



CICERO INSIGHT JOURNALISTS

Editorial Standards & Investigative Methodology

Policies, Principles and Professional Standards

Version 8.1

2003–2026

Mission

Our Mission

Cicero Insight Journalists (CIJ) exists to investigate the systems, institutions, financial structures, and decision-making processes that shape international affairs. Our mission is to produce independent, evidence-based investigative reporting that serves the public interest by explaining not only what happened, but how it happened, why it happened, and who was affected.

In an increasingly interconnected world, political decisions, financial markets, regulatory systems, and transnational institutions influence the lives of millions of people. These relationships are often complex, opaque, and difficult to understand. CIJ exists to examine these structures with rigor, independence, and a commitment to factual accuracy.

We believe investigative journalism performs a vital public function when it provides citizens, policymakers, researchers, and institutions with reliable information supported by verifiable evidence. Our reporting is intended to improve public understanding, strengthen accountability, and contribute to informed discussion on matters of international significance.

Investigating Systems, Not Just Events

News often focuses on individual events as they unfold. Investigative journalism requires a different approach.

CIJ examines the broader systems behind significant developments, including political institutions, financial networks, regulatory frameworks, international organisations, and

cross-border relationships. Rather than viewing events in isolation, we seek to understand the structures, incentives, and decisions that allow them to occur.

This approach requires sustained research, extensive documentation, and careful analysis. Complex investigations rarely produce simple conclusions, and meaningful accountability often depends upon understanding the wider context in which decisions are made.

Our work therefore extends beyond immediate headlines to examine patterns, institutional practices, and long-term developments that may otherwise remain outside public attention.

Serving the Public Interest

The purpose of investigative journalism is not simply to publish information, but to publish information that serves the public interest.

CIJ undertakes investigations where greater transparency may contribute to informed public debate, institutional accountability, or improved understanding of issues affecting society. We recognise that public interest extends beyond political controversy and includes financial integrity, responsible governance, regulatory oversight, and the functioning of public institutions.

Public interest reporting is not determined by popularity, political preference, or commercial value. It is determined by whether information contributes meaningfully to public understanding of matters with broader social, economic, legal, or institutional importance.

Where appropriate, our reporting examines both the consequences of decisions and the systems through which those decisions were made.

Independence as a Fundamental Principle

Editorial independence is central to CIJ's mission.

Our investigations are directed solely by editorial judgment and supported by evidence gathered through responsible journalistic methods. Editorial decisions are not influenced by political parties, governments, commercial interests, advocacy organisations, or external stakeholders.

We may consult specialists, researchers, legal experts, regional analysts, and subject-matter experts to improve technical understanding and ensure factual accuracy. These

consultations enhance our reporting but do not determine editorial conclusions or publication decisions. Responsibility for every published investigation remains with CIJ.

Evidence Before Opinion

Reliable journalism depends upon evidence rather than assumption.

CIJ follows the principle that significant factual claims should be supported by documentary evidence, corroborated reporting, primary sources, official records, or other independently verifiable material. Where evidence is incomplete or uncertainty exists, we seek to explain those limitations rather than speculate beyond what the available information supports.

Investigative reporting frequently involves complex subjects for which definitive answers may not immediately exist. In such cases, our responsibility is to present verified facts, explain relevant context, distinguish evidence from analysis, and identify areas where questions remain unresolved.

This commitment reflects our belief that credibility is earned through disciplined reporting rather than certainty unsupported by evidence.

Accuracy Before Speed

Speed has become a defining characteristic of modern media. Investigative journalism operates according to different priorities.

CIJ values accuracy, verification, and contextual understanding above being first to publish. Complex investigations require time to obtain documents, verify information, evaluate competing accounts, assess legal considerations, and ensure that reporting meets appropriate editorial standards.

Publishing incomplete or insufficiently verified information risks misleading readers and undermining public confidence. We therefore prioritise careful reporting over rapid publication whenever those objectives conflict.

While important developments may require timely reporting, our long-term mission remains the production of work that retains value beyond the immediate news cycle.

