state of Maranhão, denounced having received death threats in the last few months. Justino Filho has been critical of the administration of the city's mayor, which has been one of the recriminations in the threats made to him.</p>	<p>IFEX: "<i>Presentador de programa crítico de televisão em Imperatriz recebe ameaças de morte</i>". News alert of May 9, 2007. // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>La SIP condena asesinato y amenazas contra periodistas en Brasil</i>". Release issued on May 7, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1898</p>
DETENTIONS	
<p>On April 25, 2007, journalist Célia Pinho, cameraman Edílson Matos and driver Marcelo Silva, of television station <i>Record Regional/Marajoara</i>, were detained for six hours by the Federal Police of the city of Belém, state of Pará. Their video recorder was seized, and was returned to them after they were released. They were arrested by a police order while they were interviewing a group of students and parents over the death of a suspect of a robbery that occurred the previous day.</p>	<p>IFEX: "<i>Policia detiene a equipo de reporteros en Belém, le incautan videograbadora</i>". Alert sent on May 3, 2007. // Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Policia Federal detiene a equipo de reporteros</i>". Alert of May 2, 2007. // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Brazil : TV crew arrested while investigating fatal shooting by policeman</i>". Release of May 4, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22004</p>
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
<p>On June 15, 2007, the state justice department of Sao Paulo forbade newspaper <i>Folha de Vinhedo</i> from publishing an interview in which Paulo Cabral, former legal secretary of the municipality of Vinhedo, accused several local officials and entrepreneurs of being corrupt. The prohibition was requested by two entrepreneurs who were mentioned in the interview.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Multiplicação de medidas de 'censura preventiva' contra a mídia pesa sobre a liberdade de expressão</i>". Release issued on June 22, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22665 // Jornal de Itupeva: "<i>Justiça proíbe jornal de Vinhedo de publicar denúncias</i>". Article published on June 16, 2007, available at: http://www.jornaldeitupeva.com.br/noticia.php?id=070616081439</p>

BRAZIL	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On June 21, 2007, the Justice Department ordered the <i>Metrópole</i> media network not to use the name of the mayor of Salvador, Joao Henrique Carneiro, in its press notes, either to relate him to a topic or to report on his activities. If <i>Metrópole</i> should in any way breach this prohibition, the company shall pay 200,000 reals. The judicial order was requested by the mayor.</p>	<p>Reporteros sin Fronteras: "<i>Multiplicação de medidas de censura preventiva contra a mídia pesa sobre a liberdade de expressão</i>". Press release issued on June 22, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22665 // Correio da Bahia: "<i>João Henrique consegue censurar na Justiça a Rádio Metrópole</i>". Article published on June 21, 2007, available at: http://www.correiodabahia.com.br/poder/noticia.asp?codigo=130645</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On June 15, 2007, the Court of Sao Paulo dismissed the appeal in the case of Emir Sader, a university professor who was sentenced in October 2006 to one year in prison for publishing an article in which he accused senator Jorge Bornhausen of being elitist, fascist and racist. In the same decision, Sader was removed from office as a professor at the Universidad Federal de Río de Janeiro. The penalty of imprisonment was exchanged for the obligation of community service eight hours a day during one year. Sader received the maximum penalty provided in the press law for defamation.</p>	<p>Brazzilmag.com: "<i>Brazil Court Maintains One year Sentence Against Professor for Defamation</i>". Note published June 20, 2007, available at: http://www.brazzilmag.com/content/view/8369/54/ // Article 19: "<i>University professor sentenced to one year in prison for defamation will have his appeal reviewed in court today</i>". Release published June 15, 2007, available at: http://www.article19.org/pdfs/press/brazil-def-appeal-eng.pdf</p>
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
MUDER- PROGRESS	
<p>On August 10, 2007, a jury sentenced in Brazil, to 17 years and nine months in prison, Eurico Mariano, former mayor of the city of Coronel Sapucaia, State of Mato Grosso, as the intellectual author of the murder of Paraguayan journalist Samuel Román on April 20, 2004. Román was a journalist of radio stations <i>Ñu Verá</i> and <i>Conquista FM</i>, in the frontier zone with Brazil. He was a severe critic of the municipal administration. He was attacked by two men on a motorcycle who shot at him 11 times.</p>	<p>Inter-American Press Association: "<i>Destaca la SIP sentencia en Brasil contra autor intelectual del asesinato de un periodista paraguayo</i>". News alert issued on August 16, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srhcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1962 // Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Former mayor receives prison sentence for journalist's murder</i>". News alert published on August 10, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/brazil10aug07ca.html</p>
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>On September 19, 2007, a reporter of newspaper <i>Correio Braziliense</i>, Amaury Ribeiro Júnior, was shot in Cidade Ocidental in the state of Goiás. The journalist was investigating in the area about drug trafficking and had published some articles in the newspaper about the murders by the organized crime in that city. Ribeiro Júnior was seated in a bar when a man approached him and shot him three times. Four men were arrested in connection with this attack and declared that they wanted to rob him. However, the journalist warned that he had been threatened some days before he was shot.</p>	<p>IAPA: "<i>La SIP condena atentado contra periodista en Brasil y exige investigación exhaustiva</i>". News alert published on September 20, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srhcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1980 // Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Crime reporter shot and wounded</i>". News alert issued on September 20, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/brazil20sep07na.html</p>
<p>On November 22, 2007, radio speaker Joao Alckmin was shot twice in the city of Sao José dos Campos. His assailant shot him in the neck and abdomen. For more than five years, this reporter had been denouncing the alleged bond between the local Police and the slot machine operators in this city. Slot machines are illegal in Brazil. The reporter said he had been getting threats by letters and telephone calls in the last years.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Radio commentator shot and wounded in Brazil</i>". Alert issued on November 26, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/brazil26nov07na.html // Folha On Line: "<i>Radialista João Alckmin é alvo de novo atentado em São José dos Campos</i>". Article published on November 23, 2007, available at: http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/folha/brasil/ult96u348028.shtml</p>

BRAZIL	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On September 13, 2007, two persons shot the car that was parked in front of the house of television reporter Ricardo Borges in Campo Mourao, south of the state of Paraná. The men fired four shots at the car that was bearing the logo of <i>TV Carajás</i> , where Borges has a police information program that has raised controversies and discussions.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Assailants fire shots at TV' host's car</i> ". News alert issued on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/brazil13sep07ca.html // Tribuna do Interior: " <i>Olhos, Vistos do Cotidiano (I)</i> ". Article published on September 16, 2007, available at: http://www.tribunadointerior.com.br/index.php?pag=noticias&id_noticia=17075&conjunto=&id_usuario=7&noticias=&PHPSESSID=4dd4cb1ab55e974f217e054d61f728ed
POLICE HARRASMENT- DETENTIONS	
On July 18, 2007, the photographer of <i>Folha de Sao Paulo</i> , Rogério Cassimiro, was attacked and detained by the police when he was trying to photograph the scene of the airplane accident that had occurred some days before. Cassimiro was taking pictures of the work carried out by the rescue squad when police officers asked him to move to another area. When he was in that zone, another policeman pushed him and took him to a nearby street, where he pushed him down to the floor and handcuffed him. The photographer was detained for about five hours.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Photojournalist brutally detained while covering plane crash</i> ". News alert issued on July 18, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/brazil18july07ca.html // Folha Sao Paulo: " <i>Jornalista da Folha é preso ao fotografar local</i> ". Article published on July 19, 2007, copy available at: http://www.go.trf1.gov.br/setoriais/biblioteca/clipping%5Cclipping_2007_07_19.doc#FSP03
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On October 15, 2007, judge Maria Valéria Lins Calheiros issued a provisional and preventive decision for <i>Novo Extra</i> , the company that publishes newspaper <i>Extra</i> , whereby it prevents it from publishing any article that directly or indirectly speaks of deputy Olavo Calheiros. A civil complaint for slander had been filed by the legislator - brother of the president of the Senat of Brazil, Renan Calheiros, who is temporarily out of office facing corruption accusations- due to a series of articles it had published. The deputy also asked that a provisional restriction would be imposed on the newspaper to prevent it from continue publishing information about him.	Article 19: " <i>Brazil: "Provisional" injunction granted by the judge in Northeast State of Alagoas amounts to censorship</i> ". Alert issued on November 26, 2007, sent to the Office of the Special Rapporteur by email // Jornal Extra Alagoas: " <i>Justiça impede jornal de citar Olavo Calheiros em reportagens</i> ". Article published on November 12, 2007, available at: http://www.novoextra.com.br/noticia.kmf?noticia=6673008&canal=331
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
In July 2007, the Superior Court of Justice sentenced the company <i>Globo Comunicação e Participações</i> for disclosing the material about the kidnapping of the members of the Matarazzo family, which occurred in March 2000. The company was sentenced to pay an indemnity of 1.9 million reais for having told the news to <i>Jornal Hoje</i> and <i>Jornal Nacional</i> . The sentence is for breach of the right to life and privacy of Luiz André Matarazzo, who was kidnapped.	Epoca Estado: " <i>Globo condenada em R\$ 1,9 milhão por divulgar seqüestro</i> ". Article published on July 20, 2007, available at: http://epocaestado.wordpress.com/2007/07/20/globo-condenada-em-r-19-milhao-por-divulgar-sequestro/ // O Journalista: " <i>Globo condenada em R\$ 1,9 milhão por divulgar seqüestro</i> ". Article published on July 19, 2007, available at: http://www.ojornalista.com.br/news1.asp?codi=2170
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS – COMMUNITY RADIOS	
On July 22, 2007, the Network <i>Viva Rio de Radiodifusão Comunitaria (Reviva)</i> of Rio de Janeiro protested against the closure of 6,000 community radio stations during the five years of government of Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva.	AMARC: " <i>Rádios comunitarias protestan contra represión</i> ". Alert issued July 25, 2007, sent to the Office of the Special Rapporteur by email // TV Brasil Esperanca: " <i>Rádios comunitárias fazem ato de repúdio à política "diferenciada" do governo federal</i> ". Article published on July 23, 2007, available at: http://www.brasilesperanca.com.br/ver_noticia.php?cod_noticia=540

BRAZIL	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On July 23, 2007, the Federal Public Ministry of the Federal District requested the cancelation of the concessions of six radio and TV stations of federal deputies and former deputies. The reason was having used their position as legislators to obtain renewals or new concessions. The denunciation was filed by the Institute for the Development of Journalism ("Instituto para o Desenvolvimento do Jornalismo"). On July 1, 2007, there became effective a regulation setting new rules for the granting of concessions.</p>	<p>AMARC: "<i>Documento que regula concessões de emissoras de rádio e TV entra em vigor</i>". News alert issued on July 9, 2007, available at: http://legislaciones.amarc.org/07-07-09-BrasilDocumentoRegula.htm // AMARC: "<i>Ministerio público pide anular concesiones de radio y TV obtenidas injustamente por diputados</i>". News alert issued on July 31, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>In August 2007, Sao Paulo Prosecutor, Rodrigo César Rebello Pinho, accused the social network service of Internet <i>Orkut</i>, owned by Google Brazil with almost 50 thousand members in Brazil, of posting racist and homophobic messages. On October 27, 2007, the authorities announced that the entire affiliate of Google Brazil would be closed if they did not help regulate <i>Orkut</i>, Reporteros Sin Fronteras denounced.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Google Brazil: In letter about Google subsidiary's problems, the Sao Paulo Prosecutor is urged to protect free expression</i>". Alerta emitida el 2 de noviembre de 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/print.php?id_article=24231 // Brazzil Magazine: "<i>Brazilian Justice Threatens to Shut Down Orkut and Google Brazil This Month</i>". Artículo publicado el 4 de noviembre de 2007, available at: http://www.brazzilmag.com/content/view/8826/54/</p>
MEDIA OWNERSHIP	
<p>In August 2007, the Brazilian Congress received a petition to create an investigative commission about the commercial alliance between Spanish company <i>Telefónica</i> and publishing company <i>Grupo Abril</i> of Brazil in order to avoid "the breaching of principles that may restrict the free flow of information and the public's right to receive information." This new company would be in a position to offer subscription television, telephony and Internet services. Several organizations stated their concern because this decision by the Parliament may be linked to the political scandals reported in the magazine <i>Veja</i>, of Grupo Abril.</p>	<p>Inter-American Press Association: "<i>IAPA to keep eye on investigation into Grupo Abril by Brazilian Congress</i>". News alert issued on August 28, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1969// Direito do Estado: "<i>Pedido de criação da CPI da Anatel é protocolado na Câmara dos Deputados</i>". Article published on August 24, 2007, available at: http://www.direitodoestado.com.br/noticias/4542/Pedido-de-cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o-da-CPI-da-Anatel-%C3%A9-protocolado-na-C%C3%A2mara-dos-Deputados</p>
DECLARATIONS	
<p>On July 31, 2007, the Workers' Party (Partido de los Trabajadores), to which the President of Brazil Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva belongs, issued a statement in which it calls those who hold public office to act against a "large attack by the right allied with certain sectors of the media against the PT and the government". Gléber Naine, responsible for the communication issued by the PT highlighted that private television channel <i>TV Globo</i>, newspapers <i>Correio Braziliense</i>, <i>O Estado de Sao Paulo</i>, <i>O Globo</i> and <i>Folha de Sao Paulo</i> as "vehicles that never before opposed the government as now."</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Uma decisão infeliz do partido do governo fustiga a mídia privada: Repórteres sem Fronteiras faz apelo ao presidente Lula e ao presidente do PT</i>". News alert issued on August 2, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id_article=23143 // Partido dos Trabalhadores: "<i>Executiva convoca PT a enfrentar nova ofensiva da direita</i>". Resolution adopted on July 31, 2007, available at: http://www.pt.org.br/sitept/index_files/noticias_int.php?codigo=2313</p>

CANADA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY -MARCH 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period.	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS FROM PRIVATES	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>The night of April 17, 2007, in Mississauga, Ontario, journalist Jawaad Faizi, of the <i>Pakistan Post</i>, was attacked by two men when he was inside his car, in front of the house of the newspaper's editor. The aggressors broke the windows of the car with cricket poles and beat the reporter while shouting that he must stop writing against Islam and against religious organization Idara Minhaj-ul-Quran. Faizi and his editor, Amir Arain, had been threatened the day before and also in January.</p>	<p>Canadian Journalists for Freedom of Expression: "<i>Canadian Journalists for Free Expression appalled at attack on journalist in Mississauga, Ontario</i>". Release issued on April 19, 2007, available at: http://www.cjfe.org/releases/2007/19042007faizi.html // CBC: "<i>Mississauga reporter attacked after criticizing Pakistani cleric</i>". Note published on April 20, 2007, available at: http://www.cbc.ca/canada/toronto/story/2007/04/20/attak-mississauga.html // Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>CANADA: Urdu-language columnist attacked after alleged anti-Islam articles</i>". Release issued on April 27, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/canada19apr07ca.html</p>
OTHERS	
<p>On June 20, 2007, the Labor Relations Commission of Quebec refused to force journalist Karine Gagnon to disclose the identity of her sources in an article about the potential threat of the use of asbestos in government buildings. Gagnon published that article in the <i>Journal de Quebec</i> in November 2006. One of her sources was dismissed from the <i>Société immobilière du Québec</i> (SIQ), and sued the agency. The lawyers of the SIQ summoned the journalist to disclose her source and deliver the material of her research, but the administrative court rejected that possibility.</p>	<p>Canadian Journalists for Free Expression: "<i>CJFE Celebrates Quebec Decision in Favour of Protection Sources</i>". Release published on July 20, 2007, available at: http://www.cjfe.org/releases/2007/20062007gagnon.html // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Support for Quebec journalist ordered to reveal sources</i>". Release issued on June 19, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22607</p>
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION- PROGRESS	
<p>Since September 1, 2007, seven corporations of the Crown, including <i>Canada Post</i>, <i>CBC</i>, <i>Via Rail</i> and <i>Export Development Canada</i>, will be subject to the Law on Access to Information that was recently reformed, and places these corporations under greater public scrutiny. With the reforms of this law and merely by filling out an application form and paying the basic cost of US\$ 5, any person may request information that was previously considered of a private nature. For a long time the corporations had been resisting being subject to the Law on Access to Information, alleging that a greater public scrutiny would compromise their business positions. However, the law sets exemptions that protect the business information of <i>Canada Post</i> and the confidential commercial information of <i>Via Rail</i>.</p>	<p>CNews: "<i>Key Crown corporations brought under freedom-of-information law.</i>" Article published on August 31, 2007, available at: http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2007/08/31/4461460-cp.html // Federal Accountability Act: "<i>Strengthening access to information legislation</i>". Official information available at: http://www.faa-lfi.gc.ca/fs-fi/16/10fs-fi_e.asp.</p>

CANADA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION- PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>The <i>Canadian Press</i> had access to a document that was in power of the Library and Archives Canada thanks to the Law on Access to Information. The document revealed that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) was spying on employees of <i>CBC</i> and <i>Radio Canada</i> for decades due to suspicions of potential communist infiltrations. Journalist Rene Lavesque was particularly surveyed for his leftist tendencies. The law on Access to Information allows disclosing personal documents compiled by the RCMP after 20 years of the death of the person. Lavesque died in November 1987.</p>	<p>Canada.com: "<i>RCMP convinced that communists had infiltrated CBC.</i>" Article published on November 8, 2007, available at: http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/news/story.html?id=02d7a581-48eb-4223-bcc5-0f68eb051376&k=23008 // The Star.com: "<i>Mounties spied on Rene Lavesque for decades.</i>" Article published on November 6, 2007, available at: http://www.thestar.com/printArticle/274151.</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On November 13, 2007, the Court of Appeals of Ontario issued a decision affirming the right of the mass media to publish information of public interest. The Court said that practicing responsible journalism of public interest must include defending suits for slander and defamation against mass media. The decision arose from a complaint filed by Danno Cusson, a police official of Ontario who sued newspaper <i>The Ottawa Citizen</i> regarding an article it published in 2001 in which it suggested that the police had acted unduly.</p>	<p>CJFE: "<i>In defamation case, Ontario Appeals Court affirms media's right to publish in public.</i>" Article published on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.cjfe.org/releases/2007/14112007ontariocourt.html // Canada.com: "<i>Court gives journalists new defence in lebel trials.</i>" Article published on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=8b65cca4-7aac-4551-8de6-b84e2c5d0291&k=60086.</p>

CHILE	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On March 26, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice approved a decree which restricted journalists from approaching court officials without their consent and from disturbing them with their television camera lights. The Chilean press and non-governmental organizations complained about this ruling and on March 30, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice revoked this measure and announced it would not take effect.	Terra/ EFE, <i>La Corte Suprema revoca medida que restringía labor de periodistas chilenos</i> . Article published on March 31, 2007, available at: http://www.terra.com/noticias/articulo/html/act787293.htm / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Supreme court rescinds controversial restrictions on press reporting</i> . Press release of April 2, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21450 .
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
THREATS	
On September 13, 2007, the president of the Journalists' Association of Chile, Luis Conejeros, filed a judicial complaint for the triple death threat received in a same week by the director of this association, Ernesto Carmona, who for 10 years investigated the murder of an Argentine-Swedish cameraman in 1973 in Chile. The threats were related to that case. Carmona received three telephone threats.	El Ciudadano: " <i>Colegio de Periodistas preocupado por amenazas a la prensa</i> ". Article published on September 1, 2007, available at: http://www.elciudadano.cl/2007/09/01/colegio-de-periodistas-preocup/ // Periodistas-ES: " <i>Periodista chileno Ernesto Carmona se querrela judicialmente por amenazas de muerte</i> ". News alert published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/print.asp?cod_artigo=1742
DETENTIONS	
Argentine journalist and cameraman Benjamín Avila and his Chilean collaborators Mario Puerto (sound engineer) and Arturo Peraldi (assistant) were detained while taking pictures of the house of the former army corporal Héctor Hernán Bustamante Gómez, allegedly related to the case of the murder of an Argentine-Swedish journalist that took place in 1973. The reporters covered a protest in front of Bustamante's house. They were released a few hours later.	BolPress: " <i>Policía chilena detuvo a periodista argentino que cubriría manifestación contra el asesinato del camarógrafo Leonardo Henrichsen</i> ". Article published on August 24, 2007, available at: http://www.bolpress.com/art.php?Cod=2007082405 // Argenpress: " <i>Policía chilena detuvo a periodista argentino que cubrió manifestación contra el asesino del camarógrafo Leonardo Henrichsen</i> ". News alert published on August 21, 2007, available at: http://www.argenpress.info/notaprint.asp?num=046325&parte=0
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
On August 9, 2007, the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Chile confirmed the sentences of the current press director of <i>Chilevisión</i> , Patricio Caldichoury Ríos, journalist Fernando Reyes Amín and producer Raúl Poblete Barrios for using hidden cameras to record without authorization on November 2003 a private conversation between the current Prosecutor of the Court of Appeals of Santiago de Chile, Daniel Calvo, and the then administrator of a gay sauna bath locale, Sebastián Rodríguez. In those recordings, Calvo admitted being a client of that business while being the investigator judge in a case of pedophilia in which allegedly there were politicians involved. The dissemination of this recording was key for Calvo's suspension as a judge. The penalty faced by the three reporters is three months in prison not effective. In the same decision, the Supreme Court decided to acquit the former press director of <i>Chilevisión</i> , Alejandro Guillier, because it was not able to determine his direct participation in the recording.	Periodistas-ES: " <i>Absuelven al director y ratifican una condena contra los periodistas que difundieron una grabación no autorizada</i> ". News alert issued on August 15, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/print.asp?cod_artigo=1639 // La Nación: " <i>Absuelven a Guillier por uso de cámara oculta en caso Spiniak</i> ". Article published on August 10, 2007, available at: http://www.lanacion.cl/prontus_noticias/site/artic/20070809/pags/20070809212743.html

CHILE	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
LEGISLATION - COMMUNITY RADIO	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On October 12, 2007, the president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, submitted a bill of law that creates the community and citizen radio broadcasting services, which was sent to Congress for discussion five days after. This initiative recognizes the limited right of these radio stations to obtain financial resources by means of advertising, the reserve of certain spaces of the radioelectric spectrum for community media and the extension of the term of the concession to 15 years. The bill of law also provides limitations to the power of these radio stations and does not grant access to television or AM radios.</p>	<p>Inter Press Service: <i>"Radio-Chile: La comunidad busca aire"</i>. Article published on November 16, 2007, available at: http://www.ipsnoticias.net/print.asp?idnews=86363 // AMARC: <i>"AMARC-ALC saluda proyecto de ley sobre radios comunitarias pero advierte que mantiene limitaciones a la libertad de expresi3n"</i>. Press release issued on November 2, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.</p>

COLOMBIA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
AGGRESSIONS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
On February 14, 2007, photojournalist José David Martínez, from the newspaper <i>Vanguardia Liberal</i> , was handcuffed and assaulted by police agents while covering a failed assassination attempt against a public official. The journalist was accused of interfering in the crime scene. Photographer Jairo Herrera, from TV channel <i>Enlace Televisión</i> , was also attacked for filming the beating of his colleague.	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, <i>Reportero gráfico agredido por la Policía</i> . Alert of February 14, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=73 . / Inter American Press Association, Country Report: <i>Colombia</i> , Semester Meeting, 16 - 19 March, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pulications/informe_colombia2007ca.cfm .
THREATS	
On March 8, 2007, journalist Darío Arizmendi Posada, director of program <i>Seis AM Hoy por Hoy</i> , of <i>Radio Caracol</i> , was forced to leave the country. The reporter said a subversive group wanted to assassinate him.	Radio Caracol, <i>Pronunciamientos sobre las amenazas a la libertad de prensa</i> . Declaration of March 26, 2007, available at: http://www.mediosparalapaz.org/index.php?idcategoria=2744 . / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Threatened radio station news editor forced to flee the country</i> . Press release of March 19, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21360 .
On March 13, 2007, journalist Germán Hernández, editor in chief of the newspaper <i>Diario del Huila</i> and president of the <i>Huila Press Association</i> , left his job and his house and took refuge in another area in the country. The reporter received death threats after publishing several articles about corruption in the Neiva hospital, in the department of Huila.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas, <i>FIP rechaza amenazas contra presidente de Asociación de Periodistas del Huila, ASPEHU</i> . Article published on March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4762&Language=E_S . / Reuters, <i>Periodista colombiano abandona su ciudad por amenazas</i> . Article published on March 24, 2007, available at: http://lta.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2007-03-24T170410Z_01_N24424437_RTRIDST_0_LATINOAMERICA-COLOMBIA-PERIODISTA-SOL.XML .
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On January 25, 2007, a Deputy Penal Judge of the Barranquilla Circuit ordered the newspaper <i>El Heraldo</i> to suspend its publication of reports about alleged links between a private company and paramilitary chiefs. The company had initiated a lawsuit against the press company for violation of rights to the honor and reputable name. On February 1, 2007, the Court ruled in favour of the paper.	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, <i>Juez prohíbe a periódico regional seguir informando sobre presunto caso de corrupción</i> . Alert of January 26, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=43 . / Diario La República, <i>Rechazo unánime a decisión contra el Heraldo</i> . Article published on January 29, 2007, available at: http://www.la-republica.com.co/noticia.php?id_notiweb=74561&id_subseccion=81&template=noticia&fecha=2007-01-29 .
On February 5, 2007, a criminal judge from San Andrés prevented several press companies from issuing reports about a court order re-opening an investigation on corruption. The order was a result of an appeal for legal protection filed by the company to protect its reputable name. The affected media companies were <i>RCN Radio</i> , <i>Caracol Radio</i> , <i>La Voz de las Islas</i> , <i>Radio Leda International</i> , <i>Radio Impacto Estéreo</i> , and the weekly <i>The Archipiélago Press</i> .	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, <i>Nuevamente un juez prohíbe informar sobre caso de corrupción</i> . Alert of February 8, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=72

COLOMBIA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
Journalist Daniel Coronell, who fled the country following death threats against him and his family, stated that the version of Luis Fernando Uribe Botera, sentenced in October 2006 to 16 months imprisonment subject to parole and to the payment of a fine in a cause about these threats, does not correspond to what truly happened. The reporter said that the true responsible parties are still free and that threatening emails sent from the house of a former congressman with a criminal record were disregarded in the trial. The reporter said that the former congressman was not investigated due to the fact that he is a friend of the President of Colombia.	Daniel Coronell, letter addressed to the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, sent by email on January 30, 2007.
DECLARATIONS	
On February 23, 2007, the President of Colombia accused Carlos Lozano, director of the weekly publication <i>Voz</i> , of being an "accomplice and spokesman" for the armed group FARC. The journalist maintains that these declarations are false and that they have endangered his life.	Radio Caracol, <i>Lozano responsabiliza al presidente Uribe por lo que le pueda pasar</i> . Article published on February 23, 2007, available at: http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/394616.asp . / Reporters Without Borders, <i>President Uribe endangers left-wing editor by accusing him of links to guerrillas</i> . Press release of March 7, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21227 . / International Federation of Journalists, <i>IFJ Accuses Colombian Leader over "Reckless and Life-Threatening" Attack on Journalist</i> . Press release of March 1, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/en/layout/set/print/content/view/full/81542 .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
PROGRESS	
On May 16, 2007, demobilized paramilitary leader Juan Francisco Prada Márquez confessed before a public attorney of the Unit of Justice and Peace in Barranquilla, his responsibility in the murder of the journalist and director of radio station <i>La Palma Estéreo</i> , Martín Larrota Duarte. Prada said that the order to kill the journalist was issued because of the criticism he had made. Larrota was stabbed on February 7, 2004, weeks after he refused to pay the money that the paramilitary demanded in order for his radio station to continue operating.	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: <i>"Líder paramilitar confiesa asesinato de periodista"</i> . News alert issued on May 28, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=209/ Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Colombia: paramilitary chief admits ordering journalist's murder in 2004"</i> . Release issued on May 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/fil_en.php3?id_rubrique=682&mois=05
On June 8, 2007, demobilized paramilitary Pablo Emilio Quintero Dodino confessed that he was the primary perpetrator of the murder of journalist José Emeterio Rivas Rivas, which took place in April 2003 in Santander. This was affirmed before a judge of the Public Attorney's Unit for Justice and Peace.	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: <i>"Paramilitar confiesa el asesinato del periodista en Barrancabermeja"</i> . news alert issued on June 27, 2007, available: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=216

COLOMBIA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On April 8, 2007, a team of journalists of <i>RCN Noticias</i> was attacked at the toll of Chinauta, in the center of Colombia, when it was covering the information on the return plan in the Bogotá-Girardot span. A private security guard tried to prevent the journalists from taking pictures from the toll and hit the cameraman. The policemen in charge of transit control had to act to stop the aggression.	Observatorio Latinoamericano de Prensa: " <i>Agreden a equipo de periodistas en Carretera</i> ". Report 349 of April 9, 2007 // Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: " <i>Agreden a equipos periodísticos en peajes de vías de Cundinamarca y Risaralda</i> ". Press release of April 13, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=193
On May 1, 2007, journalist Adriana Cuéllar, of <i>Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo</i> , was allegedly attacked by members of the Mobile Anti-riot Squad, while she was covering the marches commemorating International Workers' Day in Bogota. According to information received, three agents physically attacked her to prevent her from recording the beating that other policemen were giving a protester. The journalist filed a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, the Ombudsman Office and the Office of the Solicitor General of the Nation.	IFEX: " <i>Periodista golpeada, herida por policía en Bogotá; fotógrafo de 'Vanguardia Liberal' golpeado por manifestantes en Cesar</i> ". News alert of May 11, 2007. // Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: " <i>Dos nuevas agresiones contra periodistas en el país</i> ". Release issued on May 11, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=197
On May 7, 2007, journalist Sandra Hernández Acosta, in charge of Public Relations of the Municipality of Maicao, was attacked by the Vice-President of the Municipal Council of that municipality, Sayira García Ariza, when Hernández was on the air on the institutional radio program " <i>Gestión con Resultados</i> ". According to the journalist, the aggression was due to a critique she had just aired regarding the Council's decision to forbid that the wake ceremony for a murdered official be held at its premises.	IFEX / Instituto Prensa Y Sociedad: " <i>Periodista agredida por funcionaria municipal tras hacer comentario critico</i> ". News alert of May 24, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/83591// Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Federación Colombiana de Periodistas, FCP, rechaza amenazas contra dos colegas y veto de alcalde contra medio radial</i> ". Release issued on May 10, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4911&Language=ES
On May 9, 2007, photographer Adamis Guerra Bermúdez, of the newspaper <i>Vanguardia Liberal</i> , was attacked while covering a protest of informal gasoline distributors in La Paz municipality, department of César. According to information received, the protesters hit the journalist and damaged his camera.	Observatorio Latinoamericano de Prensa: " <i>Agreden a periodistas</i> ". Report 376 of May 12, 2007. // IFEX: " <i>Periodista golpeada, herida por policía en Bogotá; fotógrafo de 'Vanguardia Liberal' golpeado por manifestantes en Cesar</i> ". Alert of May 11, 2007.
On May 10, 2007, a military shot a round to the air to keep a group of journalists from entering the place of an attack, three kilometers away from the urban center of the municipality of Tuluá, department of Valle. The journalists were covering an attack against the Army's Special Forces Squad, and after more than three hours waiting they had been authorized by the military to approach the site. Army Commander Mario Montoya afterwards publicly apologized before the aggrieved journalists.	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: " <i>Agresiones de la Fuerza Pública contra periodistas</i> ". Release of May 18, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=208 // Colombia actualidad: " <i>Soldado hizo disparos contra periodistas en zona de masacre</i> ". Article published on May 12, 2007, available at: http://www.colombia.com/actualidad/autonoticias/nacionales/2007/05/12/detallenoticia30297.asp

COLOMBIA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On May 12, 2007 in Barranquilla, local journalists were attacked by the police when they were covering a homicide. Isis Beleño, a journalist for newspaper <i>El Herald</i>, was insulted and pushed by the police personnel, although according to the testimony of the denouncing organizations she had not gone beyond the security tape. Johnny Olivares, a graphic reporter who was accompanying Beleño, Manuel Pérez Frutos and Saturnino Vásquez of newspaper <i>La Libertad</i>, were also attacked when they tried to prevent Beleño from being harmed.</p>	<p>Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: "<i>Agresiones de la Fuerza Pública contra periodistas</i>". Press release of May 18, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=208 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Nueva oleada de agresiones a la prensa: las FARC no desmienten su reputación de predadores</i>". Press release published on June 21, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22640</p>
<p>On June 27, 2007, the photographer of newspaper <i>El Universal</i> of Sincelejo, Manuel Santiago Pérez, was attacked by five policemen while he was covering a taxi drivers' protest. Pérez, who had shown his press credentials, was trying to take pictures of an incident between a taxi driver and an officer when another policeman hit him with a shield.</p>	<p>La FM: "<i>Policía arremete contra reportero gráfico en Sincelejo, Sucre</i>". Article published on June 28, 2007, available at: http://www.lafm.com.co/noticia.php3?nt=20035 // Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>COLOMBIA: Police attack photographer covering protest</i>". Press release issued on June 27, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/colombia27june07ca.html</p>
THREATS	
<p>Diego Waldrón, director and owner of magazine <i>Revista Gente</i>, in the city of Barrancabermeja, department of Santander, denounced before the authorities that he had been threatened by unknown persons on April 18, 2007. A few days before, the magazine had published a special report denouncing alleged corrupt actions by the local administration. Waldrón also denounced that prior to publishing that report an officer had offered him money to not publish the article.</p>	<p>Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: "<i>Amenazado periodista por denuncias de corrupción en la alcaldía de Barrancabermeja</i>". New alert published on April 24, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=194.</p>
<p>At dawn, on April 19, 2007, two individuals who identified themselves as members of the FARC guerrilla threatened independent journalist Afranio Franco Ballesteros and his cameraman, and stole all the equipment used by the journalist to make institutional videos for the municipalities, in addition to their identification documents and money. Between May and June, Franco received about four threats over the phone from persons who purported to be members of the FARC.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Nueva oleada de agresiones a la prensa: las FARC no desmienten su reputación de predadores</i>". Press release published on June 21, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22640 // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>Ceso-FIP denuncia: dos periodistas colombianos en peligro, uno es asaltado por guerrilla y director de revista amenazado de muerte</i>". Release issued on April 19, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4847&Language=ES</p>

COLOMBIA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On May 9 and 10, 2007, the photographer of newspaper <i>Vanguardia Liberal</i> in Barrancabermeja, José David Martínez, received a series of phone calls with threats and warnings "not to mingle" with Justice. Martínez received these calls after having declared to the Office of the Attorney General an incident that occurred in February, in which he was attacked by two policemen when he was taking pictures of a bomb being deactivated.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Photographer threatened after denouncing police attack</i> ". Release issued on May 16, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/colombia09may07ca.html // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Federación Colombiana de Periodistas, FCP, rechaza amenazas contra dos colegas y veto de alcalde contra medio radial</i> ". Release issued on May 10, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4911&Language=ES
On May 20, 2007, radio reporter Rodrigo Callejas received a phone threat from a man who identified himself as Luis Alfonso, commander of the FARC, who warned him to stop "getting at" his people. In the prior weeks, Callejas had reported on guerrilla warfare activities. Due to fear of the threat being accomplished, the journalist decided to leave his house in Fresno. Callejas made a complaint before the local authorities and reported this to the Ministry of the Interior in Bogota.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Periodista radial abandona su hogar tras amenazas de la guerrilla</i> ". News alert published on May 25, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/colombia25may07na_sp.html // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Comandante de las FARC amenaza a periodista afiliado a ANPRESS, denuncia Federación Colombiana de periodistas</i> ". Release issued on May 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4950&Language=ES
On May 25, 2007, an e-mail sent to the office of newspaper <i>El Nuevo Herald</i> reported that a paramilitary group had a plan to kill Gonzalo Guillén, correspondent in Colombia. The Colombia Office of the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Human Rights issued a communiqué stating their concern regarding the threats received by Guillén.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Gonzalo Guillén, El Nuevo Herald. THREATENED</i> ". Publicado en la pagina web: http://cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/colombia25may07ca.html // Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos: " <i>Amenazas contra periodista Gonzalo Guillén</i> ". Comunicado de Prensa de la ONU-DDHH emitido el 8 de junio de 2007.
On June 23, 2007, the National Police made known a plan to attempt upon journalist Rúben Darío Valencia's life, who is the general editor of newspaper <i>Q'hubo</i> . The order to kill him, according to the authorities, was given by Olmes Durán, who has been accused of drug trafficking and arrested some days before, as revenge because Valencia had reported about his arrest. Representatives of the Police stated that measures had been taken for the safety of the journalist, who is pondering leaving the country.	El País de Cali: " <i>Develan amenazas a editor Q'hubo</i> ". Article published on June 23, 2007, available at: http://www.elpais.com.co/paisonline/notas/Junio232007/qhubo.html // Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: " <i>Amenazado director del periódico 'Q'hubo' en la ciudad de Cali</i> ". News alert published on June 23, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=214 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>A punto de abandonar el país el director de un diario que está en el punto de mira de un narcotraficante</i> ". Release issued on June 26, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22696
On June 26, 2007, the Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa and the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad requested that the authorities give assurances of the safety of the journalists that are covering the justice and peace process in Colombia. In a special report there are contained complaints that the journalists are being watched, photographed, recorded and followed, as a way of frightening and intimidating them. The report is based on interviews of the persons who cover the hearings in Medellín with demobilized paramilitary.	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa - Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Periodistas reclaman garantías para cubrir el proceso de justicia y paz</i> ". Report sent by e-mail to the in box of the Rapporteur's office on June 26, 2007. // Summary available at IFEX website: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/84454/

COLOMBIA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
DETENTIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>A group of journalists of <i>Ecuavisa</i> reported that they were detained on June 27, 2007 by Colombian military when they were investigating the death of an Ecuadorian citizen in the Colombian frontier. The Ecuadorian journalists were deported and banned from entering Colombia for five years. According to Colombian military spokesmen, they were detained because they entered the country without a permit. Journalist Freddy Barros, who led the group, admitted that they had entered through one of the frontier paths without migratory control. The journalists declared that they were forced to erase images of their detainment. The Ecuadorian government asked, through its Embassy in Colombia, that this event be investigated.</p>	<p>El Tiempo.com: "<i>Polémica por deportación de periodistas de canal ecuatoriano Ecuavisa desde Colombia</i>". Article published on June 27, 2007, available at: http://www.eltiempo.com/internacional/latinoamerica/noticias/ARTICULO-WEB-NOTA_INTERIOR-3614355.html // El Comercio: "<i>Colombia prohíbe a periodistas de Ecuavisa el ingreso por cinco años</i>". Article published on June 27, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomercio.com/noticiaEC.asp?id_noticia=119941&id_seccion=4 // W Radio: "<i>Polémica por retención de periodistas ecuatorianos en zona de frontera</i>". Article published on June 27, 2007, available at: http://www.wradio.com.co/nota.asp?id=445562</p>
OTHER	
<p>On May 14, 2007, the minister of Defense, Juan Manuel Santos, publicly acknowledged that for the last two years the National Police had been illegally intercepting the phone calls of government officials, members of the opposition and journalists, without being subject to an investigation. On June 25, 2007, the Colombian authorities announced the three-month suspension of five high-rank officers of the Police and Intelligence, who are presumed to have made the illegal phone taps.</p>	<p>IFEX: "<i>Teléfonos de periodistas ilegalmente interceptados por policía nacional</i>". News alert of May 16, 2007. // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Suspendidos, tras un escándalo de escuchas telefónicas, varios altos responsables de la policía y de inteligencia</i>". Release of June 26, 2007 and May 16, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22184 // W Radio Caracol: "<i>Avanza la reestructuración en la Policía por las interceptaciones telefónicas</i>". Article of June 26, 2007, available at: http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/444693.asp</p>
<p>Hundreds of journalists gathered in Medellín urged all the States to guarantee their safety and to investigate all the acts of violence perpetrated against mass communicators. The request was sanctioned in the Medellín Declaration, the final document issued in the Seminar "<i>Libertad de Prensa, Seguridad e Impunidad</i>" promoted by the Unesco and the Colombian Foundation Guillermo Cano, on International Freedom of Press Day.</p>	<p>Observatorio Lationamericano de Prensa: "<i>Declaración de Medellín pide investigar violencia contra periodistas</i>". Report 370 of May 5, 2007 // Unesco portal: "<i>Declaración de Medellín sobre la seguridad de los periodistas y la lucha contra la impunidad</i>". Declaration issued on May 6, 2007, available at: http://portal.unesco.org/es/ev.php-URL_ID=37699&URL_DO=DO_PRINTPAGE&URL_SECTION=201.html</p>
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
PROGRESS	
<p>In July 2007, the Constitutional Court of Colombia decided that the media should self-regulate the contents of their programs and not the National Government, in a case filed by RCN Radio. Thus, it voided a decision by the Council of State that ordered creating a committee to control the content and language of the program '<i>El Mañanero</i>', broadcast by the station <i>La Mega</i>, of RCN. The case began in 2003, when the Foundation "<i>Sueño por Colombia</i>" filed an action against the program alleging that it "poisons and corrupts youth with the most varied range of vulgarity."</p>	<p>Medios Latinos: "<i>Colombia: Estado no puede hacer control previo a contenidos de medios de comunicación</i>". News alert issued on July 27, 2007, available at: http://www.medioslatinos.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=250 // Periodistas-ES: "<i>El Estado no podrá controlar previamente en Colombia los contenidos de los medios de comunicación</i>". Article available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/print.asp?cod_artigo=1553</p>

