



# TJIC Alert

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May 2009

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## MEDIA

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### 1. Doha Centre for Media Freedom

Doha Centre

April 2009

Full Text: <http://www.dohacentre.org/EN/index.php>

The Doha Centre for Media Freedom aims to be a refuge for those who risk their life or their freedom in trying to keep us informed. It will shelter journalists who are threatened, provide care for the wounded among them and financially help media outlets and journalists who have been ill-treated by dictatorial authorities.

[Note: contains copyright material].

### 2. Get Off The Bus: The Future Of Pro-Am Journalism

Amanda Michel

*Columbia Journalism Review*

March-April 2009

Currently available online at [http://www.cjr.org/feature/get\\_off\\_the\\_bus.php](http://www.cjr.org/feature/get_off_the_bus.php)

Off the Bus was a collaborative network of amateur and professional journalists, hosted and posted by the Huffington Post, formed to cover the 2008 presidential campaign from the grassroots level. Author Amanda Michel was the project director. She describes how this successful "pro-am" model for the democratization of news worked. Off the Bus recruited 12,000 volunteers to do the reporting and, most important, the mentoring, editing and fact-checking required for a credible news source. It was low-budget and the sheer number of reporters in key places enabled production of high-quality stories which they sometimes broke before mainstream media did. Although new media can build a network quickly, "they must take much more seriously the professional side of the equation -- the reporting and editing and verification," she writes.

### 3. Hill Tunes In To New Media

Winter Casey

*National Journal*

March 7, 2009

Currently available online at

[http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cg\\_20090307\\_6994.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cg_20090307_6994.php)

Lawmakers' growing awareness of the Internet's importance to campaigns and of their constituents' increasing desire to connect and gather information on the Web has led to a growing use of social media in Congress. Members are hiring new-media experts to extend their reach on the Web, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube. Some new-media staffers like Matt Lira, who works for Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, attends senior staff meetings so that integration with new media is considered on a daily basis. New-media staffers hope members of Congress will continue to expand their use of these tools as they come to see it as essential for promoting their agendas.

### 4. Dangerous Truth: Safeguarding Journalism and Media Workers

National Endowment for Democracy

April 8, 2009

Full Text:

[http://www.newssafety.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12711:dangerous-thruth-safeguarding-journalism-and-media-workers&catid=538:events&Itemid=100510](http://www.newssafety.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12711:dangerous-thruth-safeguarding-journalism-and-media-workers&catid=538:events&Itemid=100510)

In honor of World Press Freedom Day 2009, on April 29th, the Center for International Media Assistance at the National Endowment for Democracy will host a panel discussion on journalism. Speakers from the Committee to Protect Journalists and the International News Safety Institute will address how attacks and threats against journalists are a brutal and highly effective weapon against press freedom and democracy and represent the most dangerous form of censorship.

[Note: contains copyright material].

### 5. IPI World Press Freedom Review 2008: Focus on Asia

International Press Institute

2009

Full Text: [http://www.freemedia.at/WPFR\\_2008.pdf](http://www.freemedia.at/WPFR_2008.pdf)

The annual examines the state of the media around the world, documenting press freedom violations and major media developments. Divided into specific regions, each report provides a comprehensive overview of the year's events and may be contrasted with the events of previous years.

[Note: contains copyright material].

### 6. Joint Action: Twenty-Five IFEX Members and 10 Other Organisations Protest Violations of Access to Information Rights and Attacks on Journalists Following Elections

International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX)

April 14, 2009

Full Text: <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/102327>

On April 14, 2009, at the Independent Journalism Center in Moldova, Media Non-Governmental Organizations makes a declaration on the situation of the press.

[Note: contains copyright material].

**7. UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2009 to Be Awarded Posthumously To Sri Lankan Journalist Lasantha Wickrematunge**

U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

April 6, 2009

Full Text:

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=28500&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=28500&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

The late Sri Lankan journalist and editor of the Sunday Leader Lasantha Wickrematunge, who was assassinated on 8 January this year, has been named laureate of the 2009 UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize. The Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, endorsed the choice of the Prize's jury of 14 professional journalists from all over the world.

[Note: contains copyright material].

**8. The Newspaper Revitalization Act: A Bill**

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

3 p.

U.S. House of Representatives

March 24, 2009

Full Text: <http://cardin.senate.gov/pdfs/newspaperbill.pdf>

The act would allow newspapers to operate as non-profits, if they choose, under 501(c)(3) status for educational purposes, similar to public broadcasting. Under this arrangement, newspapers would not be allowed to make political endorsements, but would be allowed to freely report on all issues, including political campaigns. Advertising and subscription revenue would be tax exempt and contributions to support coverage or operations could be tax deductible. The measure is targeted to preserve local newspapers serving communities and not large newspaper conglomerates.

**9. World Press Freedom Day 2009: Media, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**

U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

April 2009

Full Text:

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=27867&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=27867&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

The potential of media in fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation will be the topic of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2009 to be celebrated on 2-3 May 2009. As the only UN agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom, UNESCO has placed mutual understanding, and dialogue through media at the core of its mission.

[Note: contains copyright material].

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**TJIC Alert Issue: May 2009**

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