

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

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More journalists were killed around the world in 2012 than in any other year since 1995. In this dangerous environment, the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) at the National Endowment for Democracy worked to strengthen the support, raise the visibility, and improve the effectiveness of independent media development throughout the world. The Center provides information, builds networks, conducts research, and highlights the indispensable role independent media play in the creation and development of sustainable democracies. CIMA works to achieve these goals through discussions, original reports, and catalyst activities.

### Discussions

CIMA organizes panel discussions, working groups, and roundtables featuring practitioners and academics to investigate important issues in international media. CIMA held 12 public events in 2012 on topics including *Clear and Present Danger: Attempts to Change Internet Governance* and *Media Law Reform 2.0: Advancing Press Freedom and Independent Media Around the World*. Summaries as well as video and audio recordings of CIMA events can be found at <http://cima.ned.org/events>.

### Reports

CIMA commissions research reports on key topics in media development and also publishes papers summarizing some of its events and working groups.

The Center published 13 reports in 2012, including *Calling the Shots: How Ownership Structures Affect the Independence of News Media*; *Is There a Link Between Media and Good Governance?* and *Dangerous Work: Violence Against Mexico's Journalists and Lessons from Colombia*. The launch event for *Empowering Independent Media* (see sidebar) is pictured here (l-r: Thomas Melia, Sarah Mendelson, Barbara Haig,



Marguerite Sullivan, Marius Dragomir, David Sasaki, David Kaplan). These and the rest of CIMA's reports are available for free download at <http://cima.ned.org/publications>.

### Catalyst Activities

In October, CIMA was the lead organizer of the first global donors-only meeting on media assistance at the Pocantico Conference Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York. It was attended by representatives from 25 major donor organizations, who discussed their funding activities in media development. The meeting participants agreed that the rapid growth and changes in the field of media development require new practices in the community, including enhancing information-sharing mechanisms to improve coordination and opportunities for collaboration within the donor community.

CIMA also maintains a comprehensive bibliographic database of media assistance resources with more than 1,300 items. On its website, CIMA has posted country profiles detailing the status of independent media in countries around the world and comparing media freedom indexes. These can be accessed at <http://cima.ned.org/>. CIMA also gathers articles from numerous news sources on developments in media (traditional and digital) and distributes them via a *Media News* mailing and a weekly *Digital Media Mash Up*. Sign up for these and other CIMA mailings, and follow CIMA on Facebook and Twitter, at <http://cima.ned.org/about-cima/follow-cima>.




## EMPOWERING INDEPENDENT MEDIA

*U.S. Efforts to Foster  
a Free Press and  
an Open Internet  
Around the World*

SECOND EDITION: 2012

 CIMA Center for International  
Media Assistance

 National Endowment  
for Democracy  
Supporting Open Societies Around the World

CIMA released the second edition of its report, *Empowering Independent Media: U.S. Efforts to Foster a Free Press and an Open Internet Around the World*, at an event marking World Press Freedom Day on May 1, 2012. David E. Kaplan, an investigative journalist and media consultant, edited the report. *Empowering Independent Media* finds that U.S. international efforts to bolster independent media and an open Internet have had significant impact yet are challenged by too little funding, growth in online censorship and surveillance, and rising attacks on journalists. Drawing on original research as well as CIMA's earlier reports, it examines seven core areas of media development: funding, digital media, sustainability, media law, safety of journalists, education, and monitoring and evaluation. The report makes several recommendations to strengthen independent media around the world, including: increasing funding; improving coordination among donors and implementers; building the capacity of citizen journalists; embedding digital media and project evaluation into all programs; and putting greater emphasis on business skills, the legal environment, community radio, and investigative journalism.