Explaining Complexity

International affairs frequently involve interconnected legal, financial, political, and institutional systems.



Our mission extends beyond uncovering information. We seek to explain complex subjects in a manner that is both accurate and accessible without sacrificing essential detail or context.

Readers should be able to understand not only the conclusions of an investigation but also the evidence, methodology, and reasoning that support those conclusions.

Clear explanation strengthens informed public discussion and enables readers to evaluate information on its merits.

Protecting Editorial Integrity

Public confidence depends upon confidence in the editorial process.

CIJ is committed to maintaining consistent editorial standards across all investigations. Reporting is subject to internal editorial review, verification procedures, document assessment, and, where appropriate, legal review before publication.

We strive to present information fairly, accurately, and in its proper context while avoiding unnecessary sensationalism or speculation.

Where individuals or organisations are the subject of significant reporting, we seek to present relevant factual context and provide appropriate opportunities for response whenever practical and consistent with responsible investigative practice.

A Long-Term Commitment

Investigative journalism is rarely completed within a single publication.

Many of the issues examined by CIJ develop over years rather than days. Financial systems evolve, institutions change, regulatory environments shift, and new evidence may emerge long after initial reporting.

Accordingly, our mission includes maintaining a long-term perspective. We continue to monitor developments, revisit previous investigations where appropriate, and incorporate newly available information when it materially improves public understanding.

Our commitment is not limited to individual stories but extends to documenting the broader historical record surrounding international governance, finance, security, and public accountability.

Our Responsibility

The responsibility of investigative journalism is both professional and public.

Every investigation carries an obligation to balance rigorous inquiry with fairness, independence, and respect for factual accuracy. The credibility of our reporting depends not only upon what we publish but also upon the standards that govern how our work is produced.

CIJ recognises that journalism performs an essential role within democratic societies by supporting transparency, informed public debate, and institutional accountability. We approach that responsibility with seriousness, recognising that trust must be earned through consistent adherence to professional standards.

Looking Forward

As international institutions, financial systems, and global governance continue to evolve, so too do the challenges facing investigative journalism.

CIJ remains committed to examining the structures that influence international affairs through disciplined investigation, independent editorial judgment, and evidence-based reporting. Advances in technology, open-source intelligence, data analysis, and cross-border collaboration provide new opportunities to strengthen investigative reporting while preserving the principles that define responsible journalism.

Our mission remains unchanged: to pursue the truth through careful investigation, to explain complex systems with clarity, and to contribute to a more informed public understanding of the forces that shape our world.

Editorial Values

Our Editorial Values

Cicero Insight Journalists (CIJ) is guided by a set of editorial values that shape every stage of our investigative work. These principles define how investigations are selected, how information is evaluated, and how reporting is prepared for publication.

Our editorial values are intended to safeguard the integrity, independence, and credibility of our journalism. They are not aspirational statements but practical standards applied throughout the reporting process.

The credibility of investigative journalism depends not only upon the information it uncovers, but also upon the principles governing how that information is obtained, verified, interpreted, and presented. Every CIJ investigation is conducted with these responsibilities in mind.

Editorial Independence

Editorial independence is the foundation of our work.

CIJ determines its editorial priorities independently and without influence from governments, political parties, corporations, advocacy organisations, financial interests, or external stakeholders.

While we may consult specialists, legal advisers, researchers, academics, and regional experts to improve subject understanding and technical accuracy, editorial responsibility always remains with CIJ.

External expertise informs our reporting but never determines our conclusions.

Our investigations are directed by evidence, public interest, and editorial judgment alone.

Accuracy

Accuracy is our highest editorial obligation.

Every published investigation is expected to reflect the best available verified information at the time of publication.

Before publication, factual material is reviewed using documentary evidence, primary sources, official records, corroborated reporting, and independent verification wherever possible.

Where uncertainty exists, we identify it clearly rather than present assumptions as established fact.

If new evidence materially changes the factual understanding of a published investigation, we review the reporting and make corrections or updates where appropriate.

Accuracy is a continuous responsibility rather than a single editorial step.