COLOMBIA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
MURDERS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
<p>On September 5, 2007, Javier Darío Arroyave, journalist of radio station <i>Ondas del Valle</i> and a freelance correspondent of newspaper <i>El Tiempo</i> at the Department of Valle del Cauca, was found dead in his house as a result of several stabs. His portable computer had been stolen. Arroyave was the news anchor of radio station <i>Ondas del Valle</i> and director of the space "<i>Cómo les parece</i>", of Cartago. While the authorities in principle did not relate this crime to his journalistic activities, his colleagues believe this hypothesis should not be discarded. In May 2005, Arroyave temporarily canceled his program, after pressure from the municipal authorities that the journalist had accused of corruption.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Colombian journalist stabbed to death in Cartago</i>". News alert published on September 5, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/colombia05sep7na.html // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Asesinado el periodista Javier Darío Arroyave: 'A priori no debe descartarse la hipótesis profesional'</i>". Alert issued on September 6, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23580</p>
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
<p>On July 4, 2007, journalist Javier Manjarrés, director of news program <i>Actualidad</i> of <i>Emisoras Unidas</i>, was attacked by a follower of the Polo Democrático Alternativo at the end of a press conference by the president of that party, Carlos Gaviria Díaz. The followers refuted the questions that he made to the political leader because they deemed they discredited the party.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>Federación Colombiana de Periodistas condena agresiones de particulares contra periodistas en Barranquilla y Barrancabermeja</i>". News alert issued on July 9, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5114&Language=Es // Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: "<i>Agredido periodista que cubría evento político</i>". News alert issued on July 9, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office.</p>
<p>On September 27, 2007, a crew of TV channel <i>Caracol</i> was attacked by two persons when they were investigating a case of fraud in the sale of houses to small income families. Journalist Julia Navarrete, cameraman Juan Carlos Gerena and assistant Carlos Andrés García asked for the manager, a man and a woman began insulting them. The man went after them with a machete and the woman threw stones at them.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Frontera: "<i>La prensa víctima de amenazas, agresiones y boicot a un mes de las elecciones regionales</i>". News alert issued on September 28, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/imprimir.php3?id_article=23823 // FLIP/IFEX: "<i>Equipo periodístico agredido mientras investigaba caso de estafa en Bogotá</i>". News alert issued on October 1, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office.</p>
<p>On October 6, 2007, Alvaro Murillo, journalist of radio program "<i>Democracia en Acción</i>" broadcast through <i>Ecos de Combeima</i>, was injured by a political fanatic that managed to come into the recording cabin. Miller Oliveros jumped over the journalist and beat him up and fled.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>Atacado periodista dentro de la cabina de Ecos del Combeima, Colombia</i>". News Alert issued on October 7, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5388&Language=ES //</p>
<p>On October 11, 2007, a group of students of the University of Santa Marta that was protesting against a judicial decision sentencing the former rector of that institution, attacked the seat of the newspaper <i>Hoy Diario del Magdalena</i> with stones and slogans against the newspaper, which they accuse of slander. Its director, Ulilo Acevedo Silva, denounced having been threatened.</p>	<p>FLIP/IFEX: "<i>Director de periódico recibe amenazas de muerte, sede del periódico atacado por manifestantes en Santa Marta</i>". News alert issued on October 19, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87093/</p>

COLOMBIA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
<p>On October 3, 2007, Milton Otero Martínez, director of <i>El Observador</i>, and cameraman Julio Daniel Otero Jaramillo, were beaten up by a group of members of Colombia Democrática, headed by official teacher Rafael Figueroa Flórez and former mayor José Betín Figueroa. Otero attributed the attack to the investigation about Luis Alvarez Amariz' running for mayor and his relationship with senator Reginaldo Montes, detained due to his links with extreme right para-military groups. On September 14, 2007, followers of Álvarez Amariz, took a digital camera from Julio Daniel Otero. The next day, the candidate himself returned him the camera and apologized, although the camera's memory had been erased.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>Declaraciones de presidente Uribe aumentan riesgo de periodista amenazado, y militantes políticos golpean a dos reporteros en Colombia</i>". News alert issued on October 4, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5376&Language=ES // Instituto Prensa y Sociedad/ IFEX: "<i>Dos periodistas golpeados por turba de militantes políticos tras artículos sobre corrupción</i>". News alert issued on October 9, 2007, available at: http://canada.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86846/</p>
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>On September 15, 2007, journalist and cameraman Juan Alonso Restrepo was beat up by policemen of the motorized unit of Catargo, after he left the main building of television channel <i>CNC</i>, where he interviewed the candidate to the municipal council. For no apparent reason, the motored patrols attacked his vehicle. The reporter parked the car, and when he went out they struck him to the floor and hit him with a gun in the back, while they kicked him. Other two reporters who were in the car with him were threatened when they tried to record the aggression.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>FECOLPER denuncia cobarde agresión policial contra periodistas en Catargo, Valle, Colombia</i>". News alert issued on September 17, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5309&Language=ES // Instituto Prensa y Sociedad / IFEX: "<i>Policía golpea y detiene a periodista en Catargo</i>". News alert issued on September 19, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office.</p>
<p>On October 22, 2007, the director of newspaper <i>El Ariareense</i>, Abel Zabala Vargas, was attacked by the bodyguard escorts of the mayor of Granada, in order to prevent him from recording a conversation between the mayor and the candidate to the mayor's office. The reporter locked himself in a store, while the escort was threatening from the outside. When the Police officers arrived, they asked the journalist to turn in his camera. Zabala Vargas resisted.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>FECOLPER: Asesinado reportero gráfico en Cali; obstruyen labor informativa en Granada y Bucaramanga; temerario señalamiento contra colegas de Cartago</i>". News alert issued on October 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5419&Language=ES // IFEX/ FIP: "<i>Periodistas agredidos por escolta en Granada, ex senador en Bucaramanga y congresista en Cartago</i>". News alert issued on October 19, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87304.1.html</p>
THREATS	
<p>On July 27, 2007, journalist Sergio Mondragón, of Medellín, Antioquia, received a pamphlet with a death threat against him and his family. This threat was made days after several nationwide circulation media published the investigation about the irregularities in the potential sale of Fábrica de Licores de Antioquia (FLA). Those articles referred to the participation in this business of Alirio de Jesús Rendón Hurtado, a.k.a. 'El Cebollero', accused of financing a paid assassins' office in Envigado and the death of businessman Gustavo Upegui, one of the owners of the Envigado soccer team.</p>	<p>Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: "<i>Continúan amenazas a periodista de Antioquia</i>". News alert issued on July 27, 2007, available at: http://www.flip.org.co/veralerta.php?idAlerta=221</p>

COLOMBIA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
THREATS-SCAPE OUT OF THE COUNTRY	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
On August 13, 2007, the reporter of <i>La Noche de RCN Televisión</i> , Juan Pablo Monsalve, received three intimidating phone calls asking him to broadcast some information and threatened to kill him. The threats were related to a possible case of corruption in Cantagallos that the journalist was investigating. The morning of September 22, 2007, he was contacted by the mayor of that town, Cesar Augusto Gil, in a hotel in Bogotá. Gil told him that he was there by coincidence and asked him about his investigation that had never been aired. The mayor also told him that several politicians were responsible for the threats against him. Authorities of the channel and the local government recommended that he leave the country. Monsalve and his family left Colombia some days after.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Threatened journalist flees the country</i> ". News alert issued on September 22, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/colombia22sep07ca.html // FLIP/ IFEX: " <i>Television journalist ordered to broadcast story or be killed</i> ". Alert issued on August 15, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/fr/content/view/full/85568/
On September 21, 2007, journalist Geovanny Álvarez Castro, leader of news program " <i>La Verdad</i> ", was informed by the Police of Sabanalarga about a possible attack against him. The reporter had already received several anonymous threats before, after reporting about a series of denunciations of corruption in the local government. On October 19, 2007, Álvarez decided to leave the country in fear that the death threats would be carried out.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Tras amenazas de muerte, dos periodistas colombianos abandonan el país</i> ". News alert issued on October 24, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/colombia24oct07na_sp.html // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Cuarto periodista, desde el comienzo del año, obligado a exiliarse</i> ". News alert issued on October 23, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24137
On September 27, 2007, journalist Hollman Morris, director of television program " <i>Contravía</i> ", received a death threat in his e-mail from a so-called "Frente Patriótico Colombiano". Morris had security measures from the Ministry of the Interior and Justice after he had left the country in May 2005 due to threats. However, on October 23, 2007, the reporter decided to leave the country with his family. He had received threats calling him "anti-patriotic and member of the guerrilla."	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Tras amenazas de muerte, dos periodistas colombianos abandonan el país</i> ". News alert issued on October 24, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/colombia24oct07na_sp.html // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Cuarto periodista, desde el comienzo del año, obligado a exiliarse</i> ". News alert issued on October 23, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24137
THREATS	
The night of August 7, 2007, the FARC threatened several mass media of Arauca with turning them into "military objectives" if they did not issue a full pamphlet, with exhibits, in three news broadcasts during two days. The affected media were: <i>Sarare Estéreo, La Voz de Cinaruco, La Voz de Río Arauca and Meridiano 70</i> . All of them also received threat calls if they did not comply with this order. The municipality issued safety measures for the radio stations and their employees. The stations that broadcast the pamphlet warned the audience of the conditions under which they were doing it.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>FIP hace llamado al gobierno colombiano a proteger a periodistas amenazados por la guerrilla</i> ". News alert issued on August 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5205&Language=ES // El Universal: " <i>FARC amenazan con declarar objetivo militar a periodistas en Arauca</i> ". Article published on August 9, 2007, available at: www.eluniversal.com/2007/08/09
After journalist Samit Linero, of <i>Al Día</i> , published an investigation on September 18, 2007, about some cases of corruption allegedly involving four councilmembers of Soledad, the reporter began to receive threats over the phone. On September 20, 2007, his 11 year-old son received a threat call, while the journalist was surrounded in a public market by four unknown persons who started to insult him. A police officer protected him.	Reporteros Sin Frontera: " <i>La prensa víctima de amenazas, agresiones y boicot a un mes de las elecciones regionales</i> ". Alerta emitida el 28 de septiembre de 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/imprimir.php3?id_article=23823 // FLIP/IPYS/IFEX: " <i>Periodista amenazado repetidamente en Soledad tras informar sobre corrupción</i> ". Alerta emitida el 24 de septiembre de 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/20fr/content/view/full/86490/

COLOMBIA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
THREATS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
<p>On October 24, 2007, two persons tried to kidnap Nancy Beatriz, the daughter of the journalist and director of magazine <i>La Verdad</i>, Pedro Antonio Cárdenas, who on September 11, 2007, had already received a call threatening him for continuing to publish his magazine. Cárdenas was threatened again on October 29, 2007. An anonymous phone call warned the journalist that both him and his family were military objectives. Cárdenas was investigating small drug trafficking bands in Bogotá.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Amenazan de muerte a periodista y su familia cuando investigaba narcotráfico y mafia de teléfonos robados</i>". News alert issued on October 31, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office. // Centro de Solidaridad FIP: "<i>Intentan secuestrar a hija de periodista en Bogotá y amenazan de muerte a colega en el norte de Tolima, Colombia</i>". News alert issued on October 24, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office</p>
<p>On November 6, 2007, journalist of community radio station <i>Sensación Estereo</i>, Olga Bru, received two calls announcing that she would regret it if she remained in the city of Coveñas. Bru was press advisor to the current mayor elect and she interviewed several candidates in her radio program, who were asked about their bonds with outlaw groups. In one of the threats, Bru was scorned for backing up the mayor elect. Bru already had to leave Sincelejo in 2006, when she worked for <i>El Meridiano de Sucre</i>, due to threats she received.</p>	<p>Terra Actualidad: "<i>Amenazada periodista en Coveñas</i>". Article published on November 7, 2007, available at: http://www3.terra.com.co/actualidad/articulo/html/acu6135.htm // FLIP/ IFEX: "<i>Amenazan a periodista de radio comunitaria en Coveñas; la FIP preocupada por la falta de acción de las autoridades</i>". News alert issued on November 9, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87516/</p>
THREATS/DECLARATIONS	
<p>On October 2, 2007, the president of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, called two national radio stations to reject imputations relating him to drug trafficker Pablo Escobar published in the book "<i>Amando a Pablo, odiando a Escobar</i>" written by Virginia Vallejo. Uribe affirmed that the correspondent of <i>El Nuevo Herald</i> of Miami, Gonzalo Guillén, had cooperated in this book and added that the reporter insisted in mistreating him. "When he cannot do it in the country, he goes and does it abroad," the president said. After these accusations, the journalist received 24 death threats by phone and e-mail. Days later, Guillén abandoned the country with his family. The journalist had already received several threats and the government had granted him special security measures, but shortly before he left the country, Guillén waived such measures because he did not believe in the guaranties they offered him.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>En Colombia, acusaciones de Uribe generan alarma</i>". News alert issued on October 3, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/colombia03oct07na_sp.html // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Reporteros sin Fronteras escribe al Presidente Alvaro Uribe tras sus vehementes manifestaciones contra un periodista</i>". News alert issued on October 4, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23886</p>
<p>On October 9, 2007, the president of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, called radio station <i>La FM</i> and asked to speak with journalist Daniel Coronell, news director of <i>Canal Uno</i> and author of a news column in the magazine <i>Semana</i>, to ask him about an article he had written about the book "<i>Amando a Pablo odiando a Escobar</i>" that suggests ties between drug trafficker Pablo Escobar and the president. During one hour, the president and the reporter bitterly discussed over the air. That afternoon, Coronell and his team of journalists were declared "military objectives" by the para-military group that call themselves the "Águilas Negras". The message warned Coronell that if he did not abandon the country, he would face the consequences. The journalist had returned to Colombia in June 2007 after living two years in the United States, where he fled after receiving death threats.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Un periodista amenazado de muerte por un grupo paramilitar tras un intenso cambio verbal con el presidente Alvaro Uribe</i>". News alert issued on October 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24015 // <i>Semana</i>: "<i>El presidente Álvaro Uribe y el periodista Daniel Coronell libran la más dura batalla verbal en la radio</i>". Article published on October 9, 2007, available at: http://www.semana.com/wf_InfoArticulo.aspx?idArt=106790</p>

COLOMBIA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
On August 31, 2007, the Constitutional Court dismissed the action for protection filed by judge Jaime Araújo, who intended that the journalist and columnist Salud Hernández rectify the contents of one of its columns that referred to the justice. The court deemed that the complaint did not meet the requirements to ask for a rectification.	Equipo Nizkor: " <i>La Corte Constitucional negó tutela contra la columnista Salud Hernández-Mora</i> ". News alert issued on September 6, 2007, available at: http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/colombia/doc/facha.html // Press release by CESO FIP, prepared by Andrés Monroy, legal advisor of the Centro de Solidaridad of the Federación Internacional de Periodistas, sent on September 13, 2007, by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office.
On September 12, 2007, candidate to the municipal council, Juan Pablo Ariza and the aspirant member of the department's assembly, Abelardo Rueda Tobón, were captured in Barrancabermeja by being accused of taking part in the murder of journalist José Emeterio Rivas, who died in April 2003. The order of arrest was issued that day by the Human Rights Unit of the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Nation. They are charged with aggravated homicide and concertation to commit crimes. In June 2007, demobilized para-military Pablo Emilio Quintero Dodino had confessed having participated as material author of the assassination of Rivas, who as speaker in a local radio had made harsh critiques against the mayor's office.	FLIP/ IFEX: " <i>Candidatos a elecciones capturados por asesinato de periodista en Barrancabermeja</i> ". News alert issued on September 14, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office // W Radio: " <i>Capturados dos aspirantes en Santander por crimen de periodista</i> ". Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.wradio.com.co/notaimprime.asp?id=479591
On October 10, 2007 Luis Fernando Soto Zapata, material author of the murder of sub-director of newspaper <i>La Patria</i> de Manizales, Orlando Sierra Hernández, was released after having served only five years and eight months in prison. Soto Zapata had been sentenced to 19 years in prison, but got less time in prison because he confessed his crime, and for good behavior and work. In January 2007, Soto Zapata was caught by a camera when he shot the reporter in the head.	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa: " <i>Preocupación por la liberación del asesino del periodista Orlando Sierra</i> ". News alert issued on October 12, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office. // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: " <i>La SIP cuestiona la liberación de asesino de Orlando Sierra</i> ". News alert issued on October 8, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountr ydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1997
PRIOR CENSORSHIP BY INDIVIDUALS	
On September 21, 2007, journalist Viviana Vargas of newspaper <i>La Nación</i> , was intimidated by a group of followers of the candidate for mayor of Neiva, when she was covering a meeting where the politician was present. The followers of Suárez for no apparent reason forced her to erase the pictures she had taken at the meeting. Four days before, the candidate had announced that he would boycott newspapers <i>La Nación</i> and <i>Diario de Huilía</i> for publishing opinion surveys not favorable for his party.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Obligan a reportera a borrar fotografías de candidato a la alcaldía</i> ". News alert issued on September 27, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office. // Reporteros Sin Frontera: " <i>La prensa víctima de amenazas, agresiones y boicot a un mes de las elecciones regionales</i> ". News alert issued on September 28, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/imprimir.php3?id_article=23823
PRIOR CENSORSHIP-COMMUNITY RADIOS STATIONS	
On August 9, 2007, the Ministry of Communications of Colombia ordered the concessionaires of the community radiobroadcasting service to "refrain from including in their programs the intervention of candidates, political debates and propaganda about the current electoral race." It also forbade them to have political propaganda. On August 13, 2007, the Ministry of Communications made it clear that the prohibition only refers to political propaganda.	AMARC: " <i>Gobierno de Uribe impone censura previa a radios comunitarias</i> ". News alert issued on August 13, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office. // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>El gobierno prohíbe los programas políticos de las radios comunitarias durante la campaña electoral</i> ". News alert issued on August 20, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/imprimir.php3?id_article=23341

COLOMBIA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
OTHER	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
<p>On August 29, 2007, the Risk Evaluation and Regulation Committee, ascribed to the Ministry of the Interior, suspended the security measures for Claudia Julieta Duque, correspondent of <i>Radio Nizkor</i> and consultant for UNICEF. On October 24, 2007, she was re-assigned bodyguards and an armored vehicle, but there was a subsisted disagreement regarding the danger she is exposed to. Duque began receiving threats when she began an investigation about the murder of journalist Jaime Garzón. Duque was a victim of kidnapping and already has had to flee the country twice. In July 2007, the radio station received threats from a para-military group that call themselves the "Águilas Negras".</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Litigio sobre el grado de protección de una periodista gravemente amenazada: Reporteros sin Fronteras espera una solución adecuada a los riesgos que corre la interesada"</i>. News alert issued on October 31, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24221 //</p>
<p>On September 8, 2007, Asociación de Comunicadores Sociales Periodistas de Sucre (ACPS) with the support of the Colombian Journalists' Federation (Federación Colombiana de Periodistas) signed a pact with the departamental police to improve the information working conditions in Sucre, Colombia. The Good Understanding agreement seeks to overcome difficulties between policemen and reporters covering public events.</p>	<p>Federación Colombiana de Periodistas: <i>"Periodistas de Sucre, Colombia firman trascendentales pactos con policía y academia"</i>. Press release sent on September 10, 2007 by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's office.</p>
<p>On October 12, 2007, the government of Colombia issued a decree to "preserve public order", in which it orders the mass media to only issue information confirmed by official sources on the election day. Article 8 of Decree 3950 provides: "In the matter of the public order, during election day, the media will broadcast only the information confirmed by governmental sources".</p>	<p>Centro de Solidaridad de la Federación Internacional de Periodistas: <i>"Gobierno limita información sobre orden público el día de las elecciones"</i>. News alert issued on October 25, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office // Inter Press Service: <i>"Prensa entre la liviandad y la censura"</i>. Article published on October 26, 2007, available at: http://www.ipsnoticias.net/print.asp?idnews=86381</p>

COSTA RICA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
JUDICIARY PROCESSES	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On January 31, 2007, a trial for criminal defamation and slandering began against a catholic priest from the locality of Tilarán, province of Guanacaste. He is accused of having said, during a public ceremony, that property destined for peasants without land were acquired by the President of the Republic.	AFP, <i>Sacerdote a juicio por denuncia contra el presidente de Costa Rica</i> . Article published on January 30, 2007, available at: http://www.diariolasamericas.com/news.php?nid=21870 . / Unidad de Formación, Información y Comunicación de la Asociación Nacional de Empleados Públicos y Privados, <i>Oscar Arias lleva a juicio a sacerdote que defendió campesinos</i> . Undated article, available at: http://www.anep.or.cr/leer.php/1267 .
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGRESSIONS - DETENTIONS	
On August 18, 2007, agents of the Police Intervention Unit (Unidad de Intervención Policial) (UIP) violently attacked and detained Costarican journalist Adrián Carranza, officer of web site www.notlc.com and a student of the UCR, while covering the protest activities during a visit to Alajuela by the president of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias. This event took place when the dwellers of San Ramón were protesting against the president's presence within the frame of the campaign in favor of the Free Trade Agreement between Costa Rica and the United States.	Digital Granma Internacional: <i>"Denuncian agresión de policía costarricense a periodista"</i> . Article published on August 21, 2007, available at: http://www.granma.cu/espanol/2007/agosto/mar21/denuncian.html // NOTLC.com: <i>"Agentes de la UIP agreden a compañero del notlc.com"</i> . <i>Special Report available at:</i> http://www.notlc.com/GOLPIZA.html // Periodistas-es: <i>"La Policía detiene al periodista Adrián Carranza cuando informaba de unas protestas contra el presidente Oscar Arias"</i> . Article published on August 20, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/print.asp?cod_artigo=1675

CUBA	
FIRST PERIOD(JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On February 25, 2007, journalist Albert Santiago du Bouchet, director of agency <i>Habana Press</i> , was assaulted, presumably by an individual of the quick response brigade.	Cubanet, <i>Agreden a periodista</i> . Article published on March 1, 2007, available at: http://www.cubanet.org/CNews/y07/mar07/02a2.htm . / Payolibre.com, <i>Agreden a periodista en casa particular</i> . Article published on March 1, 2007, available at: http://www.payolibre.com/noticias/noticias2.php?id=1092 .
On March 2, 2007, journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, director of agency <i>Cubanacan Press</i> , was beaten up, presumably by officials of the State Security and by the paramilitary.	Cubanet, <i>Golpeado Fariñas por agentes de la Seguridad del Estado</i> . Article published on March 8, 2007, available at: http://www.cubanet.org/CNews/y07/mar07/08a1.htm . / Misceláneas de Cuba, <i>Golpeado Por Seguridad del Estado Periodista Independiente</i> . Article published on March 3, 2007, available at: http://www.miscelaneasdecuba.net/web/article.asp?artID=9037 .
THREATS	
On January, 2007, journalist Alicia Niobis Ortiz Sarmon said in Havana that she was threatened with being stabbed and linked the Political Police to this threat.	Misceláneas de Cuba, <i>Víctima de Amenaza de Apuñalamiento Periodista Independiente en Cuba</i> . Article published on January 24, 2007, available at: http://www.miscelaneasdecuba.net/web/article.asp?artID=8535 . / Cuba, Democracia y Vida, <i>Víctima de Amenaza de Apuñaleamiento la periodista independiente en Cuba Alicia Niobis Ortiz Sarmon</i> . Article published on January 24, 2007, available at: http://www.cubademocraciayvida.org/web/article.asp?artID=4035 .
Since January 9, 2007, journalist Lisette Bravo Vera has been harassed and intimidated by officials of the State Security. The threats began after she had reported some incidents led by young conscripts of the Mandatory Military Service.	Cubanet, <i>Acosada periodista independiente tras reporte</i> . Article published on February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.cubanet.org/CNews/y07/feb07/23a2.htm . / Agencia de Prensa Libre Oriental, <i>Acoso a la periodista independiente Lisette Bravo Vera por informar sobre la rebelión de reclutas del Servicio Militar Obligatorio</i> . Article published on February 23, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=527 .
DETENTIONS	
On January 10, 2007, journalist Luis Esteban Espinosa Echemendía, from press agency <i>Jóvenes Sin Censura</i> , said he had been physically assaulted by an official of the National Revolutionary Police, from Ciego de Ávila, province of Camagüey, and was detained in a cell during two hours. On January 29, 2007, he was arrested once again, this time by the chief of Counterintelligence of the State Security. The reporter was interrogated, had his belongings confiscated and was issued an official warning.	CubaNet, <i>Golpean a periodista independiente</i> . Article published on January 12, 2007, available at: http://www.cubanet.org/CNews/y07/jan07/12a2.htm . / Payolibre, <i>Arrestan violentamente a periodista independiente</i> . Article published on February 3, 2007, available at: http://www.payolibre.com/noticias/noticias2.php?id=994 .
On February 25, 2007, journalist Oscar Sánchez Madan was detained by the police in the city of Matanzas, province of Matanzas. He was interrogated and had a journalistic article confiscated.	Cubanet, <i>Policía decomisa crónica</i> . Article published on March 1, 2007, available at: http://www.cubanet.org/CNews/y07/mar07/02a1.htm .

CUBA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
POLICE HARRASMENT	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On January 30, 2007, police officers confiscated a digital camera belonging to journalist Luis Cino Álvarez, in his house in barrio Arroyo Naranjo, at the south of the city of Havana.	Unidad de Producción Editorial y Comunicación Institucional, <i>Decomisan equipo de trabajo al periodista independiente Luis Cino Álvarez</i> . Article published on February 2, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=382 .
On February 2, 2007, agents from the State Security and from the National Police broke into the house of journalist Yosvani Anzardo Hernández.	Cubonet, <i>Allanan vivienda de periodista independiente</i> . Article published on February 5, 2007, available at: http://www.cubonet.org/CNews/y07/feb07/06a3.htm . / Payolibre, <i>Allanan vivienda a periodista independiente</i> . Article published on February 4, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/cuba/espanol/4febrero2007.htm .
On January 20, 2007, journalist Haydée Rodríguez, director of agency <i>La Voz de Oriente</i> , began a hunger strike after agents from the State Security raided her house in Santiago de Cuba, province of Oriente. The agents confiscated books, magazines and pencils which were destined to be delivered to a library, in addition to recording equipment, two radios sets and documents.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>25th journalist arrested as regime shows no sign of easing harassment of independent media</i> , Press release of February 5, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20914 . / Agencia de Prensa Libre Oriental, <i>La periodista Haydee Rodríguez en huelga de hambre para protestar su detención arbitraria y el allanamiento de su vivienda</i> . Article published on February 5, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=393
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
On January 23, 2007, journalist Ramón Velásquez Toranzo, from the press agency <i>Libertad</i> , was detained. The provincial court of Las Tunas sentenced him to three years of supervised parole for "predelinquency social danger", but he was transferred to a provincial jail instead.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>25th journalist arrested as regime shows no sign of easing harassment of independent media</i> . Press release of February 5, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20909 . / Inter American Press Association, <i>IAPA concerned at new sentencing of Cuban journalist</i> . Press release of February 7, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1846 .
On February 27, 2007, a Havana court sentenced journalist Roberto de Jesús Guerra Pérez, correspondent for sites <i>Payolibre</i> and <i>Nueva Prensa Cubana</i> and broadcaster <i>Radio Martí</i> , to a 22-month jail sentence, for a charge of disturbing the peace. The journalist was detained after participating in a peaceful demonstration to commemorate the shipwreck of Cuban "balseros".	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Independent journalist sentenced to 22 months in prison after being held for 19 months without trial</i> . Press release of February 28, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21136 .
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES	
On February 22, 2007, the Cuban Government declared two foreign correspondents in Havana as "persona non grata" – Gary Max, North American from paper <i>Chicago Tribune</i> , and César Gonzáles-Calero, from Mexican paper <i>El Universal</i> . The Cuban authorities took away their press credentials and ordered them to leave the country.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Two Havana-based foreign correspondents ordered to leave</i> . Press release of February 23, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21103 . / Inter American Press Association, <i>IAPA protests Cuba's suspension of correspondents' credentials</i> . Press release of February 23, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1859 .

CUBA	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
DETENTIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On April 13, 2007, the correspondent of Internet site <i>Cubanet</i>, Oscar Sánchez Madan, was arrested and sentenced on the same day in an expeditious proceeding to four years of prison for "pre-delictive social dangerousness", a concept in the Cuban Criminal Code whereby a citizen may go to prison for the alleged threat that he would represent for society, even if he has not perpetrated a crime. According to the information received, he did not have a defense attorney and his family was not allowed to be present at the trial.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Condenan a un periodista a cuatro años de prisión incondicional por 'peligrosidad social pre-delictiva'</i>". Release issued on April 18, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21792 // PEN: "<i>Cuba: Oscar Sánchez Madan sentenced to four years; fourth Cuban journalist to be jailed as 'pre-criminal danger to society' in the last six months</i>". Release issued on May 2, 2007, available at: http://www.englishpen.org/writersinprison/bulletins/cubaoscarsanchezmadansentencedtofouryearsfourthcubanjournalisttobejailedaspre-criminaldangertosocietyinthelastsixmonths/</p>
OTHER	
<p>Since April 23, 2007, the guards of the jail have refused to let journalist Normando Hernández Gonzalez take the daily walk that his physicians have recommended as a treatment for his tuberculosis and other ailments he is suffering from. According to the journalist, this would be a sort of vengeance by the Cuban government because he continues with his journalist work from jail.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Se le niega a Normando Hernández González el paseo diario</i>". News alert update of May 3, 2007.</p>
<p>On May 9, 2007, colaborator of the sites <i>Payolibre</i> and <i>Nueva Prensa Cubana</i>, and radio station <i>Radio Martí</i>, Roberto de Jesús Guerra Pérez, was released after being detained on July 13, 2005 in a protest against the government. The journalist said that he was subject to aggressions and psychological torture.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Liberado periodista Roberto de Jesús Guerra Pérez tras permanecer dos años en la cárcel</i>". Release of May 10, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22085 // Periodistas-es.org: "<i>Las autoridades cubanas liberan al periodista independiente Roberto de Jesús Guerra</i>". Release published on May 10, 2005, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1013</p>
<p>Relatives and friends of eight independent Cuban journalists in prison since 2003 affirm that the health of the reporters has been seriously deteriorated in the last months due to the deplorable jail conditions and insufficient medical attention, the Committee to Protect Journalists said in a report published on June 21, 2007. The Inter American Press Association also condemned the Cuban authorities' decision to keep several independent journalists in prison when their health condition is delicate, in a release issued on June 28, 2007. IAPA asked the government to offer the necessary medical attention and to align itself with international standards on human rights.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>En Cuba, se deteriora la salud de periodistas encarcelados</i>". Release issued on June 20, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/cuba20jun07na_s_p.html // Cubanet, press releases sent between May and June to the inbox of the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression // Inter American Press Association: "<i>Condena la SIP falta de atención médica adecuada para periodistas independientes encarcelados en Cuba</i>". Release issued on June 29, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/chronological_detail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1936</p>

CUBA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On August 21, 2007, journalist of the agency <i>Nueva Prensa Cubana</i>, Armando Betancourt Reina, was released from prison. He had been sentenced on July 3, 2007 to 15 months in prison for alteration of public order. Betancourt was arrested on May 23, 2006, while covering a forced eviction of a family in the province of Camagüey. He was accused of participating in a protest against the eviction and remained in prison without a sentence until the following year.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Periodista cubano liberado después de 15 meses</i>". News alert issued on August 21, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/cuba21aug07na_sp.html // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>Saluda la SIP excarcelación de periodista independiente en Cuba</i>". News alert published on August 22, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1965 // International PEN: "<i>Cuba: independent journalist Armando Betancourt Reina freed after 15 months in prison</i>". News alert published on August 23, 2007, available at: http://www.internationalpen.org.uk/index.php?pid=33&aid=667&return=33</p>
DETENTIONS-JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On August 15, 2007, <i>Havana Press</i> journalist, Alberto Santiago Du Bouchet Hernández, was sentenced to two years in prison, two years of work in a prison, and two years under judicial control, after having been accused of stealing a handkerchief dedicated by Fidel Castro to María Encarnación González Guerra. The reporter stated that González had given him the handkerchief as a gift. He is appealing the case and has still not been incarcerated. In August 2006, Du Bouchet was sentenced to one year in prison for "resisting the authorities" and he served his sentence.</p>	<p>Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>Saluda la SIP excarcelación de periodista independiente en Cuba</i>". News alert published on August 22, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1965 // International PEN: "<i>The spectre of incarceration: one journalist sentenced, one released, another threatened</i>". News alert dated September 27, 2007, available at: http://internationalpen.org.uk/index.php?pid=33&aid=678&type=current // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Liberado hace un año, un periodista independiente ha sido condenado de nuevo por "apropiación ilícita" de un pañuelo firmado por Fidel Castro</i>". News alert published on August 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23353</p>
<p>On September 14, 2007, journalist Normando Hernández González, who had been sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2003, was transferred from the prison of Kilo 7 in Camagüey to the Carlos Finlay military hospital in Havana, where he was diagnosed with several diseases. On September 10, Costa Rican legislator José Manuel Echandi Meza filed a formal complaint before the United Nations for the Cuban government's refusal to allow the journalist to leave the country to be treated in Costa Rica. In April 2007, Costa Rican legislators had granted a humanitarian visa to Hernández González.</p>	<p>Cuba Net: "<i>Normando Hernandez, an extremely ill Cuban prisoner of conscience, is moved to a Havana hospital</i>". Article published on September 17, 2007, available at: http://www.cubanet.org/CNews/y07/sep07/20e7.htm // Pen American Center: "<i>Cuba: Normando Hernandez González</i>". News alert available at: http://www.pen.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/912/prmID/174 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Un diputado costarricense defiende en Naciones Unidas la causa de Normando Hernández González</i>". News alert published on September 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23691</p>
POLICE HARRASMENT	
<p>On August 23, 2007, journalist Ludis Rodríguez Díaz was summoned to the police station in her town, where a police officer warned her that she could not continue to print and distribute the newspaper <i>El Martiano Libre</i>, which she directs and writes. They also took away her identity papers and threatened to put her in jail.</p>	<p>Cuba Net: "<i>Despojan de documento de identidad a periodista independiente</i>". Article published on August 29, 2007, available at: http://www.cubanet.org/CNews/y07/ago07/29a2.htm</p>

CUBA	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
ACCESS TO THE INTERNET	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On August 13, 2007, the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television announced to the directors of official mass media that the web sites and message services must be inquired from the portal of the Cuban telecommunications company, thus enabling the government to control the activities of the network users. Since 2003, Internet services have been limited to one hour per journalist, and in April 2007, access to e-mail pages was limited for the radio and television press.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"El Instituto Cubano de Radio y Televisión limita el acceso a Internet de los empleados de medios de comunicación oficiales"</i>. Report sent on August 17, 2007 and received by the Special Rapporteur's Office. // Cuba Encuentro. Article published in www.cubaencuentro.com on August 14, 2007.</p>
RESTRICTIONS TO CIRCULATION	
<p>On September 7, 2007, the State Security Department denied permission to leave Cuba to journalist Abel Escobar Ramirez, who has a political refugee visa granted by the government of the United States. In October 2007, Escobar Ramirez affirmed that the head of the Immigration and Alien Citizens Department, William Quintero Valdivia, told him that he would not grant him permission. According to the reporter, this refusal is a result of his work as an independent journalist.</p>	<p>Misceláneas de Cuba: <i>"Departamento de Inmigración y Extranjería demora permiso de salida"</i>. Article published on October 31, 2007, available at: http://www.miscelaneasdecuba.net/web/article.asp?artID=12433 // Payolibre.com: <i>"Niegan permiso de salida del país a periodista independiente"</i>. Article published on September 10, 2007, available at: http://www.payolibre.com/noticias/noticias2.php?id=1916</p>

ECUADOR	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On February 8, 2007, journalists Cristian Zurita and Jorge Rodríguez, from television station <i>Telemazonas</i> , reported that they were threatened and intimidated. Mr. Zurita, chief of investigations of the station, was followed to his house, where a doll with needles pinned on it and a bloodied animal tongue were thrown to him. Both reporters had participated in investigations about a case of corruption in a telephone company.	CRE Satelital, <i>Periodistas que investigan corrupción en ANDINATEL fueron amedrentados</i> . Article published on February 8, 2007, available at: http://www.cre.com.ec/Desktop.aspx?Id=133&e=92457 . El Diario, <i>Intentan intimidar a periodistas de Telemazonas</i> . Article published on February 8, 2007, available at: http://www.eldiario.com.ec/noticias-manabi-ecuador/24707 .
JUDICIARY PROCESSES	
On March 6, 2007, journalist Nelson Fuentala, correspondent of newspaper <i>La Gaceta</i> and of broadcaster <i>Radio Latacunga</i> , was sentenced by the Superior Court of Justice of Cotopaxi to 60 days in prison and to pay a fine in concept of damages for criminal defamation. The lawsuit was filed by a former member of the local authorities of Pujilí, province of Cotopaxi. The journalist had been acquitted in the Court of First Instance.	ALTERCOM-Comunicación para la libertad, <i>Marcha por la libertad de expresión en Cotopaxi</i> . Article published on March 29, 2007, available at: http://www.etniasdecolombia.org/actualidadetnica/detalle.asp?cid=5198 . / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Ecuador: Condenan a periodista por difamación</i> . Alert of April 2, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1072 .
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
THREATS	
On June 12, 2007, the president of <i>Telesur</i> , Andrés Izarra, denounced that for a month "the channel's staff has been subject to a harassment campaign" in Quito, Ecuador. The journalist of <i>Telesur</i> , Helena Rodríguez, received death threats in her e-mail, from an address named "Muerte a Telesur" ("Death to Telesur"). Other journalists received the same kind of threats and one of the channel's vehicles was sabotaged, stated Izarra.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Dirigen amenazas a los periodistas del canal internacional Telesur en Quito"</i> . Release issued on June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.rsfn.org/article.php3?id_article=22524 // El Comercio: <i>"Telesur denuncia amenazas contra sus corresponsales en Quito"</i> . Article published on June 12, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomercio.com/solo_texto_search.asp?id_noticia=76377&anio=2007&mes=6&dia=13
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
On May 10, 2007, the president of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, filed a complaint for contempt at the Public Attorney's Office against Francisco Vivanco Riofrío, president of the editorial council of newspaper <i>La Hora</i> . Vivanco Riofrío had published an editorial entitled "Oficial Vandalism" in which he questioned the president's administration. The Ecuadorian Criminal Code provides penalties from six months to two years in prison for the crime of contempt.	Inter-American Press Association: <i>"La SIP condena la demanda por desacato que impulsa el presidente Rafael Correa contra un diario ecuatoriano"</i> . Press release of May 11, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/chronologicaldetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1905 // Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"Ecuadoran President Correa should drop libel suit"</i> . Release issued on May 15, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/ecuador15may07na.html
OTHERS	
On April 8, 2007, the president of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, said that he was in favor of "severe and profound" legal reforms to regulate the press and avoid an "incestuous" relationship between the mass media and the financial capital. Early in June, the president reiterated his desire to analyze the concessions of radio and television frequencies in view of alleged irregularities in the obtainment of such permits. On June 17, 2007, Correa stated that "strong laws" should be enacted against what he deems to be a "double moral standard" of the press.	El Nuevo Herald: <i>"Correa exige leyes fuertes para prensa"</i> . Article published on June 18, 2007, available at: http://www.elnuevoherald.com/210/story/54476.html // El Universo: <i>"Correa quiere regular a la prensa en Ecuador"</i> . Article published on April 8, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniverso.com/2007/04/08/0001/8/185E6F2B59574D86805DE578A410B7BA.aspx // Periodistas- Es: <i>"Rafael Correa Analizará 'concesiones irregulares de frecuencias de radio y televisión'"</i> . Article published on June 2, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1188

