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JOURNALIST SAFETY INDEX 2022



**The Alliance of Independent Journalists
2022**



JOURNALIST SAFETY INDEX

2022

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JOURNALIST SAFETY INDEX

2022

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The Alliance of Independent Journalists

2022

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FOREWORD BY AJI

Define Your Security and Make Rescue Efforts.

The Journalist Safety Index 2022 depicts the safety of journalists in various parts of Indonesia. These safety indicators can at least be seen from several indicators of physical security, mental health, digital security, to legal security. These four security indicators, if prepared carefully, can at least reduce the impact or even avoid attacks.

Unfortunately, not all journalists have sufficient knowledge about security and not many companies provide guarantees for the protection of their employees. As a result, the impact felt by victims of attacks on journalists is increasingly layered and heavy. Therefore, AJI as a professional organization is interested in creating the Journalist Safety Index as a material for evaluating and improving future policies.

The Journalist Safety Index 2022 is the first index created by AJI. Of course, there are still a number of limitations in its preparation. However, this Journalist Safety Index can at least give an idea of the condition of journalists in various regions.

The Journalist Safety Index 2022 is expected to be an input for the press community, including journalists, press companies, and the Press Council, as well as the government to guarantee journalist safety improves. For example, by ensuring the provision of personal protective equipment for journalists to be safe at work.

However, efforts to prevent violence against journalists must go hand in hand with law enforcement efforts against perpetrators of violence. Law enforcement officers must process the perpetrators of violence who are still roaming the community. Without all of this, efforts to prevent violence from the press community will cripple and violence against journalists will persist. This means that the desired safety of journalists will be more difficult to achieve.

Finally, AJI Indonesia would like to thank USAID and Internews for the support so that this research can be carried out. We believe this wonderful collaboration will continue in the future. One of them is the upcoming year's preparation of the Journalist Safety Index so that it can become a qualified study material for a better Indonesian press.

Happy reading

Sasmito

Chairman of AJI Indonesia



FOREWORD BY INTERNEWS

The safety of journalists is still a major issue in Indonesia today. In the records of AJI and LBH Pers, in the last three years, journalists have become increasingly at risk of violence, both digitally and physically. This will hinder the work of the press, one of the pillars of democracy. Public access to information can also experience a decline in quality.

Therefore, Internews, through the USAID-funded Media Empowerment for Democratic Integrity and Accountability (MEDIA) program, supports the publication of the Journalist Safety Index 2022 initiated and compiled by the Alliance of Independent Journalists. MEDIA aims to improve the availability and access to quality information towards strengthening democratic accountability and reducing the risk of conflict.

Thus, this publication is very much in line with one of MEDIA's goals, namely increasing the ability of journalists, civil society organizations, and activists to prevent and manage threats and risks, both physical and digital. It is hoped that this media safety index will contribute to efforts to protect the fundamental right of citizens to be well-informed, provided that journalists can do their job safely.

The Journalist Safety Index itself incorporates several indicators, namely political and economic conditions, regulations related to press/information freedom, as well as violence against journalists from physical, digital, legal, and psychological aspects. This shows that the safety and security of journalists is something complex, involving not just violence in the field while reporting – which is still prevalent in Indonesia – but also structural and welfare issues that contribute to work safety. This is a significant contribution from AJI in the current development of journalism.

Hopefully, this publication can become another important benchmark as a result of Internews' partnership with AJI Indonesia which has been going on for more than two decades. We hope that this index will not only serve as a study but will become a benchmark in the future for how journalist safety and security are implemented in Indonesia.

Eric Sasono | MEDIA Chief of Party
Internews Indonesia



Journalist Safety Index

1. Introduction

Background

Journalists in Indonesia are not safe and need serious attention from stakeholders. Every year, there are journalists who experience violence. **In 2021, the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Indonesia recorded 43 cases of violence against journalists.**

The types of violence experienced by journalists vary, including physical violence, coverage bans, threats, digital attacks, terror, sexual violence, criminalization, to murder. This violence deliberately targets journalists and has the potential to traumatize them.

The most recent case of physical violence happened to a journalist for Tempo magazine in Surabaya, Nurhadi, who was briefly detained when he asked for confirmation (a case of alleged corruption) from a former Tax Directorate official, Angin Prayitno Aji, during his son's wedding ceremony at the Samudra Bumimoro Building, Surabaya, on March 27, 2021.

Meanwhile, the most prominent digital violence against journalists occurred at the end of September 2022. Hackers had attacked the contact numbers and social media of 37 journalists and former Narasi employees. Furthermore, this media's website also experienced DDOS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks and was sent a message in the form of a threat, "Shut up or die."

Such violence cannot be justified for any reason. **However, journalists' lack of knowledge of security risks might contribute to the occurrence of violence.** For example, a lack of understanding about high-risk reporting, such as investigations, will lead journalists to violence if not mitigated beforehand. In addition, journalists may be able to avoid the serious impact of physical violence if the company provides personal protective equipment. Unfortunately, media companies are still lacking in providing protection for journalists.

At least **four major factors contribute to journalist violence**: First, **the political system that does not guarantee the safety of journalists**. Second, **mass media institutions that ignore their journalists**. Third, **journalists who do not have the opportunity to increase their capacity in terms of personal safety at work**. Fourth, **there are still groups of people who do not understand that journalists who are carrying out their professions are protected by the Press Law**.