Verification

Verification distinguishes investigative journalism from speculation.

CIJ seeks to verify significant factual claims through multiple independent sources whenever practicable.

Verification may include:

- Official documentation
- Court records
- Corporate filings
- Financial records
- Regulatory documents
- Public records
- Interviews
- Open-source intelligence
- Satellite imagery

- Historical archives
- Independent expert assessment

The level of verification required depends upon the significance of the information being reported.

Extraordinary claims require correspondingly strong evidence.

Material that cannot be sufficiently verified is not presented as established fact.

Fairness

Investigative reporting should be rigorous without becoming prejudicial.

CIJ seeks to present individuals, institutions, and organisations fairly by accurately representing available evidence and relevant context.

Fairness does not require giving equal weight to unsupported claims and verified facts. Instead, it requires honest representation of the evidence while avoiding distortion, omission, or unnecessary sensationalism.

Where investigations involve allegations or criticism of identifiable individuals or organisations, we seek, whenever practical and appropriate, to provide an opportunity for response before publication.

Responses received are considered as part of the editorial process and are reflected where they materially contribute to the accuracy or completeness of the reporting.

Public Interest

Our reporting is guided by the public interest.

CIJ investigates issues that contribute to public understanding of governance, financial systems, institutional accountability, international affairs, and matters affecting society more broadly.

Public interest is not determined by popularity or public curiosity alone.

Instead, it reflects the broader value of information that improves transparency, supports informed democratic discussion, strengthens accountability, or explains issues with significant societal consequences.

Editorial decisions are based upon the public importance of an investigation rather than its potential audience reach.

Context

Facts have greater value when presented within their proper context.

Investigations frequently involve legal, political, financial, historical, and institutional complexities that cannot be understood through isolated facts alone.

CIJ seeks to explain the wider systems and circumstances surrounding significant developments so readers can understand not only what occurred but why events unfolded as they did.

Context should improve understanding without introducing unnecessary opinion or speculation.

Evidence-Based Reporting

Evidence forms the basis of every investigation.

CIJ distinguishes clearly between verified facts, informed analysis, expert interpretation, and opinion.

Our reporting prioritises documentary evidence and independently verifiable information over anonymous assertions or unsupported claims.

Analysis is always grounded in the available evidence and presented separately from factual reporting where appropriate.

Readers should be able to distinguish what is known, what is supported by evidence, and what remains uncertain.

Transparency

Transparency strengthens public confidence in investigative journalism.

Where possible, CIJ explains the reporting methods, documentary evidence, research processes, and editorial reasoning that support our investigations.

We aim to provide sufficient information for readers to understand how conclusions were reached without compromising confidential sources, ongoing investigations, or legitimate legal obligations.

Transparency also requires acknowledging limitations.

Where information is incomplete or evidence remains unavailable, we explain those limitations rather than imply certainty.

Accountability

Editorial accountability begins with accepting responsibility for published work.

CIJ stands behind its reporting while recognising that investigative journalism is an ongoing process.

New evidence may emerge.

Documents may become publicly available.

Official investigations may alter factual understanding.

When material developments occur, we review previous reporting and update published investigations where appropriate.

Accountability includes correcting mistakes openly, explaining significant revisions, and maintaining accurate historical records.

Responsible Language

Language should clarify rather than exaggerate.

CIJ avoids sensationalism, inflammatory rhetoric, or unnecessarily emotive language.

Investigative reporting often concerns complex and sensitive subjects involving governments, financial institutions, public officials, businesses, and private individuals.

Our responsibility is to describe evidence accurately using language proportionate to the facts established by the investigation.

Careful language strengthens credibility and allows readers to form independent conclusions.

Independence from Advocacy

Investigative journalism and advocacy serve different purposes.

CIJ does not conduct investigations to promote political campaigns, ideological positions, commercial interests, or advocacy objectives.



Our role is to investigate, document, verify, explain, and inform.

Evidence—not predetermined conclusions—guides every investigation.