ECUADOR	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
OTHERS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On June 7, 2007, the general manager of newspaper <i>El Telégrafo</i> of Ecuador, Carlos Navarrete Castillo, was replaced by decision of the Shareholders' Meeting, within the frame of a legal dispute over the ownership of the newspaper between the private and state shareholders. Navarrete denounced the irregular practices of the State by annulling capital increases of private shareholders in previous years. This decision caused the State shareholders to have a majority. The government affirmed that those capital increases were irregular and that this resolution made the situation normal. The Inter American Press Association maintained that if the State keeps the newspaper, it should open a public bid process.</p>	<p>El Mercurio Cuenca Ecuador: "<i>Sigue pelea por diario El Telégrafo</i>". Article published on June 10, 2007, available at: http://www.elmercurio.com.ec/web/titulares.php?seccion=LPdYzLB&codigo=XbXCREF3od&nuevo_mes=06&nuevo_año=2007&días=10&noticias=2007-06-10 // Hoy: "<i>Santacruz al frente del Telegrafo</i>". Article published on June 8, 2007, available at: http://www.hoy.com.ec/NoticiaNue.asp?row_id=269113 // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>Lá SIP observa disputa legal sobre la propiedad del periódico más antiguo de Ecuador</i>". Release issued on June 4, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/chronological_detail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1927</p>
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS FROM PRIVATES	
<p>On July 31, 2007, Ecuadorian journalists and cameraman of <i>TC Televisión</i> and <i>Televisión Manabita</i> were attacked in Manta by a crowd of small fishermen while covering the seizure of a new cargo of shark fins.</p>	<p>Periodistas-es: "<i>Reporteros ecuatorianos de TV atacados por pescadores ilegales de tiburón</i>". Article published on August 3, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1587 // Diario La Hora: "<i>Decomiso de aletas de tiburón indigna a pescadores de Manta</i>". Article published on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.pescablanca.com/noti-pesca-blanca.php?id=239&gid=1.</p>
<p>On September 16, 2007, journalist Cora Cadena, head of program "<i>Transgresor Jatarishun</i>" broadcast by <i>Radio La Luna</i>, located in Quito, was beaten. According to the information received, the assailants might belong to the group of "cabezas rapadas" that opposes social and ethnic diversity, topics dealt with in Cadena's program. The journalist was attacked at the entrance of the building where the radio station's offices are located, a few minutes before starting her program. According to her testimony, she was kicked and punched all over her body.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS): "<i>Periodista radial agredida por neo-nazis tras comentar sobre la diversidad social</i>". News alert published on September 21, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86421 // El Diario: "<i>Locutora de radio fue agredida por un grupo de 'cabezas rapadas'</i>". Article published on September 18, 2007, available at: http://www.eldiario.com.ec/noticias-manabi-ecuador/53268</p>
THREATS	
<p>On July 10, 2007, journalist Miguel Andrade, director of community radio station <i>Intag</i>, denounced that for several months, the station had been threatened by workers of mining company <i>Ascendant Cooper Corporation</i>, opposing the extraction of minerals. According to Andrade, during the first week of July, they threatened with setting fire to the radio station's premises, only mass media in the town of Peñaherrera, north of Quito.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS): "<i>Trabajadores de empresa minera amenazan con incendiar emisora de radio comunitaria por oponerse a la minería</i>". Alert published on July 17, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/84875 // Periodistas-es: "<i>Trabajadores de una empresa minera amenazan con incendiar una emisora de radio comunitaria por oponerse a las extracciones</i>". Article published on July 18, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1482 // Cerigua: "<i>Amenazan con quemar radio comunitaria de Ecuador</i>". Article published on July 30, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/servicios/diarios/c-300707.pdf.</p>

ECUADOR	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
PUBLIC MEDIA	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On November 29, 2007, the president of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, inaugurated a state's television channel. <i>Ecuador TV</i> opened its signal with the transmission of the activities of the constituent assembly, which began functions in Montecristo with the mission of restructuring the Constitution of the Andean country and the state apparatus. The state channel had the financial support of President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, as confirmed by governmental sources. The airing of the signal of <i>Ecuador TV</i> takes place in a midst of an almost daily fight that Correa has with the private mass media, accusing them of misleading the information in order to damage his administration and has even called the journalists "savage beasts".</p>	<p>Reuters: "<i>Ecuador abre señal de canal estatal con apoyo de Venezuela</i>". Article published on November 29, 2007, available at: http://lta.reuters.com/article/entertainmentNews/idLTAN2919700720071129// El Comercio: "<i>Canal estatal inició instalación de sus equipos en Montecristi</i>". Article published on November 29, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomercio.com/noticiaEC.asp?id_noticia=153661&id_seccion=3// Diario Hoy: "<i>Radio, TV y web estatales funcionan con normalidad</i>". Article published on November 30, 2007, available at: http://www.hoy.com.ec/NoticiaNue.asp?row_id=283624.</p>
<p>On July 20, 2007, <i>Diario el Telégrafo</i> became State property. On June 7, 2007, the Deposit Guaranty Agency after assuming the position as majority shareholder of <i>Compañía El Telégrafo C.A.</i>, appointed the new administrators of the newspaper to assume its control. The decision cancels the capital increases for 500,000 dollars and 100,000 dollars affected by the paper's director Carlos Navarrete in 2002 and in 2006, which were deemed to be illegal. Navarrete denounced irregular practices by the State that, as he said, tried to deprive the private shareholders from their property, by canceling the capital increases.</p>	<p>Agencia de Garantía de Depósitos AGD: "<i>AGD asume el control de Diario El Telégrafo</i>". Press release issued on June 7, 2007, available at: agdecuador.com/archivos/965_BOLETIN%20DE%20PRENSA%20190.doc // Diario El Universo: "<i>El Telégrafo se suma a grupo de medios oficiales</i>". Article published on July 20, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniverso.com/2007/07/20/0001/8/1C5D05F4EB4045C583E776BBEB4B74E.aspx//</p>
LEGISLATION	
<p>On July 18, 2007, the government issued a decree (Executive Decree No. 468) that reforms the Regulations of the Law on Radio and Television Broadcasting and provides as infractions the copying of clandestine and/or unauthorized videos or recordings that affect the right to privacy and the honor of persons sanctioned in the Political Constitution of the Republic. Exempted from this sanction are the recordings or videos made by the media or institutions of the public sector, with their own equipment, to prevent the perpetration of a crime or prove the existence of an extant crime. The National Congress filed a complaint for unconstitutionality against this decree, alleging that it restricts the right to information, establishing a censorship, in practice, contravening the right of freedom of expression sanctioned in the Political Constitution of Ecuador and in various international instruments.</p>	<p>Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos (INREDH): "<i>Informe sobre la libertad de expresión en el Ecuador. Presentado a la Relatoría Especial para la Libertad de Expresión de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH)</i>". Report published on August 9, 2007, available at: http://www.inredh.org/defensores/defensores.php?modulo=libertad_de_expresion_en_el_Ecuador// CRE: "<i>AIR expresa preocupación por situación de libertad de prensa en Ecuador</i>". Article published on August 16, 2007, available at http://guiadelaradio.net/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=1067// Decreto Ejecutivo N° 468, expedido el 9 de julio del 2007 y publicado en el Registro Oficial N° 129 de 18 de julio del 2007// Congreso Nacional del Ecuador: "<i>En cumplimiento de la resolución adoptada por el Pleno: Congreso demandó inconstitucionalidad de reforma al Reglamento de la Ley de Radiodifusión y Televisión</i>". Press release published on July 25, 2007, available at: http://www.congreso.gov.ec/noticias/contenido.aspx?codigo_bol=4964&sitio=noticias</p>

ECUADOR	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
DECLARATIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On June 30, 2007, the president of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, said that "certain newspapers and media are against the government" and want to provoke incidents with him. "To avoid this, we are not going to hold press conferences, but will do as they do in the United States, and in most countries, where freedom of press is supposed to be respected: that the president answer questions in writing," Correa stated.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"El presidente Rafael Correa no quiere dar más ruedas de prensa la silla vacía es la peor de las soluciones"</i>. Press release issued on July 3, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22793// Diario El Comercio: <i>"Rafael Correa dice que no dará ruedas de prensa"</i>. Article published on June 30, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomercio.com/solo_texto.asp?id_noticia=78783//</p>

EL SALVADOR	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period.	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On May 8, 2007, political leaders, journalists and members of the three public powers of El Salvador stated the need for enacting a law for access to public information, to eliminate the crime of contempt and to determine the legislation regarding the de-penalization of the crime of defamation or slander.	Inter American Press Association: " <i>Satisfecha la SIP por voluntad política en El Salvador para sancionar ley de acceso y eliminación del desacato</i> ". Press release of May 11, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1903 // Press release from the Government of El Salvador issued on May 8, 2007, available at: http://www.casapres.gob.sv/presidente/boletines/2007/05/b0801.html
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGRESSIONS	
On October 25, 2007, Alex Nolasco, a journalist of <i>Canal 21</i> , was attacked by four members of the UMO, who took him down by force from the vehicle bearing the channel's logo, during a protest for the dump yard at Cutumay Camones, Santa Ana. The photographer and journalist of <i>La Prensa Gráfica</i> , Bórman Mármol, was beat up by protesters who took his camera away and threw it on the ground. Both journalists were taken to medical centers with various injuries. In videos taken by the mass media, there was identified corporal Javier Leonel Cruz while kicking Nolasco. For this reason, the policeman was retired from the Order Maintenance Unit while the disciplinary process takes place, which is still pendint. In turn, the president of El Salvador, Antonio Saca, apologized to <i>Canal 21</i> for the attack suffered by the journalist.	El Mundo: " <i>Periodista denuncia a agentes de la UMO</i> ". Article published on October 26, 2007, available at: http://www.elmundo.com.sv/Mambo/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5118&Itemid=41 // Diario CoLatino: " <i>Policía que agredió a periodista será separado de la UMO</i> ". Article published on October 27, 2007, available at: http://www.diariocolatino.com/es/20071027/nacionales/48580/ // La Prensa Gráfica: " <i>Saca admite que hubo excesiva fuerza policial</i> ". Article published on October 27, 2007, available at: http://www.laprensa.com.sv/nacion/907763.asp .
THREATS	
On October 8, 2007, the journalist of <i>La Prensa Gráfica</i> , Omar Morán, was threatened by a member of the Municipal Agents Corps, who pointed a shotgun at him while the photographer was taking pitcures of the place where the trucks of the Ahuchapán Mayor's Office were dumping garbage in a closed yard. The agent took Moran's digital camera by force. When he returned it to him, the pictures that he had taken had been erased. The journalist filed a denouncement against the assailang agent, and demanded an exhaustive investigation to identify him.	La Prensa Gráfica: " <i>Periodista demanda a empleado por amenazas</i> ". Article published on October 11, 2007, available at: http://archive.laprensa.com.sv/20071011/departamentos/894538.asp // La Prensa Gráfica: " <i>La basura a cielo abierto</i> ". Article published on October 13, 2007, available at: http://archive.laprensa.com.sv/20071013/departamentos/896384.asp .
POLICE HARRASMENT	
On August 29, 2007, the coordinator of <i>Channel 24</i> , William Aguilar, was summoned to declare as a witness in a case regarding the broadcasting of a video on the alleged existence of an extermination squad in the city of Chalchuapa. Four days after the summons was received, the channel's premises were searched under judicial order.	El Faro.net: " <i>La Fiscalía de El Salvador rompe el compromiso con los medios y allana un canal de TV</i> ". Article published on September 17, 2007, available at: http://www.elfaro.net/secciones/Noticias/20070917/noticias_8_20070917.asp // Cerigua: " <i>Fiscalía General de El Salvador allanó un canal de televisión</i> ". Article published on September 18, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=11136&theme=Printer .

EL SALVADOR	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>A journalists' photograph exhibit named <i>ESFOTO07/Fotoperiodismo</i> was not placed in the so-called MUPIS of San Salvador by decision of the company EDUSAL, as denounced before the Special Rapporteur's Office by the photographs that participated in this exhibit. The exhibit, that was to open on September 7, 2007, gathered images of the photographers of <i>La Prensa Gráfica</i>, <i>El Diario de Hoy</i>, <i>El Mundo</i>, <i>Más</i>, <i>El Faro.net</i>, <i>Raíces</i>, among others.</p>	<p>Letter delivered by ESFOTO 07 to the Office of the Special Rapporteur on September 2007.</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On July 2, journalist María Haydee Chicas was arrested at Suchitoto when traveling with the directors of an organization, within the frame of a peasants' protest. During these protests, the Police arrested 14 persons, among which the journalist. The authorities accused her of perpetrating an "act of terrorism" and sent her to a special instruction court. The reporter was facing a potential sentence that was from 40 to 60 years in prison. In view of the protests of national and international organizations, the president of El Salvador, Antonio Saca, stated his intention to review the case with the judicial authorities. On July 20, 2007, the judicial authorities decreed the provisional release of the journalists, but the charges made against her were not raised.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Detenida abusivamente por "terrorismo"</i>" una periodista después de una manifestación: Reporteros sin Fronteras denuncia una "violación de la Constitución". Press releaese published on July 10, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22865. // La Prensa Gráfica: "<i>APES denuncia captura arbitraria de periodista en disturbios de Suchitoto</i>". Article published on July 6, 2007, available at: www.laprensagrafica.com/lodeldia/20070727/13491.asp// La Prensa Gráfica: "<i>Antonio Saca promete revisar caso de periodista acusada de terrorismo</i>". Article published on July 11, 2007, available at: www.laprensagrafica.com/lodeldia/20070711/12892.asp.</p>

GRENADA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
JUDICIARY PROCESSES	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCES
On February 16, 2007, the office of the Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the representatives <i>Spice Capital Radio 90.1 FM</i> accusing them of defamation against the Prime Minister. The lawsuit seeks that the tribunal orders the radio not to make similar broadcasts about the Prime Minister in the future.	Media Workers Association of Grenada, <i>Press Release on the Spice Media legal action</i> . Press release of February 27, 2007, received by email. / Spiceislander, <i>NNP Lawsuit against local radio station</i> . Article published on February 21, 2007, available at: http://www.spiceislander.com/pages/local_news/local022107.htm
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
No entries were registered for this period.	
THIRD PERIOD 2007(JULY-NOVEMBER)	
No entries were registered for this period.	

GUATEMALA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCE
On February 4, 2007, journalists Jimmy Ren, correspondent of <i>Prensa Libre</i> , and Héctor López Córdoba, from the newscast of <i>Canal 4</i> , reported having been assaulted by the police. They had already been threatened since they published images where agents could be seen drinking alcoholic beverages in a bar.	Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>Periodistas de Quiché fueron intimidados por la PNC</i> . Article published on February 8, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article7878.html .
On February 2, 2007, Winder Jordán Madrid, director of information of the local broadcaster <i>Radio Sultana</i> and correspondent for national paper <i>Nuestro Diario</i> , was shot while leaving his house. A few days before the incident, the journalist had published an article about a car accident and informed that the driver had no driver's license.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Safety of journalists at risk as radio reporter narrowly survives a murder attempt</i> . Press release of February 7, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20954 . / Prensa Latina, <i>La Asociación de Periodistas condena el ataque contra el reportero Wilder Jordán</i> . Article published on February 4, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=392
On February 9, 2007, journalist Carlos Alfredo Morales, from <i>Radio Stereo Huista</i> and <i>Radio Ángel</i> , was threatened to death by the mayor of San Antonio Huista, department of Huehuetenango. The official gained entry to the reporter's house, attempted to physically assault him and threatened him. The communicator had reported on alleged irregularities detected by the Government Accountability Office in the financial operations of the mayor's office.	Asociación de Prensa de Huehuetenango, <i>APEHUE condenó agresión a periodista</i> . Article published on magazine <i>Vistazo Semanal</i> , Año 7, Número 06, of the second week of February of 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/servicios/boletines/vz-060807.pdf . / Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>Alcalde amenaza de muerte a periodista radial de Huehuetenango después de cobertura crítica</i> . Alert of February 12, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81081/ .
THREATS	
On February 25, 2007, reporters from channel <i>Cable Guatevisión</i> received death threats. Intimidations began after a group of journalists reported on the murder of four police officers.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Death threats against TV journalists who covered murder of four police officers</i> . Press release of March 2, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21162 . / <i>Agencia de noticias Adital</i> , <i>Periodistas reciben amenazas de muerte</i> . Article published on February 28, 2007, available at: http://www.adital.com.br/site/noticia.asp?lang=ES&cod=26592 .
JUDICIAL PROCEEDING	
On March 15, 2007, a complaint was filed against José Rubén Zamora and Ana Carolina Alpírez, president and editor in chief of newspaper <i>El Periódico</i> , respectively. The parties filing the complaint were two former advisors of the National Civil Police who said they had suffered an assassination attempt on March 8, 2007, and accused the journalists of being responsible. On that same day, March 15, 2007, the newspaper had published articles according to which both former advisors of the Police had participated in an operation in 2006 where there were extrajudicial executions.	Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>Asesores policiales responsabilizan a dueño y redactora de periódico por un atentado tras revelación de su identidad en el medio</i> . Alert of March 21, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81912/ . / AOL Latino, <i>SIP: Guatemala debe proteger a prensa de escuadrones armados</i> . Article published on March 19, 2007, available at: http://noticias.aol.com/articulos/canvas/_a/sip-guatemala-debe-protoger-a-prensa-de/n20070319152509990009 .

GUATEMALA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCES
<p>On March 12, 2007, journalists accredited for the coverage of the visit of the President of the United States to Guatemala were intimidated and threatened by agents of the Secret Service of the United States, according to the report of <i>El Observatorio de los Periodistas de la Agencia Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA)</i>. It was also reported that some press agencies were allegedly discriminated since, despite the fact that they had been duly accredited, they were not granted access to the official activities of the President during his visit.</p>	<p>Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>Guatemala: Libertad de prensa fue violentada durante visita de Bush</i>. Alert of March 13, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article8358.html. / AMARC, <i>Discriminación en contra de la emisora comunitaria Kastajinel en visita el Presidente Bush a su comunidad</i>. Alert of March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81973/http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81973/.</p>
OTHERS	
<p>On January 5, 2007, journalist Margarita Carrera, of the newspaper <i>Prensa Libre</i>, was summoned by the Public Ministry, where she was asked why she had published articles about the extrajudicial execution of 37 persons at the Embassy of Spain on January 31, 1980, articles where she points at the police as responsible of the executions. The authorities warned her not to report about her being summoned. The journalist said that the summons were an attempt of intimidating her so that she would stop her investigations on the issue.</p>	<p>General Attorney for Human Rights of Guatemala, Letter dated January 23, 2007, addressed to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.</p>
<p>On February 8, 2007, the Government of Guatemala approved a resolution aiming at "developing a public policy of prevention and sanctions to respond to the uncontrollable increase in the illegal use of the radioelectrical frequencies." The resolution instructs the National Administration for Radios and the Attorney General to "dispose the occupation or seizure of stations and broadcasting equipment that operate without the necessary authorization" and instructs to train several State offices on the penal processes regarding this issue. The Government took this measure without consulting the formal instance where State representatives and community radios were negotiating a reform on the national legislation in order to allow community radios to apply for a permit to operate legally. The Government approved this resolution without consulting or informing the Presidential Commission for Human Rights, a body of the Executive Branch that presides those negotiations. The negotiation process had been launched in 2005 with the support of the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression.</p>	<p>Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias (AMARC), <i>Regularán radios comunitarias</i>. Document published on February 14, 2007, available at: http://legislaciones.amarc.org/07-02-14-GuatemalaRegulararanRadios.htm. / Agencia de noticias Púlsar, <i>Guatemala aprobó norma contra radios comunitarias</i>. Article published on February 20, 2007, available at: http://www.agenciapulsar.org/nota.php?id=9580.</p>
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
MURDER	
<p>On May 3, 2007, the general producer of <i>Radio Sonora</i>, Mario López Sánchez, was shot to death by three unknown men who ambushed him when he was arriving at his house, south of Guatemala City. López was producer of the newscast and co-producer of the program "<i>Casos y Cosas de la Vida Política</i>", which disseminates, among other topics, political information.</p>	<p>IFEX: "<i>Asesinan a productor de noticieros en ciudad de Guatemala</i>". News alert of May 4, 2007.// Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>GUATEMALA: Radio producer gunned down</i>". Release issued on May 4, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/guat04may07na.html</p>

GUATEMALA	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCES
On April 25, 2007, reporter Rudy Toledo, from <i>Televisión Cable Noticias</i> in Santa Cruz del Quiché, was shot by an unknown person when he was covering the lynching of an alleged criminal by the dwellers of the municipality of San Andrés Sajcabajá. Correspondents in Santa Cruz del Quiché, Carlos Toledo of <i>Telediario</i> , Oscar Toledo of newspaper <i>Nuestro Diario</i> and Oscar Figueroa of radio news <i>El Vocero de Umatlán</i> and <i>Emisoras Unidas</i> , were hit with stones and sticks by the villagers, who also set fire to a vehicle of <i>Telediario</i> .	Inter American Press Association: " <i>La SIP condena agresión contra periodistas en Guatemala y pide investigación</i> ". Press release of April 27, 2007. // Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>In Guatemala, local reporters attacked while covering mob attack</i> ". Release issued on April 26, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/guart26apr07na.html
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS	
On August 27, 2007, reporter of <i>Star Channel</i> , Edwin David Hernández, was kidnapped for about three hours by a group of men that covered their faces with masks. Hernández was going to cover a protest against the mayor of the city of Cubulco. The kidnappers told him they were holding him so he would not film the faces of those who were going to take part in the protest. The cameraman was released after the protest ended.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Protesters detain cameraman</i> ". News alert published on September 12, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/guatemala27aug07ca.html // Comisión de Libertad de Prensa de la Asociación de Periodistas de Guatemala, press notice issued on September 5, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.
AGGRESSIONS AGAINST MEDIA	
On September 4, and September 11, 2007, the premises of <i>Radio Nuevo Mundo</i> were attacked. The first attack was at its headquarters in Guatemala City, where unidentified persons fired shots at the station's roof. In the second attack, several persons entered the transmission plant of Cerro Alux, stealing and destroying the equipment. These attacks took place during the election campaign.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Atentan dos veces contra una radio nacional, con una semana de intervalo</i> ". News alert issued on September 14, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23665 // Cerigua: " <i>Radio Nuevo Mundo sufre nuevo ataque en menos de 15 días</i> ". News alert issued on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article11084.html
THREATS	
On September 6, 2007, three candidates for mayor of Escuintla, the director of a radio program of <i>Cerigua</i> , José Pelicó, and the staff of a community radio were threatened. When the journalist was interviewing the politicians in <i>Radio Libertad</i> a shot was heard in front of the station and some minutes after a person called the central cabin to say that the candidates should be dead.	News alert of Cerigua sent on September 7 by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.
On October 30, 2007, journalists of newspaper <i>El Periódico</i> , Enrique Castañeda and Hilda Mérida denounced having received death threats for investigating the financiers and structures of the Partido Patriota, promoter of the candidacy of retired general Otto Pérez Molina to the elections in Guatemala. The threats were anonymous telephone calls and text messages to cell phones. The Office of the Human Rights Solicitor in Guatemala obtained protection measures for the journalists.	Terra: " <i>Periodistas que investigaban al derechista Pérez Molina denuncian amenazas</i> ". Article published on October 30, 2007, available at: http://actualidad.terra.es/articulo/periodistas_perez_molina_1971128.htm // Asociación de Periodistas de Guatemala, press notice issued on October 30, 2007 and sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.

GUYANA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
ALLOCATION OF OFFICIAL ADVERTISING	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On January 16, 2007, newspaper <i>Stabroek News</i> reported that the Government cancelled all advertising on that paper. This daily, whose editorial line is critical of the Government, rejected the official version that the decision had been based on accounting reasons and labeled the incident as an attack on press freedom.	Stabroek News, <i>GINA withdraws ads from Stabroek News on instructions from Dr Gopaul</i> . Article published on January 16, 2007, available at: http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article?id=56511737 . / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Daily Stabroek News suffers total boycott by state advertisers</i> . Press release of January 16, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20424 .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
On May 25, 2007, two armed men attacked the employees of the newspaper <i>Kaiteur News</i> , and demanded to know the whereabouts of the publication's director, Glen Lall, who was out of the country. This incident took place nine months after the assassination of five workers of the newspaper's print shop. The government condemned this occurrence as "another attempt to undermine the freedom of press in Guyana". The Guyana Press Association also condemned this action and asked the Police to reinforce the security for the mass media and their employees.	Radiojamaica.com: <i>"Guyana Press Assn condemns intimidation of journalists by gunmen"</i> . Article published on May 25, 2007, available at: http://www.radiojamaica.com/news/story.php?category=6&story=36191 // Cananews.net: <i>"Government, Press Association condemns attack on newspaper workers"</i> . Article published on May 27, 2007, available at: http://www.cananews.net/news/131/ARTICLE/11185/2007-05-27.html
OTHERS	
On May 24, 2007, representatives of electronic and printed mass media of Guyana and the English-speaking Caribbean issued a release in support of freedom of the press in that country. The release stated that since November 1, 2006, the advertising from about 29 ministries, government agencies and corporations in the <i>Stabroek News</i> has ceased. A call was made for the government to "reconsider its position on this matter"	Inter American Press Association: <i>"SIP respalda protesta en Guyana por discriminación de publicidad oficial"</i> . Release issued on May 25, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/chronologicaldetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1923 // Release sent by e-mail to the Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.
THIRD PERIOD 2007(JULY-NOVEMBER)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
On August 27, 2007, president Bharrat Jagdeo granted a "Presidential Freedom Pardon" to journalist Mark Benschop, who spent five years in prison awaiting trial for treason. The reporter was released the same day. The president said he believed the journalist had learned his lesson. The journalist was accused of having been related to some protests against the government in 2002, where two persons were killed.	Caribbean Net News: <i>"Former Giuliani aide detained in Guyana to get human rights hearing"</i> . Article published on August 27, 2007, available at: http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/news/newspublish/home.print.php?news_id=3240 // CBC: <i>"Guyana journalist pardoned"</i> . Article published on August 28, 2007, available at: http://www.cbc.bb/content/view/12353/45/
OTHERS	
On October 15, 2007, representatives of newspaper <i>Stabroek News</i> protested outside the Ministry of Finance for the withdrawal of official advertising from its pages. Police officers prevented them from hanging their protest posters. The government withdrew all the advertising in this newspaper in November last year, and alleged it did it due to the decrease in the newspaper's circulation. On December 18, 2007, Guyana's government answered to the Office of the Special Rapporteur that its decision was based on the circulation of the newspaper.	Stabroek News: <i>"Stabroek News mounts protest over ads withdrawal"</i> . Article published on October 16, 2007, available at: http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/print?id=56531068 // Jamaica Gleaner: <i>"Stabroek News mounts protest over ads withdrawal"</i> . Article published on October 17, 2007, available at: http://www.jamaicagleaner.com/gleaner/20071017/news/news7.html

HAITI	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
MURDERS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCES
On January 19, 2007, photojournalist Jean-Rémy Badio was murdered in Martissant, Port-au-prince. The journalist had photographed members of an armed gang, who threatened him and later shot him to death at his house. It is said that the authors belong to one of the two armed gangs who have been disputing territorial control over Martissant.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Gang members gun down freelance photographer at his home</i> . Press release of January 23, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20586 . / Association of Caribbean Media Workers, Article received by email on January 30, 2007.
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
MURDER	
On May 16, 2007, Alix Joseph, director and commentator of <i>Radio Provinciale</i> in the city of Gonaïves was killed by two unknown persons who shot him at least 11 times. Joseph had received anonymous calls from persons stating their disagreement with the radio station's policy in favor of the disarming of local gangs.	IFEX: <i>"La SIP condena asesinato contra periodista en Haití"</i> . News alert of May 21, 2007. // Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"Haitian radio journalist shot to death"</i> . Release of May 18, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/haiti18may07na.html
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
MURDER- PROGRESS	
On August 10, 2007, the president of Haiti, René Préval, called a group of journalists to form the Independent Commission for Support of Investigations Related to the Assassination of Journalists. The group is presided over by the director of SOS Periodistas, Joseph Guylor Deval, and its purpose is to assist in deepening the investigations of the still unpunished murders of Haitian journalists. At a meeting with members of the Committee to Protect Journalists, in September 2007, the president of Haiti, René Préval, ratified his full support to this independent commission and assured that the government of Haiti wants justice to prevail.	Periodistas-ES: <i>"Una comisión independiente investigará los asesinatos de periodistas en Haití"</i> . Article published on August 12, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1640 // Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"Préval pledges justice in murders of Haitian journalists"</i> . Article published on September 27, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/haiti27sep07na.html // International Herald Tribune: <i>"Haiti forms commission to help solve journalists slayings"</i> . Article published on August 10, 2007, available at: http://www.iht.com/bin/print/php?id=7083610
On August 30, 2007, two of the assassins of Jacques Roche, head of the cultural section of newspaper <i>Le Martin</i> , who was found dead in July 2005, were sentenced to life in prison. Alby Joseph and Chéry Beaubrun were accused of taking part in the kidnapping and subsequent murder of the journalist. On October 8, 2007, there was also arrested Wensley Boshomme, a member of a band and suspected of having taken part in Roche's assassination.	Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"Two gang members sentenced to life in prison for journalist murder"</i> . News alert issued on August 30, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/haiti30aug07ca.html // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Detenido un nuevo sospechoso en la investigación del asesinato de Jacques Roche"</i> . News alert issued on October 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23499
On July 13, 2007, Remilien Emmanuel was detained as a suspect of the murder of Alix Joseph, presenter of <i>Radio Télé Provinciale</i> de Gonaïves, who was shot in May this year. On November 20, 2007, Bernard Joseph was also detained for the same murder. The suspect was member of the Cannibal Army, a band that turned into an opposition militia during the term of president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Detienen a un segundo jefe de banda por el asesinato del director de una radio de Gonaïves"</i> . Alerta emitida el 22 de noviembre de 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22291 // CNW: <i>"A second gang leader arrested for Gonaïves radio station manager's murder"</i> . Artículo publicado en noviembre de 2007, available at: http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/November2007/22/c3430.html

HAITI	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
MURDERS-PROGRESS	
INFORMATION RECEIVED	SOURCES
<p>Between October and November 2007, at least four of the alleged assassins of Brignol Lindor, journalist of <i>Radio Echo 2000</i> murdered in December 2001, have been imprisoned in view of the perspective of the proceeding for this case foreseen for the end of 2007, informed Reporteros Sin Fronteras. It is expected that other six persons accused for this case will also be arrested. On November 14, 2007, the public prosecutor of Petit-Goâve, Kerby Zamor, confirmed to Reporteros sin Fronteras that he had ordered the preventive arrest against ten members of the Domi nan bwa organization, accused for the murder of Lindor.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Encarceladas cuatro personas inculpadas del asesinato de Brignol Lindor, ante la perspectiva de un juicio que se celebrará el 3 de diciembre de 2007</i>". News alert issued on November 16, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24404 //</p>
THREATS	
<p>On October 25, 2007, reporter Joseph Guylér Delva, presenter of a current events program in radio station <i>Radio Mélodie FM</i> and director of the Independent Commission for the Support of Investigations related to the Assassination of Journalists, received death threats. Delva received two calls over his cell phone in which a person recomended him to "be careful" because they would know where to find him. After receiving similar calls in the following days, Delva reported this to the Haitian authorities, but on November 9, 2007, he decided to leave the country after having been persecuted by unknown persons. Delval returned to Haiti on November 25, 2007, and was received by the general prosecutor of Port-au-Prince, Claudy Gassant, who undertook, on behalf of the government, to guarantee the reporter's safety.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Prominent Haitian Journalist threatened</i>". News alert published on October 31, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/haiti31oct07na.html // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Amenazan de Muerte al Director de la Comisión de Apoyo a los Periodistas</i>". News alert issued on November 2, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24227 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Tras quince días de exilio forzoso regresa al país el presidente de la Comisión de lucha contra la impunidad en los asesinatos de periodistas</i>". News alert issued on November 27, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24452</p>

HONDURAS	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY- MARCH 2007)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
In February of 2007, journalist Launier Roberto Álvarez, who covers crime news for the television program <i>Abriendo la Brecha</i> of <i>Canal 7</i> , said he was intimidated by a lawyer accused of forging public documents.	Comité por la Libre Expresión, <i>Reportero Judicial denuncia intimidaciones por trabajo periodístico</i> . Alert of February 13, 2007, received by email.
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
On May 24, 2007, the manager of the state-owned telephone company of Honduras, Marcelo Chimirri, filed a judicial complaint against chief editor of newspaper <i>El Heraldito</i> , Carlos Mauricio Flores, after the newspaper published a series of investigative works on the alleged irregularities and corrupt actions in this public company. The complaint is for "crimes against honor".	C-Libre: " <i>Funcionario querrela a editor de El Heraldito por delitos contra el honor</i> ". News alert published in Probidad, available at: http://probidad.net/cs/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=681&Itemid=29 // Terra: " <i>Gerente de telefónica estatal querrela a jefe de redacción del diario El Heraldito</i> ". Article published on May 25, 2007, available at: http://www.terra.com.pr/noticias/articulo/html/act848043.htm
OTHER	
On May 24, 2007, the president of Honduras, José Manuel Zelaya, announced that all the radio and television stations of Honduras should simultaneously transmit interviews and conversations with public officials in order to "counteract the disinformation of the media" on the government's administration. The Mass Media Association of Honduras and the National Association of Broadcasters of Honduras, as well as the Journalists' Association of Honduras, rejected this measure.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>El CPJ insta al presidente a anular su decisión de transmitir cadenas</i> ". Release issued on May 31, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/protests/07ltrs/americas/honduras31may07pl_sp.html // El Heraldito: " <i>Presidente Zelaya inicia imposición de cadenas</i> ". Article published on May 29, 2007, available at: http://www.heraldo.hn/nota.php?nid=75603&sec=12&fecha=2007-05-29
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
PROGRESS	
On July 26, 2007, members of the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) met with Honduran legislators at a special session of Congress to discuss the new law on transparency and access to information, as well as other legislative topics that are deemed to restrict freedom of press and expression in Honduras.	Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa SIP: " <i>Histórica Reunión en el Congreso de Honduras</i> ". Release issued on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/chronological.cfm // El Heraldito: " <i>Honduras suscribe hoy Declaración de Chapultepec</i> ". Article published on July 26, 2007, available at: http://www.elheraldo.hn/nota.php?nid=79553&sec=12&fecha=2007-07-26 // ConexiHon: " <i>SIP no ve violaciones graves a la libertad de prensa en Honduras</i> ". Article published on July 31, 2007, available at: http://www.conexihon.com/home/edicion81/t_libertad-expresion.html .
On July 26, 2007, the National Congress signed the Chapultepec Declaration, within the frame of the legislative workshop and conference "Freedom of press in Honduras", organized by the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) and the Chapultepec project.	Inter-American Press Association: " <i>Histórica Reunión en el Congreso de Honduras</i> ". Press release issued on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/chronological.cfm // El Heraldito: " <i>Honduras suscribe hoy Declaración de Chapultepec</i> ". Article published on July 26, 2007, available at: http://www.elheraldo.hn/nota.php?nid=79553&sec=12&fecha=2007-07-26 .

HONDURAS	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY- NOVEMBER 2007)	
PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On October 9, 2007, Honduran deputies presented a bill of law to the National Congress for the protection of journalists and owners of mass media to be sued in criminal courts; however, this protection excludes the rest of the citizens regarding the exercise of freedom of expression. The bill proposes that the journalists' activities be taken out of the criminal scope regarding the so-called offenses of slander and defamation.</p>	<p>Probidad: <i>"Propuesta de ley para despenalizar la difamación debe beneficiar a todos los ciudadanos, no solamente a los periodistas, según C-Libre"</i>. Bulletin published on October 12, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86930/ Conexihon.com: <i>"Delitos conta el honor deben despenalizarse sin politización"</i>. Article published on October 15, 2007, available at: http://conexihon.com/home/edicion86/t_c-libre.html.</p>
MURDERS	
<p>On October 18, 2007, journalist and comedian Carlos Salgado was shot to death by unidentified persons. Salgado was leaving the radio station when four persons shot him with automatic weapons. The assassins fled in a station wagon and the journalist died hours later in a hospital. Salgado had a radio program called <i>"Frijol el Terrible"</i> that criticized the political class using a satirical tone. His fellow workers said that he had not received threats. Some weeks ago, journalists of <i>RCV</i> said they were receiving intimidations and threats due to their journalism. On October 27, 2007, a witness whose identity has been protected accused German David Almindárez as the author of the crime, who was arrested by the police.</p>	<p>Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression: <i>"La oficina del Relator Especial para la Libertad de Expresión deplora el asesinato de periodista en Honduras y solicita investigación"</i> Press release 180/07 issued on October 22, 2007, available at: http://www.cidh.oas.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=713&IID=2// Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: <i>"Condena la SIP asesinato de un periodista en Honduras y pide indagar móviles"</i>. Press release issued on October 19, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=2009// Medios Latinos: <i>"Identifican al asesino del periodista hondureño Carlos Salgado"</i>. Article published on November 7, 2007, available at: http://www.medioslatinos.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=581.</p>
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>On September 7, 2007, unknown persons who were riding a black motorcycle shot journalist Geovanny García. They had followed him from the premises of <i>Hondured</i> and, after stopping him, made seven shots at him. One of the bullets scratched the journalist's hands. Geovanny García had denounced several cases of corruption with certain contracts for the paving of streets, involving some officials of the Secretariat of Public Works, Transportation and Housing. On September 24, The National Commission for Human Rights resorted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to ask that it adopt protection measures in favor of Geovanny García.</p>	<p>Periodistas-es: <i>"En septiembre se han intensificado los intentos de amordazar a la prensa de Honduras"</i>. Article published on October 2, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1940// Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Durante el mes de septiembre se han intensificado los intentos de amordazar a la prensa"</i>. News alert issued on October 1, 2007, available at: http://www.rsfsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23847.</p>
<p>On September 7, 2007, Martín Ramírez, of <i>La Tribuna</i>, published an article about the "mareros" (members of the gang "maras", made up of ultra-violent youths in Central America), and their eventual relations with the Police. The telephone threats addressed to the journalists and their families were multiplied after some policemen disclosed their identity, and the purpose of their investigations. On September 24, 2007, the National Commission on Human Rights asked the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) to adopt protection measures in favor of Martín Ramírez.</p>	<p>Periodistas-es: <i>"En septiembre se han intensificado los intentos de amordazar a la prensa de Honduras"</i>. Article published on October 2, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1940// Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"Durante el mes de septiembre se han intensificado los intentos de amordazar a la prensa"</i>. Press release issued on October 1, 2007, available at: http://www.rsfsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23847.</p>

HONDURAS	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On October 22, 2007, journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez, news coordinator of <i>Radio Globo</i> , received death threats after disclosing some recordings of the president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, and the president of Hondutel, Marcelo Chimirri.	El Heraldo: " <i>La OEA también exige al gobierno aclarar crimen</i> ": Article published on October 23, 2007, available at: http://www.elheraldo.hn/nota.php?nid=85844&sec=12&fecha=2007-10-23 // La Prensa: " <i>Periodista huye del país por amenazas de muerte</i> ". Article published on November 2, 2007, available at: http://www.laprensahn.com/ediciones/2007/11/02/periodista-huye-del-pais-por-amenazas-de-muerte .
On November 1, 2007, the director of <i>Radio Cadena Voces</i> (RCV), Dagoberto Rodríguez, abandoned the country with his family after reports given by the Police regarding a group of paid assassins that would try to murder him within the following 72 hours. Rodríguez, whose final destination was not disclosed for security reasons, was escorted to the airport by the National Commissioner of Human Rights, Ramón Custodio, who referred to this as a serious symptom that only goes to show the deep deterioration of freedom of expression in Honduras.	Probidad: " <i>Director de Radio Cadena Voces abandonó el país por amenazas</i> ". Article published on November 1, 2007, available at: http://probidad.net/blog/2007/director-de-radio-cadena-voce-abandono-el-pais-por-amenazas/ // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: " <i>La SIP lamenta salida del país de periodista radial hondureño</i> ". Press release issued on November 1, 2007, available at: http://www.abc.com.py/sipiapa/articulos.php?pid=370289/ // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>El director de Radio Cadena Voces obligado a exiliarse, por temor a que le maten</i> ". Press release issued on November 2, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24084/
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
On October 1, 2007, the complaint filed by the manager of Empresa Hondureña de Telecomunicaciones (Hondutel) Marcelo Chimirri, against journalists Rossana Guevara and Renato Álvarez, was dismissed by the national justice. The sued journalists are the anchors of the news program TN5, and the suit was filed for disclosing information published by newspaper <i>El Universal of Mexico</i> , that denounced corrupt actions in that company.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>La justicia considera 'inadmisibles' las denuncias contra cinco periodistas por 'atentados al honor'</i> ". Press release published on October 1, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23847/ // El Heraldo: " <i>CPH denuncia al gobierno de Manuel Zelaya por intimidación a periodistas</i> ". Article published on October 2, 2007, available at: http://www.elheraldo.hn/nota.php?nid=84298&sec=12&fecha=2007-10-02 // Hondudiaro.com: " <i>Periodistas de TN5 acusados en los tribunales por gerente de Hondutel</i> ". Article published on September 28, 2007, available at: http://www.seprocweb.com/Nacionales=0011.html // Hondudiaro.com: " <i>Periodistas de TN5 acusados en los tribunales por gerente de Hondutel</i> ". Article published on September 28, 2007, available at: http://www.seprocweb.com/Nacionales=0011.html .
DECLARATIONS	
On Tuesday, October 16, 2007, Enrique Flores, legal advisor of the president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, accused the press of exercising "media terrorism" against him, stressing a bitter confrontation with the owners of local mass media. The differences between the parties became more serious in the last weeks due to Zelaya's intention to maintain control over the issuance of permits for operating radio broadcasting and telephony and to impose taxes and fees in a bill of law on telecommunications. This bill of law is addressed to fully opening the market of telecommunications, a business in which media entrepreneurs also participate.	Agencia Reuters: " <i>Enfrentamiento entre Gobierno y prensa sube de tono en Honduras</i> ". Article published on October 16, 2007, available at: http://latino.msn.com/noticias/articulos/ArticlePage.aspx?cp-documentid=5586507/ // Proceso Digital: " <i>Medios de Comunicación, la nueva fórmula distractora del Poder Ciudadano</i> ". Article published on October 17, 2007, available at: http://www.proceso.hn/2007/10/17/Term%C3%B3metro/Medios.de.Comunicaci/1647.html

JAMAICA	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period.	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period.	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
TREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
At the end of 2007, journalists Cliff Hughes and Emily Crooks were threatened to be killed after <i>Hughes Nationwide News Network</i> reported on the results of an opinion poll that showed the Labor Party of Opposition of Jamaica winning the elections against the National People's Party that was in power. The journalists advised the police authorities of these threats. On the other hand, the officialist party decided to withdraw all the electoral advertising from this medium.	Jamaica Observer: " <i>Cliff Hughes, Emily Crooks get death threats</i> ". Article published on July 13, 2007// Jamaica Gleaner News: " <i>Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) head condemns threats to journalists</i> ". Article published on July 23, 2007, available at: http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20070723/news/news3.html

MEXICO	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On April 12, 2007, the President signed a law decriminalizing libel, defamation and calumny.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>President enacts law decriminalizing press offences</i> . Press release of April 13, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21253 . / Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>México: Celebran despenalización de los llamados "delitos de prensa"</i> . Article dated March 9, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/porta/Article8293.html . Inter American Press Association, <i>Mexico's president tells IAPA he will enact decriminalization law passed by Congress</i> . Press release of April 12, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1863
DISAPPEARANCES	
On January 20, 2007, journalist Rodolfo Rincón Taracena, from regional newspaper <i>Tabasco Hoy</i> of Tabasco state, went missing. The reporter had written articles on drug trafficking and on bank robberies.	Proceso, <i>Se indaga la desaparición de un reportero en Tabasco</i> . Article published on January 25, 2007, available at: http://www.proceso.com.mx/noticia.html?sec=2&nta=47749 . / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Authorities urged to act quickly after journalist goes missing</i> . Press release of January 26, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20671 . / Inter American Press Association, <i>Pide la SIP investigación sobre desaparición de periodista mexicano</i> . Press release of January 26, 2007.
AGGRESSIONS	
On January 10, 2007, members of the Press Association of the city of Tecate, Baja California State, presented a request before the State Congress to carry out a political trial against a member of the city council of Tecate for physically and verbally assaulting two reporters.	Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social (Cencos), <i>Solicitan periodistas juicio político contra regidor de Tecate</i> . Alert of January 10, 2007, available at: http://cencos.org/es/comment/reply/1566 . / Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe, <i>En Tecate piden juicio Político contra Regidor</i> . Article dated January 17, 2007, available at: http://www.fatpren.org.ar/Secciones/PartesNacionales387.htm .
On January 24, 2007, journalists Emilio Santiago, Darío Campos and Abel Sánchez, from <i>Radio Calenda</i> , a community radio in Oaxaca State, were beaten and one of them was intimidated with gunshots fired at the air, allegedly by a former member of the municipality.	Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos y Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias, <i>Se teme por la vida e integridad de los integrantes de Radio Calenda, emisora comunitaria en Oaxaca</i> . Letter sent to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights on January 31, 2007./ Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>Comunicadores mexicanos de radios comunitarias son objeto de amenazas</i> . Article published on February 21, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/porta/Article8047.html .
On January 25, 2007, journalist Mario Martell was beaten up, allegedly by security agents of the brother of the governor of Puebla, when the reporter was trying to interview the official. Another reporter, Héctor Hugo Cruz, from newspaper <i>Cambio</i> , was also mistreated.	Periodistas en Línea, <i>Los guaruras de Roberto Martín Torres le fracturan la nariz a un periodista</i> . Article dated January 26, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistasenlinea.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=2555&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0 .

