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# Live encounters

January 2013

Free online magazine from village earth



**Captain Paul Watson**  
**Sea Shepherd Conservation Society**  
in an exclusive Skype interview with Mark Ulyseas



*"You can chain me, you can torture me, you can even destroy this body, but you will never imprison my mind." - Mahatma Gandhi*

## Support Live Encounters

Live Encounters is a not-for-profit free online magazine that was started in 2009 in Bali, Indonesia. It showcases some of the best writing from around the world. Civil and human rights activists, animal rights activists, poets, writers, journalists, social workers and more have contributed their time and knowledge for the benefit of the readers of the magazine.

We are appealing for donations to pay for the administrative and technical aspects of the publication. Please help spread the free distribution of knowledge with any amount that you feel you want to give for this just cause.

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Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om

Mark Ulyseas

Publisher/Editor

Live Encounters Magazine

[markulyseas@liveencounters.net](mailto:markulyseas@liveencounters.net)

## Dear Readers and Contributors,

Season's Greetings and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

**I thank Natalie Irene Wood, journalist and flash fiction writer, for penning the all important Guest Editorial "on the internet", which is the last bastion of freedom of expression.**

There are now efforts by governments to control this medium because they fear that this freedom may be used (it already has) by citizens to exercise their right to speak freely on all issues. Unfortunately, with this freedom comes a responsibility; A responsibility that appears to be shrugged off by those seeking to use it for spewing hate and propagating violence.

**The Committee to Protect Journalists has reported that 2012 has been one of the deadliest years for journalists. This is also the first year that a high percentage of those killed were online journalists. So this should tell us something about the power of the internet!**

From the battle front to save the whales, Captain Paul Watson of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society reveals all in the cover story - the massacre of marine mammals and the looting of oceans by an industry-government combine.

And finally a wake up call from Civil & Human Rights Activist and author of Those Who Did Not Die, Ranjana Padhi, who speaks to Live Encounters on the impact of the agrarian crisis on women in Punjab, India.

Please share this magazine with your family and friends.

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om

Mark Ulyseas

Publisher/Editor

*Cover pic of Humpback Whale & Captain Paul Watson © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society*

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## Guest Editorial - Lord Leveson's Internet Dilemma

**Natalie Wood**

Born in Birmingham, England, U.K., Natalie Wood began working in journalism a month before the outbreak of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. She remained in regional Jewish journalism for more than 20 years, leaving full-time writing to help run a family business and then completed a range of general office work. Natalie Wood and her husband, Brian Fink emigrated from Manchester to Israel in March 2010 and live in Karmiel, Galilee where she continues to work from home, concentrating on creative writing. She features in *Smith Magazine's new Six Word Memoirs On Jewish Life*. Natalie Wood also contributes to *Technorati*, *Blogcritics* and *Live Encounters* magazine. Read her stories at <http://www.perfectlywritefamilytales.blogspot.com> and her general journalism at <http://www.alwayswriteagain.blogspot.com>.



## Captain Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in an exclusive Skype interview with Mark Ulyseas

Watson is an acclaimed environmentalist who has authored a number of books and has received international awards for his endeavor to save the denizens of the marine world. Presently, he leads a flotilla of four ships lying in wait to confront the Japanese whaling fleet heading for the Southern Antarctic Ocean. His decades long fight against the rape of the oceans is now stuff of legends.

<http://www.seashepherd.org/>



## Master & Commander's Log + an update from Sea Shepherd Cove Guardians on massacre at Taiji, Japan

This is a leaf from the Captain's Log aboard the SSS Steve Irwin. Captain Paul Watson minces no words when he narrates his journey through the labyrinth of festering humanity. It has been faithfully reproduced verbatim so as not to dilute his message. The Urdu term '*Insaanyat*' comes to mind when he speaks passionately about saving the marine world from the greed of humanity. '*Insaanyat*' means *humanity, to have humanity, to be humane...a quality that appears regrettably to be in short supply.*

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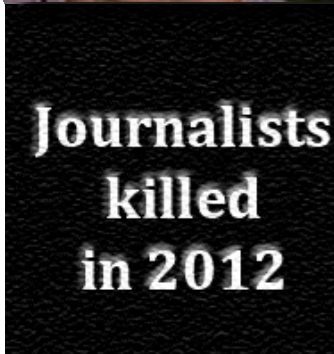


## Return to Melbourne

**Terry McDonagh**

Poet and dramatist, Terry McDonagh has published four collections of poetry; a play; a book of letters, novel and poetry for children. His work has been translated into Indonesian and German, funded by Ireland Literature Exchange. *In the Light of Bridges - Hamburg Fragments* is his latest book that was launched in Hamburg on 26th April, 2012.

[www.terry-mcdonagh.com](http://www.terry-mcdonagh.com) [www.podcasts.ie](http://www.podcasts.ie)



## Journalist deaths spike in 2012 due to Syria, Somalia - a CPJ Special Report

CPJ promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. CPJ takes action wherever journalists are censored, attacked, imprisoned, or killed for their work. Hundreds of journalists are killed, harassed, or imprisoned every year. For 30 years, the Committee to Protect Journalists has been there to defend them worldwide. When a country's journalists are silenced, its people are silenced. By protecting journalists, CPJ protects freedom of expression and democracy. [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org)



## 2012 Imprisoned Journalists

a CPJ Yearly census

CPJ promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. CPJ takes action wherever journalists are censored, attacked, imprisoned, or killed for their work. Hundreds of journalists are killed, harassed, or imprisoned every year. For 30 years, the Committee to Protect Journalists has been there to defend them worldwide. When a country's journalists are silenced, its people are silenced. By protecting journalists, CPJ protects freedom of expression and democracy. [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org)



## Those Who Did Not Die - Impact of the Agrarian Crisis on Women in Punjab

**Ranjana Padhi**

Padhi has been active with the autonomous women's movement since the mid-eighties. She belongs to Orissa and is based in Delhi since her college days. Ranjana has been part of autonomous, non-funded collectives like Saheli, Workers' Solidarity and Kashipur Solidarity. She has also been an active part of many joint coalitions and campaigns around issues of state repression; democratic rights and civil liberties; workers' rights; sexuality; slum demolitions; forcible evictions caused by corporate land acquisition; and communal violence. For her living, Ranjana has been a language editor and trainer. [www.sagepub.in](http://www.sagepub.in)



## Transformation in the New Year

**Candess M Campbell**

Candess M. Campbell, PhD is an internationally known Intuitive Life Coach, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Seminar leader, Hypnotherapist and Author. She specializes in assisting others to gain their own personal power and to live a life of abundance, happiness and joy. Early 2012 she will be releasing her book *12 Weeks to Self-Healing: Transforming Pain through Energy Medicine*.

[www.12weekstoselfhealing.com](http://www.12weekstoselfhealing.com)



## Long Road

**Matthew Van Orton**

Orton ( family name Malecki ) was born in communist Poland in early seventies. In the nineties, he studied medicine and lived on and off in Amsterdam and Miami, before settling down with his family in London. Soon after, divorced, he moved to Cornwall where he found peace in nature and tranquility of the ancient celtic land. Some years later, he broke up from his second relationship and left. He has two beautiful sons...and India.



## The Loneliness of a Writer

**Mark Ulyseas**

Ulyseas has served time in Advertising as copywriter and creative director selling people things they didn't need, a ghost writer for some years, columnist of a newspaper, a free lance journalist and photographer. All this took up nearly three decades. End 2009 he created Live Encounters for the free sharing of knowledge hoping that the 'humane' in humanity still remained albeit scattered around the globe. This has become a celebration of Life by people of village earth.

[www.marculyseas.wordpress.com](http://www.marculyseas.wordpress.com)

[www.coroflot.com/markulyseas](http://www.coroflot.com/markulyseas)





**Natalie Wood**

*Journalist and Flash Fiction Writer*

## Lord Leveson's Internet Dilemma

I am disappointed but wholly unsurprised by Lord Justice Leveson's dismissive attitude towards hatred on the Internet. After all, the problem is in my opinion, more pernicious than the gross invasions of privacy and attendant matters on which his recent Inquiry hung. If, as he noted during a visit to Sydney, Australia in December that laws are needed to prevent 'mob rule' on the Internet and 'trial by Twitter', why won't he handle antisemitism and other forms of hate that abound there?

It emerged soon after publication that his two thousand page report into the culture, practice and ethics of the press pays scant attention to cyberspace. So I hope, as has been suggested, that if Lord Leveson becomes *Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales*, that the second part of the inquiry examining the "unlawful practices within *News International and other newspapers*" will be put aside or re-assigned to another senior judge. Certainly, the matter needs to be handled by someone with a different mindset.

I simply do not understand how someone who, for example, presided at the trial of ex-US Marine Toby Studebaker on charges relating to child grooming over the Internet, could dismiss the Web simply as an "ethical vacuum". Indeed, his attitude towards the Net is most peculiarly mixed. It has been noted that he must use it often himself as he reportedly told a 'legal blogger' as far back as 2007: "I go to Tesco's and I have teenage children who keep my feet on the ground. I don't live on a rough estate, but otherwise I lead a normal life."

If that is so, why won't he act?

It is commonly believed the Internet has produced as much social and commercial change since the nineties as the Gutenberg Press did in the entire 15th century. Much more than a virtual 'wild west', it is also the new El Dorado: a wondrous universe, not only without limit but most often without consequences for those who misuse and abuse it. *The Studebaker case is one that proves the rule. The accused was not found guilty either in the U.K. or the USA of any crime while using the Web but it is supposed to have encouraged the creation of a law against Internet grooming in Scotland.* If this case rang no alarm bells with Lord Leveson then the proliferation of online crime, bullying and racism most certainly should. Indeed, some of it has been directed at him as a Jew.

Perhaps he has dismissed as unworthy of attention a parodically awful site entitled 'The Last American Newspaper' which calls him a 'Zionist lackey' and accuses him, inter alia, of attempting to stifle the free Press in the U.K. But what he must find harder to swallow is the unremitting stream of cyber pornography, bullying on social networking sites like Facebook and brazen antisemitism, most often thinly disguised as attacks on Israel.

Some experts believe this torrent may be staunched via a blend of domestic law, self-regulation and international law but meanwhile, it continues to flow unabated. Below I discuss some of the individual problems:

While writing this I was alerted to a *New York Times*' exposé of the expansion of international 'ransomware' hacking. This happens when computer users, many of them pornography site clients, discover their machines have been infected with a virus which has locked them and that they have no access to their files unless they pay a stiff fee. Most often, even when the money has changed hands, they cannot retrieve their material and must then have their machines wiped clean.

Facebook is notorious for both peer bullying and for indescribably awful attacks on Israel. I have found eight different pages with varying titles on the theme of 'F ... Israel' and the most popular community page boasts more than 35,000 'likes'. But much worse has to be the ceaseless outpouring of invective, pictures – sometimes 'fauxtographs' – and other illustrations coming from both paid contributors and readers' talk-backs in the online editions of respected English language news-sites.

The main offenders in the U.K. are the *BBC*, along with *The Guardian* and *The Independent* newspapers. But other news sites are also culpable and I stopped using a blog on the *My Telegraph* website as I grew first impatient and then depressed by the constant hail of open and covert abuse. The editor of this magazine (Live Encounters) became one of my few constant friends there.

