



All about investigative journalism



Uncovering the truth

Find out about the people who enter difficult and dangerous situations to get to the bottom of a story.

Every day, investigative journalists around the world put their lives in danger in order to uncover injustice (unfairness) or wrongdoing.

What is investigative journalism?

Journalism is the act of accessing, gathering and presenting news and information. Investigative journalists usually look into a single topic of interest, such as serious crime, to try and uncover the truth and share their findings with the world. Often, investigative journalists spend months – even years – gathering all the facts.

Why is it important?

By finding out the truth, people, governments and businesses who have done something wrong are revealed to the public, and sometimes wrongdoers are brought to justice.

Is it dangerous?

It can be. Earlier this year, a well-known Maltese journalist called Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed. Caruana Galizia wrote a blog in which she accused top politicians in Malta of corruption – dishonest behaviour by those in power. Some people believe she was killed because her enemies wanted to silence her. During her funeral, Archbishop Charles Scicluna said to journalists, "I encourage you never to grow weary in your mission to be the eyes, the ears and the mouth of the people". Thousands of people attended her funeral.



Anas keeps his face covered.

ANAS AREMEYAW ANAS

Anas Aremeyaw Anas uses all sorts of disguises and wears tiny cameras to expose corruption in Ghana, in west Africa. In fact, Anas is so good at undercover work that no one, except his friends and family, have ever seen his face. In one undercover assignment, Anas disguised himself as a rock to secretly film cocoa smugglers on the Ghanaian border. In 2015, he released a documentary that showed dozens of Ghanaian judges accepting money and other gifts from people who wanted the judges to rule in their favour during court cases. As a result of accepting these gifts, lots of these judges lost their jobs. In a talk in 2015, Anas said, "My journalism is hinged on three basic principles: naming, shaming and jailing."

PRIVATE EYE

Anas Aremeyaw Anas did such good work catching criminals as a journalist that he opened his own private investigation service called Tiger Eye in 2009.

NELLIE BLY

Nellie Bly was born Elizabeth Jane Cochrane on 5 May 1864 in Pennsylvania, US. She adopted Nellie Bly as her pen name (a name used by writers instead of their real name) when she started working for a local newspaper. At that time, few women worked in newspapers and it was considered improper if they used their real name. Although Bly was a good writer, she was often asked to write simple articles. Her big break came when she went undercover (in disguise) for the *New York World* newspaper.

She spent 10 days pretending to be a patient in a hospital for people with mental-health problems.

Afterwards, she wrote an article and a book about the experience, exposing the terrible conditions patients faced. As a result, she helped improve patient care.



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Colvin reported from war zones around the world.

MARIE COLVIN

Marie Colvin was an American war reporter. Throughout a career spanning more than 30 years, Colvin didn't let anything, not even danger, stop her from reporting the truth about wars in different countries. In 2001 in Sri Lanka, Colvin was covering the conflict between government forces and a group of rebel fighters called the Tamil Tigers, when she was struck in the eye by a piece of metal. She lost her left eye and from then on she wore an eyepatch. Despite the danger she often faced, Colvin felt she needed to give a voice to ordinary people who were affected by war. "I feel I have a moral responsibility towards them... If journalists have a chance to save their lives, they should do so," she said. Tragically, Colvin was killed on 22 February 2012 while reporting on the war in Syria.

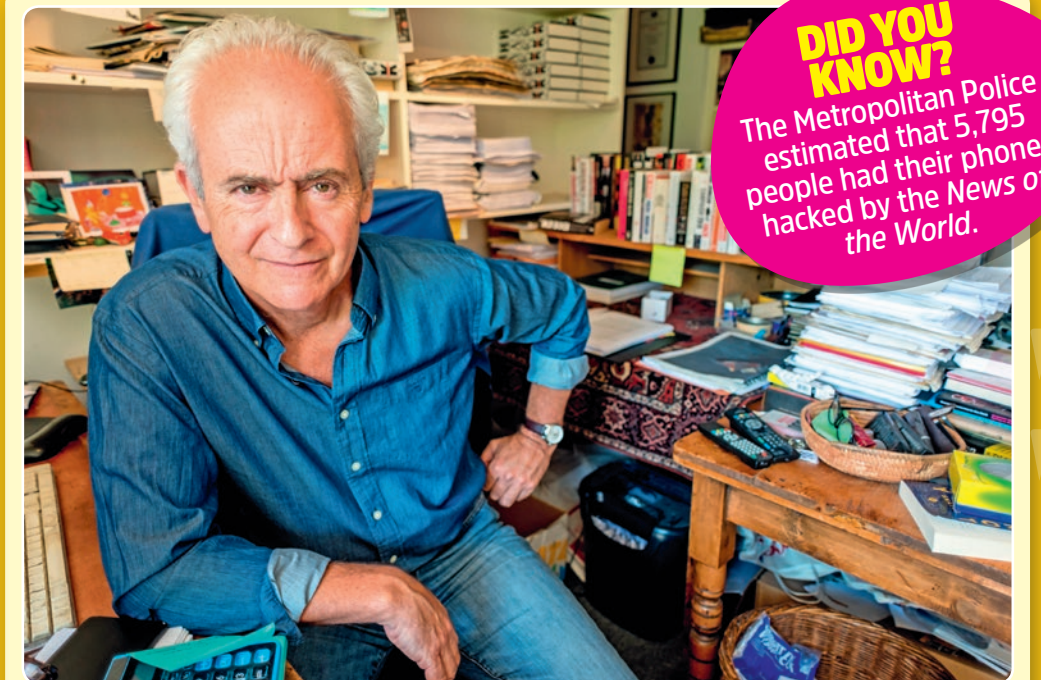


ROBERT FISK

Robert Fisk is a British journalist known for his work in the Middle East. He worked for *The Times* newspaper as a Middle East reporter between 1976 and 1987, covering the Lebanese civil war (1975–1990), the Iranian Revolution (1978–1979), and the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988). Fisk is known for his passionate reporting in war-torn countries, and for his willingness to brave danger to find out the truth about a story. He is one of the few western reporters to have interviewed Osama bin Laden – a terrorist who masterminded deadly attacks in the US in 2001.

GINGER THOMPSON

Award-winning journalist Ginger Thompson has a career that spans more than 30 years. She is a well-known expert on Mexico and has also written stories from Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela. Recently, she wrote about criminal activity in Mexico and reported on the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010. Thompson was also part of the team of reporters at *The New York Times* newspaper who were awarded a 2000 Pulitzer Prize for the series "How Race Is Lived in America". The series aimed to find out about the difficulty that people of different races face in the US. She looked at race in schools, in churches and in the workplace. The Pulitzer Prize is one of the most respected awards in American journalism.



DID YOU KNOW?
The Metropolitan Police estimated that 5,795 people had their phones hacked by the News of the World.

NICK DAVIES

For almost 40 years, Nick Davies spent his career doing investigative work for the *Guardian* newspaper. He helped expose one of the most talked-about cover-ups of this century: the phone-hacking scandal. Phone hacking was a technique used by reporters and private investigators working for the *News of the World* newspaper to listen to people's private

voicemails, which is illegal. They targeted celebrities and crime victims in order to find juicy stories to publish. In July 2009, Davies wrote the first of what would be more than 100 articles about the scandal. He collected evidence that eventually brought people in power to justice. Thanks to his work, the *News of the World* was shut down, after owner Rupert Murdoch confessed that phone hacking had been going on for years.

