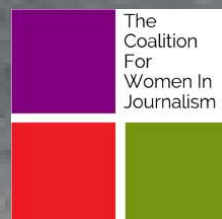




HALF-YEARLY REPORT JANUARY TO JUNE 2020

2020
REPORT



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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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OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT

This report presents a review of the threats women journalists have faced in the first six months of 2020. From January to June, The Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ) monitored cases of violence and threats against women journalists. From kidnapping to murder and online harassment to attacks on the ground, women journalists have been subjected to violence both online and offline. Attempts to silence their journalism were observed through state persecution and weaponization of law among other tactics. The report reflects the deteriorating working conditions in which women journalists continue to do their jobs and remain vulnerable to various attacks. CFWIJ has prepared this report using first-hand information, publicly available news and updates from different regions across the world. Cases that have not been publicly reported have been excluded from this document to maintain the individual's privacy.





REVIEW REPORT: CASE OF THREATS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN JOURNALISTS IN SEPTEMBER

From January to June 2020, The Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ) documented at least 267 cases of threats to women journalists across different regions in the world. Among the total number of cases and threats documented, at least 67 women journalists faced various attacks for their reporting on Covid-19.

Although in quantity most number of cases CFWIJ documented took place in the USA in the form of belittlement by the President Trump and impediment at work during #BlackLivesMatter protests the most dangerous countries for women journalists for the first half of 2020 were Mexico, Nigeria, Egypt and Turkey. In Mexico two women journalists were brutally murdered for doing journalism whereas in Egypt and Turkey numerous women journalists were arrested and faced legal harassment. In Nigeria women journalists were threatened and two women journalists were abducted.

The most number of cases documented by CFWIJ involved attacks and impediment in the field. At least 67 women journalists faced hurdles when reporting on the ground. During the first half of the year, we lost two women journalists in Mexico after they were ruthlessly murdered with impunity, while one journalist from Peru went missing, and two were abducted in Nigeria during May and June, respectively. Lawsuits and unjustified charges against 34 journalists were documented. Online harassment was rampant during the first six months of 2020. At least 27 cases related to abuse, hate, trolling and bullying online were documented by CFWIJ. Twenty five women journalists were arrested on different occasions across the world.



Review Report: Case of threats and violence against women journalists in September

Physical assaults constituted 19 cases across the world, while 17 cases of detention were noted in the first half of the year. At least 15 women journalists were subjected to verbal harassment, while 13 were threatened and intimidated with violence. CFWIJ also documented at least 11 cases of workplace harassment, which included unfair labor practices by publications and media organizations, invasion of privacy of employees, and sacking of women journalists on grounds of social media usage, among others. Eight cases of sexism were documented. Seven cases each of state oppression and sexual harassment were also identified. Five women journalists were targeted through racial attacks. CFWIJ also documented three cases of gender discrimination, as well as two cases each of torture during imprisonment and physical attacks from January to June, respectively.

MURDER COUNT

In the first half of 2020, two women journalists were murdered in Mexico between January to June. The country has been a hotbed of femicides, but when women journalists are killed, the motives that lead to their killings are often linked to their work in the profession.



Maria Elena Ferral Hernández

Maria Elena Ferral Hernández – a journalist known for her reporting on corruption, crime and the police – was shot dead by two men on a motorcycle in Papantla, Veracruz on March 30. The reasons behind her murder were unclear, but reports suggested that she was allegedly targeted for her writings as a journalist. Maria's killers remain at large with impunity till date. Maria, 55, had written a column titled 'The Power Struggle' for La Polaca Totonaca a few days before her murder. The column was about the murders of four politicians who wanted to occupy the municipal presidency of Gutiérrez Zamora. This was not the first time Maria was threatened by the political elite in Mexico. In 2016, she received threats from a local political candidate from Veracruz. Through a video released on her social media, Maria shared that Camerino Basilio Picazo Pérez – the former mayor of Coyutla – was sending her death threats. The state commission for protecting journalists provided her security when she was harassed and threatened by other politicians as well. However, the protection was later withdrawn by the government.

Teresa Aracely Alcocer Carmona

Teresa Aracely Alcocer Carmona, a radio host, was shot outside her home in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua on February 19. She was attacked by a group of unknown gunmen, who opened fire at her and fled the scene. The 37-year-old radio host of an astrology programme, Teresa aka Bárbara Greco, worked for a local radio channel La Poderosa. She was known for her views about violence against women and children in Mexico. It was alleged that she had been targeted for being vocal about the case of a seven-year-old girl killed in Mexico City. Teresa's murder came as another brutal attack following the increasing rates of femicides in Ciudad Juarez. Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries for journalists. In 2019, Norma Sarabia – a journalist at the local newspaper Tabasco Hoy – was shot dead in the south-east city of Tabasco. Her killers fled the scene and remain at large.



OVERVIEW: IMPRISONMENTS

Between January to June 2020, at least 32 women journalists were imprisoned in different countries around the world. Three were released in January and February this year. Iran has the most number of journalists behind the bars with six (18.8%) women journalists awaiting justice, while China follows its lead by locking five (15.6%) women journalists in prisons. Turkey is another country that persecutes its women journalists, it also has at least five (15.6%) journalists locked across its different prisons. Egypt has incarcerated at least four (12.5%) women journalists. Saudi Arabia has five (15.6%) and Burundi have two (6.3%) women journalists jailed, while the Philippines, Vietnam, Palestine, and Syria and Laos have all kept at least one (3.1%) woman journalist behind bars. This country-wise breakdown below provides details about journalists who remained imprisoned in the first-half of 2020.



IRAN

Narges Mohammadi was arrested in May 2015. On 18 May 2016, the Revolutionary Court of Iran sentenced her to 16 years of imprisonment on several counts including for “membership in the [now banned] Step by Step to Stop the Death Penalty” group.

Avisha Jalaledin is still behind bars since February 2018. She was arrested for their peaceful participation in a protest in Tehran by members of the persecuted minority, which turned violent when security forces used water cannons, firearms, and tear gas to disperse the crowds.

Hengameh Shahidi, a journalist who is currently serving a seven-and-a-half-year prison sentence, was arrested in December 2018. The court sentenced her to 12 years and nine months in prison primarily for criticizing Judiciary Chief Sadegh Larijani. On March 9, her lawyer Mostafa Turk Hamedani tweeted that the authorities granted his client temporary release until April 5, on suspicion that she had contracted the coronavirus.

Noushin Jafari was arrested in May 2019. She worked as a reporter for a pro-reform daily Sharq. Marzieh was prosecuted for reporting about a workers' rally on International Workers' Day in Tehran. She was sentenced to ten and a half years in jail and 147 lashes by an Islamic Revolutionary Court.

Zoreh Sarve was arrested in March 2020. She has been charged for “insulting the founder of the regime”, “propaganda against the regime” and “meetings and conspiracy against national security”. and was sentenced to three years along with a punishment of reading the Quran.

Sepideh Qolliyan has been imprisoned since June 21, 2020. She reported to prison and began serving her sentence after being issued a five-year jail sentence for covering a rally by the Haft Tappeh sugar mill workers for unpaid wages. Sepideh was arrested in November 2018 in Shush for reporting the rally. She was released on bail on February 9, 2020. However, she returned to jail after being sentenced.



CHINA

Gulmira Imin was arrested on charges of “Splittism, leaking state secrets, and organizing an illegal demonstration” in July 2009. She participated in a major demonstration protesting the deaths of Uighur migrant workers in Guangdong Province on July 5. Gulmira was taken into custody on July 14, after authorities alleged she had organized the protests. The court sentenced her to life imprisonment.

Atikem Rozi has been in prison since February 2014. She was detained at an undisclosed location in Xinjiang on charges of participating in alleged separatist activities led by Ilham Tohti, founder of the Xinjiang news website Uighurbiz.

Wang Shurong is still behind bars for three years and 10 months. She had been volunteering for several years as a citizen journalist with the website 64 Tianwang Human Rights Center when she was detained in February 2016.

Chimengul Awut has been arrested since in 2018. She was sent to a re-education camp for her involvement in editing a novel that the Chinese government has taken issue with.

Zhang Zhan was arrested in May this year. She remains detained in Shanghai after she commented on Twitter on the authorities’ countermeasures to contain the virus charged with undermining authorities.

TURKEY

Hatice Duman was arrested in July 2003. She was sentenced to life imprisonment for managing a terrorist organization. She appealed her case to the Court of Cassation in 2012 which was rejected.

Hanım Büşra Erdal has been behind bars since July 2016. She was sentenced to six years and three months imprisonment for being a member of an armed terrorist organization.

Ayşenur Parıldak was sent to prison in August 2016. She was arrested on charges of membership of a terrorist organization, sentenced to 7,5 years in prison.

Müyesser Yıldız was detained alongside with TELE1 TV Ankara Representative İsmail Dükel on June 8, 2020, by Ankara Counter-Terrorism Branch of the State Police Department.

Hülya Kılınç was arrested in March 2020. She has been sued for her news article about an MIT (Turkey's National Intelligence Organization) member who died in Libya.

SAUDI ARABIA

Nouf Abdulaziz Al Jerawi detained by Saudi authorities on June 10, 2018 because of her support to Lojain Al-Hathloul, Eman Al-Nafajan, and Aziza Al-Yousef, who protested against the ban on driving of women with charges of "being an enemy of the state".

Nassima al-Sada has been detained since July 2018 without charge or trial. She was placed in solitary confinement since early February 2019, in al-Mabahith Prison in Dammam.

Maha Al-Rafidi was arrested during a crackdown against activists, journalists and writers across the Kingdom on September 28, 2019. She has been kept behind bars without being sentenced.

Zana Al-Shahri was arrested in September 2019, when the Saudi authorities went on a spree to arrest and detain dissidents, journalists and human rights defenders. There has been no update about Zana's fate ever since she was taken into custody.

Loujain Al-Hathloul was detained in May 2018, and has been kept behind bars by Saudi authorities. She was taken into custody for her activism related to women's rights and human rights abuses in the kingdom.



EGYPT

Shorouq Amjad Ahmed al Sayed was arbitrarily arrested without a legal basis in September 2017. She is charged with “joining Muslim Brotherhood” and “publishing news that preach public peace”.

Esraa Abdel Fatah was arrested in October 2019. She was taken into custody in a series of arrests targeting human rights defenders, journalists, and activists after they took to the streets against el-Sisi’s regime and his luxurious lifestyle.

Shaima Sami, a journalist and former researcher for the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, was arrested from her home in Alexandria by the Egyptian security forces in May 2020. Her arrest came several days after other journalists in the country have also been detained and arrested for reporting on Covid-19. She has since been incarcerated with no signs of freedom in sight.

Sanaa Seif was detained on June 23. She was protesting outside the prosecutor's office, after which she was forced into a minivan and escorted to the national security prosecution office. She was interrogated for inciting protests and spreading rumors of health conditions due to COVID-19. However, the authorities did not release her.

BURUNDI

Agnès Ndirubusa was arrested in December 2019. She has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison and a fine of one million Burundian francs for “trying to undermine state security”.

Christine Kamikazi was also arrested in December 2019. She has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison and a fine of one million Burundian francs for “trying to undermine state security”.



PHILIPPINES

Frenchimae Cumpio was arrested along with four human rights activists on February 6, 2020. She was taken into custody during simultaneous raids across the Tacloban city targeting journalists and human rights activists. She is still in pretrial detention.

VIETNAM IN FOCUS

Huynh Thuc Vy was sentenced in November 2018 to two years and nine months in prison on charges of defacing the country's national flag.