Finally in late December last year I contacted the-then recently convened *Leveson Inquiry*, appealing for it to widen its brief and suggested a crack-down on Internet racism, perhaps under the terms of the *Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006*. As I received no more than a standard reply, I was certain that Lord Leveson would decide not to do anything to help. Sadly, I was right! So although I've been advised not to lean on his Jewish background, I've now nothing to lose and here will remind him of the words of the great **Talmudic sage, Rabbi Hillel The Elder.**

**"If I am not for myself", he asked, "then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"**

**Natalie Irene Wood**  
*Karmiel, Galilee, Israel*  
*December 25, 2012*





**The water in the Cove at Taiji Island, Japan, runs red with the blood of whales, dolphins and porpoises. The Japanese herd these gentle creatures into the cove and then kill them by stabbing them to death with harpoons, fish hooks, and knives. Young dolphins are sold into captivity.**

**The defenseless creatures in a desperate bid to escape the knives throw themselves onto the rocks. The slaughtered creatures are then diced into 'marketable pieces' and sold. The killings carry on even though the sale of whale and dolphin meat in Japan has drastically fallen and there is a huge surplus...yet the killing continues!**



Whales throwing themselves onto the rocks at the cove, Taiji Island, Japan, to escape the knives of the captors. Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society



The slaughtered creatures are then diced into 'marketable pieces' and sold to the highest bidder. Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

### Dear Readers,

In the following pages is an interview with Neptune in the avatar of Captain Paul Watson: Master & Commander leading four ships, helicopter, UAV drones and fast boats crewed by people from 26 countries backed by thousands of supporters around the globe, to confront those afflicted by the avariciousness of humanity who are plundering the oceans to make money from the bloody slaughter and sale of the carcasses of intelligent life from the marine world.

We have added a leaf from the Captain's Log that throws light on the insidiousness of corporations and governments specializing in profiteering at the expense of destroying the heart of the planet – the great ocean.

**The dolphin is the avatar of Lord Ganesha, the Hindu God of Wisdom and son of Lord Shiva (*Creator and Destroyer*) and Goddess Parvati. And the avatar of Lord Vishnu is the Whale - the Leviathan from the great expanse that encompasses two thirds of village earth.**

**The manner in which we are tempting the Gods is frightening.**

Watson and his crew are here to remind us that enough is enough. The slaughter must end. The rape of the oceans must cease.

**Could it be that one day the Gods will rise from the depths to seek vengeance, to hold humanity accountable for the senseless acts of murder?**

**In the past, they had sent us gentle reminders - like tsunamis that laid waste vast stretches of coastline and taken thousands of human lives in one gigantic wave.**

**It is time to heed the messenger and not silence him and his followers.**

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om

Mark Ulyseas





## Captain Paul Watson

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society  
**speaks from the battlefield to save the whales  
 to Mark Ulyseas in an exclusive Skype interview**

“When we leave the Southern (Antarctic) Ocean every year we leave with a sense of satisfaction. Last year the Japanese only took 20% of the kill quota, the year before that only 17% of the kill quota. So we have been saving thousands of whales. The very idea that these whales are still alive and still surviving in the sea is because we are down there intervening. It does give us a great sense of satisfaction. So we are fortunate in what we do there on the high seas...we can actually see the results of our intervention and that is very uplifting for the moral of the crew and everyone else concerned...

Today (December 13, 2012) we are four ships standing by waiting for the Japanese fishing fleet to arrive so we can head them off before they get into the Southern Ocean of Antarctica. We have one ship in Tasmania and three in New Zealand!”

- Captain Paul Watson, Master & Commander





Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

**What is the significance of your version of The Jolly Roger?**

A few years ago when some people referred to us as pirates I said okay, let's be pirates. Back in the 17th Century it was not the British Navy that ended piracy in the Caribbean. Too many politicians on the take, too many merchants making money off piracy, not much different than today, really.

Piracy was ended by Henry Morgan, a pirate.

It sometimes takes a pirate to stop pirates.

And we consider ourselves to be pirates of compassion in pursuit of pirates of greed!

So I designed our own Jolly Roger with crossed Trident symbolizing Neptune with a crossed Shepherd's staff.

The skull represents humanity poisoning and destroying our seas and the yin yang dolphin and whale represent hope that someday humanity will understand the importance of living in harmony with the natural world in accordance with the laws of ecology.



Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society  
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Captain Paul Watson and Crew on board SSS Steve Irwin. Pic © Tim Watters/Sea Shepherd Conservation Society





**“The Russians used Sperm whale oil as lubricant in high heat resistant machinery that was used in nuclear missiles.**

**Here we were destroying this intelligent beautiful creature to make weapons of mass destruction for extermination of human beings.**

**And it struck me that we must be insane.”**



Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

### **Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life and work?**

I think one thing that has influenced me more than anything else is the encounter in 1975 with a dying Sperm whale when the Russian whalers had fired a harpoon and killed the female. At that moment we were trying to block the harpoon which they fired over our heads at the female. When the female was hit the large bull whale slapped the water with its tail and swam under the vessel and surfaced on the other side. The Russians were ready with the harpoon and they fired point blank into his head. He screamed and fell back into the water rolling about in agony on the surface when I caught his eye and then I saw him dive again followed by a trail of bloody bubbles. Then suddenly he came up fast out of the water at an angle in front of us and I saw his head up close and I looked into his eye and saw something...the whale was understanding what we were trying to do...to help it...and this changed my life forever. Then he slide back into the water and drowned. He could have killed us but chose not to do so. I am eternally indebted to that whale.

Later when I was sitting and watching the Russian whaling fleet it occurred to me that what I had felt was pity...pity not for the whale but for humanity, for the callousness with which we were slaughtering the whales.

The Russians used Sperm whale oil as lubricant in high heat resistant machinery that was used in nuclear missiles.

Here we were destroying this intelligent beautiful creature to make weapons of mass destruction for extermination of human beings. And it struck me that we must be insane.

From then on I decided to protect the whales and creatures of the sea and to put them before I put people.

I do it for them, not for me.

### **How did this all begin – you donning the mantle of Poseidon or is it Proteus, the Shepherd of the Sea?**

I was raised in a small fishing in Canada and so all my life I have been close to the seas. When I was 10 years old I spent some time in one summer swimming with a family of beavers in a pond. The following year when I returned I couldn't find the beavers and when I asked around I was told that the trappers had taken them during the winter. I became pretty angry and that winter I began to walk the trap lines, freeing the animals from the traps and destroying the traps. I really started this activism when I was 11 years old.

At the age of 18 years I was the youngest founding member of the Greenpeace Foundation in 1969.

### **Why is it important to stop the killing of whales, dolphins and porpoises? And after you stop this genocide, what then?**

We are also involved in protecting shark, fish, and coral reefs. It is really about protecting our oceans. As I continuously tell people that if we don't protect the whales, the sharks and fish then oceans are going to die and then we die.

### **What are the other fronts that you are fighting on in a bid to save marine life from the avariciousness of humanity?**

Since 1999 we have a permanent station in Galapagos Islands. We have an office and a patrol boat and work in partnership with the Galapagos Rangers and Ecuadorean Federal Police to protect the marine reserve.

My reason for being there is to protect and save something that we need – the incredibly profound wonderful Galapagos. If we can't save this then what can we save?

So that's our line in the sand.

We made a lot of progress there in stopping poachers and we have also been working along the coast of Costa Rica to stop shark finning, South Pacific islands helping Rangers on these islands to combat/prevent poaching in their waters. Presently, we have a project to protect coral reef fish being captured by the aquarium trade.

Right now we have a crew in Taiji, Japan. They are on the ground there from September 1st to March 1st every year to try and block the killing of dolphins.

We are present in the Mediterranean to try and prevent the over fishing of Bluefin tuna. We have numerous confrontations with the tuna fishing vessels and also legal battles with the tuna fishermen.

We are down in Brazil trying to stop poaching operations in Brazilian waters.

Various Chapters have sprung up along with international support groups fighting global issues.





Pic © Sea Shepherd

“We spend billions of dollars searching the universe looking for extra terrestrial intelligence to communicate with but yet we spend nothing to communicate with species that live on the planet.

Whales have the largest brains, most complex brains. They have sophisticated languages and yet we don't even bother trying to communicate with them. We are intent on destroying them.

So I find it really strange that scientists give so much attention to finding some bacteria on another planet or the possibility of communicating with alien life forms when in fact there is intelligent life on this planet and we have to invest hardly anything to communicate with them.

My personal experience is that we have a lot to learn from the whales and we have got to stop slaughtering them.”

*- Captain Paul Watson, Master & Commander*





**“Actually we are investing nothing to protect the oceans. In fact when people like me try to do something to stop the illegal exploitation we are attacked by everyone and called names like pirates and criminals, eco terrorists.**

**The real eco terrorists are the people who are destroying the seas. We have never injured a single person in 25 years of operations.**

**We don't break laws. We uphold the law.”**

**Which countries are the main perpetrators in the rape of the seas? And how can they be stopped when the mindset of governments/industry appear hell bent on plunder?**

Our main opposition for the last few years has been Japan because the Japanese whalers and dolphin killers and fishing fleets are probably one of the worst offenders. But we have also been fighting whalers from Norway and Iceland. And we focus on taking out Bluefin tuna from Malta, Tunisia, Italy and Spain. Added to this we have a running battle with the poachers from Taiwan and Costa Rica, Latin America on the mass slaughter of sharks.

But most of our time is spent battling the Japanese, Norwegian and Icelandic fishing fleets.

**Has the outcome of the Climate Change Conference, the most recent being at Doha, made a positive impact on the work of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society? And have governments come forward to support the Society or impede its ground breaking work?**

Climate change has had an effect on our oceans on many levels contributing towards the killing off of coral reefs around the world.

These conferences around the world...they don't impress me much. Since 1972 they have environmental conferences but nobody ever does anything, they just talk about it. I attended the UN Conference on Environment in 1992 and everybody made promises but not one of them has been carried out, so it's just talk and talk and just presenting papers and governments patting each other on the back. They don't do anything. I have always felt that if we are going to protect the planet it must come from individual passion, from people across the world. You can't expect governments to do anything because there is no political and economic motivation for them to do it. It is too far out into the future and they think in terms of the next four years or when the next election is – that seems to be the big problem.

**In your illustrious career as defender of the seas there must have been moments of sheer joy and satisfaction of a job well done. Could you share with the readers one or more such instances, please?**

When we leave the Southern (Antarctic) Ocean every year we leave with a sense of satisfaction. Last year the Japanese only took 20% of the kill quota, the year before that only 17% of the kill quota. So we have been saving thousands of whales. The very idea that these whales are still alive and still surviving in the sea is because we are down there intervening.



Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

It does give us a great sense of satisfaction. So we are fortunate in what we do there on the high seas...we can actually see the results of our intervention and that is very uplifting for the moral of the crew and everyone else concerned.

**Can humanity survive without pilfering from the oceans? And is there a middle ground where designated areas of the marine world can be farmed under controlled conditions without resorting to the present mindless slaughter of mammals and ransacking of marine resources?**

The problem in this is that there are too many people on a planet with finite resources.

**There are two basic laws of ecology :**

**01. The law of diversity – the strength of the ecosystem is dependent upon the diversity of species. The laws of these species are interdependent on each other.**

**02. The law of finite resources. There is a limit to resources and the carrying capacity and we are violating that every day. Too many people consuming too many resources and that's our main problem.**

The oceans are being exploited at a dangerous level. Every single commercial fishery in the world today is in a state of collapse. We are wiping out species after species, destroying entire habitats and there is a limit on how far we can go on before the whole thing collapses because when the oceans die, we die.

Actually we are investing nothing to protect the oceans. In fact when people like me try to do something to stop the illegal exploitation we are attacked by everyone and called names like pirates and criminals, eco terrorists.

The real eco-terrorists are the people who are destroying the seas. We have never injured a single person in 25 years of operations.

We don't break laws.

We uphold the law.

Because of the vested interests of the corporate fisheries that are exploiting the oceans we become the scapegoats. Governments look upon us as people who are the enemy, people who are destroying the planet!