MEXICO	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On February 11, 2007, Fernando Aguilar, of <i>Radio Calenda</i> , was assaulted and threatened, allegedly by a person close to the authorities of San Antonio de Castillo Velasco, Oaxaca state. On February 14, 2007, Mirtha Aguilar, also of <i>Radio Calenda</i> , was threatened, presumably by the wife of the chief of police of the same town.	Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias (AMARC), Letter dated February 15, 2007, addressed to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights.
On February 16, 2007, photojournalist Luis Castillo, of newspaper <i>Reforma</i> , was beaten up, allegedly by agents of the Presidential Corps while attempting to photograph the authorities assisting the meeting of the National Conference of Governors.	Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>México: agentes del EMP agredieron a reportero gráfico</i> . Article dated February 19, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article7986.html . / La Jornada, <i>Agentes del EMP golpean a reporteros en Tlaxcala</i> . Article dated February 16, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/02/17/index.php?section=politica&article=005n2pol .
In March 2007, unidentified individuals set on fire the car of journalist Agustín Ávila Gaviña, correspondent of newspaper <i>El Mañana de Reynosa</i> and president of the <i>Union of Democratic Journalists of Tamaulipas</i> . The journalist relates the incident to critical comments he has made about the administration of the local Government.	En Línea Directa, <i>Queman carro de periodista</i> . Article dated March 22, 2007, available at: http://www.enlineadirecta.info/nota-15490-Queman_carro_de_periodista_.html .
THREATS	
During the first two weeks of January 2007, journalist Sanjuana Martínez received death threats in which her reports about accusations of sexual child abuse carried out by a priest were mentioned. The death threats began in September 2006, when newspaper <i>La Jornada</i> began coverage of the case, and intensified after the publication of her book <i>El Manto Púrpura</i> in 2006.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>México: Continúan amenazas de muerte contra periodista por investigar abuso sexual</i> . Alert of January 19, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1015 . Comité para la Protección de los Periodistas, <i>Reportera mexicana dice que cobertura de caso de abuso sexual de un sacerdote dispara amenazas</i> . Article dated January 17, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/mexico17jan07na_s_p.html .
On February 1, 2007, journalist Nadia Altamirano, of newspaper <i>El Imparcial</i> of Oaxaca state, was threatened after publishing information about the risk of a serious breakage on the working site for the widening of a road. According to the reporter, someone who identified herself as an advisor for the Government of Oaxaca warned that the reporter would be implicated in a crime if she continued publishing reports on the matter.	Nadia Altamirano, <i>Open letter to the President of the Republic and others</i> . Received by e-mail on February 5, 2007. / Cencos, <i>Reportera del Periódico Imparcial de Oaxaca, es intimidada por dos Trabajadores del Gobierno del Estado</i> . Alert of February 8, 2007, available at: http://www.cencos.org/es/node/4043 .
DETENTIONS	
In January, 2007, photographer José Guillermo Villaseca Pérez, of agency <i>Latitudes</i> , reported having been detained after covering a protest in Miahuatlán de Portofino Díaz, Oaxaca state. The photojournalist stated there was no reason for him being detained and that agents from the State Preventive Police had beaten him up, dragged him by the hair, threatened him with knives and told him that he was going to be raped and that his mother was being raped right then.	La Jornada, <i>Pinche greñudo, te vamos a tirar al mar</i> . Article published on January 16, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/01/17/index.php?section=politica&article=010n1pol .

MEXICO	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On January 15, 2007, a journalist from daily <i>AM</i> de Celaya, in Guanajuato state, was expelled from a press conference by order of the mayor, under the argument that the reporter had conducted negative coverage of the municipality. On January 17, 2007, the director of the municipal police prevented access into public buildings to two journalists, one from newspaper <i>Correo</i> and the other from broadcaster <i>Radio Corporativo Celaya</i> .	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Abuse of power condemned as publications censored and journalists spied on</i> . Press release of January 25, 2007 available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20627 .
On January 18, 2007, agents from the state police of Sonora state halted a distribution truck of magazine <i>Contralinea</i> and confiscated 2,500 copies being transported in the vehicle. The edition contained a report about the plundering of land belonging to Yaquis Indians and implicated the state governor.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Abuse of power condemned as publications censored and journalists spied on</i> . Press release of January 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20627 .
On January 17, 2007, a witness declared before the National Commission on Human Rights that a group of municipal and state officials from Sonora state and a drug trafficker conspired to order the murder of journalist Alfredo Jiménez Mota, from newspaper <i>El Imparcial</i> , through a hit man. The reporter vanished on April 2, 2005 in Hermosillo. The witness said that the former chief of the Navojoa police, officers from the judicial police, a local prosecutor and the brother of the governor were implicated.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Policeman says Sonora state officials were involved in journalist's disappearance in 2005</i> . Press release of January 23, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20577 . / Revista Proceso, <i>Desaparición por órdenes del poder</i> . Article published in issue 1577 of Proceso and republished with the same title in <i>Contralinea Sonora</i> in February, 2007, Year 1, Issue 7, available at: http://sonora.contralinea.com.mx/archivo/2007/febrero/htm/desaparicion_ordenes_poder.htm .
OTHER	
In January, 2007, the mayor of Celaya, Guanajato state, opened personal information files about the journalists who work in the local media. He explained the filing process was assigned to his personal assistant. Several journalists have declared that the records include personal and family information and said they interpreted the process as an attempt to intimidate and harass them, as well as to spy on them.	Periodistas-es, <i>El Ayuntamiento de Celaya espía la vida social y familiar de los periodistas de medios locales</i> . Article published on January 18, 2007, available at: http://www.iberianet.es/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=253 .
On January 31, 2007, the Special Prosecutor for Attention of Crimes Committed against Journalists, David Vega Vera, resigned. According to judicial sources, the resignation was based on "the complete lack of interest of the current administration on the investigation about the assaults against reporters".	La Jornada, <i>Dimite el fiscal que investiga los delitos contra periodistas</i> . Article published on January 24, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/01/24/index.php?seccion=politica&article=018n2pol . / La Jornada, <i>Renuncia fiscal especial de delitos cometidos contra periodistas</i> . Article published on February 1, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/02/01/index.php?seccion=politica&article=021n3pol . / El Universal, <i>Ya hay nuevo titular de fiscalía para periodistas</i> . Article published on February 4, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/148088.html .

MEXICO	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
OTHER	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On March 16, 2007, newspaper <i>La Jornada</i> reported that the City Council of Saltillo, Coahuila state, began a campaign where reporters entering the mayor's office have to clock in, and that they are being photographed upon entering the premises, without requesting permission to do so.	La Jornada, <i>Fichan a reporteros en Saltillo</i> . Article published on March 16, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/03/16/?section=estados&article=036n7est&partner=rss .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
PROGRESS	
On April 12, 2007, the president of Mexico, Felipe Calderón, signed the decree enacting at a federal level the decriminalization of the crimes of "defamation", "libel" and "slander", which implies that journalists will be penalized with civil sanctions and not by imprisonment. The federal decriminalization for those crimes was approved at the Chamber of Deputies in April 2006, and ratified in March this year by the Senate.	Reporters Without Borders: " <i>El presidente Felipe Calderón promulga la despenalización de los delitos de prensa</i> ". Release issued on April 13, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21251 // Inter American Press Association: " <i>IAPA welcomes decriminalization of libel in Mexico</i> ". Release issued on April 12, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1884
In June 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice declared eight articles of the Law of Radio and Television to be unconstitutional. Among the articles that were voided by this decision, is the one that set a fixed term of 20 years for radio and television concessions, with the possibility of renewing them without a prior bid, as well as the article that granted discretionary powers for awarding radioelectric services.	Article 19: " <i>Mexico. Amendments to Radio and TV Law</i> ". Release published on June 8, 2007, available at: http://www.article19.org/pdfs/press/mexico-tv-law-eng.pdf // El Universal: " <i>Invalida Corte concesiones de radio y televisión por subasta</i> ". Article published on June 5, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/429413.html
In May 2007, the National Commission for Human Rights, the Association of Editors of the States and the Mexican Association of Newspaper Editors signed a cooperation agreement to promote and guarantee the rights of journalists throughout the country. The agreement provides a series of recommendations and measures for the journalists to know their rights.	Observatorio Americano de Prensa: " <i>Firman acuerdo para promover derechos de los periodistas</i> ". Report 386 issued on May 24, 2007 // Diario de Yucatán: " <i>Prensa en estado de emergencia</i> ". Article published on May 26, available at: http://www.yucatan.com.mx/noticia.asp?cx=9\$0924000000\$3557693&f=20070526
MURDERS	
On April 6, 2007, <i>Televisa's</i> correspondent in Acapulco, Amado Ramírez, was murdered when leaving work, by a man who shot him three times. On April 10, his news program " <i>Al Tanto</i> " that was broadcast on <i>Rádiorama Acapulco</i> , was taken off the air after a series of threats received by another commentator of the program, Misael Habana, and the radio station itself. On June 11, the judge that is hearing this case decreed the formal order of imprisonment for the alleged killer, Genaro Vázquez.	Reporters Without Borders: " <i>TV correspondent gunned down in Acapulco amid wave of killings</i> ", published on April 7, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21629 // La Jornada Guerrero: " <i>Dictan formal prisión a Genaro Vázquez por el asesinato de Amado Ramírez</i> ", published on June 12, 2007, available at: http://www.lajornadaguerrero.com.mx/2007/06/12/index.php?section=politica&article=004n1pol
On April 23, 2007, Saúl Martínez Ortega, journalist from magazine <i>Interdiario</i> and newspaper <i>Diario de Agua Prieta</i> , was found dead in the state of Sonora, Mexico. According to information received at the Office of the Special Rapporteur, the journalist was kidnapped the night of April 16, 2007 by a group of armed persons. The journalist was investigating the abduction and murder of one of his sources, who was a former municipal policeman of Agua Prieta.	Reporters Without Borders: " <i>Sonora journalist's body found a week after his abduction by armed group</i> ". Release issued on April 24, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21784 . // Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>In Mexico, a missing reporter is found dead</i> ". Release issued on April 24, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/Americas/mexico24apr07na.html

MEXICO	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On April 30, 2007, reporter of weekly publication <i>Nuevo Sonora</i> , Jaime Atmada Guirado, was allegedly hit by two municipal policemen in the city of Hermosillo, state of Sonora.	Observatorio Lationamericano de Prensa: " <i>Policías golpean a periodista</i> ". Report 369 of May 5, 2007 // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>FEPALC: Journalists murdered in Guatemala and Brazil; agresiones contra reporteros en otros países del continente</i> ". Press release issued on May 9, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4906&Language=ES
ATTACKS AGAINST MEDIA	
On May 12, 2007, unknown persons fired against the facilities of <i>El Diario del Yaqui</i> , of Ciudad Obregón, State of Sonora.	IFEX: " <i>Disparan contra instalaciones de "El Diario del Yaqui" en Ciudad Obregón; SIP pide investigación de varios incidentes</i> ". News alert of May 17, 2007. // Inter American Press Association: " <i>La SIP pide investigar desaparición de dos periodistas mexicanos</i> ". News alert of May 15, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1909
On May 25, 2007, newspaper <i>Cambio de Sonora</i> announced its temporary closure after being attacked twice during the previous weeks. The afternoon of May 16, 2007, unidentified persons threw a grenade at the headquarters of the newspaper. The grenade exploded in the parking lot and nobody was injured. On April 17, 2007 they had also thrown a hand grenade at the newspaper's facilities. The owner of the newspaper, Mario Vázquez Raña, had asked the government to protect the newspaper's personnel, but "in view of the lack of guarantees", he resolved to close it temporarily.	IFEX: " <i>Atentan contra sede de dos diarios en Sonora</i> ". Alert of May 21, 2007// Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Daily in northern Mexico shuts down after attacks</i> ". Release issued on May 25, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/mexico25may07na.htm
AGGRESSIONS-THREATS	
The night of June 12, 2007, Misaél Sánchez, a journalist of regional newspaper <i>El Tiempo</i> in the state of Oaxaca, was shot by an unknown person when he was going back home. Sánchez was hurt in his jaw and leg. The reporter covered political topics, and had done an investigation about the assassination of U.S. journalist Bradley Will while covering a confrontation of policemen and protesters in Oaxaca. For that investigation, Sánchez had received death threats.	Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Oaxaca journalist shot and wounded</i> ". Release published on June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/mexico13jun07na.html // Reporters Without Borders: " <i>Un periodista sobrevive milagrosamente a un atentado por disparos en Oaxaca</i> ". Release issued on June 14, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22543
THREATS	
On June 8, 2007, Gerardo Ramos, Heriberto Deandar Robison and Héctor Hugo Jiménez, directors of newspaper <i>Hora Cero</i> , reported that they and their reporters were threatened after the newspaper reported about alleged corrupt practices by Francisco García Cabeza de Vaca, mayor of Reynosa in Tamaulipas. On June 2, 2007 they received a bomb threat against the newspaper's facilities. The editors made this complaint before the Mexican federal authorities and before international journalists associations.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Amenazan a Directivos y Reporteros de diario tras denunciar presunta corrupción de alcalde</i> ", available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1161 // Proceso: " <i>Directivos de Hora Cero denuncian amenazas por cuestionar al alcalde panista de Reynosa</i> ". Published on June 8, 2007, available at: http://www.proceso.com.mx/noticia.html?sec=2&nta=51411

MEXICO	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On May 3, 2007, members of the Municipal Police of the Port of Veracruz found a human head that had been thrown out of a car in front of the main office of newspaper <i>Notiver</i> . "This is a gift for the journalists, more heads will fall, and Milo Vela knows it very well", said a note on the hull. Milo Vela is the alias of the newspaper's journalist Miguel Ángel López Velasco, who often writes about organized crime in the zone.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Arrojan cabeza humana con amenaza de muerte contra sede de diario en Veracruz</i> ". News alert published in May, available at: http://www.ipys.org/interprensa.php# // Jornada: " <i>Diez ejecutados en siete entidades; hallan cabeza humana en Veracruz</i> ". Article published on May 4, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/05/04/index.php?section=politica&article=003n1pol
On May 20, 2007, Julio César Antúnez Villalba, cameraman of the correspondent office of <i>Televisa</i> in Chilpancingo, State of Guerrero, denounced before the Office of the Justice Solicitor of the State that he had received death threats through several calls in his mobile phone.	IFEX: " <i>Camarógrafo de televisión recibe amenazas de muerte en Chilpancingo</i> ". News alert issued on May 24, 2007. // Observatorio Lationamericano de Prensa: "Amenazas de muerte a periodista de Televisa". Report 386, issued on May 24, 2007
At dawn on May 26, 2007, unidentified persons left a human head at the door of newspaper <i>Tabasco Hoy</i> in Villahermosa. Together with the head, which was from a community delegate who had disappeared some days before, there was a note that said: "This happened to me for having made an anonymous call to the authorities." The directors of the newspaper asked president Felipe Calderón and governor Andrés Granier to protect the newspaper's staff.	Cencos: " <i>Arrojan la cabeza de un funcionario público frente al Diario Tabasco Hoy</i> ". Release published on May 28, 2007, available at: http://www.cencos.org/es/node/11742 // Jornada: " <i>Dejan en Tabasco Hoy cabeza de delegado ejidal; directivos del diario exigen seguridad</i> ". Article published on May 27, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/05/27/index.php?section=politica&article=007n1pol
Early in May, Claudio Tiznado, a reporter of the newspaper <i>Periódico Géneros</i> , bi-monthly publication of Hermosillo, crossed the border and asked for asylum in Tucson, Arizona. On April 14, 2007, Tiznado had been the victim of a beating by a group of unknown persons, for which he had to be in the hospital for two days. The journalist suspects that the attack had something to do with a series of notes he had made about drug traffic and its ties with politicians and policemen in Cananea, and for that reason he decided to seek asylum in the United States.	CENCOS/ IFEX: " <i>Periodista de Géneros que investiga corrupción policial y política en Sonora atacado, busca asilo</i> ". Release issued on June 22, 2007 // El Universal: " <i>Pide periodista mexicano asilo en EU tras atentado</i> ". Article published on June 11, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/vi_430522.htm // Arizona Star: " <i>Mexican reporter seeks US asylum</i> ". Article published on June 11, 2007, available at: http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/border/186997
Columnist Francisco Rodríguez denounced in his column that he had been threatened with death twice in the last weeks. According to the columnist, the threat would have come from a top official of the National Statistics Institute, whom he had mentioned in a series of articles about corrupt practices.	CEPET. News alert sent to the e-mail of the Office of the Rapporteur on Monday 18, 2007 // Column of Francisco Rodríguez published in <i>Correo</i> on June 18, 2007, available at: http://www.correo-gto.com.mx/notas.asp?id=29373
DISAPPEARANCES	
On May 10, 2007, reporter Gamaliel López Candanosa and cameraman Gerardo Paredes Pérez of channel <i>TV Azteca Noroeste</i> were last seen in the city of Monterrey. In June 2006, López Candanosa made two profiles of alleged perpetrators of homicides and made public two messages from a drug dealer. The journalist also wrote stories strongly criticizing local public officials.	Reporters Without Borders: " <i>Desaparecidos desde hace cinco días dos periodistas del canal TV Azteca Noroeste</i> ". Press release of May 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22154 // Inter American Press Association: " <i>La SIP pide investigar desaparición de dos periodistas mexicanos</i> ". News alert issued on May 15, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountryde tail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1909

MEXICO	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
DETENTIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
Agents of the Ministry Police of Sinaloa detained reporter Luis Fernando Nájera, of newspaper <i>El Debate</i> and cooperator of the weekly publication <i>Riodoce</i> , during an operative concerning the theft of agrochemicals in the city of Los Mochis. Nájera was taking pictures of what the policemen were doing, when he was apprehended and his digital camera, recorder and mobile phone taken from him. The photographer spent two days detained and was released after paying a fine.	Jornada: " <i>Sinaloa: detienen a reportero que cubriría operativo</i> ". Article published on June 30, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/07/01/index.php?section=estados&article=035n2est // CENCOS: " <i>Policías ministeriales de los Mochis Sinaloa agreden a reportero por ejercer su trabajo</i> ". Release issued on July 6, available at: http://www.cencos.org/es/node/16049
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS-THREATS	
On June 24, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice postponed for an indefinite term a decision regarding the alleged responsibility of the governor of Puebla, Mario Marín, in the breach of the individual guarantees of journalist Lydia Cacho Ribeiro. The Court was going to debate a recommendation for a political trial against Marín for agreeing with the judicial authorities on the detention and incarceration of Cacho, who had been sued for defamation. The author of the book " <i>Los demonios del Edén: el poder que protege a la pornografía infantil</i> " had been denounced by entrepreneur Kamel Nacif Borge, who was mentioned in the book. For this suit, Chacho was imprisoned. Once released, the journalist denounced Marín and Nacif, among others, for traffic of influences and abuse of authority. After the Court's decision to postpone her case, Cacho announced that she will file a new complaint against the Supreme Court of Justice for having leaked to Marín's defense attorneys the final report on the investigation. In May, the journalist reported to have received threats against her life.	Jornada: " <i>Caso Lydia Cacho: recomendará la Corte someter a Marín a juicio político</i> ". Article published on June 18, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/06/18/index.php?section=politica&article=003n1pol // Cencos: " <i>Mario Marín Torres, en la mira de la Corte por atentar contra la libertad de expresión</i> ". Pronunciamento publicado el 18 de junio de 2007, disponible en: http://cencos.org/es/node/14241 // CNN Expansión: " <i>La Corte aplaza asunto de Lydia Cacho</i> ". Article published on June 27, 2007, available at: http://www.cnnexpansion.com/actualidad/la-corte-aplaza-asunto-de-lydia-cacho/ // Univisión: " <i>Periodista arremetió contra la Corte</i> ". Article published on June 26, 2007, available at: http://www.univision.com/content/content.jhtml;jsessionid=SLREHM1AVDK4ICWIABJSFFAKZAAGAIWC?cid=1216747
OTHER	
On May 6, 2007, the National Human Rights Commission proposed to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic to strengthen both legally and administratively the Special Attorney's Office for Attention of Crimes against Journalists, to solve the 22 cases that both agencies are currently investigating and thus contain the risk posed against the journalists' integrity.	El Universal: " <i>Propone CNDH reforzar trabajo de la fiscalía para periodistas</i> ". Article published on May 7, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/mexico/pre-mexico.html // Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos. Release of May 6, 2007 (066/07), available at: http://www.cndh.org.mx/publica/publica.htm
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
PROGRESS	
On July 20, 2007, the Diario Oficial de la Federación published the decree whereby it announced the actual incorporation of the right to information in the Constitution of Mexico. This addition to Article 6 states that access to information is an individual guaranty of all mexicans. All the state laws regarding transparency and access to public information must be adjusted within one year to the principles now set forth in the Constitution.	Periodistas-ES: " <i>El Congreso aprueba la ampliación de acceso a la información en todo México</i> ". News alert published on July 21, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/print.asp?cod_artigo=1512 // Informative e-mail sent to the Office of the Special Rapporteur// Press release by the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information, issued on July 20, 2007, IFAI/034/07

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
MURDERS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On September 5, 2007, the spokesman for the security area of the government of Sinaloa, Oscar Rivera, was shot to death when traveling in a government station wagon. His vehicle was intercepted by the assailants who shot him with AK-47 and AR-15 guns. Rivera had founded the magazine <i>Cambio 21</i> and worked in the newspaper <i>Noroeste</i> before working as a spokesman for the government. He was responsible for issuing the press releases regarding the army's operations against drug traffic, among other security issues.</p>	<p>La Jornada: "<i>Exigen periodistas aclarar el asesinato de Óscar Rivera</i>". Article published on September 6, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ultimas/2007/10/05/exigen-periodistas-de-sinaloa-aclarar-asesinato-de-vocero-de-seguridad // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>FEPALC exige el esclarecimiento del crimen de periodista en Sinaloa, México</i>". News alert published on September 12, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5299&Language=ES</p>
<p>On October 8, 2007, three spokespersons of newspaper <i>El Imparcial</i> de Istmo were killed while traveling on a vehicle with the newspaper's logo. Armed men intercepted the vehicle where the distributor of the newspaper, Mateo Cortés Martínez, and his collaborators Flor Vásquez López and Agustín López were riding, and shot the three of them. The newspaper's workers had received threats for them to stop investigating the drug traffic activities in the area. After these three murders, editor Gonzalo Domínguez and police issues reporter Felipe Ramos resigned their positions for fear of being killed. Other members of the paper followed as a reaction to this crime.</p>	<p>El Universal: "<i>Asesinan a 3 voceadores del periódico 'El Imparcial'</i>". Article published on October 9, 2007, available at: http://www.el-universal.com.mx/estados/66176.html // Article 19: "<i>México: Article 19 condena el asesinato de tres trabajadores del diario El Imparcial del Istmo y exige garantías de seguridad para dos reporteros</i>". News alert issued on October 8, 2007, available at: http://www.article19.org/pdfs/press/mexico-journalist-murder-oax-sp.pdf</p>
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>On June 29, 2007, the photographer of newspaper <i>El Debate</i> de Culiacán and weekly publication <i>Ríodoce</i>, Luis Fernando Nájera, was attacked and threatened while covering an operative of the Ministry Police against the theft of agrochemicals and medicaments of Ahome. Nájera was stripped of his camera after taking a picture of how the police team was beating a person. When he went to make the denouncement at office of the General Justice Prosecutor of Sinaloa, Nájera met with two of his assailants, and claimed his camera back. The reporter ended up on jail for two days because the police agents accused him of having a weapon in his car. On September 10, 2007, the Office of the General Justice Prosecutor of Sinaloa provisionally suspended the two policemen for attacking Nájera and arresting him.</p>	<p>CEPET/ IFEX: "<i>Suspenden a dos agentes que agredieron a reporteros en Sinaloa</i>". News alert issued on September 11, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86160 // La Jornada: "<i>Dictan libertad para reporter de El Debate, en Sinaloa</i>". Article published on July 16, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ultimas/2007/07/16/dictan-libertad-para-reportero-de-el-debate-en-sinaloa</p>
<p>According to an alert received, on July 12, 2007, the attorney of the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Republic (PGR) in charge of investigating crimes against journalists Octavio Orellana, and his security team, might have attacked a group of reporters who were trying to interview him when he was coming out of his appearance before the special committee of the Chamber of Deputies, where he admitted that the increase in violence against press workers "is very concerning." The official managed to cut through the crowd. On several occasions he covered with his hands the lenses of cameras that were shooting the scene.</p>	<p>La Jornada: "<i>El fiscal para delitos contra periodistas protagoniza agresión hacia reporteros</i>". Article published on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/07/13/index.php?seccion=politica&article=009n1pol // Asociación Mexicana de Derecho a la Información: "<i>'Manotea' con reporteros el Fiscal para Delitos contra Periodistas</i>". Press summary available at: http://www.amedi.org.mx/spip.php?article500</p>

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>According to information received, on July 16, 2007, journalist Concepción Avendaño Villafuerte was beat up by state investigation agents of the Office of the Justice Prosecutor of the State of Chiapas, when they were detaining professors of a private university. Persons in civilian attire were detaining three professors in an arbitrary manner, according to the denouncers, and hit the journalist in the mouth.</p>	<p>Denunciation by the Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas. AC, on July 23, 2007, sent to the Office of the Special Rapporteur // Reporteros de Chiapas, denouncement sent on July 18, 2007 by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur</p>
<p>On August 4, 2007, Ricardo González, correspondent in Tlapa for <i>Jornada Guerrero</i>, was supposedly attacked by members of the Ministry Police commanded by commander Tomás Herrera Basurto, who almost destroyed the tendons of his two hands. The aggression suffered by the reporter was in reply to a note published in which he set forth several irregularities linked to Herrera Basurto. The journalist had been summoned that day to the Public Ministry for an alleged crime of abuse of trust. At dawn on August 4, unknown persons shot the private residence of the correspondent of <i>Jornada Guerrero</i> and that same day in the afternoon, six agents of the PIM came into his house, armed, and dragged him out, without showing any order of arrest and warning him "you're in trouble, fat guy, so you learn to see what you write, about whom you write and what you write about, you're done, we have orders to take you."</p>	<p>Veracruz en Red: "<i>Reporta CEDH 12 quejas por ataques a periodistas en Guerrero</i>". Article published on August 30, 2007, available at: http://www.veracruzened.com/nota.php?id=14586 // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>El Sindicato Nacional de Redactores de la Prensa de México rechaza agresión policial contra reportero</i>". News alert issued on August 9, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5207&Language=ES</p>
<p>On August 5, 2007, the director of newspaper <i>El Semanario</i> and anchor of radio news program <i>BBM Noticias de Oaxaca</i>, Alberto Fernández Portilla, was shot by an unknown person when he arrived home. The journalist was wounded in the thigh, arm and torso. The person who shot him might have told him not to "get into trouble with the leader". The journalist sustained that the attack may be related to a series of articles he published about alleged cases of corruption related to state oil company Pemex. At the end of July, 2007, a reporter of <i>El Semanario</i> received telephone threats warning him that there would be "losses" for those articles about Pemex.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>MEXICO: Journalist shot and wounded after corruption reports</i>". News alert issued on August 6, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/mexico06aug07na.html // Sindicato Nacional de Redactores de Prensa México, comunicado emitido el 6 de agosto de 2007, enviado al correo electrónico de la Relatoría Especial // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Hieren a un periodista: Oaxaca es de nuevo escenario de violencias contra los medios de comunicación</i>". News alert issued on August 8, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23198</p>
<p>On August 21, 2007, ministry policemen might have hit journalist Miguel Arturo García Rodríguez after he shot pictures of a prison in Tamaulipas. The reporter, leader of the Unión de Periodistas Democráticos, took the pictures of how the officers made the people who were violently gotten off the vehicles when arriving at the prison. A policeman saw he was taking pictures and pointed his machine gun at him, while asking him for his camera. The reporter was hit several times, his recorder and cell phone were destroyed, and his camera retained.</p>	<p>Proceso: "<i>Denuncia periodista: fue golpeado por fotografiar un retén en Tamaulipas</i>". Article published on August 23, 2007, available at: www.proceso.com.mx/noticias.html?sec=2&nta=53331 // ATLATL Project: "<i>Agentes ministeriales golpean a un periodista</i>". Article published on August 25, 2007, available at: http://www.atlatl.com.mx/agentes-ministeriales-golpean-a-un-periodista/3360</p>

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On August 28, 2007, the editor of <i>Diario Tribuna</i>, Martín Serrano Herrera, found at the door of his house five caliber 223 bullets used exclusively by the Armed Forces, "which were enfolded in sheets of an issue of this newspaper affirming that the governor of Veracruz, Fidel Herrera Beltrán, represses the criticaster press," said Serrano Herrera. The reporter asked the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Republic to issue precautionary measures for safeguard, security and protection for him and his family and collaborators for fear of being victims of an attack. Previous editions of the newspaper spoke of the connections between local politicians and drug dealers in Veracruz.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Bullets found outside home of journalist who criticized local government</i>". News alert issued on August 28, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/mexico28aug07ca.html // CEPET/ IFEX: "<i>Periodista recibe amenaza de muerte tras criticar gobernador de Veracruz</i>". News alert issued on September 26, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86552</p>
<p>On August 28, 2007, the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH) issued a recommendation to the government of Chihuahua due to the aggression to three journalists caused by members of the State Investigation Agency in September 2006, when the reporters surprised those agents drinking alcohol in the public streets. The CNDH recommended that the faults committed be determined and that Jaime Murrieta, photographer of <i>El Diario</i>, Eugenia Cícero and Aurelio Suárez, of newspaper <i>PM</i> be indemnified. On September 2007, the government of Chihuahua rejected the recommendation made by the CNDH. The agency deemed it "unacceptable" that the government justify the attack against the journalists.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>El gobierno del Estado de Chihuahua rechaza una recomendación de la CNDH tras la agresión de tres periodistas</i>". News alert issued on September 25, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/imprimir.php?id_article=23763 // El Estatal: "<i>Emite CNDH recomendación por agresión a periodistas en Chihuahua</i>". Article published and available at: http://elestatal.com/news/imprime.php?IDNOTA=23388 // CEPET: "<i>Lamenta CNDH indiferencia del gobierno de Chihuahua</i>". News alert of September 24, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.</p>
AGGRESSIONS-THREATS	
<p>According to an alert received, on July 21, 2007, police officers appeared at the house of the journalist of <i>El Sol</i> de Parral, to advise her that businessman José Talamás wanted to speak with her. The reporter accepted to accompany them when she found out that it was the person who had been recently kidnapped. Talamás made claims against her for notes published about his kidnapping, insulted and threatened her and forced her to talk to the newspaper where the notes were published. He tried to take out a gun at one point of the conversation. The journalist denounced him before the judicial authorities.</p>	<p>Criterios: "<i>Empresario amenaza de muerte a reportera en Chihuahua</i>". Article published on July 25, 2007, available at: http://www.criterios.com/modules.php?name=Noticias&file=article&sid=12085 // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>Empresario y policías mexicanos secuestran periodista en Ciudad Juárez</i>". News alert issued on July 28, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5167&Language=ES</p>
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
<p>On October 12, 2007, some 40 militants of the Unión General Obrera Campesina y Popular (UGOCP), armed with pipes, sticks and machetes, took the offices of the distributor of magazine <i>Proceso</i> en la Cuenca del Papaloapan and "kidnapped", for three hours, nine employees, including six women, whom they threatened to take their clothes off and kill them. When they left the place, they "retained" Israel Nava Pérez, the son of the distributor of <i>Proceso</i> en la zona, Germán Nava Hernández. El día anterior una turba de la misma UGOCP agredió y amenazó al reportero gráfico del <i>Diario Noticias, Voz e Imagen de la Cuenca</i>, Alberto Castañeda López, y a cuatro días del asesinato de tres trabajadores del periódico <i>El Imparcial del Istmo</i>.</p>	<p>Proceso: "<i>Toman las oficinas de la distribuidora de Proceso en Papaloapan</i>". Article published on October 12, 2007, available at: http://www.proceso.com.mx/noticia.html?sec=2&nta=54488&nsec=Estados // Periodistas-ES: "<i>Manifestantes armados toman una distribuidora de revistas y amenazan de muerte a un periodista en Oaxaca</i>". News alert issued on October 16, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=2065</p>

