



REPORT OF PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

OCTOBER 2018 - NOVEMBER 2019

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PREFACE

This report covers press freedom violation incidents which were reported directly by journalists and/or stakeholders to the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) or in the media and recorded in the Press Freedom Violations Register from October 2018 to November 2019.

Statements and reports from media institutions in Tanzania, such as Media Institute of Southern Africa Tanzania Chapter (MISA-Tan), Media Council of Tanzania (MCT); international organizations dealing with protection of journalists such as Reporters Without Borders, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Freedom House; human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Tanzania Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) all complementing MCT's Press Freedom Violations Register report have indicated a steady increase of different types of violations against journalists which to a larger extent are facilitated by existing laws and regulations as well as being perpetrated by government officials and law enforcers.

The passing and amendment of various laws to curtail the civic space has become the order of the day with the amendment of the Political Parties Act (2002) that led to a public debate about the proposed amendments. This act among other things prohibits political parties from acting as pressure groups and campaigning on public interest issues to influence public opinion or government action. This is a basic function of political parties and so such a section in the act means that they cannot perform their basic duties. There are significant fines imposed when Political Parties make statements considered false. Politics is a space of contested truth, politicians put forward different interpretations, narratives and ideas for moving forward, and citizens can choose which of these they like best.

Besides amendments of Political Parties Act, there came another Written Laws Miscellaneous Amendments Act No. 3 of 2019. Overall, taken together, the laws generally regulate how organizations, particularly CSOs are controlled by the government and affect how freely all citizens can express their views, participate in decisions that affect them and hold their

representatives accountable. The said Act amended the Companies Act Cap 212 (R.E2002); the Films and Stage Plays Act; Non-Governmental Organizations Act; the Societies Act and the Statistics Act. But even before these amendments citizens including political parties' leaders have been denied the rights to express their views even on the political platforms, many of them have been arraigned in courts on dubious criminal charges.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) works among other things, to ensure improved media enabling environment in Tanzania. This is done by monitoring and documenting the progress of the implementation of media laws in the country, but also recording attacks against freedoms of expression and information which lead to press freedom violations. It is with the support of this project that the Council is able to operate the Press Freedom Violations (PFV) Register that was established in 2012, the objective of which is to document, publish and follow up on press freedom violations. Operationalization of this involves sensitization engagement on press freedom violations; facilitating the regional focal points; maintaining the Press Freedom Violations Register database; publishing of the annual PFV report; and conducting Press Freedom Violations Investigation whenever circumstances demand.

The Council wants to ensure that press freedom violations are documented and published so that media houses, journalists associations and human rights defenders can have effective evidenced-based tools, while authorities, societal stakeholders and the public are provided with compelling narrations and empirical data. And this can be done only if the above-mentioned activities are well implemented. In the implementation of this project there have been a number of successes that include engaging the youth and mainstreaming gender; empowering of journalists, media managers, editors, press club coordinators,

CSOs and the public at large to understand the environment they operate in and best ways to navigate from the risks. But more importantly to influence better laws and policy frameworks that will create a conducive and enabling environment for the media industry to operate and guaranteed freedom of expression as well as the right to and access to information.

Of recent, denial to access information, threats, editorial interference, as well as self-censorship, have increased remarkably everywhere in Tanzania. From the recently concluded press freedom violations investigation that sample Dar es Salaam Region because of having the biggest number of media houses, newspapers, online TVs and radio stations findings show how big the problem of editorial interference is. Nonetheless, we have continued to witness the unprecedented suspension and fining of online TVs while banned newspapers that have won cases in court are still not in circulation on the huddles of the current legal and policy frameworks.

This report contains incidences drawn from all the incidences reported from October, 2018, to November, 2019. These violations have been reported by focal points, human rights defenders and individual journalists out of which some have been verified, some still on various verification stages and some of them have recorded in the Press Freedom Violations Register.

2.0 TRENDS IN PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

2.1 DENIAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

On Saturday of November 4, 2018 Triple A journalist Alphonse Kusaga was following a football match between Arusha United and Trans Camp at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha. The match ended in chaos caused by Trans Camp fans who were disputing a goal scored by Arusha United. As chaos continued Mr. Kusaga was taking

photos at the main stand where the Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo was seated. The RC ordered the Regional Police Commander to arrest the journalist, take the camera and delete all files in it. The RPC did as ordered but confiscated the camera as well. On Saturday, November 5, 2018, Arusha Press Club made a follow up of the incidence by contacting the RC's Office, which effort that led to the release of the camera. The leadership of Arusha Press Club and Sports Writers Association made a follow up with RPC on the incidence in a bid to establish the reasons why he took the journalist's camera.