PALESTINE

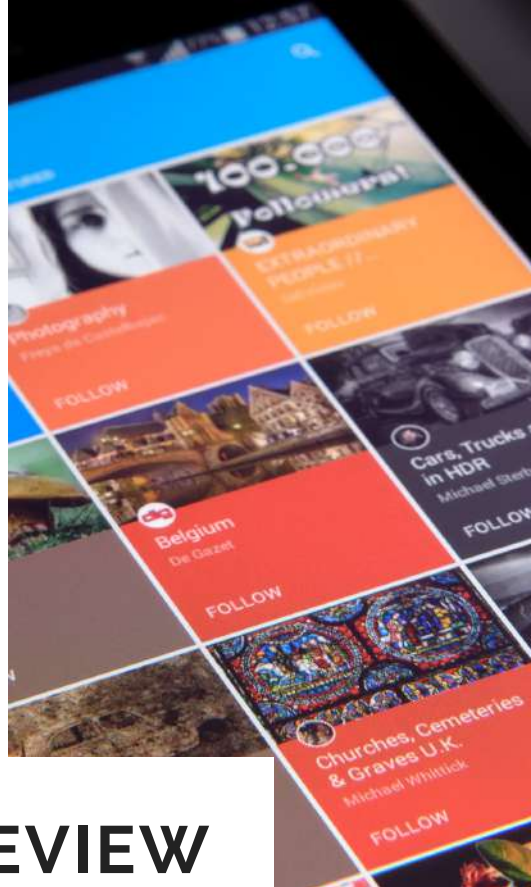
Bushra Al-Tawil was arrested from her house and on 16 December 2019, the Israeli Army Commander of the Central Command issued a military order to put her in administrative detention for four months with no set charges, on May 2020 her detention was extended yet again.

SYRIA

Tal al-Mallouhi was arrested in December 2009. On February 14, 2011, the State Security Court in Damascus convicted Al-Mallouhi of "divulging information to a foreign state."

LAOS

Houayheuag Xayabouly was arrested in September 2019. She posted a video on Facebook that drew attention to the government's negligence towards the devastating floods in Champasak and Salavan. Houayheuag has been jailed on charges of "spreading propaganda against the Lao People's Democratic Republic" and "trying to overthrow the Party, state and government". She was sentenced to five years of imprisonment and a fine of 20 million kip.



MONTHLY REVIEW

This section presents a summary of threats and violence targeting women journalists from January to June. The most number of cases were documented in the month of March, following the impact of Covid-19. At least 52 journalists were vulnerable to various threats during the month, which was 19.5% of the total cases documented by CFWIJ. June followed with 51 cases following protests in the U.S. – condemning the murder of a Black man named George Floyd – among other threats. The third-most threatening month for women journalists was May with 46 cases, while April, February and January saw 43, 38 and 37 cases, respectively.

JANUARY

CFWIJ documented 37 cases of threats against women journalists in January. Among the top five countries, the US remained one of the most dangerous countries with seven cases identified in January, followed by India with four cases, Afghanistan witnessed three, while Turkey, Iran and Canada each had two cases during the month.

In January, North America took the top spot for the most number of cases. At least nine different incidents of threats were identified in the region.



Kicking off 2020 with a rough start, at least eight women journalists were subjected to physical assault. Cases of attacks and impediments affected seven journalists, while four cases of online harassment were documented. Three women journalists were subjected to sexism and three were detained. Two cases each of women journalists facing sexual and workplace harassment were identified, while one case each of verbal harassment, state oppression and threats of violence was documented. One woman journalist in Peru went missing on January 26, and has not been found till date.

In January, North America took the top spot for the most number of cases. At least nine different incidents of threats to women journalists were identified in the region. South Asia took away the second spot with eight cases, while MENA had seven cases. Europe and Latin America witnessed four cases each. Two women journalists in Africa were found threatened on different occasions, while one case each was found in Eurasia, East Asia and the Balkans.



FEBRUARY

In February, CFWIJ documented 38 cases of threats to women journalists. Four among the total cases documented in February were related to Covid-19's impact. As a result of Covid-19, one case each was identified in China, Malaysia, Russia and Lebanon.

At least 11 women journalists were attacked and impeded in the field. Six women journalists were slapped with lawsuits during the month, while five cases of online harassment were documented. CFWIJ monitored four cases of physical assault. Three were threatened and intimidated with violence, two cases each of arrests, verbal harassment and sexual harassment were identified. One woman journalist was subjected to sexist attack, while another faced gender discrimination. We also documented one murder in Mexico.

India was the most affected country in the second month of 2020, where seven women journalists faced various threats. The USA was the second country where we identified five cases of threats, followed by Mexico with four. The UK and Lebanon saw three cases each. In countries like Pakistan and Canada, we identified at least two cases each during February. While Venezuela, Brazil, Azerbaijan, China, Honduras, Iran, Spain, Poland, North Macedonia, Malaysia, Russia and the Philippines witnessed one case each.

In February, North America witnessed at least 11 cases of threats to women journalists, followed by nine in South Asia, six in Europe, and four in MENA. CFWIJ documented two cases each in Southeast Asia and Latin America, respectively, while one case each was identified in South America, East Asia, Eurasia and the Eastern European/Northern Asian region.



MARCH

CFWIJ has documented 52 cases of threats to women journalists in March. While 21.2% cases originated from the US, Syria followed with four, which accounted for 7.7%. Turkey, Egypt and India stood at 5.8% with three cases each, Pakistan, UAE, Ukraine, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Mexico and Australia each made up 3.8% of the total number of cases with two documented in each country. Countries such as Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Cameroon, Liberia, Russia, Italy, China, Azerbaijan, Israel, Tunis, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Greece had one case each.

March also saw an upsurge in the cases of Covid-19, after which several countries including Iran and China resorted to suppress facts regarding the spread of the virus. In this month, 18 women journalists faced different threats for their coronavirus reporting.

In March, 15 women journalists were attacked and impeded in the field, six were harassed online, five were threatened with violence, while four cases each involving detentions, physical assault, verbal harassment and lawsuits were identified. At least two women journalists were arrested during the month, while we also documented two cases each of cases related to sexism, torture during imprisonment, and racial discrimination, as well as one case each of gender discrimination, state oppression and murder.

MENA was the most affected region with 16 cases of threats documented by CFWIJ. We identified 14 cases in the North American region and six in Europe. South Asia witnessed five different cases of threats to women journalists followed by Africa with four, Latin America and Australasia with two cases each. We also documented one case each in Eurasia, Central Asia, and the Eastern European/Northern Asian region, respectively.



APRIL

In April, CFWIJ documented 43 cases of threats against women journalists. The month was largely punctuated with multiple cases of women journalists facing challenges because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our data shows that 31 cases were related to Covid-19. Top three countries with cases related to Covid-19 included the US that accounted for 19.4% (6 cases), followed by India at 12.9% (4 cases) and Pakistan with 9.7% (3 cases).

Top threats included at least 10 women journalists being attacked and impeded in the field while reporting. Nine women journalists faced legal charges pressed against them. Seven were subjected to online harassment and six were verbally harassed. Four were arrested in the US, Serbia, Algeria and Madagascar, respectively. Four women journalists faced workplace harassment. While one case each related to physical assault, detention, and racial discrimination were identified.

CFWIJ identified at least eight cases of threats in the US. India stood second where seven women journalists were subjected to various attacks and threats, followed by Pakistan with three cases. Throughout the month, we documented at least two cases each in Ukraine, Turkey, Egypt, and Serbia; while at least one woman journalist in Nepal, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Croatia, Albania, Israel, Hungary, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Madagascar, Tunis, Brazil, Haiti Algeria and South Africa was subjected to various threats and violence.

South Asia witnessed the most number of cases in April with 11 women journalists facing different types of threats. North America stood second with nine cases, followed by MENA region with eight cases during the month. Six cases of various threats were documented in Europe, while three in Africa, two cases each in the Balkans and Latin America, and one case each was identified in the Central Asian and Eastren European/Northern Asian region.



MAY

CFWIJ documented 46 cases of threats against women journalists in May. Six of the total number of cases were related to their Covid-19 reporting in countries like the US, Egypt, Malaysia, Afghanistan and China.

After the murder of George Floyd – a Black man from Minneapolis, Minnesota, protests erupted across the US and women journalists were on the ground reporting about it. While doing so, many were attacked in the field and faced violence, largely by police, who were deployed to push back the demonstrations. We documented at least 23 cases of threats faced by women journalists while covering these protests across the US, while four cases were related to other threats faced by women journalists.

At least two cases each of threats and violence were also identified in countries such as Nigeria, Somalia, Egypt, and Afghanistan. While one case emerged from New Zealand, Syria, Mexico, China, Bosnia, Tunis, Malaysia, Philippines,

Benin, Ukraine, and Germany.

The most prevalent threats documented in May included 18 cases of attacks and impediments in the field, which accounted for 39.1% of the total number. At least seven women journalists were arrested this month, while three cases each of detentions and lawsuits were identified. Two cases each of verbal harassment, workplace harassment, sexual harassment, physical attacks, and threats of inflicting violence were documented. Online harassment, abduction, state oppression, sexism, and gender discrimination accounted for one case each.

North America was the most vulnerable region with 28 cases, followed by Africa and MENA witnessing five and four cases, respectively. We identified two cases each in regions including South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Europe. While in Australasia, East Asia, and the Balkans, CFWIJ documented one case each.



JUNE

In June, CFWIJ documented at least 51 cases of threats against women journalists. At least nine cases among these were related to their Covid-19 coverage.

A total of ten cases of arrests were documented by CFWIJ in countries like the USA, Ghana, Turkey, Kuwait, Egypt, Niger and Venezuela. Eight women journalists were slapped with lawsuits. Cases of attacks and impediment encountered in the field amounted to six, while the same number of women journalists were detained in Turkey, Belarus, USA, Egypt and Russia. At least four cases each of online harassment and state oppression were documented by CFWIJ. Three incidents involving workplace harassment were documented via our sources, while two women journalists complained of being threatened with violence and two reported physical assault. Two women journalists spoke about the racial discrimination they faced during the month of June. We identified one case each of verbal harassment, sexual

harassment, sexism and abduction.

We documented 12 cases in North America and 11 across the MENA region. At least eight cases were identified in Africa, six in South Asia, four in Europe, and three cases in the Eastern European/Northern Asian region. Two cases each in the Balkans and Australasian regions were also documented. One woman journalist in East Asia, Southeast Asia and South America each faced different threats.

The USA was on top with the highest number of cases in June. At least 11 women journalists were subjected to threats of various kinds. Women journalists in India reported five cases. Turkey, Nigeria and Russia witnessed three cases each, followed by Lebanon, Australia, Egypt, Belarus, Tunis, and Ghana with two cases each. CFWIJ also documented at least one case each in countries including the Philippines, Kuwait, UK, Canada, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Niger, Ireland, Serbia, Venezuela, Kenya, Kosovo, and Somalia.



REGIONAL REVIEW

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Between conflicts, dictatorship, war zones, and emerging democracies, the MENA region was exhausted and shattered. The status of human rights was worse than ever and at the forefront, press freedom suffered the most. Journalists in the region remained threatened by enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, assassinations, and other forms of intimidation both online and offline.

Women Journalists in the region were not only impacted by the deterioration of human rights, press freedom, and security in the region, they also faced threats because of their gender. From January to June 2020, the MENA region witnessed at least 50 cases of threats to women journalists, which made up 18.7% of the total cases documented by CFWIJ. Turkey and Egypt were the most dangerous countries for women journalists where we identified at least 10 cases each. Lebanon and Syria had six cases each, while we identified at least five cases each in Tunis and Iran. CFWIJ monitored two cases each in Israel and UAE, while one case each was documented in Qatar, Kuwait, Algeria and Iraq. Threats concerning the coverage of Covid -19 accounted for 22% of the total cases documented in the MENA region.

At least 12 women journalists were slapped with unjustified lawsuits and charges against them. Nine were arrested for their journalism in Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Tunis, Syria, and Kuwait, while nine were detained in Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and Israel. Seven women journalists were harassed online. Three women journalists faced physical attacks in countries across the region, while two cases each involving state oppression were documented. Two women journalists were tortured during imprisonment in the first-half of the year, while two were attacked and impeded in the field. Two women journalists were threatened and intimidated with violence, while one case each of workplace harassment and gender discrimination was documented.



SOUTH ASIA

CFWIJ monitored threats to women journalists in South Asian countries. Among 41 (15.4%) total cases documented, 26 were from India, eight from Pakistan, five from Afghanistan, and one each from Sri Lanka and Nepal. At least 31.7% of the total cases identified in the region were concerned with Covid-19 reporting done by women journalists.

