Correspondence / Death and Diplomacy

I Should Always Believe Journalists, He Said, Adding: ‘Please Pray for Me.’

BY STEVEN ERLANGER

O N THE day that the American journalist Steven Erlanger was shot dead in Baghdad in 2004, he wrote a piece for The New York Times that was published on the front page the next day. It was a chilling meditation on the dangers of reporting in a war zone, and it was a reminder of the sacrifices journalists make to bring the truth to the world.

The article was titled “I Should Always Believe Journalists, He Said, Adding: ‘Please Pray for Me.’” Erlanger was a veteran foreign correspondent for The Times, and he had covered conflicts around the world, including the Balkans, the Middle East, and Iraq.

The article begins with a quote from a foreign correspondent who died in a war zone: “I should always believe journalists, he said, adding: ‘Please pray for me.’” Erlanger then goes on to describe the dangers of reporting in war zones and the sacrifices that journalists make to bring the truth to the world.

The article concludes with a call to action: “Let us honor his memory, and let us remember that the work of journalists is not easy, but it is essential.”

The article is a powerful reminder of the importance of journalism and the sacrifices that journalists make to bring the truth to the world. It is a reminder that the work they do is not always easy, but it is essential to a free and democratic society.

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