Where reporting reveals misconduct, institutional failures, regulatory weaknesses, or systemic vulnerabilities, those findings arise from documented investigation rather than editorial activism.

Maintaining this distinction protects the credibility and impartiality of our journalism.

Continuous Improvement

Professional journalism requires continual refinement.

Investigative methods evolve.

Technology changes.

New forms of open-source intelligence become available.

Verification techniques improve.

Legal standards develop.

CIJ continually reviews its editorial practices to strengthen investigative methods, improve verification procedures, enhance security, and increase transparency wherever practical.

Maintaining high editorial standards requires ongoing learning, critical self-assessment, and adaptation to new challenges without compromising our core principles.

Our Editorial Commitment

The values described in this document guide every stage of CIJ's investigative work—from identifying subjects worthy of investigation to verifying evidence, reviewing findings, and publishing reports in the public interest.

Editorial integrity is not measured solely by the investigations we publish, but by the standards that govern how those investigations are conducted.

Trust is earned through consistency, discipline, independence, and transparency.

CIJ remains committed to evidence-based investigative journalism that informs public understanding, strengthens accountability, and explains the complex systems shaping international affairs.



These editorial values reflect that commitment and serve as the foundation upon which all CIJ reporting is built.



Corrections Policy

Our Commitment to Accuracy

Accuracy is fundamental to the mission of Cicero Insight Journalists (CIJ). Every investigation is prepared through a process of research, verification, editorial review, and, where appropriate, legal assessment before publication. Despite these safeguards, journalism is a human endeavour, and mistakes can occur.

When an error is identified, we believe the appropriate response is to review the evidence carefully, correct the record promptly when necessary, and communicate material changes transparently.

Correcting mistakes strengthens public confidence in investigative journalism. It reflects our commitment to evidence rather than our attachment to previously published conclusions.

Our objective is not simply to publish investigations, but to maintain an accurate and reliable public record over time.

Editorial Responsibility

CIJ accepts responsibility for all material published under its editorial authority.

Every published article remains subject to review if new information becomes available or if readers, researchers, institutions, or other parties identify potential inaccuracies.

Editorial staff assess all correction requests using the same standards of verification applied during the original reporting process.

Corrections are made solely on the basis of verified evidence and editorial judgment. Requests are not accepted or rejected because of political, commercial, legal, or reputational considerations alone.

How We Review Correction Requests

When a potential error is brought to our attention, we undertake an editorial review that may include:

- Re-examining documentary evidence
- Reviewing interview notes and reporting materials
- Assessing newly submitted information
- Consulting relevant subject specialists where appropriate
- Verifying public records or official documents
- Comparing published material with the underlying evidence

Each request is evaluated individually.

The purpose of the review is not to defend previously published work but to determine whether the published information continues to meet CIJ's editorial standards.

Where evidence demonstrates that a correction is warranted, appropriate changes are made.

Types of Editorial Updates

Not every change requires the same editorial response.

CIJ distinguishes between several types of revisions to published material.

Minor Corrections

Minor corrections address errors that do not materially alter the meaning or conclusions of an article.

Examples include:

- Typographical errors
- Spelling mistakes
- Formatting issues
- Incorrect dates where context remains unchanged
- Minor factual inaccuracies that do not affect the investigation's findings

These corrections may be made without a formal editorial notice.

Clarifications

A clarification is published when information is technically accurate but could reasonably be misunderstood or lacks sufficient context.

Clarifications improve precision without changing the factual basis of the reporting.

Examples may include:

- Additional explanatory context
- Improved wording
- Greater detail regarding methodology
- Expanded descriptions of technical or legal issues

Clarifications are intended to improve reader understanding rather than alter editorial conclusions.

Significant Corrections

A significant correction is made when an error materially affects factual reporting or may influence readers' understanding of an investigation.

Such corrections may involve:

- Incorrect factual statements
- Misidentification of individuals or organisations
- Errors in chronology

- Incorrect interpretation of documentary evidence
- Misquoted information
- Important factual omissions

Where appropriate, significant corrections are accompanied by a correction notice explaining the nature of the revision.