In January 2019 a freelance journalist and the deputy chair of Central Press Club corresponding with the Mwananchi newspaper, Rahel Chibwete was denied information. Ms. Chibwete was following a story about the child of a house girl who had allegedly been locked in a wardrobe for five months by the mother's employer. The journalist failed to complete the story following obstacles from the Municipal Director of Dodoma Mr. Godwin Kunambi who was supposed to grant permission/ approval to Social Work Department. Despite her efforts to speak on phone with the Mr. Kunambi about the issues, she was told to speak with health officers dealing with the case because at that time the child was hospitalized at Dodoma Regional Hospital.

In January 2019 a journalist for Majira Newspaper in Kagera Region Ms. Ashura Jumapili was denied access to speak with the Health and Educations Officers for Kagera Region. She wanted to have concrete data and information regarding reports of children's health deficiency in Ruhunga ward. The journalist visited the Municipal Director's office, where she was required to introduce herself by the Municipal Director. She did as

guided and produced her identity card only to be told to bring an introduction letter from Kagera Press Club.

On February 4, 2019 journalists Selemani Shagata of Daily News and Suleiman Abeid of Majira newspaper were denied access to information from the Education Department in Shinyanga Region. The journalists submitted forms requesting for information to the Regional Administrative Secretary Albert Msovela who did not avail that information.

On 19 Jan-2019 there was a football match between Tabora and Arusha that ended with a win for Arusha. After the said match journalists Rashidi Rukungu of CG FM, Joseph Ndau of TV E, Samwel Malle of V.O.T FM and Juma Kapipi of Azam TV went to interview different people including the leaders of both teams. When they approached the leaders of the Tabora football team the team coach started canning them after other journalists opted to run away. The coach attempted to break the cameras. After that incidence Juma Kapipi who is also a leader of Tabora Press Club called the Regional Crime Officer of Tabora who brought police from the Field Force Unit to disperse people.

A journalist representing clouds Radio and TV in Tanga Region Zawadi Kika was on January 17, 2019, denied access to information when she went to a meeting organized by the PCCB Office in Tanga. The journalist was denied information on the reason that she was not invited to the said meeting.

In February 2019 journalists Jonathan Musa of Mwananchi Newspaper and Sylvester Bulengela of Star TV were arrested, their working tools confiscated and got detained to stop them from getting news. This incidence occurred in Mwanza when the journalist went to report an incident

involving citizens who went to Nyakato Police Station after rumors that the police were holding people who had been found in possession of heads of young children. Following this, the Media Council of Tanzania and other Human Rights Defenders made follow up and on the following day, the journalists were released without conditions.

On April 30, 2019 journalists Masanja Mabula of Channel 10, Zuhura Juma of Zanzibar Leo and Time Khamis of Radio Jamii were denied information by the coordinator of the participatory project of Tuberculosis, HIV/Aids, Hepatitis and leprosy after a seminar concerning hepatitis which was held in Pemba. After the seminar, these journalists wanted more information about Hepatitis B and C but the coordinator refused.

May 4, 2019 the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Job Ndugai, commanded all journalists covering the parliamentary sessions not to interview Members of the Parliament (MP) that were leaving an ongoing parliamentary session in protest. He threatened the journalists saying that they would be removed from their duties if they were seen speaking to any of the MPs.

Journalist Zuhura Juma and Maryam Salum of Zanzibar Leo and Fatma Hamad of Swahiba FM were on August 1, 2019, denied access to information at the Zanzibar Electoral Commission Offices. This happened when the three journalists went to one of the Senior Officers of ZEC in Pemba, Mr. Ali Mohamed Dadi who denied them the information they were seeking regarding the participation of women in the upcoming elections.