In fact, we know that **violence against journalists is not only an attack on the press community, but an attack on the public as well**. Because journalists work to ensure that the public receives valid information so that they can make the right decisions. The public's right to obtain this information is guaranteed by the Indonesian constitution.

As a professional journalist organization, AJI is committed to reducing violence in a more targeted and systematic way. One of them is to create a journalist safety index. This index was calculated based on a survey conducted on 520 journalists throughout Indonesia. This survey was complemented by FGDs to further refine the findings in the field. **This index provides a detailed description of the conditions experienced and faced by journalists so that it can be a guide in improving the situation.**

Aims and Objectives

This journalist safety index aims to:

- a. Get an overview of the security of journalists in Indonesia
- b. Serve as advocacy material for cases of violence against journalists and policies related to journalist safety
- c. Serve as input for media companies to ensure journalist safety

2. Methodology

This journalist safety index report was developed using a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods. The mixed approach used was an explanatory design.

The quantitative research involved **522 respondents spread throughout Indonesia**. They were divided into two groups, namely **120 journalists in Jakarta** and **402 journalists outside Jakarta**. All respondents were members of AJI. The number of respondents was 28% of the total number of AJI members which reached 1,833 people. The survey was conducted from June 16 to July 15, 2022.

Based on gender, the proportion of respondents consisted of **74 males and 46 females** in Jakarta. While **279 males and 123 females** were outside Jakarta. In Jakarta, the proportion of members was 30% female and 70% male, while outside Jakarta, 17% of members were female and 83% were male.

The research instrument was a questionnaire that was used to operationalize the **first variable, namely the security protocol aspect in risky coverage**. The dimensions asked were knowledge, awareness, and compliance, with sub-dimensions including digital security, as well as physical, psychological, and sexual violence.

While the **second variable was the aspect of availability of security guarantees provided by the media where the respondent worked**. The dimensions asked were security protocols, employment contracts with a focus on security aspects, security facilities (work tools and training), and insurance.

According to Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), **high-risk coverage is defined as coverage in an area where journalists have the potential to experience physical violence significantly more than in a normal situation**. As a result, journalists can be injured, seriously ill, and even killed.

There are three conditions or situations that fall into the category of high-risk coverage, namely:

1. **Hostile environments** or areas full of hostility and unfriendly: countries led by dictators, zones of conflict, areas with insurgency or high crime, and also regions of extreme climate or terrain, polar regions, jungle, and desert;
2. **Dangerous events**: violent demonstrations, riots, terrorist attacks, chemical, biological or nuclear accidents, natural disasters (earthquakes, hurricanes, floods), and pandemics;
3. **High-risk activities**: investigations into terrorist groups, mafias, or violent extremists, whether open or undercover.

The responses of respondents were stated on a scale of 1=very bad, 2=bad, 3=normal, 4=good, and 5=very good.

Furthermore, respondents' answers were given weights. First, the safety protocol aspect weighed 40% with three dimensions each of 10% awareness, 10% knowledge, and 20% compliance.

Meanwhile, the aspect of availability of security guarantees provided by the media where the respondent worked was 60% consisting of security protocol dimensions 15%, employment contracts with a focus on security aspects 15%, security facilities (security equipment and security training) 15%, and insurance 15%.

The calculation of the final index score was carried out in two stages. The first stage was to calculate the index score per dimension. The next step was to calculate the final index score by adding up the index scores per dimension. Details:

- Index value per dimension (Total Indicator Value/Number of Indicators) x Weight
- Final index = Dimensional index value (DIV) 1 + DIV 2 + DIV 3 + DIV 4

The weighted results of these two components were combined and the result was a journalist safety index.

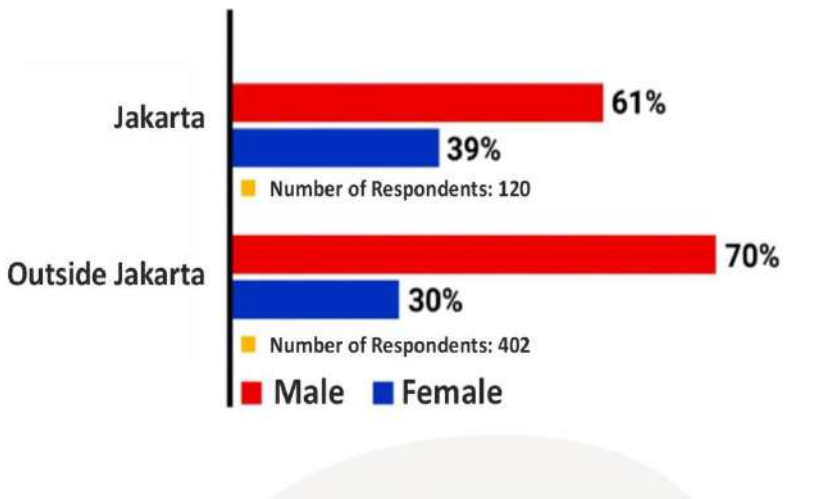
Furthermore, qualitative research was carried out by holding a focus group discussion (FGD) in Jakarta which was attended by 13 journalists. In this FGD, the journalists responded to questions posed by the facilitator based on the findings in the questionnaire. FGD functioned to find the background or the context of the respondents' answers in the questionnaire.