Nine cases of attacks and impediments in the field were identified by CFWIJ, while nine women journalists were harassed online in countries including Pakistan and India. Six women journalists found themselves in trouble with legal matters, while five were subjected to verbal harassment on different occasions.

Four women journalists were targeted through physical assault and three found themselves dealing with issues related to workplace harassment. One woman journalist was also threatened and intimidated with violence. We documented one case of each of sexual harassment, gender discrimination, physical attacks and state oppression in countries such as India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, respectively.

At least 31.7% of the total cases identified in the region were concerned with Covid-19 reporting done by women journalists.



NORTH AMERICA

In the first six months of 2020, CFWIJ identified at least 83 cases of threats to women journalists in North America, which accounted for 31.1% of the total cases from around the world. The region witnessed the murder of two Mexican journalists. While the impact of Covid-19 affected at least 18 women journalists in the region. At least 32 cases reported in the region were related to women journalists covering the #BlackLivesMatter, with 33 identified in the US and one in Canada.

At least 33 women journalists were attacked and impeded in the field for their work. Ten women journalists were subjected to verbal harassment, while nine were arrested on different occasions. We identified at least four cases each related to online harassment, racial discrimination, and detentions, while four women journalists – two each from the US and Mexico – were threatened and intimidated with violence.

Four women journalists were physically assaulted. Two cases each related to workplace harassment, legal charges and sexual harassment were also identified. At least woman journalists faced sexism and gender discrimination, while one was psyhically attacked in this region.



EUROPE

Europe witnessed 28 cases of threats to women journalists from January to June, which accounted for at least 10.5% of the total number of cases documented globally. The most number of cases were documented in Ukraine where six women journalists faced different threats to their safety, followed by five cases in the UK and four in Belarus. We identified at least two cases each in Ireland and Serbia. In countries including Switzerland, Montenegro, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Greece, Poland, Spain and North Macedonia, we documented one case each. Among the total number of cases monitored in the region, 32.1% were related to Covid-19 reporting by women journalists.

At least seven women journalists were attacked and impeded in their work. CFWIJ identified at least three cases where women journalists faced unjustified charges filed against them and were also harassed online. We also identified three detentions across Europe in countries such as Montenegro, Serbia and Belarus.

Three women journalists were threatened and intimidated with violence, while three faced sexism. Two cases each of state oppression and sexual harassment were reported in different European countries. While one case each of an arrest and one physical assault were identified in the UK and Serbia.



AFRICA

In the African region, CFWIJ found 22 cases of threats to women journalists. These cases accounted for 8.2% of the total cases reported across all regions. The most number of cases – seven – were documented in Nigeria. Somalia followed with three cases and Ghana with two. Countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Benin, Niger, Kenya, Malawi, Comoros, Cameroon and Liberia found at least one woman journalist vulnerable to different threats. At least 18.2% of the total number of cases identified in Africa were related to the coverage of coronavirus.

Six women journalists found their work impeded in different countries across the African region. Five were subjected to workplace harassment in countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia and Comoros. Three women journalists were arrested in Madagascar, Ghana and Niger. Two abductions were documented in Nigeria, while two cases of physical assault were documented in Malawi and Nigeria. We identified at least one case each where women journalists faced sexual harassment, racial discrimination, state oppression and were threatened with violence.



LATIN AMERICA

While monitoring the Latin American region, CFWIJ found 10 women journalists vulnerable to different threats to their safety, which made up 3.7% of the total case recorded across all the regions. Two cases each were identified from Brazil and Nicaragua, while one case each was documented from Honduras, Haiti, Cuba, Chile, Peru and Argentina. Two cases of threats each from Brazil and Haiti were related to the impact of Covid-19.

Two cases each of impediments faced by women journalists in the field and physical assault were identified by CFWIJ in four African countries. Two women journalists were threatened with violence in Honduras and Nicaragua. One woman journalist was slapped with legal charges in Cuba, while one case each of sexism and online harassment was identified in Argentina and Brazil, respectively. A woman journalist also went missing in Peru in January.

BALKANS

During the first-half of 2020, CFWIJ found at least six cases of threats to women journalists in the Balkans, which accounted for 2.2% of the total cases recorded. Two cases related to Covid-19 were identified in Croatia and Albania. While other cases were reported in Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo.

Three women journalists were attacked and impeded in the field, of which two were from Croatia and one from Serbia, while two were harassed online in Albania and Bosnia. We identified at least one woman journalist in Kosovo who was threatened with a lawsuit.



EASTREN EUROPE/NORTHERN ASIA

Eastern Europe/Northern Asia witnessed six cases of threats to women journalists' safety. This made up 2.2% of the total cases documented all over the world. Four among the total number of threats documented were related to Covid-19 coverage by women journalists.

All of the cases were identified in Russia. Four women journalists faced lawsuits and unjustified charges. One woman journalist was detained and another was assaulted.

AUSTRALASIA

In the Australasian region, CFWIJ documented five cases of threats to women journalists, which accounted for 1.9% of all the cases monitored globally. Australia took the top spot with four cases threatening the safety of women journalists.

In New Zealand, CFWIJ identified one case related to sexism. Sexist attacks targeting women journalists in Australia accounted for two cases. One woman journalist faced impediment in the field and one was sexually harassed.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

In the Southeast Asian region, we identified five cases of threats to women journalists, which made up 1.9% of the total cases documented in all the regions. Two, among the total number of cases in the region, were related to Covid-19 reporting by women journalists in Malaysia, who were slapped with legal charges.

Three Filipino women journalists faced different threats from January to June. A lawsuit was filed against one, another was arrested and one woman journalist was subjected to state oppression.

EAST ASIA

CFWIJ documented four total cases in East Asia, which accounted for 1.5% of the total cases identified. Two women journalists were attacked and impeded in the field in China and Hong Kong. One case of arrest in China was documented, while one journalist was harassed online in Hong Kong. Persecutions related to Covid-19 reporting were 50%.

EURASIA

According to CFWIJ's documentation, three women journalists were vulnerable to threats in South Ossetia and Azerbaijan. The number accounted for 1.1% of the total case documented in the first half of 2020. Two cases of attacks and impediment in the field were identified in Azerbaijan, while one woman journalist faced legal charges against her in South Ossetia.

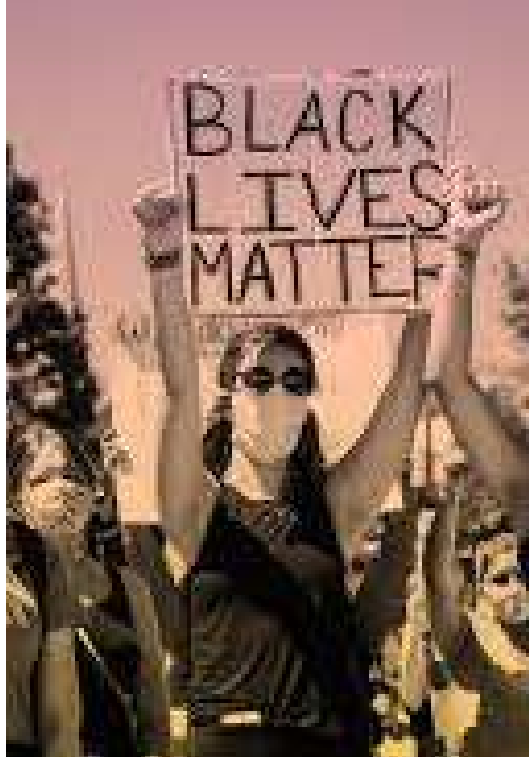


SOUTH AMERICA

We documented two total cases of threats to women journalists in South America, which made up 0.7% of the total cases from January to June. one case was related to an arrest of a woman journalist, while the other involved physical assault. Both the cases were witnessed in Venezuela.

CENTRAL ASIA

In the Central Asian region, CFWIJ identified two cases, which made up 0.7% of the total cases documented within the first six months of 2020. Both the cases – one related to a lawsuit and the other concerning a physical assault – were from Kazakhstan.



COUNTRY FOCUS: TOP SIX COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST NUMBER OF CASES

According to the data collected by The Coalition For Women In Journalism, the United States of America, India, Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan and Mexico were some of the most dangerous countries for women journalists. Women journalists encountered various forms of threats and attacks in these countries. Following is the breakdown of all the major threats they faced.

THE UNITED STATES

In the first half of 2020, CFWIJ documented at least 69 cases of threats against women journalists in the United States of America. Most number of cases were identified during the protests led by the Black community. The demonstrations sparked in the last week of May and continued till the end of June, following the murder of a Minnesota-based Black citizen George Floyd on May 25, for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. Other than the protests, CFWIJ also documented various other cases of threats and violence against women journalists through January to June.



Among the total number of cases, we identified at least 29 cases of attacks and impediments in the field, most of which took place during the coverage of protests across the US. At least nine women journalists encountered verbal harassment, eight were arrested and four were detained on different occasions. Four incidents of racial discrimination were also identified. Three women journalists were harassed online, while three more were assaulted physically. We identified two cases where women journalists were threatened and intimidated with violence.

Two women journalists found themselves threatened with legal matters. One incident of workplace harassment included the suspension of a journalist, while the other was related to unpaid dues of a freelancer. One case each of sexual harassment, sexism and gender discrimination was also documented by CFWIJ. Following is a summary of the threats women journalists encountered in the US. Detailed information on cases related to Covid-19 and protests following George Floyd's murder can be found in this report's 'Major events from the first-half of 2020' section.

Cases of threats involving the Trump administration

Name of journalist: Mary Louise Kelly

Case details: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo cursed at NPR's Mary Louise Kelly repeatedly, after she questioned him about Ukraine and the ousted American ambassador to Kiev during a nine-minute interview on January 25. In an attempt to directly and personally attack her, Pompeo said that she "lied" to him and referred to her conduct as being "shameful."



Name of journalist: Michele Kelemen

Case details: On January 27, Michele Kelemen, an NPR reporter, was barred by the State Department from traveling with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on a trip to Ukraine. This happened days after he cursed at NPR's Mary Kelly. Michele was scheduled to be one of many reporters flying on the plane with Pompeo to report on the weeklong trip to Europe and Central Asia.

Name of journalist: Hallie Jackson

Case details: Chief White House correspondent for NBC News Hallie Jackson had to leave Donald Trump's meeting in the Cabinet Room for Black History Month on February 27. The meeting was attended by a number of his African American supporters and members of the press. Both Hallie and NBC were later attacked by Trump for her departure. Hallie already informed White House officials that she will have to leave at a specific time for her on-camera duties for her channel.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: On March 2, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that the United States would limit the number of visas available for Chinese journalists working at five designated media organizations in the country. The outlets included Xinhua, CGTN, China Radio, China Daily, and The People's Daily. The number of visas were reduced to 100 in total. China's "increasingly harsh surveillance, harassment, and intimidation against American and other foreign journalists operating in China" was cited as a reason for this decision.



Other threats

Name of journalist: Allison Donahue

Case details: On January 15, Allison Donahue was subjected to a sexist attack. She sought a comment from Peter Lucido — a Republican, regarding certain claims. He did not respond to her immediately and later said to her, "You should hang around! You could have a lot of fun with these boys, or they could have a lot of fun with you."

Name of journalist: Claudia Buccio

Case details: On January 20, Claudia Buccio was physically attacked and had her camera broken while filming footage in a shop in Mesa California. The attacker was later arrested.

Name of journalist: Serena Daniari

Case details: On January 26, Serena Daniari was subjected to a transphobic attack by a couple on the train, who spit on her, hit her and attacked her with transphobic slurs. Serena filed a report with the NYPD.



Name of journalist: Felicia Sonmez

Case details: On January 27, Washington Post reporter Felicia Sonmez received immense hate over her Kobe Bryant tweets that featured sexual harassment accusations against him. The tweet picked heat online, which led to threats. She later faced suspension by her employers and was sent on administrative leave. The publication reinstated Felicia the next day.

Name of journalist: Alison Morris

Case details: On January 27, social media users shared a clip supposedly catching MSNBC's Alison Morris using a racial slur, the 'n' word, while reporting on Kobe Bryant's untimely death. She was harassed and abused online after the video went viral. Alison denied the allegations and said that she stuttered on air mistakenly combining the words Knicks and Lakers into 'Nakers'. She said that she would never use a racial slur.