On 5 August 2019 Tom Wilson, Financial Times EA Correspondent applied for a press accreditation, sending

a letter to Patrick Kipangula of the Department of Information. As the FT's East Africa correspondent he asked for accreditation to visit the country to report on the economic and investment landscape. This was rejected on 15 August 2019. The Tanzania's government said there was no need for Tom Wilson to visit Tanzania to complete his reporting and that he could get the information he needed by emailing the government spokesperson. Carbon Tanzania then applied again on behalf of Tom in September to report a different story about the Hadza in northern Tanzania who were to receive a prize in New York the following week for a carbon exchange program. This was also rejected.

Again in August 2019 owner of domtzoneonline Blog, Editha Majura was denied information by the Police Department in Dodoma Region. There was information that a seven (7) years child was given poison in Dodoma. In a bid to establish the truth, she approached the police department to confirm the same. Unfortunately, she was denied cooperation.

In September 2019 an incident in Dodoma whereby a Nipashe journalist Renatha Msungu and two other journalists were denied access to information. The journalists got a hint that there was a meeting at Kilimani Club in Dodoma to resolve some management issues. Journalists sneaked into the meeting. But before the meeting started the leaders who are the "culprits" demanded that everyone in there to introduce themselves. The journalists were then ordered to leave the venue as they were not required inside the meeting room, and even after the meeting, none was ready to cooperate with them.

2.2 THREATS

In December 2018, Tanzania Daima Editor Martin Malera was summoned to appear before the central police in Dar es Salaam on charges relating to stories he published on the disappearance of businessman Mo Dewji. He was interrogated and released after some time.

On January 14, 2019, Majira Newspaper correspondent/journalist Deogratius Chechele was interviewing citizens on different challenges they were facing within the District of Gairo. His move to interview citizens made him clash with the Gairo District Commissioner Ms. Siriel Shaidi Mchembe who threatened him and ordered his arrest. Mr. Chechele was arrested and detained, interrogated and later he was arraigned in court on charges related to insulting the District Commissioner.

In January 2019 a journalist of ITV in Mwanza Cosmas Makongo was threatened at a restaurant because of the story he reported, where a public school was turned to a private school.

On May 3, 2019, the media industry was threatened by the Government which ordered radio and TV stations to stop reading newspaper content during their programs ostensibly to protect the newspaper market in the country.

On May 4, 2019, a group of journalists was threatened by the Speaker of Parliament that they would be removed from their duties if they were seen speaking to any of the MPs who had walked out of the chamber in protest

On August 7, 2019, a message was circulated on social media regarding a threat to journalists and some other prominent people and activists, warning them of impending unspecified danger, advising them to stay

within locations covered by CCTV cameras. The journalists mentioned in the message were Simon Mkina, Neville Meena, Eddo Kumwembe and Absalom Kibanda while others were Thabit Jacob, Aidan Eyakuze, Maria Sarungi, Fatuma Karume and Sammy Awami. The journalists believed that the threat was linked to their job as journalists and whoever was behind the threat, was doing so to stop them from telling the truth.

On August 13, 2019, a businessman Hamis Said who is accused of killing his wife Naomi Marijani and then burning her body threatened to harm photojournalists at the Kisutu Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam. He was apparently not happy being photographed and issued the threat in front of police officers. Hamis claimed that journalists were so busy taking photos of him and which he said, was very annoying to him.



Absalom Kibanda

On September 4, 2019, journalist Zuhura Juma Said writing for Zanzibar Leo in Pemba received a call from the Information Officer for North Pemba Mr. Masanja Mabula Shauri warning her not to report the incidence implicating Mr. Abdallah Ali Khatib who was accused of abduction. The information officer



Neville Meena

went on threatening the journalist by telling her that she has to stop her habit of following up on news that embarrass others and for her own safety she should not write the story.



Simon Mkina

On September 25, 2019, Ayo Online TV, Kwanza Online Tv and Watetezi were summoned by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to appear before the Content Committee on September 26, 2019, on account of one charge, that they had not made available to the users the Online Policy or guideline contrary to Regulation 5(1) (c) of the Electronic and Postal Communication (Online Content) Regulations. Being the Respondent they appeared and defended themselves before the committee but in the end, the Committee warned and fined Ayo TV to pay Five Million Tanzanian Shillings.

In October 2019 Minister for Transport Mr. Kamwele warned warned those who produced false information about the coming of the new ATCL plane two days before the said plane arrived.



