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## 2009 Courage Awards

To purchase tickets to the *Courage in Journalism Awards* on October 20 in New York or on October 28 in Los Angeles, please visit: [www.iwmf.org/courage](http://www.iwmf.org/courage).



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## 2009 Courage Award Winners

For profiles of the 2009 *Courage* and *Lifetime* winners, see:

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## Journalists' Bravery Trumps Obstacles

### AROUND THE WORLD, WOMEN ARE SPEAKING OUT FOR TRUTH.

A Belarusian journalist who is frequently detained and subjected to interrogations, a Cameroonian radio journalist whose broadcasts have put her life at risk and an Iranian journalist whose reports have led to multiple arrests are recipients of 2009 IWMF *Courage in Journalism Awards*.

**Jila Baniyaghoob** is editor-in-chief of the Web site *Kanoon Zanan Irani* (Iranian Women's Center) in Iran. She has reported on government and social oppression, particularly as they affect women. Baniyaghoob has been fired from several jobs because she refuses to censor her reporting, and several of her media outlets have been closed by the government. The topics of her reporting make her a target of the Iranian government; she has been beaten, arrested and imprisoned.

**Iryna Khalip** is a reporter and editor in the Minsk bureau of *Novaya Gazeta*, one of the most independent newspapers in the former Soviet Union. Khalip worked at a succession of newspapers in Belarus, only to see them closed by the government. She has been arrested,

subjected to all-night interrogations and beaten by police, who keep her under constant surveillance.

**Agnes Taile** was, until June, a reporter for Canal 2 International radio and television in Cameroon. In 2006, while she was a reporter for Sweet FM, Taile received threats demanding that she stop her pursuit of government corruption. Not long afterward, she was abducted from her home at knife point by three men, then beaten and left for dead in a ravine. After recovering, Taile continued working as a journalist.

This year's *Lifetime Achievement Award* winner is **Amira Hass**. She is a reporter and columnist for *Ha'aretz Daily*, a newspaper based in Tel Aviv. Hass has written critically about both Israeli and Palestinian authorities. She has demonstrated her ability to defy boundaries of gender, ethnicity and nationality in her pursuit of the truth in her reporting.

The IWMF created the *Courage in Journalism Awards* in 1990 to honor women journalists who have shown extraordinary strength of character and integrity while reporting the news under dangerous or difficult circumstances. ■

# Iranian Journalist Fights Censorship to Report on Women

By Peggy Simpson

Jila Baniyaghoob became a journalist in 1979, at age 11, when she published a short story about children and poverty in *Keyhan*, a major daily newspaper.

She wrote during the start of Iran's fundamentalist Islamic Revolution. Many of the teachers who encouraged her talent in writing were politically engaged against the conservatives who took over the country. Some were arrested and persecuted for their political views.



Jila Baniyaghoob

Baniyaghoob never forgot this. It was an early building block for her career of covering politics and the economic factors implicit in the fundamentalists' control of society and, ultimately, her coverage of stories the fundamentalists

wanted left alone, such as legal and economic discrimination against women.

Decades later, when she was arrested and put in Evin prison in Tehran in June 2006 after covering a women's rights protest, her interrogators scolded her for her schoolgirl activism.

The International Women's Media Foundation named Baniyaghoob a *Courage in Journalism Award* winner for 2009.

Baniyaghoob has been put in prison four times, the latest in June after the government responded to the protests over the disputed 2009 presidential elections with sweeping arrests of reformers and dissidents. It is not clear why Baniyaghoob and her economics reporter husband, Bahman Ahmadi Amoyee, were arrested.

She was released on August 19, but he remained in prison as of mid-September.

Baniyaghoob, 39, has been a reporter for 18 years and has worked for more than 10 reform newspapers, nearly all of them shut down by the government.

She covered the student pro-democracy demonstrations in 1999, when paramilitary forces stormed student dormitories, injuring dozens of students and killing one. In 2000, her investigative stories on infected vaccines being sold by Iran's biggest drug manufacturer led to a recall of that vaccine. She also has covered wars throughout the Middle East.

Baniyaghoob became a pioneering reporter about the burgeoning women's rights movement. She was arrested repeatedly for covering women's protest marches, but her stories became a major conduit for information about gender inequality.

