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Dedicated to the safety and welfare of freelance newsgatherers and their families around the world

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Recent Beneficiaries



Vedat Xhymshiti

Albanian Photojournalist - Threatened and Badly Beaten

In November 2011, while covering a border conflict between Northern Serbs and Kosovo, photojournalist Vedat Xhymshiti was at a Serb barricade on the outskirts of Mitrovica, when a group of men threw his camera to the ground, breaking it.

Fearing a physical attack, he escaped the men but in the process left behind his damaged equipment. Since the incident, Vedat has received anonymous threatening phone calls and faced what he calls two clear murder attempts as well as suspecting several others.

Two months later on January 14 this year, while covering a protest at the Kosovo-Serbia border crossing, Vedat was beaten unconscious by riot police when he began to take pictures of violent scenes including those of police arresting and handcuffing activists.

The vicious assault drew condemnation from The Association of Kosovo Professional Journalists and the Union of Kosovo Journalists who organised demonstrations against the violence.

As a result of the attacks, Vedat no longer felt safe in Kosovo and did not believe he could continue to live there.

When we spoke to Vedat, he was adamant that he would continue to cover conflict but no longer in his home country. Instead, he was planning to travel to Syria for work and his main concern was getting his camera and equipment – that is so essential to his ability to work – replaced.

The Trust gave Vedat an assistance grant to replace his camera so that he could continue working and improve his situation. We also discussed with him, his travel plans to Syria and the safety issues involved.

He has been working in Syria since May and has completed assignments and filed pictures for [Der Spiegel](#), AFP and [TIME](#). Further examples of his work can be found at [Corbis](#).

Top left: image of Vedat courtesy of Shaban Halimi

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