

## Where is impunity a problem?

**Map highlighting some of the worst offending countries.**

A graphic featuring the word "END" in large, bold, yellow capital letters with a blue outline, tilted slightly to the right. Below it, the word "IMPUNITY" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters with a yellow outline. The background is white.

**This brochure was printed on the occasion of  
2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference to Combat Impunity  
& Securing Safety of Journalists organized by  
Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI).**

## Acknowledgment

The contents of this brochure were reproduced with the permission of IFEX-a global network defending and promoting free expression ([www.ifex.org](http://www.ifex.org))

House # 370, Street # 75,  
E-11/3, MPCHS, Islamabad  
t: +92 51 237 5158-9, 431 94 30  
e: [info@cpdi-pakistan.org](mailto:info@cpdi-pakistan.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cpdi.pakistan](http://www.facebook.com/cpdi.pakistan)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/cpdi\\_pakistan](http://www.twitter.com/cpdi_pakistan)  
[www.cpdi-pakistan.org](http://www.cpdi-pakistan.org)

[www.cpdi-pakistan.org](http://www.cpdi-pakistan.org)

## What is impunity?

When someone acts with impunity, it means that their actions have no consequences. Intimidation, threats, attacks and murders go unpunished.

In the past 10 years, more than 500 journalists have been killed. Murder is the ultimate form of censorship, and media are undoubtedly on the frontlines of free expression. When journalists have been murdered, in 9 out of 10 cases the murderers have gone free.

Countless other citizens, artists, bloggers, musicians and journalists have been harassed, threatened, tortured, intimidated, jailed and worse for exercising their basic human right to express themselves. Most crimes against free expression go unpunished.

What we are dealing with is a culture of impunity.

## What do we mean by “a culture of impunity?”

A culture of impunity exists when those who deny others their right to freedom of expression do so knowing it is unlikely they will be held accountable for their actions.

A culture of impunity creates a climate of insecurity for those practising their right to freedom of expression. This leads to a world where people are afraid to speak out. Where criticism is stifled. Where the hard questions don't get asked. Where the powerful don't get challenged. The result is a world where free expression is silenced.

# -CULTURE OF IMPUNITY-



## EXPRESSION RESTRAINED

The culture of impunity takes many forms. All of them silence free expression.

### INDIVIDUAL

In a culture of impunity, those who speak out may be subjected to threats, attacks and even murder. Many of these crimes go uninvestigated. When human rights are not respected, expressing yourself can have deadly consequences.

### SOCIETAL

A culture of impunity fosters a climate of fear, apathy and suspicion where individuals are afraid to talk about the issues that affect their communities and societies at large. The result? An ill-informed society resigned to the status quo.

### NATIONAL

Weak rule of law and the failure of national institutions are at the root of a culture of impunity. In a country with pervasive corruption, unchecked state power and an ineffective judicial system, justice cannot be served.

### INTERNATIONAL

When international political and economic agendas are prioritised over individual human rights, these interests become driving forces in creating and sustaining an unjust culture of impunity.