Updates

Investigative reporting frequently develops over time.

New court decisions, official reports, regulatory findings, or documentary evidence may emerge months or years after publication.

Where new verified information materially expands or improves public understanding, CIJ may update previously published investigations.

Updates do not necessarily indicate that the original reporting was inaccurate.

Rather, they reflect the evolving nature of complex investigations and our commitment to maintaining an accurate historical record.

Retractions

Retractions are rare but may become necessary if an investigation or substantial portion of it is found to be fundamentally inaccurate or no longer supported by verified evidence.

A decision to retract published material is made only after comprehensive editorial review.

Where a retraction occurs, CIJ seeks to explain the reason clearly while preserving transparency regarding the publication's editorial history whenever legally and ethically appropriate.

Retractions should not be viewed as editorial failures alone but as part of responsible accountability when evidence no longer supports previously published reporting.

Reader Feedback

Readers play an important role in maintaining the accuracy of investigative journalism.

CIJ welcomes constructive feedback regarding factual accuracy, documentary evidence, sourcing, or editorial clarity.

Individuals who believe a published article contains factual inaccuracies are encouraged to provide:

- The article title or publication date
- The specific information believed to be incorrect
- Supporting documentation where available
- Relevant public records or authoritative sources

Providing documentary evidence assists our editorial review process and allows concerns to be assessed more efficiently.

Submission of a correction request does not guarantee that a correction will be made.

Each request is independently evaluated according to our editorial standards.

New Evidence

Investigative reporting often concerns ongoing legal proceedings, financial investigations, regulatory matters, or international events.

New evidence may emerge long after an article is published.

When credible new information materially affects an existing investigation, CIJ reviews the evidence regardless of whether it supports or challenges previous reporting.

Editorial decisions remain guided by verified facts rather than consistency with earlier conclusions.

Our commitment is to accuracy over time, not permanence of published opinion.

Fairness During the Review Process

Correction requests are evaluated impartially.

The identity, position, reputation, or influence of the individual or organisation submitting a request does not determine the editorial outcome.

Requests from public officials, corporations, institutions, private individuals, legal representatives, researchers, or members of the public are assessed according to the same evidentiary standards.

Similarly, criticism of CIJ reporting does not, by itself, establish that an error exists.

Editorial decisions remain evidence-based throughout the review process.

Preserving the Public Record

Investigative journalism contributes to the historical record.

Where corrections or updates are made, CIJ seeks to preserve the integrity of published reporting while ensuring readers have access to the most accurate information available.

We recognise that transparency regarding editorial changes strengthens public trust.

Accordingly, significant factual revisions should be identifiable without obscuring the existence of earlier reporting, except where legal obligations, privacy considerations, or safety concerns require otherwise.

Maintaining an accurate archive is an important part of responsible investigative journalism.

Continuous Review

Editorial accuracy is an ongoing responsibility rather than a one-time process.

CIJ periodically reviews significant investigations as new information becomes publicly available.

Official inquiries, judicial decisions, regulatory findings, academic research, and newly released documents may all contribute to improving historical understanding.

Where appropriate, earlier reporting is revisited to ensure that published investigations continue to reflect the best verified information available.

Contacting the Editorial Team

Questions regarding factual accuracy, requests for clarification, or submissions of verified documentary evidence may be directed to the CIJ editorial team through the contact information provided on this website.



To assist our review, correspondence should identify the relevant article and include sufficient detail to allow editorial staff to evaluate the concern efficiently.

While we endeavour to review all legitimate submissions, response times may vary depending on the complexity of the issues raised and the verification required.

Our Commitment

Corrections are an essential part of responsible journalism.

No investigative organisation can credibly claim to pursue the truth while refusing to acknowledge legitimate errors. CIJ therefore approaches corrections with the same principles that guide every investigation: independence, fairness, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making.

Our objective is not merely to minimise mistakes but to ensure that the public record reflects the most accurate information available.

This commitment extends beyond the publication of any individual investigation and remains central to our mission of producing independent journalism that informs public understanding and strengthens accountability.