**“Our problem is that 40% of all our fish taken from the oceans are given to livestock – the pigs and to the chickens.**

**Chickens are now eating more fish than all the world’s sea birds put together.**

**And pigs are eating more fish than all the sharks put together.**

**This is completely unnatural.”**



Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society



Pilot Whales gather behind Sea Shepherd Ship Bob Barker. Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

### **Are you a vegetarian or Vegan?**

Our crews on our four vessels are vegan. The reason we promote veganism is because we are destroying our oceans and we simply cannot eat fish!

Our problem is that 40% of all our fish taken from the oceans are given to livestock – the pigs and to the chickens.

Chickens are now eating more fish than all the world’s sea birds put together.

And pigs are eating more fish than all the sharks put together.

This is completely unnatural.

So we’ve got to find a way of living in harmony with our ecosystems and therefore, veganism is the answer to that.

### **What is your message to the readers of Live Encounters and how can they help you in your fight to save an embattled marine world?**

We are a small organization compared to some of the others. The reason for that is we don’t invest other people’s money in promotions and advertising and direct mail or anything like that. We do it on the campaigns and for that reason we remain small. So the more support we get, the stronger and more effective we can become. I would encourage people to support us, to support our members and be involved in any way.

Our operations include three groups of people

- The crew on our ships
  - The support crews on shore
  - Our supporters around the world
- These three groups make us a strong and successful organization.

### **Where are you now?**

**We are four ships standing by waiting for the Japanese fishing fleet to arrive so we can head them off before they get into the Southern Ocean of Antarctica. We have one ship in Tasmania and three in New Zealand!**



This is a leaf from the Captain's Log aboard the SSS *Steve Irwin*. Captain Paul Watson does not mince words when he narrates his journey through the labyrinth of festering humanity. I have reproduced it verbatim so as not to dilute his message. The Urdu term '*Insaanyat*' comes to mind when he speaks passionately about saving the marine world from the greed of humanity. '*Insaanyat*' means *humanity, to have humanity, to be humane...a quality that appears regrettably to be in short supply.* – *Mark Ulyseas*



## The Long Journey Home... and Now the Voyage Begins by Captain Paul Watson

December 04, 2012

"Four ships with four captains and officers and crew, 120 people from 24 nations: Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Great Britain, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United States.

The objective of **Operation Zero Tolerance** is to intercept and intervene against the intent of the Japanese whaling fleet to murder 1,035 whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. Our purpose is twofold: to save the lives of whales and to cost the Japanese whaling industry as much as we possibly can in financial losses. **Last year, we cost them roughly \$22 million U.S. dollars despite the fact that they received a \$30 million dollar subsidy stolen from the victims of the Japanese Tsunami Relief Fund.**

And as always, our actions are undertaken in the **Buddhist spirit of Hayagriva**, where we do not cause physical injury to our opponents. We target their intentions and thwart their lethal ambitions, but we never harm them. Unfortunately, they do not share our compassion and thus the risks our crews face are considerable."



**Above:** SSS Steve Irwin, Captain Paul Watson. **Below:** Sea Shepherd crew member readies a slingshot to unleash red paint symbolic of blood on the Japanese factory ship Nisshin Maru. Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society







**Above:** SSS Bob Barker, Captain Peter Hammarstedt, citizen of Sweden & USA. **Below:** Japanese ship Yushin Maru using Delta water cannons on Sea Shepherd crew members. Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society



Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

This week is my birthday week and a wonderful week indeed because I received the best of all possible gifts. The deck of the Steve Irwin is again under my feet. I have an awesome crew and our ship is on course for Antarctica.

It has been a long journey from Germany to where I am now.

Across two oceans and countless rivers, over three mountain ranges, across a desert, over lakes, and through dozens of cities and towns. A total of 9,000 miles covered from Frankfurt, Germany to the Southern Pacific Ocean.

A trifle inconvenient without a passport or any form of identification and all the more difficult without credit cards or access to ATM machines, without access to the internet or even a cell phone.

**Dark to the point of invisible but it was this invisibility that has kept me out of the clutches of Japan — despite their resources, their small army of lawyers and their ability to use their economic clout to place me on the Interpol Red List on politically motivated bogus charges.**

**It has been seven months since the Germans detained me at Frankfurt airport and four months since I left Germany. I would not have made it here without the loyalty and resourcefulness of supporters, friends, and family.**

**And because of them, I now have returned to the Steve Irwin, traveling primarily through the largest and most free nation in the world – The Ocean!** I can't go into details of my travels over the last four months. I may have to do it again sometime in the future.

More importantly, we need to now focus on the immediate future and not the recent past. Our ships and our crew are on the move. The *Steve Irwin* and I are at sea. The *Bob Barker* left on November 30th from Sydney. The *Brigitte Bardot* is also at sea and the *Sam Simon* remains in an undisclosed location amidst rumors and speculations as to what and where it is. All I can say is that *Locky MacLean*, a citizen of both France and Canada, is the Captain.

I am now the Captain of the Steve Irwin once again. *Peter Hammarstedt*, a citizen of Sweden and the USA, is the Captain on the Bob Barker and captaining the Brigitte Bardot is world famous French sailor, the legendary *Jean Yves Terlain*.



## MASTER & COMMANDER



Humpback Whale Mother and Calf Pic © Simon Ager/Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Four ships with four captains and officers and crew, 120 people from 24 nations: Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Great Britain, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United States.

The objective of **Operation Zero Tolerance** is to intercept and intervene against the intent of the **Japanese whaling fleet to murder 1,035 whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.** Our purpose is twofold: to save the lives of whales and to cost the Japanese whaling industry as much as we possibly can in financial losses. Last year, we cost them roughly \$22 million U.S. dollars despite the fact that they received a \$30 million dollar subsidy stolen from the victims of the Japanese Tsunami Relief Fund.

And as always, our actions are undertaken in the Buddhist spirit of Hayagriva, where we do not cause physical injury to our opponents. We target their intentions and thwart their lethal ambitions, but we never harm them. Unfortunately, they do not share our compassion and thus the risks our crews face are considerable.

**We have never been stronger, nor more determined. Our dedication to defending the integrity of the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary is undiminished, for we know that the key to success is persistence, patience and perseverance.**

**We have succeeded in bankrupting the whaling fleet. We have sunk them economically. Now we need to sink them politically.**

**Back in 1977 we opposed the slaughter of whales in Western Australia when Australia was a stubborn whaling nation. Today, Australia is the leading nation in the world defending the whales. That gives me great hope for Japan.** Japan can be a great force for good with marine conservation, and more and more Japanese are supporting us every year. I believe that one day Japan will be a nation that also protects the whales and no longer kills them, just like Australia has become today.

**Whaling is becoming unpopular in Japan. Only a few years ago, the Japanese whaling fleet would depart from the dock with cheering crowds, bands, ribbons and widespread media coverage. They departed this week from an obscure location, without fanfare; shamefully sneaking out to sea for fear that we would see them.**

© Captain Paul Watson/Sea Shepherd Conservation Society  
© www.liveencounters.net january 2013

## CAPTAIN'S LOG



**Above:** SSS Brigitte Bardot, Captained by world famous French sailor, the legendary Jean Yves Terlain. **Below:** Sea Shepherd crew members get a look at the deck of the Japanese ship Shonan Maru. Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society



© Sea Shepherd





© Sea Shepherd

**Above:** SSS Sam Simon Captain Locky Maclean, citizen of France & Canada. **Below:** Sea Shepherd helicopter and fast boat. Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society



© Sea Shepherd



Minke whale spyhopping Pic © Erwin Vermeulen

They departed this week from an obscure location, without fanfare; shamefully sneaking out to sea for fear that we would see them.

**Earlier in the month we issued a statement saying that we would confront them off the coast of Japan and apparently they believed it. Their Coast Guard mobilized and they went to a great deal of expense and effort to sneak quietly out of port.**

Of course we had no intention of heading North at all. We are waiting for them in the South, but before they reach the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

**Our ships will spread out to guard the approaches to the Sanctuary and once the Nisshin Maru is found we will block any attempt to undertake whaling operations.**

I do hope that this will be the last year we must make the long, expensive and dangerous voyage to the Southern Ocean but we will return again next year and the year after that, and every year thereafter until the whale killing is ended.

**We have become the guardians of the whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary and we will never surrender to these killers.**

**A special thank you to all of you who have donated to Sea Shepherd and made it possible for our ships to be where we are now. We still need your help to refuel the vessels to allow us to keep our stations down here at the bottom of the planet as the guardians of the great whales.**

We do what we do so the whales may live. We do what we do for the children of the future, so that they may live in a world with whales, for when the whales are no more, the sea will die and when the sea is no more – we, all of us, will die!

**As I stand on the bridge wing of the Steve Irwin looking over the vast inky blue shroud of the ocean, I see between the sea and the amber cloud speckled golden sky — a single spout directly ahead and that spout symbolizes life.**

As the sun sets to the west, a flash of green sparks on the horizon and I feel that there can be no place I would rather be or anyplace that I could be more happy than upon these life-sustaining waters on a quest to defend Leviathan.





Pic © Sea Shepherd

**“Sea Shepherd is committed to defending the integrity of this internationally established sanctuary.**

**What is the purpose of a whale sanctuary codified into international law if Japan can kill whales within its territorial waters while in contempt of the Australian Federal Court?**

**We will defend these whales as we have for the last eight years – non-violently and legally.”**



## Japanese Whalers Fire Their First Shot of the Season – at Sea Shepherd

December 17, 2012



The Japanese whaling fleet's factory vessel, the Nisshin Maru in dry dock  
Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

It looks like the Japanese whaling fleet is ready to rumble.

**They fired their opening shot today by having the United States 9th District Court issue an injunction against Sea Shepherd and Captain Paul Watson, specifically.**

**The court order was a single page e-mail granting the injunction despite the fact that the preliminary injunction was denied in February 2012 by Judge Richard Jones in Seattle.**

**In a completely unprecedented move, the preliminary injunction was granted by three judges on the 9th Circuit before a hearing has taken place and before the trial on this matter slated for September 2013.**

**It is a complex situation whereby a United States Court is issuing an injunction against Dutch and Australian vessels carrying an international crew, operating out of Australia and New Zealand in international waters and the waters of the Australian Antarctic Economic Zone. In addition the Court has ignored the fact that the Japanese whalers are in contempt of a court order by the Australian Federal Court and the whaling takes place in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.**

### **What is the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society going to do?**

Sea Shepherd's position is clear: Our ships, officers and crew are 100% committed to achieving a zero-kill quota on whales. This is Operation Zero Tolerance and 120 crew members from 26 different nations are prepared to risk their lives to defend endangered and protected whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. Sea Shepherd is committed to defending the integrity of this internationally established sanctuary.

What is the purpose of a whale sanctuary codified into international law if Japan can kill whales within its territorial waters while in contempt of the Australian Federal Court?

We expect that the Japanese whaling fleet was waiting for this ruling before departing from Japan. They will find when they arrive that we will still be there guarding the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary with our ships and our lives.

“We will defend these whales as we have for the last eight years – non-violently and legally,” said Captain Paul Watson.