3. Research Results

3.1 Profile of Respondents

In a broad outline, journalists were divided into two, namely, 120 people living in Jakarta (20%) and outside Jakarta, spreading over various islands, 402 people (80%). While the gender distribution was 353 males (68%) and 169 females (32%). In Jakarta, the distribution was 74 males (61%) and 46 females (39%). Outside Jakarta, there were 279 males (70%) and 123 females (30%).

**Distribution of Respondents
by Gender**



Distribution of Respondents by Island



BALI and NUSA TENGGARA Respondent: 30 Percentage: 6%	PAPUA Respondent: 12 Percentage: 2%	SUMATERA ISLAND Respondent: 144 Percentage: 28%
KALIMANTAN Respondent: 32 Percentage: 6%	JAVA ISLAND Respondent: 230 Percentage: 44%	
MALUKU ISLANDS Respondent: 17 Percentage: 3%	SULAWESI ISLAND Respondent: 57 Percentage: 11%	

**Distribution of Respondents
by Gender in Jakarta**



3.2 Risky Coverage Experience

Risky coverage is a journalistic activity carried out in a place that has the potential to expose journalists to accidents, physical and non-physical violence. This usually occurs when journalists cover conflict zones or extreme regions, such as disaster areas.

The majority of journalists (85%) had done risky coverage and the remaining 15% said they had never experienced it. In Jakarta, the number of female journalists who had done coverage at risk was up to 85%, higher than male journalists who were only 74%. Outside Jakarta, the opposite happened. The number of male journalists who had ever done risky coverage reached 87%, higher than female journalists who only 79%.

This indicates that in Jakarta, male journalists who had never done risky coverage were reaching 26%, higher than female journalists who were only 15%. Meanwhile, outside Jakarta, the number of female journalists who had

never reported at risk was 24%, higher than male journalists who were only 13%.

The majority of those journalists had done dangerous coverage because they could not limit their work to only safe and comfortable settings. However, there was another possibility: they were "forced" because they could not or were afraid to refuse assignments.

The inability to refuse assignments to risky coverage generally occurs in local journalists (contributors) who work for national media. In the FGD, a female journalist in Manado (initials JH) said that if she refused the assignment directly, she could be threatened by the head office. To politely refuse, JH pretended not to read the message on her phone that the editor sent from the head office. "I did not refuse directly but I pretended I did not read WA messages. Pretending to be crazy like the Manadonese say," said JH.

Unlike JH, MA, a Jakarta media journalist who works in Papua, has a different strategy. MA told how to avoid work risks when asked by the Jakarta editor to cover the Keerom area in Papua. "It is really nice, like, we take a taxi or take a motorcycle, it takes 2 hours to get to Keerom. In the end, I just pretended to be crazy. I left the cellphone or the SMS would be asked later in the evening, wow, bro, I was covering this, I did not know," said MA.

A different phenomenon occurred in Jakarta because journalists had the freedom to refuse assignments deemed to pose high-security risks. Even in the process of appointing investigative coverage, the editor or chief editor asked journalists to volunteer.

"Yes, usually at my place, sir, if the category was like investigative coverage, we usually auctioned it off, we discussed it with our friends among the editors first. Who wanted to be appointed, how many candidates, and the reporters would be called later whether they wanted it or not. If they were not ready, we would replace them," said RG, an online media editor in Jakarta.

The treatment in Jakarta is indeed different from that of journalists in areas where industrial relations are not clear. The term "organic journalist" in Jakarta, gets the preventive aspects from security to insurance. Even though it only applies to some media.

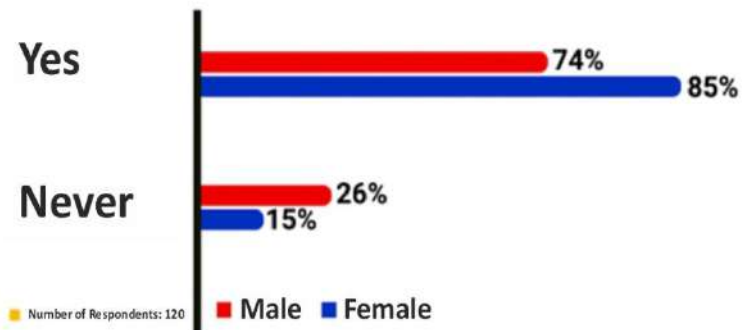
RG's testimony was different from that of IDH, a regional journalist who usually covers West Nusa Tenggara. Even when violence befell him, even with lawsuits, the office that had been publishing his work did not provide any assistance. "Generally journalists do not receive legal assistance from the office," said IDH.

He said **the only way to get help when a lawsuit was filed was to file a complaint with the local Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI)**. "If there is a case, then I will complain to AJI. The office never (helped), maybe the editor just directs you not to report if the condition is vulnerable," he said. Most journalists were instead advised by the office to contact LBH Pers or AJI in their cities. So when there was a lawsuit, journalists independently sought assistance available in the external ecosystem (AJI or LBH Pers).