Baniyaghoob became a founder of the One Million Signatures Campaign for Equality, a grassroots movement that brought together secular and religious women to seek changes in the laws that discriminate against women.

Recently, the group targeted the Ahmadinejad government's Family Bill because of the impact it would have on women. Its features, for instance, would have included liberalization of the existing laws on polygamy.

Fundamentalists wanted to lift a provision giving first wives the power to agree before their husband takes a second wife. The women of the One Million Signatures Campaign took to the Web

sites and the streets and lobbied politicians. They headed off the proposal.

Nayereh Tohidi, professor and chair of Gender and Women's Studies at California State University in Northridge, credits Baniyaghoob's "courage and leadership skills" for the "mobilization of all journalistic connections she had in support of a large and diverse coalition" against the Family Bill.

The years of grassroots organizing by women, plus their growing sophistication about the need to educate and lobby politicians of all persuasions about their cause, contributed to the dynamic of the 2009 presidential election.

"Ultimately, you saw the increasing impact of this on the presidential election," said Farideh Farhi, a professor of Iranian domestic policies who lives in Hawaii and who was arrested with Baniyaghoob after a women's rights march in 2006.

The 2009 election has been a breakthrough, Farhi said. "It is very clear this is not going to die. People have found their voices and have become connected to each other."

The election "in a sense shows the success of this movement," she said. "And I'm pretty sure that will have a lasting impact."

This life of writing about discrimination against women comes at a cost, however.

"Jila has lost her secure jobs as a journalist and is still under persecution because she has not been intimidated by the repressive authorities and has continued

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# Belarusian Journalist Works Toward Press Freedom

By Peggy Simpson

By 1996 Iryna Khalip's hopes for a free media in a free Belarus had been dashed, and she faced growing harassment by state security. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko had shut down most independent newspapers, including several where Khalip had worked. He had dissolved the parliament elected in 1990 after



Iryna Khalip

Belarus declared its independence and replaced the democratically elected parliamentarians with handpicked delegates. With the situation worsening, Iryna's father, also a journalist, urged her to

consider leaving the profession, as so many others were doing.

But Khalip, an International Women's Media Foundation 2009 *Courage in Journalism Award* winner, had tasted what a free media and a free Belarus could be like.

"[Belarus] could become a small European country with a democratic structure. It had great promise, a great future ahead of it," she said. "I liked the idea of living in that kind of country. I wanted to live through all these changes, of building a democratic society, of improving relations with foreign countries, including the United States."

Khalip finished journalism studies at Belarus State University in 1989, a time of enormous change. "Perestroika started in the Soviet Union. And it turned out journalists could do so much more than they could in the past. ... And when I saw those lines of people lining up to buy

newspapers, I saw this was something that was needed."

Her father, Vladimir Khalip, an arts and theater critic who now works for the satellite TV channel Belsat, was her mentor. He taught her to ignore professors still tied to Soviet ideology and told her how to make stories come alive with good writing.

Iryna Khalip covered the yeasty days of democracy in Belarus for a government paper, *Soviet Belarusia*. In 1994, the employees put forth a proposal to privatize the paper "so they would be the actual shareholders."

Lukashenko had been elected president three months earlier, and he didn't take kindly to the buyout idea. He sent someone to tell reporters and editors that from that time on, they would be his mouthpiece. The next day, he fired the editor.

"At that point, I understood very clearly that I no longer wanted to write about the arts but about the newly elected administration, to point out to the new authorities that what they were doing was contrary to the principles under which the country had been operating. They needed to be told that," Khalip said.

Lukashenko not only did not listen, he escalated hostilities against the media and democracy groups. In 1997, state security police clubbed and dragged Khalip by her hair as she covered a rally protesting Lukashenko's moves to link Belarus closer to Russia and end its status as an independent country. Her father, covering the rally for a documentary film studio, was beaten unconscious.

That was a turning point for Iryna. She was deputy editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Imya*, one of three papers she worked for that ultimately were shuttered by the government.

Before 1997, Khalip said she reported events with objectivity. But after her beating in 1997, "I understood I could no longer *not* take sides. It became a personal matter to me," she said.