*For the whales,*  
**Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Captains, Crew, Directors and Staff**





Pic © Sea Shepherd

**And while Captain Paul Watson waits with his flotilla to ambush and head off the Japanese Whaling Fleet from the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary his Sea Shepherd Cove Guardians report from the island of Taiji, Japan, of the massacre and capture of hundreds of Dolphins. This report by Sea Shepherd Cove Guardian, Nicole McLachlan, reflects the need for international intervention to pressure Japan to immediately discontinue this bloody practice.**



## Operation Infinite Patience

Cove Guardian, Nicole McLachlan  
December 20, 2012



**Above:** 200+ Bottlenose Dolphins in Cove **Below:** Bloody Cove after bottlenose dolphin slaughter Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society



**A pod of 200 Bottlenose dolphins were driven into the Cove and 101 juveniles were taken for captivity. If marine parks ever showed images of these dolphins being wrestled into submission and taken from their families, the stands would fall silent and these facilities would close down- and they know it.**

**The past ten days in Taiji have been absolute torture, to say the very least, for hundreds of dolphins whose only mistake was to have migrated close to Taiji, in southeast Japan. There are not many ways to describe the destruction of large pods of marine mammals, and the ongoing torment that those individuals that have either survived these drives, or were taken into captivity, will forever endure. In recent days, we have seen mankind at it's very worst, and the dolphin hunt in Taiji at it's most greed-driven. What is most excruciating about the devastation witnessed here is the profits that a few individuals will now reap. This extends out to the international level, as this is an issue of worldwide demand for dolphins in captivity, with Taiji being the focal point of the global captive dolphin trade.**

**On the 7th of December, a pod of 15 Risso's dolphins were hunted and slaughtered. They frantically fought against the dolphin killers deafening boats and terrifying walls of nets- all were killed for human consumption, as none were 'suitable' enough to spend their lives forever entertaining humans in the captive trade.**

**Merely 2 days later, on December 9th, 14-15 Risso's dolphins were slaughtered within the killing cove after a drawn out chase. The petrified dolphins darted around the hunting boats for hours before eventually being netted off by killers. Juveniles within the pod were slaughtered alongside the rest of their family. On the afternoon of December 10th, a non-slaughter day, one Bottlenose dolphin was taken from the Taiji Harbor sea pens to the Fisheries Union, lifted by crane into a truck and transported to a dolphinarium within Japan.**

**The dolphin's would-be trainers then followed the truck escorted by over a dozen police and official vehicles that showed up after we arrived at the Fisheries Union. This included vans, undercover officials, both city and prefecture police, coast guard, riot police, and others on police motor-bikes. They imposed an official roadblock outside the Fisheries Union as the truck departed, and no less than three police and riot vehicles escorted the truck with the dolphin inside out of Taiji!**





Pic © Sea Shepherd

**On the first day of the captive selection for the Bottlenose dolphin pod, 32 dolphins were violently captured and sentenced to a lifetime of imprisonment. Countless dolphin trainers could be seen standing on the beach within the killing Cove, shaking hands with dolphin killers as they made their selections. If they ever displayed images of these dolphins being wrestled into submission and taken from their families at those marine parks that they eventually end up in, the stands would fall silent and these facilities would close down- and they know it.**



**On the 11th of December, a pod of well over 200 Striped dolphins were driven toward Taiji. After the chase began, the dolphin killers lost a majority of the pod, though they did manage to drive between 55-65 dolphins into the Cove.**

Tired and terrified, the dolphins frantically threw themselves up onto surrounding rocks as their family members looked on. Dolphins thrashed their tail flukes desperately while being dragged by ropes into the Cove as the killers could not control the absolute havoc.

**The dolphins were slaughtered on the beach of the killing Cove, as one very young Striped dolphin was taken captive to the Taiji Whale Museum by trainers that had witnessed the carnage of its family. It will now spend the rest of its life entertaining humankind- the species responsible for the massacre of its pod.**

The very next day, on the 12th of December, in one of the most horrific and prolonged ordeals that we have ever documented in Taiji, over 200 Bottlenose Dolphins were driven into and netted off within the Cove.

**The greed of the dolphin killers was clearly evident during this drive, as they had initially lost two parts of the large pod during the chase. However, instead of being satisfied with the 150+ dolphins they first managed to drive into the Cove, the hunting boats ventured back out to sea to ensure that every last dolphin of the 200+ pod was sealed off. They wanted to make sure that every single juvenile possible was within the Cove for captive selection. Little did any of us know that it would be 6 horrifying days until the last net would be unhooked from the mouth of the Cove once more.**

On the first day of the captive selection for the Bottlenose dolphin pod, 32 dolphins were violently captured and sentenced to a lifetime of imprisonment. Countless dolphin trainers could be seen standing on the beach within the killing Cove, shaking hands with dolphin killers as they made their selections. If they ever displayed images of these dolphins being wrestled into submission and taken from their families at those marine parks that they eventually end up in, the stands would fall silent and these facilities would close down- and they know it.

**During the capture, as the killers were too preoccupied with their greed-driven activities in the killing Cove to notice, a dolphin calf had become entangled and almost drowned in nets in the outer cove, it then went on to die in front of its mother a few minutes later, as she tried with all her might to save her baby by pushing the baby's lifeless body to the surface over and over.**



Cove Guardians Nicole, Alice, Bianca, Tricia and Michelle Pic © Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Visit our  
**Cove Guardians**  
site for more information.

**\*\*\*Watch our livestream from the Front Lines\*\*\***





Pic © Sea Shepherd

**Millions of dollars (hundreds of millions of Japanese yen) will now line the pockets of those people, marine parks, and organizations involved. In turn, fueling the continuation of dolphin slaughters in the future- unless we all make a collective decision to STOP supporting the exploitation of marine mammals in dolphinariums and marine parks around the world!**



**Yet another horrific and sickening display of greed ensued on the 14th of December. For yet another seven hours, the Bottlenose dolphins within the Cove were subjected to horrible acts of cruelty as dolphin trainers again worked hand in hand with dolphin killers to select juveniles from the pod for a life in captivity.**

Thirty dolphins were taken, and divers found two dead bodies within the Cove. These were small dolphins that did not survive the capture process- including the calf that drowned the day previous. Those bodies were then taken to the butcher house hidden on the same boat as two live family members that had just been taken out for a life of captivity. The bodies were then butchered and packaged for human consumption.

On the day of the 16th, 31 of the smallest juveniles and calves were captured and dragged past their family as they caught their last ever glimpses of their terrified mothers. The dolphin killers and trainers packed up and left the Bottlenose dolphins for their fifth night, starved and severely dehydrated within the Cove. Those dolphins that had yet to be driven into the killing Cove for captive selection remained separated from the rest of their family.

**On the 17th, the plight, torment, and destruction of the pod of over 200 Bottlenose Dolphins had been ongoing for six days. The story had reached many thousands of people from all corners of the globe and the severity of the captive dolphin trade had finally gotten through to many.**

On their final day in the Cove, 23 dolphins were slaughtered to justify the capture. Before the last of the captive dolphins and trainers left the killing Cove- eight in total were taken that day for marine parks. A staggering 101 juvenile dolphins had been captured altogether from the pod, displaying the true motive for the drive as the Fisheries Union stand to make millions from the horrific treatment and sale of these animals.

These dolphins torment will continue for the rest of their lives as they are forced to entertain the very same species that stole them from their home- the ocean.

**Due to a massive downturn in dolphin meat sales throughout the town over recent years, as well as the fact that their meat stocks were already full after the Striped dolphin massacre, they had no choice but to release those dolphins that were both too old and 'unattractive' for life in captivity, and escaped slaughter. They were released back out to sea in an absolute frenzy- evidently desperate to get as far away from the horrors from within the Cove as possible.**

**They now swim with 125 dolphins less than when they were driven into the cove six days earlier. The majority of those dolphins taken and killed represented the next generation of their family pod- the future of their bloodline. In the coming years, their pod size will dwindle considerably and will take generations to rebuild. The captive dolphin industry truly has the blood of hundreds of wild dolphins on their hands.**

Millions of dollars (hundreds of millions of Japanese yen) will now line the pockets of those people, marine parks, and organizations involved. In turn, fueling the continuation of dolphin slaughters in the future- unless we all make a collective decision to STOP supporting the exploitation of marine mammals in dolphinariums and marine parks around the world!

**Make the right choice.**

You can help us on the ground here in Taiji. To find out how to become a Cove Guardian, email your interests to [coveguardian@seashepherd.org](mailto:coveguardian@seashepherd.org) or simply support the movement to spread the word by viewing and sharing our posts via social networking sites and livestream!

Our livestream can be viewed at [taiji.ezeath.tv](http://taiji.ezeath.tv) you can also watch archived livestream footage from the campaign here in Taiji.

Visit the [Sea Shepherd Facebook page](#) and official [Cove Guardian Facebook page](#)





This poem goes back to 2005 when I was writer in residence in Melbourne. I had been on a short holiday in New South Wales with my good friend, Joachim Matschoss and his family. These were my thoughts on our return journey.

### Return To Melbourne

We returned the road we had come,  
richer in silence and gentle names  
like Wallaga lake, Umbara villane,  
Tilba Tilba or Thurra river.  
I'd seen rain forest nursed  
like a rich uncle in a posh part of town.

I'd walked lanky beaches  
alone  
except for the company  
of old gum trees dancing like  
skeletons on the many shades  
of late afternoon tides.

I feasted my heart on isolated  
tin-roofed farmhouses  
and gave up counting cattle  
on the plains of Victoria.

The old bridge at Genoa  
stands tribute to those who  
fought bureaucracy to save it.  
There are fire-blackened trees  
fighting back and  
old stumps defiant as war heroes.

I felt like one of the living  
as the streets of Melbourne rummaged  
for light to guide us home.

\*\*\*

*If I lose my sense of place  
and my way in the wind,  
I'll look up – that's it! I'll look up.*



## Journalist deaths spike in 2012 due to Syria, Somalia

*A special report by the Committee to Protect Journalists*

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Syrian violence contributed to a sharp rise in the number of journalists killed for their work in 2012, as did a series of murders in Somalia. **The dead include a record proportion of journalists who worked online.**

A CPJ special report  
Published December 18, 2012

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### Deadliest Countries in 2012

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#### Journalists killed

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01. **Syria : 28**
02. **Somalia : 12**
03. **Pakistan : 7**
04. **Brazil : 4**
05. **Russia : 1**
06. **Thailand : 1**
07. **Nigeria : 1**
08. **Egypt : 1**
09. **India : 1**
10. **Iran : 1**
11. **Ecuador : 1**
12. **Mexico : 1**
13. **Bangladesh : 1**
14. **Bahrain : 1**
15. **Colombia : 1**
16. **Tanzania : 1**
17. **Cambodia : 1**
18. **Indonesia : 1**
19. **Philippines : 1**
20. **Lebanon : 1**



**With 67 journalists killed in direct relation to their work by mid-December, 2012 is on track to become one of the deadliest years since CPJ began keeping detailed records in 1992. The worst year on record for journalist killings was 2009, when 74 individuals were confirmed dead because of their work—nearly half of them slain in a massacre in Maguindanao province, Philippines. CPJ is investigating the deaths of 30 more journalists in 2012 to establish whether they were work-related.**

## NEW YORK

The number of journalists killed in the line of duty rose sharply in 2012, as the war in Syria, a record number of shootings in Somalia, continued violence in Pakistan, and a worrying increase in Brazilian murders contributed to a 42 percent increase in deaths from the previous year. **Internet journalists were hit harder than ever, while the proportion of freelancers was again higher than the historical average, the Committee to Protect Journalists found in its yearly analysis.**

With 67 journalists killed in direct relation to their work by mid-December, 2012 is on track to become one of the deadliest years since CPJ began keeping detailed records in 1992. The worst year on record for journalist killings was 2009, when 74 individuals were confirmed dead because of their work—nearly half of them slain in a massacre in Maguindanao province, Philippines. CPJ is investigating the deaths of 30 more journalists in 2012 to establish whether they were work-related.