Name of journalist: Abby Martin

Case details: After she refused to sign a contract stating she would not support a boycott of Israel, Abby Martin was blocked from participating in a media conference at Georgia Southern University in the U.S on February 10.

Name of journalist: Gayle King

Case details: On February 10, CBS journalist Gayle King was harassed online after clips of her questioning Lisa Leslie about Kobe Bryant's sexual assault charge were circulated by her own channel. She was also abused by American rappers Snoop Dogg and 50 Cent on social media.



Name of journalist: Tina Moore

Case details: NYPD subpoenaed a New York Post reporter Tina Moore's Twitter data, citing a post-9/11 anti-terrorism law to try to force the tech company to comply. The legal papers, requesting electronic information associated with Tina's Twitter account, dated Dec. 9, 2019. After Post lawyers contacted their lawyers, the NYPD withdrew the subpoena on February 12.

Name of journalist: Jessica Tarlov

Case details: February 17: Fox News presenter Jessica Tarlov was shut down by her co-anchor Sandra Smith after claiming on America's Newsroom that President Donald Trump has cheated on all of his wives.

Name of journalist: Patrícia Campos Mello

Case details: After a witness in a Congressional hearing suggested she had offered to trade sexual favors for information, Patrícia Campos Mello faced a violent onslaught of threats and personal attacks in March.

Name of journalist: Laura Bassett

Case details: On March 5, Laura Bassett was attacked online after her allegations against Chris Matthews – related to inappropriate and sexist behavior – apparently led to his resignation from MSNBC. TV anchor Bill Maher also attacked her while defending Chris.



Name of journalist: Iyani Hughes

Case details: After finishing an on-air broadcast, CBS journalist Iyani Hughes – who was pregnant at the time – was seated inside her channel’s van, which was carjacked by another pregnant woman on April 14. Iyani went back to her van to edit her video and turned on the engine to power her computer. While she tried to lock the door of the vehicle, a woman named Seniqua Lunsford allegedly got in the vehicle’s driver’s seat and drove away.

Name of journalist: Jill Nelson

Case details: On April 16 Jill Nelson was arrested by NYPD officers for scribbling “Trump=Plague” on a boarded-up storefront near her house.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: In the month of May, five anchors, who worked at the NY1, faced workplace intimidation and retaliation following the lawsuit they filed against the network in June 2019. They sued on grounds of gender and age discrimination they faced. They have also felt further isolated and sidelined in the process.

Name of journalist: Gaynor Hall

Case details: On May 28, Gaynor Hall was grabbed by a man named Eric Farina, who also shouted profanities at her, while she was covering the wind damage in Illinois during a live broadcast. The man was later arrested at his home and soon released too.

India was one of the most dangerous countries for women journalists, according to the data we documented from January to June 2020. Among the 267 cases we documented in the first six months of the year, those from India accounted for 9.7%, where at least 26 women journalists faced different kinds of threats to safety. In the month of January four cases made it to the news, seven were documented by CFWIJ in February. In March, we identified three cases, while April saw an upsurge with seven incidents threatening the safety of women journalists. In May, we did not come across any threats, but in June, we documented at least five different incidents.

Among the different cases of threats documented in India, we identified at least seven incidents where women journalists were impeded while on job. Seven were subjected to incessant online harassment, while five had to deal with unjustified legal charges filed against them. We documented two cases each of physical assault, verbal harassment and workplace harassment, while one woman journalist faced sexual harassment during her commute to home from work. Below is a summary of the threats women journalists encountered in India from January to June. Detailed information regarding cases related to Covid-19 can be found in this report's 'Major events from the first-half of 2020' section.

Cases of threats

Name of journalist: Anonymous

Case details: On January 9, a journalist was molested by a DTC staffer on a moving bus when she was on her way to her home in Delhi from her office in Noida. She tweeted about the incident tagging local police and mentioned being subjected to sexual harassment in the presence of a marshal in the bus.

Name of journalist: Anonymous

Case details: On January 15, an India Today journalist was attacked by convict, who was prosecuted in the 2013 Gudiya gang-rape case in Delhi. The journalist was recording a video of the court proceedings on her smartphone, after which he assaulted her.

Name of journalist: Tabassum

Case details: On January 16, an Indian Express journalist Tabassum heard the Congress corporator Vikrant Chavan threatening staffers and security personnel at a metro station in Mumbai. When she intervened and asked him to calm down, he misbehaved with her and resorted to intimidation and physical attacks.

Name of journalist: Gunja Kapoor

Case details: Gunja Kapoor, a Right Narrative journalist and YouTuber, was attacked by Shaheen Bagh protesters while she was covering the event and making videos on February 5. She was reportedly wearing a Burkha while filming from the scene and was confronted by protesters.

Name of journalist: Anonymous

Case details: On February 10, a group of young men were found making lewd comments at a journalist from inside a parked car. She protested in retaliation by trying to snap their photograph but they sped away.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: On February 11, the Kashmir Press Club, an elected body of journalists in the Jammu and Kashmir region, said that security agencies were employing physical attacks, threats and summons to intimidate journalists.



Name of journalist: Anonymous

Case details: A journalist reported being harassed online by a man named Jahiruddin Edrisi, a resident of Behrampada in Bandra. He used to make random video and WhatsApp calls to the journalist, and also sent her abusive online messages when she ignored his calls. He also threatened to reach her residence if she complained to the police. The journalist was facing harassment for the last two months before she eventually filed a complaint in February when the situation seemed out of control.

Name of journalist: Babie Shirin

Case details: On February 21, Babie Shirin – a journalist from the Imphal Free Press – drove with the newspaper's publisher Mayengbam Satyajit Singh to a court on the other side of town, where the two were arrested on arrival. They were later granted bail on a bond of Rs 30,000 each. They were arrested for documenting the Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh's ranking in a nationwide TV poll.

Name of journalist: Arfa Khanum Sherwani

Case details: Arfa Khanum Sherwani, a journalist working with news outlet The Wire, was harassed online by officials and supporters of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on February 24. She said that they were "intentionally spreading misinformation about her online and attempting to smear her as calling for the creation of an Islamic caliphate in India". Arfa also received death and rape threats on social media following their fake claims.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: Several journalists in the riot-ridden Delhi were attacked by goons of the ruling party BJP, and other right-wing political parties. NDTV's Mariyam Alavi was hit on the back by a mob in a different part of northeast Delhi. Another woman journalist said she was surrounded by a mob and her phone was snatched at a market in Maujpur, as rioters suspected her to be sent by Muslims. A journalist named Adrija Bose said that she was heckled and abused in the field. Parvina Purkayastha was attacked by pro-CAA protestors for her reporting. Runzun Sharma of News 18 and Ismat Ara, an independent journalist, were also attacked during riots in February.





Name of journalist: Princess Giri Rashir

Case details: On March 7, Princess Giri Rashir – journalist working for EastMojo, was attacked while reporting on the ground. The journalist was recording a video of the prevailing law and order situation in Shillong, when the policeman abruptly jumped at her and tried to snatch her phone away.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: On April 4, U. Prathibha Hari – a first-time woman CPI-M legislator – appeared live on her Facebook page and expressed her displeasure against journalists. "it's better that instead of doing reports, both male and female journalists should engage in selling their bodies for a living," she was heard saying in the video.

Name of journalist: Rubika Liyaquat

Case details: On April 8, a video of ABP News anchor Rubika Liyaquat was disseminated across social media platforms in a bid to malign her character. The video, which showed her supposedly dancing inside a TV studio with a distasteful song playing in the background was posted on Facebook and Twitter with messages abusing the anchor.

Name of journalist: Rana Ayyub

Case details: On June 11, Rana Ayyub received death and rape threats online following her story about Kashmir.



Name of journalist: Masrat Zahra

Case details: On April 18, Masrat Zahra – a freelance photojournalist based in Jammu and Kashmir – was booked under section 13 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) by the Kashmiri police. She was accused of allegedly “uploading anti-national posts with criminal intention to induce the youth and promote offence against public tranquillity.” According to a statement released by the cyber division of Kashmir’s police department, they received information from “reliable sources” claiming that a Facebook user named Masrat Zahra has uploaded “anti-national posts with criminal intention”. The police did not mention that the said Facebook user is a photojournalist. The posts, as stated by the police, were capable of “provoking the public to disturb law and order”. A first information report was also filed against Masrat under Section 505 of the Indian Penal Code.

Name of journalist: Srishti Jaswal

Case details: On June 16, Hindustan Times’ Srishti Jaswal found herself entangled in a legal battle after Gautam Aggarwal, ex-IT Head of the ruling BJP’s IP EXTENSION Mandal, Zila Shahdara, Delhi, registered a complaint against her for "Hinduphobic tweet. In the complaint, he alleged that Srishti replied to a tweet against a film airing on Netflix and intentionally on June 29, in which she used derogatory and defamatory language. Srishti also received threats of violence following the charges.

Name of journalist: Ranjita Rabha

Case details: After the management of Prag News – the publications where Ranjita Rabha worked – found that she was pregnant, they told her that “they had no expectations from her” and asked her ‘not to come to the office anymore’.



TURKEY

Between January to June, CFWIJ documented at least 10 cases of threats to women journalists. Among the total number of cases, at least one was related to their Covid-19 reporting. Turkey had at least five women journalists imprisoned in its jails in the first-half of the year. Three women journalists were acquitted during trials for various charges pressed against them.

Four women journalists were detained and later released, while two were arrested between January to June. We identified at least one event of journalists being impeded in the field and one involving state oppression, both in January. Two journalists were slapped with legal charges for their journalism. Following is a brief overview of the cases identified in Turkey, while those related to the novel coronavirus can be found in this report's 'Major events from the first-half of 2020' section.

Cases of detentions and arrests

On March 16, Ebru Küçükaydın, a general publication coordinator of news website Haberimizvar.net, was taken into custody from her home in Antalya because of her story about the coronavirus. She was released after her statement was recorded at a local police station. The news was also deleted from the website.

ODATV Ankara News Manager Müyesser Yıldız was detained on June 8 over allegations of "military espionage". She was then arrested for "suspicion of spoliation of evidence and escape" over "military espionage" charges.

Journalist Ayşe Kara from Özgür Gün Tv was detained on June 27 as part of an investigation launched by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office for the Democratic Society Congress (DTK). Kara was taken into custody by police while having dinner at a restaurant with a friend and was taken to the Provincial Security Directorate.



Journalist Hülya Kılınç was arrested by the Criminal Court of Peace, while she was on duty. She has been deemed “anti-state” because of a news article she wrote, which mentions a deceased member of the MIT (Turkey’s National Intelligence Organization.)

Journalist Tuba Demir was detained by police in Edirne while covering further refugee movements in the area on March 2. At 2:47 PM, she tweeted about being taken into custody and resumed tweeting at about 10:00 PM.

Artı TV Ankara correspondent Sibel Hürtaş was detained while covering the bar association chairs’ protest against the new proposed attorneyship law. A case was filed against them for her social media posts.

Cases of other threats

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: On January 20, Kurdish journalists called for international solidarity after being targeted by state security services for exposing the alleged rape of a woman by Turkish soldiers.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: In January, Turkish authorities attempted to silence hundreds of journalists by invalidating their press cards. Hundreds of journalists who worked for Evrensel and Birgün newspapers were revoked off their accreditation to work as journalists in the country. No information was given to the paper as to what went wrong.



Name of journalist: Nurcan Baysal

Case details: On April 20, Nurcan Baysal of PEN Int received a call from Diyarbakır Police Headquarters, requesting her to go to the station and give a statement relating to an investigation into her online postings.

Trials of women journalists held in Turkey

During the first six months of the year, at least 23 women journalists were tried for various charges filed against them. Below is a summary of the charges they faced.

Seyhan Avşar's trial was held on January 9. She is being tried for "identifying a public officer as a target for terrorist organizations" for her news story in March 2019 titled 'Sözcü prosecutor has a criminal record'.

Cumhuriyet's publisher Alev Coşkun and Hazal Ocak have been sued for one million Turkish Lira in non-pecuniary damages for their story. Their trial was held on January 24.