Ethics Statement

Our Ethical Commitment

The credibility of investigative journalism depends not only upon the accuracy of its reporting but also upon the integrity of the methods used to produce it.

Cicero Insight Journalists (CIJ) is committed to conducting investigations responsibly, independently, and in accordance with recognised principles of professional journalism. Ethical standards guide every stage of our work, from selecting subjects for investigation to gathering information, protecting sources, reviewing evidence, and publishing our findings.

These principles exist to safeguard the integrity of our reporting, maintain public confidence, and ensure that investigations serve the public interest rather than political, commercial, or personal objectives.

Ethical journalism requires constant judgment rather than rigid formulas. Accordingly, editorial decisions are made individually, taking into account the evidence available, the potential public benefit of publication, legal responsibilities, and the rights of those affected.

Editorial Independence

Editorial independence is essential to our work.

CIJ conducts investigations without direction from governments, political parties, corporations, advocacy organisations, financial interests, or other external stakeholders.

Editorial priorities are determined solely by the public interest, the significance of the subject matter, and the availability of verifiable evidence.

We may consult specialists, researchers, academics, legal advisers, and technical experts where appropriate to improve understanding and factual accuracy. Such consultation informs our reporting but never determines editorial conclusions or publication decisions.

Responsibility for every published investigation remains exclusively with CIJ.

Integrity

Integrity requires honesty in both reporting and conduct.

CIJ journalists are expected to represent information accurately, avoid deception except in exceptional circumstances justified by overwhelming public interest, and maintain professional standards throughout the reporting process.

Evidence must never be knowingly altered, fabricated, selectively manipulated, or presented in a manner that misrepresents its meaning.

Editorial decisions must remain guided by verified facts rather than personal beliefs, external pressure, or predetermined conclusions.

Maintaining integrity is fundamental to maintaining public trust.

Accuracy and Verification

Ethical journalism requires disciplined verification.

CIJ seeks to verify significant factual claims through documentary evidence, corroborated reporting, official records, primary sources, or other independently verifiable material.

When information cannot be fully verified, we explain the limitations of the available evidence rather than present speculation as established fact.

Readers should be able to distinguish clearly between verified facts, analysis, expert interpretation, and unresolved questions.

Our responsibility is to report what the evidence supports—not what assumptions might suggest.

Fairness

Investigative reporting should be rigorous while remaining fair.

CIJ seeks to present relevant evidence accurately and in context, avoiding unnecessary distortion or selective presentation of facts.

Individuals and organisations that are the subject of significant reporting should, where practical and appropriate, be given an opportunity to respond before publication.

Responses are evaluated objectively and incorporated where they contribute to the factual completeness or accuracy of the investigation.

Fairness does not require equal treatment of verified evidence and unsupported assertions. It requires an honest representation of the available facts.

Conflicts of Interest

Editorial independence requires avoiding actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

CIJ journalists should avoid financial, political, personal, or professional relationships that could reasonably influence—or appear to influence—their reporting or editorial judgment.

Where a potential conflict exists, it should be disclosed internally and assessed before work continues.

If necessary, responsibilities may be reassigned to protect the integrity of the investigation.

Editorial credibility depends not only upon independence but also upon the appearance of independence.

Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits

CIJ personnel should neither seek nor accept gifts, hospitality, payments, favours, or benefits that could compromise, or reasonably appear to compromise, their editorial independence.

Modest professional courtesies may occasionally arise during reporting, but they must never influence editorial judgment or publication decisions.

Investigations should never be affected by financial incentives, personal relationships, or material benefits.

Political Neutrality

CIJ is politically independent.

Our investigations may examine governments, political parties, public officials, international institutions, corporations, or advocacy organisations where matters of legitimate public interest arise.

Such reporting should never be interpreted as institutional support for or opposition to any political ideology, party, movement, or candidate.

Editorial conclusions are based upon documented evidence rather than political preference.

Maintaining political neutrality strengthens both the credibility and the independence of our journalism.