Since 2003, Khalip has been the Belarusian correspondent for the privately owned Russian newspaper, *Novaya Gazeta*, which is banned in Belarus. *Novaya Gazeta* is the newspaper of many intrepid Russian journalists, including 2002 *Courage Award* winner Anna Politkovskaya, who was murdered for her work in 2006.

That year, Khalip joined the newspaper after an investigative report she wrote about a Minsk prison chief who had supplied the gun that top officials used in killing off opposition leaders caught the attention of the paper's editors. Khalip doesn't regret her decision and says her bosses "never tell me what to write."

For the last five years, she also has helped publish an underground publication distributed in Belarus that covers the opposition dissidents and gives people confirmation that there are indeed dissidents, even if the official press denies it.

When officials catch up with the latest issue of the underground newspaper, Khalip usually gets a subpoena. They question her about her controversial articles for above-ground publications as well as the underground paper. She is often confronted with her notes: "Yes, these are

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# Journalist Agnes Taile Speaks Out as a Voice for Cameroon

By Lindsey Wray

‘S hhh. Be quiet so we can listen.’

This is what Agnes Taile remembers hearing each afternoon as a little girl in Cameroon when her father’s favorite radio program came on the air. As she listened intently to the news program, Taile recalls thinking what a beautiful voice the announcer had.

She, too, wanted to have a voice.

“I was drawn to the microphone,” she said. “I was interested in everything that brought me close to the microphone.”

Like the radio announcer, Taile, now 29, became a journalist. She is the recipient of a 2009 *Courage in Journalism Award* from the International Women’s Media Foundation.

Taile jumped at the opportunity to join her school’s journalism club. Then, at age 14, she was offered a position hosting the poetry portion of a local radio broadcast. She was ecstatic. Delighted though she was at the prospect of hearing her voice on the air, Taile was unsure of what the profession entailed.

“I didn’t really know what it meant to be a journalist,” she said. “It was only when I got my first job at a radio station that I discovered the world of information.”

That first job in journalism was at Tom Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) in Yaounde. Within a week of work, Taile was reading news briefs on air, and in a couple of months, she was



Agnes Taile

doing the morning show. She was 22.

Journalism seemed the perfect fit for her. Her mother, however, thought she might be taking too many risks, and her father warned her to be careful. Taile brushed them off.

“I am a lover of freedom,” she said. But Taile’s freedom and her newfound voice were about to be challenged.

She started in May 2005 as a reporter at Sweet FM in Douala, where she hosted a talk show called *A vous la parole* (Have Your Say) that covered political, social and economic issues. Taile reported on sensitive subjects, such as an operation to track members of the government who had embezzled funds. She reported on social inequality and homosexuality, and she was often critical of the government, particularly President Paul Biya.

In the fall of 2006, Taile began to receive threatening phone calls demanding that she stop her “pursuit.” She ignored the threats, proclaiming on air that she refused to alter her reporting.

Then, on November 6, 2006, the threats became reality. In the middle of the night, three men abducted Taile from her home. Heads covered in balaclavas and wearing all black, the men must be burglars, Taile thought. Then, she saw their knives and felt her terror rise. It was around 2 a.m.

“My first reaction was a reaction of fear – not for myself, but for my son,” she said.

But then, she heard the men coming toward her. They asked her to follow them, saying, “You better keep your mouth shut.” Taile had no time to think.

Grabbing Taile by her elbows and her hair, two of the men dragged her to a ravine around 300 meters away. The third man stayed in her home.

“We’ve told you to shut up,” she recalls them saying to her. “You wanted to play tough, so this is what you get.”

When Taile inquired as to the identity of the men, one of them seized her neck and began strangling her. They proceeded to beat her on the ribs and arms for 20 minutes and then cut her hands and wrists.

“At that moment I thought things were over for me,” Taile said.

But because they heard a noise on a nearby road, the men ran away suddenly, leaving Taile for dead in the ravine.

“The pain was excruciating,” Taile recalled. “It took a lot of effort to get me out of the ditch.”

Taile isn’t sure how long she lay there. She couldn’t cry out because her neck and throat were hurt so badly. She remembers wondering if she was dead or alive. Eventually, she decided that if she could still feel pain, she must be alive, and she must make an effort to get out.