Syria was by far the deadliest country in 2012, with 28 journalists killed in combat or targeted for murder by government or opposition forces. In addition, a journalist covering the Syrian conflict was killed just over the border in Lebanon. The number of fatalities related to the Syrian conflict approached the worst annual toll recorded during the war in Iraq, where 32 journalists were killed in both 2006 and 2007.

**Paul Wood, a BBC Middle East correspondent who covered Iraq and numerous other wars, said the Syrian conflict “is the most difficult one we’ve done.” Bashar al-Assad’s government sought to cut off the flow of information by barring entry to international reporters, forcing Wood and many other international journalists to travel clandestinely into Syria to cover the conflict. “We’ve hidden in vegetable trucks, been chased by Syrian police—things happen when you try to report covertly.”**

**With international journalists blocked and traditional domestic media under state control, citizen journalists picked up cameras and notepads to document the conflict—and at least 13 of them paid the ultimate price. One, Anas al-Tarsha, was only 17 years old. At least five of the citizen journalists worked for Damascus-based Shaam News Network, whose videos have been used extensively by international news organizations.**

**“This feels like the first YouTube war,” Wood said. “There’s a guy with a machine gun and two guys next to him with camera phones.” Local journalists, he said, have faced risks from all sides. “We’ve seen pro-regime journalists targeted by rebels—it is well known. But opposition journalists say the regime is intent on targeting them as journalists.”**

Among those murdered was Ali Abbas, head of domestic news for the state-run SANA news agency, whose shooting in Damascus was claimed by an Islamist group linked to Al-Qaeda. Mosaab al-Obdaallah, a reporter for the state-owned daily Tishreen, was shot point-blank in his home by Syrian security forces; colleagues and friends said he was targeted after the authorities learned he was sending news and photos about the conflict to proopposition websites.

**Worldwide, the vast majority of victims—94 percent—were local journalists covering events in their own countries, a proportion roughly in line with historical figures. Four international journalists were killed in 2012, all of them in Syria: American Marie Colvin, who wrote for the U.K.’s Sunday Times; French freelance photographer Rémi Ochlik; France 2 reporter Gilles Jacquier; and Japan Press journalist Mika Yamamoto.**

Deaths attributed to combat represented a higher proportion of the toll than in past years. Combat-related crossfire was responsible for more than one-third of journalist fatalities worldwide in 2012, about twice the historical proportion. About half of the deaths in 2012 were targeted murders, less than the 69 percent average over the past two decades. The balance of the 2012 fatalities came during dangerous assignments, such as coverage of street protests.

**Murder accounted for all 12 deaths in Somalia in 2012, the deadliest year on record for a country that has a long history of media killings. Not a single journalist murder has been prosecuted in Somalia over the past decade, CPJ research shows. Local journalists say this perfect record of impunity can be attributed to corrupt and weak institutions, a situation that encourages more killing.**

The first victim in 2012 was Hassan Osman Abdi, known as “Fantastic,” director of the Shabelle Media Network. The slaying prompted then-Information Minister Abdulkadir Hussein to pledge a thorough investigation, but Shabelle lost three more staff members to murders during the year.



## Journalists who worked online made up more than one-third of the 2012 toll, a sharp rise from the one-fifth proportion in 2011 and the largest segment CPJ has documented for online journalists.

Somalia's high death toll was due in part to a complicated and sensitive political transition and in part to Al-Shabaab militants, who were largely ousted from the capital, Mogadishu, in 2011, according to Mohamed Odowa, deputy director of the independent station Radio Kulmiye. Several of the station's journalists were seriously injured in attacks in 2012. "Al-Shabaab was losing ground and it was forced from large areas, so the group wanted to send a message to the outside world that they were still in the capital," Odowa told CPJ. Al-Shabaab claimed involvement in at least four of the killings in 2012, CPJ research shows.

**Journalists who worked online made up more than one-third of the 2012 toll, a sharp rise from the one-fifth proportion in 2011 and the largest segment CPJ has documented for online journalists. In parallel, the proportion of print journalists who died in the line of duty fell to a record low of 31 percent. Over the past two decades, print journalists have accounted for more than half of those killed. Television and radio journalists constituted the balance of the 2012 toll.**

**Twenty-eight percent of journalists killed in 2012 were freelance**, in line with 2011 but twice the percentage that freelancers have represented over time. Freelancer Mukarram Khan Aatif, a Pakistani who contributed to the private TV station Dunya News and to Deewa Radio, a Pashto-language service of the U.S. government-funded Voice of America, was shot outside a mosque in Shabqadar, about 15 miles north of Peshawar. Although the Taliban claimed responsibility for the January slaying, Aatif's in-depth coverage of conflict along the Pakistan-Afghan border had made him numerous enemies.

**Pakistan, the deadliest place for journalists in 2010 and 2011, dropped two notches this year, but the number of fatalities held steady at seven. Four of those killings took place in Baluchistan, Pakistan's poorest region and a scene of protracted violence between separatists, anti-separatists, various tribes and ethnic groups, Pakistani security forces and intelligence agencies, and groups aligned with the Taliban. Among the victims was Abdul Haq Baloch, a correspondent for ARY Television, who was shot in September as he was leaving the Khuzdar Press Club, where he served as secretary-general. The authorities have held no one accountable in the killing, which is the near-universal result in media murders in both the region and across the nation.**

"The fact that journalists are targeted so frequently in Baluchistan has to do with the nationalist

movement," said Malik Siraj Akbar, founder and editor of The Baloch Hal and a native of Baluchistan who now lives in the United States. "There is a revolt across the entire province of Baluchistan against the government. As one journalist gets killed in Khuzdar, and the government takes no action, it promotes a culture of impunity and emboldens the targeting of journalists elsewhere."

In Brazil, four journalists were killed in direct relation to their work, representing the country's highest annual toll in more than a decade and bringing the total number of fatalities over the past two years to seven. CPJ is investigating four other killings during that period to determine the motive. Brazil, historically one of the most dangerous places for the press, had seen few fatalities in the years 2005 through 2010, making the recent spike especially alarming to local journalists.

**"In small cities, bloggers and writers for small newspapers and web portals who are calling out corruption are being targeted," said Gabriel Elizondo, a correspondent for Al-Jazeera in São Paulo. "The profile is usually the same: It's a small-town journalist, working for a small outlet, who gets gunned down."**

Among the 2012 victims was Décio Sá, who wrote about politics for the newspaper O Estado do Maranhão and delved into political corruption on his widely read blog, Blog do Décio. The authorities in Maranhão have arrested several suspects, including the alleged gunman and mastermind, who are awaiting trial, according to news reports. Sá had been threatened repeatedly in connection with his coverage; roughly one-third of murder victims worldwide had reported receiving threats.

CPJ documented the death of one media support worker in 2012. In Pakistan, Mohammad Amir of ARY TV was killed while driving a news crew to cover violent protests in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

CPJ began documenting the deaths of media supporter workers such as translators, drivers, and fixers in 2003. The toll reached as high as 20 in 2007, when 12 media workers were killed in Iraq. The absence of media worker deaths in Syria, despite so many journalist fatalities, reflects conditions particular to the conflict and the changing nature of news. International reporters have not been able to work openly in the country and have been forced to rely on activists and smugglers, rather than traditional fixers, for assistance. At the same time, local individuals have stepped up to do their own front-line reporting, starting websites and uploading videos online.



**About 35 percent of those killed in 2012 were camera operators or photographers, a proportion considerably higher than the 20 percent they have constituted in the death toll over the past two decades. About two-thirds of those killed in Syria carried a camera.**

### Here are other trends and details that emerged in CPJ's analysis:

- With two weeks remaining in the year, the 2012 death toll is already the third-highest CPJ has recorded. Along with the 74 deaths recorded in 2009, CPJ documented 70 deaths in 2007, a year marked by a high number of fatalities in Iraq.
- War, politics, and human rights were the three most common beats among the 2012 victims.
- About 35 percent of those killed in 2012 were camera operators or photographers, a proportion considerably higher than the 20 percent they have constituted in the death toll over the past two decades. About two-thirds of those killed in Syria carried a camera.
- In Mexico, where criminal violence has posed extraordinary dangers to the press, one journalist—freelancer Adrián Silva Moreno—was confirmed killed for his work in 2012. However, CPJ is still examining the motive in five other murders during the year. The Mexican government's failure to carry out basic investigations in many cases makes it extremely difficult for CPJ to determine a motive.
- One journalist was confirmed murdered for professional reasons in the Philippines, the lowest number since 2007. In Russia as well, one journalist was killed: Kazbek Gekkiyev, news anchor for an affiliate of state-owned broadcaster VGTRK, was shot in the North Caucasus city of Nalchik. Both countries rank poorly on CPJ's Impunity Index, which spotlights countries where journalists are murdered regularly and killers go free.
- In addition to the 28 work-related deaths in Syria, CPJ has documented the cases of four other journalists whose deaths in Syria came in unclear circumstances. CPJ is also examining the reported deaths of a number of individuals described by local groups as citizen journalists. In these cases, few details beyond the identities are known as yet.
- Outside Syria, fatalities declined in the Middle East and North Africa. Two work-related deaths were reported elsewhere in the region. In Bahrain, freelance videographer Ahmed Ismail Hassan was shot after filming a pro-reform protest. In Egypt, newspaper reporter Al-Hosseiny Abou Deif died after being struck by a rubber bullet fired by person whom witnesses identified as a Muslim Brotherhood supporter.
- For the first time since 2003, CPJ did not confirm any work-related fatalities in Iraq. A total of 151 journalists have died in direct relation to their work in Iraq, most of them during the years 2003 through 2008. CPJ is still investigating the deaths of three Iraqi journalists in 2012 to determine whether their work could have played a role.

- Tanzania recorded its first work-related fatality since CPJ began keeping detailed records in 1992. Daudi Mwangosi, a reporter with the private television station Channel Ten and chairman of a local press club, was killed during a confrontation with police over the arrest of another journalist.

- CPJ documented the deaths of one imprisoned journalist and one reporter under arrest. Critical Iranian blogger Sattar Beheshti died four days after being arrested on allegations of "acting against national security." Fellow prisoners said he was tortured while being held at Evin Prison. In Colombia, freelance reporter Guillermo Quiroz Delgado died after being hospitalized for injuries suffered when he was arrested by police while covering a street protest.

- Other countries where CPJ documented work-related fatalities were Nigeria, India, Ecuador, Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Cambodia.

CPJ began compiling detailed records on all journalist deaths in 1992. CPJ staff members independently investigate and verify the circumstances behind each death. CPJ considers a case work-related only when its staff is reasonably certain that a journalist was killed in direct reprisal for his or her work; in combat-related crossfire; or while carrying out a dangerous assignment.

If the motives in a killing are unclear, but it is possible that a journalist died in relation to his or her work, CPJ classifies the case as "unconfirmed" and continues to investigate. CPJ's list does not include journalists who died of illness—such as New York Times correspondent Anthony Shadid, who suffered an apparent asthma attack while traveling covertly out of Syria—or were killed in car or plane accidents unless the crash was caused by hostile action. Other press organizations using different criteria cite higher numbers of deaths than CPJ.

CPJ's database of journalists killed for their work in 2012 includes capsule reports on each victim and a statistical analysis. CPJ also maintains a database of all journalists killed since 1992. A final list of journalists killed in 2012 will be released in early January.

*This report was compiled by CPJ staff with additional reporting by CPJ Steiger Fellow Sumit Galhotra and CPJ East Africa Consultant Tom Rhodes.*

**Please support The Committee to Protect Journalists. [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org)**



# Number of jailed journalists sets global record

*A special report by the Committee to Protect Journalists*

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Worldwide tally reaches highest point since CPJ began surveys in 1990. Governments use charges of terrorism, other anti-state offenses to silence critical voices. Turkey is the world's worst jailer.