The survey results showed that 90% of male journalists and 96% of female journalists outside Jakarta said they could refuse assignments. This percentage was higher than that of journalists in Jakarta where 85% of male journalists and 89% of female journalists stated that they could not refuse.

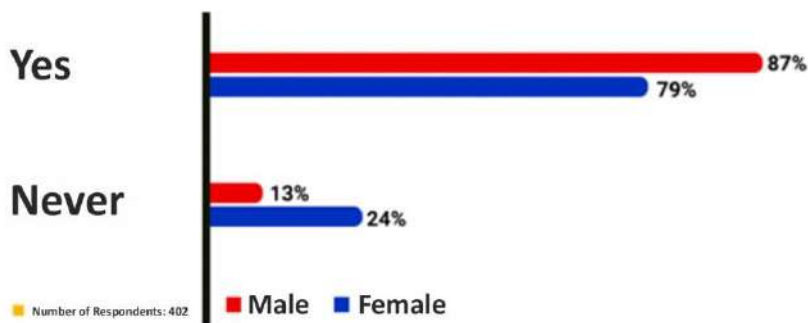
Distribution of Respondents in the Risky Coverage Category in Jakarta

*Have you ever done risky coverage?



Distribution of Respondents in the Risky Coverage Category outside Jakarta

*Have you ever done risky coverage?



3.3 Types of Risky Coverage

Of the various risky coverage, the majority of journalists in Jakarta and outside Jakarta stated that coverage in areas of military conflict and inter-community conflict was the most at risk (90%). Next was in areas that may be occupied or controlled by armed groups (74%), areas with a risk of disease transmission (72%), coverage of terrorist acts (62%), coverage in areas of natural disasters (58%), and the least dangerous was criminal coverage (21%).

Criminal coverage is considered to be the least dangerous most likely because of the “tradition” of journalists reporting in police stations which are clearly safe. Or alternatively, they cover a criminal case with the police. If journalists do it themselves and come to a location with a high crime rate, it may be dangerous coverage.

The majority of respondents (85%) said they had done risky coverage. In the FGDs, several journalists admitted how they experienced violence while

doing risky coverage. One of the journalists who had experienced this was SS, a female journalist from a foreign media who lives in Jakarta. At that time, she covered clashes between SETIA Theological School students in East Jakarta and residents between 2008 and 2010.

"I went there with a journalist from the Netherlands, she is female. We were intimidated by local residents, we were pushed into an alley which I thought we were told to wait there, meaning we could not cover the incident," she said.

In the FGD, journalists said the threat of digital violence was increasing. In recent years, according to records of violence against journalists in Indonesia carried out by AJI Indonesia, digital violence against journalists has always existed. AJI noted that during the period from May 2020 to May 2021, there were 14 cases of digital attacks.

Meanwhile, from September to October 2022, a digital attack hit 37 editorial crews and former Narasi TV employees, which occurred after the mass media criticized corruption inside the police. The attacker(s) also hacked into the TV Narrative website and sent the message, "Shut up or die."

One form of digital violence that afflicts journalists is doxing, which is spreading the full identity of journalists on social media. Journalists' names are written in full in the news they write, making it easier for people who do not like the news to doxing.

Doxing is an entry point for bullying and physical violence. Armed with information on social media, perpetrators can identify journalists and commit physical violence. Not only journalists who are targeted, but families can also be affected.

The practice of doxing can happen to journalists without them having to cover an issue in a risky area. Only by writing a sensitive issue, they can become the target of doxing by people or groups who do not like the coverage. **"The most threatening things are actually things like doxing. Not only the journalists, but sometimes their families are also exposed, so it has the potential to even lead to physical violence,"** said AP, a journalist who is a producer at a television station in Jakarta.

A journalist with the initials PE, a survivor of digital attacks, shared his experience with his colleagues when facing digital attacks in the form of doxing after reporting news from the region. **"There were people who did not agree with the news, so I was bullied, cursed, until my children were also cursed by netizens,"** said PE.

The incident traumatized PE. Moreover, the terror was carried out on social media, although only verbally and indirectly physically, but it was really distressing. "Until now, I do not dare to make news about it," said PE who is domiciled in Bengkulu and works in a national media.

The vulnerability of journalists to digital attacks is partly due to the practice of media writing journalists' full names as news bylines. This makes it easier for criminals to track down journalists' digital footprints and then threaten or attack them.

During the FGDs in July and August 2022, RZ, a print media journalist in Jakarta, admitted that the threat of doxing is a problem for journalists in Jakarta and its surroundings, although it is possible that physical violence will still occur frequently. "In the current era, it is easy to track your full name, that is how it is," said RZ.

Journalists were concerned that digital attacks can lead to physical attacks. They revealed the impact of doxing is not only limited to the dissemination of personal information but is usually followed by acts of intimidation and physical attacks.

The findings indicate that physical threats are still a major concern for journalists. **The majority of FGD informants admitted that they had experienced physical violence such as being intimidated, pushed, and their equipment such as cell phones and others was forcibly confiscated.** "Once during an interview, suddenly a policeman grabbed me from behind until I was about to fall down while he said 'this is a provocateur, this is a provocateur,'" said JAN, a national media journalist for the coverage area in Semarang. In fact, said JAN, he was interviewing with the coordinator of the demonstrators. "Suddenly someone grabbed me and said I was a provocateur. I was also provoked by emotions so I cursed the police too," JAN added.