Maneuvering with her elbows, Taile crawled out of the ravine, stopping every few minutes to regain her strength. She paused at a neighbor’s house to try to get

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# Amira Hass' Coverage Defies Gender, Ethnicity Boundaries

By Peggy Simpson

**A**mira Hass says she is not an expert on Palestinians but on the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Hass, recipient of the 2009 *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the International Women's Media Foundation, has reported on Palestinian issues for the Tel Aviv daily newspaper, *Ha'aretz Daily*, for nearly two decades. She is the rare Israeli journalist who has lived in Gaza and the West Bank.



Amira Hass

And she has been pilloried by both Israelis who don't want to hear what she reports and by Hamas leaders who don't want the free media to report on what they are doing. Hass talks with intention about the "apartheid" that she says exists between Israelis and Palestinians. "The main thing about apartheid is not racism but about this dual system, where people have different rights. They are from different ethnic groups in the same territory... ethnic groups that do not have the same voting rights."

She had been a skeptic when much of the world was optimistic about the prospect that the Oslo accord of 1993 would bring about a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

"But I didn't think it would turn out to be as terrible as it has. I predicted in 1999 and in 2000 that things would explode because it was very clear that there was a discrepancy between the promise and the reality of Israeli control and domination over Palestinian life – the creation of the

sort of apartheid regime in the country." Still, "the bloodiness of everything is not something that I predicted."

Hass was born eight years after her parents immigrated to Israel after World War II. Her mother was a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, and her father was in ghettos in Romania and Ukraine. She credits them with giving her an operating ethos, more than any journalism mentor.

"I think the main thing that I got from home, from my upbringing, was the principle of equality. Both my parents were communists and Jews. For them, there was the connection of the principle of equality. How they saw communism was very different from what we now know was the reality."

Hass had tried and discarded academic life when she found a copy-editing job at *Ha'aretz*. At the time, she also began volunteering for an African group which gave her contact with Palestinians.

"I didn't know that much about Gaza. The picture of it in Israel was much distorted. So, in 1991, I talked them into letting me write about Gaza. And then, in 1993, when the Oslo agreement was signed, people thought it meant peace so the paper asked me to cover Gaza."

They didn't expect her to move there, but she did.

She said Israelis "have learned a lot from the occupation. They have profited from the last 20 years. During the 16 years since Oslo, they have lived very comfortably with the idea that there is no more occupation just because of Oslo, because Israel redeployed their forces and

Palestinians ran their own affairs."

As long as the profits continue and pressure on Israel remains minimal, she sees no change. "Moral arguments have not been successful over the years. Logical arguments have not been successful either."

She doesn't mince words about the shortcomings of the Palestinian security organs.

"The main security is the Israeli Army and Israeli intelligence and the Israeli border police. The Palestinian security is mainly used for policing internally. And Palestinians unfortunately played with it as if it is a government and as if they have authority."

She said both Hamas and Fatah "use the security service not for liberation from Israeli occupation but against their own people."

They have fundamentally less power than Israelis, however, she says. "Palestinian security organs have a limited authority over only 20 percent of the West Bank. And they don't have authority over Jews. A Jew could kill a Palestinian in the West Bank and they would not be allowed to prosecute, whereas Israelis could prosecute anyone, any time. The inequality is so interwoven. It has even rendered the very term 'security' ridiculous."

Hass does not think of herself as courageous. "I don't want to be falsely modest. But I'm more angry than courageous. I haven't had to make such sacrifices that would require courage from me... not like in South Africa or the ex-Soviet Union or ex-Germany where people were in danger of their life."

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# IWMF Program Aims to Energize Agriculture Coverage

The current lack of women's voices in stories about agriculture frustrates Ferial Haffajee, IWMF board member and editor of South Africa's *City Press* newspaper.

But the IWMF's initiative, *Reporting on Women and Agriculture: Africa*, seeks to change this. Launched February 23 in Uganda, the project will help boost coverage of agriculture and rural development and increase women's voices – both as journalists and as sources – in stories about agriculture.



IWMF board member Ferial Haffajee, editor of *City Press* in Johannesburg, was in Uganda for the February launch of *Reporting on Women in Agriculture: Africa*.