Protection of Sources

Confidential sources play an important role in investigative journalism.

CIJ recognises its ethical responsibility to protect individuals who provide information in the public interest where confidentiality has been agreed and where such protection is lawful and ethically justified.

Source identities are disclosed only with informed consent or where required by applicable law following appropriate legal consideration.

Anonymous sources are used carefully and only when the information cannot reasonably be obtained through other means and serves a legitimate public interest.

Whenever possible, information provided by confidential sources is independently verified before publication.

Privacy

Investigative reporting must balance the public's right to know with legitimate expectations of personal privacy.

CIJ considers whether publication serves a genuine public interest before publishing personal information relating to identifiable individuals.

Private information is not published merely because it is available.

Where publication could unnecessarily intrude upon privacy without materially contributing to public understanding, editorial restraint should prevail.

Public interest, not public curiosity, guides these decisions.

Respect for the Law

CIJ operates within applicable legal frameworks while recognising the essential role of independent journalism in democratic societies.

Legal review may be undertaken where investigations involve complex issues including defamation, privacy, national security, financial regulation, confidential information, or other matters carrying significant legal implications.

Compliance with the law does not diminish our editorial independence, nor does legal complexity prevent responsible investigation where legitimate public interest exists.

Responsible Investigative Methods

Investigative journalism should employ methods proportionate to the public importance of the information sought.

CIJ gives preference to open, transparent, and lawful reporting techniques, including documentary research, interviews, public records, open-source intelligence, and independent verification.

Methods involving deception, covert recording, or other exceptional techniques should be considered only where:

- the information is of substantial public importance;
- there is no reasonable alternative method of obtaining it; and
- the anticipated public benefit clearly outweighs the ethical concerns involved.

Such decisions require careful editorial consideration.

Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

Technology continues to transform investigative journalism.

CIJ may use digital tools, data analysis, and artificial intelligence to assist research, organise information, analyse large document collections, identify patterns, or improve editorial workflows.

Technology does not replace editorial judgment.

All significant factual findings remain subject to human verification before publication.

AI-generated material is never treated as evidence in itself and must be independently verified through reliable sources.

Editorial responsibility always remains with CIJ.

Security

Investigative journalism frequently involves sensitive information and vulnerable sources.

CIJ seeks to maintain appropriate digital, operational, and editorial security practices to protect confidential communications, unpublished reporting, research materials, and source identities.

Security practices are regularly reviewed to address evolving technological and operational risks.

Protecting information is an essential component of protecting journalistic independence.

Accountability

Ethical journalism requires accountability.

CIJ accepts responsibility for its published reporting and remains prepared to review new evidence, correct factual errors, clarify reporting where necessary, and improve editorial practices over time.

Our commitment to accountability is reflected not only in our reporting but also in our Editorial Values and Corrections Policy.

Acknowledging legitimate mistakes strengthens rather than weakens responsible journalism.

Professional Conduct

CIJ contributors are expected to conduct themselves professionally throughout the reporting process.

Professional conduct includes honesty, respect for evidence, responsible communication, careful documentation, confidentiality where appropriate, and adherence to established editorial standards.

Personal behaviour should never compromise the credibility of investigations or undermine public confidence in CIJ's work.

The reputation of investigative journalism depends upon consistent professionalism as much as editorial quality.



Our Ethical Responsibility

Investigative journalism serves the public best when it combines rigorous reporting with principled conduct.

Ethics are not separate from journalism; they are fundamental to it. Every decision, from selecting an investigation to publishing its findings, requires careful consideration of evidence, fairness, independence, transparency, and responsibility.

CIJ remains committed to maintaining these principles across all areas of its work. We recognise that public trust is earned through consistent adherence to professional standards, responsible editorial judgment, and a willingness to place evidence above assumption and integrity above expediency.

These ethical principles support our mission to investigate the systems and institutions that shape international affairs while serving the public interest through independent, evidence-based journalism.

Funding

CIJ does not publish sponsored content or accept payment in exchange for editorial coverage.

Veritas Ante Omnia – Truth Before All

The Chief Editor