

## The survival of journalism is fraught with danger and being squeezed from all directions

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London, UK. Well researched journalism is more important than ever. Around the world there are squeezes on press freedom from all directions, and with the rise of what has been dubbed "fake-news", it is a time for thorough journalism, says Rachael Jolley, editor of the *Index on Censorship Magazine*, on the publication of a special report called "The Big Squeeze: Freedom of Speech Under Pressure".

Included in the latest issue of the magazine is a special focus on Poland, where magazine editor Wojciech Przybylski discusses the governments continuing efforts to stifle and control news in the country:

"Along with public TV, public radio statutes have been changed to enable the takeover by government supporters of executive boards in direct violation of the role of the bi-partisan committee that previously supervised the quality of public broadcasting. Many journalists who are not supportive of the government have been fired and the remaining ones are under threat of being fired."

In Turkey, Canan Co?kun, a journalist at daily newspaper Cumhuriyet, who faces two upcoming trials for her reporting, talks about the dangers of life as a reporter. "Every two to three weeks recently, I have seen off a colleague leaving the courthouse for prison", she describes.

And the <u>magazine</u> includes two reports from Mexico on threats to



journalists lives, and the fear involved in doing their jobs.

In these turbulent times, Jolley says "journalists and journalism needs to step up and do a really excellent, through job of discovering and publishing the news", while also calling for the public to take responsibility in supporting well researched and thorough journalism. "We need to be capable of a bit more dissection and skepticism when we see stories, rather than swallowing them whole without thinking", she explains.

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