



*IFJ Asia Pacific Director Jacklaune Park at the Workshop in Kathmandu*

raised the growing security threats to journalists. I also mentioned the demonstration staged by NUJ-I leaders outside Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi after the killing of a senior journalist Mr Sajjad in Pakistan.

Discussing the security issue I apprised the participants of the organisation of a Basic Life Support training camp for journalists in association with Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi in which the journalists were imparted training how to save the life of people in case of medical emergency at workplace, public place or at home. This training is essential since the journalists normally reach first at the spot of any mishap. I also mentioned the Journalists Welfare Fund instituted by the NUJ (I) to help the journalists when they are in need of monetary help.

Country Report

The Workshop concluded on

July 31 with strategic planning for Union strength. Ms Jacklaune Park, director of IFJ (Asia Pacific), South Asia Coordinator Mr Sukumar Muralidharan and IFJ Asia Pacific Project Coordinator Cameron Durnsford also attended the Workshop. In order to building impact of South Asia Media Solidarity Network (SAMSUN) the delegates had detailed discussion and suggested ways and means to achieve this objective.

In their country reports the representatives highlighted the problems the journalists are facing in their respective countries. Describing safety of journalist as the major concern Mr Tahir Rathore, president of Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalist, said 127 journalists were killed in just two years in Pakistan. Apart from it, he distributed a list of 71 journalists attacked or harassed since January 2000. He also reported a positive initiative taken

by the journalists in Pakistan saying that the reports of terrorist attacks are not given much importance in the media now as the media has understood the fact that by highlighting such incidents they basically serve the purpose of the terrorists itself.

Mr Rahimullah Samandar from Afghanistan said the mediapersons are working under acute pressure from terrorists in the country. He said the terrorists even dictate the journalist to use their press releases in a particular form and if their dictates are not followed, they even kill them. He pointed out that a very senior journalist was killed just a few days back by the terrorists.

Ms Hana Ibrahim from Sri Lanka said the government influence over owners of media institutions is increasing. She pointed out that last month a Bill to introduce Freedom of Information was defeated by even the ruling