NS, a woman who works as a print media editor in Jakarta, also experienced violence during the coverage. She admitted that she had been pushed when she was reporting at the Bank Indonesia office. "Back then when covering about doorstops in Agus Marto DW's era," said NS. However, during the interview, she was blocked and pushed and asked to meet his PR.

Meanwhile, SS, a journalist from foreign media in Jakarta, was intimidated when he was covering the riots between the theology school students and the residents in East Jakarta. "We were pushed into the alley by local residents so we could not cover the incident," said SS. At that time he could still call the office but was told to wait. "It means we cannot cover the incident," he said.

Some journalists' testimonies showed that **the threat of digital attacks is a phenomenon that is more common in Jakarta and other big cities.** Meanwhile, **in the regions, physical violence is more dominant.** In a number of remote areas, the perpetrators did not dox on social media, but immediately hunted down and took journalists hostage while covering conflicts.

In Serang and Lebak Regencies, Banten Province, journalists were detained by several people close to the Regent. "Threats like that are still prevalent in the regions, especially in areas rife with corruption and agrarian conflicts," said RG, an online media editor in Jakarta.

The type of threat of violence during coverage in the regions varies. In urban areas such as Jakarta and big cities, doxing is often done. "But in remote areas, physical violence is still rampant," explained RG.

The lack of public attention is what distinguishes big cities from regions. The practices of digital attacks are carried out in big cities because the perpetrators assess the risk of physical violence against journalists. In Jakarta, there are many safety nets for journalists, such as professional organizations, Legal Aid Institutes, and an extensive network of Jakarta journalists with political officials and actors. Outside of Jakarta, when local journalists do not have the privileges of Jakarta, physical threats are more likely to occur.

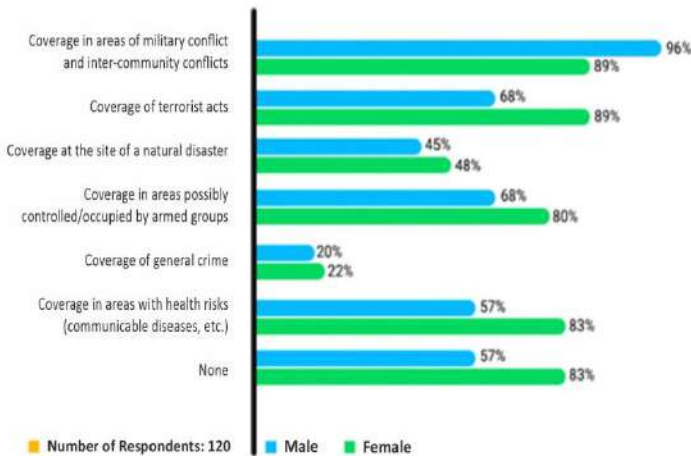
This threat is even greater when the topic of coverage comes into contact with corruption in public officials as well as social conflicts such as religion.

AP, a producer of a television station in Jakarta, said that threats of violence are all related to money, in this case, corruption or violations involving the apparatus. "Papua involves the apparatus, apparatus also intimidated several times in the case of palm oil. Other cases are risky if they involve civilians and are also related to money, for example, cases of mass organizations disputes," said AP.

He is lucky that he has not experienced threats because he mostly works behind the editorial desk. But some of his journalists in the regions were threatened because their coverage was related to money, religion, and mass organizations.

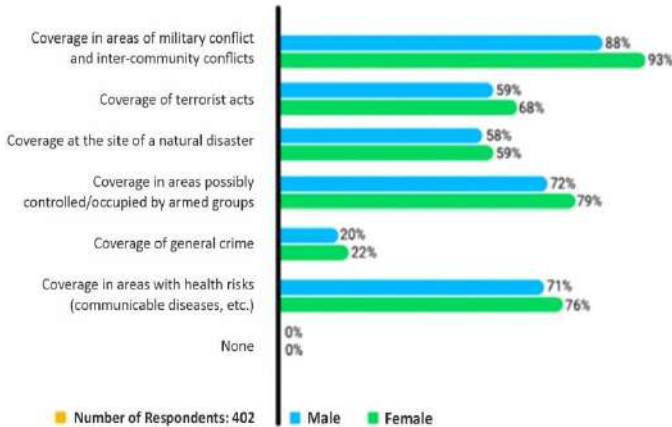
Distribution of Respondents in the Risky Coverage Category in Jakarta

***In your opinion, which of the options below is included in the category of risky coverage (you can choose more than one answer)**



Distribution of Respondents in the Risky Coverage Category outside Jakarta

*In your opinion, which of the options below is included in the category of risky coverage (you can choose more than one answer)



3.4. Security Protocols in Risky Coverage

3.4.1. Digital Security

Almost all journalists work using cell phones, especially in this era of mobile journalism. **In general, the survey results showed that journalists already had good knowledge of how to secure their cell phones.** The index value was between 3 and 4. **However, many journalists were unaware of the importance of recording the 15-digit serial International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI).** For this aspect, the knowledge of journalists outside Jakarta was better than that of journalists in Jakarta.