Eddo Kumwembe

2.3. KIDNAPPING AND DISAPPEARANCE

On Monday, July 29, 2019, a freelance and investigative journalist, Erick Kabendera was abducted by unknown assailants from his home in Dar es Salaam. The witness and neighbors reported that the abductors introduced themselves as police officers. However when Dar es Salaam Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa was asked, he denied receiving any report on Kabendera. On Tuesday, July 30, 2019, the Police confirmed that Kabendera was in their custody for questioning over the status of his citizenship. Kabendera is reporting for various local, regional and international newspapers and

publications.

On December 4, 2019, journalist George Bahamu a representative of Radio Kwizera FM in Tabora was kidnapped and found in the bush at the Ipili area in Tabora. The incidence was confirmed by the Regional Police Commander Barnabas Mwakalukwa when speaking with EATV & EA Radio Digital, who said “any kidnapped person cannot make a call to report



*Dar es Salaam Police
Commander Lazaro
Mambosasa*

on his whereabouts. The victim has personal issues, I have instructed the OCD to investigate because kidnappers wouldn't leave him in the state he can even make calls.” Reports show Bahamu was missing from December 4, 2019, and found on December 5, 2019.

On November 21, 2019, the disappearance of Azory Gwanda, who was Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL) correspondent reporting from Kibiti District, Coast Region, marked two years. This is a sad state of affair with no concrete statement from the police and other security organs about the commencement and or progress of an investigation but yet with contradicting statements from government leaders.

2.4 ARREST AND DETENTION

On October 2, 2018, three journalists were arrested by police in Umba Village in Kalambo District, Rukwa Region. Mussa Mwangoka of Mwananchi newspaper, Gulan Adolf of Nipashe newspaper and Sammy Kisika of Azam TV were arrested as they were covering a story about a land dispute between residents of the village and the Tanzania

Forest Services (TFS). The dispute had been raging for a while with no solution in sight. This, understandably, attracted journalists' attention. As the three journalists were covering the story, police officers showed up and arrested them. They were not only threatened but also denied information.

On October 9, 2018, two journalists Friday Simbaya of the Guardian newspaper and Mohab Fulwe from an online news site were arrested by Tanzania Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) officers in Iringa and taken to Dar es Salaam. At Dar es Salaam they were interrogated and later were charged with providing online content without a license from TCRA in their respective areas of operation. Prosecutors said Fulwe operated an online station known as Mohab TV without a license.

On January 14, 2019, Majira Newspaper correspondent/journalist Deogratius Chechele was interviewing citizens on different challenges they are facing within the District of Gairo. His move to interview citizens made him clash with the Gairo District Commissioner Ms. Sirel Shaidi Mchembe who threatened him and ordered his arrest. Mr. Chechele was arrested and detained, interrogated and later he was arraigned in court on charges related to insulting the District Commissioner.

In February 2019 journalists Jonathan Musa of Mwananchi Newspaper and Sylvester Bulengela of Star TV were arrested, their working tools confiscated and they were detained to stop them from getting news. This incidence occurred in the Mwanza region when the journalist went to report an incident involving the citizens who went to Nyakato Police Station after the news that the police were holding people who had allegedly been found in

possession of heads of young children.

Two journalists in Njombe, one being Hamis Kasapa the Secretary of the Njombe Press Club were on February 22, 2019, arrested and their phones confiscated on the allegation of spreading false information on the killings of children in Njombe. Mr. Kasapa who is also a journalist reporting for Uplands FM was arrested while on duty when reporting the children killing incidences.

On March 8, 2019, a journalist for Majira in Katavi George Mwigulu was arrested while doing his job. According to the journalist, Katavi Press Club received a letter from ACT Wazalendo inviting them to participate and make coverage while commemorating the women's day, in which ACT Wazalendo planned to march from their office to the Municipal Hospital. The journalist further stated that there was a letter that directed ACT Wazalendo not to march to the hospital; instead, they should find their own means to get to the hospital and mark their commemorations. While at the hospital gate the police vehicle arrived and started dispersing people, and Mr. Mwingulu was taking photos of the incidence when he was arrested and his camera taken.

