

## Murky world of e-book contracts

Has anyone signed a contract for an e-book, or had e-books included as part of a contract for a conventional paper-based book? If so, would you be happy to contact the Freelance Office, anonymously if necessary: email [freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto:freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk) and tell them what terms you were offered – royalty percentages (percentages of what?), fees or whatever contractual arrangement. The union is trying to find out what is going on in what seems to be an exceedingly murky world.

## O'Hagan suspect's case against *Sunday World* fails

Drew King, one of the men against whom charges of involvement in the murder of journalist Martin O'Hagan were withdrawn in July, has failed in his attempt to sue the *Sunday World* for harassment. Martin O'Hagan was murdered on Friday 28 September 2001 in front of his wife near his home in Lurgan, County Armagh. He had built a considerable reputation for reporting, in the *Sunday World*, on the criminal activities of paramilitary organisations of all kinds in the North of Ireland. For the full story, see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1010moh.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1010moh.html)

## SOME STORIES NOT IN THE PRINT EDITION

# Support photographer Daniel Morel

DANIEL MOREL is a Haitian-born photojournalist. On 12 January he opened a Twitter account and uploaded to [www.twitpic.com](http://www.twitpic.com) photographs that he had taken of that day's earthquake in Port au Prince – hoping that his images would reach the world and that he would receive remuneration and credit for them.

Later on the same day, Lisandro Suero of the Dominican Republic, pirates Morel's images and put them on his Twitter page. Agence France Presse (AFP) bought the pictures from Lisandro Suero's account, without Mr. Morel's knowledge or permission. It credited them "AFP/Getty Lisandro Suero". The photos were distributed to the wire's subscribers and members and used in multiple media around the world – without crediting Morel nor

remunerating him.

In March 2010, AFP decided to sue Daniel Morel. It claimed that Morel provided a non-exclusive licence to use his photographs through Twitter, that Morel was responsible for "commercial defamation" due to his lawyer's correspondence with third parties alleging that AFP infringed Morel's copyright, and accuses Morel of making unreasonable demands amounting to "antagonistic assertion of rights".

The European Federation of Journalists is sending our support to Daniel Morel. We express our deep concerns over the abuse made by AFP of copyright protected content published on social media without seeking prior authorisation nor offering any remuneration to the au-

thor. We call on social media to adopt clear, unambiguous terms of conditions that respect authors' rights (moral and economic rights) and limit any non-exclusive licence granted to users to specific, non-commercial uses only.

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European Federation of Journalists

- Meanwhile in Chile, writer Pablo Huneus has moved to assert the copyright of miner Jose Ojeda in his note "*Estamos bien en el refugio los 33*" ("We are okay in the refuge, the 33 of us"). Chile's President "reportedly considers the message part of the national heritage" and has been handing out copies to heads of state.

## Vacancies on NUJ Freelance Council

FREELANCE Industrial Council (FIC) is the NUJ body responsible for policy and activity on matters of concern to freelance members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: see [www.londonfreelance.org/fic/index.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fic/index.html) for details of what FIC does.

The Council has vacancies for members from the following demographics: the North East, Northern Ireland/Isle of Man, Black Members and Disabled Members. These last two groups are self-defining, but before you seek nomination, make sure that the NUJ's Membership Department have you listed as belonging to the group you are seeking

to represent. To ensure this, call Membership and tell them you wish to be recorded as belonging to that group (and also still listed as a freelance as well.) You also need to be up to date with your union subscriptions to stand.

The vacant seats run until the next Delegate Meeting (NUJ conference) in April 2011. Members are chosen for these vacant seats by election. To seek nomination by your Branch for one of these elected posts, contact your Branch Secretary in plenty of time for them to fill in the nomination forms, which need to reach NUJ HQ by post by **10 January**. For more in-

formation on the nominations process, email [leylay@nuj.org.uk](mailto:leylay@nuj.org.uk)

### Other Councils, too

Nominations are also now open for elections to vacant seats on these other NUJ industrial councils: – Scottish Executive, Welsh Executive, Broadcasting, Magazine and Book, Newspaper and Agencies, Ethics, New Media Industrial, Public Relations and Information. Most seats are reserved for members from a specific geographical region or demographic. For more details see the NUJ website, via [www.londonfreelance.org/nujlinks.html#Councils](http://www.londonfreelance.org/nujlinks.html#Councils)

## NUJ condemns police seizure of phone

THE NUJ is "alarmed" that a telephone belonging to a Londonderry-based journalist has been seized by police. Officers presented Eamonn MacDermott, who often writes about dissident republicans, with a warrant to confiscate the phone on Thursday.

The NUJ said it was a threat to journalists' rights to protect their sources' confidentiality. The PSNI said it would use all legal methods to carry out investigations.

The PSNI had by Friday afternoon returned the SIM card from the phone but not, as far as the *Freelance* was aware, the phone itself. "How many journalists are even aware of the distinction between their contacts living on the SIM card or in the phone's memory?" asked editor Mike Holderness. It said any member of the public who had a complaint to make about police ac-

tions could contact the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

Mr MacDermott believes the seizure relates to a call he received from the Real IRA following a bomb last year.

He stressed the importance of the phone to his career: "In the course of making a statement previously the police told me that they would be able to access my phone records," he said.

"I know they have accessed my phone records so I asked them why do they need the handset when they already have access to records and can access the records without any difficulty whatsoever?

"All [the officer] would tell me was it was part of an investigation and she refused to give me any details. I told her that this is my livelihood, as a freelance journalist my phone is my lifeblood, every contact

I have is in that phone."

NUJ General Secretary Jeremy Dear condemned the PSNI move: "Eamonn MacDermott is an established freelance journalist working in Northern Ireland, covering sensitive stories and with a wide range of contacts. The seizure of his phone and the accessing of his phone records by the police is another attack on the right of journalists to operate in Northern Ireland.

"The right to protect confidential sources of information is compromised when police act in this way and we take this action very seriously."

Last year, the PSNI failed in an attempt to force *Sunday Tribune* journalist Suzanne Breen to hand over notes on stories she had written about the Real IRA – see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0906suzy2.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0906suzy2.html)