When questioned if they practiced their knowledge (sub-dimension of digital security protocol compliance), it turned out that their obedience to

record IMEI was close to bad for both journalists outside Jakarta and in Jakarta. **Likewise in terms of knowledge of the importance of marking SIM cards, memory cards, and batteries so that they are not destroyed and exchanged for new ones.** The knowledge of journalists outside Jakarta was higher than that of journalists in Jakarta. **The sub-dimension of compliance with digital security protocols noted that not many journalists actually practiced their knowledge, which was only about 20% of both journalists in Jakarta and outside Jakarta.**

The knowledge of journalists about digital data security protocols was quite good, the average index was above 3 to slightly above 4. Losing data or being exposed to viruses can be a serious problem for journalists. **But both journalists in Jakarta and outside Jakarta had low indexes of the need to have firewalls to protect their cell phones and computers.** For this reason, the knowledge of journalists outside Jakarta was slightly higher than that of journalists in Jakarta.

However, in terms of consistency in using a firewall, less than 50% of journalists in Jakarta and outside Jakarta used a firewall for their devices. Meanwhile, less than 50% of journalists in Jakarta used encrypted e-mail services.

In general, the index value of respondents' knowledge about the need to use encrypted email was lower than the index value on other aspects of digital data security, the average index was 3.5. Meanwhile, the index of journalists outside Jakarta was slightly higher than that of journalists in Jakarta.

3.4.2. Physical Health and Psychological Safety

In general, the journalists who were the respondents were very understanding about the physical health preparations that must be done before going into the field. 10 items were asked and the index value was above 4. As is known, the index is 1=very bad, 2=bad, 3=normal, 4=good, and 5=very good.

Meanwhile, in terms of preparation related to the health aspect, a number of journalists still had not paid attention. On questions about determining

blood type and allergies, as well as easily accessible health services if something happened, the average answer was between 3 and 4, or between normal and good.

Almost all journalists who were respondents had good knowledge that they need to carry first aid kits whenever they go to risky coverage. All journalists scored slightly above 4, but for male journalists in Jakarta, the index was slightly below 4.

But the fact is, in Jakarta only 53 out of 120 journalists or only 44% admitted to bringing first aid kits. As for journalists outside Jakarta, only 153 out of 402, or only 38% brought first aid kits. First aid equipment is essential because if a journalist is injured in an area far from health facilities, he or a friend can provide the immediate help that can save lives.

From the survey results, journalists had good knowledge that they need to be mentally prepared and know the psychological impact of reporting in risky areas. The average index value was 4.

However, **there was a low value, namely the important aspect of exercise to preparing body fitness before plunging into risky areas.** This happened to journalists outside Jakarta, both female and male, with an average index of 3.92.

Low scores also appeared in the importance of spending time with family before serving in a risky area. The index was 3.7 for female journalists in Jakarta and 3.91 for both male and female journalists outside Jakarta.

Aspects of family financial arrangements as well as people at home knowing access to health or life insurance were also low. For female journalists in Jakarta, the index was 3.78 and for male journalists outside Jakarta, the index was 3.98.

3.4.3. Sexual Violence

All journalists had fairly good knowledge that sexual violence could happen to journalists at work or anywhere, how to behave with survivors, and under what conditions it could occur.

However, respondents did not think that sexual violence could happen to male journalists. Perhaps this is the impact of a patriarchal culture that places women as subordinate to men.

In the FGDs, female journalists admitted that sexual violence was a real threat they faced at work. The threat of sexual violence did not only appear in risky coverage but also daily coverage. For example, sexual violence was verbal when they conducted interviews.

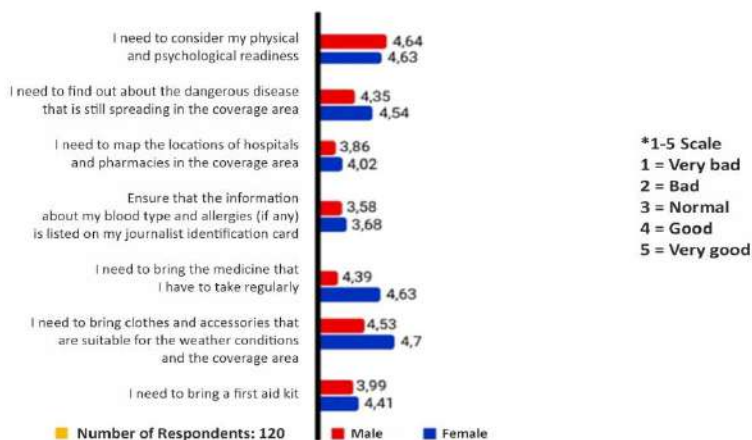
"Many perpetrators did not think it was sexual violence. Even though it was considered sexual violence...which could make you mentally fall, especially when spoken in front of many people. They thought it was a joke, even though it hurt the feelings of female reporters, that was what I thought," said a female journalist from Samarinda.

Another interesting finding was the opinion of respondents outside Jakarta about forms of sexual violence. **89 respondents thought that showing their genitals without consent was not a form of sexual violence. Meanwhile, 97 male journalists stated that making statements of sexual substance to others was not a form of sexual violence.**

There were also male journalists in Jakarta who had the same opinion. However, the number was relatively small. It seems that sexual violence education also needs to be a concern of professional organizations, especially for journalists outside Jakarta.