Currently, news media are often “deaf to voices of rural African women,” Haffajee said.

The IWMF found in a media monitoring study that even though women produce 70 percent of food in sub-Saharan Africa and make up half of the region's popula-

tion, just 11 percent of the sources and 22 percent of the reporters are women.

*Reporting on Women and Agriculture: Africa* provides six selected media houses in Mali, Uganda and Zambia with continuous, on-the-ground training to make agriculture a key subject for media coverage.

The initiative is funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. ■

To learn more about the IWMF's project, *Reporting on Women and Agriculture: Africa*, visit [www.iwmf.org/categorydetail.aspx?c=womenag](http://www.iwmf.org/categorydetail.aspx?c=womenag).

# BBC Journalist Named IWMF Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow

Firle Davies, a journalist for the British Broadcasting Corporation, is the recipient of the 2009-10 IWMF Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship. Davies will be a research associate in residence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for International Studies. She will also have access to *The Boston Globe* and *The New York Times*.

A journalist for more than two decades, Davies has worked for the BBC since 2000 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Zaire, among other countries. She has

reported for domestic and world service radio, domestic and world television, and has produced online and current affairs documentaries.

During her fellowship, Davies hopes to put into context her years of covering conflict and human rights and social justice issues.

“In nearly 20 years of covering conflict in Africa,” Davies wrote in her fellowship application, “the one issue that now consumes me is the search for justice and



Firle Davies

accountability. Without justice, and without accountability in its most basic sense, acts of violence and hatred will continue to be committed.”

The annual fellowship allows one woman journalist working in print, broadcast or online media to focus exclusively on human rights journalism and social justice issues. It is named for Elizabeth Neuffer, a *Boston Globe* reporter and the winner of a 1998 IWMF *Courage in Journalism Award* who was killed while on assignment in Iraq in 2003. ■

For more information, visit [www.iwmf.org/neuffer](http://www.iwmf.org/neuffer).

# Leadership Institutes Help Journalists Sharpen Skills



Twenty women journalists from across the United States attended the IWMF's 2009 U.S. Leadership Institute for Women Journalists, held in July in Chicago. Sessions were presented on topics such as communication styles, crucial conversations, and new and social media. Pictured here, Dr. Mona Khanna, a medical doctor and a journalist, led a session on new media and social media.

## On the Web

- Read an article from the 2009 U.S. Leadership Institute on the practices of great leaders: [www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=1010&c=larticles](http://www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=1010&c=larticles).
- Listen to participants talk about what they learned at the Africa Leadership Institute: [www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=947&c=womenag](http://www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=947&c=womenag).
- Learn more about IWMF leadership institutes: [www.iwmf.org/leadership](http://www.iwmf.org/leadership).



The IWMF held a Leadership Institute in Uganda in February for African women journalists. Most of the participants were from Mali, Uganda and Zambia - target countries for the IWMF's new initiative, *Reporting on Women and Agriculture: Africa*. Nearly 30 women journalists received training and participated in small group exercises related to leadership styles, work-life balance and leading change in newsrooms. Pictured here, journalist Clara Nwachukwu (right) takes notes for her small group during the Africa Leadership Institute.

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**Jila Baniyaghoob** continued from page 2

to speak the truth, report on students and women's activities against all the odds and against all the threats," Tohidi said.

In 2004, Baniyaghoob began a Web site called *Kanoon Zanan Irani* (Iranian Women's Center). The site features content about inequality in laws affecting women, alerts women to proposed new restrictions, and new liaisons between women from different parts of society. It provides a venue for women inside and outside Iran to share their thoughts and ideas about women's place in Iran today. It also carries reports on working class and poor women as well as ethnic

minorities living in central cities and in the far provinces.

The Web site is an invaluable resource for women and reform-minded men, and the government has tried repeatedly to shut it down.

The women's rights activism and the cutting-edge stories by Baniyaghoob have angered the fundamentalists running Iran, including the conservative clerics.

Some say that the women dissidents have had an impact on President Ahmadinejad. After he claimed he had won reelection,

he named three women to his cabinet, something unheard of since before the 1979 Islamic revolution when the tide began to turn against women.