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On November 8, 2007, journalist of weekly publication <i>Semana</i> , Víctor Rubén Hernández Guerrero, was supposedly attacked and threatened by businessman Javier Quiñonez Ruiz, former president of the Mexican Chamber of the Construction Industry. The businessman told him to correct the contents of what he published and then hit him in the chest and the face. The reporter made a criminal accusation against Quiñonez for aggressions and threats.	CEPET/ IFEX: " <i>Periodista amenazado y golpeado tras cobertura critica de senador de PAN</i> ". News alert issued on November 19, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87758/ // El Siglo de Durango: " <i>En agresión contra periodista no habrá impunidad, aseguran</i> ". Article published on November 13, available at: http://www.elsiglodedurango.com.mx/archivo/146367.en-agresion-contra-periodista-no-habra-impuni.siglo
On June 29, 2007, a group of professors attacked three photographers in Morelia, Michoacán, during a protest by the Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación, a disident wing of the National Union of Education Workers (Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación). Aramé Campos Cervantes, of newspaper <i>Cambio</i> of Michoacán, Rosario Salas, of the newspaper <i>Provincia</i> and Iván Sánchez, of newspaper <i>La Jornada Michoacán</i> , were the attacked photographers. When they found out that they were being photographed, the professors persecuted the photographers and manage to catch Campos Cervantes, who fell down, was kicked and his equipment damaged. The other two went to help him and also were attacked.	El Sol de Morelia: " <i>Maestros agreden a periodistas por realizar su trabajo</i> ". Article published on June 29, 2007, available at: http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldemorelia/notas/n328278.htm // CEPET/ IFEX: " <i>Maestros en huelga golpean a fotógrafo y agreden a reporteros en Morelia</i> ". News alert issued on July 11, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/84771
On July 31, 2007, Lilia Flores was covering the closing of a bar, El Kumbala, when the owner of the place, Gustavo Díaz, threatened to kill her if she took more photos. The next day, the journalist filed the denouncement. On August 8, 2007, she gave an interview and mentioned what had happened without saying the name of who threatened her. On August 15, 2007, Flores was kidnapped. A group of persons put her into a station wagon, hit her until she was unconscious. On August 16, her husband received a message with indications of where to find her. She had been abandoned in a site in the forest zone of La Marquesa.	CEPET/ IFEX: " <i>Un agravio más a la prensa</i> ". News alert sent on August 19, 2007, sent to the e-mail of the Office of the Special Rapporteur. // Columna del periodista Israel Martínez Macedo, de Milenio, available at: http://jisraelmartinez.blogspot.com/2007/08/columna-del-20-de-agosto-de-2007.html // Grupo Parlamentario PRD: " <i>CONDENA LUIS SÁNCHEZ AGRESIÓN CONTRA PERIODISTA MEXIQUENSE</i> ". Press release of August 20, 2007, available at: http://prdleg.diputados.gob.mx/diputado/venancio_sanchez/ent/bol2383.html
On August 15, 2007, after coming out from his radio program, journalist Eolo Pacheco, director of newspaper <i>El Regional del Sur</i> , was intercepted by a group of persons who tied him up, put him into his vehicle and took him to a site located in Santa Catarina. Pacheco was hit and threatened to death "because he was signalled", as he managed to hear. The journalist said this was an attack due to his journalist activities, because they were only beating him and threatening him during the entire tie he was kidnapped.	CENCOS: " <i>El periodista Eolo Pacheco, director del periódico El Regional del Sur, sufre atentado</i> ". News alert issued on August 20, 2007, available at: http://www.cencos.org/es/node/16756 // Asociación de Periodistas de la Región Sur y Morelos. Press release issued on August 17, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS-DETENTIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>According to an alert received, on August 7, 2007, a group of military and federal policemen detained and disappeared four journalists during 14 hours when they were covering an anti-narcotics operative in Coahuila. Journalists Manolo Acosta Villareal and Sinhué Samaniego Osoria, of newspaper <i>El Zócalo</i>, José González Meza, of newspaper <i>La Voz</i>, and José Rodríguez Reyes, of <i>Radio Televisión Canal 4</i>, were accused of carrying marihuana and a firearm, but they affirmed to be innocent. They were arrested after they shot some pictures of the officers that were about to begin the operation, thereafter they were interrogated several times and hit during their arrest. After paying bail, they were released on August 10, 2007. On September 18, 2007, the federal judicial authorities exonerated the four journalists because there were no sufficient elements in the complaint against them. The Office of the General Justice Prosecutor of Coahuila appealed against this decision.</p>	<p>CEPET: "<i>Apelan exoneración de reporteros en Monclova</i>". News alert issued on September 21, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur. // El Universal: "<i>Exoneran a reporteros de Monclova</i>". Artículo publicado el 17 de septiembre de 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/449707.html // Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Mexican journalist recounts abuse during army detention</i>". News alert published on August 14, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/mexico14aug07na.html</p>
<p>On August 30, 2007, journalist Margarito Juárez, of newspaper <i>Página 24</i>, filed a denunciation for injuries and damages to his property against five members of the Municipal Police of Fresnillo, in Zacatecas. According to the journalist, he was attacked by the officers when he was trying to take pictures of the director of Public Security, Jorge Eduardo Muñoz. The policemen wanted to take his camera away from him, until they threw him against the floor and kicked him several times. Juárez was arrested and was incommunicated for one hour.</p>	<p>El Universal: "<i>Denuncia periodista agresión policiaca en Zacatecas</i>". Article published on August 28, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/vi_445690.html // CEPET: "<i>Denuncia reportero golpes de policía</i>". News alert issued on September 25, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.</p>
<p>On November 11, 2007, the commander of the Federal Investigations Agency, Guillermo Alonso Tosqui, publicly apologized to the information media for the illegal detention and breach of guaranties of journalist Patricia Martínez Ramírez the previous week, when she was taking pictures of agents of the AFI at a false operation. Martínez, of the weekly publication <i>Raíces</i>, stated that he would maintain his denunciations before the National Commission for Human Rights and the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Republic so they follow their normal course.</p>	<p>Milenio: "<i>Ofrece disculpas públicas AFI en Quintana Roo que agredió a periodista</i>". Article published on November 11, 2007, available at: http://www.milenio.com/index.php/2007/11/11/146566/ // Noticaribe: "<i>Marchan periodistas contra la AFI</i>". Article published on November 8, 2007, available at: http://www.noticaribe.com.mx/rivieramaya/2007/11/marchan_reporteros_conta_la_afi.html</p>
THREATS	
<p>On July 5, 2007, the journalist who worked in newspaper <i>Suma</i>, Daniel Méndez Najar, declared that he had been threatened to death by businessman José Zavala, an aspirant to candidate of the PRI party to the Municipal Presidency of Atlixco. The journalist told in a press conference that Zavala accused him of leaking to the mass media some recordings, evidencing his good relationship with governor Mario Marín Torres, accused by journalist Lydia Cacho of abuse of public office.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Aumentan los ataques de políticos a la prensa: Reporteros Sin Fronteras hace un llamamiento al poder federal</i>". News alert issued on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22916 // Cerigua: "<i>Prensa: Dos periodistas amenazados de muerte en México</i>". News alert issued on July 12, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article10083.html</p>

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On July 9, 2007, federal deputy José Luis Blanco, who represents Yucatán in the Chamber of Deputies, publicly reported that journalist Mario Renato Menéndez Rodríguez, director of regional newspaper <i>Por Esto</i> , had received death threats. In a note published in <i>Por Esto</i> , Méndez Rodríguez affirmed that a head of the local mafia had offered 5 million Mexican pesos for killing a reporter.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Aumentan los ataques de políticos a la prensa: Reporteros Sin Fronteras hace un llamamiento al poder federal</i> ". News alert issued on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22916 // Cerigua: " <i>Prensa: Dos periodistas amenazados de muerte en México</i> ". News alert issued on July 12, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article10083.html
On July 2007, the U.S. authorities reported that U.S. correspondents who worked in the frontier were being threatened by Mexican drug dealers. The U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Tony Garza, condemned the intimidation against the reporters and affirmed that he would reinforce the journalists' security. <i>The San Antonio Express</i> withdrew their correspondent Mariano Castillo from Laredo after a source of the U.S. security forces noted that an unidentified U.S. journalist was an alleged target in a list of a Mexican criminal organization. The Association of Foreign Correspondents in Mexico also sent a notice of warning to the journalists.	La Jornada: " <i>Presuntas amenazas de muerte de narcos a periodistas de EU en la frontera</i> ". Article published on July 14, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/07/14/index.php?section=politica&article=010n1pol // La Crónica: " <i>Condena EU amenazas contra periodistas en el norte de México</i> ". Artículo publicado el 13 de julio de 2007, available at: http://www.lacronica.com/EdicionEnLinea/Notas/Internacional/13072007/251919.aspx // Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Warnings issued for U.S. reporters working along Mexican border</i> ". News alert issued on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/mexico13july07na.html
Between August 5 and 7, 2007, journalists of <i>El Semanario de Istmo</i> , Edwin Meneses and Daniel Pérez Espinosa, began receiving death threats over the phone, during the days after the attack against the director of the publication, Alberto Fernández Portillo. In the calls received by both reporters, a voice warned them that they would be the next ones attacked.	Amnesty International: " <i>Fear for safety</i> ". News alert issued on August 9, 2007, available at: http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/index/AMR410492007ENGLISH/\$File/AMR4104907.pdf // Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>Colleagues of journalist who was shot receive death threats</i> ". News alert issued on August 5, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/mexico05augr07ca.html
On August 10, 2007, the member of the National Union of Press Writers might have received a death threat from the coordinator of the Ministry Police of Acapulco, specializing in car theft, Emmanuel Radillia, in reply to a criticism made in the column he publishes in newspaper <i>El Informador</i> . The journalist denounced this threat before the Public Ministry of Acapulco.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Coordinador de Policía Ministerial de Acapulco, México, amenaza de muerte a periodista, denuncia Sindicato Nacional de Redactores de la Prensa</i> ". News alert issued on August 10, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5211&Language=ES
On October 2007, journalist Ernesto de la Cueva Bello denounced that he was threatened together with his family, after publishing a series of information notes pertaining to the irregular actions allegedly linked to the mayor of Metepec, Oscar González Yáñez. Cueva Bello is the reporter editor of the Culture section of the issue of the Estado de México of the <i>Milenio</i> group. In a public letter, the journalist made the municipal authorities responsible of anything that may happen to him or his family.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Periodista denuncia amenazas en la que estaría implicado funcionario mexicano</i> ". News alert issued on October 30, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5440&Language=ES // Cerigua: " <i>Periodista del Estado de México denunció amenazas de muerte</i> ". News alert issued on November 5, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=11852&theme=Printer

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On September 25, 2007, Ezequiel Flores Contreras, Hugo Pacheco León, Jesús Saavedra Lezama, Mónica Martínez y Teresa de la Cruz, journalists of newspaper <i>El Sur</i>, were sued by Alberto Torreblanca Galindo, brother of the governor of Guerrero, for slander and moral damage (pain and suffering). He claims approximately US\$ 924 thousand. The journalists made an investigation about a denouncement regarding a direct award of a contract made by the state government to a company of which Torreblanca is allegedly a partner.</p>	<p>La Jornada: "<i>Contesta El Sur demanda del hermano del gobernador</i>". Article published on September 26, 2007, available at: http://www.lajornadaguerrero.com.mx/2007/10/26/index.php?section=politica&article=006n3pol // CEPET: "<i>Hermano del gobernador del estado de Guerrero acusa a periodistas de difamación por artículos sobre presunta corrupción</i>". News alert issued on September 2007, sent by mail to the Special Rapporteurs' Office.</p>
<p>On November 29, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico concluded that there was no proof of the existence of serious breaches against human rights of journalist Lydia Cacho, authoress of the book "<i>Los Demonios del Edén</i>," in which she denounced the existence of international pederast networks linked with politicians and entrepreneurs. On June 24, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice had postponed a decision about the alleged liability of the governor of Puebla, Mario Marín, in the breach of the individual guaranties of the journalist. The Court was to debate about a recomendation for a political trial against Marín for agreeing with the judicial authorities upon the detention and imprisonment of Cacho, who had been sued for defamation. Once she was released, the journalist denounced Marín and Nacif, among others, for traffic of influence and abuse of public office.</p>	<p>La Jornada: "<i>Acudiré a las instancias internacionales: Cacho</i>". Article published on November 30, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/11/30/index.php?section=politica&article=005n1pol // Cencos: "<i>La decisión de la SCJN vulnera los derechos humanos y la libertad de expresión</i>". News alert issued on November 29, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS	
<p>In October 2007, the Electoral Court of the Judicial Power of the Federation ordered the magazine <i>Hora Cero</i> to not make any publications that "offend or disparage, attack the honor or dignity" of Gerardo Peña, candidate of the Party Acción Nacional (PAN) for mayor of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, in the north-east of the country, or any other. The party denounced on July 18, 2007, before the State Electoral Council that the magazine had made publications where it "disparages, slanders and defamates" Peña. The controversy was centered, according to the directors of the magazine, an advertising space paid by third parties.</p>	<p>El Universal: "<i>Ordenan a revista respetar a candidatos</i>". Article published on October 22, 2007, available at: http://www.el-universal.com.mx/estados/66331.html // IFEX/ CEPET: "<i>Tribunal electoral falla en contra de revista en una de dos querellas por partido político en Reynosa</i>". News alert issued on October 25, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87215/</p>
LEGISLATION	
<p>On September 12, 2007, the Mexican Senate approved a bill of law for constitutional reform that, among other things, proposes the restriction for political parties and third parties to contract spaces in mass media with propaganda purposes. The proposal made was criticized by the radio and television industry. It is still pending to be approved by the Chamber of Deputies.</p>	<p>El Nuevo Herald: "<i>México: Radio y TV critican reforma electoral</i>". Article published on September 7, 2007, available at: http://www.elnuevoherald.com/256/v-print/story/88161.html // AMARC: "<i>Poder televisivo pierde crucial batalla</i>". Article published on September 12, 2007, available at: http://legislaciones.amarc.org/07-09-19-MexicoPoderTelevisivo.htm</p>

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
LEGISLATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>In September 2007, the Office of the General Solicitor of the Republic prepared a bill of law to "federalize" the crimes against journalists, which implies that the public ministries and federal judges will be hearing the accusations for aggressions against reporters who are performing their duty. The initiative seeks to guarantee the integrity of journalists, and take the investigations to the federal and not a local scope. The initiative is pending to be sent to the Legislative Power for approval.</p>	<p>La Jornada: "<i>Plantea PGR federalizar delitos contra periodistas</i>". Article published on September 20, 2007, available at: http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/09/21/index.php?section=politica&article=018n2pol // Periódico Digital: "<i>Lista la iniciativa para 'federalizar' delitos contra periodistas</i>". Article published on September 14, 2007, available at: http://periodicodigital.com.mx/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31640&Itemid=67</p>
DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL ADVERTISING	
<p>On June 29, 2007, journalist and general director of the <i>Monitor</i> Group, José Gutiérrez, announced that the radio newscast was going to be taken off the air and attributed this to the economic difficulties undergone by the company. He stated that this is related to the "advertising blockade" that, according to the reporter, made against the program by the governments of Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón. This denouncement by Gutiérrez awoke the critiques by the opposers of Calderon's government.</p>	<p>La Jornada: "<i>Atenta Calderón contra la libertad de expresión y los medios críticos: PRD</i>". Article published on June 30, 2007, available at http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/06/30/index.php?section=politica&article=005n1pol // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Aumentan los ataques de políticos a la prensa: Reporteros Sin Fronteras hace un llamamiento al poder federal</i>". News alert issued on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22916</p>
<p>On July 8 and 9, 2007, <i>Periódico A.M.</i> denounced to its readers that it was the victim of an advertising boycott ordered by the governor of Guanajuato, Juan Manuel Oliva Ramírez. In this message they stated that the measure also applies to <i>Al Día</i>, another publication by the same publishing group.</p>	<p>CEPET: "<i>Ordena gobernador boicot publicitario contra un periódico</i>". Alerta emitida el 11 de julio de 2007, enviada al correo electrónico de la Relatoría Especial // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Aumentan los ataques de políticos a la prensa: Reporteros Sin Fronteras hace un llamamiento al poder federal</i>". Alerta emitida el 13 de julio de 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22916</p>
<p><i>Proceso</i> magazine denounced in its issue of September 30 a drastic reduction of official advertising since Felipe Calderon took over as President of Mexico. According to data of the publication itself, during the first semester of Calderon's administration, the income for official advertising was 278,600 pesos, compared to the 1,424,092 pesos for the preceding year. According to a study conducted by <i>Etcétera</i>, a magazine specializing in mass media, <i>Proceso</i> is ranked in the last place of weekly publications that received orders for official advertising from January through June, 2007, in spite of having one of the largest circulations.</p>	<p>Etcétera: "<i>Publicidad oficial, inexplicable subejercicio</i>". Article published in November 2007, available at: http://www.etcetera.com.mx/pag06-10ane85.asp // CEPET: "<i>Evidencian reparto discrecional de publicidad oficial en México</i>". News alert issued on October 4, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.// Proceso: "<i>Castigo Publicitario</i>". Article published on September 30, 2007, available at: http://www.proceso.com.mx</p>
OTHER	
<p>In August 2007, it was made public that during the government of Felipe Calderón, at the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH) there have been created 49 case files for aggressions and threats against journalists. According to CNDH's study, from 2000 to this date, the attacks against freedom of expression are represented by 33 homicides of journalists and in the last two years, six journalists have been reported to have disappeared in 14 states of the country, that represent red spots of breaches to the guaranties for this profession. The study, prepared as part of the Program of Attacks against Journalists and Civil Defenders of Human Rights, states that 78.5% of the complaints filed by journalists involve members of the public power as responsible parties.</p>	<p>El Universal: "<i>Se disparan agresiones a periodistas: CNDH</i>". Article published on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/primer/29358.html</p>

MEXICO	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
OTHER	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
In September 2007, the director general of <i>Informativo Chiapas</i> , Francisco Andrade Madrigal denounced in an open letter, officials of the Social Communication Coordination of Chiapas for harassment and "labor veto". Andrade said he had been pressured to back up the current governor, Juan Sabines Guerrero. He held that the officials of this office have vetoed him and prevented him from being hired by at least five media. The reporter said that he also detected attempts to sabotage his web site <i>Informativo Chiapas</i> .	CEPET: " <i>Veto laboral a periodista en Chiapas</i> ". News alert issued on September 25, 2007, issued by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur // ATLATL Project: " <i>Periodista chapaneco es vetado por el gobierno estatal</i> ". Article published on August 7, 2007, available at: http://www.atlatl.com.mx/periodista-chiapaneco-es-vetado-por-el-gobierno-estatal/2790
On October 28, 2007, the issue of <i>Proceso</i> magazine did not circulate normally in the state of Guanajuato, because all the copies were bought in closed establishments or simply did not reach the sales points to the public, or were bought in their entirety. The cover of the magazine had a report related to the businesses of former first lady Marta Sahagún and her sons with a local businessman. Sahagún's sons have been investigated for alleged traffic of influences prior to the termination of Vicente Fox's presidential term.	CEPET: " <i>Compra impide circulación de la revista Proceso en el estado de Guanajuato</i> ". News alert issued on November 12, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur. // Diario de Yucatán: " <i>Maniobra para acallar a un medio de prensa</i> ". Article published on November 4, 2007, available at: http://www.yucatan.com.mx/noticia.asp?cx=9\$0900000000\$3677341&f=20071104

NICARAGUA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On January 27, 2007, the Union of Journalists of Nicaragua reported that journalist Lésber Quintero, correspondent of <i>El Nuevo Diario</i> in the department of Rivas, was threatened.	Unión de Periodistas de Nicaragua, communication (without title) received by email on January 27, 2007.
On February 14, 2007, journalist William Aragón, correspondent of newspaper <i>La Prensa</i> in the department of Madriz, was threatened to death. According to the journalist, the threats could respond to the publication of a report filed against the new director of the hospital of the city of Somoto.	Diario La Prensa, <i>Sandinistas amenazan a periodista de LA PRENSA</i> . Article dated February 16, 2007, available at: http://www.laprensa.com.ni/archivo/2007/febrero/16/noticias/nacionales/173745.shtml . / <i>Crónica Viva, Sandinistas amenazan a periodista</i> . Article available at: http://www.cronicaviva.com.pe/prensa/sandinistas-amenazan-a-periodista.html .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
On May 16, 2007, the Legislative Assembly approved the Law on Access to Public Information that requires state institutions and mixed and private companies that receive funds from the State to provide public information. It also provides that journalists should not disclose their sources. However, Article 46 of the law was criticized because it provides that the exercise of that right to have access to information shall be "made in a responsible manner, providing information of public interest for the community in a complete, true, adequately researched way and compared with the sources that are convenient and opportune". The regulations of this law are still pending.	La Prensa: " <i>Golazo con la Ley de Acceso</i> ". Article published on May 17, 2007, available at: http://www.laprensa.com.ni/archivo/2007/mayo/17/noticias/politica/191569_print.shtml // El Nuevo Diario: " <i>Ley de Acceso: una de cal y otra de arena</i> ". Article published on May 18, 2007, available at: http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/2007/05/18/politica/49059
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
On September 27, 2007, collective transportation entrepreneurs of the south region of Nicaragua attacked two reporters who covered a strike of this sector. The transportists hit the reporter of newspaper <i>Hoy</i> of Managua, Jonathan Rivera and cameraman of Channel 2, Rubén Castro González to avoid that they cover the protest.	La Prensa: " <i>Asoma alza del pasaje</i> ". Article published on September 28, 2007, available at: http://www.laprensa.com.ni/archivo/2007/septiembre/28/noticias/nacionales/218167_print.shtml // Periodistas-ES: " <i>Transportistas agreden físicamente a reporteros que informaban sobre una huelga</i> ". News alert published on November 16, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/print.asp?cod_artigo=1930
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS	
In September 2007, there arose a controversy among some mass media and the government of Nicaragua due to limitations in the delivery of raw materials for producing their newspapers and the tax pressure exerted on the press. The controversy arose between newspaper <i>La Prensa</i> when it sought to import tax-free paper and the Directorate of Customs Service demanded that it first pay a debt for customs duties on inputs that the newspaper denied having. This debate started when there is pending an appeal for unconstitutionality against a law that regulates the tax obligations of mass media. In the meantime, directors of the Nicaraguan press accused the government of following the persistent policy of hiding public information, avoiding topics outside of the official agenda and being intolerant towards independent media or media that criticize the administration.	La Nación: " <i>Prensa en Nicaragua denuncia actitud hostil por el Gobierno</i> ". Article published on October 11, 2007, available at: http://www.nacion.com/ln_ee/2007/octubre/11/mundo1271454.html // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: " <i>La SIP preocupada por controversia impositiva en Nicaragua que limita la entrega de insumos para la producción de periódicos</i> ". News alert issued on September 29, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1978 //

PANAMA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
LEGISLATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On March 6, 2007, the National Assembly approved a reform of the Criminal Code that contemplates depenalizing the crimes of slandering and defamation when the supposedly offended person is one of the public servants included in article 304 of the Political Constitution, officials of popular election or governors. However, it allows journalists to be sanctioned for reporting on issues even when they are of public interest. It also contains articles that could affect the right of social communicators to maintain the confidentiality of their sources of information and that could be interpreted to unduly restrict the right of access to information in the hands of the State. These articles are incompatible with the American Convention on Human Rights of which Panama is part. On March 21, 2007, the Presidency informed that the President planned to veto some dispositions of the reform, but not the ones that could limit the exercise of the right to freedom of expression.</p>	<p>Reporters Without Borders, <i>Dismay at presidential green light for two restrictive articles in new criminal code</i>. Press release of March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21421. / Inter American Press Association, <i>IAPA urges Panama's President Torrijos to remain consistent on press freedom</i>. Press release of February 14, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1850. / Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA), <i>Periodistas panameños rechazan artículos del Código Penal que atentan contra su labor</i>. Article dated February 15, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article7948.html.</p>
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
<p>On December 7, 2006, the General Attorney's Office decided that the Public Services National Authority must maintain confidential all matters related to the financial state of companies providing public services. This criterion contradicts the Supreme Court of Justice's ruling of June 27, 2006, which determined that the right to access of information should prevail.</p>	<p>La Prensa, <i>Un nuevo escollo para la transparencia</i>. Article published on January 10, 2007, available at: http://mensual.prensa.com/mensual/contenido/2007/01/10/hoy/panorama/855357.html.</p>
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
No entries were registered for this period.	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On August 13, 2007, graphic reporter Alejandro Méndez, of newspaper <i>Panamá América</i>, was supposedly attacked by a group of workers of the National Workers' Union of the Construction Drillers of Panama, while covering a confrontation between this group and another one. The assailants kicked him and took his digital camera from him. They made him take out the memory card from his camera.</p>	<p>Colegio Nacional de Periodistas de Panamá. Press releases issued on August 13, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's Office // Panamá Actual: <i>"Protesta de trabajadores termina con dos heridos y periodistas agredidos"</i>. Article published on August 15, 2007, available at: http://www.panactual.com/noticias_detalle.asp?noti_code=44954</p>

PARAGUAY	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
In February, 2007, journalist Javier Núñez, correspondent of newspaper <i>Última Hora</i> and of <i>Canal 9</i> in Coronel Oviedo, department of Caaguazú, was threatened to death by a person accused of stealing and trafficking with automobiles. The reporter had reported on actions of the Prosecution that had revealed that the person accused had in his possession more than 80 parts of stolen vehicles. The journalist filed a report before the Prosecutor's Office, but it was not accepted on the grounds that it was a private action.	Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay, <i>El periodista Javier Núñez, amenazado de muerte</i> . Article published on February 20, 2007, available at: http://www.prnoticias.com/prn/hojas/noticias/detallenoticia.jsp?noticia=32340&repositorio=0&pagina=1&idapr=2_esp_1_ . / Cerigua, <i>Sindicato de Periodistas de Paraguay alertó sobre amenazas contra corresponsal</i> . Article published on February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.cerigua.org/portal/Article8052.html .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
THREATS	
Late in April 2007, journalist Oscar Bogado Silva received death threats over the phone. Before the first threat was received, unknown persons broke into his house and left all doors open without taking anything. The phone threats began in March 2006, after publishing the first article about local corruption and marijuana crops in the south border of Paraguay.	Observatorio Latinoamericano de Prensa: <i>"Amenazan a periodista por informar sobre corrupción y tráfico de drogas"</i> . Report 369 issued on May 5, 2007. // Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: <i>"Periodista Amenazado de muerte tras investigar narcotráfico en Itapúa"</i> . Report issued on May 22, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1121
On June 13, 2007, Paraguayan journalist Vladimir Jara, of radio <i>Chaco Boreal</i> , declared before the State's Attorney General's Office that he was threatened to death by agents of the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD). He further declared that his phones, mobile and fixed, have been tapped. Jara maintained that they may be getting back at him for comments that both he and journalist Víctor Benítez made regarding corrupt actions involving SENAD. Benítez also has his phone tapped, according to Jara.	Reporters Without Borders: <i>"Funcionarios de la administración antidroga interceptan los teléfonos y amenazan a dos periodistas radiofónicos"</i> . Release published on June 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22560 // Somosparaguay.com: <i>"SENAD pincha telefono de periodista, denuncia SPP"</i> . Article published on June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.somosparaguay.com.py/despachos.asp?cod_de_s=6575&ID Seccion=52
On June 25, 2007, the Journalists' Union of Paraguay denounced intimidating attacks against journalists by the authorities of the State. In a release, the organization stated that a member of the Chamber of Appeals of the Judicial Power of the city of Pilar, Rubén Franco, threatened to sue Mauricio Acosta, a correspondent of newspaper <i>Última Hora</i> , after he published a series of articles in which the social organizations criticized the local justice.	IFEX/ Journalists' Union of Paraguay: <i>"Miembro de Poder Judicial de Pilar amenaza a periodista tras artículo crítico"</i> . Release issued on June 26, 2007, available at: http://canada.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/84413/ // Somosparaguay.com. <i>"Camarista persigue a periodista en Pilar, denuncian"</i> . Article published on June 26, 2005, available at: http://www.somosparaguay.com.py/despachos.asp?cod_de_s=7204&ID Seccion=42
On June 27, 2007, the Journalists' Union of Paraguay denounced that journalist Clide Martínez, correspondent in the city of Pilar for newspaper <i>ABC Color</i> , had received death threats. Martínez reported that she was getting threats over the phone and also disclosed that the public advisor of Mecánica del Sur, a company belonging to the wife of deputy Benjamín Maciel Pasotti, threatened to sue her for questioning the construction of the city's contention walls. On June 29, 2007 the member of the legislature denied having anything to do with those threats and said that as the Public Attorney's Office he would open an investigation on the matter.	Journalists' Union of Paraguay: <i>"SPP denuncia y repudia amenazas de muerte a periodista Clide Martínez de Pilar"</i> . Release issued on June 27, 2007, sent to the e-mail of the Rapporteur's office. // <i>ABC Color: "Diputado niega acusación y pide ser investigado"</i> . Article published on June 30, 2007, available at: http://www.abc.com.py/articulos.php?pid=340254&ABCD IGITAL=8429c1ccb074dd88a00eccc757d665a7

PARAGUAY	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On July 15, 2007, there was found in Sao Paulo, Brazil, reporter Enrique Galeano, of <i>Radio Azotey</i>, who had disappeared since February 4, 2006. Two Paraguayan journalists who were investigating this case managed to contact him. Galeano told them that he had been kidnapped from his house and taken to Brazil. His assailants told him to remain silent or they would kill his family. Before disappearing, Galeano had received several anonymous death threats after reporting about alleged connections between the local government and drug dealers. On July 16, 2007, the President of Paraguay, Nicanor Duarte, attributed to a "farse" of the opposition and to "journalists without principles" all that happened to Galeano.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Missing radio journalist found 17 months after vanishing</i>". Alerta emitida el 16 de julio de 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/para16july07na.html // ABC: "<i>Enrique Galeano se encuentra en Uruguay a punto de lograr refugio</i>". Artículo publicado el 16 de julio de 2007, available at: http://www.abc.com.py/imprimir.php?pid=343846 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Un año y cinco meses después de su desaparición reaparece sano y salvo el periodista Enrique Galeano</i>". Alerta emitida el 16 de julio de 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22944</p>
<p>On August 15, 2007, in a forum organized by the Inter-American Press Association, the president of the Congress, Miguel Abdón Saguier and vice-president Óscar Salomón, signed the Chapultepec Declaration. At this meeting among legislators, journalists and members of non-governmental organizations, there was discussed an eventual law on access to information.</p>	<p>Inter-American Press Association: "<i>Foro de la SIP en Paraguay promueve ley de acceso a la información pública</i>". Article issued on August 15, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/presreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1961 //</p>
MURDERS	
<p>The night of August 22, 2007, Alberto Palma Godoy, Chilean journalist domiciled in Paraguay, where he worked in the local radio station <i>Mayor Otaño</i> and was a correspondent of radio station <i>Chaco Boreal</i>, was having dinner with some friends when two armed persons dressed in military attire and began to shoot at him. Palma Godoy was shot in the head, neck, arms and legs. The journalist used to make denunciations about organized crime and its relationship with the local authorities, according to the information handled by the press. Days before he died, the journalist had told persons close to him that he had been receiving death threats for his work as a journalist.</p>	<p>La Nación: "<i>Gobierno chileno solicita a Paraguay una investigación rigurosa por crimen de locutor</i>". Article published on August 29, 2007, available at: http://www.lanacion.com.py/imp_not.php?not=166952 // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>Condena la SIP asesinato de periodista en Paraguay</i>". News alert issued on August 24, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/presreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1967 // Vivaparaguay: "<i>Periodista asesinado en Paraguay deja viuda y tres hijos en Coyhaique</i>". Article published on August 25, 2007, available at: http://www.vivaparaguay.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=70690</p>
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>On September 26, 2007, journalist Mabel Rehnfeldt of newspaper <i>ABC Color</i> was attacked by Infantry sub-officer, Hermes Mitre Aguayo, a security guard of Víctor Bernal, director of Binational Hydroelectric Plant of Itaipú, when he was trying to take pictures of Bernal's house. Mitre tried to prevent her from taking more photos and tried to ram into the photographer's car.</p>	<p>IPYS/ IFEX: "<i>Guardia de funcionario público amedrenta a periodista investigando corrupción</i>". News alert issued on October 1, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86687.1.html // Viva Paraguay: "<i>Amedrentan a la periodista Mabel Rehnfeldt</i>". Article published on September 27, 2007, available at: http://www.vivaparaguay.com/modules/news/article.php?item_id=72797</p>

PARAGUAY	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>Late in August 2007, the journalist of radio station <i>Tekó Porá</i> of Presidente Franci, María Bartola Fernández, denounced having received a death threat after criticizing the lack of access to basic services of the community. The president of the Senate, Miguel Abdón Saguier, received her on August 30, 2007 and expressed his support to the reporter.</p>	<p>Neike: "<i>Saguier recibió a periodista amenazada en Presidente Franco</i>". Article published on August 30, 2007. available at: http://www.neike.com.py/articulo.php?id=5462 // Terra: "<i>Periodista paraguaya de una emisora de radio denuncia amenazas de muerte</i>". Article published on August 30, 2007, available at: http://actualidad.terra.es/sociedad/articulo/periodista_paraguaya_emisora_radio_denuncia_1811924.htm</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS-COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS	
<p>On July 7, 2007, community radio <i>Carayao</i> was closed by order of the local justice authorities. In June 2007, radio station <i>Chokokue</i> of the city of Minga Guazú, was also closed, as well as radio Tenonde ofo the National Peasant's Organization. Late in July 2007, the Center for Peasants' Education, Training and Technology denounced plans by the telecommunications agency CONATEL for closing a radio-school in this entity at Itapúa.</p>	<p>AMARC: "<i>Amenaza de cierre de una radio-escuela en Itapúa</i>". News alert issued on July 31, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur // AMARC: "<i>Otorgamiento de frecuencias discriminatorio y cierre de radios comunitarias en Paraguay</i>". News alert issued on July 16, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur. // Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay: "<i>SPP denuncia nuevas violaciones a la libertad de expresión y a los derechos laborales</i>". News alert issued on July 12, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Special Rapporteur's office.</p>

PERU	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
MURDERS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On March 16, 2007, journalist Miguel Pérez, of <i>Radio Éxito</i>, was murdered upon returning to his house with his wife and his two children. His wife was shot in the knee. The murderers fled on a motorcycle. The journalist had previously reported he had been followed by two people in a car. In his reports, he had accused the Major of Jaén of a bad administration and had also reported about local corruption and insecurity in the city.</p>	<p>Diario El Comercio, <i>Policía investiga crimen de periodista en Jaén</i>. Article published on February 19, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomerciope.com.pe/EdicionOnline/Html/2007-03-19/onEcPortada0692064.html. / Reporters Without Borders, <i>19.03.2007 - Radio reporter gunned down in an apparent contract killing linked to his work</i>. Press release of March 19, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21351. / Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, <i>Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression deplores murder of journalist in Peru and calls for due investigation</i>. Press release of March 21, 2007, available at: http://www.cidh.org/relatoria/showarticle.asp?artID=690&IID=1.</p>
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>On January 1, 2007, unidentified individuals broke into the house of journalist Marilú Gambini, who has been living in exile since April 2006 due to the death threats she received after publishing articles about drug trafficking. On January 2, 2007, two persons broke into her home once again and beat up her caretaker in an attempt to get him to reveal the whereabouts of the journalist.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Intentan obligar a vigilante de periodista amenazada a revelar su paradero, después de asaltar la vivienda de ella y destruir documentos</i>. Alert of March 9, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1000. / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i>. Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082.</p>
<p>On January 13, 2007, journalist Alfredo del Carpio Linares, from <i>Radio Armonía</i> of Camaná was beaten up by three unknown parties, two days after having received death threats. The reporter believes that the assaults are related to the coverage the radio carries out on problems of intercity traffic</p>	<p>Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe, <i>Amenazan y agreden a periodista en Cumaná</i>. Article published on February 9, 2007, available at: http://www.fatpren.org.ar/Secciones/PartesNacionales397.htm. / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Desconocidos golpean a periodista radial</i>. Alert of February 19, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1040.</p>
<p>On January 20, 2007, journalists Elizabeth Salinas, host and reporter of radio program <i>Satélite Noticias</i>, and Cinthia Florez, photographer for magazine <i>Cono Este</i>, were beaten up and insulted, allegedly by two Chosica municipal officials who threatened them to death, kicked them and told them to halt investigations on the administration of the mayor of Chosica, district of Lima. The harassment against the journalists started on October 2006, when they published a series of reports about allegations of corruption involving the mayor.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Funcionarios municipales agreden y amenazan de muerte a periodistas</i>. Alert of January 22, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1017. / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i>. Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082.</p>
<p>On February 15, 2007, journalist Efraín Chunga Lovón, host of the program <i>Panorama Noticias</i> of <i>Radio Salcantay</i>, was assaulted by the former mayor of Cusco. The journalist asked the former mayor about a claim against him about alleged administrative irregularities, and the former official destroyed the journalist's tape recorder.</p>	<p>Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i>. Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082. / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Ex alcalde golpea a periodista, y luego lo denuncia de haberlo agredido</i>. Alert of February 21, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1042.</p>

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FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On February 18, 2007, journalist Nicolás Palza Velarde, from <i>Radio Caplina</i> , was beaten up in the department of Tacna. According to the <i>National Association of Journalists of Peru</i> , the reporter identified among his assailants a former candidate in the municipal elections. The journalist had written critical reports about this candidate during the electoral campaign.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i> . Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082 . / Periodistas-es, <i>Un turba atenta contra el periodista de Radio Caplina Nicolás Palza Velarde</i> . Article published on February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=514 .
On February 20, 2007, journalist Karla Gómez Otoyá, from newspaper <i>Correo</i> , of the department of Trujillo, was attacked, presumably by a prison warden, while dining in a restaurant. The official allegedly also threatened the journalist to death. The reporter had heard conversations that implicated the assailant.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas, <i>ANP rechaza agresión de director de cárcel contra periodista de Trujillo, Perú</i> . Press release of February 24, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=4671&Language=ES . / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Director de cárcel golpea y amenaza de muerte a reportera</i> . Alert of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1043 .
On March 9, 2007, journalists Marco Antonio Vásquez and Marco Sifuentes, from television program <i>La Ventana Indiscreta</i> , of Lima, were assaulted by a group of political activists while they were recording the speech of a former Vice Minister of Housing.	Intercambio Internacional por la Libertad de Expresión (IFEX), <i>Militantes políticos agreden a dos periodistas por grabar reunión partidaria privada</i> . Alert of March 22, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81918/ . / Frecuencia Latina, <i>Periodistas de La Ventana Indiscreta fueron agredidos por militantes apristas</i> . Article available at: http://www.frecuencialatina.com.pe/90segundos/detalle.asp?Catid=68&NewsId=22501 .
On March 10, 2007, journalist Julio Aguirre Domínguez, of <i>Radio Concierto</i> , was assaulted by a group of demonstrators. On March 11, 2007, reporter Peter Donato, from <i>Radio Emanuelle</i> , was beaten by the same group, who also snatched his recording equipment and his camera. The events took place in the Province of Tocache.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Grupo de cocaleros agrede a periodistas durante protestas</i> . Alert of March 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1049 .
On March 14, 2007, journalist Yolanda Mío Arteaga, assistant director of news program <i>Primer Impacto</i> from <i>Canal 31</i> , was beaten, presumably by members of a mafia that operates in illegal fishing. They also snatched her video-recorder.	Intercambio Internacional para la Libertad de Expresión (IFEX), <i>Agreden a periodista que investigue la pesca ilegal, roban su video y videogradora</i> . Alert of March 20, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81866/ . / La República, <i>Lanzan bomba lacrimógena contra vivienda de periodista en Bagua</i> . Article published on March 24, 2007, available at: http://www.larepublica.com.pe/content/view/149114/483/ .
On March 22, 2007, two men threw a tear bomb against the house of journalist Hermes Rivera, current public relations official in the municipality of Cajaruro, region of Amazonas. The journalist had been receiving threats since March 18, 2007, in which they were told to stop commenting on the case of Miguel Pérez Julca, journalist murdered in Jaén on March 17, 2007.	La República, <i>Lanzan bomba lacrimógena contra vivienda de periodista en Bagua</i> . Article dated March 24, 2007, available at: http://www.larepublica.com.pe/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=149114&Itemid=0 . / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Desconocidos lanzan bomba lacrimógena contra vivienda de periodista en Amazonas, exigen silencio sobre asesinato de periodista en Jaén</i> . Alert of March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/82007/ .