A CPJ special report

Published December 11, 2012

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## Top Ten Worst Offenders

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01. Turkey
02. Iran
03. China
04. Eritrea
05. Syria
06. Vietnam
07. Azerbaijan
08. Ethiopia
09. Uzbekistan
10. Saudi Arabia

### Committee to Protect Journalists

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**Nineteen of the 32 journalists held in China are Tibetans or Uighurs imprisoned for documenting ethnic tensions that escalated in 2008. The detainees include Dhondup Wangchen, a documentary filmmaker jailed after interviewing Tibetans about their lives under Chinese rule. CPJ honored Wangchen with one of its 2012 International Press Freedom Awards.**

**Imprisonment of journalists worldwide reached a record high in 2012, driven in part by the widespread use of charges of terrorism and other anti-state offenses against critical reporters and editors, the Committee to Protect Journalists has found. In its annual census of imprisoned journalists, CPJ identified 232 individuals behind bars on December 1, an increase of 53 over its 2011 tally.**

Large-scale imprisonments in Turkey, Iran, and China helped lift the global tally to its highest point since CPJ began conducting worldwide surveys in 1990, surpassing the previous record of 185 in 1996. The three nations, the world's worst jailers of the press, each made extensive use of vague anti-state laws to silence dissenting political views, including those expressed by ethnic minorities. Worldwide, anti-state charges such as terrorism, treason, and subversion were the most common allegations brought against journalists in 2012. At least 132 journalists were being held around the world on such charges, CPJ's census found.

**Eritrea and Syria also ranked among the world's worst, each jailing numerous journalists without charge or due process and holding them in secret prisons without access to lawyers or family members. Worldwide, 63 journalists are being held without any publicly disclosed charge.**

Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, and Saudi Arabia rounded out the 10 worst jailers. In two of those nations, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, the authorities used retaliatory charges such as hooliganism and drug possession to jail critical reporters and editors. In 19 cases worldwide, governments used a variety of charges unrelated to journalism to silence critical journalists. In the cases included in this census, CPJ determined that the charges were fabricated.

**In Turkey, the world's worst jailer with 49 journalists behind bars, the authorities held dozens of Kurdish reporters and editors on terror-related charges and a number of other journalists on charges of involvement in antigovernment plots.** In 2012, CPJ conducted an extensive review of imprisonments in Turkey, confirming journalism-related reasons in numerous cases previously unlisted on the organization's annual surveys and raising the country's total significantly.

**CPJ found that broadly worded anti-terror and penal code statutes have allowed Turkish authorities to conflate the coverage of banned groups and the investigation of sensitive topics with outright terrorism or other anti-state activity.**

These statutes "make no distinction between journalists exercising freedom of expression and [individuals] aiding terrorism," said Mehmet Ali Birand, a top editor with the Istanbul-based station Kanal D. Calling the use of antistate laws against journalists a "national disease," Birand said "the government does not differentiate between these two major things: freedom of expression and terrorism." Among the imprisoned is Tayip Temel, editor-in-chief of Azadiya Welat, the nation's sole Kurdish-language daily, who faced more than 20 years in prison on charges of being a member of a banned Kurdish organization. As evidence, the government has cited Temel's published work, along with his wiretapped telephone conversations with colleagues and news sources.

**Iran, the second-worst jailer** with 45 behind bars, has sustained a crackdown that began after the disputed 2009 presidential election. The authorities have followed a pattern of freeing some detainees on six-figure bonds even Iranian journalist Zhila Bani-Yaghoub began serving her jail term in September as they make new arrests. The imprisoned include Zhila Bani-Yaghoub, an award-winning editor of the Iranian Women's Club, a news website focusing on women's issues. She began serving a one-year term in September on charges of "propagating against the regime" and "insulting the president" for articles she wrote during the 2009 election. Her husband, journalist Bahman Ahmadi Amouee, is serving a five-year prison term on anti-state charges.

**China, the third-worst jailer,** has made extensive use of anti-state charges to jail online writers expressing dissident political views and journalists covering ethnic minority groups. Nineteen of the 32 journalists held in China are Tibetans or Uighurs imprisoned for documenting ethnic tensions that escalated in 2008. The detainees include Dhondup Wangchen, a documentary filmmaker jailed after interviewing Tibetans about their lives under Chinese rule. CPJ honored Wangchen with one of its 2012 International Press Freedom Awards. "Journalists who report on areas deemed 'most sensitive' by the state—China's troubled ethnic regions of Tibet and Xinjiang—are most vulnerable," said Phelim Kine, deputy director of the Asia division of Human Rights Watch. "Journalists living and working in those areas are not just concerned with the red lines set by the state for all journalists but also the shifting gray lines, where the Chinese government's security footing is at an ongoing, all-time high."

The worst abuser of due process is **Eritrea**, which was holding 28 journalists, **the fourth-highest** total worldwide. No Eritrean detainee has ever been publicly charged with a crime or brought before a court for trial. President Isaias Afwerki's government has refused to account for the whereabouts,



**“Basically, they are criminalizing journalism,” said Martin Schibbye, a Swedish freelance journalist who was jailed along with a colleague, Johan Persson, for more than 14 months in Ethiopia. The two were convicted of terrorism charges because they had traveled with a separatist group as part of research for a story. “In our profession, you need to talk to both sides to get the story. They have criminalized talking to one side of the conflict. Just meeting with a member of an organization or communicating with an e-mail” is conflated with terrorism.**

legal status, or health of the jailed journalists, or even confirm reports that as many as five have died in custody due to inhumane treatment. CPJ continues to list the journalists said to have died as it seeks to verify those reports. Over all, the Eritrean detainees include nine independent journalists jailed in a large-scale 2001-2 crackdown and 19 state media journalists who violated the government’s rigid controls. **“If you write anything contrary to what the state says, you end up in prison,” said Bealfan Tesfay, who worked as a reporter and editor for a number of Eritrean state media outlets before fleeing the country. “I left Eritrea one year and three months ago. I walked for three days and three nights. If I was caught, you’d probably never hear from me again. ... No one knows anything about the whereabouts of these imprisoned journalists. No one knows anything, whether they are dead or alive. They’ve never been charged. Their families don’t even have any contact with them.”**

Syrian forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad were holding at least 15 journalists, making the country the **fifth worst jailer**. None of the detainees have been charged with a crime, and the authorities have been unwilling to account for the detainees’ whereabouts or well-being. Among those believed to be in custody is Austin Tice, a U.S. freelance reporter who had contributed coverage of the country’s civil war to The Washington Post, McClatchy, Al-Jazeera English, and several other news outlets. **“Big brother is never too far away—since the revolution it’s all the more difficult. As the uprising became more militarized, there was a greater risk of getting picked up,”** said Rania Abouzeid, a Beirut-based correspondent for Time magazine who has traveled to Syria clandestinely to cover the conflict on several occasions. **“The regime will often set up sudden checkpoints, and once you’re there it’s difficult to turn around.”**

With 14 journalists behind bars, **Vietnam was the sixth-worst jailer of the press**. In each of the past several years, Vietnamese authorities have ramped up their crackdown on critical journalists, focusing heavily on those who work online. All but one of the reporters imprisoned in 2012 published blogs or contributed to online news publications. And all but one were held on anti-state charges related to articles on politically sensitive topics such as the country’s relations with China and its treatment of the Catholic community. Worldwide, 118 journalists whose work appeared primarily online were in jail on December 1, constituting a little more than half of the census. The proportion is consistent with those seen in CPJ’s previous three surveys, which had followed several years of significant increases in the numbers of imprisoned online journalists. Print journalists constituted the second-largest professional group, with 77 jailed worldwide.

The other detainees were from radio, television, and documentary filmmaking. **Azerbaijan, the world’s seventh-worst jailer**, viciously cracked down on domestic dissent as it hosted two major international events, the Eurovision 2012 song contest and the Internet Governance Forum. The authorities imprisoned at least nine critical journalists on a variety of retaliatory charges, including hooliganism, drug possession, and extortion. CPJ concluded that the charges were fabricated in reprisal for the journalists’ work.

With six journalists in prison, **Ethiopia was the eighth-worst jailer in the world**. The authorities broadened the scope of the country’s anti-terror law in 2009, criminalizing the coverage of any group the government deems to be terrorist, a list that includes opposition political parties. Among those jailed is Eskinder Nega, an award-winning blogger whose critical commentary on the government’s extensive use of anti-terror laws led to his own conviction on terrorism charges.

“Basically, they are criminalizing journalism,” said Martin Schibbye, a Swedish freelance journalist who was jailed along with a colleague, Johan Persson, for more than 14 months in Ethiopia. The two were convicted of terrorism charges because they had traveled with a separatist group as part of research for a story. “In our profession, you need to talk to both sides to get the story. They have criminalized talking to one side of the conflict. Just meeting with a member of an organization or communicating with an e-mail” is conflated with terrorism.

**Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia**, each of which was holding four journalists, **fill out the list of the 10 worst jailers**. The detainees in Uzbekistan include Muhammad Bekjanov and Yusuf Ruzimuradov, the two longest-imprisoned journalists on CPJ’s survey. They were jailed in 1999 for publishing a banned newspaper.

In Saudi Arabia, newspaper columnist Hamza Kashgari faces a potential death penalty on religious insult charges stemming from Twitter postings that described a fanciful conversation with the Prophet Muhammad. CPJ confirmed the death of one imprisoned journalist, Iranian blogger Sattar Beheshti. Arrested in October on charges of “acting against national security,” Beheshti was dead within days. Fellow prisoners said Beheshti, 35, was beaten during interrogation, repeatedly threatened with death, and hung from his limbs from the ceiling, according to news reports.



**For the first time since 1996, Burma is not among the nations jailing journalists. As part of the country's historic transition to civilian rule, the authorities released at least 12 imprisoned journalists in a series of pardons over the past year.**

### Here are other trends and details that emerged in CPJ's analysis:

- **The 29.6 percent worldwide increase over 2011 was the largest percentage jump in a decade and the second consecutive annual increase of more than 20 percent. Imprisonments increased 23.4 percent from 2010 to 2011.**

- For the first time since 1996, Burma is not among the nations jailing journalists. As part of the country's historic transition to civilian rule, the authorities released at least 12 imprisoned journalists in a series of pardons over the past year.

- **The number of journalists held on anti-state charges, 132, is the highest CPJ has recorded, although its proportion of the overall tally, about 57 percent, is consistent with surveys in recent years.**

- The use of retaliatory charges was the next most common tactic among cases in which charges were publicly disclosed. Nineteen journalists faced such charges worldwide.

- Seven journalists were being held on charges of engaging in ethnic or religious "insult," and six others were jailed on criminal defamation allegations. Violations of censorship statutes were cited in three cases, while charges of disseminating "false news" were lodged in two instances.

- **As part of an extensive yearlong review of imprisonments in Turkey, CPJ conducted an August 1 survey of detainees. CPJ found 61 journalists imprisoned in direct relation to their work at the time, with 15 more being held in less clear circumstances. Since CPJ's August survey, Turkish authorities have freed a number of journalists who had been held pending trial or verdict.**

- Cuba, after a one-year absence from the census, rejoined the nations imprisoning journalists. Security agents arrested Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias, a reporter for the independent news agency Centro de Información Hablemos Press, in September on insult charges. When he was arrested, Martínez Arias was investigating reports that an international shipment of medicine and medical equipment had been damaged.

- The imprisonment in Cuba was the only case documented by CPJ in the Americas, where jailings have become increasingly rare. No cases were recorded in the region in CPJ's 2011 census.