Journalist Beritan Canözer accused of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" on social media. The prosecution has asked for a prison sentence against her.

Journalist Pelin Ünker from Cumhuriyet newspaper is once again tackling legal attacks because of her incredible work for the Paradise Papers. She is under trial for "defamation and insult".



Durket Süren has been accused of "willingly helping a terrorist organization" and "creating propaganda for a terrorist organization".

Cumhuriyet newspaper reporter Zehra Özdilek is on trial for charges of "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism". She is accused of "identifying a public officer on anti-terrorist duty as a target" because of her news report.

Özgür Gündem editor Reyhan Çapan has been accused of "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation", "praising crime" and "incitement to commit crime" for a series of articles published.

German-Turkish journalist Meşale Tolu is accused of "being a member of a terrorist organization" and "propagandizing for a terrorist organization". She has been sued for attending a march held in 2014 to protest the killing of Suphi Nejat Ağırnaslı, a student of Boğaziçi University who was killed near Kobane during the fight against ISIS.

Danish freelance journalist Sultan Çoban has been sentenced to one year and three months in prison for a post she allegedly shared on Facebook.

Journalists Semiha Şahin and Pınar Gayıp are accused of "membership of a terrorist organisation" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation".

45 journalists from Hürriyet were notified of the dismissal through a letter which was sent to their homes, while they were still at work. They were terminated without any compensation, legal rights, or justice.



Judicial control measures imposed on Jin News reporter Kibriye Evren have been lifted by a court in Turkey. She was released from prison under judicial control measures and an international travel ban.

An investigation has been launched against journalist Zülal Koçer. She has come under fire for sharing images of police brutality from this year's Feminist Night Walk.

Jinnews reporter Beritan Canözer was sentenced to 1 year 10 months 15 days of prison sentence over accusations of "making propaganda of terror organisation" through her social media accounts.

ODATV journalist Hülya Kılınç is being accused of "disclosing confidential state information" for reporting the funeral of a National Intelligence Agency official, gave her first defense statement in the first hearing.

The trial of the lawsuit filed against journalist Sabiha Temizkan on charges of 'propagandizing a terrorist organization' was postponed.

A lawsuit was filed against Cumhuriyet newspaper reporter Alican Uludağ and ex-reporter Duygu Güvenç for their news stories published in Cumhuriyet about the American pastor Andrew Brunson who was detained in Turkey. In separate news stories, Uludağ and Güvenç wrote that Brunson's subsequent release was based on political and diplomatic, rather than legal reasons.

The 19th session of the hearings of "KCK Press Case" that has been ongoing for more than 8 years was held today in Istanbul. Journalists Nevin Erdemir and Semiha Alankuş are among the defendants.



Ruken Demir is facing prosecution over her reports, phone calls, and interviews with political prisoners and the prisons' conditions. Interviews and reports were cited as "so-called" interviews in the indictment and as reporting false-news. The prosecutor's office accused Demir of working for the media branch of outlawed PKK/KCK groups.

Charged with "being members of a terrorist organization" and "propagandizing for a terrorist organization", 27 people including Etkin News Agency (ETHA) reporter and translator Meşale Tolu had their 12th hearing at the İstanbul 29th Heavy Penal Court.

JinNews reporter Kibriye Evren's trial on charges of "membership to a terrorist organization" and "propagandizing a terrorist organization" was held before Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court. She was arrested on October 11, 2018, during simultaneous operations towards Kurdish politicians.

Women journalists released and acquitted

In the first half of 2020, at least six women journalists were released and acquitted from charges they were facing. Following is a brief overview of the six cases.

Journalist Arjin Dilek Öncel was acquitted by a Diyarbakır court on January 8, 2020. She had faced between 1.5 and seven years in prison for retweeting a news item.

Jin News reporter Melike Aydın, who was jailed pending trial for "engaging in activities on behalf of a terrorist organization" since November 2019 has been freed from pre-trial detention by the İzmir Criminal Court - that will be overseeing her trial - following her attorney's appeal.



Jin News reporter Melike Aydın, who was jailed pending trial for “engaging in activities on behalf of a terrorist organization” since November 2019 has been freed from pre-trial detention by the Izmir Criminal Court – that will be overseeing her trial – following her attorney’s appeal.

Işıl Özgentürk has been acquitted after the second hearing of her case today. She was accused of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation”.

Mezopotamya Agency reporter Ruken Demir has been released after 115 days. She was taken into custody on November 12, 2019. Ruken was accused of “carrying out activities on behalf of a terrorist organization”.

Mezopotamya Agency reporter Sadiye Eser was released by an Istanbul court on March 26. She was arrested for “being a member of a terrorist organization”.

Semiha Alankuş has been acquitted after the seventh hearing of her case. She was accused of “being a member of a terrorist organisation”.

Cases of other threats

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: On January 20, Kurdish journalists called for international solidarity after being targeted by state security services for exposing the alleged rape of a woman by Turkish soldiers.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: In January, Turkish authorities attempted to silence hundreds of journalists by invalidating their press cards. Hundreds of journalists who worked for Evrensel and Birgün newspapers were revoked off their accreditation to work as journalists in the country. No information was given to the paper as to what went wrong.

Name of journalist: Nurcan Baysal

Case details: On April 20, Nurcan Baysal of PEN Int received a call from Diyarbakır Police Headquarters, requesting her to go to the station and give a statement relating to an investigation into her online postings.

Name of journalists: Multiple journalists

Case details: An unidentified group of 15-20 people attacked the homes of three reporters – two of them women – with the Sputnik Turkish Service. Detention warrants were produced for all three and they were taken into custody.

Trials of women journalists held in Turkey

During the first six months of the year, at least 23 women journalists were tried for various charges filed against them. Below is a summary of the charges they faced.

Seyhan Avşar's trial was held on January 9. She is being tried for "identifying a public officer as a target for terrorist organizations" for her news story in March 2019 titled 'Sözcü prosecutor has a criminal record'.



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Freedom of press and expression in Egypt was never worse. Legislations were amended or passed intensifying restrictions on press freedom. The state took over most media outlets and shut down the ones it couldn't control, turning Egypt's media into an echo chamber.

Egypt stood neck to neck with Turkey in relation to the number of cases we identified in the country. CFWIJ documented at least 10 cases that threatened the safety of women journalists. Five of these cases were related to legal charges pressed against them. Two women journalists were detained in the first half of 2020, while two were arrested on different occasions.

Egypt also kept four women journalists imprisoned behind bars from January to June. Details about them can be found in the Overview: Imprisonments section. At least five of the total cases of different threats documented in Egypt were related to the coverage of Covid-19. Cases of threats to women journalists for their Covid-19 reporting can be found in this report's 'Major events from the first-half of 2020' section.

Cases documented from Egypt

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: Several journalists were left vulnerable to threats that could land them in legal troubles following Egypt's proposed legislative amendment, which expanded its official list of "terrorist entities" to include news media that aim to cause "harm". The amendment targets journalists and potentially aggravated the already deteriorating state of press freedom in the country. Through this amendment Egypt's legislative arsenal was said to be reinforced. This was already tweaked in 2015 and made it possible for authorities to order long jail terms for journalists.



Name of journalist: Esraa Abdel-Fattah

Case details: On March 9, Esraa Abdel-Fattah's preventive detention was renewed by the general prosecutor. Esraa was arrested and tortured in pretrial detention since september 2019. She was also not given access to her lawyers or family members ever since the renewal of detention. Authorities deemed the Covid-19 outbreak as the reason to revoke Esraa's access to her family and lawyers.

Name of journalist: Abeer Elsafti

Case details: On April 1, freelance journalist Abeer Elsafti's imprisonment was replaced with "precautionary measures". She was released after one year in pre-trial detention by the Cairo Criminal Court.

Name of journalist: Lina Atallah

Case details: On May 17, Mada Masr's Lina Attalah was arrested outside Cairo's Tora Prison while interviewing the mother of a jailed activist. She was released on bail by the Maadi Prosecution shortly after her arrest.

Name of journalist: Nora Younis

Case details: Nora Younis, the chief editor of news outlet Al-Manasa, was arrested by Egyptian police on June 24. She was taken into custody after her office was raided by the police – claiming to belong to the Artistic Products Police Department. After the arrest, Nora has been reportedly taken to the Maadi Police station for interrogation and has also been denied access to her lawyer and family members. After the arrest, Nora was taken to the Maadi Police station. She was denied access to her lawyer and family members. However, she was released the next day after being interrogated for several hours.



PAKISTAN

From January to June, CFWIJ identified at least eight cases of threat to women journalists in Pakistan. Of the total number of cases documented from different countries in the world, those identified in Pakistan made up at least 3%. In January we documented one case, followed by February and March when CFWIJ identified two threats each. In April we documented three cases of different threats to women journalists in the country.

In Pakistan, at least two women journalists were subjected to verbal harassment. Two different incidents of women journalists being harassed online were identified in the country. While one case each related to impediments in the field, legal charges, workplace harassment and gender discrimination were identified in the first-half of 2020. Below is a summary of the threats women journalists encountered in Pakistan. Detailed information on cases related to Covid-19 can be found in this report's 'Major events from the first-half of 2020' section.

Cases documented in Pakistan

Name of journalist: Munizae Jahangir

Case details: During the last segment on January 28, Munizae's show on Aaj TV was censored. She was reporting the arrest of civil rights activist and member National Assembly Mohsin Dawar's arrest and questioned about the charges placed on him. This was the second time in the past one month that her show was censored. It first happened when she was discussing the issue of missing persons during her show at the occasion of International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2019.



Name of journalist: Gul Bukhari

Case details: On February 11, the Federal Investigation Agency supposedly summoned exiled journalist Gul Bukhari for her “defamatory remarks” against state institutions. A Pakistani news channel reported that she was ordered to submit her response within 30 days of receiving the notice. If Gul was not to not respond to the nitice, a case involving “terrorism charges” was expected to be registered against her. When speaking with CFWIJ, Gul denied receiving any such notice but said she will deal with it legally if she receives one.

Name of journalist: Shaista Hakim

Case details: On February 15, Shaista Hakim was subjected to gender discrimination. The Swat Press Club and the Swat Electronic Media Association based in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province denied membership to Shaista, despite her years-long experience as a journalist.

Name of journalist: Marvi Sirmed

Case details: On March 3, Marvi Sirmed was verbally attacked during a live talk show for her feminist views. A local playwright Khalil-ur-Rehman Qamar used abusive language against her. Trolls siding with Khalil later targeted Marvi online and resorted to abusing her in the process.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: On March 8, several women journalists were harassed and abused on social media In the lead up to Aurat March (Women’s March), which took place on March 8.



MEXICO

In the first-half of the year, we documented at least eight cases of threats to women journalists. Mexico also witnessed the murder of two women journalists – Maria Elena Ferral Hernández and Teresa Aracely Alcocer Carmona, who were shot dead in Veracruz and Ciudad Juarez, respectively. One threat among the total number of cases documented by CFWIJ was related to a journalist’s reporting on coronavirus.

We recorded two cases of women journalists being attacked and impeded in the field, while two were threatened with violence in the country. CFWIJ also identified once case each of physical assault and physical attack from January to June 2020. Below is a summary of the threats women journalists encountered in Mexico.

Cases documented in Mexico

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Case details: On February 11, members of the Fuerza Civil hurled death threats at Julia Santín and Brígido López, founders and reporters of news website Los Llanos del Sotaviento, while they were documenting a protest in Mexico's Ciudad Isla, Veracruz state. A Fuerza Civil policeman held a gun to A Título Personal’s Edna López’s head and threatened her, while she was recording the chaos for a live broadcast on Facebook. Even though the journalists identified themselves as members of the press, the state police of Veracruz attacked them and allegedly mistook them as protestors.