PERU	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On March 22, 2007, an official from the Municipality of Andahuaylas, department of Apurímac, incited people to destroy the transmission antenna of <i>Radio Panorama</i>. In addition, the official summoned the people to seize the premises of the radio and to expel journalists Ronald Ripa, of the program <i>Frente a la Prensa</i>; Mario Espinoza, of the program <i>Andahuaylas en la Noticia</i>, and Niño Gonzáles, of the program <i>Sin Censura</i>. The journalists stated this was in retaliation for allowing citizens to voice their opinions about the salary raise of the mayor and his staff, in their programs on March 14, 2007.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Funcionarios municipales incitan a la población a destruir instalaciones de radio y expulsar a periodistas de la ciudad</i>. Article published on March 24, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=741.</p>
THREATS	
<p>On January 26, 2007, journalist Antonio Asalde Lluen, director of newspaper <i>El Guerrero de Casma</i>, was threatened to death, allegedly by the personal adviser of the city's mayor. The reporter said that the aggressor threatened him and his family to death for having made public irregularities in the mayor's administration.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Asesor de alcalde amenaza de muerte a periodista</i>. Alert of January 29, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1021. / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i>. Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082.</p>
<p>On February 6, 2007, journalist Hugo Gonzáles Hinostroza, from newspaper <i>YA</i>, reported he had been threatened to death by a union leader of Ancash. According to the journalist, the threat was a consequence of an article he had written about the trafficking of influences in the regional Government.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Dirigente sindical amenaza de muerte a periodista</i>. Alert of February 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1034. / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i>. Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082.</p>
<p>On February 12, 2007, journalist Edwin Ocropoma Reynaga, reporter of program <i>Día a Día</i> of <i>AMR Televisión</i>, received death threats. The journalist presumes they were prompted by two reports he has written about acts of corruption in the municipal police and in the <i>Front for the Defense of the Interests of Huaraz</i>.</p>	<p>Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i>. Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082. / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Amenazan de muerte a periodista en Huaraz</i>. Alert of February 16, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1038.</p>
<p>On February 19, 2007, journalist Aldo Meza Torres, of <i>Radio Calor</i>, received a threatening phone call warning him that he would be beaten up if he continued criticizing the administration of the Casma police, in the region of Ancash. The intimidation was received while he was broadcasting his program, <i>Rompiendo Esquemas</i>.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Amenazan a periodista por criticar labor de policía</i>. Alert of February 20, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1041. / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Call for disciplinary measures by interior minister in response to death threats and attacks on journalists</i>. Press release of February 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21082.</p>
<p>On February 24, 2007, two persons arrived to the house of journalist Elías Navarro Palomino, director of weekly <i>Línea Roja</i> and correspondent for newspaper <i>La República</i> of Ayacucho, and interrogated his daughter. Five months before, he had suffered an assassination attempt, of which he escaped unharmed. He is still being threatened and harassed. The reporter has published articles about several cases of corruption.</p>	<p>Reporters Without Borders, <i>Ayacucho-based journalist still being harassed and threatened five months after escaping targeted explosion</i>. Press release of March 1, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21147.</p>

PERU	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On March 13, 2007, journalist Porfirio Centurión Pina, host of the program <i>Opinión</i> , in <i>Radio C</i> of Moyobamba, province of San Martín, was threatened to death over the telephone. On March 15, 2007, he was followed by three individuals. In addition, Fernando Mejia Cornelio of radio <i>MCZ</i> of Bellavista, and Raúl Mendoza Paredes, of radio <i>Antena 3</i> of Juanjuí, reported having received death threats over the telephone. The communicators considered that the threats were a reaction to their reports critical to local authorities.	International Federation of Journalists, <i>Avalancha de agresiones contra periodistas peruanos denuncia la ANP</i> . Article dated March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=4777&Language=EN/Correo, Tres periodistas denuncian que son amenazados de muerte . Article dated April 2, 2007, available at: http://www.correoperu.com.pe/correonorte/chiclayo/nota.php?id=5221 .
On March 21, 2007, journalists Juan Vásquez, correspondent of <i>América Noticias</i> and journalist of <i>Canal 9</i> in Jaén; Ismael Burga, correspondent for <i>Ideeleradio</i> and journalist of <i>Radio Marañón</i> , and Walter Altamirano, of <i>Radio Amajú</i> , reported having received text messages containing death threats on their cellular. The messages said they would be next to be murdered if they continued to investigate acts of corruption in Jaén, in the Cajamarca region, and mobilizing people to go out to the streets to protest against the city's insecurity.	International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), <i>Amenazan de muerte a tres periodistas de Jaén, Perú, tras asesinato de colega</i> . Article published on March 22, 2007 available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=4757&Language=EN . / Agencia Peruana de Noticias, <i>Policía brinda protección a periodista amenazado en Jaén</i> . Article published on March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.andina.com.pe/NoticiaDetalle.aspx?id=120120 .
On March 26, 2007, journalist Félix Montellanos Huapaya, director of twice-monthly magazine <i>El Solitario de Lurín</i> , province of Lima, informed that he had been threatened on the street. The journalist had reported a series of irregularities that have been taking place in the municipality of Lurín, related to the contracts in the city security department.	Observatorio Latinoamericano para la Libertad de Expresión, <i>Amenazan a periodista en Lurín</i> . Article published on March 27, 2007, available at: http://www.ceso-fip.com/noticiaAmpliar.php?noticia=497 . / Crónica Viva, <i>Amenazan a periodista en Lurín</i> . Article available at: http://www.cronicaviva.com.pe/prensa/amenazan-a-periodista-en-lurin.html .
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On February 17, 2007, program <i>Punto Clave</i> , of journalist Daniel Arriola Apuela, broadcasted in <i>Radio Nauta</i> , was suspended by the owner of the station after the journalist refused to stop criticizing the administration of the mayor and of several provincial municipality officials in Loreto.	Intercambio Internacional por la Libertad de Expresión, <i>Despiden a periodista radial y cancelan su programa por criticar gestión municipal en Loreto</i> . Alert of March 2, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/fr/content/view/full/81458/ . / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Despiden a periodista radial y cancelan su programa por criticar la gestión municipal</i> . Alert of March 1, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1044 .
CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOURCES	
On March 19, 2007, Judge José Córdova Escoba entered with violence into the broadcasting cabin of <i>Radio Antena 3</i> and interrupted the live transmission of the program <i>Antena Noticias</i> , hosted by journalist Raúl Mendoza Paredes. The judge expected the reporter to reveal the identity of a source who provided the journalist with information involving the judge in a case of fraud and document forgery.	Intercambio Internacional para la Libertad de Expresión (IFEX), <i>Juez irrumpe en programa radial para exigir que periodista revele identidad de una fuente</i> . Alert of March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/82009/ . Agencia Peruana de Noticias, <i>Juez de San Martín irrumpe en programa radial para exigir que periodista revele identidad de una fuente</i> . Article dated March 23, 2007, available at: http://www.andina.com.pe/NoticiaDetalle.aspx?id=120129 .

PERU	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
PROGRESS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On May 17, 2007, the president of Peru, Alan García, signed the Chapultepec Declaration and proposed the creation of a special court that hears the cases related to freedom of the press and freedom of expression. He entrusted the Judicial Power and the Office of the Control of the Justices to analyze his suggestion. On June 15, 2007, the chief of the Supreme Court, Francisco Távora Córdova, announced that he would propose creating a special national chamber to hear the cases of assassinations and attacks against journalists, as a result of the questioning arising regarding the proceedings in the assassination of journalists Miguel Pérez Julca, Antonio de la Torre, and Alberto Rivera Fernández.</p>	<p>Release from the National Journalists' Association of Peru, issued on May 18, 2007 // Agencia Peru.com: "<i>García plantea creación de juzgado que atienda delitos contra la prensa</i>". Article published on May 17, 2007, available at: http://www.agenciaperu.com/actualidad/2007/may/garcia_chapultepec.html // Release by the National Association of Journalists of Peru issued on May 15, 2007.</p>
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>Journalist Rita Clemente Ramos of <i>ATV</i> denounced before the Justice that on April 4, 2007 she was hit by a tear bomb thrown by members of the National Police when she was covering the protests on the border with Chile. The journalist was seriously wounded in the legs and has not been able to return to work. On May 24, 2007, Clemente filed a criminal accusation against the head of the police of Tacna, colonel Juan José Santiváñez Marín, who was directing the police in the protests.</p>	<p>International Federation of Journalists: "<i>ANP: Bomba lacrimógena incapacita a periodista en Tacna, Perú</i>". Release published on June 7, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5000&Language=EN // Cronica Viva: "<i>Investigan agresión que dejó incapacitada a periodista</i>". Article available at: http://www.cronicaviva.com.pe/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9636&Itemid=28</p>
<p>On April 27, 2007, eight policemen attacked journalist Irwin Berríos, from <i>Radio Super FM</i>, and independent cameraman, Abraham Rolando Estela. The reporters filmed the policemen while they were drinking liquor at a bar in the city of Ambo, Huánuco region, where there was a march of coca sowing peasants. According to the journalists' testimony, the policemen tried to keep the journalists from filming them, by covering the camera and struggling with the reporters.</p>	<p>IFEX - Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Policías agreden a reporteros y destrozan videograbadora en Ambo</i>". Press release issued on May 11, 2007 // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>ANP: Policías agreden a periodistas de Huanuco, Perú</i>". Release published on May 14, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4927&Language=ES // National Journalists' Association of Peru: "<i>Policías agreden a periodistas</i>". Press Release received by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression on May 14, 2007.</p>
<p>On May 22, 2007, cameraman Luis Cumpa Quiroga, correspondent of <i>América Televisión</i>, was hit by the mayor of the district of Cajaruro. According to information received, the mayor was leaving a judicial hearing at which he was sentenced to prison for usurpation of functions, and without a word, he attacked the cameraman.</p>	<p>IFEX, Mayor hits a cameraman in <i>Amazonas</i>. Alert issued on May 25, 2007. // Correo de Perú: "<i>Alcalde en Cajaruro agrede a camarógrafo de América</i>". Article published in May 2007, available at: http://www.correoperu.com.pe/correonorte/chiclayo/nota.php?id=6943</p>
<p>On June 5, 2007, journalist Antonio Freyre Pizango, of the program "<i>Buenos Días Requena</i>" in <i>Radio Jabes</i>, was attacked by a cameraman of the regional government of Loreto and by a group of followers, when he covered a protest rally organized by Requena, in the northwest of the country. The journalist was hit when he tried to interview a group of salesmen that had not joined the rally.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Manifestantes agreden a periodista en Loreto</i>". Release issued on June 12, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1163</p>

PERU	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On June 28, 2007, several persons fired their shotguns against five journalists that were covering an illegal occupation of cultivable lands. None of the reporters was hurt, but some villagers, who had called them, stood in front of them to protect them and eight of them were wounded.	Reporters without Borders: <i>"Disparan a cinco periodistas cuando hacían un reportaje, otras ocho personas resultaron heridas"</i> . Release issued on July 5, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22835 // IFEX - Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: <i>"Traficantes de tierras abalean a periodistas, hieren a comuneros que los protegían"</i> . Release sent on July 3, 2007.
On June 20, 2007, journalist Francisco Rodríguez Robles, of radio <i>Huaraz</i> , reported that he was attacked by a group of teachers that the journalist recognized as members of the Sindicato Unitario de Trabajadores de la Educación de Perú (Union of Education Workers of Peru), when he was covering a protest against the national government. The attackers pushed him to the ground and hit him, in an attempt to prevent him from reporting about the rally. Rodríguez Robles filed the accusation before the Police.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: <i>"Maestros agreden a periodista radial durante protesta en Huaraz"</i> . Release issued on June 22, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1169
THREATS	
On April 11, 2007, Sandor Renilla Horna, director of TV program <i>"Punto 31"</i> on <i>Canal 31</i> , received death threats after showing a video with policemen firing against the protesters of the Frente de Defensa de la Provincia del Santa (Front to Defend Santa Province) and the Frente por los Intereses del Pueblo de Huaraz (Front for the Interests of Huaraz town), which took place the same day in Chimbote, in the northeast of the country.	IFEX: <i>"Periodista recibe amenazas de muerte tras difundir imágenes de la policía disparando contra manifestantes en Chimbote"</i> . News alert of April 12, 2007 // Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: <i>"Amenazan de muerte a periodista tras difundir imágenes de la Policía disparando contra manifestantes"</i> . Release issued on April 12, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1086
The speaker of the noon news program of radio <i>California</i> , Danilo Bautista Hernández, reported that a group of persons threatened and tried to attack him on May 15, 2007. The journalist indicated that this is related to the fact that he had reported the results of an investigation about the contract for the transfer of the water services between the Municipality and a private company. On the same day, according to the Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad, at a public hearing, members of the Frente de la Defensa stated their intention to kill him. The journalist has requested personal guarantees from the government of the district.	Observatorio Lationamericano de Prensa: <i>"Periodista denuncia amenazas"</i> . Report 379 issued on May 16, 2007. // IFEX-Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: <i>"Periodista corre peligro de asesinato tras evadir ataque de manifestantes enojados con sus reportajes"</i> . News alert published on May 16, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/83421
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On June 21, 2007, officials of the Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC) ordered the withdrawal of two drawings of the exhibit <i>"Dibujos En Prensa/1990-2007"</i> by political cartoonist Piero Quijano. The drawings showed breaches of human rights and a potential privatization of the ruins of Machu Picchu, and had been published in the press. The day after, with the exhibit already inaugurated, the INC asked that a third drawing that showed president Alan García be removed. Quijano and Armando Williams, director of Casa Museo José Carlos Mariátegui where the exhibit was shown, decided to close the exhibit. Williams, further, quit his job.	IFEX/ Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: <i>"Instituto Nacional de Cultural censura muestra de dibujos de caricaturista político"</i> . Release issued on June 29, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/84528/ // El Comercio.com.pe: <i>"Es deplorable la censura del INC contra obra de Piero Quijano"</i> . Article published on June 27, 2007, available at: http://www.elcomercio.com.pe/EdicionOnline/HTML/oiEcUltimas/2007-06-27/oiEcUltimas0412334.html // International Herald Tribune: <i>"Peruvian cartoonist says government censored his art"</i> . Article published on June 27, 2007, available at: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/06/27/america/LA-GEN-Peru-Censored-Art.php

PERU	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On May 22, 2007, the Fifth Criminal Court of Lima sentenced journalist Rocío Vásquez Goicochea, director of <i>Investigando Chimbote</i> , to one year of imprisonment and to pay 3 thousand soles (US\$ 900) for civil redress. Vásquez Goicochea had been sued by a fishery entrepreneur in March 2005, as a result of a press investigation about corruption and illegal fishing practices. The decision was appealed the next day.	National Association of Journalists of Peru: " <i>Sentencian a periodista que fue querellada</i> ". Press release issued on May 24, 2007.// Committee to Protect Journalists. " <i>Rocío Vásquez Goicochea, Investigando Chimbote</i> ". Release issued on May 22, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/peru22may07ca.html
On June 15, 2007, there was the hearing of the case of Nelson Manrique Gálvez, a university professor who was sued for libel in 2005 by the then congressman Rafael Rey, for mentioning him in a critical way in a column published in <i>Perú 21</i> . In March 2006, the courts acquitted Manrique Gálvez from the crime against honor. Rey assumed the office of Minister of Production on July 28, 2006. On August 16, the same court that had absolved the university professor declared that decision to be void. On January 9, 2007 another court condemned Manrique Gálvez for aggravated libel, plus payment of civil redress. The academician appealed the decision, and the same court that acquitted him first and then annulled its decision shall be the court in charge of deciding this case.	E-mail sent to the Office of the Special Rapporteur by the Legal Defense Institute, on June 22, 2007.
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
PROGRESS	
In June 2007, the president of the Judicial Power, Francisco Távara, proposed three legislative initiatives to penalize the crimes against journalists. The first initiative refers to a reasonable expansion of the legal term for detention in cases of homicides against journalists; the second one refers to the non-lapsing or expansion of these terms of the criminal action for the same cases; and the third initiative refers to the acknowledgement of an ad-hoc association formed by journalism professionals, to perform the role of supervision in oral proceedings.	Andina-Agencia Peruana de Noticias: " <i>Távvara plantea imprescriptibilidad de crímenes contra periodistas</i> ". Article published on July 25, 2007, available at: http://www.andina.com.pe/NoticiaDetalle.aspx?id=134863// ANP: " <i>Presidente de Corte Suprema propone imprescriptibilidad de crímenes contra periodistas</i> ". News alert issued on July 15, 2007 by the ANP to the e-mail of the Special Rapporteur's Office.
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
On July 12 and 13, 2007, several journalists of the city of Huanta were forced by a group of teachers to sign a memorandum in which they undertook to deliver to them photographs and audio and video recordings of the protests of the teachers in the Ayacucho, in the south of the country. The journalists were Renato Sapaico, of radio <i>Huanta 2000</i> ; Carlos Buendía, of newspaper <i>Correo</i> ; Alejandro Coronado, correspondent of <i>América TV</i> , Máximo Palomino, of <i>Canal 11</i> ; Saúl Montero, of radio <i>Amauta</i> ; and Wilder Cisneros, a collaborator of <i>Radio Programas del Perú</i> . They tried to take Cisneros' mobile phone while he was interviewing governor Vladimir Montero, retained by the teachers for several hours. The protester's aggression forced Cisneros to end his report, in hiding, at a house near the place.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Periodistas han sido maltratados recientemente por maestros en dos regiones distintos del país. Un periodista recibió amenazas de muerte</i> ". News alert published on July 20, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85038// Perú.21: " <i>Gobierno y Sutep acuerdan levantar huelga de maestros</i> ". Article published on July 20, 2007, available at: http://www1.peru21.com/P21Impreso/Html/2007-07-20/ImP2Politica0756700.html// El Comercio: " <i>Cusco. Los profesores dan el mal ejemplo: Suspenden vuelos en aeropuerto debido a incendio de pastizales</i> ". Article published on July 20, 2007, available at: http://www1.elcomercio.com.pe/EdicionImpresa/Html/2007-07-20/ImEcNacional0756667.html .

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THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On July 19, 2007, journalist Carlos Carrillo Berbeño, correspondent of newspaper <i>La República</i> and <i>Radio Programas del Peru</i> , was beat up by a mob of teachers when he was covering the strikers attempt to take over the facilities of the Cusco airport. Carrillo Berbeño said that the assailants destroyed his camera, then threw him on the floor and kicked him until he passed out. The intervention by a member of the People's Defense Office avoided that the crowd continue hitting the journalist, who was taken to the hospital at Cusco.	IPYS/ IFEX: " <i>Periodista golpeado por maestros huelguistas, hospitalizado; su cámara destruida</i> ". Alert issued on July 23, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/fr/content/view/full/85048/ //
On July 19, 2007, Miguel Satalaya, a cameraman of television channel <i>Uranio 15</i> , was beaten up by a group of teachers on strike that tried to boycott the starting of classes at the school Sagrada Familia. This took place in the city of Tingo María, in the Huánuco region, in the center-east of the country.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Periodistas han sido maltratados recientemente por maestros en dos regiones distintos del país. Un periodista recibió amenazas de muerte</i> ". Alerta publicada el 20 de julio de 2007, published en: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85038/ // ONPE: " <i>Organizaciones políticas entregaron a ONPE informe de aportes privados del primer semestre</i> ". Artículo publicado el 19 de julio de 2007, available at: http://www.onpe.gob.pe/prensa/prensa02A.php?id=6133 .
On September 24, 2007, journalist Abel Gonzáles Vargas, of <i>Radio Concierto</i> , was hit by Edwin Usuriaga Paz, president of the Frente de Defensa de Tocache, an alliance of social movements that support the demands of the coca leaf producers in Tocache. Usuriaga hit the journalist while he was interviewing him live about the strike of the producers that began that day. The reported had stated that he thought the strike had failed.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Dirigente social golpea a periodista por criticar huelga de cocaleros durante entrevista en Tocache</i> ". News alert issued on September 25, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86518.1.html // Ideeleradio: " <i>Interpondrían acciones legales contra dirigente del Frente de Defensa de Tocahe que agredió a conductor radial</i> ". Article published on September 25, 2007, available at: http://www.ideeleradio.org.pe/look/Ideeleradio/article.tpl?IdLanguage=13&IdPublication=7&NrIssue=43&NrSection=50&NrArticle=16981 .
On September 4, 2007, the mayor of Huarí, Edwards Vizcarra Zorrilla, and a group of dwellers burned several copies of newspaper <i>La Primera</i> , directed by journalist Robin Hood Ipanaqué Hidalgo, during a protest rally at the Plaza de Armas. This action was due to the denouncements published by the newspaper about corrupt acts allegedly perpetrated by the mayor and his officials.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Alcalde quema ejemplares de diario en Plaza de Armas</i> ". News alert issued on September 5, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1231/ // La Primera: " <i>Amenazan de muerte a periodista en Huaraz</i> ". Article published on September 7, 2007, available at: http://www.laprimera Peru.com/edicionNota.php?Idnoticia=3700&EN=896

PERU	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On July 16, 2007, policemen destroyed the facilities of the radio station of the community of Campacchocha, denounced journalists Roxana Cárdenas and Alipio Cancho, of the program "Diario de Noticias" at <i>Radio Agricultura</i> . The police agents arrived to contain a protest in the community.	Asociación Nacional de Periodistas de Perú: "Causan destrozos en radio comunal". News alert issued on August 8, 2007, sent to the e-mail of the Special Rapporteur's Office.
On September 14, 2007, personnel of the National Penitentiary Institute (Instituto Nacional Penitenciario) (INPE) of the maximum security jail Cambio Puente in Chimbote, Ancash, fired a shotgun at several journalists to prevent them from taking pictures of a hunger strike of interns. After this happened, the director of the center, José Hugo Torres, admitted that his personnel had made shots against the journalists because it was forbidden to take pictures of that prison.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: "Personal de seguridad de cárcel dispara contra periodistas". Article published on September 17, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1245// El Correo: "Agentes del INPE disparan contra periodistas". Article published on November 16, 2007, available at: http://www.correoperu.com.pe/paginas_noticia.php?nota_id=55437&seccion_noticia=5
On November 11, 2007, journalist José Ramírez, collaborator of newspaper <i>La Primera</i> , denounced having been ambushed, together with the driver and two of his friends, in road to Huari, Ancash, by a group of municipal officials, among which the mayor, Edward Vizcarra Zorrilla. Their car was persecuted until stopped in a zone of the road that was blocked by a stone wall, making shots to the air. The municipal officials forced the journalist and his friends to get out of the car and Sergio Ramírez managed to escape, but he heard the mayor order his bodyguard to kill him and through his body in the river. The attack is related to the denouncements made by the reporter about the mayor's alleged corrupt acts.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: "Periodista denuncia celada organizada por Alcalde". Article published on November 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1322// La República: "Periodista denuncia celada de muerte". Article published on November 15, 2007, available at: http://www.larepublica.com.pe/content/view/188624/483/
On November 23, 2007, journalist Dan Martín de Danilo Bautista Hernández, of the news program <i>Mediodía</i> , of <i>Radio California</i> , in Nueva Cajamarca, San Martín, was a victim of a murder attempt perpetrated by two men who put a gun to his cheek and then fled. This episode may be due to the many criticisms that the journalist has made against the Frente de Defensa de los Intereses de Nueva Cajamarca (FEDINC), which has threatened him twice this year.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "Intentan asesinar a un periodista amenazado por una organización local". Press release published on November 29, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24572// Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "Sicarios intentan asesinar a periodista en San Martín". Article published on November 26, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1338
CALL FOR VIOLENCE	
On July 31, 2007, journalist Ronald Ripa, of <i>Radio Panorama</i> and correspondent of <i>Ideele Radio</i> , denounced that after reporting about the violence in the protests of peasants of Andahuaylas, a city located in the south-east of the country, two radio stations in the one encouraged the community members to attack him, broadcasting the recordings of his report, and made him responsible for the death of a protester, alleging that his press article promoted the arrival of more policemen to repress the protest.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: "Rocían con combustible instalaciones de radio". News alert published on October 14, 2005, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/69808 . // Periodistas-es: "Dos emisoras de radio rurales incitan a agredir a otros periodistas tras sus reportajes sobre protestas campesinas". Article published on August 5, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/articulo.asp?cod_articulo=1605 .

PERU	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On July 4, 2007, journalist Eloy Calderón denounced having been threatened to death through a phone call received after his program, "Sur Noticias", broadcast images of the excesses committed by police officers against the protesters who had taken the Maravillas bridge in Juliaca, Puno. The same day, journalist Isaac Iparraguirre denounced having been attacked by a group of protesters while	Asociación Nacional de Periodistas: "Amenazan y agreden a periodistas en Juliaca". Alert by the Asociación Nacional de Periodistas del Perú sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur on July 5, 2007.
On November 5, 2007, journalists of the city of Tocache asked the state government to give them personal guaranties and filed a denouncement with the Provincial Prosecutor's Office against leader Sergio Gonzáles Zapata, of the Coke Growers' Association "Saúl Guevara Díaz", for threatening him at a meeting of the association prior to the strike that began on November 2. The leader accused the reporters of misinforming the people and encouraged the peasants to attack them.	IPYS: "Dirigente cocalero amenaza periodistas que piden garantías para su seguridad". Article published on November 6, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1312 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "Cinco periodistas amenazados de muerte por el dirigente de una asociación de productores de coca." News alert issued on November 9, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24318
On August 2, 2007, journalist Manuel Velásquez Montero, director of the program "La Voz Regional" at Radio Ferreñafe, denounced that the mayor William Cabrejos arrived at the station shouting vulgar words, trying to force the door open and even trying to get to the transmission cabin, threatening the journalist all the time. The mayor demanded that he be interviewed in order to exercise his right to reply about the denunciations made against him alleging an arbitrary dismissal of a municipal worker.	Asociación Nacional de Periodistas: "Alcalde intenta agredir a periodista". News alert by the National Press Association of Peru sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur on August 4, 2007// Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: "Alcalde amenaza a periodista y exige derecho a réplica". Article published on August 7, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1212
On August 27, 2007, journalist of newspaper Correo, Agustín Roque Ramos, was threatened through a phone call made to his cell phone. This happened after the journalist published a denouncement for alleged fraud by the members of the Organizing Commission of a car competition between the provinces of Azángaro and Carabaya.	Crónica Viva: "Amenazan telefónicamente a periodista de diario Correo". Article published in August 2007, available at: http://www.cronicaviva.com.pe/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16445&Itemid=28 // Asociación Nacional de Periodista del Perú: "Amenazan telefónicamente a periodista de diario Correo". News alert issued on September 4, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur.
On September 5, 2007, journalist Robin Hood Ipanaque Hidalgo, director of newspaper La Primera, received a death threat through his cell phone warning him to stop publishing the corruption denunciations that involve the mayor Huari, Edwards Vizcarra Zorrilla, and businessman Rubén Alfaro Reaño. This happened in the region of Áncash, in the north-east of the country. According to the journalist, for several years he has been getting anonymous calls threatening him to not continue his investigations. Ipanaque has asked for personal protection guaranties from the governor's office and the local police.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "Amenazan de muerte a periodista para que deje de investigar a alcalde y a empresario". Article published on September 6, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1238 // La Primera: "Amenazan de muerte a periodista en Huaraz". Article published on September 7, 2007, available at: http://www.laprimera Peru.com/edicionNota.php?IDnoticia=3700&EN=896
On September 10, 2007, journalist Julio César Mendoza Escobar, presenter of program "El matador" by Radio Candela, received death threats from two men who stood before the house of the journalist, known locally for denouncing misappropriations that involve municipal officials. According to the journalist, these threats would be due to the denouncements made against the mayor Víctor Hidalgo Rojas regarding the crimes of nepotism, misappropriation of funds, over-valuation of costs of public works, among others.	Reporters Without Borders: "Un periodista radiofónico recibe amenazas tras revelar un caso de favoritismo municipal". Article published on September 19, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23711 //

PERU	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On September 17, 2007, three persons approached journalist Gudelia Gálvez Tafur at her front door in Huaraz, and threatened to kill her and retaliate against her family if she continued criticizing the administration of the regional president of Ancash, César Álvarez Aguilar.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Amenazan de muerte a periodista por criticar a presidente regional</i> ". Article published on September 18, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1265
On November 7 and 10, 2007, journalist Víctor Balcázar Porras, of the magazine <i>Destape</i> , received two death threats by e-mail which included his family, warning him that he was being followed. This happened after he published a note in his web site about the attack by police lieutenant Carlos Valencia Aguirre to his wife.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Amenazan de muerte a periodista tras publicar noticia sobre policía</i> ". Article published on November 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1321 // Periodistas-es: " <i>El periodista peruano Víctor Balcázar y su familia amenazados de muerte por informar de una agresión de género cometida por un policía</i> ". Article published on November 15, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=2248
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On June 30, 2007, president Alan García declared his support to the censorship of an exhibit of newspaper illustrations by painter Piero Quijano, entitled " <i>Dibujos de Prensa/1990-2007</i> ", stating that "it cannot be tolerated that the Armed Forces be insulted in a public place." The exhibit illustrated journalist articles regarding the Report on the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, and about the policy on privatizations and the president's paternity.	IPYS: " <i>Dos casos de intolerancia contra la libertad de expresión</i> ". News alert issued on July 3, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/comunicados.shtml // Comité Mundial de Libertad de Prensa: Carta del Comité Mundial de Libertad de Prensa al Presidente del Perú Alan García Pérez, sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur on July 19, 2007.
On August 4, 2007, journalist Glenda Mello Pinedo, of the program <i>Enfoques</i> , by TV <i>Tarapoto</i> , denounced that her program was taken off the cable transmission of company <i>TVSAM</i> due to the criticism made against the administration of the majority shareholder of said company, Sandro Rivero Uzátegui, who is in turn the mayor of Tarapoto.	Coordinadora Nacional de Radio: " <i>Denuncian presunta censura a programa periodístico en Tarapoto</i> ". Article published on August 6, 2007, available at: http://www.cnr.org.pe/noticia.php?id=19048 // Asociación Nacional de Periodistas: " <i>Censuran programa periodístico en Tarapoto</i> ". News alert sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur by the National Press Association of Peru on August 7, 2007.
On September 13, 2007, government authorities closed Radio Orión and seized all the materials required for broadcasting, in a violent intervention at the home of the radio station's owner, by police officers. The closure was due to the criticism made over the radio regarding the assistance and indemnities for victims of the Pisco earthquake of August 15, and not to the expiration of the license for broadcasting. The owner of the radio station, Eloy Yong Meza, has filed a judicial appeal but, by law, the station will be closed until this litigation is resolved.	La República: " <i>Gobierno cierra radio Orión de Pisco y policía incauta equipos de transmisión</i> ". Article published on September 14, 2007, available at: http://www.larepublica.com.pe/content/view/177921/483/ / Asociación Nacional de Prensa: " <i>Cierran radio Orión de Pisco e incautan equipos de transmisión</i> ". Alert sent to the Office of the Special Rapporteur on September 14, 2007 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Cierran a la fuerza una radio local, otra padece fuertes presiones gubernamentales: 'los medios no están a las órdenes'</i> ". Press release dated September 17, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23681

PERU	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On July 3, 2007, journalist Enrique Lazo Flores, director of the newspaper <i>La Región Puerto-Ilo</i> , in the province of Ilo, in the region of Moquegua, reported that he was sued before the Special Criminal Court of Ilo. Enrique Lazo reported that the suit was filed by union leaders Arnaldo Oviedo Del Carpio, Oscar Juárez Viza and Fernández Dávila Flores, and that the same relates to the opinions he issued in a mass medium regarding their activities.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>ANP: Querellan a periodista en Ilo, Perú</i> ". Press release issued on August 11, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5208&Language=ES//Crónica Viva: "Querellan a periodista en Ilo" . Article published on August 13, 2007, available at: http://www.cronicaviva.com.pe/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14474&Itemid=28
On August 6, 2007, judge David Beraun Sánchez, of the First Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Huánuco, decided to admit the suit against journalist Lenia Zevallos Pascal, political editor of newspaper <i>Correo</i> , and the director of said newspaper, Héctor Mayhuire Rodríguez. Both were accused by the mayor of Huánuco, Jesús Giles Alipazaga, for the crimes of defamation and slander.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Juez admite querrela de alcalde contra periodistas</i> ". Press release issued on August 22, 2007, available at: <a "figureti""="" "koko="" a="" alcalde="" giles"="" href="http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85747/index.html//Coordinadora de Prensa Huánuco: " llamarlo="" periodista="" por="" provincial="" querrela="">http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85747/index.html//Coordinadora de Prensa Huánuco: "Alcalde provincial "Koko Giles" querrela a periodista por llamarlo "figureti"". News alert issued on August 22, 2007, available at: http://www.huanucoaldia.com/coordinadora.html?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=14&Itemid=36.
On August 20, 2007, lawyer Tica Luizar Obregón, sister of congressman Oswaldo Luizar Obregón, denounced journalist Yrma Zela Vera of newspaper <i>Correo</i> de Cusco for defamation. On April 13, 2007, Zela published that the lawyer had threatened the police at the San Sebastian precinct, in Cusco, south of the country.	Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Hermana de congresista denuncia por difamación a periodista</i> ". News alert published on August 22, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85748/index.html//Periodistasperu.com: "Alcalde de Huánuco y hermana quieren intimidar a la prensa"". Article published on July 25, 2007, available at http://www.periodistaperu.com/web//print.php?id=1188937717&archive=
On September 18, 2007, judge Haydee Monzón sentenced the director of newspaper <i>La República</i> , Gustavo Mohme, cartoonist Carlos Tovar Samanez and journalists Ángel Páez and Edmundo Cruz, of the same newspaper, for aggravated slander. The decision sentences two 2 years of suspended imprisonment and payment of 50 thousand soles as civil redress in favor of the plaintiff Gladys Barboza Peña, due to the use of the public official's image in some caricatures.	La República: " <i>Insólito fallo judicial contra el director y tres periodistas del diario La República</i> ". Article published on September 30, 2007, available at: http://www.larepublica.com.pe/content/view/180880/483//Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "Juez sentencia a director, periodistas y caricaturista sin acreditar ocurrencia de delito"". Article published on October 17, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1287
On September 18, 2007, Moisés Julca Orrillo was arrested for the alleged perpetration of the murder of journalist Antonio de la Torre Echeandía in February 2004. On October 25, 2007, there began the first hearing of the trial. The crime also involves the mayor of Yungay, Amaro León León, cuya gestión era denunciada por el periodista.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Inician juicio contra presunto autor material de crimen de periodista</i> ". Artículo publicado el 26 de octubre de 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1302//Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "Pide la SIP a las autoridades del Perú continuar proceso judicial por asesinato de Antonio de la Torre"". Alerta emitida el 21 de septiembre de 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1984

PERU	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On October 2, 2007, the National Criminal Chamber sentenced to 15 and 17 years in prison a former commander and a former lieutenant colonel, for the murder of journalist Hugo Bustíos in 1988. The journalist was a correspondent of the weekly publication <i>Caretas</i> , and was murdered due to an investigation on the assassination of a family in Ayacucho. The judgment also ordered the payment of 50 thousand soles for civil redress.	RPP Noticias: " <i>Condenan a ex militares por asesinato de periodista Hugo Bustíos en 1988</i> ". Article published on October 3, 2007, available at: http://www.rpp.com.pe/portada/politica/98775_1.php// Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: " <i>Satisface a la SIP adelantos contra la impunidad que rodea a varios asesinatos contra periodistas</i> ". Press release of October 3, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchphrasedetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1990
On August 4, 2007, the First Criminal Transition Chamber of the Supreme Court deemed that journalist Juan Carlos Tafur committed the crime of aggravated defamation while he was director of newspaper <i>Correo</i> , but suspended the sentence under the condition that he observes a code of conduct. The journalist was sentenced to pay 50 thousand soles as civil redress in favor of the judge Nancy Sánchez, who sued him for slander in July 2003, for having published three articles reporting the escape of a drug dealer who benefited by the change of personal measure of precautionary detainment to appearing in court, by decision of said judge. The articles made doubtful comments about the type of relationship existing between the drug dealer and the judge.	Perú 21: " <i>Día del Periodista</i> ". Article of opinion published on October 6, 2007, available at: http://test.peru21.com/comunidad/columnistas/Html/2007-10-06/palacios0794800.html //IPYS: " <i>Periodista condenado por difamación; periodistas agredidos por manifestantes en Yurimaguas</i> ". Article published by the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur on October 9, 2007.
On November 15, 2007, the First Criminal Chamber of the Superior Court of Ucayali decided to acquit the mayor of the province of Coronel Portillo, Luis Valdez, and his former municipal manager, Solio Ramírez, from the murder of radio journalist Alberto Rivera, which occurred in April 2004. They were both considered to be the intellectual authors. However, the two alleged paid assassins contracted to kill the journalist were sentenced to prison for 35 and 20 years, and a civil redress of 100 thousand new soles. The defense of the journalist's family presented an appeal for the annulment of the decision.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>La justicia absuelve al presunto autor intelectual del asesinato del periodista Alberto Rivera Fernández</i> ". Press release of November 16, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=16992// El Correo: " <i>Increíble! Absuelven a Luis Valdez del asesinato de periodista Rivera</i> ". Article published on November 16, 2007, available at: http://www.correoperu.com.pe/paginas_noticia.php?nota_id=58953&seccion_noticia=1// Andina: " <i>Familiares apelan contra fallo que absuelve a alcalde por muerte de periodista Alberto Rivera</i> ". Article published on November 15, 2007, available at: http://www.andina.com.pe/NoticiaDetalle.aspx?id=149710
On November 15, 2007, the president of the Superior Court of Lima, César Vega Vega, announced that he would file a suit for defamation against journalist Cecilia Valenzuela, who questioned his participation at a meeting at the house of Israeli Adam Pollack, where former president Alejandro Toledo was present.	24 Horas Libre: " <i>Presidente de Corte Superior de Lima se defiende y anuncia que denunciará a Cecilia Valenzuela</i> ". Article published on November 15, 2007, available at: http://www.24horaslibre.com/politica/1195155372.php// RPP: " <i>Presidente de Corte Superior de Lima denunciará a periodista Valenzuela</i> ". Article published on November 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rpp.com.pe/portada/politica/104288_1.php
DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL ADVERTISING	
In August 2007, journalist Giovanni Acate, director of <i>Radio Oriente</i> de Yurimaguas, stated that his radio station reported on the aggression against journalist Julio Mendoza and, immediately, the municipality decided to withdraw its advertising from the radio. Acate affirmed that the mayor complained before the owners of the radio station and then withdrew the advertising.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Personal de seguridad de municipio impide cobertura a periodista y le requisita ejemplares de diario</i> ". Article published on September 6, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1237