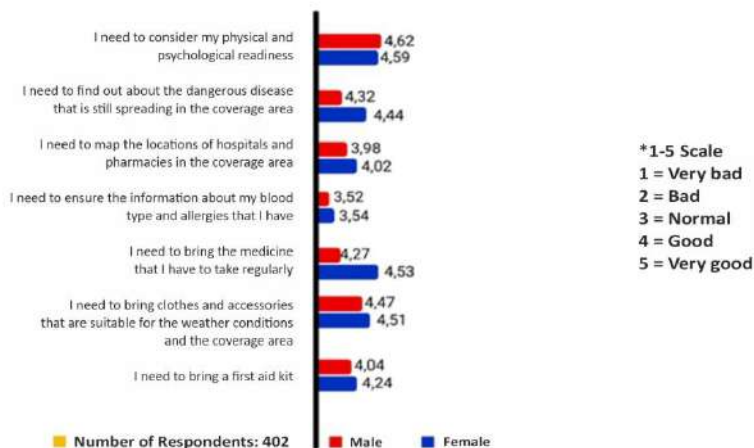
Knowledge and Compliance with Risky Coverage Preparation Protocols in Jakarta

Preparation of Physical Health Aspects



Knowledge and Compliance with Risky Coverage Preparation Protocols outside Jakarta

Preparation of Physical Health Aspects



3.5. Availability of Security Guarantees in Risky Coverage

3.5.1. Security Protocol

The existence of safety protocols in the workplace really helps create a sense of security for journalists at work. **More than 50% of journalists in Jakarta and outside Jakarta said their employment contracts covered security protection guarantees.**

However, journalists outside Jakarta stated that the media where they worked was relatively poor in terms of providing insurance. Most likely because there are many media outside Jakarta with poor welfare guarantees. Meanwhile, the condition of the media in Jakarta receives a better assessment.

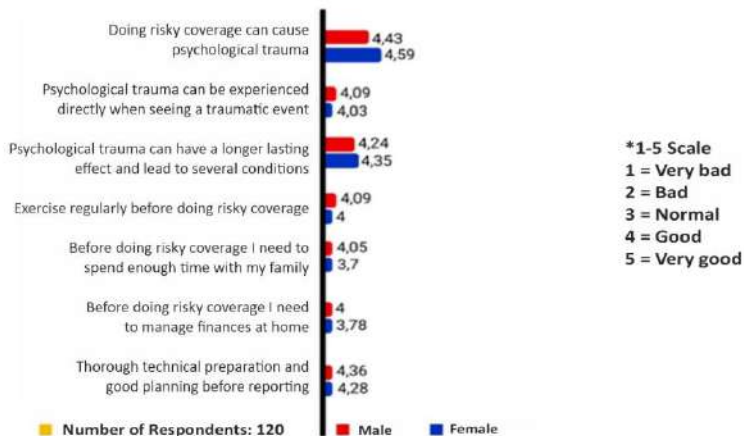
The majority of respondents said they could refuse assignments from their media if they felt they had a high-security risk. According to the survey, journalists outside Jakarta were slightly more likely to refuse assignments than journalists in Jakarta.

In the case that the media where they worked provided security support, such as cooperating with the security forces when their journalists were reporting in risky areas, a number of respondents said no. This tradition of cooperation has not commonly practiced by the media in Indonesia.

Almost all respondents said the media where they worked did not provide special safety protocols for female journalists when conducting risky coverage. In fact, this is critical since there have been several cases of sexual harassment of female journalists.

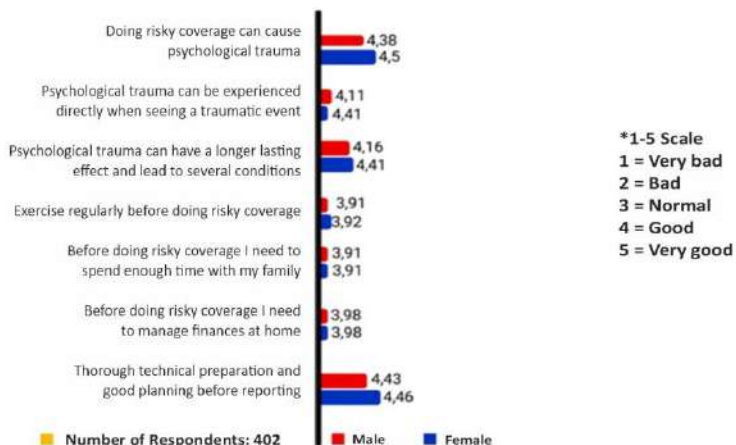
Knowledge and Compliance with Risky Coverage Preparation Protocols in Jakarta

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3.5.2. Employment Contract

The employment contract is an agreement document regarding the rights and obligations that must be carried out by workers (journalists) with the company in terms of employment relations. Considering that the journalist profession has a high work risk, the employment contract should include aspects of safety or security protection for journalists.

