

Document One.**How journalist safety and freedom of speech made the headlines in Finland**

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Kaius Niemi is editor-in-chief of Ilta-Sanomat, Finland's second largest daily newspaper and Taloussanomat, the country's principal business news website.

A colossal 80-part series highlighting the plight of international journalists who have been imprisoned, persecuted or killed in the past year has been one Finnish newspaper's remarkable commitment to raising the profile of journalists' safety.

It was just another idea among several others during a hectic news day last November: why not introduce compelling accounts of how tough life can be for so many journalists worldwide.

Violations of freedom of speech are far too often displayed only through cold statistics. In many cases issues of free speech only appear on the editorial pages. The real stories and emotions behind the bare numbers are rarities. So let's make more room for storytelling.

I quickly gathered 10 prominent journalists from our joint newsroom at the *Ilta-Sanomat* newspaper and *Taloussanomat* online business service. The idea was extremely simple. *Ilta-Sanomat* has been celebrating its 80th anniversary since last February. We would round off the anniversary by publishing, on a daily basis, a story of a journalist who has either been persecuted, jailed or killed during the year.

By the end of February 2013 we would have a total of 80 impressive stories. Together they would highlight the value of our ability to report and express opinions without fear. Finland has been topping the World Press Freedom Index for years. We should not forget our duty to promote and cherish this basic right.

The project started in mid-December by running a story about Uzbek journalist Muhammad Bekjanov. He was due to be released from prison in early 2012, but a 13-year imprisonment in appalling conditions was not enough for the authoritarian Uzbek government. Bekjanov was sentenced to an additional five-year term.

No-one from the outside world, not even his wife, has met this tortured journalist in six years. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Bekjanov has been imprisoned for longer than almost any reporter worldwide.

Compiling the list of persecuted journalists has been quite a labour-intensive task, but not because of lack of information. Thanks to numerous sharp-eyed NGOs including Reporters Without Borders, CPJ, UNESCO and the International Press Institute, we have been able to both understand the overall situation and delve into the particular cases.

But selecting the cases has not always been easy. Our aim has been to offer a diverse set of stories including various types of violations and an adequate geographical focus. Telling a single journalist's story has been, in some cases, almost impossible.

For example, we know far too little of what is going on inside North Korea. Our solution has been to tell the story of the unknown reporters who are risking their lives while reporting clandestinely for the Japan-based *Rimjin-gang* magazine.

Feedback was immediate. We have received a lot of encouraging messages from readers and colleagues. People have also expressed approval for the project through social media.

The stories not only tell of the plight of individual journalists but offer insights into their countries.

What next? Although the initial *Ilta-Sanomat* project will be finished by the end of February, there is more to come. UNESCO is planning to publish a couple of dozen of our stories on its website, and translate them into the official UN languages. Together with journalism-based *Päivälehti* museum, we mounted an exhibition of free speech using the material already published. And with the *Helsingin Sanomat Foundation* we are organising a nationwide discussion forum on how freedom of speech projects could be introduced into newsrooms all around Finland.

Could this project have an official legacy too? Finland has an established role in international peace mediation. I would very much like to see free speech advocacy extended increasingly on the Finnish agenda -of course with

the help of professional journalists and Finnish NGOs. Encouragingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already shown interest in developing the idea further.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/collegeofjournalism/entries/866fd335-c152-368f-bbcc-52671d8c08cd>

Document Two.

Reporters Without Borders

Violations of press freedom barometer

The figures in 2016

were killed in 2016	are imprisoned at this time
37 journalists	145 journalists
1 netizen	152 netizens
8 media assistants	14 media assistants

Published every year since 2002 by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the World Press Freedom Index is an important advocacy tool based on the principle of emulation between states. Because it is well known, its influence over governments is growing. Many heads of state and government fear its annual publication.

The Index is a point of reference that is quoted by media throughout the world and is used by diplomats and international entities such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

Rank	Country	Diff / 2015
1	Finland	0
2	The Netherlands	+2
3	Norway	-1
4	Denmark	-1
5	New Zealand	+1
6	Costa Rica	+10
7	Switzerland	+13
8	Sweden	-3
9	Ireland	+2
10	Jamaica	-1
11	Austria	-4
12	Slovakia	+2
13	Belgium	+2
14	Estonia	-4
15	Luxembourg	+4
16	Germany	-4
17	Namibia	0
18	Canada	-10
19	Iceland	+2
20	Uruguay	+3
21	Czech Republic	-8
22	Surinam	+7
23	Portugal	+3
24	Latvia	+4
25	Australia	0
26	Ghana	-4
27	Cyprus	-3
28	Liechtenstein	-1
29	Samoa	+11
30		
31	Chile	+12

Rank	Country	Diff / 2015
32	Cape Verde	+4
33	Andorra	-1
34	Spain	-1
35	Lithuania	-4
36	Belize	-6
37	Tonga	+7
38	The United Kingdom	-4
39	South Africa	0
40	Slovenia	-5
41	The United States	+8
42	Burkina Faso	+4
43	Botswana	-1
44	Trinidad and Tobago	-3
45	France	-7
165	Saudi Arabia	-1
166	Uzbekistan	0
167	Somalia	5
168	Equatorial Guinea	-1
169	Iran	+4
170	Yemen	-2
171	Cuba	-2
172	Djibouti	-2
173	Laos	-2
174	Sudan	0
175	Vietnam	0
176	China	0
177	Syria	0
178	Turkmenistan	0
179	North Korea	0
180	Eritrea	0

Document Three.