PERU	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On August 14, 2007, journalist Julio Mendoza Escobar was prevented from entering the municipality of Alto Amazonas by a group of security workers. Mendoza was going to cover the presentation of a book. The security personnel took away from him the copies of newspaper <i>La Voz de la Calle</i> that he was carrying. According to the journalist, this is not the first time they deny him access to the municipality, and this would be due to the denouncements published in a newspaper against the mayor Víctor Hidalgo Rojas, for the alleged crime of nepotism, misappropriation of funds, over valuation of public works, among others.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Personal de seguridad de municipio impide cobertura a periodista y le requisó ejemplares de diario</i>". Article published on September 6, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1237</p>
<p>On October 24, 2007, the 37th Civil Court of Lima admitted the formality of habeas data filed by the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad against the Congress of the Republic, for refusing to deliver a copy of the record of the secret session in full on September 6, 2007, in which there was debated the penalty against a congresswoman of the officialist party, accused of traffic of influences. The organization alleged that the refusal to provide the information breaches the Law on Transparency and Access to Information. On the same day of the notice of admissibility of the habeas data, the Congress, 26 days in delay, formalized its refusal to deliver the information, defending it as being secret. Article 51 of the Congress' regulations provides that the sessions will only be secret to try topics of national security and internal order.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>IPYS demanda al Congreso por violar Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información</i>". Press release of September 28, 2007, sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur by IFEX on October 3, 2007// Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Juzgado admite acción de IPYS contra Congreso por violar ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública</i>". Press release dated October 24, 2007, sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur by IFEX on October 30, 2007</p>
OTHER	
<p>On September 2007, radio <i>Cutivalú</i>, an associative radio directed by the Jesuits in Piura, refused to broadcast a message from the Ministry of Energy and Mines related to the exploitation of new reservoirs in the region, because it contained certain unprecise data regarding the popular consultation to be made in this zone on September 16 on the presence of mining company Majaz in Ayabaca and Huancabamba. Minister Jorge del Castillo reported that they are evaluating filing legal actions for the refusal to issue the advertising spot.</p>	<p>Asociación Nacional de Prensa: "<i>Evalúan acciones legales contra radio Cutivalú</i>". News alert sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur on September 14, 2007// Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Cierran a la fuerza una radio local, otra padece fuertes presiones gubernamentales: 'los medios no están a las órdenes'</i>". News alert issued on September 17, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23681</p>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
FIRST PERIOD (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)	
ASSAULTS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On January 23, 2007, journalist Manuel Carrasco was beaten up with a machete by a former sergeant of the National Police. Another person put a gun against his head and threatened him to death if he reported the attack.	Federación Latinoamericana de Trabajadores de la Comunicación Social, <i>El Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Prensa condena las agresiones a periodistas</i> . Article dated February 2, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=378 .
THREATS	
On January 23, 2007, journalist Manuel Vega, producer for program <i>Atacando</i> , broadcasted on <i>Canal 10 Varo Vision</i> , and radio <i>95.5 FM</i> from the province of Hato Mayor, reported having received numerous threats during the previous week, one of which promised to "burn him alive". The reporter has dedicated several editions to drug trafficking in the region.	Reporters Without Borders, <i>Journalist threatened by drug traffickers with being "burned alive"</i> . Press release of January 21, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20612 . / International Federation of Journalists, <i>República Dominicana: Agreden y amenazan de muerte a tres periodistas</i> . Article published on February 2, 2007, available at: http://www.fiplaro.org.ve/noti99120%20boletin.html .
On February 10, 2007, journalist Félix Rubio, from <i>El Nuevo Diario</i> , received a death threat.	El Nuevo Diario, <i>Periodista recibe solidaridad ante amenaza de muerte</i> . Article date February 13, 2007, available at: http://elnuevodiario.com.do/app/article.aspx?id=47561 .
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
MURDER-PROGRESS	
On May 2, 2007, Edri Vladimir "Vla" Pujols, a member of criminal gang named "Los Zayayines", was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder of Juan Andújar, correspondent of the newspaper <i>Listín Diario</i> , in 2004. At the same time, Pujols shot radio journalist <i>Henriquillo</i> , Jorge Luis Sención, who had his right arm amputated. The decision of the Dominican Justice also sentenced Juan Ricardo Muñoz Herrera to 5 years in jail and to pay a fine for conspiracy. On April 16, 2007, the Justice also confirmed the sentence of 30 years in prison given to Mariano Cabrera Durán y Rafael Lluberas Ricart for killing reporter Orlando Martínez 32 years ago.	IFEX- IFJ: <i>"IFJ Welcomes Verdict as Killer of Dominican Republic Journalist Is Sent to Jail for 30 Years"</i> . Press release dated May 8, 2007// Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"Dominican court sentences man to 30 years in journalist's murderer"</i> . Release issued on May 3, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/dom03mayr07na.html
AGGRESSIONS- THREATS FROM PARTICULARS	
Early in May 2007, journalist Franklin Onésimo Tavárez and cameraman Noel Taveras were attacked while covering an election congress of the Partido de la Liberación Dominicana. According to the National Press Workers' Union, which denounced the aggression, in his program Tavárez had referred to the invasions of plots and lands in Maizal. Apparently, the aggressor felt singled out and that was his reason to attack the journalist and his cameraman.	Observatorio Lationamericano de Prensa: <i>"Agreden a periodistas"</i> . Report 371 issued on May 7, 2007. // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: <i>"SNTP denuncia agresión contra periodistas dominicanos"</i> . Release issued on May 6, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4900&Language=ES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
SECOND PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS – THREATS FROM PARTICULARS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On June 22, 2007, in the city of Maimón, journalists Marino Báez, of newspaper <i>Listín Diario</i> and Braddy Abreu, of channel <i>Yuna Visión</i>, were attacked and threatened to be lynched by members of the "Bloque de la Dignidad" and the "Alianza de Lucha y Desarrollo". The aggression took place during a rally in favor of the distribution of potable water. The aggressors forbade the journalists from taking pictures of the march and they warned them that if they did, they would destroy their vehicle. After this incident, the National Press Workers' Union of the Dominican Republic stated its concern for the "lack of action of authorities" in view of the degrading situation of journalists.</p>	<p>International Federation of Journalists: "<i>SNTP: Amenazan con linchamiento a periodistas de República Dominicana</i>". Published on June 28, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5079&Language=ES// Reporters Without Borders: "<i>Amenazan con linchar a dos periodistas en una manifestación: la situación de la libertad de prensa se degrada</i>". Release issued on June 28, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22745</p>
THREATS	
<p>On May 29, 2007, journalist Erica Guzmán filed a complaint before the public attorney of Samaná for threats against her and her family. The correspondent of newspaper <i>Hoy</i> in Samaná began to receive these threats after the dismissal of a Civil State official of Las Terrenas. The journalist had written an article on March 28, 2007 where she gathered the accusations against this official for abusive charges for issuing documents. On June 20, 2007, the head of the National Police, Bernardo Santana, announced that Guzmán would have police protection.</p>	<p><i>Hoy</i>. "<i>Denuncian amenazas a corresponsal de HOY en Samaná, Erica Guzmán</i>". Note published on June 14, available at: http://www.hoy.com.do/article.aspx?id=25327 // <i>Siete Días</i>: "<i>Amenazan a periodista Erica Guzmán</i>". Article published on June 14, 2007, available at: http://www.7dias.com.do/app/article.aspx?id=4104</p>
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
<p>On April 27, 2007, the Tax and Administrative Litigation Court of Santo Domingo ordered the Presidency of the Republic and the Presidential Office for the Reordering of Transportation, to deliver to journalist Luis Eduardo Lora all the information required regarding the geologic studies for the construction of public works. The decision was made within the frame of an appeal for constitutional protection filed by the journalist based on the Law on Free Access to Public Information.</p>	<p>Clave Digital: "<i>Tribunal ordena al Gobierno entregar a Huchi Lora documentos de construcción del Metro</i>". Article published on April 27, 2007, available at: http://www.clavedigital.com.do/Portada/Articulo.asp?Id_Articulo=9857 // <i>La República</i>: "<i>Tribunal ordena al gobierno entregar información al periodista Huchi Lora</i>". Article published on April 27, 2007, available at: http://listindiario.com.do/app/article.aspx?id=10955</p>
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS	
<p>On July 6, 2007, Héctor Abreu, presenter of <i>Radio Azua</i> and correspondent of <i>Radio Enriquillo</i> en Tamayo (Southeast), denounced that his house was hit by several bullet shots, while he and his family were sleeping.</p>	<p>Reporteros sin Fronteras: "<i>Reporteros sin Fronteras se dirige al gobierno tras un atentado al domicilio de un periodista</i>". Press release issued on September 7, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22857// Espacinsular.com: "<i>Reporteros Sin Fronteras denuncia nuevas agresiones contra periodistas dominicanos</i>". Article published on July 11, 2007, available at: http://espacinsular.org/spip.php?article3818.</p>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On August 31, 2007, journalist Esteban Rosario, who produces the program <i>"Detrás de la Noticia"</i> in channel 55 of Santiago, was beating until he passed out when he was exiting the channel. On September 10, 2007, the director of the Central Command of Cibao provided special security for Rosario.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: <i>"SNTP de República Dominicana condena atentado contra periodista"</i>. Article published on September 4, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5284&Language=ES// Diario Horizonte: <i>"Condenan atentado contra periodista Esteban Rosario"</i>. Article published on September 3, 2007, available at: http://www.diariorizonte.com/view/articulo.aspx?articleid=14866&zoneid=1//El CARIBE CDN: <i>"Disponen custodia a periodista -Esteban Rosario fue agredido a tubazos"</i>. Article published on September 10, 2007, available at: http://www.elcaribecdn.com/articulo_caribe.aspx?id=136862&guid=C19A69BFAA9E495DBAEC2CBA644F47A9&Seccion=3</p>
<p>On September 22, 2007, José Francisco Paulino Guerra, producer of program <i>"En Serio"</i> of local channel <i>Bonao TV, Canal 12</i>, was attacked and his car stolen, and wounded in a leg by a criminal who first told him: "This is so you stop making foolish remarks". In less than 24 hours, the police managed to identify and capture the two persons responsible for this crime, including Jorge Luis Hernández, who had shot the journalist.</p>	<p>Periodistas-es: <i>"El Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Prensa condena el ataque contra "Frank" Paulino Guerra"</i>. Article published on October 29, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/print.asp?cod_artigo=1887// Federación Internacional de Periodistas > <i>"SNTP de República Dominicana deplora atentado y amenazas contra periodista"</i>. Article published on September 25, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5344&Language=ES // La Nueva Crónica: <i>"PN informa apresa uno de los que hirieron periodista"</i>. Article published on September 24, 2007, available at: http://lanuevacronica07.blogspot.com/2007/09/pn.html.</p>
THREATS	
<p>On July 6, 2007, Juan Cadena, producer of a daily program broadcast by channel <i>Sport Visión</i>, in Santo Domingo, said he had been threatened to death over the phone. Cadena was already threatened over the phone at least four times before. An anonymous caller told him he would be executed if he did not stop saying "rubbish" in his television program. The journalist said he had made comments about the general strike announced for July 9, 2007, at the initiative of several popular organizations of the country.</p>	<p>Reporteros sin Fronteras RSF: <i>"Reporteros sin Fronteras se dirige al gobierno tras un atentado al domicilio de un periodista"</i>. Comunicado emitido el 7 de septiembre de 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22857// Primicias: <i>"Intolerantes quieren silenciar periodistas"</i>. Artículo available at: http://www.primicias.com.do/?module=displaystory&story_id=4036&format=html.</p>
<p>On August 8, 2007, the National Press Workers' Union stated their rejection of the threats received by Rosendo de Jesús, producer of programs <i>"Enfoque y Reflejos"</i>. Apparently, the reporter was threatened by a member of the Partido de la Liberación Dominicana, in a phone call made to his program.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: <i>"Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Prensa de República Dominicana condena amenazas a periodistas"</i>. Article published on July 8, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5216&Language=EN/ Siembra Hielo: <i>"Amenazados periodistas de Salcedo y Bonao"</i>. Article updated on December 3, 2003, available at: http://www.bani.com.do/?module=displaystory&story_id=176&format=html</p>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On September 13, 2007, it was reported that the gang "Los Zayayines", whose leader Vladimir Pujols is serving a 30 year sentence for the murder of journalist Juan Andujar, threatened to kill journalist Anthony Terrero, according to denouncements by the National Press Workers' Union. Three members of the gang not only threatened to kill him, but also his mother, Lourdes Pineda.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>SNTP denuncia reaparición de banda de asesinos de periodistas en República Dominicana</i>". Article published on September 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5312&Language=ES// Clave Digital: "<i>Reaparece banda Los Zayayines y amenaza con matar a otro periodista</i>". Article published on September 14, 2007, available at: http://clavedigital.com/Portada/Articulo.asp?Id_Articulo=11177 // Diario Libre: "<i>Los Zayayines: un azote que regresa</i>". Article published on September 16, 2007, available at: http://www.diariolibre.com/app/article.aspx?id=120322&commentMode=true.</p>
POLICE HARRASMENT	
<p>On October 29, 2007, journalist José Rivas was attacked by officer Nelson Báez Ubiera while trying to cover the events of the storm Noel. The cameraman who was with the reporter was prevented from recording by the colonel and other police agents. Also attacked were Elías Feliz Cuevas, graphic reporter of <i>Noticias SIN</i> and <i>El Informe</i>, and Alicia Ortega, from whom the members of the NP tried to take away her camera. On November 6, 2007, Rivas formally filed suit against officer Báez.</p>	<p>Noticiassin: "<i>Periodista somete a la justicia coronel de la Policía que lo agredió</i>". Article published on November 6, 2007, available at http://www.antena-sin.com/noticiassin/Details.asp?id_article=15083// La República: "<i>Periodista se querella contra coronel por agresión durante cobertura daños tormenta</i>". Article published on November 7, 2007, available at: http://www.listin.com.do/app/article.aspx?id=35675 // La República: "<i>Policía remite a la justicia acusación contra coronel por maltrato periodista</i>". Article published on November 2, 2007, available at: http://www.listin.com.do/app/article.aspx?id=35190.</p>
PROGRESS- MURDER	
<p>In July 2007, a court sentenced to 30 years in prison, the country's maximum penalty, a man accused of shooting journalist Facundo Lavatta to death by three shots in 2006. The person sentenced is Raúl Delgado Paulino, who will also have to pay an indemnity of one million pesos (about 30,300 dollars) to the family of Lavatta, according to the decision.</p>	<p>Noticiassin: "<i>Condenan a pena máxima a un acusado de matar a periodista</i>". Article published on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.antena-sin.com/NoticiasSin/details.asp?id_article=10561// El Nacional: "<i>Imponen 30 a acusado matar periodista</i>". Article published on July 13, 2007, available at: http://www.elnacional.com.do/printarticle.aspx?id=22037.</p>
<p>On August 10, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ) admitted a cassation appeal filed by the family of the murdered journalist Orlando Martínez Howley, who claim that the court modify the decision that sentences general ® Joaquín Antonio Pou Castro to 20 years in prison, as an accomplice for the murder of Martínez. Also, the resolution issued by the highest court rejected the cassation appeals filed by Pou Castro, Mariano Cabrera Durán and Rafael Alfredo Llubes Ricart against the decision that sentenced them to 20 and 30 years in prison.</p>	<p>Hoy Digital: "<i>Suprema acoge recurso familiares del asesinado periodista Orlando Martínez</i>". Article published on August 11, 2007, available at: http://www.hoy.com.do/printarticle.aspx?id=121224// Diario Libre: "<i>SCJ rechaza inhibirse en el caso Martínez</i>". Article published on November 9, 2007, available at: http://www.diariolibre.com/app/article.aspx?id=126713.</p>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
THIRD PERIOD (JULY-NOVEMBER 2007)	
PROGRESS-MURDER	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On October 24, 2007, a court confirmed the sentence to 30 years in prison against Vladimir Pujols Pujols, a man accused of murdering journalist Juan Andújar, in September 2004. Andújar was a correspondent of the newspaper <i>Listín Diario</i> in Azua, where he also had a radio program. There he denounced the operation of a group of drug dealers linked with police agents. The sentence by the collegiate court of San Cristobal hear the appeal on the sentence of Pujols and the reiteration of five years in prison and payment of a fine of RD\$300,000 (three hundred thousand pesos), to Juan Ricardo Muñoz Herrera, Pujols' accomplice in this crime.</p>	<p>Europapress: "<i>R.Dominicana.- Un tribunal confirma una sentencia al acusado del asesinato de un periodista en 2004</i>". Article published on October 25, 2007, available at http://www.europapress.es/00400/20071025062143/rdominicana-tribunal-confirma-sentencia-acusado-asesinato-periodista-2004.html// Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>SNTP expresa satisfacción por confirmación de condena a asesinos del colega dominicano Juan Andújar</i>". Article published on October 24, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5445&Language=ES// La República: "<i>Confirman condena de 30 años contra asesino del periodista Juan Andújar</i>". Article published on October 25, 2007, available at: http://www.listindiario.com/app/article.aspx?id=33991.</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On September 22, 2007, the Tourism Secretary filed a denouncement against journalist Julio Martínez Pozo for defamation and slander. The denouncement was made due to the reporter's opinion regarding the award of lands protected by law and the Secretariat of the Environment, which are used for tourism projects in which the official was a partner. On October 4, both parties met and reached an agreement, in which the official agreed to withdraw the suit filed against the journalist.</p>	<p>Diario El Dominicano: "<i>Reenvían conocimiento de la audiencia a Julio Martínez Pozo imputado de difamación e injuria por el secretario de Turismo</i>". Article published on September 21, 2007, available at: http://www.diariodominicano.com/n.php?id=17734// Diario Digital RD: "<i>Felix Jiménez retirará querellas contra periodistas</i>". Article published on October 5, 2007, available at: http://diariodigital.com.do/articulo,20780,html.</p>
OTHERS	
<p>On December 2, 2007, the Central Electoral Board made known its regulations for the electoral observation, questioned by several organizations for the protection of the right to freedom of expression that they hold breached "certain constitutional provisions." The regulations provide that the political parties will have the same possibilities for using the information media and that these cannot charge, for a political advertisement, rates higher than those paid for commercial matters.</p>	<p>Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>Preocupa a la SIP reglamento sobre campañas electorales que afectaría la libertad de prensa en República Dominicana</i>". Press release issued on October 4, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1992. Agencia EFE: "<i>SIP preocupada por reglamento sobre campañas electorales en R. Dominicana</i>". Article published on October 4, 2007, available at: http://guatemala.notiemail.com/noticia.asp?nt=11509065&cty=16// La República: "<i>La JCE publica su reglamento</i>". Article published on December 3, 2007, available at: http://www.listin.com.do/app/article.aspx?id=39022</p>

SURINAME	
FIRST PERIOD 2007(JANUARY-MARCH)	
No entries were registered for this period.	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On May 10, 2007, the debate program " <i>Surinam Today</i> ", broadcast over public channel <i>Surinam Televisión Foundation</i> was taken off the air due to pressure by the country's vice-president Ram Sardjoe, according to Reporteros Sin Fronteras. The program that was going to be broadcast that day was devoted to the relations between China and Taiwan. The vice-president threatened the producer Nita Ramcharan to make her cancel the program, but the journalist refused. Sardoje appealed to the channel's directors. In view of the protests by journalists, the vice-president said that he did not forbid the program, but that he "strongly" asked that it not be broadcast.	Reporters Without Borders: " <i>El vicepresidente de la República hace anular un programa televisivo : Reporteros sin Fronteras denuncia que se trata de 'censura'</i> ". Release issued on May 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22157 // Caribbean Net News: " <i>Suriname press association condemns government's interference</i> ". Article published on May 16, 2007, available at: http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/suriname/suriname.php?news_id=1535&start=0&category_id=36
THIRD PERIOD (JULY- NOVEMBER 2007)	
No entries were registered for this period.	

UNITED STATES	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
OTHER	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On March 27, 2007, the Federal Communications Commission of the United States authorized television station <i>Univisión</i> , which broadcasts in Spanish, to be acquired by private investment shareholders, after reaching an agreement with the company on the payment of 24 million dollars to resolve a series of pending disputes and fines against the station for not complying with the legal requirement regarding children programming.	Bloomberg News, <i>F.C.C. Approves \$12 Billion Sale of Univision Communications</i> . Article published by paper "The New York Times" on March 28, 2007, available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/28/business/media/28univision.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1175547272-mW09WxWEtrzXZzlaDa2H6A&pagewanted=print . / Reuters, <i>EEUU autoriza compra de Univision, cadena paga multa</i> . Article published on March 27, 2007 available at: http://lta.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=businessnews&storyID=2007-03-27T232133Z_01_N27183858_RTRIDST_0_NEGOCIOS-MEDIOS-EEUU-UNIVISION-SOL.XML .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
On May 1, 2007, journalist Patricia Nazario from radio station <i>KPCC-FM</i> was attacked during a rally in Los Angeles, California. Nazario explained that a police agent hit her with a club until leaving her unconscious. At the rally, other reporters were attacked by policemen: Carlos Botifoll from <i>Telemundo</i> , from <i>KTTV-TV</i> , Christina Gonzalez and her camerawoman Patti Ballaz, and the cameraman of <i>KCAL-TV</i> , Carl Stein.	Univisión.com: <i>"Periodistas, policía, discuten violencia durante protesta en LA"</i> . Note published on June 16, 2007, available at: http://www.univision.com/contentroot/wirefeeds/50/noticias/7112474_p.html // Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"LA police attack journalists covering immigration rights rally."</i> Release issued on May 1, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/usa01may07ca.html
AGGRESSIONS AGAINST MEDIA	
Late in May 2007, the editors of the newspaper <i>Pakistan Post</i> and weekly publication <i>Urdu Times</i> received several threats from persons who stopped them on the street and told them that they had published information about alleged crimes perpetrated by Pakistani U.S. citizens and regarding a conference by the ambassador of Israel to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman, in their issues of May 23, 2007. That day, at least 10,000 copies of the <i>Pakistan Post</i> and another amount of weekly papers <i>Urdu Times</i> were removed from several newspaper bins in New York. Both editors filed their complaints before the Police.	Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"CPJ urges New York City to act against newspaper destruction, threats"</i> . Release issued on June 6, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/protests/07ltrs/americas/usa06jun07pl.html // The New York Sun: <i>"Pakistan Paper in New York in Peril Over Coverage"</i> . Article published on May 31, 2007, available at: http://www.nysun.com/pf.php?id=55538&v=0382413811
THREATS	
On June 3, 2007, <i>Miami Herald</i> columnist Leonard Pitts wrote a comment on the trend of mass media to deal in a certain way with white men when covering violent crimes. Some days later, the website <i>Overthrow</i> posted the address of the columnist's house and his phone number, and urged its readers to call the columnist. This website has swastikas and photos of Nazi leaders. Other white supremacy websites imitated <i>Overthrow's</i> call. Pitts received dozens of calls and e-mails with threats. The FBI began an investigation.	Editor& Publisher: <i>"White Supremacists Target Columnist Leonard Pitts"</i> . Article published on June 19, 2007, available at: http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eandp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003600764 // Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"UNITED STATES: Miami columnist target of threats"</i> . News alert published on June 21, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/usa_jun07ca.html

UNITED STATES	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
On June 13, 2007, a federal judge dismissed a claim filed by Puerto Rican journalists against FBI agents for excessive use of force and for having breached their right to free expression. The group of journalists and photographers were attacked by FBI members while covering the search at the house of an independentist activist in February 2006. The television cameras showed how the reporters were sprayed with pepper gas and hit by several agents. The lawyers representing the group of plaintiffs will file an appeal against the decision.	Endi: " <i>Revés para periodistas agredidos</i> ". Article published on June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.endi.com/noticia/seguridad/noticias/reves_para_periodistas_agredidos/230461 // El Nuevo Herald. " <i>Puerto Rico: desestiman demanda de periodistas al FBI</i> ". Article published on June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.elnuevoherald.com/256/story/52997.html
CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOURCES	
On April 3, 2007, <i>freelance</i> journalist Josh Wolf was released after spending 224 days in jail for refusing to disclose his sources of a story published in his personal website regarding a vandalistic action in a police car that the authorities were investigating. He also refused to give unedited material for the investigation of that case. His defense attorney, David Green, explained that Wolf put a video he had not edited on the Internet. In exchange for this, the government agreed not to call him to testify before the Grand Jury.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Freelance journalist Josh Wolf released after 244 days in prison</i> ". Press release of April 4, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21577 // Committee to Protect Journalists: " <i>CPJ welcomes release of freelance journalist Josh Wolf</i> ". Press release issued on April 3, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/usa03apr07na.html
In April 2007, the Secretary of Justice of Puerto Rico, Roberto Sánchez Ramos, signed an administrative order to grant more protection to local journalists and their sources of information. The order provides that no journalists will be summoned and no information, documents or objects will be demanded from them, "unless exceptional circumstances make this necessary", he stated in a press release.	Department of Justice of Puerto Rico. Press release issued on June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.justicia.gobierno.pr/opdetail.aspx?cn=118 // El Diario: " <i>Nuevas reglas para periodistas</i> ". Article published on June 16, 2007, available at: http://www.eldiariony.com/noticias/detail.aspx?section=20&&id=1660494 // Terra: " <i>Secretario Justicia firma orden para proteger a periodistas y sus fuentes</i> ". Article published on June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.terra.com/noticias/articulo/html/act869392.htm#
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
PROGRESS	
On October 16, 2007, the Chamber of Representatives voted in favor of the Free Flow of Information Act that will protect journalists from being obliged to disclose their secret sources of information in federal courts. The bill of law, known as the "shield act", was approved by the House of Representatives 398 votes against 21 after having been approved by the legal affairs parliamentary committee on August 1. A different version was passed by the Senate's legal affairs committee on October 4, 2007.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>El voto de La Cámara de Representantes sobre la ley federal escudo para la protección de fuentes secretas es bienvenida</i> ". Press notice issued on October 18, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24067 // Society for Professional Journalists: " <i>SPJ commends Senate for passing OPEN Government Act</i> ". Press notice published on August 8, 2007, available at: http://www.spj.org/news.asp?ref=686

UNITED STATES	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
MURDERS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On August 3, 2007, journalist Chauncey Bailey, former reporter of the <i>Oakland Tribune</i> and director of the <i>Oakland Post</i>, was shot to death in Oakland while walking to work. On August 6, 2007, Devaughdre Brouard, 19 years old, was arrested as a suspect for this murder, and he told the Police that he considered himself to be a "good soldier" for having killed Bailey. The crime was a result of a series of negative articles that Bailey had written about the bakery <i>Your Black Muslim Bakery</i>, where Brouard worked. The accused said he was worried about the articles that Bailey may write in the future. Numerous journalists, media organizations and journalism schools of the universities of the San Francisco Bay area formed an investigation group to complete the journalist work that Bailey was preparing and investigate the reasons for his assassination.</p>	<p>Inter-American Press Association: "<i>Pide la SIP investigar moviles de asesinato de periodista en EE.UU.</i>". News alert issued on August 3, 2007, available at: http://www.abc.com.py/sipiapa/articulos.php?pid=349311// San Francisco Chronicle: "<i>New details on man who confessed to killing editor Oakland police don't think he acted alone; he was on probation for robbery-assault</i>". Article published on August 7, 2007, available at: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/08/07/BAKERY.TMP// Washington Post: "<i>For Some in Oakland, Editor's Death Shows Subversion of Black Activism</i>". Article published on August 10, 2007, available at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/09/AR2007080902259.html.</p>
DETENTIONS	
<p>On August 22, 2007, information was received about cameraman of the <i>Al-Jazeera chain</i>, Sami al-Haj, who has been detained at the naval base of Guantanamo for more than five years without a trial. The cameraman began a hunger strike on January 7, 2007, which has made him reduce considerable weight, causing him gastrointestinal diseases, and a notable impairment of his physical and mental health. The spokesperson of the Pentagon, Commander Jeffrey D. Gordon, said that the reports were not true. Sami Al-Haj fue was detained by the Pakistani security forces on December 2001, in the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and six months later was submitted to the U.S. army. Al-Haj is the only journalist known to be imprisoned in Guantanamo.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>Al-Jazeera cameraman's health deteriorates at Guantanamo</i>". News alert published on October 10, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/cases07/americas_cases_07/usa24aug07ca.html// Reporteros sin Fronteras: "<i>En estado muy crítico el camarógrafo sudanés Sami Al-Haj</i>". Alerta emitida el 22 de agosto de 2007, available at: //">http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23362// International Federation of Journalists: "<i>IFJ Warns over US Detention of Al-Jazeera Cameraman, Calls for International Campaign for His Release</i>". News alert issued on September 24, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5330&Language=EN.</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On July 18, 2007, William Ramírez, president of the American Civil Liberties Union in Puerto Rico, said that the case of aggressions to journalists by FBI officials with pepper gas in 2006, may reach the Supreme Court of the United States, and he offered to represent the journalists in the suit before the Federal Court of San Juan. On August 3, 2007, the Justice Department of Puerto Rico asked the full council of nine judges of the First Circuit of Boston to intervene so the FBI produce evidence and allow access to its officials to complete the investigation carried out about such aggressions. On September 13, the Justice Department of Puerto Rico announced it will resort to the Supreme Court of the United States to order the FBI to deliver the information requested.</p>	<p>Centro para la Libertad de Prensa de Puerto Rico: "<i>Informe del Centro para la Libertad de Prensa de Puerto Rico a la Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa</i>". Report published on October 10, 2007, available at: http://www.centrolibertadprensa.org/contenido.asp?sid=245&NewsCat=OTROS%20TEXTOS// Periodistas-es: "<i>Apoyo en EEUU a los periodistas que fueron rociados con gas mostaza por agentes del FBI en Puerto Rico</i>". Article published on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=2252.</p>

UNITED STATES	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>On November 19, 2007, the Department of Defense announced having formally filed an accusation before a court of Iraq against Bilal Hussein, photographer of the <i>Associated Press</i> agency, detained since April 12, 2006. In Washington, Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon's press secretary, said that the decision to file new charges was made now because "new evidence has come to light". But he did not say what evidence is being dealt with, or what charges could be faced by Hussein - only that Hussein was a "threat for the stability and security of Iraq as a liaison for insurgent activities." Morrell said that Hussein, who was part of a photographers' team that won a Pulitzer Award in 2005 for pictures documenting violence, had raised suspicions before because he was frequently in the insurgents' attacks when they occurred.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"El ejército norteamericano presenta una denuncia contra el fotógrafo Bilal Hussein que lleva 19 meses detenido: Reporteros sin Fronteras pide transparencia"</i>. News alert issued on November 20, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24462/ Committee to Protect Journalists: <i>"U.S. says AP photographer in Iraq will be charged"</i>. News alert issued on November 20, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/mideast/iraq20nov07na.html/ / Al Jazeera.net: <i>"Iraqi photographer faces US charge"</i>. Article published on November 20, 2007, available at: http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/C859B529-05DE-4221-BB29-5CDB47B19166.htm.</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On September 6, 2007, photographer Geraldo Carlos and the editor of the newspaper <i>The Brazilian Voice</i>, Roberto Lima, were interrogated about their immigration status by Police director Samuel DeMaio, after Carlos discovered the corpse of a woman while taking pictures in a neighborhood in the area of Ironbound. Carlos' camera was confiscated and when Lima returned to the Police station to claim the camera and the photographs, he was arrested and handcuffed. The Brazilian journalists were subject to a report to the Immigration Service and summoned to appear before a federal judge in a deportation proceeding. The General Prosecutor's Office of the State of New Jersey forbade since August that law enforcement officers, except immigration officers, inquire about the legal status of victims or witnesses of crimes.</p>	<p>Periodistas-es: <i>"Dos periodistas brasileños podrían ser deportados de EEUU por denunciar un crimen"</i>. Article published on September 19, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1849/ Federación Mexicana de Periodistas FELAP: <i>"Enfrentan deportación de EEUU dos periodistas brasileños"</i>. Press release issued on September 20, 2007, available at: http://www.felap.info/Archivo/0907/0907.htm/ El Diario: <i>"Policía no debió preguntar estatus migratorio"</i>. Article published on November 27, 2007, available at: http://www.eldiariony.com/noticias/detail.aspx?section=17&id=1762926&desc=LOCALES.</p>
CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOURCES	
<p>On August 13, 2007, a federal judge ordered five journalists to appear in a proceeding filed by Steven Hatfill against the Department of Justice for breach of the Privacy Act. The reporters were asked to provide the identity of the government agents that leaked the fact that this former army scientist was suspicious of a series of Anthrax attacks in 2001. At that time, several journalists, among whom Allan Lengel, of the <i>Washington Post</i>, Michael Isikoff and Daniel Klaidman, of <i>Newsweek</i>, Toni Locy, former employee of <i>USA Today</i>, and James Stewart of <i>CBS News</i>, wrote articles about the progress of the investigations and the investigators' suspicions about certain persons, among which was Steven Hatfill. So far, all of them have refused to disclose their sources.</p>	<p>Reporteros sin Fronteras: <i>"Conminan a cinco periodistas a revelar la identidad de sus informadores en el 'caso del Ántrax': una decisión que una vez más debilita el secreto de las fuentes"</i>. News alert issued on August 17, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=23312/ Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: <i>"Informe de la 63ra Asamblea General de la SIP-Estados Unidos"</i>. Report published on October 18, 2007, available at: http://mercury.websitewelcome.com/%7Esipiapa/informe.php?id=12&idioma=sp/ Periodistas-es: <i>"Un juez conmina a cinco periodistas a revelar la identidad de sus fuentes en el 'caso del publis'"</i>. Article published on August 18, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=1665.</p>

UNITED STATES	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCES
<p>In August 2007, three reporters of Channel <i>CNET</i> sued company <i>Hewlett Packard</i>, for breaching their privacy obtaining their private telephone records. The company was involved in a scandal in 2006, when it was made public that it hired private detectives to determine whether its directors leaked information to reporters of <i>CNET</i>, <i>The New York Times</i> and <i>The Wall Street Journal</i>. The company admitted having used subterfuges to obtain the telephone records of the journalists and apologized for having done so.</p>	<p>Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>Informe de la 63ra Asamblea General de la SIP-Estados Unidos</i>". Report published on October 18, 2007, available at http://mercury.websitewelcome.com/%7Esipiapa/informe.php?id=12&idioma=sp// The New York Times: "<i>Journalists Intend to Sue Hewlett-Packard Over Surveillance</i>". Article published on May 7, 2007, available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/07/business/media/07hp.html// International Herald Tribune: "<i>Reporters sue Hewlett-Packard over spying</i>". Article published on August 16, 2007, available at: http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/08/16/business/hp.php.</p>
OTHERS	
<p>On July 15, 2007, the postal rates for many magazines in the U.S. increased by 20 to 30%, after the Postal Service Regulating Commission (PRC) decided to increase the postal rates, which impaired independent and small publications. Organizations for the defense of freedom of press began campaigns in November to request Congress to repeal this measure, alleging that it only benefits the large media that may cover the increase of the rates.</p>	<p>Periodistas-es: "<i>Un incremento en las tarifas postales dificulta la distribución de publicaciones independientes en Estados Unidos</i>". Article published on November 11, 2007, available at: http://www.periodistas-es.org/pes/artigo.asp?cod_artigo=2193// Free Press: "<i>Return to Sender: Congress Takes Up Unfair Postal Rate Hikes</i>". Article published on October 30, 2007, available at: http://www.freepress.net/news/27502. IFEX: "<i>Actúe! Ayude a derogar aumentos en las tarifas postales estadounidenses</i>". Press release issued on October 30, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87383</p>

URUGUAY	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On March 16, 2007, journalist César Casavieja, of weekly <i>Señal de Alerta</i> , was assaulted in the street by an alleged drug trafficker. The reporter had disclosed the photograph and identity of the assailant, whom he accuses of running a drug trafficking organization. The journalist declared he has been a target of threats for months.	Montevideo Com: " <i>Yo no fui</i> ". Article dated March 20, 2007, available at: http://www.montevideo.com.uy/nnoticias_40804_1.html . / Reporters Without Borders: " <i>Alleged drug trafficker threatens and assaults journalist</i> ". Press release of March 22, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21405 .
OTHER	
On March 5, 2007, journalist Gabriel Pastor, from weekly publication <i>Búsqueda</i> , once again requested information from the public <i>Institute for Children and Adolescents</i> about the investigation that this institute launched against him and his wife for alleged child abuse against their children. On September 26, 2006, the communicator reported that the institute had opened an investigation against the couple after <i>Búsqueda</i> published an article questioning the administration of that institute.	Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa, <i>Informe por País: Uruguay</i> , Semester Meeting, 11 - 19 March, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pulications/informe_uruguay2007ca.cfm .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
PROGRESS	
On June 5, 2007, the Chamber of Representatives approved by majority the bill of law that acknowledges the non-profit community media, and provides the granting of frequencies through open and transparent contests. The bill passed on to be studied by the Senate. If this chamber approves it without modifications, the initiative will become law.	Reporters Without Borders: " <i>Los diputados aprueban un proyecto de ley que regula los medios comunitarios: 'un ejemplo a seguir'</i> ". Release issued on June 11, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22491 // Radio El Espectador On Line: " <i>Diputados aprobó ley de radios comunitarias</i> ". Article published on June 6, 2007, available at: http://www.espectador.com.uy/nota.php?idNota=97045
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
On April 18, 2007, the Supreme Court of Justice of Uruguay confirmed the final decision issued on May 18, 2006 against journalist Gustavo Escanlar Patrone, sentenced to three months in prison for defamation. Escanlar Patrone was sued for libel by Federico Fasano, a press entrepreneur, after the journalist insulted Fasano in an interview broadcast on January 18, 2006 in the program " <i>La culpa es nuestra</i> ".	Inter American Press Association: " <i>La SIP mostró su preocupación por condena de cárcel contra un periodista uruguayo</i> ". Press release of May 23, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1669_7 // <i>Búsqueda</i> : " <i>Suprema Corte de Justicia confirmó condena de prisión a Escanlar</i> ". Article published on May 10, 2007.
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
PROGRESS	
On December 10, the Uruguayan Congress approved a law that acknowledges and obliges the State to promote and guarantee the existence of community radio and TV media, including non-discretionary procedures for the granting of frequencies, and poses holding public hearings for the concession and renewal of the permits, among other topics. On November 14 the Senate voted the bill and a month later the House of Representatives gave the final vote.	Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Aprobada definitivamente la ley de medios comunitarios</i> ". Alerta emitida el 14 de diciembre de 2007, disponible en: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24759 // AMARC: " <i>Senado aprueba proyecto de ley sobre medios comunitarios</i> ". News alert issued on November 15, 2007, sent by e-mail to the Office of the Special Rapporteur //

URUGUAY	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
LEGISLATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On October 23, 2007, the Uruguayan Press Association presented to the authorities of the government of Uruguay a bill of law to de-penalize crimes such as contempt for offense, attack to the honor of a head of a foreign State and disrespect of the homeland symbols, among others that appear in the Criminal Code. The initiative also proposes eliminating the aggravation for the offense of defamation and slander when the same are made through mass media.	Montevideo.com: <i>"Presentan al Poder Ejecutivo proyecto de prensa"</i> . Article published on October 10, 2007, available at: http://www.montevideo.com.uy/nnoticias_51240_1.html // Argenpress.info: <i>"Periodistas uruguayos piden la despenalización de los delitos de prensa"</i> . Article published on October 24, 2007, available at: http://www.argenpress.info/nota.asp?num=048510&parte=0
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On August 29, 2007, officials of the Press and Broadcasting Secretariat of the Uruguayan President's Office denied access to a group of Argentine journalists that were going to cover the inauguration ceremony of the Ontur port terminal for the platform for exporting cellulose of Finnish company Botnia. The officials of the Uruguayan government alleged that the journalists were not accredited to enter, and if they had been accredited, this would have only allowed them to evaluate the possibility of their entering. The facilities of this plant have been a source of conflict between Uruguay and Argentina for more than two years.	CEDHA, Center for Human Rights and Environment: <i>"Uruguay expels Argentine media at Botnia port inauguration"</i> . Article published on August 30, 2007, available at: http://www.cedha.org.ar/en/more information/uruguayan e.p hp // La Nación: <i>"Entrada prohibida para los periodistas argentinos"</i> . Article published on August 30, 2007, available at: http://www.lanacion.com.ar/Archivo/nota.asp?nota_id=939102 .
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
On September 17, 2007, the Uruguayan Press Association and the Institute for Legal and Social Studies presented to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights a denouncement against Uruguay for a case of access to information. Journalist David Rabinovich had requested the Department Board of San Jose the records on the appearance of the General Accountant of the Municipality of San José at the Treasury Committee. The information, which referred to statements made by the official regarding the municipal budget, was denied and then declared to be reserved. On two occasions, the Justice has denied Rabinovichh the right to obtain the information and has doubted that the American Convention of Human Rights prevail over the Organic Municipal Law that allows Department Boards to declare that any information is reserved.	Asociación de la Prensa Uruguaya: <i>"Desde distintos ámbitos estatales desconocen el derecho de acceso a la información pública"</i> . Press release published on September 18, 2007, available at: http://www.apu.org.uy/prensalibre/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=340 // Diario Metro: <i>"Denuncian al Estado uruguayo por falta de acceso a la información"</i> . Article published on September 18, 2007, available at: http://www.diariometro.es/es/article/efe/2007/09/19/298756/index.xml

VENEZUELA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On February 2, 2007, journalist Miguel Vellorín, from <i>Radio Única</i> , was attacked by an official of the municipality of Piar, Bolívar state, while leaving the radio station. The following day, while conducting interviews, the journalist was hit in the face and insulted by another municipal official. The reporter claims the attacks are a consequence of his reports about the sanitary conditions in the area.	Diario El Progreso, <i>Agredido periodista upatense Miguel Bellorín</i> . Article dated February 5, 2007, available at: http://www.diarioelprogreso.com/edi-050207/html/pag44-c.htm . / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Venezuela: Municipal official assaults radio journalist following critical report</i> . Alert of March 15, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/81767 .
On March 15, 2007, the house of priest José Palmar, columnist for paper <i>Reporte</i> , was shot at. The house is located in the area of Sierra Maestra, Zulia state. The columnist has published several reports about administrative irregularities against the management of the state oil company, PDVSA.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Venezuela: balean casa de columnista en Zulia</i> . Alert of March 27, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_reporte.htm .
THREATS	
On March 19, 2007, journalists Luz Mely Reyes and Eleazar Días Rangel, reporter and director of newspaper <i>Últimas Noticias</i> from Caracas, received letters from the Minister for Popular Economy in which they were warned that they may have committed several crimes by publishing an investigation. The report dealt with alleged irregularities in the execution of an agreement regarding the construction of industrial plants.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Venezuela: ministro amenaza a periodista y a director de diario</i> . Alert of March 27, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_un.htm .
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On February 6, 2007, the <i>Council</i> for the Protection of Infants and Adolescents prevented journalist Laureano Márquez, from newspaper <i>Tal Cual</i> , from publishing any type of comment or information regarding the daughter of the President of the Republic. On February 8, 2007, a juvenile court imposed on the journalist a fine of the equivalent of approximately 30.000 dollars and another fine of the equivalent of approximately 20.000 dollars to the president of <i>Tal Cual</i> . The incident began following an occasion where the president openly and publicly said that he consulted certain decisions with his daughter, after which the reporter published an open letter addressed to her where he suggested her to ask her father to be more tolerant with the opposition.	Information received in the hearing on the Situation of the right to freedom of expression in Venezuela on March 7, 2007, during the 127th period of sessions of the IACHR. / Reporters Without Borders, <i>Fine against opposition daily Tal Cual looks like a "political sanction"</i> . Press release of February 15, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21026 .
JUDICIARY PROCEEDINGS	
On December 15, 2007, the Sixth Circuit of the Appeals Court confirmed a sentence of two years and eleven months of incarceration to journalist Julio Balza, from newspaper <i>El Nuevo País</i> , for criminal defamation against a minister. The lawsuit was filed in March 2006, due to an article criticizing the administration of the minister due to the collapse of a bridge.	Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe, <i>FEPALC: cárcel o secuestro para acallar las voces de los periodistas</i> . Press release of January 18, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=4566&Language=EN . / Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Corte ratifica sentencia contra periodista por difamación</i> . Alert of January 15, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1009 .
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
On January 11, 2007, the private communication media of Venezuela were prevented from entering the press conference by the <i>National Commission for Police Reform</i> , which took place in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Niegan ingreso a medios privados a conferencia de prensa</i> . Alert of January 15, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org/alertas/atentado.php?id=1010 .