In March 2019 a journalist reporting for ITV in Arusha Mr. Basil Elias was arrested and denied bail for what was said to be executing an order from above. According to the journalist he visited the where he had been informed by one resident that there was sewage flowing into clean water pipes. Before going there, he had however, informed officials of the regional water and sewerage authority (AUWASA) who also went with him to the area. To his surprise on their way back he was taken to the police station where he got arrested, detained and denied bail. Following

pressure from the Arusha Press Club, the journalist was released on bail on the following day on the condition that he should be reporting to the Arusha Central Police Station while the police are doing investigation on his charges. After he reported several times he was told not to report up until he is being called.

In April 2019 George Mwita, a journalist from Radio Baraka FM was arrested and being detained for sometimes because of interfering with the president's motorcade without having an identity to identify him as a journalist. This happened when the president had his visit in Njombe.

Following kidnapping reports of Eric Kabendera from various sources, on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, from the statement given by Dar es Salaam Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa during the press conference, he confirmed that they were holding him for interrogation and working closely with the Immigration Department to establish citizenship status of Mr. Kabendera who reports for various local, regional and international newspapers and publications. This prompted the Media Council of Tanzania and other human rights defenders to release a statement condemning the manner in which the arrest was carried that was similar to apprehending a bandit in front of his family members and neighbors. The statement also questioned why the police had first denied holding Kabendera, then later said it was true, but also the statement questioned the reason for changing charges from citizenship to economic sabotage.

On August 22, 2019, a Production editor and associate head of Watetezi TV, Joseph Gandye received a call from a police officer who identified himself by the name Godfrey Mkude demanding him to report at Urafiki police station in Dar

es Salaam for interrogation where he was arrested immediately. Police said they arrested Gandye on suspicion of publishing false news in contravention of the Cyber Crimes Act, according to a Facebook post from the coalition. Mr. Gandye was arrested by the Police in Dar es Salaam at the request of their colleagues in the central region of Iringa and on 23rd August 2019, he was transferred to



Joseph Gandye

Iringa. Mr. Gandye was arrested for reporting an incident involving six young men (confidentiality is observed) residents of Mafinga, who were arrested and tortured by police officers and were reportedly battered and forced to commit sodomy against each other while at the police station.

On Saturday, August 24, 2019, Dar mpya Online TV circulated a breaking news alert that journalist Haruna Mapunda of Gillbony Online TV had been arrested by police when he was reporting the opening of opposition party ACT-Wazalendo Branch in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region. Haruna was taken by police and detained at Chang'ombe Police Station.

On September 3, 2019, the Mwanza Police Force arrested three journalists, Lilian Kidahya, Ezila Peter and Godfrey Kalabi on allegations of stealing car equipment belonging to Sahara Media Group. The company owns Star TV, Radio Free Africa and Kiss FM. The journalists were bailed out after being held at Kirumba police station in Mwanza but they have disputed the allegations and further stated that the charges have been fabricated to deny them their dues

against their former employer and their arrest came after they decided to camp within Sahara premises to push the company to pay their outstanding dues.

On September 7, 2019. A freelance journalist, Sebastian Emmanuel Atilio was arrested by police in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, for allegedly falsifying information and working without being registered by the Accreditation Board. Sebastian was reporting a land dispute between Ifupilo village and the Unilever Tea Tanzania Ltd and Mufindi Tea Tanzania Ltd or Rift Valley Holding Ltd. On Tuesday, September 10, 2019, the journalist was arraigned before Hon. Edward Uforo at the Mufindi District Magistrate's Court in Mafinga, Iringa on Criminal Case No. 208 of 2019 on charges of publishing false news and working without registering with the board contrary to sections 54(1) and 50(2) (b) of the Media Services Act, 2016 respectively. The charges that were denied by the accused person. Unexpectedly the public prosecutor filed a Criminal Application No. 11 of 2019 moving the court to deny bail against the accused person using section 148 (5) of the Criminal Procedure Act, Cap 20 [RE] 2002. Following that the court granted the Respondent/ Accused an opportunity to file a Counter-Affidavit by September 16, 2019, and schedule for hearing of the Application on September 18, 2019. Since the accused/journalist was not granted bail he was remanded in custody of Isupilo Prison in Mufindi until September 18 when he will be taken back to court for the hearing of bail application.