Name of journalist: Lucy del Carmen Sosa

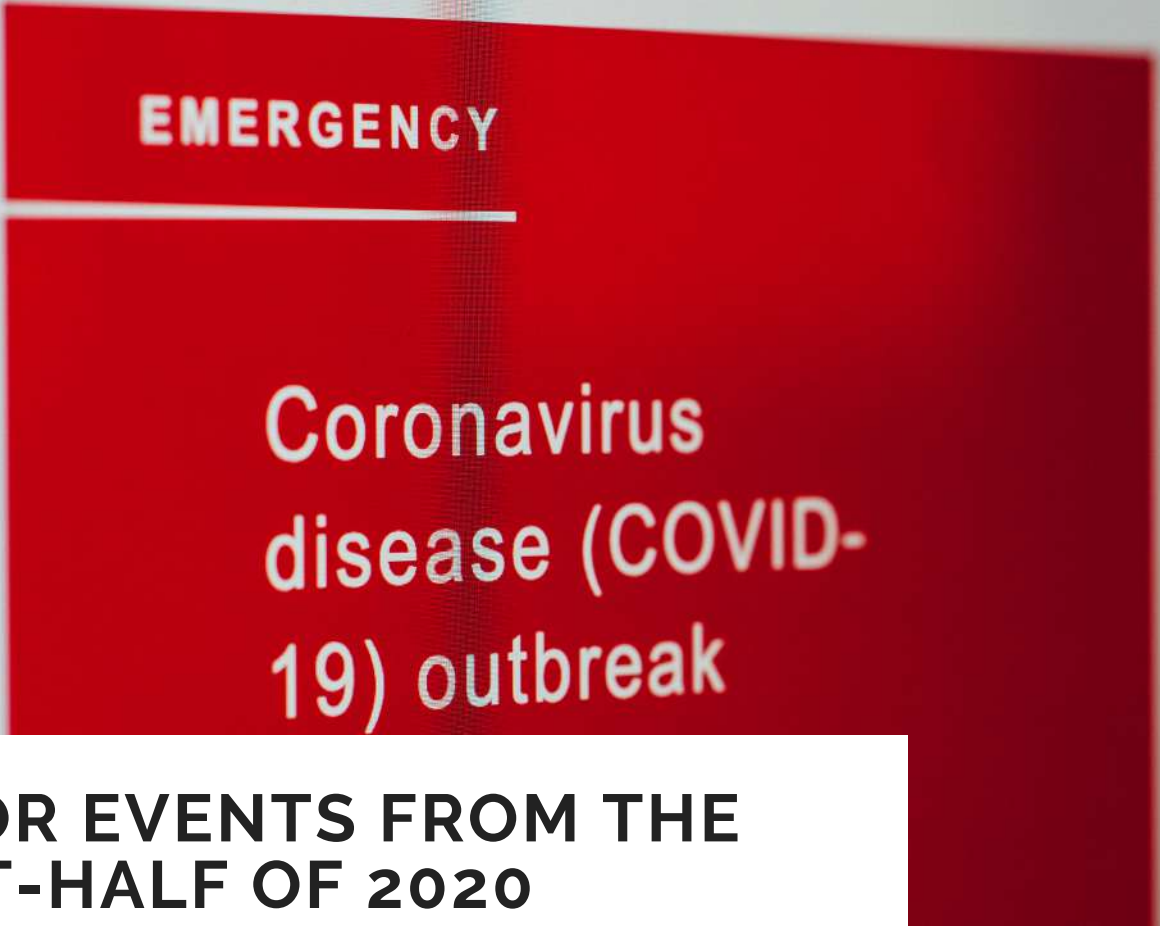
Case details: Mexican journalist Lucy del Carmen Sosa has filed a complaint against Javier Corral Jurado, the Governor of Chihuahua, for violation of her rights to information. He disregarded her queries during two different press conferences held on February 17 and 24, respectively. The Governor was negligent towards Lucy – an El Dario reporter and co-founder of the Network of Journalists of Juarez – and swept her question under the rug with a mere ‘whatever’ in response.

Name of journalist: Isabel González

Case details: During the morning conference at the National Palace on March 5, Isabel González denounced an "act of hatred" against her and asked the president to speak out. While she said that, she was verbally attacked by an Independent journalist and vlogger Paul Velázquez who said, "I hope they shot her". He later apologized for his comments on Twitter, after receiving criticism on social media.

Name of journalist: María Fernanda de Luna Ferral

Case details: On May 24, María Fernanda de Luna Ferral – daughter of slain journalist Maria Elena Ferral Hernández – was attacked by gunmen in Gutiérrez Zamora, a small town located in the north of the state of Veracruz. Her car came under fire by the attackers who were riding another vehicle. Maria was on her way to the state capital, Xalapa. She luckily survived the attack because of the bodyguards – provided to her by the state of Veracruz – fired back at the assailants. Shortly after her mother's murder on March 30, Fernanda De Luna Ferral took over the running of her news outlet Quinto Poder de Veracruz. Following threats to her safety, she received protection and lived in a supervised residence in Xalapa since the beginning of April.



EMERGENCY

**Coronavirus
disease (COVID-
19) outbreak**

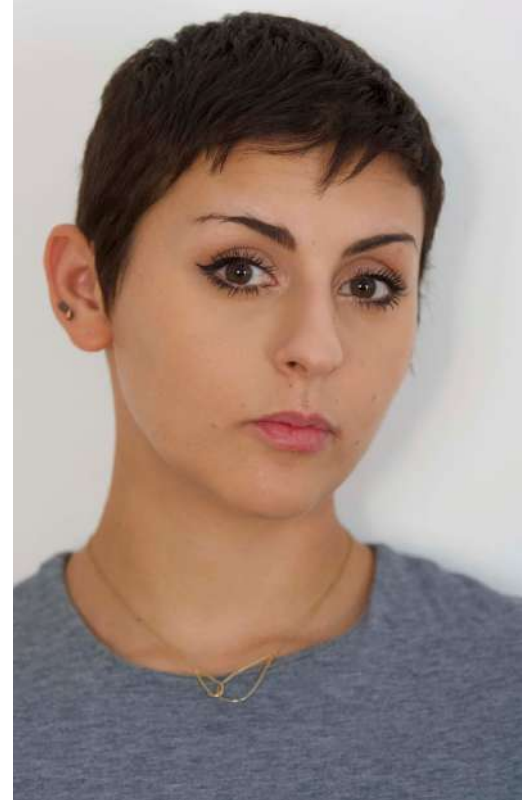
MAJOR EVENTS FROM THE FIRST-HALF OF 2020

During the first six months of 2020, Covid-19 and protests by the Black community around the world made headlines. The two major events were covered by journalists globally. Following is a breakdown of the cases we documented involving threats to women journalists.

COVID-19

After Covid-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, it became the biggest news with journalists across the world focusing their reporting on this global health crisis. However, it was not easy for them to cover news related to the novel coronavirus. Several countries across the world obstructed the press from reporting facts related to Covid-19 cases.

Countries like China and Iran, which were known to be initially hit hard by the virus, restricted their journalists from reporting the truth about the number of coronavirus cases in their respective countries. China – where the virus originally broke out – persecuted independent journalists, bloggers and anyone who was trying to disseminate information about the damage done by Covid-19. While most persecutions did not make it to news following China's restrictions on press freedom, we were able to identify some cases which included women journalists, as well as their male counterparts. This report outlines those involving women journalists.



CFWIJ documented at least 68 cases of threats that affected women journalists following the coronavirus outbreak. Some cases involved women journalists slapped with charges for their reporting on the pandemic, while others involved the loss of jobs and attacks encountered while reporting in the field. Following is a breakdown of all the Covid-19 related cases we identified since the outbreak spread globally.

Cases related to Covid-19

Name of journalist: Wan Noor Hayati Wan Alias

Country: Southeast Asia

Region: Malaysia

Type of threat: Legal charges pressed

Case details: On February 5, Wan Noor was charged with three counts of causing public fear or alarm in the Magistrate's Court, apparently for her social media posts on the spread of coronavirus outbreak in Malaysia.

Name of journalist: Elena Milashina

Country: Russia

Region: Eastern Europe/Northern Asia

Type of threat: Threatened with violence

Case details: February 7, Novaya Gazeta's Elena Milashina was threatened by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov who alleged that her story on the Russian region's strict anti-coronavirus measures are "provocative".

Name of journalist: Chao Deng

Country: China

Region: East Asia

Type of threat: Press card revoked

Case details: On February 16, China revoked press cards of Wall Street Journal correspondents, including Chao Deng, over an alleged 'racist' headline related to coronavirus.

Name of journalist: Asrar Shbaro

Country: Lebanon

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Physical Assault

Case details: February 25, a reporter from An-Nahar named Asrar Shbaro was filming passengers for her story after they left a plane that arrived from Iran following the coronavirus outbreak. She also recorded a live stream in which she was attacked by a man who was a member of Hezbollah. The attacker took her phone and deleted the incident's footage.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: Iran

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Judicial persecution

Case details: As the novel coronavirus took pace in Iran, risks to the health and safety of women journalists imprisoned by the Iranian authorities intensified. Hengameh Shahidi, Narges Mohammadi and seven detained members of the Majzooban Noor editorial staff were all at risk. Instead of releasing them, authorities subjected them to additional judicial persecution.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Impeded while on job

Case details: On March 10, White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham raised her voice at reporters who tried to question the President of the United States Donald Trump about the coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Name of journalist: Ruth Michaelson

Country: Egypt

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Lawsuit filed

Case details: On March 16, a lawsuit against Guardian correspondent in Cairo Ruth Michaelson was filed to the Egyptian Attorney General Office over "reporting misinformation" about the coronavirus cases in Egypt. Her license was also cancelled. The lawsuit, which was filed by Lawyer Amr Abdel-Salam, sought to prevent Ruth and another journalist from traveling outside Egypt, accusing them of publishing information aimed at destabilizing the public order. Ruth was later pressured to leave Cairo.

Name of journalist: Yamiche Alcindor

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: On March 16, American president Donald Trump grew visibly agitated when Yamiche Alcindor, a White House reporter for PBS Newshour, pressed him about the decision to dissolve the pandemic response team back in 2018. On March 30, during a coronavirus press conference, President Donald Trump again attacked Yamiche, calling her "threatening" and trying to ridicule her as she raised her voice. While she barely tried to finish her sentence, Yamiche was confronted with the president's deceptive verbiage. An unidentified White House aide also attempted to take the microphone from Yamiche.

Name of journalist: Weijia Jiang

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Racial discrimination

Case details: On March 17, a White House official referred to the Coronavirus as the #KungFlu to CBS News reporter Weijia Jiang's face. On April 20, President Trump told Weijia to "just relax" and told her to keep her "voice down" after she questioned him at the coronavirus task force briefing regarding the travel restrictions on China.

Name of journalist: Rana Ayyub

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Online Harassment

Case details: On March 17, Rana Ayyub was attacked by another journalist Swati Chaturvedi for her tweet on the coronavirus outbreak in India.

Name of journalist: Jiayang Fan

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Racial discrimination

Case details: On March 17, The New Yorker's Jiayang Fan was attacked by a racist with abusive slurs and labels related to coronavirus.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: China

Region: East Asia

Type of threat: Expelled

Case details: On March 18, China expelled journalists from three US newspapers in retaliation for restrictions on its news outlets in the US following their reporting on Covid-19 in the country. During a press briefing in Beijing, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said that the decision was taken in response to "unwarranted restrictions on Chinese media agencies" in the US.

Name of journalist: Ahdaf Soueif

Country: Egypt

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Arrested

Case details: On March 18, Egyptian security forces arrested Ahdaf Soueif – a Booker-shortlisted novelist – and three other women after they staged a protest demanding the release of prisoners over fears of a coronavirus outbreak amidst overcrowded jails.

Name of journalist: Ebru Küçükaydın

Country: Turkey

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Detained

Case details: On March 20, Ebru Küçükaydın – a reporter of Haberimizvar.net, was taken into custody from her home in Antalya because of her story about the coronavirus. She was released after her statement was recorded by the authorities.



Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: Police verbally abused, got into a heated argument and forced journalists to take another route, as they requested to pass through barriers on March 24. Journalists said that they were a part of essential services during the coronavirus lockdown but the police paid no heed. They inflicted lathi-charge on them and harassed them. The journalists deemed this to be a violation of exemptions provided to the press by the state government and shared their complaint with senior police officials.

