Committee to Protect Journalists, Inc.

aka CPJ
📍 New York City, NY
🌐 https://cpj.org/
📞 (212)465-1004

MISSION

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal.

Why do we protect journalists? Journalism plays a vital role in the balance of power between a government and its people. When a country's journalists are silenced, its people are silenced. By protecting journalists, CPJ protects freedom of expression and democracy.

When journalists can't speak, we speak up.

EIN
13-3081500

RULING YEAR
1982

IRS SUBSECTION
501(c)(3) Public Charity

FOUNDING YEAR
1981

MAIN ADDRESS
PO Box 2675
New York, NY 10108

AFFILIATION TYPE
Independent Organization

CONTACT
Mr. John D Weis, Director of Development
(212) 300-9021
jweis@cpj.org

PRESIDENT
Jodie Ginsberg

BOARD CHAIR
Jacob Weisberg

SUBJECT AREA
Journalism
Human rights
Freedom of association and expression

NTEE Code
Censorship, Freedom of Speech and Press Issues (R63)
Civil Rights, Advocacy for Specific Groups (R20)
International Human Rights (Q70)
PROGRAMS

1. Regional Programs
   Population(s) served: Adults

2. Emergencies Response Team
   Population(s) served: Adults

3. Advocacy
   Population(s) served: Adults

4. Editorial
   Population(s) served: Adults

5. Advocacy and Communications
   Population(s) served: Adults

POPULATIONS SERVED

1. Adults

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COMPLIANCE

- ✔ IRS Pub 78 Verified as of February 2024
- ✔ IRS BMF 509(a)(1) as of February 12, 2024
- ✔ A-133 Audit Required/Performed?
- ✔ Conflict of Interest Policy
- ✔ Written whistleblower policy

Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

- ✔ Board Practices Reported?
- ✔ Diversity Data Reported?
- 32 Number of Independent Board Members
Programs & Results

PROGRAMS

Source: Self-Reported by Organization, June 2023

Regional Programs

Population(s) Served:
General/Unspecified

CPJ operates six regional programs covering press freedom issues in North America, South and Central America, Europe & Central Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The organization’s Emergencies team also carries out global work focused on providing assistance to journalists under threat.

Its professional staff of journalists and regional experts reports on press freedom violations, advocates for reforms, and provides emergency aid to journalists at risk. All of the organization’s published work is available online at cpj.org, which includes sections in Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

CPJ has its headquarters in New York, and a network of correspondents in countries including Mexico City, Bogotá, São Paulo, Istanbul, Nairobi, and Bangkok. A representative in Brussels leads advocacy with European institutions. This global presence enables CPJ to respond quickly and effectively to press freedom emergencies. CPJ works with local, regional, and international media and human rights groups to promote freedom of expression.

Emergencies Response Team

Population(s) Served:
General/Unspecified

CPJ’s Emergencies team provides proactive and reactive support to journalists at risk. Since the inception of CPJ’s Journalist Assistance program in 2001, the program has helped more than 1,000 journalists and their families. CPJ provides grants to help journalists pay for urgent medical treatment, fund legal defense, and flee the threat of murder or arrest.

Advocacy

Population(s) Served:
General/Unspecified

CPJ’s Advocacy Department oversees strategic communications and long-term campaigns for press freedom. CPJ reporting is routinely amplified by international news organizations such as Al-Jazeera, AP, BBC, The New York Times, and Univision. Media coverage of the organization’s work is instrumental to raising public awareness about press freedom issues and building pressure on political leaders to take action. CPJ is expanding social media outreach and engagement across platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr. The department oversees Internet Advocacy efforts and manages core campaigns, including campaigns to free the press and combat impunity.

Editorial

Population(s) Served:
General/Unspecified

The Editorial department manages all of CPJ’s online, print, and multimedia publications. CPJ’s website is the primary platform for the organization’s reporting. CPJ.org features a mix of breaking news, blogs, and in-depth special reports. The Editorial team maintains the high journalistic standards that distinguish CPJ’s reporting and provide the basis for its influential advocacy.

