

MISA alerts

Throughout the year, MISA issues media alerts in the following 11 categories:



ASSAULTED

This includes any incident where journalists are physically assaulted, tortured, or wounded during the course of their work. The statistic refers to the number of media workers involved.



BOMBED

This includes incidents where a journalist's home or the office of a media house/outlet/organisation is sabotaged through bombing, arson, vandalism or theft. The statistic given is for the number of media workers or media organisations involved.



CENSORED

This covers incidents where information is prevented from being communicated. For example, issuing a gagging order, forcing editorial changes, using legislation like interdicts and court orders to stop information from being published, shutting down or suspending production and confiscating equipment or materials. The statistic given is for the number of media workers or media organisations involved.



DETAINED

This refers to an incident where a media worker is imprisoned or detained. It can be legal or illegal and includes being sentenced to a gaol term or being detained without charge or incommunicado, held for preventative reasons, or arrested. The statistic given is for the number of media workers involved.



EXPELLED

This includes incidents where journalists are expelled from, prevented from entering or leaving (such as by denying visas, work papers or accreditation), and / or generally inhibited from moving freely in a country or certain areas to perform their work. The statistic given is for the number of media workers involved.



KILLED OR MISSING

This tops the list in terms of severity, and there is no need to explain why. Included under this category are incidents where journalists have been killed, kidnapped or gone missing in circumstances that suggest a link to their work or role as a journalist. The statistic given is for the number of media workers involved.



LEGISLATED

This relates to all aspects of the legislative process and the application of common law. It includes instances where official proposals are made for new laws, legislation is passed, laws are amended or struck down either in Parliament or by the courts, and civil litigation is instituted against media. The statistic given is for the number of incidents reported.



SENTENCED

This is when a judgement is handed down against a media worker involving either a prison term or a fine. The statistic given is for the number of media workers involved.



THREATENED

This involves a threat from a public official, death threat, various forms of harassment (such as veiled warnings, threats of action, interference in editorial processes, cyber attacks, raids and forcibly occupying a home or office), or journalists being questioned or interrogated on their sources. The statistic given is for the number of media workers or media organisations involved.



VICTORY

This includes immediate victories for media workers or organisations including being released unconditionally, having charges dropped, winning or avoiding civil litigation, overturning gagging orders and being acquitted of criminal charges. This category also includes incidents that advance media freedom, access to information or freedom of expression in general. For example, favourable policy statements, media friendly laws or policies and favourable and precedent-setting court judgements. The statistic given is for the number of incidents reported.



VIOLATION OF PUBLIC FoE*

This category includes incidents that affect freedom of expression (FoE) or speech in general, and do not necessarily involve media workers or organisations. For example, cases of sedition against members of the public, general curbs on free speech and access to information, violations of the right to freedom of assembly and protest, restrictions on artistic or academic freedom and restrictions on access to public media. The statistic given is for the number of incidents reported.

How to report a media freedom violation or victory

What to report

Journalists and Free Expression activists who are:

- Assaulted;
- Arrested;
- Censored;
- Denied credentials;
- Harassed;
- Kidnapped;
- Killed;
- Missing;
- Threatened;
- Wrongfully expelled;
- Wounded; and/or
- Wrongfully sued for libel or defamation.

News organisations that are:

- Attacked or illegally searched;
- Censored;
- Closed by force;
- Raided, where editions are confiscated or transmissions are jammed or have materials confiscated or damaged; and / or
- Wrongfully sued for libel or defamation.

What to include in your report

To complete an accurate and relevant alert, please provide:

- The names of the journalists and news organisations involved;
- The date and circumstances of the incident; and
- Detailed background information.

Send your report to info@misa.org or call us on +264 61 232975.

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