Name of journalist: Alina Sheremeta

Country: Ukraine

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On March 24, Hromadske TV's reporter Alina Sheremeta was filming at a store near the capital where she was insulted and followed by a man.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: On March 25, American President Donald Trump clashed with reporters at one of his coronavirus task force briefings at the White House.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: Nigeria

Region: Africa

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: Following the coronavirus outbreak, Presidential spokesman Femi Adesina issued a circular with names of correspondents who would not be allowed to enter the Villa for media coverage of any event beginning from March 25, until further notice. As a result, over 80 journalists were 'barred' from visiting the Aso Rock.

Name of journalist: Mary Ellen Klas

Country: USA

Region: North America,

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On March 28, Miami Herald's Mary Ellen Klas was barred from attending a press conference on Covid-19 held by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis at the state capitol in Tallahassee. Outside of the capitol, Mary was told by Meredith Beatrice - a spokeswoman for DeSantis - that she could not attend because she had previously requested "social distancing" at these briefings. The briefings were available to view on Florida Channel, a government access television network. However, Mary lamented that it will take away from her the opportunity to ask questions.

Name of journalist: Julia Rendleman

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Arrest warrants issued

Case details: On March 30, the Liberty University Police Department issued arrest warrants against freelance photographer Julia Rendleman for reporting a critical story about the university's handling of Covid-19.

Name of journalist: Galina Eremita

Country: Ukraine

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On March 30, Chernivtsi Online's Galina Eremita was attacked by two Russian Orthodox worshippers who tried to break her camera in the western city of Chernivtsi.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: Brazil

Region: Latin America

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: After the novel coronavirus intensified in Brazil, President Jair Bolsonaro discredited journalists working to inform the public about the pandemic. He signed Provisional Measure 928, which suspended deadlines for public authorities and institutions to respond to requests for information.

Name of journalist: Basma Mustafa

Country: Egypt

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Interrogated

Case details: On April 1, Mada Masr's reporter Basma Mustafa was detained and interrogated for eight hours by national security for her Covid-19 reporting. She was released later.

Name of journalist: Ana Lalić

Country: Serbia

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Arrested

Case details: On April 2, Nova.rs reporter Ana Lalić was arrested for reporting on Covid-19. She was accused of "causing public unrest and damaging a hospital's reputation" after she reported on the lack of medical supplies and equipment for its staff. After being interrogated at a local police station in Vojvodina, Ana was released the next morning.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: Haiti

Region: Latin America

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 2, several unidentified men punched and hit a group of eight reporters at the National Identification Office in Haiti. The reporters were at the government department, which manages citizens' identification cards, to investigate claims related to the office violating COVID-19 guidelines and keeping applicants in close quarter.

Name of journalist: Meriem Chorfi

Country: Algeria

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Arrested

Case details: On April 2, Meriem Chorfi, and two other journalists, were placed under judicial control. The move was the last step before they could have been dragged into a court, most likely the one in Algiers' Sidi M'Hamed, which has been used by the Algerian political police to punish dissenters. She was being prosecuted for having reported "errors and faulty results of Covid-19 testing by the state-controlled Pasteur Institute of Algiers".

Name of journalist: Azarrah Karrim

Country: South Africa

Region: Africa

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 3, Azarrah Karrim of News24 was shot at by the police while she was covering the first day of the national lockdown in Yeoville. The police were trying to disperse people loitering on the streets.

Name of journalist: Manisha Mondal

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 3, The Print's Manisha Mondal wasn't allowed to return to her hostel from an assignment during the pandemic. She was locked up in her hostel room for two days and was later told she'll be thrown out by her hostel.

Name of journalist: Anonymous

Country: Pakistan

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Workplace Harassment

Case details: On April 3, a Pakistani journalist informed CFWIJ that she was not being paid her due salary following the coronavirus financial crunch at her organization.

Name of journalist: Anonymous

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Online Harassment

Case details: On April 4, a woman journalist tweeted about an appeal to light diyas and lamps on April 5, in connection with the novel coronavirus outbreak. A man named Jadhav replied to her tweet using inappropriate language, after which the journalist approached police. The culprit was arrested and identified as the district chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party's social media wing.



Name of journalist: Binu Subedi

Country: Nepal

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: After journalists based Kathmandu reported a mass departure of workers during mid-April because of the coronavirus lockdown, K. P. Sharma Oli – the prime minister of Nepal – himself attacked them for their reporting. On April 5, Kantipur Daily's Binu Subedi was also one of the journalists who was targeted for her story that mentioned workers \walking for up to 15 hours a day along the motorway out of the capital in order to go back home.

Name of journalist: Kristin Fisher

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: On April 6, Kristin Fisher of Fox News was verbally harassed by President Donald Trump. He agitated after she questioned him about the ongoing lag in results for COVID-19 tests at hospitals across the country.

Name of journalist: Erin Van Der Meer

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Financial exploitation

Case details: On April 6, freelancer Erin Van Der Meer was informed by a company named Equinox that she will not be paid over \$8000 that they owed to her for content and copywriting, following the financial crunch because of Covid-19. After she posted about the issue on social media, the company reached out to her and assured her the payment.

Name of journalist: Vidya Krishnan

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Online Harassment

Case details: Vidya Krishnan has been reporting on Covid-19 since February, and in response, government officials called her reporting "fake news," and she was relentlessly harassed online. On April 8, she shared that she was called "unpatriotic", a 'traitor', and people asked for her to be arrested immediately for 'spreading fake news'.

Name of journalist: Doraliz Torreón

Country: Mexico

Region: North America

Type of threat: Physical Assault

Case details: On April 8, Doraliz Torreón of Paralelo Informativo was attacked by a tourist in Jalisco to report on coronavirus. She was filming vacationers on the beach when she zoomed in on an English speaking man, he verbally and physically assaulted her. Another man threatened the reporter by gesturing at her with a closed fist and hurled obscenities.

Name of journalist: Paola Mardo

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Racial discrimination

Case details: On April 9, Paola Mardo was leaving a Filipino grocery with a mask on her face when she heard a woman say "China brought this virus here." As Paola neared the woman, she jumped back and said, 'Oh my God, please don't give me the virus.'" Paola, who makes a podcast about the Filipino diaspora, said that she is not even Chinese, but faced the discrimination because of her Asian features.

Name of journalist: Mary Taruvinga

Country: Zimbabwe

Region: Africa

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 10, New Zimbabwe's Mary Taruvinga was forced to toyi-toyi by soldiers and a police officer manning a checkpoint. The incident happened during a 21-day lockdown that was imposed by the government as a measure to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Name of journalist: Tatjana Lazarevic

Country: Serbia

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Detained

Case details: On April 11, Tatjana Lazarevic of KosSev was detained by police on the road from the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica/Mitrovice to nearby Zvecan. She planned to go to the local health centre to investigate "multiple complaints" about the town's readiness to deal with Covid-19 cases. Tatjana was accused of "violating a weekend curfew imposed to slow the spread of the disease". However, under rules in Kosovo, journalists are exempt from movement restrictions. She was released after several hours without being charged.

Name of journalist: Paula Reid

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: On April 14, President Donald Trump called CBS White House correspondent Paula Reid "fake" and "disgraceful" after she questioned him about the administration's decisions to tackle the coronavirus pandemic during its early stages.

Name of journalist: Anna Pokrovskaya and Vladislava Shvets

Country: Croatia

Region: Balkans

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 14, journalist Anna Pokrovskaya and camerawoman Vladislava Shvets of the Ukrainian Information Service were attacked outside a parish church in the Sirobuja suburb of Split. Despite the ban on public gatherings over the coronavirus epidemic, a Mass was held in the suburb.

Name of journalist: Sonila Meco

Country: Albania

Region: Balkans

Type of threat: Online Harassment

Case details: RTV Ora's Sonila Meco was subjected to a torrent of online abuse and harassment on April 14, after she was accused by certain media portals of disrespecting the country's doctors in a social media post. As a result of an article by Gazeta Tema, she received insults and comments that threatened the use of sexual violence against her.

Name of journalist: Benazir Shah

Country: Pakistan

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Online Harassment

Case details: On April 17, Taimur Khan Jhagra, the finance and health minister of the provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, refuted journalist Benazir Shah's tweet in which she slammed the government for providing mediocre facilities to Pakistani expatriates at the quarantine centers.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Workplace Harassment

Case details: Several journalists were fired or placed on leave because of the financial fallout of the coronavirus outbreak in India.

Name of journalist: Maria Udrescu

Country: Hungary

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Online Harassment

Case details: On April 3, La Libre Belgique's Belgian journalist Maria Udrescu was subjected to a tirade of vulgar messages following her coverage of yet another authoritarian turn in Hungary.

Name of journalist: Dina Zelenskaya

Country: Ukraine

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 2, Dina Zelenskaya of Espresso TV, and her crew - who were doing a story on compliance with the lockdown by restaurants in Kiev - were attacked by a man who threw the crew's camera and Dina's phone into the River Dnieper.

Name of journalist: Alla Zhiznevskaya

Country: Ukraine

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 2, ZIK TV's Alla Zhiznevskaya and her crew, who were covering the lockdown in Kiev were attacked by several men upset by the restrictions imposed during the quarantine.





Name of journalist: Kaitlan Collins

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Attacked/impeded in the field

Case details: On April 25 before President Donald Trump's coronavirus briefing, Kaitlan Collins of CNN was told by a White House official to give up her front-row seat and move to the back of the press room. She refused to move, as did a second reporter whose seat in the rear of the room she was ordered to take. The official then suggested the matter would be resolved by the Secret Service. However, several people involved in the episode shared that no action was taken.

Name of journalist: Zaure Mirzakhodjayeve

Country: Kazakhstan

Region: Central Asia

Type of threat: Charged and interrogated

Case details: On April 23, Zaure Mirzakhodjayeve, a journalist and blogger based in the southern city of Shymkent, was summoned and questioned by the police for seven hours over a Facebook post. She was formally investigated under article 274 of the Criminal Code for "spreading false information". On May 30, Zaure was informed that the charges against her were dropped but she may still be interrogated as a witness.

Name of journalist: Lyudmila Savitskaya

Country: Russia

Region: Eastern Europe/Northern Asia

Type of threat: Summoned by police

Case details: On April 24, Lyudmila Savitskaya of MBK Media was summoned for questioning by the police over her article titled "The situation is critical. How Pskov is responding to the coronavirus pandemic", published on March 23. She was at the risk of being charged for "spreading false information" under Article 13.15 of the Criminal Code.

Name of journalist: Larisa Shirokova

Country: Belarus

Region: Europe

Type of threat: Received an administrative protocol

Case details: On April 21, freelance journalist Larisa Shirokova, and her male colleague Andrei Tolchin, received an administrative protocol for the “illegal dissemination of the information in the media” from the Gomel Central District Police Department. The duo recorded a short video interview with students from the Francisk Skorina Gomel State University about the quarantine protocols imposed by the regime following Covid-19 on March 20. The video was used by the Poland-based Belsat TV. In recent years, Gomel courts had sentenced Shirokova and Tolchin to pay fines more than 20 and 10 times, respectively.

Name of journalist: Samina

Country: Pakistan

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: On April 29, a Pakistani journalist named Samina from Peshawar accused doctors of Police Services Hospital of rude behaviour and verbal abuse. In a video message Samnina said that she, along with her sister and mother came to hospital for a coronavirus test, but the doctors refused to do so and also verbally abused them.

Name of journalist: Adrienne Robbins

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: On May 1, Adrienne Robbins of NBC4 Columbus was accused by a protestor of “terrifying the public” by fomenting mass panic over the coronavirus.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: USA

Region: North America

Type of threat: Verbal Harassment

Case details: On May 12, Donald Trump abruptly ended a press conference on coronavirus testing after contentious exchange with several women reporters.

Name of journalist: Tashny Sukumaran

Country: Malaysia,

Region: Southeast Asia

Type of threat: Summoned for interrogation

Case details: On May 1, Tashny Sukumaran of South China Morning Post wrote an article detailing the arrests of hundreds of migrant workers and refugees in KL's "red zones", after which she was summoned at the police headquarters in the Kuala Lumpur district of Bukit Aman. She was at the risk of facing a two-year jail sentence on a charge of "intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of the peace" and "improper use of network facilities or network service" for her story. Tashy was investigated under Section 504 of the Penal Code and Section 233 of the 1998 Communications and Multimedia Act.