What happens next remains unclear. This could be a last hurrah for the hardliners and, if so, then the moderate clerics and other political figures will start to speak out against them with more force. The opposite also could occur, with the government increasing its efforts to shut down all protests, silence all disparate voices.

That may not be possible, however, partly because of people like Jila Baniyaghoob. ■

**Amira Hass** continued from page 5

She used to hope there might be a parallel between two significant "rights" movements: the feminist movement and the human rights movement against the occupation of Palestine. She no longer draws such comparisons.

In Israel, sexist language of 25 years ago is long gone. Feminists have had much success in winning equal pay and prosecutions against violence against them. But Israeli women were directly affected by sexism, as half of the country's population. They aren't affected personally by the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

"All Israelis benefit, and there is no (adverse) impact on individual Israelis. So the human rights change is much more difficult." She also notes that the status of women actually has gotten worse in Palestine during the same

period it improved in Israel, "as part of the growing religiosity of Palestinian society...especially in Gaza."

Hass no longer believes that she or others can use Jewish history to "talk into human hearts and minds" about the human rights inequalities in the Israeli occupation of Palestine, despite repeated stories about how Israelis have access to water while Palestinians often do not, about the high caliber of health and education for Israelis and the dismal levels for Palestinians.

That is why she keeps writing about Israel's "profit from occupation. That we all have privileges as Jews...any Jew could come any moment and become a citizen but not a Palestinian who was born here."

She sees minimal prospect of success from the mostly European efforts to boy-

cott Israeli companies working in occupied territories. Their moral arguments are trumped by Israel's economic power, especially in selling arms around the world, she says. "Russia and Turkey were vocal against the Israeli onslaught in Gaza but then right after that they're making deals to buy Israeli drones."

One ray of hope, she says, is that an increasing number of grassroots activists, including lawyers, are "doing a marvelous job of defying the Israeli occupation." They are using their privileged status as Jews, to "come out against the regime of those privileges."

There are "not enough, but some," and that is part of what keeps Hass going. ■

Peggy Simpson is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

**Iryna Khalip** continued from page 3

my notes, this is my name. But I have no idea how that got from my computer into the newspaper,” she tells the police.

Asked to define courage, Khalip said, “I believe that courage is sort of a state of mind: When a person does fear but continues to do whatever he or she is doing because the motivation is stronger.

“About 10 years ago, I think I did some courageous things. I did feel the fear,” she said. “But today it’s a matter of habit, to live in conditions of underground struggle, especially when I bear in mind that my husband, Andrei Sannikov, is an opposition leader.” This means that the two face double scrutiny from the government.

She wants to let reporters in democratic societies know that “a journalist who lives under a totalitarian regime cannot be objective. Objectivity is a privilege of a democratic society. Once you have been beaten, you become an activist, you become a fighter.”

She now takes steps to protect herself. “I follow the principle of glasnost – of security,” she said. After her office was ransacked and her computer and notes were confiscated, “I found myself completely helpless.”

Now, she says, “I try not to keep at home any kind of notes on my voice recorder. ...I also work very quickly: I find out information and I publish it.”

Anna Politkovskaya’s murder made her rethink how she looked at death threats.

“I had thought that if they made threats, they’d never kill that person. They usually kill without warning. But there were threats against Anna, and she died. So obviously my logic was wrong,” Khalip said.

Now, she says, “if there is a threat against your life, you need first and foremost to call all your friends and tell them...Before Anna’s death, I didn’t take it very seriously. Now that this has happened, I realize they may really kill you.” ■

Peggy Simpson is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

**Agnes Taile** continued from page 4

someone’s attention but was unable to wake anyone because she couldn’t speak as a result of being strangled.

Finally, she made it home, and, finding no sign of the third man, tried to wake her then four-year-old son, Danwe Pele. She worried that he, too, was hurt. But later that morning, after she had presumably passed out, a family member came to take her to a clinic; her son was unharmed. The attackers were never found.

The trauma of that night was so intense that Taile was disabled for three months. She did physical therapy, and, as her vocal chords healed, she gradually regained the ability to speak. But upon returning to work at Sweet FM, she learned that her show had been cancelled. “I could no

longer express myself in the same way,” she said.