Advocacy and Communications

Population(s) Served:
General/Unspecified

CPJ’s Advocacy and Communications team works closely with the Program teams and the Editorial department to ensure that CPJ advocacy objectives are achieved. The team conducts campaigns, including calling for imprisoned journalists to be freed and for positive legal reform to be made, and engages with U.S., EU, and UN leaders, as well as those from other countries, to promote press freedom.
RESULTS

Number of journalists granted early release from prison

Population(s) Served: No target populations selected

Related program: Advocacy
CHARTING IMPACT

What is the organization aiming to accomplish?

CPJ’s primary goals are to protect individual journalists and promote press freedom worldwide. Our objectives include:

--Providing emergency support to journalists at risk
--Securing the release of imprisoned journalists
--Winning convictions in the cases of murdered journalists
--Obtaining government commitments, policy changes, and legislative action to improve press freedom conditions
--Exposing press freedom abuses through the media, including social media

What are the organization's key strategies for making this happen?

CPJ meets with government officials on advocacy missions and publishes statements, alerts, blogs, letters, and special reports to advance press freedom and human rights. Throughout, we seek to hold repressive governments and others accountable for anti-press violations. Our work has helped lead to positive legal reforms, convictions in journalist murders, and the early release from prison of dozens of journalists.

CPJ has decades of experience covering anti-press violations and advocating on behalf of journalists under threat. Our staff includes experts on six regional programs—Africa, North America, South and Central America, Asia, Europe & Central Asia, and the Middle East & North Africa—and an Emergencies department that provides physical, digital, and psychosocial support to journalists all over the world. We have a global network of correspondents and representatives based in 14 global cities.

What are the organization's capabilities for doing this?

CPJ is a leader in the global movement for free expression. We are distinguished by the high quality of our reporting, decades of experience, a reputation for political independence, and an influential board of directors. CPJ pursues direct engagement with government officials—including meetings with heads of state—to secure results. Our reporting is routinely used as the basis for protests and appeals by other important actors, including political leaders, diplomats, and human rights defenders. CPJ’s reporting is amplified by major international media coverage.

We have a strong track record of achieving impact. Journalists have told us that CPJ helped secure their release from prison, forced officials to back down, and literally saved their lives.

What have and haven't they accomplished so far?

Despite unprecedented challenges, the Committee to Protect Journalists made some important gains in the fight for press freedom. They include:

--helping win the early release of hundreds of imprisoned journalists from all over the world
--contributing to securing convictions in the murders of scores of journalists globally
--providing direct financial and non-financial support to thousands of journalists under threat
--winning legal reform due to high-level meetings and effective advocacy
Financials

FISCAL YEAR START: 01/01
FISCAL YEAR END: 12/31
✓ Financials audited by an independent accountant

Financial Trends Analysis

Business Model Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profitability</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted surplus (deficit) before depreciation</td>
<td>$1,263,207</td>
<td>$3,734,750</td>
<td>$1,720,585</td>
<td>$6,757,424</td>
<td>$142,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a % of expenses</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted surplus (deficit) after depreciation</td>
<td>$1,135,032</td>
<td>$3,610,739</td>
<td>$1,495,374</td>
<td>$6,291,778</td>
<td>-$337,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a % of expenses</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revenue Composition

| Total revenue (unrestricted & restricted) | $9,297,627 | $11,091,282 | $17,844,244 | $12,187,476 | $10,705,013 |
| Total revenue, % change over prior year  | -3.4%     | 19.3%     | 60.9%     | -31.7%    | -12.2%    |
| Program services revenue              | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      |
| Membership dues                       | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      |
| Investment income                     | 4.5%      | 4.4%      | 2.7%      | 5.6%      | 6.2%      |
| Government grants                     | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 5.4%      | 0.0%      |
| All other grants and contributions    | 95.3%     | 94.4%     | 96.3%     | 88.0%     | 90.2%     |
| Other revenue                         | 0.1%      | 1.2%      | 0.9%      | 1.0%      | 3.6%      |