The Privilege to Insult: Freedom of Speech and its Contradictions

Randa Abdel-Fattah ABC RELIGION AND ETHICS 12 JAN 2015

Nobody should die for expressing an opinion, no matter how racist and vile that opinion may be. That such murder occurred in purported defence of the Prophet Mohammed's honour speaks to the twisted and depraved mindset of the perpetrators and proves their credentials, not as enactors of Islamic teachings, but violators.

Some, however, extrapolate this tragedy as proof of a wider narrative that constructs Islam as evil/violent/extreme and the West as freedom-loving/civilized/democratic. The Anders Breiviks and violent far-right thugs of Europe are mere glitches in an otherwise civilized Western system that is threatened by "freedom-hating" Muslims.

This narrative operates outside of the realm of facts on the ground. The Muslim world has suffered more casualties at the hands of the West in the name of "freedom" than the West has suffered at the hands of Muslims in the name of "Islam." Pakistani and Yemeni civilians live in daily fear of Western drones. Palestinian and foreign journalists are killed by Israeli air strikes. Saudi and Egyptian bloggers, satirists and journalists who express their opinions are murdered or imprisoned by despotic regimes supported by the same Western governments who champion only our freedom of speech.

That, of course, is all happening "over there" – among *them*. Their grief, trauma and fear are nothing compared to ours over *here*.

I understand that it is human nature to identify with the grief and trauma suffered by those similar to oneself rather than to extend empathy to those who are different. That is the logic that sustains *us* and *them*. It falsely dichotomises the world and our affective, visceral and emotional response to the world. It produces a stark asymmetry in the value we place on human life. Every single one of us is guilty of this.

What is truly astonishing, however, is not that this asymmetry occurs, but that we, in the Western world, are in such denial about it and weave fantasy stories about who we are, what we represent and why things occur.

In my view, the murderous rampage against Charlie Hebdo had little or nothing to do with faith. The tragedy is not that the murderers were Muslim but they were not devout Muslims. Only a person with no understanding of Islam and the Prophet's example could dare to think that killing innocent people in his name honoured him.

It is more likely that this was a wretched and all too familiar story of the emasculated and racialized trying to wield their own perverted sense of power. This reading does not render such violence any less heinous or tragic, nor does it suggest that all racialized, disempowered people are vulnerable to radicalization (if that was the case, this would be a far more common occurrence).

But I am increasingly astounded about how our Western societies - which claim to embody Enlightenment values of rationality, objectivity, evidentiary-based thinking and independent thought - continually exhibit a remarkable lack of depth and unsophistication in understanding the world.

An ahistorical, decontextualized, simple interpretation of these murders would read something like this: they hate us for our freedom; they were waging a war on liberty and democracy; we are a society that values free speech. How to reconcile these oft-repeated slogans with the fact that in France, the wearing of religious symbols and face-veils is banned? That pro-Palestinian protests are banned? Or, closer to home, that we recently almost decided that Muslim women visiting Parliament House who wear face-veils should sit in a glass cage?

Let us stop this nonsensical charade. There is nothing "free" about free speech. All speech has a price and the currency is privilege.

Freedom implies universality in application. It is a pretence to believe that we live in societies that protect all forms of freedom of speech. Maybe they do if we compare them to despotic regimes like Saudi Arabia or Egypt, but if you need to do that to make your case you're on shaky ground. The fact is we have freedom of speech for some, not freedom of speech for all. When you enjoy freedom of speech you are exercising privilege, not exercising a right.

As disgusting as the cartoons are, in my view the Prophet's memory and example is honoured in responding constructively to his demonization. I am against state censorship because I don't trust the state as it invariably protects the freedom of privileged voices and suppresses the freedom of disenfranchised voices. And I am more than prepared to engage in debate about whether racist hate speech should be sanctioned and whether people have the "right" (that is, *privilege*) to be bigots and to insult. But the problem is that the debate is foreclosed by inane and dishonest claims that we in the West stand for freedom of expression and the universal "right" to offend.

Those who think speech is free and unfettered should reflect on the fact that, as a society, we no longer accept racist depictions of black and indigenous people in our media. As a society, we no longer countenance publishing vile anti-semitic cartoons. Just recall that, during Israel's assault on Gaza in July last year, Fairfax was forced to apologise for publishing an anti-semitic cartoon - a cartoon condemned by the Attorney-General

(the one, remember, who declares our right to be bigots) as "deplorable." Society has shifted in its perceptions of what speech is "deplorable" and what speech is not.

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Document Four.



Banksy

Document Five.

Freedom

Freedom has always been an entity,
associated with cost.

Barely even acknowledged,
until it is lost.

It then becomes an all encompassing thing,
the goal of an endeavor,
never ending.

Once recovered,
freedom takes on a taste,
that left with the ungrateful,
reeks of waste.

And freedom gained is always,
freedom earned,
and the lessons,
from the loss of freedom,
seem seldom learned.

At times I've felt that freedom,
could be never overrated,
because the terms of its contract,
were always understated.
It was like trying to figure out,
whether or not to sell Your home,
or realizing that You were quite alright,
with being alone.

And freedom is less a fact than an emotion,
and until it's lost,
is nothing more,
than a soothing lotion,
placed in emphasis upon Your skin at night,
barely there in recompense,
by morning light.

I'm not surprised so many,
lose their freedom,
each and every day.
It's insulted so often,
it just goes away.
Freedom is the type,
that deserves its recognition,
and its loss is never preceded,
by precognition.

So don't You think for one second,
that freedom's not a gift.
It's like flakes of gold, its value untold,
through the sands You sift.
Keep Your recognition of freedom,
close by throughout the day,
or be startled not,
when by surprise You're caught
as it silently makes its way.