Undeterred, Taile found a reporting job with Canal 2 International in Yaounde. There, she covered three Northern provinces of Cameroon, an area disadvantaged by a hostile climate, poverty, lack of potable water and hunger.

In February 2008, Taile covered riots in Chad, where she was one of only a few reporters to venture there for coverage. Conditions were difficult, and there was a heavy military presence of government loyalists and rebels.

“I felt useless to stay behind,” she said. “You have to see it for yourself. ...I will not stay behind the barrier.”

Taile isn’t sure whether she considers herself to be a courageous journalist, but after the 2006 attack, she is more aware than ever of the risks she was taking and how her job was endangering her own life and the lives of those close to her.

“I go beyond the obstacles and limits some journalists set for themselves,” she said.

Her friends tell Taile that she is taking too many risks, but she is sure of her voice.

“My answer is always the same,” she said, “nothing ventured, nothing gained.” ■

Lindsey Wray is the IWMF’s communications coordinator.

# IWMF Global Report on Women in the News Media

The IWMF is conducting extensive research on the status of women in the media worldwide. The study, which measures the career progress of women in the news media, will be published in 2010. The IWMF will use the results of the study to help advocate for change.

- Read more about the report and the researchers: [www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=865&c=global](http://www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=865&c=global)
- See an interactive map of the project's scope: [www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=10358&c=global](http://www.iwmf.org/article.aspx?id=10358&c=global) ■



## IWMF Launches New South Asia Initiative

The IWMF, along with the Centre for Development and Population Activities and the Center for Women Policy Studies, will hold a new initiative in December.

The South Asia Initiative on Women and HIV/AIDS Policymaking will bring together a small group of women leaders from media, civil society and parliament to help enable them to

respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Women from target countries Bangladesh, India and Pakistan were chosen to participate in the program, which will be held in Washington, D.C.

## The IWMF Supports Press Freedom Around the World

Many women journalists around the globe face danger in the course of reporting the news, including arrests and threats on their lives. The IWMF network advocates for these brave journalists in an effort to support them as individuals, but also to turn a spotlight on the lack of press freedom in many parts of the world. In 2009, the IWMF spoke out for:

- Roxana Saberi, an American journalist who was arrested in Iran in January. Saberi was released in May.
- Euna Lee and Laura Ling, American journalists who were detained in North Korea in March. They were released in August.
- Lydia Cacho, a Mexican journalist and 2007 *Courage Award* winner who faced new threats in May.
- Iranian journalists, including 2009 *Courage* winner Jila Baniyaghoob, who were imprisoned following post-election protests in June. Baniyaghoob was released in August, but many others remain in jail.
- Chansa Kabwela, a Zambian journalist who was arrested in July for circulating obscene materials. ■

To read about these journalists or to add your signature to IWMF petitions, visit [www.iwmf.org/category\\_hl.aspx?c=pastletter](http://www.iwmf.org/category_hl.aspx?c=pastletter)



**Number of News Women Reaches High**

The percentage of women working in local television news is at a high of 41.4 percent, according to the Radio Television News Directors Association/Hofstra survey of Women and Minorities in local news. The percentage of journalists of color working in local radio and television news fell.

[www.rtnda.org/media/pdfs/Women%20and%20Minorities%20Survey1.pdf](http://www.rtnda.org/media/pdfs/Women%20and%20Minorities%20Survey1.pdf)

**2005 Courage Winner Writes about Iran**

Shahla Sherkat, a 2005 winner of the IWMF *Courage in Journalism Award*, wrote an essay for Harvard's *Nieman Reports* about her experience running a women's magazine in Iran. Her magazine was shut down two years ago by the government. Read Sherkat's piece:

[www.nieman.harvard.edu/reportsitem.aspx?id=101473](http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reportsitem.aspx?id=101473)

**Russian Human Rights Activist, Former Journalist Killed**

Natalia Estemirova, Russian human rights NGO Memorial's representative in Chechnya and a former journalist, was found murdered July 15 in Chechnya. Estemirova was a friend and former collaborator of Anna Politkovskaya, a 2002 winner of the IWMF *Courage in Journalism Award* who was murdered in 2006. Estemirova was working on

a highly sensitive case in Grozny, Chechnya's capital.