On September 17, 2019, a journalist by the name Chibura Makorongongo was arrested and detained by the Regional Crimes Officer one Patrick Sanane in Shinyanga. The journalist was accused of sending two short messages using his mobile phone related to the Prison Department

Shinyanga and another one about the country's top leaders. The first one was about two women who got pregnant while in remand. And another story was about a woman from Kishapu District who was arrested following murder accusations against the husband. Eventually, the husband was released and the woman stayed and gave birth while in remand until the child reached 10 years without any formal education. Later on the journalist was released but his mobile phones were confiscated.

2.5 CONFISCATION OF EQUIPMENT

On Saturday of November 4, 2018, Triple-A journalist Alphonse Kusaga was following a football match between Arusha United and Trans camp playing league one at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha. The match ended up in chaos caused by Trans camp fans who were disputing a goal won by Arusha United. As chaos continued Mr. Kusaga was taking photos at the main stand where the Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo was seated. The RC ordered the Regional Police Commander to arrest the journalist, take the camera and delete all files in it. The RPC did as ordered but also confiscated the camera.

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2.6 FINES: TWO ONLINE TV STATIONS FINED TZS 5 MILLION EACH

Watetezi Online TV and Ayo Online TV Watetezi TV were on September 25, 2019, summoned by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to appear before the Content Committee on September 26, 2019, on the account of one charge, that they have not made available to the users the Online Policy or guideline contrary to Regulation 5(1) (c) of the Electronic and Postal Communication (Online Content) Regulations. Watetezi TV being Respondent appeared and defended

themselves unsuccessfully. The management of Watetezi TV complains of the ambiguous nature of the Regulations which gives the Committee unlimited powers to interpret the Regulations as it wishes. The Respondent informed the committee that, they have the Online Policy or Guidelines but the Regulations do not expressly provide on how to make them available to users

2.7 SUSPENSION/ BANNING

On February 27, the Information Services Department, which oversees newspaper licenses, temporarily suspended the license of The Citizen on accusations that it published reports that were false, misleading, and seditious. The order extended to the newspaper's online edition. The suspension order said that on February 23, 2019, the newspaper published an article reporting the depreciation of the Tanzanian shilling against the U.S. dollar that was false and misleading because only the Bank of Tanzania could release information on currency rates.

On September 25, 2019, Kwanza Online TV was summoned by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to appear before the Content Committee on account of two charges. First charge was, not adhering to journalistic professionalism and ethics and that the news reported intended to mislead the public. Kwanza Online TV had reported an accident that involved the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) for health, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima that was posted on their Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages contrary to Regulation 7(1)(a) & (b) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, 2018 read together with Regulation 15(2) (b) (c) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Radio

and Television Content Broadcast) Regulations, 2018. The second charge was that Kwanza Online TV does not have/ has not printed or published an Online Policy or Guideline contrary to Regulation 5(1) (c) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, 2018. Following that on September 26, 2019, the management of Kwanza Broadcasting Ltd that own Kwanza Online TV appeared before the Content Committee constituted of Vice Chairman-Joseph Mapunda and Members - Abdul Ngarawa, Derek Murusuri and Jacob Tesha. But before advancing their defense they asked the Committee for some clarification which was declined instead instructed them to present their defense. In the end, the committee suspended Kwanza Online TV for six (6) months.

3.0 WAY FORWARD

Reports from the focal points clearly suggest an urgent need to address the prevailing situation by employing short and long term measures. There are number of issues being raised as challenges in doing their work as focal points which also affects the journalists directly. They pointed out that refraining from committing violations against the media and media practitioners abiding by professional code of conduct as an urgent measure while dialogue and finding common ground on contentious issues was mentioned as a long term measure.

The reports also show that further deterioration in the working relationship between the journalists and government or institutions who are their sources and ideally expected to work hand in hand and as partners in enhancing the well- being of the public and the nation as a whole, is not healthy. Even the research conducted by MCT on the ATI efficacy has the same findings.