Name of journalist: Vida Saghari

Country: Afghanistan

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Threatened with violence/intimidation

Case details: On May 11, Vida Saghari, a journalist and women's rights activist, was threatened by a fundamentalist cleric in the western city of Herat, after she criticized him for holding a religious gathering in violation of the coronavirus lockdown.

Name of journalist: Shaima Sami

Country: Egypt

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Arrested

Case details: On May 21, Shaima Sami shared a post on her Facebook account about her arrest, after which the Egyptian Security forces took her in custody from her home in Alexandria. Her account was then shut down. Shaima's arrest came days after a few other journalists were arrested for writing articles about the novel coronavirus outbreak in the country. She has since been kept behind the bars.



Name of journalist: Tatiana Voltskaya

Country: Russia

Region: Eastern Europe/Northern Asia

Type of threat: Legal Harassment

Case details: On June 2, police filed a report against Tatiana Voltskaya on the “dissemination of fake news” to Radio Liberty, after she posted an article entitled “People are being forcibly cut off”. In the article, a doctor from Saint Petersburg talks of insufficient ventilators in the city’s hospitals.

Name of journalist: Irina Slavina

Country: Russia

Region: Eastern Europe/Northern Asia

Type of threat: Legal Harassment

Case details: On June 2, police filed a report to Koza.press against an article published by its editor-in-chief Irina Slavina. The report accused her for “dissemination of fake news”. The article, published on March 24, allegedly contained “deliberately misleading information that one of the leaders of a sambo academy in Kstovo in Nizhny Novgorod oblast came into contact with tens of people, including participants of the academy, whilst infected with coronavirus”.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: Belarus

Region: Europe

Type of threat: State Oppression

Case details: On June 2, accreditation of journalists working for BelaPAN, a leading independent news agency in Belarus, was withdrawn under the pretext of COVID-19, as the pandemic is not officially recognized in the country.

Name of journalist: Bibi Al-Khudari

Country: Kuwait

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Arrested

Case details: On June 3, Bibi Al-Khudari of Al-qabas was arrested for covering reports about COVID-19. Bibi’s release was later confirmed by the newspaper she worked for.

Name of journalist: Supriya Sharma

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Lawsuit filed

Case details: On June 13, the Uttar Pradesh Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Supriya and the publication for story on the impact of lockdown to fight coronavirus in the Indian prime minister Narendra Modi's constituency. The case registered against Supriya and Scroll.in include various sections including the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The FIR, lodged in the Varanasi Rampur police station, contains charges filed under Sections 501 and 269 of the Indian Penal Code.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: India

Region: South Asia

Type of threat: Legal Harassment

Case details: Several instances of law enforcement's action against media personnel, spanning various states, found place in a report titled India: Media's Crackdown During Covid-19 Lockdown.

Name of journalist: Multiple journalists

Country: Kenya

Region: Africa

Type of threat: Workplace Harassment

Case details: On June 22, using coronavirus as a pretext, Mediamax subjected its employees to unfair labour practice including unilateral introduction of pay cuts, withholding salaries, and unfair termination of contracts via a text message.

Name of journalist: Sanaa Seif

Case details: Film editor Sanaa Seif was abducted on June 23, outside the prosecutor's office. Sanaa was forced into a minivan and escorted to the national security prosecution office where she was interrogated over allegations of "inciting protests and spreading rumors of health conditions deterioration due to COVID-19 pandemic".

Name of journalist: Lobna Abdallah

Country: Tunis

Region: MENA

Type of threat: Interrogated

Case details: On June 30, Lobna Abdallah was interrogated by the general prosecution office about her coverage related to quarantine hospitals.



#BLACKLIVESMATTER PROTESTS IN THE US AND WORLDWIDE

After George Floyd, a Black resident of Minnesota's Minneapolis city was murdered, Black people across the US took to the streets to protest against decades of racial injustice faced by the community. The protests which initially sparked following Floyd's killing by a white cop, soon turned into a movement and disseminated across the world.

The US was not the only country that saw thousands of people participating in the demonstrations. People also came out in support of the Black community in countries like Canada and UK, among others. In the US, these protests faced retaliation by the government that deployed law enforcement to apprehend violent protesters. In doing so, security personnel also attacked journalists who were covering these demonstrations on the ground.

According to CFWIJ, at least 35 women journalists faced various threats to their safety while reporting the protests that erupted in the last week of May and continued till the end of June. at least 20 were attacked and impeded in the field. Seven women journalists were arrested during the coverage of protests, four were detained, two were assaulted physically, one woman journalist each was subjected to verbal harassment and threatened with violence.

The most number of cases were documented in the US where 33 women journalists faced different threats. The number of women journalists who were impeded while covering protests across the country were 19, seven were arrested, four were detained, two were physically attacked and one was threatened with violence. One woman journalist was verbally harassed in Canada and one was impeded on the ground in the UK.



Cases documented in the US

Name of journalist: Kaitlin Rust

Case details: On May 29, Kaitlin Rust was shot with pepper bullets while broadcasting the protests live from Louisville. Pepper bullets were fired at her and other journalists by a Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) officer, as they reported protests against Breonna Taylor's murder at her home during a police raid.

Name of journalist: Julia Learner

Case details: Student journalist Julia Learner was pepper sprayed during the coverage of protests in Columbus on May 30.

Name of journalist: Ashlee Mullany,

Case details: Ashlee Mullany, a Channel 7 reporter in the U S, was almost taken out by a stun grenade as police closed in during a protest on May 29. Aashlee, crossed to the Sunrise newsroom live from the city to report the protests for a third day. Video of the event showed the journalist ducking to dodge a stun grenade, which was fired in her direction by police officers.

Name of journalist: Briana Whitney

Case details: On May 30, CBS5's reporter Briana Whitney was assaulted live on-air, as she was covering protests outside of the Phoenix Police Department. She also faced verbal harassment in the field.



Name of journalist: Linda Tirado

Case details: Freelance photojournalist Linda Tirado was shot in the eye by a tracker, while covering protests in Minneapolis on May 30. As a result of the injury, she was left permanently blinded.

Name of journalist: Deni Kamper

Case details: WLKY reporter Deni Kamper was attacked while covering protests in Louisville on May 30.

Name of journalist: Bridget Bennet

Case details: Bridget Bennet was arrested and had camera seized while covering protests in Las Vegas on May 30.

Name of journalist: Madeline Baran

Case details: Police pointed weapons at Madeline Baran, while she was covering protests in Minneapolis on May 30.

Name of journalist: Sarah Belle Lin

Case details: On May 31, a freelance journalist Sarah Belle Lin faced police violence. Even after she identified herself as a journalist and invoked her First Amendment rights while covering protests in Oakland, California, the police continued to obstruct her work.



Name of journalist: Susan Ormiston

Case details: On May 31, Susan Ormiston of CBC was hit by a rubber bullet while reporting in the midst of protests in Minneapolis.

Name of journalist: Leland Vittert

Case details: Freelance journalist Leland Vittert was attacked by protestors in Washington on May 31.

Name of journalist: Samara Freemark

Case details: Police pointed weapons at freelance journalist Samara Freemark while she was covering protests in Minneapolis on May 31.

Name of journalist: Brianna Sacks

Case details: On May 31, Brianna Sacks, a BuzzFeed News reporter, was detained and handcuffed by Santa Monica police while covering protests.

Name of journalist: Cerise Castle

Case details: KCRW reporter Cerise Castle was shot with rubber bullets while covering protests in Los Angeles on May 31.

Name of journalist: Katie Nielsen

Case details: KPIX 5 News journalist Katie Nielsen was detained and handcuffed by Oakland police while covering protests on May 31.



Name of journalist: Alyssa Pointer

Case details: On May 31, Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Alyssa Pointer was detained and handcuffed by Georgia Department of Natural Resources officers.

Name of journalist: Sharon Chischilly

Case details: Sharon Chischilly of the New Mexico Daily Lobo was attacked with fire rubber bullets by the police, while covering protests in the New Mexico campus on May 31.

Name of journalist: Jenn Dize

Case details: Freelance journalist Jenn Dize was shot with a projectile, pushed to ground and made to lose grip of her equipment while covering protests in DC on May 31.

Name of journalist: Andrea May Sahouri

Case details: On May 30, Des Moines police arrested Andrea May Sahouri, a Des Moines Register reporter, while she was covering a demonstration at Merle Hay Mall. She was charged with "failure to disperse and interference with official acts". However, Andrea was later released.

Name of journalist: Barbara Davidson

Case details: Freelance journalist Barbara Davidson was shoved by the police when covering protests in LA on May 30. As a result of the attack, she tripped and hit her head as well.



Name of journalist: Carolyn Cole

Case details: LA Times' reporter Carolyn Cole was sprayed and attacked by police in Minneapolis on May 30.

Name of journalist: Maggie Koerth

Case details: Police drew weapons towards Five Thirty Eight's Maggie Koerth and impeded her reporting in Minneapolis on May 30.

Name of journalist: Ellen Shmidt

Case details: On May 31, Ellen Shmidt of Las Vegas Review was arrested while covering protests in Las Vegas. The police officers also seized her camera while apprehending her.

Name of journalist: Alexis Johnson

Case details: On June 1, Alexis Johnson was barred by Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – the publication she worked for – from covering a story in her hometown about police and racial justice.

Name of journalist: Molly Hennessy-Fiske

Case details: Molly posted a video on Twitter that showed how Minnesota State Patrol fired tear-gas canisters at her and other media personnel at “point-blank range”. The journalists were covering demonstrations outside the city's fifth precinct in Minneapolis on June 2.



Name of journalist: Amelia Brace

Case details: Amelia Brace, an Australian journalist and US correspondent for Channel 7 News, was beaten by police outside the White House while covering protests on June 2. A video captured by WJLA-TV in Washington showed Channel 7's reporter Amanda Brace, along with cameraman Tim Myers, being assaulted as law enforcement officials cleared an area near the White House to clear way for President Donald Trump, who was scheduled to visit a nearby church damaged during the demonstrations. On June 30, she testified about the assault at a U.S. House Natural Resources Committee hearing examining the response in the park that day.

Name of journalist: Jenna Miller

Case details: On June 3, Delaware Online's Jenna Miller was arrested while covering demonstrations in Philadelphia after curfew hours ended across the city.

Name of journalist: Kristen Graham

Case details: On June 3, Kristen Graham of Philadelphia Inquirer was arrested while covering demonstrations in Philadelphia after curfew hours.

Name of journalist: Anna Slatz

Case details: Canadian journalist Anna Slatz, correspondent of Rebel News, was arrested while covering protests in New York city on June 3. She was kept in custody before being released the next day.



Name of journalist: Maye E Wong

Case details: On June 3, Associated Press photojournalist Maye E Wong was pushed and shoved by over half a dozen police officers while covering protests in lower Manhattan, New York.

Name of journalist: Mehtap Çolak Yılmaz

Case details: Mehtap Çolak Yılmaz of VOA Turkey was pushed by police when covering protests near the White House on June 5.

Name of journalist: Khrystyna Shevchenko

Case details: On June 5, VOA Ukraine's Khrystyna Shevchenko was attacked and injured by a man in Santa Monica.

Name of journalist: Samantha Melamed

Case details: On June 6, the Inquirer's Samantha Melamed was detained while covering the occupation of a Municipal Police Services building in Philadelphia.

Name of journalist: Lesley McLam

Case details: The Portland police arrested three journalists, including KBOO's Lesley McLam, who were covering protests in North Portland on June 30. She is a volunteer reporter and podcast host.



Case documented in Canada

Name of journalist: Caryn Lieberman

Case details: On June 6, Caryn Lieberman, a Global News reporter, had a troll yell obscenities at her while she was covering protests in the Toronto Bay Area.

Case documented in the UK

Name of journalist: Sophie Walsh

Case details: On June 3, Australian journalist Sophie Walsh, who is a Nine News' Europe correspondent, was attacked while covering a Black Lives Matter protest in Hyde Park, London.



The Coalition For Women In Journalism 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. We thoroughly document cases of any form of abuse against women in any part of the globe. Our system 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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