These security safeguards will help provide journalists with a sense of security while at work. In this aspect, the mass media in Jakarta were better than the mass media in other areas. **As many as 67% of journalists in Jakarta stated that their work contracts also included security protection guarantees, while outside Jakarta only 52%.**

3.5.3. Coverage Facility

Although all respondents said the media they worked for paid attention to their journalists when they were in risky areas, **this study showed that all media companies paid less attention to journalists' sense of security.** Almost all respondents rated poorly in terms of providing security coverage training in high-risk areas.

Respondents from outside Jakarta rated the media they worked for poorly in terms of providing security equipment and insurance to anticipate the impact of coverage in risky areas. Even in Jakarta, not all media provided these two things to their journalists.

The FGD also revealed that the media did not provide security skills and did not provide serious support after the violence occurred. In fact, the majority of journalists received support from external ecosystems such as the professional organization AJI, the Press Council, and LBH Pers.

The FGD participants said that if they were doing risky coverage, the office would merely do the monitoring. This was also cultural because of solidarity between fellow journalists, or between journalists, editors and redactors. "It is actually not even official. There is a "friends taking care of friends" control system. For example, where have the reporters been, how long do they usually report to the editor," said RG, an online media editor in Jakarta.

The neglect of media companies also occurred in capacity building or journalist security training. **Most journalists actually got an understanding of their security from professional organizations.** There was only one informant who claimed to have received digital security training from the media where he worked.



Photo of Action for Nurhadi. Documentation: AJI

“Just before the pandemic I had a training session at the office. Including the issue of violence, they were drafting SOPs,” said JAN, a national media journalist, domiciled in Semarang. Unfortunately, he had no idea whether the SOP that was designed was applicable to him, who was only a regional correspondent. Meanwhile, the company where he worked had prioritized organic workers in Jakarta. “The problem is that until now I have not received the socialization either, but at that time they were able to prepare SOPs for handling violence against journalists,” said JAN, who hoped that in the future there will be protection for media workers in the regions.

Another aspect that media companies do not provide is legal protection for reporting the results of investigations that have the potential to cause disputes.

The journalists said that there was no legal team dedicated by the company to help the editors review the content of the coverage from a legal perspective.



Poster for Action for Nurhadi. Dokumentasi: AJI

Even if a review was done, it was usually done independently by an experienced redactor or editor. "Where I work, the chief editor and executive editor are considered to have basic knowledge of several manuscripts or some words that have the potential to get a lawsuit," said IR, a print media journalist in Jakarta.

According to IR, the chief editor and the managing editor were responsible for determining the details of the written narrative, including the choice of

words or sentences suitable for publishing. Although the IR statement was also recognized as not applicable to all media.

The editorial staff generally gives responsibility to the redactor or editor to pay attention to the legal aspects of the news. The majority of informants said that such preventive measures were not carried out in the media where they worked.

To deal with possible lawsuits due to news, such as investigative news, media offices also do not provide legal experts who can assess them. Reviews are only done by experienced editors.

Journalist Safety Index Research Findings

1. **In general, journalists' knowledge of the risks of physical, digital, psychological, and sexual violence is very good.** This was indicated, among others, by an average index of understanding that ranged from 3-4 for each dimension.
2. **Although journalists' knowledge of security protocols is quite high, their compliance varies.** For example, in the preparation for risky coverage, journalists considered it very necessary to have a liaison in the field before reporting. However, only 48% of journalists in Jakarta and 57% of journalists outside Jakarta had done it.

Likewise with data security protocols. The majority of journalists knew the importance of using an encrypted email service to protect data from digital attacks. However, only 43% of journalists in Jakarta and 51% of journalists outside Jakarta applied it.

3. **This research also found that the majority of journalists understand aspects of sexual violence well, except for some indicators.** When asked what form of action fell into the category of sexual violence, 29% of male journalists outside Jakarta did not call it sexual violence. Likewise with “showing vital organs without

consent”, 25% of male journalists outside Jakarta did not call it a form of violence.

- 4. In contrast to journalists' knowledge of security protocols, workplace security support gets a low index.** Some of the indicators are the lack of security training provided by media companies and the lack of special security protocols for women journalists (to protect women from the threat of sexual violence). In the FGD session, journalists mentioned that most of the training they received was from professional organizations rather than the media companies where they worked.

Meanwhile, **the absence of special protection for women contributes to the lack of adequate mechanisms when female journalists are sexually abused and traumatized.** The practice that is generally carried out is to transfer the duties of the female journalist concerned to avoid the perpetrator's threat of violence.

- 5. Although they do not provide good security protection to their journalists, several indicators from the media were given a fairly high index value. Two of them were to provide space so that journalists have the “right to refuse when assigned to risky areas” and “monitor the safety of journalists in the field”.**

In further digging in the FGD sessions, it was found that what was meant by being able to refuse assignments was to ignore orders from bosses by not responding to messages on cell phones, or what they called "playing crazy". This was especially the case for journalists outside Jakarta whose employment status was contracted.

Likewise with the matter of "monitoring the safety of journalists". Efforts to monitor the safety of journalists who are carrying out risky coverage are indeed carried out but are cultural. Journalists who became informants in the FGD said that the monitoring carried out was not an official office mandate but a form of solidarity among journalists and between journalists, editors and redactors. An informant called this solidarity with the term "friends taking care of friends".



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