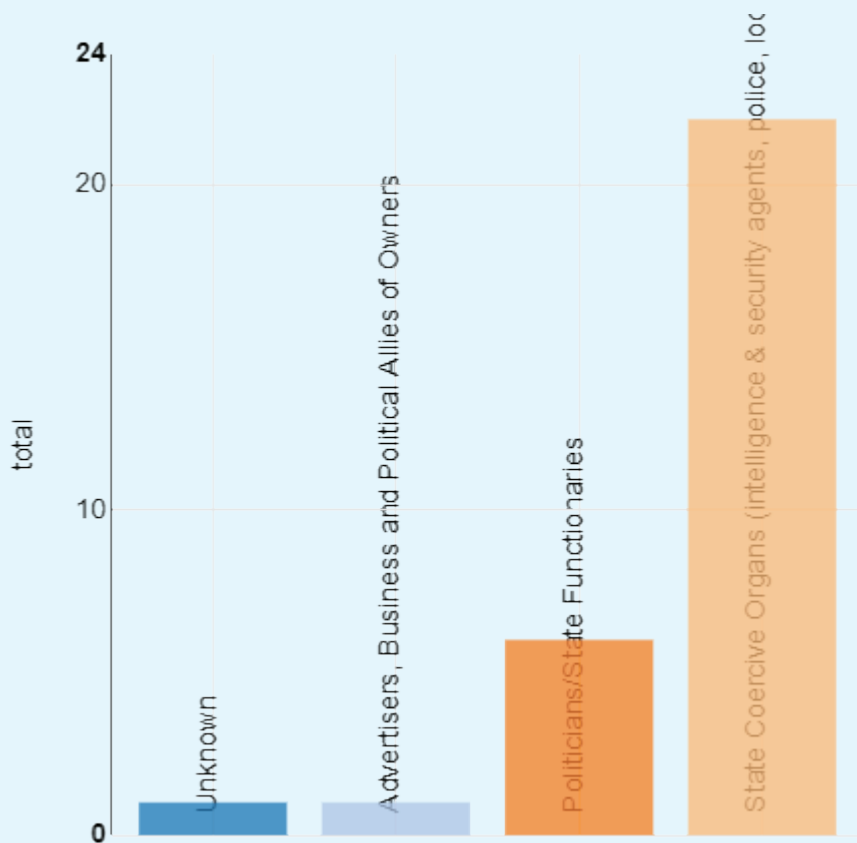
The focal points pointed out an increase of threats to journalist and media workers that leads to self-censorships but worse enough make them fearful even to report violations against themselves or their fellow journalist.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the focal points reports the allegations on press freedom violations reported and those verified and recorded in the register against the journalists, editors, media managers, and media houses are true and have great consequences not only to individual journalists and the media industry but also to the nation as a whole. While the media, government and other key stakeholders have the role to play in addressing the situation, we call upon an amicable approach in handling this bad state of affair considering the fact that we are heading to the general election were experience shows that press freedom violations always increase to greater numbers. It cannot be overemphasized that, making a timely intervention to the situation will benefit both the media industry and the entire nation. This is because strong and independent media is key to the healthy growth of democracy and the prosperity of the nation.

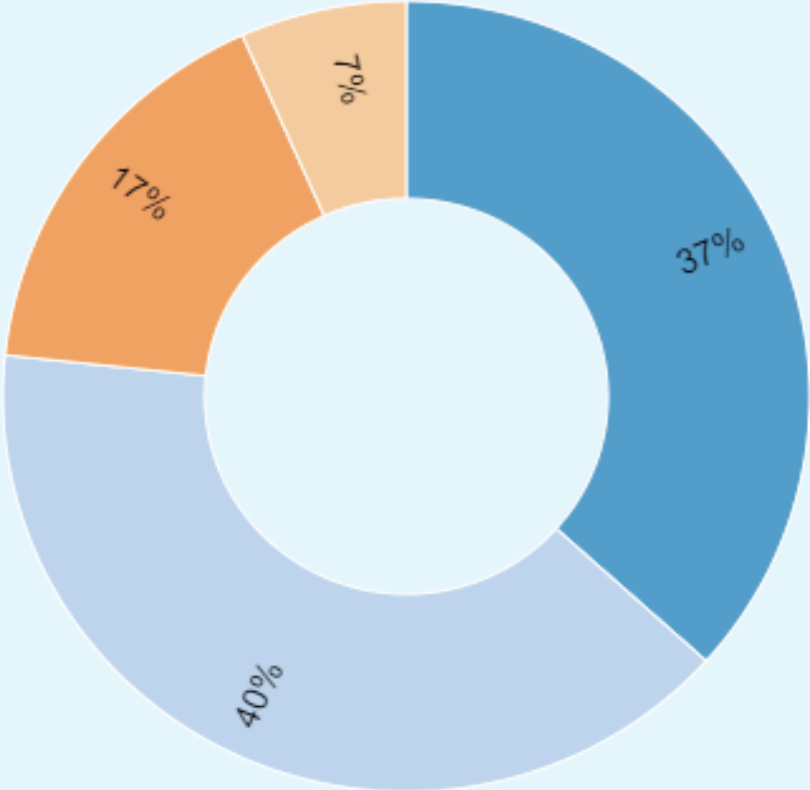
“A critical, independent, and investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy. The press must be free from state interference.”
Nelson Mandela – February 1994