VENEZUELA	
FIRST PERIOD 2007 (JANUARY-MARCH)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On March 17, 2007, journalist María Elena Ramírez, from newspaper <i>Nueva Prensa</i> from Guayana, Bolívar state, was unable to enter a health center in the city of Guayana, despite holding an invitation to cover an activity with a health promoting group. The employees of the hospital told him they had received orders from the director of the facility to prevent access to journalists without his previous authorization.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, <i>Venezuela: Impiden ingreso de periodista a centro de salud</i> . Alert of March 27, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_guayana.htm .
OTHERS	
On March 21, 2007, a group of Venezuelan citizens approached the headquarters of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in Washington, D.C., and delivered a letter signed by over 80 thousand people. The letter claims that the decision to close down <i>RCTV</i> represents a threat to the activity of journalism and constitutes an unprecedented event in democratic systems in Latin America and the world. In addition, they said that if this decision is executed, it would affect the right of television viewers to choose the programs shown by this channel.	Information received during a meeting where the letter and the signatures were delivered to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Washington, D.C., March 21, 2007.
On March 28, 2007, the minister of Popular Power for Telecommunications, Jesse Chacón, announced that the non-renovation of the concession to <i>RCTV</i> is a "natural and inexorable fact" and that the frequency will form part of a "new television model that we have called Public Service Television".	Radio Nacional de Venezuela, <i>Frecuencia de RCTV dará paso a Televisión de Servicio Público</i> . Artículo del 1 de abril de 2007, disponible en: http://www.rnv.gov.ve/noticias/index.php?act=ST&f=2&t=45387 .
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
On May 3, 2007, the car of journalist of newspaper <i>La Prensa del Llano</i> , Werner Córdoba, was set on fire while parked at his house in San Juan, State of Aragua. The journalist told the IPYS that two weeks before the governor of Guárico, Eduardo Manuitt, threatened to sue him for having accused him of corruption, misappropriation of public funds and violations of human rights. Córdoba did not dismiss the possibility of this having to do with the threat.	IFEX - Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Vehículo de periodista incendiado tras amenazas del gobernador de Guárico relacionadas con reportaje sobre corrupción</i> ". News alert of May 9, 2007, available at: http://canada.ifex.org/eng/layout/set/print/content/view/full/83213/ // Globovisión: " <i>Periodista denuncia atentado en su contra por denunciar corrupción en Guárico</i> ". Article published on May 5, 2007, available at: http://www.globovision.com/news.php?nid=54952
On May 8, 2007, graphic reporters Gil Montaña, of newspaper <i>El Universal</i> , and David Urdaneta, of newspaper <i>El Meridiano</i> , were attacked by members of the Military Police when they were covering an incident caused by the spectators of a soccer match at the Brígido Iriarte stadium, in the center-west of the city of Caracas. Three policemen held Montaña by the back to prevent him from covering the event. They damaged the lenses of his photographic equipment. Urdaneta was hit by another policeman.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Policía agradece a fotógrafos para que no cubran incidente en partido de fútbol</i> ". News alert of May 16, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_DP.htm

VENEZUELA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
AGGRESSIONS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On May 20, 2007, four persons attacked a team of reporters of the State-owned television station <i>Venezolana de Televisión (VTV)</i> when they were covering the union of the Partido Socialista Unido Venezolano with the government party at Escuela Nacional Bustamante, in the city of San Cristobal, state of Tachira. According to reporter Germán Oliveros, the aggressors threw stones at them and broke the side window of the car they were in.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Agreden a reporteros de TV en Táchira</i> ". News alert issued on May 20, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_VTVTACHIRA.html
THREATS-AGGRESSIONS	
At dawn on July 4, 2007, the car of journalist Roger Santodomingo exploded. On June 28, 2007, Santodomingo had resigned from <i>Noticiero Digital's Internet website</i> , as a result of the threats received by him and his family, especially his sons. An investigation of whether his car's explosion has anything to with the threats he had received is underway.	El Universal: " <i>Vehículo de periodista Roger Santodomingo explotó esta madrugada</i> ". Note published on July 4, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com/2007/07/04/suc_ava_vehiculo-de-periodis_04A894077.shtml // Reporters Without Borders: " <i>El coche del periodista Roger Santodomingo explota delante de su domicilio en Caracas</i> ". Release issued on July 5, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22825
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
On May 3, 2007, representatives of the Press Department of the Presidency of the Republic prevented <i>Globovisión</i> journalist, Janeth Carrasquilla, from covering the inauguration of a manufacturing plant that was to be attended by president Hugo Chávez, in the State of Carabobo. The journalist told the IPYS that, unlike other private media, <i>Globovisión</i> did not receive the press notice regarding this event or the invitation to cover it.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Restringen cobertura a TV privada opositora al gobierno</i> ". Press release of May 7, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_GB.htm
On May 3, 2007, reporter Junior Acosta, cameraman Juan Rojas and his assistant, Michael Risquez, of television station <i>Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV)</i> , could not enter the theater of the Ministry of Defense to cover an event by the Ministry of the Interior and Justice. According to the journalists, the public officials did not let them in because they were wearing t-shirts that referred to the conflict between <i>RCTV</i> and the Venezuelan government. Reporters from other media, both private and official, who did enter, where taken out by the Military Police when they were recording the speech by the minister of the Interior and Justice, Pedro Carreño. They were asked to stop their coverage because "security" issues were being discussed at this meeting.	IFEX/ Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Impiden a reporteros de RCTV ingresar a evento oficial; otros desalojados por grabar ponencia de ministro sobre secuestros</i> ". News alert published on May 7, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/alerts/content/view/full/83159/ // CESO-FIP: " <i>VENEZUELA: Impiden cubrimiento de acto oficial a periodistas de RCTV</i> ". Release issued on May 14, 2007, available at: http://www.fipcolombia.com/noticiaAmpliar.php?noticia=550

VENEZUELA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On May 23, 2007 the program "<i>La Entrevista de hoy</i>" of regional UHF channel <i>Llanovisión</i>, was suspended after a comment about the taking off the air of television station <i>RCTV</i>. Sociologist Laure Nicotra, moderator of the program told IPYS that the measure was taken after she interviewed lawyer Pedro González about <i>RCTV</i>. The journalist received a note from the channel's administration ordering her to suspend the interview. The next day, the program went off the air fifteen minutes after it started. According to Nicotra, the owner of the TV station, Douglas Valero, burst into the recording studio and ordered to suspend the program, alleging that on his channel there would only be said what he allowed to be said and that it was forbidden to speak about <i>RCTV</i>.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Cancelan programa de TV por tratar caso de RCTV</i>". Release of June 13, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_BN.htm //</p>
OTHERS	
<p>At midnight on May 27, 2007, TV channel <i>Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV)</i> ceased its transmission, when the decision of the government of Hugo Chávez not to renew its concession became effective. Minutes after, official channel <i>TVes</i> started the broadcast through the same signal, using the equipment of <i>RCTV</i>, pursuant to powers given to the new channel by the Supreme Court on May 25. On May 26, the Venezuelan government announced that it would not reconsider the decision not to renew the license to <i>RCTV</i> for using the radioelectric frequency, while it announced the renewal of licenses for <i>Venevisión</i> and for <i>Venezolana TV</i>. On December 28, 2006, the president of Venezuela had declared his intention of not renewing <i>RCTV</i>'s concession.</p>	<p>Reporters Without Borders: "<i>Reporteros sin Fronteras llama a la movilización internacional tras el cierre de RCTV</i>". Release issued on May 28, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22325 // Inter American Press Association: "<i>La SIP calificó de antidemocrático al gobierno venezolano por cesar del aire a RCTV</i>". Release issued on May 28, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/chronologicaldetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1926</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On April 23, 2007, former Finance minister, Tobías Nóbrega, asked the Attorney General of the Republic to investigate through "noticia criminis" the director of newspaper <i>Tal Cual</i>, Teodoro Petkoff, due to an editorial published on April 12, 2007, denouncing alleged corrupt actions that involve Nóbrega and other public officials. Nóbrega stated that if the complaint is not proven, Petkoff should be prosecuted for going against the honor of persons and institutions.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Ex Ministro denuncia a director de diario por dañar su honor al involucrarlo en caso de corrupción</i>". Alert of May 7, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CI_TC.htm. // Radio Nacional de Venezuela: "<i>Solicitan a Fiscalía averiguación por denuncia sobre reconversión</i>". Article published on April 23, 2007, available at: http://www.rnv.gov.ve/noticias/index.php?act=ST&f=27&t=46145</p>

VENEZUELA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On May 28, 2007, the minister of Communication and Information, William Lara, made an accusation before the Attorney General's Office against TV channel <i>Globovisión</i> for instigating the assassination of a public figure by showing a video of the attempt against Pope John Paul II together with the song "<i>Esto no termina aquí</i>" (This does not finish here) by Rubén Blades. On the 29th of May of 2007, the president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez sent a message to those whom he referred to as "Enemies of the homeland, particularly those behind the scenes. Greetings gentlemen of Globovisión, should you continue to call upon societal disobedience and incite for the assassination of the president, I recommend you take a tranquilizer, because if not, I am going to do what is necessary." On June 6 and 7, 2007, the Public Ministry summons the director of <i>Globovisión</i>, Alberto Federico Ravell, and journalist Leopoldo Castillo to declare on the case filed by minister Lara. The Attorney General continues investigating and will summon the entire team of <i>Globovisión</i>.</p>	<p>Globovisión: "<i>Leopoldo Castillo rindió testimonio en la Fiscalía sobre presunta incitación al magnicidio</i>". Article published on June 15, 2007, available at: http://www.globovision.com/news.php?nid=58171 // El Universal: "<i>Fiscalía continúa investigaciones sobre presunta instigación al magnicidio</i>". Article published on July 20, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com/2007/06/20/pol_ava_fiscalia-continua-in_20A888189.shtml // Reporters Without Borders: "<i>Tras el cierre de RCTV, Hugo Chávez ataca a Globovisión, el único canal privado de oposición</i>". Release issued on May 31, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22364 //</p>
<p>On May 28, 2007, the minister of Communication and information, William Lara, accused U.S. news chain CNN before the General Attorney's Office for inciting violence. He submitted as evidence a video of a report narrating the rallies that reject the government decision of not renewing the concession to TV channel <i>RCTV</i>, but supported with images taken in Mexico, during the protests repudiating the death of a journalist in that country. <i>CNN</i> issued a statement denying it is on a "campaign to discredit or attack Venezuela" it admitted the "erroneous use" of the images of Mexico and stated that it issued a "detailed correction" of the report.</p>	<p>Univisión: "<i>Venezuela denunció a más televisoras</i>". Article published on May 29, 2007, available at: http://www.univision.com/content/content.jhtml?chid=3&sc hid=181&secid=274&cid=1193934&pagenum=1 // Globovisión: "<i>Ministro Lara denuncia a CNN y a Globovisión</i>". Note published on May 28, 2007, available at: http://www.globovision.com/news.php?nid=56909 // Agencia bolivariana de Noticias: "<i>CNN miente sobre Venezuela y Globovisión incita al magnicidio</i>". Note published on May 28, 2007, available at: http://www.abn.info.ve/go_news5.php?articulo=93364&lee=4</p>
OTHER	
<p>On May 22, 2007, Mario Silva, conductor of opinion program "<i>La Hojilla</i>" on state-owned channel Venezolana de Televisión, publicly accused a group of journalists who criticized the government for receiving money from the U.S. government to de-stabilize the State. The reporters accused denied the accusation.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Caracas: Acusan a periodistas críticos al gobierno de recibir dinero de la CIA</i>". Alert issued on June 8, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_ACS.htm // Web page with broadcast of the program available at: http://www.dalealplay.com/informaciondecontenido.php?con=36146</p>
<p>Journalist Marietta Santana, "<i>Marietta Alerta</i>" anchor's on channel <i>La Tele</i>, reported that she had been fired from her job on April 21, 2007 for taking part in a rally to support the workers of <i>Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV)</i>.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Periodista denuncia que la dispidieron por protestar contra la no renovación de permiso de transmisión de RCTV</i>". Press release of May 10, 2007.// Diario El Tiempo: "<i>Marietta Santana</i>". Interview published in May 2007, available at: http://www.diarioeltiempo.com.ve/secciones/secciones.php?num=7969&anon=n2007&codigo=npol&llve=dos</p>

VENEZUELA	
SECOND PERIOD 2007 (APRIL-JUNE)	
CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOURCES	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On May 31, 2007, the Public Attorney of Caracas, Álvaro Hitcher, requested an urgent permit from the Attorney General's office to ask weekly publication <i>La Razón</i> to deliver the notes, data, documents, physical and magnetic support used by journalist Luis Felipe Colina to write a column where he disclosed alleged corrupt actions in Petróleos de Venezuela. The attorney also requested the personal data of two typists, the general coordinator, the editor in chief and the manager of the publication.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Caracas: Fiscal solicita a periodista revelar fuentes tras denunciar corrupción en petrolera estatal</i> ". News alert published on June 11, 2007, available at : http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_NV.htm
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
On August 21, 2007, a group of followers of president Hugo Chávez attacked eight journalists from various media, while they covered the public hearing of opposition deputy Óscar Pérez at the seat of the Third Superior Court on Administrative Litigation in Caracas. Among those attacked are Antonio Monroy, Dennys Arenas e Iris García (<i>RCTV</i>), Mardolei Prim (<i>RCR</i>) and Vanessa Gómez Quiroz (<i>El Nacional</i>). The journalists denounced that the seat of the Court was guarded by policemen who, instead of avoiding aggressions, protected the protesters.	IPYS/ IFEX: " <i>Simpatizantes del gobierno agreden a reporteros en audiencia pública</i> ". News alert issued on August 24, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85815 // El Universal: " <i>Periodistas agredidos exigen que sus atacantes sean castigados</i> ". Article published on August 23, 2007, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2007/08/23/pol_art_periodistas-agredido_421847.shtml
On September 17, 2007, about twenty protesters attacked with stones and sticks the offices of newspaper <i>Panorama</i> , in the city of Maracaibo. The newspaper says the aggression is due to information published about the death, on August 8, of an official of the Military Intelligence Directorate, Claudio Macías, in which the head of security of the Government of Zulia is involved, and other publications about the insecurity and impunity in that state. The aggression against the newspaper occurred after the same group caused damages at the Palace of Justice, where Sanchez had been taken, after being accused of the murder of Macías.	Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: " <i>Repudia la SIP ataque a diario venezolano Panorama y pide investigación exhaustiva</i> ". News alert issued on September 26, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1988 // Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Atacan sede de diario Panorama y amenazan a reportero</i> ". News alert issued on September 26, 2007, sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur .
On October 15, 2007, followers of the official government accused <i>Globovisión</i> of putting on a show in order to sabotage the acts for the electoral reform and attacked several reporters, among them Diana Carolina Ruiz, of <i>Globovisión</i> , who had to dodge the blows and insults by a woman who supported the government of Hugo Chávez. Francia Sánchez, reporter of <i>RCTV</i> Internacional, was also attacked when a person dressed with a vest of the Metropolitan Mayor's Office hit her in the face and took the microphone away from her. The journalist was assisted by <i>Telegen</i> 's cameraman and then left the place.	A Punto: " <i>Retiran a estudiantes , artistas y periodistas que protestaron por modificación a la reforma</i> ". Article published on October 16, 2007, available at: http://www.apunto.com.ve/portal/articulos.php?articulo=7174 // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Referéndum constitucional: Reporteros Sin Fronteras teme que se produzca "un giro peligroso para la libertad de prensa"</i> ". News alert issued on November 28, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24537

VENEZUELA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
AGGRESSIONS BY INDIVIDUALS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
On October 25, 2007, journalist of public TV station <i>TV Avila</i> , owned by the office of the Mayor of Caracas and close to the government, Paula Moreno, was injured by a house-made explosive when she covered a meeting at Instituto Pedagógico in Caracas. This happened shortly before the National Assembly approved the constitutional reform proposal. A cameraman of the same medium, was hit with sticks by opposers of the reform, and was sprayed with pesticide and they tried to put him on fire with a lighter.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Reporteros oficialistas de televisión son agredidos en Venezuela</i> ". News alert issued on November 4, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=5468&Language=ES // Reporteros Sin Fronteras: " <i>Reforma constitucional: las manifestaciones hacen furor y Reporteros Sin Fronteras teme por la seguridad de los periodistas</i> ". News alert issued on November 8, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24537
AGGRESSIONS	
On November 7, 2007, photographer Eduardo Molina, of the newspaper <i>Frontera</i> , was wounded by the police when he was covering a protest at Universidad de Los Andes, in Mérida, against the constitutional reform. They hit him and took away his camera.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Noviembre negro para periodistas y medios en Venezuela, durante protestas contra reforma constitucional</i> ". News alert issued on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5514&Language=ES // IPYS/IFEX: " <i>Tres medios acusados de instigar a la violencia, desestabilización social; periodistas agredidos en Mérida</i> ". News alert issued on November 13, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87624.1.html
On November 7, 2007, journalist Gerardo Morón, of newspaper <i>El Informador</i> , was hit by masked men when he was covering a student protest march in Barquisimeto, State of Lara. They took away his camera, his cell phone and personal documents, and they threatened him with a gun shot. Ricardo Maracaputo, of <i>Diario El Impulso</i> was also hit.	IPYS/ IFEX: " <i>Agreden a reporteros durante protestas en Barquisimeto contra reforma constitucional</i> ". News alert issued on November 12, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87596 // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Noviembre negro para periodistas y medios en Venezuela, durante protestas contra reforma constitucional</i> ". News alert issued on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5514&Language=ES
On November 8, 2007, journalists Luis Alberto Barrios Franco and Jorge Eliécer Patiño, of <i>Diario Los Llanos</i> , were attacked by members of a commission of the Special Operations Group (GROES) of the Barinas police, while covering student protests about the constitutional reform. They took Barrios' camera and they broke one of his ribs with a gun, and they took away Patiño's credentials. They had to remain in the GROES vehicle until a police inspector gave them back the cameras and ordered that they be taken to the hospital.	Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: " <i>Policías agreden a reporteros en marcha contra reforma constitucional</i> ". News alert issued on November 19, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_BAR.htm // Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Noviembre negro para periodistas y medios en Venezuela, durante protestas contra reforma constitucional</i> ". News alert issued on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5514&Language=ES
On November 9, 2007, journalist Elvis Rivas, of cable TV channel <i>RCTV Internacional</i> , and Jesús Torres, a graphic reporter of newspaper <i>Cambio de Siglo</i> , were attacked by security officers and political activists, while covering student protests in Mérida. Rivas was recording a civilian and four wounded journalists when a person came up to them and demanded that he stop doing it. Then three policemen hit him with their shields, took his camera away and threw it in a nearby lot. They took Torres' camera away and then hit him to make him leave the protest.	Federación Internacional de Periodistas: " <i>Noviembre negro para periodistas y medios en Venezuela, durante protestas contra reforma constitucional</i> ". News alert issued on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5514&Language=ES // IPYS/IFEX: " <i>Tres medios acusados de instigar a la violencia, desestabilización social; periodistas agredidos en Mérida</i> ". News alert issued on November 13, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87624.1.html // El Tiempo: " <i>Periodista de RCTV fue agredido en Mérida por presuntos oficialistas y policías</i> ". Article published in November 2007, available at: http://www.eltiempo.com.ve/noticias/imprimir.asp?id=130422

VENEZUELA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
THREATS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On September 26, 2007, unknown persons left a briefcase with the message "Homeland, Socialism or Death to you, Bicha", in front of the house of journalist Berenice Gómez, also known as "La Bicha", (referring to the name of a program she has), in the town of San Antonio de los Altos. The neighbors called the Intelligence Police (DISIP), which discarded that there were an explosive artifact inside the briefcase. Gómez has a segment "Los Chismes de la Bicha" in TV program "La Entrevista", in <i>Radio Caracas Televisión, RCTV Internacional</i>, where she presents denunciations, criticisms and comments on political information, as well as a political opinion program in radio station <i>RCR</i>.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "CARACAS:INTIMIDAN A PERIODISTA DE RCTV". News alert issued on October 1, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_PRG.htm //</p>
HARASSMENT	
<p>Lawyer Eva Gollinger and the host of the program <i>La Hojilla</i>, Mario Silva, filed an alert before the Standing Committee of Science, Technology and Mass Communications of the parliament, that a group of Venezuelan journalists was being used by the government of the United States to impose their agenda and de-stabilize the government of Hugo Chávez. They presented a list of 33 reporters who went to education and culture exchange programs sponsored by the Department of State of the U.S. The Committee summoned the journalists to report about those activities on August 9, 2007. However, the appearance remained in suspense. On August 13, some of the journalists mentioned in the list demanded that the National Assembly give them the right to answer the accusations and they criticized the use of that list with their names by officialist media.</p>	<p>Press release by journalists in view of the denunciations made before the National Assembly, issued on August 13, 2007, sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur. // El Universal: "Periodistas comparecerán en Comisión de medios de AN". Article published on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com/2007/08/02/pol_art_periodistas-comparec_387134.shtml // El Universal: "Congelan comparecencia de periodistas ante AN". Article published on August 9, 2007, available at: http://www.eluniversal.com/2007/08/09/pol_art_congelan-comparecenc_397670.shtml</p>
<p>In September 2007, representatives of the Latin-American parliament and the pro-government organization Periodistas por la Verdad, asked for the temporary suspension of the broadcasts by <i>Globovisión</i> before the National Telecommunications Commission. Those promoting this measure accused <i>Globovisión</i> of breaching Article 29 of the Law on Social Responsibility of Radio and Television by showing on September 16, 2007, a fight at the Hospital of Lidice in Caracas. The organizations held that the channel was trying to de-stabilize the government by encouraging a medical strike</p>	<p>El Universal: "Oficialistas exigen a Conatel que cierre a Globovisión por 72 horas". Artículo publicado el 22 de septiembre de 2007, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2007/09/22/pol_art_oficialistas-exigen_489830.shtml // Unionradio. net: "Interponen denuncia contra Globovisión por violación de la ley de Responsabilidad Social". Artículo publicado el 21 de septiembre de 2007, available at: http://www.unionradio.com.ve/Noticias/Noticias.aspx?noticiaid=216346</p>

VENEZUELA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
HARASSMENT	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On November 7, 2007, the president of the National Assembly, Cilia Flores, accused <i>Globovisión</i>, <i>El Nacional</i> and the <i>CNN</i> chain of promoting social de-stabilization for having reminded in their reports the protests of April 11, 2002. Also on November 7, 2007, deputy Iris Varela, threatened to organize a protest against <i>Globovisión</i> "for it to answer before the country due to the treatment of the violent events in the last few days". On November 6, 2007, the Bolivarian Federation of Students asked the National Telecommunications Commission (CONATEL) to penalize <i>Globovisión</i> for alleged incitation of violence. Its spokesman, Carlos Serra, warned that if CONATEL does not act, "the people will take the main headquarters of the TV channel". On November 8, "bolivarian" students denounced <i>Globovisión</i> before the Office of the Attorney General of instigating violence. The same day, the Attorney General of the Republic appointed Prosecutor María Alejandra Pérez, to investigate regarding the channel's responsibility.</p>	<p>Federación Internacional de Periodistas: "<i>Noviembre negro para periodistas y medios en Venezuela, durante protestas contra reforma constitucional</i>". News alert issued on November 14, 2007, available at: http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=5514&Language=ES // IPYS/IFEX: "<i>Tres medios acusados de instigar a la violencia, desestabilización social; periodistas agredidos en Mérida</i>". News alert issued on November 13, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87624.1.html</p>
PRIOR CENSORSHIP	
<p>On July 23, 2007, the president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, ordered the Vice-President's office and the Ministries of the Interior and Exterior Affairs to banish from the country any foreign citizens that speak ill of his government. "Any foreigner that comes here to disparage us, Venezuelans, the free, democratic and legitimate government of Venezuela, has to be, with due respect, taken to Maiquetía and told: "here is your suitcase, Sir, go away from this country, " said the president in his Sunday program <i>Aló, presidente</i>. "No foreigner, whoever he may be, can come here and go against us. However comes (with that intention) has to be driven out of the country; it cannot be allowed, it is a matter of dignity," Chávez said.</p>	<p>Caracol Radio: "<i>Chávez ordena expulsar a extranjeros que critiquen</i>". Article published on July 23, 2007, available at: http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/457017.asp // Portafolio.com: "<i>Chávez ordena expulsar a extranjeros críticos</i>". Article published on July 23, 2007, available at: http://www.portafolio.com.co/port_secc_online/porta_inte_online/2007-07-24/ARTICULO-WEB-NOTA_INTERIOR_PORTA-3584450.html</p>
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
<p>On July 3, 2007, the Chief of Security of the Minister for the People's Power for Popular Participation and Social Development prevented journalist Wilmer Solano from entering the entity's main office to obtain the testimony of the administrators after the dismissal of a group of workers. In the meantime, on July 10 and 11, 2007, the security personnel of <i>Petróleos Venezuela SA (PDVSA)</i> forbade access to the company to the correspondents of <i>Globovisión</i> in Zulia, María Valentina Portilla and María Gutiérrez, when they were going to cover the declarations by the president of PDVSA and the protests by the workers at the oil company.</p>	<p>IPYS/ IFEX: "<i>Trabajadores estatales restringen acceso a la información a periodistas de Globovisión</i>". News alert issued on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/85296</p>

VENEZUELA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On September 5, 2007, security agents of Petróleos de Venezuela SA did not let reporters of <i>Globovisión</i> and Televen in to cover the forum "Terrorismo Mediático". Rafael Fuenmayor, of <i>Globovisión</i>, said he was told that only the state-owned media were authorized to cover this forum. The same day, a team of reporters, also of <i>Globovisión</i> could not cover the statements made by the Minister of the Interior and Justice, Pedro Carreño, before the National Risk Committee.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Venezuela: Impiden cobertura a Globovisión en empresa estatal. Restrucciones contra medios son reiteradas</i>". News alert issued on September 5, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/boletines/septiembrelv.pdf</p>
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On October 2, 2007, judge Juan Carlos Tacoa ordered the closure and seizing of the transmission equipment of radio <i>Horizonte 88.5 FM</i>, which criticizes the current government, for not having paid the purchase of such equipment from the company L & G Corporation. The suit was filed by the owner of the company Jonathan Gutiérrez, in 2006. The Institute for Press and Society deemed that the judge's decision breached Article 97 of the Organic Law of the Office of the General Solicitor of the Republic, that provides that, in the event of attachment of goods used for a public service, the Solicitor should be previously notified, and give him a term of 45 days, which formality has not been complied with.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>EMBARGAN EQUIPOS DE TRANSMISIÓN A RADIO POR MANDATO JUDICIAL</i>". News alert issued on October 12, 2007, available at: http://www.ipys.org.ve/2007/a_CD_HRZ.htm // El Universal: "<i>Diputado Juan José Molina denunció atropellos del alcalde de El Palmar</i>". Article published on October 3, 2007, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2007/10/03/pol_ava_diputado-juan-jose-m_03A1095557.shtml</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS	
<p>On August 16, 2007, a study of the Press and Society Institute (Instituto Prensa y Sociedad) revealed that one-fourth of Venezuelan journalists believe the "closing of official sources" is the main obstacle they are currently facing in the practice of their profession. According to this work, done with a survey of 192 journalists in eight cities from May 27, through July 26, each of the persons interviewed faced an incident related to the closing of official sources during the twelve months prior to the interview.</p>	<p>El Nacional: "<i>Estudio de Instituto Prensa y Sociedad revela cierre de fuentes oficiales</i>". Article published on August 16, 2007, available at: http://www.el-nacional.com/Articulos/Paralmpresion.asp?Id=109967&idseccion=64 // Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Estudio sobre Censura y Autocensura en Venezuela</i>". Document sent by e-mail to the office of the Special Rapporteur on August 15, 2007.</p>
<p>On October 18, 2007, the National Electoral Council (CNE) opened an administrative proceeding against television station <i>Globovisión</i> for airing twelve spots that, according to the Council, made advanced electoral advertising about the constitutional reform. The penalties for that fault involve imprisonment and fines for up to US\$15,000. According to <i>Globovisión's</i> attorney, Ana Núñez, the CNE did not respect the ten-business day term for the channel to submit its allegations and thus determine whether or not there was an infraction. She stated that they had not made any advanced advertising.</p>	<p>IPYS/ IFEX: "<i>Consejo electoral interfiere con transmisión de publicidad sobre reforma constitucional</i>". News alert issued on November 12, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87592/index.html // <i>Globovisión</i>: "<i>Posición de Globovisión ante la arbitraria suspensión de los micros de Ciudadanía Activa</i>". Press release issued on October 19, 2007, available at: http://www.globovision.com/news.php?nid=68521</p>

VENEZUELA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
LEGISLATION	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>On July 2007, members of the Standing Committee for Science, Technology and Media of the National Assembly posed the need to create a legislation for mass media and journalists that work in them. Deputy Luis Tascón said that there must be sought a legislation that demands documents to back up the denouncements made through the mass media. "Journalists cannot be shielding themselves behind secret sources and politicians also cannot do that," he stated when suggesting that the doors of the parliamentary committee be opened to receive denouncements about cases that involve payments made to journalists for publishing notes or for not publishing them.</p>	<p>El Universal: <i>"Proponen crear legislación para periodistas y medios"</i>. Article published on July 19, 2007, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2007/07/19/pol_art_propone_n-crear-legis_366881.shtml // Uniradio.net: <i>"Nueva Ley del Periodismo filtrará denuncias y reforzará seguridad de periodistas"</i>. Article published on July 27, 2007, available at: http://www.unionradio.com.ve/Noticias/Noticias.aspx?noticiad=210367</p>
<p>On November 2, 2007, the National Assembly of Venezuela approved, almost unanimously, the constitutional reform that, among other things, broadens the powers of the chief of State and confers upon him the possibility of decreeing an unlimited state of exception, without being obliged to obtain the approval of the Supreme Court. This implies that in the event of a state of exception, some of the constitutional guaranties could be suspended, such as the right to due process or particularly, the right to access information. The constitutional reform was brought to the consideration of the Venezuelan electors on December 2, 2007, but the NO option won and the new text was not added to the Constitution.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"La Asamblea Nacional aprueba la reforma constitucional que limita el acceso a la información, en casos de "estado de excepción"</i>". News alert issued on October 26, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24055 // El País: <i>"La Reforma que divide a Venezuela"</i>. Article published on November 12, 2007, available at: http://www.elpais.com/articulo/internacional/reforma/divide/Venezuela/elpepuintlat/20071112elpepuint_5/Tes // Article 19: <i>"Venezuela: Constitutional Reform Threatens Freedom of Expression"</i>. Press release issued on November 8, 2007.</p>
OTHERS	
<p>On July 16, 2007, TV channel <i>RCTV Internacional</i> returned to its broadcasting by cable for Venezuela, Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire and Trinidad & Tobago. <i>RCTV</i> had gone off the air on May 28, 2007, when the Venezuelan government refused to renew the license to continue broadcasting. The minister of Information and Communication, William Lara, then announced that the law would be reformed in order to force paid television to retransmit the presidential chain messages and the Venezuelan anthem. The authorities ordered <i>RCTV</i> to joint the chain with the government signal to transmit official messages and asked that it be registered as a national medium by August 1, 2007, otherwise it would be taken off the air. For the director of the cable channel, Marcel Granier, the measure was "arbitrary" because <i>RCTV</i> had commitments with foreign audiences and it should be treated as the other international cable channels that operated in Venezuela.</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: <i>"El gobierno quiere obligar a los canales por cable y satélite a retransmitir las "cadenas" presidenciales"</i>. News alert issued on July 19, 2007, available at: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=22902 // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: <i>"Preocupa a la SIP continua persecución contra RCTV"</i>. News alert issued on July 30, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=1955 // El Universal: <i>"RCTV denuncia más "persecución" contra la prensa independiente"</i>. Article published on August 1, 2007, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2007/08/01/rctv_ava_rctv-denuncia-mas-p_01A908759.shtml</p>

VENEZUELA	
THIRD PERIOD 2007 (JULY-NOVEMBER)	
OTHERS	
RECEIVED INFORMATION	SOURCE
<p>At the end of July 2007, the Venezuelan Chamber of Subscription Television (Cámara Venezolana de Televisión por Suscripción) (Cavetesu) requested a meeting with CONATEL to set clear the terms and duties of national producers, and to ask for an extension to <i>RCTV</i> before taking it off the air for not having been registered as a national medium, in spite of having been broadcasting by cable as an international signal. Not having any reply from CONATEL, on August 1, 2007, Cavetesu asked the Supreme Court of Justice for constitutional protection together with a precautionary measure, while the meaning of "national audiovisual producer" was made clear. The afternoon of August 1, 2007, the Supreme Court accepted the request for constitutional protection requested by Cavetesu and <i>RCTV</i>, as well as other cable channels that were facing the same requirement, and they continued on the air. The resolution of the Supreme Court validates the allegations of Cavetesu, which stated that neither the Law on Social Responsibility in Radio and TV, nor any other rule defines what a national producer is.</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists: "<i>In Venezuela, court's decision allows RCTV to remain on cable</i>". News alert issued on August 2, 2007, available at: http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/americas/ven02aug07na.html // BBC: "<i>RCTV bajo amparo</i>". Article published on August 2, 2007, available at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/spanish/latin_america/newsid_6927000/6927145.stm // El Universal: "<i>Sala Constitucional permite a RCTV emitir por cable</i>". Article published on August 2, 2007, available at: http://buscador.eluniversal.com/2007/08/02/pol_art_sala-constitucional_387126.shtml</p>
<p>On October 13, 2007, the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) confirmed its decision to hold its Mid-Year Meeting in Venezuela in March 2008, in spite that "the apparent government pressures whereby we have had difficulties to contract premises for this event. In November 2007, the National Assembly urged pthe president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, to declare the presence of the IAPA as non-grata, by alleging that its representative visits the nation to disparage the president and its institutions.</p>	<p>Inter-American Press Association: "<i>La SIP reitera propósito de celebrar reunión en Venezuela</i>". News alert published on October 13, 2007, available at: http://www.sipiapa.org/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=2000 // Reuters: "<i>Asamblea de Venezuela pide a Chávez declarar 'no grata' a la SIP</i>". Article published on November 13, 2007, available at: http://lta.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idLTAN1357844620071113</p>
<p>Between October 20 and 21, 2007, unidentified persons entered the house of journalist Simón Romero, correspondent in Venezuela for <i>The New York Times</i>, and stole his computer, where he had saved his journalist articles. His computer was the only thing they took from his house in the burglary, wherefore journalists' organizations discard that this is a common burglary.</p>	<p>Instituto Prensa y Sociedad: "<i>Roban computadora de casa de corresponsal del New York Times</i>". News alert published on November 12, 2007, available at: http://egypt.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/87586/index.html // El Universal: "<i>Aviso?</i>". Article published on November 1, 2007, available at: http://noticias.eluniversal.com/2007/11/01/opi_4807_art_runrunes571937.shtml</p>
<p>On December 11, 2007, the newspaper <i>El Correo del Caroní</i>, based in Puerto Ordaz, announced on its website that it would stop circulation of its printed version given the limitations it was facing to obtain foreign currency that would allow it to import paper. On December 15, it resumed normal circulation, after receiving enough paper from its provider to print the newspaper. The newspaper's management accused the government of denying them the amount of US dollars they need to import paper, given the existing currency exchange controls that force individuals to apply for obtaining foreign currency from an <i>ad hoc</i> entity, the <i>Comisión de Administración de Divisas</i> (Foreign Currency Management Commission).</p>	<p>Reporteros Sin Fronteras: "<i>Reaparece un diario regional, ausente tres días de los kioscos</i>". Alerta emitida el 17 de diciembre de 2007, disponible en: http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24707 // Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa: "<i>Preocupa a la SIP suspensión de edición impresa de diario venezolano</i>". Alerta emitida el 12 de diciembre de 2007, disponible en: http://www.sipiapa.com/espanol/pressreleases/srchcountrydetail.cfm?PressReleaseID=2044</p>

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

1. This report highlights gains during the year with respect to the freedom of thought and expression, while also describing the most worrisome situations reported in the region.

2. The 16 persons assassinated in the region in 2007 for motives related to their exercise of the right to freedom of expression, and the hundreds of physical assaults and threats against journalists, reveal that violence has been an unceasing factor that becomes all the more serious due to the impunity and complexity entailed in the attacks being perpetrated by private persons. In addition, some journalists have disappeared in the course of their work, while other reporters, fearful that the threats against them may be carried out, opt for silence, leave the profession, or leave their cities or countries. At the same time, the recurrent use of criminal proceedings against journalists on charges of *desacato* (contempt), defamation, slander, or libel shows, in the vast majority of cases, so much intolerance of criticism by public officials, and the use of such criminal law provisions to thwart investigations into corruption, reflecting a manifest lack of understanding of international standards that protect honor or reputation through civil remedies, in which certain requirements are met that safeguard the free circulation of expressions or information of public interest.

3. In addition to the above-mentioned more direct violations, there is a growing trend on the part of government authorities to make recurrent use of more subtle methods for coercing the media that have a negative impact on the diversity of sources of information including, among others: shutdowns of channels or embargos on programs that make the government uncomfortable; proceedings to review concessions or the failure to renew licenses of media critical of the government by entities that are not independent, under political pressure, and without due process; statization of media without the guarantees public media should enjoy to perform the social function of providing impartial and quality information, and not become tools of the official line; government pressure through administrative inspections for the purpose of influencing critical editorial lines; discriminatory policies when it comes to assigning official publicity; and discrimination in access to official sources.

4. The foregoing situations also occur in a general context characterized by more structural factors. One of these is the concentration of media ownership in several countries of the region, which often implies that in practice persons receive a single perspective on the matters that concern them. This situation does not contribute to the effective observance of the freedom of expression and democracy, which needs pluralism and diversity to subsist and grow stronger. The Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates that concentration and monopolies in media ownership and control, whether by the state, individuals, or companies, have a negative impact on pluralism, which is a fundamental component of the freedom of expression.

5. Another factor that continues to have a negative impact on the freedom of expression in several countries is the lack of appropriate legislation about community radio broadcasting, in which it is recognized as a distinct form of broadcasting. This problem arises due to the failure of the state to design public policies adapted to the special characteristics of these media, taking into account at least the following, noted in the Joint Declaration on Diversity in Broadcasting: the existence of simple procedures for obtaining licenses; no demand of severe technological requirements that would prevent them, in practice, from even being able to file a request for space with the state; and the possibility of using advertising to finance their operations. Along the same lines, there is a need for legislation that appropriately defines the concept of

community radio and that includes its social purpose, its nature as comprised of non-profit entities, and its operational and financial independence. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has already highlighted the importance of community radio in fostering the pluralism and diversity of sources of information, as well as their fundamental role as instruments of access to information and channels of participation for distant or marginalized communities. In practice, the lack of appropriate legislation makes it difficult to distinguish community radio stations from those that simply operate outside of the established legal framework, which prevents community media from having access to the radioelectric spectrum on equitable terms, so as to foster diversity.

6. The lack of adequate access to information is also a structural situation with a negative impact on the right to freedom of expression in a large number of states of the region, where a culture of secrecy and lack of transparency prevails.

B. Recommendations to the Member States of the OAS

7. Mindful of the existing situation in the area of the freedom of thought and expression in the region, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression recommends that the member states of the OAS take certain actions to continue making progress in this area:

1. Give due attention to the situation of violence against journalists in the region and impunity in the respective cases, taking effective actions that entail, in practice, imposing sanctions on the direct perpetrators and those responsible for planning such crimes, and securing adequate reparation for the victims and their next-of-kin, as appropriate. Adopt the measures needed to guarantee the security of reporters in the face of the assaults and threats directed against them, when from state agents or private persons.
2. Adopt all measures necessary to ensure that in the states in which the displacement or exile of journalists at risk occurs, if they so wish, they can return to their homes in secure conditions that make it possible for them to do their work freely. Otherwise, if the workers wish to remain elsewhere, the state should adopt measures to ensure that their stay in the place chosen is in dignified conditions and includes security and economic support as necessary to be able to keep their jobs and their family relations in the most appropriate manner. The state should put in place mechanisms to give them genuine measures of protection and ensure that those facing grave threats can be safe and sound.
3. Repeal the criminal offense of *desacato* from their legislations and amend the relevant provisions of the criminal codes and related laws so as to do away with the use of criminal procedures to protect honor and reputation when information is disseminated on matters of public interest.
4. Refrain from using government power to punish or reward based on the editorial line of different media and journalists, whether through the discriminatory and arbitrary assignment of government advertising, administrative procedures, pressure, or other indirect means geared to impeding the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions.
5. Refrain from taking actions that have a negative impact on pluralism and adopt legislative and other measures to guarantee it, including antitrust laws. Adopt legislation that ensures transparent, public, and equitable criteria for assigning radioelectric frequencies, that take into account the current concentration of media

ownership and that assign administration of the radioelectric spectrum to an independent agency.

6. Legislate in the area of community broadcasting to assign part of the spectrum to community radio stations, and to ensure that democratic criteria be taken into account in assigning these frequencies that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals in accessing them, in keeping with Principle 12 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and the Joint Declaration on Diversity in Broadcasting, of December 2007.
7. Adopt legislation on access to information that incorporates international standards in the area that implement practices in the framework of transparency and anti-corruption policies.
8. Adapt their domestic legislation in keeping with the standards on freedom of thought and expression established in the American Convention on Human Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the IACHR.
9. The Office of the Special Rapporteur is grateful to the journalists and media, the different states, the non-governmental organizations, and the academic institutions that have worked with the Office this year, as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, its Executive Secretariat, and the Secretary General of the OAS for their steadfast support.