Expense Composition

| Total expenses before depreciation    | $7,850,849 | $9,195,366 | $9,924,854 | $9,738,829 | $11,095,030 |
| Total expenses, % change over prior year  | 8.4%       | 17.1%     | 7.9%       | -1.9%     | 13.9%       |
| Personnel                             | 53.7%      | 54.4%     | 52.4%      | 56.0%     | 51.4%       |
| Professional Fees                     | 22.5%      | 25.1%     | 28.4%      | 27.0%     | 29.6%       |
| Occupancy                             | 6.5%       | 6.4%      | 7.7%       | 4.7%      | 2.4%        |
| Interest                              | 0.0%       | 0.0%      | 0.0%       | 1.4%      | 1.3%        |
| Pass-Through                          | 4.0%       | 2.3%      | 3.2%       | 3.5%      | 5.4%        |
| All other expenses                    | 13.3%      | 11.8%     | 8.3%       | 7.3%      | 9.9%        |
Financial Trends Analysis, continued

Moving Toward Full Cost Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Cost Components (estimated)</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses (after depreciation)</td>
<td>$7,979,024</td>
<td>$9,319,377</td>
<td>$10,150,065</td>
<td>$10,204,475</td>
<td>$11,575,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Month of Savings</td>
<td>$654,237</td>
<td>$766,281</td>
<td>$827,071</td>
<td>$811,569</td>
<td>$924,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Principal Repayment</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$144,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Asset Additions</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,961,097</td>
<td>$636,205</td>
<td>$10,480,633</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Full Costs (estimated)</td>
<td>$8,633,261</td>
<td>$13,046,755</td>
<td>$11,613,341</td>
<td>$21,496,677</td>
<td>$12,644,655</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Capital Structure Indicators

Liquidity

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Months of cash</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Months of cash and investments</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months of estimated liquid unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>7.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Balance Sheet Composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$4,652,630</td>
<td>$6,867,698</td>
<td>$11,774,516</td>
<td>$7,211,893</td>
<td>$6,819,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$12,810,254</td>
<td>$14,224,149</td>
<td>$14,529,601</td>
<td>$17,394,111</td>
<td>$15,975,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>$3,881,109</td>
<td>$3,029,815</td>
<td>$6,477,986</td>
<td>$3,087,652</td>
<td>$1,852,093</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gross land, buildings, and equipment (LBE)</td>
<td>$1,200,465</td>
<td>$4,161,562</td>
<td>$4,139,961</td>
<td>$14,608,181</td>
<td>$14,559,905</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation (% of LBE)</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities (as % of assets)</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>$4,405,203</td>
<td>$8,015,942</td>
<td>$9,511,316</td>
<td>$15,803,094</td>
<td>$15,465,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>$4,291,287</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted net assets</td>
<td>$12,056,249</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total restricted net assets</td>
<td>$16,347,536</td>
<td>$16,074,628</td>
<td>$23,212,286</td>
<td>$19,954,219</td>
<td>$16,776,026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>$20,752,739</td>
<td>$24,090,570</td>
<td>$32,723,602</td>
<td>$35,757,313</td>
<td>$32,241,518</td>
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Key Data Checks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Material Data Errors</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This issue is relevant to a small number of organizations: The nonprofit subject(s) of this report may have affiliates. The Form 990 data may not include information about any or all potential affiliates. If an organization does have affiliates and these affiliates have substantial financial activity, the financial data in this report may not present a comprehensive picture of the nonprofit's financial condition. Please consult the 990s of any potentially related affiliates for additional information.

- [Formulas for key metrics](#)
- [Key Revenue & Expense Data from Form 990](#)
- [Key Balance Sheet Data from Form 990](#)