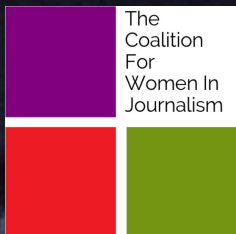


PRESS FREEDOM STATUS FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS: SEPTEMBER 2021



**2021
MONTHLY
REPORT**

Photo Credit: AFP

ABOUT US

The Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ) is a global organization of support for women journalists. The CFWIJ pioneered mentorship for mid-career women journalists across several countries around the world and is the first organization to focus on the status of free press for women journalists. Our network of individuals and organizations brings together the experience and mentorship necessary to help female career journalists navigate the industry. Our goal is to help develop a strong mechanism where women journalists can work safely and thrive.

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Throughout the month of September 2021, The Coalition For Women In Journalism documented 61 cases of violations against women journalists. Types of violations include detentions, legal harassment, and physical assaults in the field, among other various kinds of press freedom attacks towards women journalists reporting from different parts of the world.

12 women journalists were attacked in the field:

Lebanon: Reporter for Al Jadeed TV, Loyal Saad was denied entry to Baabda Presidential Palace. The reporter was on location to cover a cabinet meeting.

Turkey: At least three women journalists were impeded by the police forces while following September 1 World Peace Day demonstration in İstanbul.

Turkey: Seven women journalists were prevented from following the Kobani Trial which took place in Ankara.

United States: Sports director for WTOC11, Lyndsey Gough, endured intimidation from random fans and spectators while reporting from the Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta on September 5.



At least 10 women journalists were physically assaulted:

Afghanistan: A woman journalist was beaten and her equipment was broken by the Taliban forces while covering the women's demonstrators at Dasht-e-Barchi.

Montenegro: Aleksandra Tolj Ruzic, a correspondent for N1 TV, was harassed and attacked while covering a demonstration in Cetinje.

Nigeria: Officers from The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) broke into Norah Okafor's house in the middle of the night without any prior notice. They harassed Norfah's family and damaged her property.

Slovenia: A group of people stormed into the RTV Slovenija's (RTVS) headquarters in Ljubljana in protest against the measures to limit COVID-19 in the country.

Tunisia: Security forces attacked at least 9 journalists, including three women, while they were following the anti-government protest in Tunis on World Peace Day.

Turkey: At least two women journalists were physically assaulted by the police forces while following September 1 World Peace Day demonstration in Istanbul.



Seven women journalists were detained:

Belarus: The editor of the "Green Portal", Yanina Melnikova was detained for 72 hours. Security forces raided the journalist's house and took Yanina for interrogation.

China: Sophia Huang Xueqin, a freelance journalist, activist, and a leading figure in China's #MeToo movement has reportedly gone missing. There are concerns that Chinese authorities might have apprehended the journalist.

Myanmar: Freelance journalist Ma Thuzar was abruptly taken into custody by military officials earlier this month.

Poland: Agnieszka Kaszuba was briefly detained along with her team for reporting about the arrest of migrants on the Polish-Belarusian border.

Russia: Three women journalists were detained by the police in Moscow while picketing outside the Ministry of Justice on September 8.

Three women journalists faced threats:

India: Journalist Trishna Das was verbally abused and threatened with death while she was traveling between cities.

Slovenia: Journalist at the public broadcaster RTV Slovenia, Eugenija Carl received a threatening handwritten note alongside a suspicious white powder.



United States: A sportswriter and beat reporter for the San Francisco Giants, Susan Slusser was accosted by a drunk man as she left Oracle Park after the game.

Seven cases of legal harassment came to light:

Bangladesh: Rozina Islam, the award-winner investigative journalist, appeared in court to defend herself on a baseless criminal charge for which she faces up to 14 years in prison.

Belarus: State authorities searched the apartment of ex-TV broadcaster Katerina Pytleva on September 7. The journalist fled the country earlier this year after facing threats of a possible criminal case against her.

India: A baseless police complaint was registered against Rana Ayyub by state-backed political workers. Further details about the issue are available [here](#).

Iran: The General Directorate of Prisons in Bushehr filed a criminal complaint against journalist and political prisoner Sepideh Qolijan, who is on leave from prison.

Pakistan: The court refused to accommodate Tenzeela Mazhar's medical concerns during her hearing. Tanzeela is currently pregnant and nursing a fractured foot.

Turkey: An investigation was launched against Jinnews reporter Öznur Değer regarding her posts and stories about the assassination of seven people in the same family in Konya.

Turkey: The court sentenced Nurcan Kaya to fifteen months in prison over terror-related charges and deferred the announcement of the verdict.



20 instances of organized troll campaigns were recorded:

Canada: Journalist Christy Somos received vile emails after politician Maxime Bernier tweeted out her email address alongside several of her colleagues.

Canada: Journalist Saba Eitizaz was targeted with misogynist and racist threats online. Following her declaration on Twitter, at least six women journalists revealed they were exposed to similar attacks.

Canada: At least eight women journalists received vile emails after right-wing politician Maxime Bernier tweeted a provocative message to his followers.

Pakistan: Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry casually labeled prominent journalists and media houses in the country as being “agenda-driven” on Absa Komal’s and Humaira Shah’s shows. The journalists faced vicious online trolling in the aftermath.

Pakistan: Gharidah Farooqi, a prominent TV host, was attacked by an organized troll campaign after she expressed her views on the Single National Curriculum introduced by the government.

Pakistan: Journalist Benazir Shah was targeted by an organized troll campaign instigated by Focal Person (Digital Media) to CM Punjab, Azhar Mashwani, after she reported on the Single National Curriculum.

Pakistan: Gharidah Farooqi faced a second harassment campaign against her within the same month. The vile, deeply gendered campaign was based on false allegations and heresy.



One woman journalist faced online harassment:

Switzerland: Cathy Macherel was targeted with vicious insults by far-right essayist and filmmaker Alain "Soral" Bonnet.

At least one woman journalist faced sexual harassment:

India: Journalist Greeshma Kuthar was harassed by a man while traveling at night. According to Kuthar, the incident took place at a prominent junction in Anna Nagar.



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