- The overwhelming majority of the detainees are local journalists being held by their own governments. Three foreign journalists were imprisoned worldwide, CPJ's survey found.

- Online and print media journalists constituted the two largest professional groups on CPJ's census. Among other media, 24 television journalists, 12 radio reporters, and one documentary filmmaker were being held.

- **Eighty-five freelance journalists were in jail worldwide on December 1, constituting about 37 percent of the census. The proportion of freelance journalists, which had trended upward in recent years, dropped for the first time since 2006.**

- **Along with Dhondup Wangchen, being held in China, three other winners of CPJ International Press Freedom Awards were being held worldwide. They are Azimjon Askarov in Kyrgyzstan, Shi Tao in China, and Mohammad Davari in Iran.**

CPJ believes that journalists should not be imprisoned for doing their jobs. The organization has sent letters expressing its serious concerns to each country that has imprisoned a journalist. In the past year, CPJ advocacy led to the early release of at least 58 imprisoned journalists worldwide.

**CPJ's list is a snapshot of those incarcerated at 12:01 a.m. on December 1, 2012. It does not include the many journalists imprisoned and released throughout the year; accounts of those cases can be found at [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org).**

Journalists remain on CPJ's list until the organization determines with reasonable certainty that they have been released or have died in custody.

Journalists who either disappear or are abducted by nonstate entities such as criminal gangs or militant groups are not included on the prison census. Their cases are classified as "missing" or "abducted."

*This report was compiled by CPJ staff with additional reporting by CPJ Steiger Fellow Sumit Galhotra*

**Please support The Committee to Protect Journalists. [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org)**





## Ranjana Padhi

author of **Those Who Did Not Die**

Impact of the Agrarian Crisis on Women in Punjab

(Published by Sage Publications)

*in an exclusive interview with Mark Ulyseas*

### Why did you write this book? What do you hope to achieve with its publication?

Surviving the 90s and the dismantling of working class communities and self-reliant economies was no ordinary feat...it still seems so unreal. Yes, resistance has grown too, even organized resistance. But as someone who has dreamt and lived for a more equal society, I had to take a few steps closer to the reality of ordinary people with ordinary dreams. It is my class of people who became the direct beneficiaries of the economic changes that swept across the country and the globe with the consolidation of capital. **But the sinking feeling that the ground is giving way under one's feet as displacement and dispossession of the majority became rampant became a quiet and continuous torment within oneself. I had also begun to feel wary of my own voice - too hoarse for my own ears - that of a conscientious objector in meetings and conferences - pointing out again and again...but what about the ordinary woman...the industrial workers...the peasantry.**

Being immersed in middle class activism for years, I was struggling against some barriers that seemed formidable at that time. I wanted to step out a bit and explore for myself. It seemed so certain that it is now or never - while choosing sides. **I only had some experience as a feminist in the autonomous women's movement and even more limited experience with working class groups in Delhi. I told myself that at least I could write. Not only about ordinary women but also our own vexed questions - old and new - in the era of such tumultuous changes. And I pushed myself to look at this point of transition through what I was equipped best with - feminist lens.**

*Let me tell you from the Introduction about why I wrote this book.*

Primarily, the intent of this book is to draw political and humanitarian attention to the aftermath of peasant suicides, particularly the coping strategies of women who are already marginalized in a deeply traditional and patriarchal society. As an urgent political task, I attempt to make the picture that meets the eye more complete. **Women's voices, and some broad data from the overall analysis, will speak to readers of the crisis from my precise point of entry into this region and the endless saga of its toiling class.**

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## Those Who Did Not Die

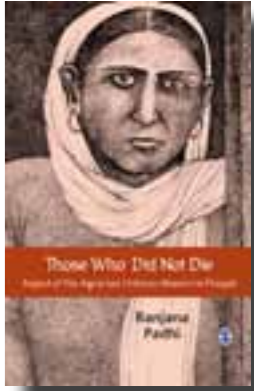
Impact of the Agrarian Crisis on Women in Punjab

Ranjana  
Padhi





Perhaps the shocking figure of **77% Indians living on less than Rs. 20 per day** makes for a truth not easy to bear. Perhaps empathy is a less difficult response than defeat for those of us who seek to build a different society. Perhaps persistent questioning has certain tenacity, and it was this that helped in finally taking me closer to a reality that is only a few hours away from the national capital in a geographical and spatial sense.



### Why did you write this book? (contd/-)

**Secondly, the dead end that widowhood signifies in this feudal-patriarchal society needs to be interrogated – especially, in this context, through the instances of widows running fatherless families. The growing number of “widows” in the Punjab is determined by processes that demand our attention – be it the political, economy or cultural practices. What do these women have to say about their changed circumstances? Can we shift the lens to view the woman as survivor, even as she holds on to the fragile threads of existence despite colossal losses? More fervently than ever she holds on to her dreams of a future for herself and her children. What colour or hue will this future be, what shape?**

Finally, the impetus to begin documenting lives in this agrarian milieu came from a deep need to understand the deep distress and the fragmentation of the individual self in poverty experienced by the peasant community, especially after having toiled hard to make Punjab the bread basket of the country. The subjective reality of dispossession and the related psychological stress for entire communities need to be documented to reveal the extent of destruction capitalism brings in its pursuit.

Perhaps the shocking figure of 77% Indians living on less than Rs 20 per day makes for a truth not easy to bear. Perhaps empathy is a less difficult response than defeat for those of us who seek to build a different society. Perhaps persistent questioning has certain tenacity, and it was this that helped in finally taking me closer to a reality that is only a few hours away from the national capital in a geographical and spatial sense.

What do I achieve with its publication? I am yet to see. One of the first few responses that came in echoed what I was hoping to fulfill as a task – that of bringing class and gender closer. I do hope to outline how complex these questions have become. I hope this book helps us bridge some yawning gaps in feminist practice and feminist politics. And more than that, I hope to be able to appeal to the left to take feminist analysis more seriously.

Some look at women as a constituency alone while others do not go beyond viewing women as recipients of systemic violence and injustice. What is more needed is a method of analysis that can inform political practice of left and democratic organizations, parties and mass movements. And that involves looking at social reality through the eyes of women, children, elderly and the sick and disabled too.

Now I also have to go beyond the English readership. I have to manage to bring this book to the Punjabi and Hindi readership in India. The response from the English readership is significant, albeit in a limited way. One has to take these findings to people whom it most matters, to people who live it each day.

### Kindly share with us a detailed overview of your book?

The Introduction states the purpose and motivation behind this research to analyze the impact of suicides of male peasants in the context of the current agrarian crisis; explains the choice of Punjab as research area to reveal the myths of agricultural prosperity associated with the green revolution; and outlines the methodology used in terms of both qualitative and quantitative analysis.

**Chapter One** : An Outline of the Crisis in Punjab contextualizes the study against the backdrop of the green revolution in Punjab and today’s increasing indebtedness among the peasantry with a focus on small and marginal peasants and landless agricultural labor too. It provides a profile of the deceased peasants and provides data related to peasant suicide in terms of indebtedness and land alienation by comparing with recent studies in the Punjab.

**Chapter Two** : Dynamics of Women’s Labour discusses the availability of options for women to engage in agriculture and agriculture-related work. It outlines separately the plight of Jat Sikh women who are restrained from wage labor due to caste norms even when there is no land; the nonavailability of work for landless dalit women; and the involvement of all women across age and caste engaged in household and livestock labor and fodder collection, nursing the children and the elderly, irrespective of the recognition of such heavy chores as labor.

**Chapter Three** : Dowry in Dire Times highlights the increased hardships borne by women in fulfilling the patriarchal compulsions of dowry and marriage ceremonies for their children and how indebtedness increases in the aftermath of suicides due to such social and cultural practices. This contributes to the deepening of patriarchal stranglehold.

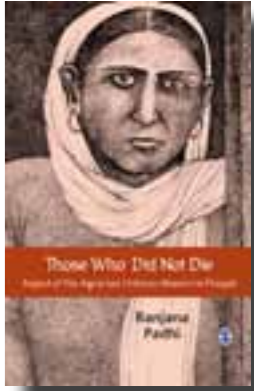
**Chapter Four** : Ill Health in an Ailing Economy looks at the increasing incidence of cancer caused by chemical pesticides, costly health care and mental depression in this situation. It links indebtedness with health care expenses incurred and further traces the roots of ill health to social factors.

**Chapter Five** : Fragmentation of the Family interrogates the institution of family and its lived reality where the overlapping of social and traditional norms is complicated in a growing moneyed economy. It looks at problems of domestic violence prior to suicide, abandonment of the elderly, and the bleak future that lies ahead of the youth of Punjab with the failure of agriculture.

**Chapter Six** : Taking Decisions, Voicing Expectations takes stock of women’s changing roles in decision making processes in the absence of male spouses; the support structure available; the conflicts within the family and outside in this scenario; and finally the expectations they have of the government and other agencies.



I sometimes doubt whether *Those Who Did Not Die* can be called “my work” too. It is an outcome of many searching questions and self-criticism that gradually built up inside me as I grew up in feminist activism and began working closely with working class groups in Delhi. **Caste and class barriers make it impossible for women to take one step forward; feminist consciousness alone does not suffice.**



### Could you give the readers a glimpse of your life and work?

I am a women’s rights activist and was part of a feminist collective in New Delhi called **Saheli Women’s Resource Centre** for over twenty years. There is not much that I can call “my work” since I have spent the major part in group work or team work. In Saheli and other small collectives like **Workers’ Solidarity** and **Kashipur Solidarity Group**. Saheli provided an amazingly deep canvas as we saw women’s issues related so inextricably to the struggles of dalits, adivasis, workers, lesbians and many other socially marginalized groups. One learnt while being on one’s feet all the time.

**Another significant involvement had been with a Delhi-based coalition called Delhi Janwadi Adhikar Manch that came into being in late 1996 – when the Supreme Court passed an order against “hazardous and polluting industries” in response to the petition filed by the Magsaysay award winner MC Mehta. What ensued was a green vs red debate as thousands of workers were thrown out of employment.**

**There has been a mass exodus of migrant worker families and demolition of countless slums in the bid of “beautification” of the city. That was the beginning of a search as I came into close interaction with the impact of factory closures and slum demolitions on working class families and how women bear the brunt of renewed hardships. There were so many of us at it.**

**Therefore I sometimes doubt whether *Those Who Did Not Die* can be called “my work” too. It is an outcome of many searching questions and self-criticism that gradually built up inside me as I grew up in feminist activism and began working closely with working class groups in Delhi. Caste and class barriers make it impossible for women to take one step forward; feminist consciousness alone does not suffice. The obstacles before ordinary women are multiplying today.**

Since student years I have been actively involved in social issues and became part of the autonomous women’s movement in the mid-80s. Yes, I have been working largely in nonfunded autonomous collectives; autonomous referring to the political space outside the purview of any political party or the institutionalized NGO structure. That was a conscious political decision. And I hope it remains so.

Since I used to nourish the dream of being a full time political worker for years, I picked up professional experience in more recent years only. That happened as I felt the need for a sustained income to hold my body and soul together!

There was no way in which I could resort to NGOs though I had all the skills to do so. Can never see any price tag put to the labour based on deep commitment and dreams of a brave new world. So I had to work doubly hard like many others around me. I started providing editing services as well as training programs in language and writing skills in IT companies. It was not easy, then or now, irrespective of the fact that I am passionate about language too. But editing is an enabling skill as you put yourself out to refine someone else’s work. Also, it meant working closely with people, which is my main source of energy and sustenance.

### What are you working on now?

Working for a living and being engaged in some amount of activist work does not give me much time for writing. But yes, this book is a major accomplishment in that sense and I am feeling inspired to write more. Rather, I can put it in this way that it has given me the confidence to attempt writing more. There is a deep need to give expression to many thought processes and my experience of a society in which so many kinds of inequalities are so entrenched. But writing needs dedication and time.