[www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/15/chechnya-natalia-estemirova-murdered](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/15/chechnya-natalia-estemirova-murdered)

**'New Brand of Journalist' Faces More Risks, Says The New York Times**

A week after American reporters Euna Lee and Laura Ling were sentenced to 12 years in a labor prison in North Korea, *The New*

*York Times* reported that some journalists now are taking more risks as they take on more responsibility. This and taking on unconventional assignments differs from reporting for large established news organizations that might have more experience and leverage when dealing with foreign governments.

[www.nytimes.com/2009/06/15/business/media/15guerrilla.html?th&emc=th](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/15/business/media/15guerrilla.html?th&emc=th)

**opportunities**

**PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING TRAVEL GRANTS**

**Description:** The center funds international travel costs associated with reporting projects on topics and regions of global importance, with an emphasis on issues that have gone unreported or under-reported in the mainstream American media. Individual travel grants will depend on the project; awards generally range from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

**Requirements:** Grants are open to all journalists, writers, photographers, radio producers or filmmakers. Staff journalists as well as freelance reporters of any nationality are eligible to apply.

**Deadline:** Ongoing

**For more information:** Contact the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, 1779 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 615, Washington, D.C., 20036. E-mail: [info@pulitzercenter.org](mailto:info@pulitzercenter.org).

**Web site:** [www.pulitzercenter.org](http://www.pulitzercenter.org)

**THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP**

**Description:** The program offers academic guidance for experienced journalists wishing to undertake research projects on a variety of subjects. Organized activities include lectures, seminars, study trips and social functions. Approximately eight fellows study each year on fellowships varying from three to nine months.

**Requirements:** Mid-career print and broadcast journalists worldwide are eligible to apply. Applicants must have a minimum of five years experience in any branch of journalism. Priority will be given to proposed areas of research within the field of journalism studies.

**Deadline:** January 27, 2010

**For more information:** Contact the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, 13 Norham Gardens, Oxford, OX2 6PS, United Kingdom. E-mail: [reuters.institute@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:reuters.institute@politics.ox.ac.uk).

**Web site:** <http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/fellowships/types.html>

**KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWSHIPS**

**Description:** The program provides outstanding professionals the opportunity to devise a plan of study and select classes at the University of Michigan. In addition, prominent journalists and leading academics give twice-weekly seminars.

**Requirements:** Applicants must be full-time journalists with a minimum five years' professional experience whose work appears regularly as an employee or freelancer. Print, broadcast, photo, film and Internet journalists are eligible.

**Deadline:** February 1, 2010

**For more information:** Contact Charles Eisendrath, Knight-Wallace Fellows, Wallace House, 620 Oxford Road, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104. Tel: (734) 998-7666; Fax: (734) 998-7979.

**Website:** [www.kwfellows.org](http://www.kwfellows.org)

**MARIA MOORS CABOT PRIZES**

**Description:** Three to four winners are selected each year based on their distinguished journalistic contributions to inter-American understanding. Recipients are awarded the Cabot medal and a \$5,000 honorarium, plus travel expenses to New York and hotel accommodations for the presentation ceremony. Medalists' news organizations receive a bronze plaque.

**Requirements:** Any journalist and/or news executive who works for any news organization based in the Western Hemisphere is eligible. Other individuals, including freelance journalists, are also eligible.

**Deadline:** March 2, 2010

**For more information:** Contact Lisa Sara Redd, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, 2950 Broadway MC 3800, New York, NY 10027.

Tel: (212) 854-6468; E-mail: [cabot-prizes@columbia.edu](mailto:cabot-prizes@columbia.edu).

**Web site:** [www.journalism.columbia.edu/cs/ContentServer/jm/1175295294848/page/1175295288404/IRNSimplePage2.htm](http://www.journalism.columbia.edu/cs/ContentServer/jm/1175295294848/page/1175295288404/IRNSimplePage2.htm)

For more fellowship opportunities, visit the IWMF Web site: [www.iwmf.org/opportunities.aspx](http://www.iwmf.org/opportunities.aspx).



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## on the record

**“Press freedom is like tending a garden; it’s never done. It continually has to be nurtured and cultivated, and the citizenry has to value it. It’s one of those things that can slip away if we don’t tend to it.”**

— President Barack Obama