Incidents per Culprit Type



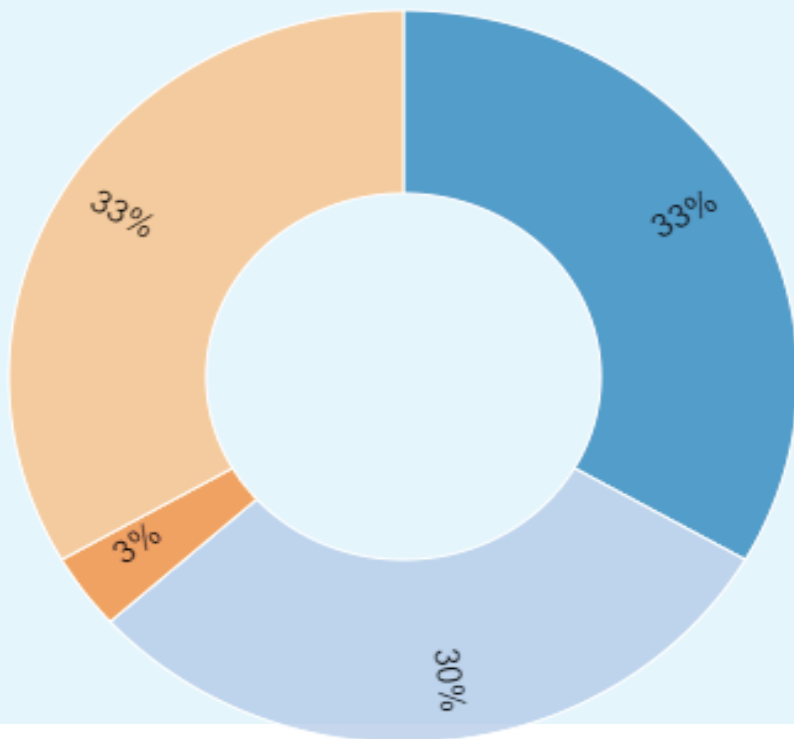
Incidents per Media Type

● Online Media ● Print ● Radio ● TV



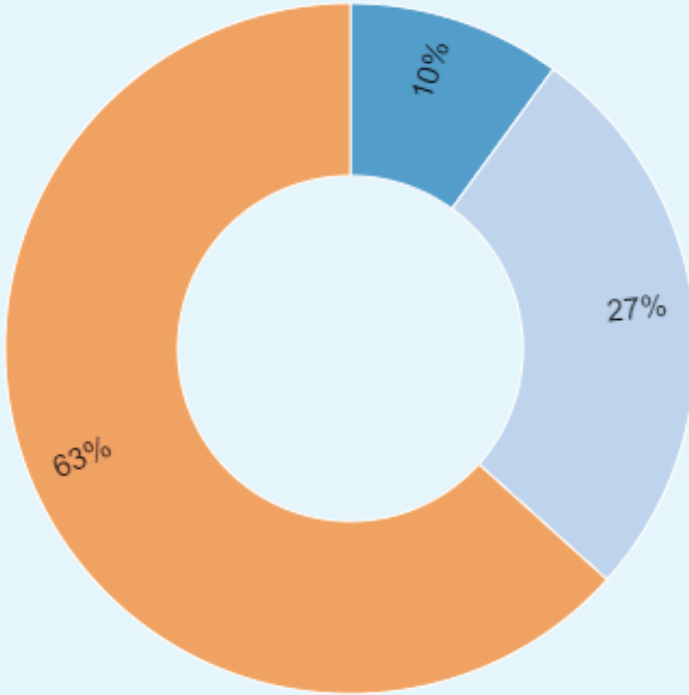
Incidents per Severity

● Critical ● High ● Low ● Medium



Incidents per Gender

● Unknown ● Female ● Male





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