Europa

On the other hand, Denmark (8th) recovered its position near the top of the ranking after the end of the crisis over the Mohammed cartoons and the acquittal of Berlingske Tidende’s journalists.

In Spain (33rd), the Basque armed separatist group ETA broke off its ceasefire, dashing the hopes the media of finally being able to work without the threat of targeted violence hanging over them. Many journalists continue to rely on close police protection.

Turkey (101st) is the region’s only country where a journalist was murdered. The victim was Hrant Dink, the editor of Armenian minority newspaper Agos, who was gunned down in January by radical nationalists.

The status quo has held in central Asia. No improvement has been seen in Uzbekistan (160th) or Turkmenistan (167th).