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A close look into the families of murdered and missing journalists in Mexico.

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime’s Resilience Fund presents a new policy brief, ‘The forgotten ones: Relatives of murdered and disappeared journalists in Mexico’.

Mexico is considered one of the most dangerous countries for journalists, where exposing organized crime may cost people their lives. The wave of violence lived there, especially against journalists, permeates the lives of people at all socio-economic levels.

The threats, harassment and intimidation journalists face also affect their children, their partners and parents both as a result of the violence itself and when investigations are subsequently carried out.

Furthermore, the lax implementation of laws meant to protect victims affected by the murder or disappearance of journalists violates the rights to truth, justice and full redress.

Griselda Triana was the wife of journalist Javier Valdez, murdered in Culiacán, Mexico, on 15 May 2017 outside the building of the weekly newspaper he co-founded, *Ríodoce*. Since that day, Triana has undertaken a relentless campaign in search for justice.

A Resilience Fund grantee since 2019, in this paper Triana identifies the resilience capacities of families of murdered or disappeared journalists in Mexico in order to document their cases and their most pressing needs.

With the support of Claudia Corona, researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and Balbina Flores, representative of Reporters Without Borders in Mexico, this brief shows the effects of this violence on the families of murdered or disappeared journalists, and the conditions of abandonment in which they find themselves. It also advocates for effective state policies of protection, information and support.

‘Journalism is fundamental to understanding the dynamics of organized crime, so it is vital to talk about the risks to journalists and their families. Griselda's effort brings together the voices of the often forgotten victims. We hope that the new perspective her research offers will help strengthen the dialogue with the stakeholders involved in their protection.’

Siria Gastélum Félix, Resilience Fund director, GI-TOC

This policy brief is published in the midst of the trial against Juan Francisco ‘N’ also known as ‘El Quillo’, one of Valdez's alleged killers.

On the anniversary of Javier Valdez’s murder, Triana documents the experiences of eight families of missing and murdered journalists, and gives them a voice in the face of silence. Stories that, like hers and those of many families in Mexico, are about survival and challenges in the face of violence and organized crime.

**About the Resilience Fund**

*With the support of the government of Norway, in March 2019 the GI-TOC launched the Civil Society Resilience Fund Against Organized Crime, which aims to counter the impact of organized crime worldwide by supporting efforts of civil society and non-state actors in developing resilience in their communities.*

**About the Global Initiative**

*The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) is an independent civil-society organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with a globally dispersed Secretariat and a high-level advisory board. Its network members include prominent law-enforcement, governance and development practitioners who are dedicated to seeking new and innovative strategies and responses to organized crime. The GI-TOC’s work spans across a wide variety of areas. It encompasses all criminal markets – drugs, people, arms, environmental commodities, violence, and so forth – and their impacts.*

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