

Bad News Last: Journalists in Dictatorship



Journalism is a vital part of any democracy. It holds those in power to account and informs the public about important issues. But in dictatorships, journalists face enormous challenges and dangers.



Bad News: Last Journalists in a Dictatorship

by Anjan Sundaram

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

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In *Bad News Last*, acclaimed journalist Peter Finn tells the stories of six journalists who have worked in dictatorships. These journalists have risked their lives to report on the truth, even when it meant facing imprisonment, torture, or even death.

Finn's book is a powerful indictment of the suppression of free speech in dictatorships. It is also a testament to the courage and resilience of journalists who continue to fight for the truth, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

The Journalists

The six journalists featured in *Bad News Last* come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. But they all share a common commitment to truth and justice.

- **Mazen Darwish** is a Syrian journalist who was imprisoned for three years for his work. He was tortured and beaten, but he never gave up on his fight for freedom of speech.
- **Eskinder Nega** is an Ethiopian journalist who was imprisoned for 18 years for his work. He was released in 2018, but he continues to face harassment and intimidation.
- **Nguyen Van Dai** is a Vietnamese journalist who was imprisoned for 15 years for his work. He was released in 2014, but he continues to be under surveillance.
- **Maria Ressa** is a Filipino journalist who is facing charges of sedition and cyber libel. She is the founder of the news website Rappler, which has been critical of the government.

- **Javier Valdez Cárdenas** was a Mexican journalist who was murdered in 2017. He was one of the most prominent journalists in Mexico, and his death sent shockwaves through the country.
- **Daphné Caruana Galizia** was a Maltese journalist who was murdered in 2017. She was known for her investigative reporting on corruption and organized crime.

The Challenges

Journalists in dictatorships face a number of unique challenges. These challenges include:

- **Censorship:** Dictatorships often censor the media to prevent the public from hearing dissenting voices.
- **Imprisonment:** Journalists who are critical of the government can be imprisoned, often for long periods of time.
- **Torture:** Journalists who are imprisoned may be tortured to extract information or to punish them for their work.
- **Death:** Journalists who are critical of the government may be killed.

The Courage

Despite the challenges they face, journalists in dictatorships continue to fight for the truth. They do so because they believe that the public has a right to know what is happening in their country, and because they believe that truth and justice will ultimately prevail.

The journalists featured in *Bad News Last* are heroes. They have risked their lives to tell the truth, and they have made a difference in the world.

The Importance of Journalism

Journalism is a vital part of any democracy. It holds those in power to account and informs the public about important issues. In dictatorships, journalism is even more important, because it provides a voice for the voiceless and shines a light on the darkness.

Bad News Last is a powerful reminder of the importance of journalism in a free society. It is a book that will inspire you, outrage you, and leave you with a profound appreciation for the courage and resilience of journalists who fight for the truth.



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