**If I can calibrate my life and commitments a bit more, I wish to write on the impact of the neoliberal agenda as it operates in India in areas other than that of the agrarian crisis. Like the urban poor or women fighting for their land and natural resources in the face of deepening capitalist assault. They face constant state repression too. These women struggling across the country do not figure in the mainstream women’s movement, feminist literature or certainly not in left literature. I hope I can write more in this vein.**

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## Transformation in the New Year

Into the New Year, most people have taken a look back and reflected on the year before. Some have made resolutions and some just go forward with hope. Rather than making resolutions, I pick one focus for the year, one word to remember and increase in my life.

One year the word was money and I became more responsible in my spending, saving and earnings. That year I increased my income by 25%. I read money books, brought my attention to my habits and envisioned and created abundance.

Last year my focus was on food. I watched *“foody”* shows on television and regularly added nutritionally healthy foods to my diet. I drank green smoothies and my body glowed from all the enzymes. I increased my awareness on how foods affect my health (and my mood!)

This year my focus is music. I have a Martin 000M and my plan is to learn to play my guitar, listen to a variety of music throughout the year, attend concerts and experience music as a healing force in my life!

Speaking of a healing force in my life. I just published my book **12 Weeks to Self-Healing: Transforming Pain through Energy Medicine**. Monthly, in Live Encounters Magazine, I will focus upon the chapters in the book and assist you in self-healing emotional and physical pain.

The first chapter focuses on *Evaluating Your Situation*. Whether it is emotional or physical pain, there is always an emotional component. I find that when people tend to focus on the past, they suffer from depression and when they focus on the future, it creates anxiety. On my website [candesscampbell.com](http://candesscampbell.com) under Books and Self-Healing Tools you will find self-screening tests. One is for depression and the other for anxiety. If you find that you struggle with either of these, getting professional help is important.

Sometimes you live your life day to day without much self-awareness. It is helpful to look at whether or not you are getting your needs met. William Glasser, MD, a psychiatrist wrote a book called Choice Theory. In the book he talked about people having Four Basic Needs. The needs he lists are for **1) Love & Belonging, 2) Power and Worth, 3) Freedom and 4) Fun**. These are beyond your need for survival.



Think about your life and what the main need is in your life. In your journal, write down your main need. Then write down friends and family you spend most of your time with. List some activities you engage in on a regular basis. Are you getting your needs met with these friends, family members and your activities?

For example I list as one of my loved ones, my Cairn Terrier/mix Domingo. The needs I get met by Domingo are Love and Belonging and Fun. When I image an oval shape and think about how full I am from my relationship with Domingo, I see the oval being maybe a third full. This means I need more people and activities to get my Love and Belonging and Fun needs met.

When I first did this exercise I listed out my friends. A few of the friends I spent most of my time with did not meet my needs at all. I found one friend met most of my needs. I realized I leaned too much on one friend and needed to create more relationships in my life where I felt more alive, full, and got my needs met. I also realized I needed to let some friends go. With self-awareness, I saw how drained I became after spending time with some friends.

Try this yourself. You may be amazed at how simple changes in your life can shift your emotional for physical pain!

Also, in evaluating your situation, it is important to look at the interrelatedness between your thoughts, feelings and behaviors. On my [candesscampbell.com](http://candesscampbell.com) I have a **Total Behavior Map**. On this map you can write out in the center what need you want to get met. Write down a situation that has been difficult for you regarding this need. List what you were doing, thinking and feeling. Then write again as if you were thinking something different. If you were thinking \_\_\_\_\_, then what would you be doing or feeling?

You are an integrated being of Mind, Body and Spirit. You will notice that when you change your thinking about a situation, your feeling changes as well. You may choose to do something different and immediately your thinking changes and your feeling changes. The key here is you have 100 % control over your doing, 90 % control over your thinking and only 10 % control over your feeling. When you do or think something different – you feel better!

An example is Sarah was waiting for a phone call from Taylor to go out to dinner. (*love and belonging and fun*) Taylor didn't call and Sarah thought, "**I was stood up.**" She started feeling angry and lost energy. Sarah began making up stories in her mind of what happened and worked herself into a frenzy.

An hour later Taylor called and said she was so sorry. She explained that she had witnessed an accident on the freeway and was pulled in by the police to share what she had seen. Taylor said she was so shaken, she didn't even think about the dinner plans until she calmed down and realized she was hungry. She asked Sarah if she could come over, she needed a friend.

Sarah began to understand (thinking) and she empathized (feeling) with Taylor's experience. She began cooking (doing) something to share with Taylor and prepared for her friend to arrive.

Can you see how the feelings followed the doing and thinking in this situation? You can write out some situations in your past, some times when you were really upset. Then write out what you could have done or thought differently, identifying how you would feel different.

Use your journal for this exercise and soon you'll find you can do it quickly in your mind. So much of the emotional pain (which is under the physical pain) is manufactured in your mind. Now, you have a tool to change this!

Another tool is journaling. One situation I share in my book is for several days I found myself having a lot of pain in my shoulders. I left my office and sat down to rest and the pain was extremely disturbing. After about four days of this, I picked up my journal and began writing, "*This pain in my shoulders. . .*" and continued journaling for 20 minutes. What came up in my writing was a situation with one of my daughters. Once I wrote it out, the pain released immediately and was totally gone. This is a true testimony to how we carry pain in our bodies connected to our emotions!

There is so much more you can find in the book that will help you evaluate where you are and begin to move into self-healing.

[LINK - 12 Weeks to Self-Healing: Transforming Pain through Energy Medicine - UK](#)

[LINK - 12 Weeks to Self-Healing: Transforming Pain through Energy Medicine - US](#)





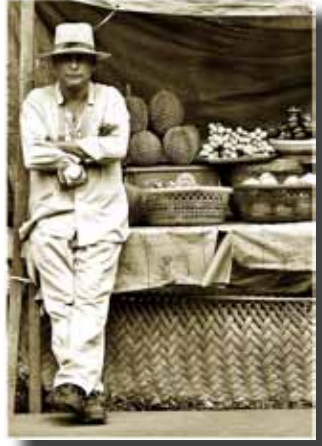
### Long Road

I have marched a great mile over the globe  
 And I am not weary nor am I strong  
 My soul is still and my skin dead  
 And the road was rocky and long  
 I have ventured the village earth  
 Yet I've never been here before  
 The blowing wind is a hard foe  
 I dare not stand in the blast  
 My heart is stone and my voice a groan  
 But the worst of the path is past  
 I am but a little naive still  
 For my ears made to listen are sore

Her sing was the sing that beauty had  
 Who pleaded for their heart's desire  
 She arrived and her warming flame  
 Fainted and died in the fire  
 It never was lit again on my hearth  
 Since I hurried across the moor  
 To lift her over my heartaches  
 And let her out at the door







# The Loneliness of a Writer

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Mark Ulyseas

Somewhere in Bali: This is about the author of this column who arrived on the shores of Bali to complete his unfinished book and to write for publications in other countries. Many years down the line the words seem to flow in all directions creating a brand new world for him with the ever-shifting sands of time. The island embraces him like a mother breast-feeding her child. The kaleidoscope of a vibrant culture with its beautiful people gives him the adjectives to write down for posterity stories of the here and now. He is afraid that he will die one day without sharing all the wonderful things he has seen, felt, tasted and communed with; for it will be lost forever in the darkness of space.

Arriving from London, he walked Kuta beach in search of people. Amidst the cacophony of civilisation gone mad he reached out to those who existed on the nectar of hope; hope for a better life through connubial joy with people from far off lands. The sunrises and sunsets darkened his skin and grayed his hair. The sea air tasted salty on his lips as he gazed out to sea while sitting on a beach pulsating with human life. He was the outsider in a world that was teeming with life.

His first acquaintance was a Kuta cowboy who shared with him the sweet sorrows of parting; the many loves that had come and gone along with fading dreams of ever finding a partner to dwell and procreate with. This was the first lesson given to him by Bali. He knew then that the call of the wild life would take him away from the path well trodden and into the mouth of the beast that slowly ate his life away; gnawing at his soul and forcing him to chronicle the images his senses recorded.

He dwelt in a room made of wood surrounded by a lush tropical garden full of flowering plants. The uninvited guests were the geckos that serenaded him every night. An army of ants would raid the unwashed dishes as he lay in bed watching the shadows of flying insects dance across the ceiling while sucking on his cigar and blowing plumes of smoke into the air.

Words were his friends for they never failed him; unlike the new found love that appeared in his life like the smell of fresh earth after the first monsoon rain. She hung around like an animal in oestrus enticing him away from the writing at hand. It was a momentary lapse of concentration that scrambled his brain and tied his tongue for he could not remember the word called love.

As the months passed and the year came to an end she grew weary of his loneliness and walked away. The elixir of love had eluded him for he was not looking for it but was trying to define it in words.



And as one story ended another began as he drove across Bali in search of new vistas that would open him up to another string of accidental encounters with people. He found it along a rocky coast in the simple life of the rural folk who had nestled on the hillsides.

Many travellers he did meet to the sound of music on Saturday nights. The intoxicated amorous youths that he befriended on the way caressed his ego and ignited an aging heart. The words came thick and fast. The smell of newspaper ink on his hands was an aphrodisiac that aroused within him the desire to belong to a living-breathing world of sensuality. There were intimate moments of indiscretion that cried out for coherency and lasting continuance.

Sadly this did not happen for life had dealt him the card – the joker in the pack of cards. People saw him laugh, cry, dance, sing and speak loudly above the accepted decimal limit and they mistook this for a party animal. The façade was perfect for it had closeted him in a world of past, present and future (continuous) participles.

In between the times of travelling alone, he communed with the wild dolphins off the coast watching them play in the wide-open sea. The sense of freedom and joy inspired him to reach into the deep recesses of his mind to translate the images into words.

The change of season cajoled the spirit within to venture out into the world of warungs and the midnight runs on the bars that dotted the isle. The many blurred faces of people from around the world congregating at these digs added spice to the stories he narrated to voracious readers. He had immersed himself in the cauldron of wasted lives so that he could breathe life into them with the printed word. Their lives became stories for others to read and to ponder the rationale for living in a paradise that was peppered with paradoxes.

In the ensuing inebriation he found a muse. She was like the Lady of Shallot waiting for Lochinvar to come out of the west. The rush of adrenaline caused havoc with his syntax and grammar and brought with it yet another loss of memory – the meaning of love.

The muse wavered ever so often between the men she loved. It was a cruel parody of life of which he was a passive participant. He imagined that she would become a part of his novel but yet he did not want to take her home.

The feeling of returning to an empty room was a luxury that was not to be squandered in the heat of the moment. When her words became invasive and there was a danger of it intruding into his world of the lexicon he walked away for fear of belonging, belonging to someone else's biography.

It has been a long trudge through the fields of muddied thoughts with insanity lurking in the shadows on a full moon night and the haunting cries of wounded souls searching for the ultimate paradise.

In between bouts of manic travelling, he returns at nightfall to his room to ponder the many days' events and to unravel the inconsistencies of existence and the paradoxes that confuse and confound him and the people he encounters. Then as if on cue he regurgitates it all onto paper.

The only sound that can be heard is the pen drawing a montage of words. While the slices of cheese and stuffed olives accompanied by a cold glass of wine calms the rising desolation he feels – the loneliness of a writer.

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om



*Published in my column Paradox in Paradise, The Bali Times, 2008. Nothing has changed.*

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Captive dolphin in Bali, Indonesia Pic © Mark Ulyseas