

2024 MONTHLY REPORT: FEBRUARY



Press Freedom Status For Women Journalists

Global Increase in Detentions Compared to January, With Russia and Turkey Topping the List

Objective of report

Every day worldwide, women and LGBTQI journalists face severe threats to their safety. These threats exist online and offline, from misinformation and discrediting campaigns rooted in misogyny and sexism to more serious problems such as harassment from the state. The problems women journalists contend with are not broadly recognized. Newsrooms are often tight-lipped about them; governments take little action to counter violations against women journalists.

Women Press Freedom's monthly reports are drawn from our daily and feature research that offers a landscape view of what press freedom looks like from a gender angle. Each morning, the newsroom registers new violations against them, marshaling ever more evidence of the severity of the threats they face and the urgent need to raise awareness about these issues. Many of these cases are documented internally by Women Press Freedom to maintain anonymity and ensure the safety of targeted journalists. Our work shows the incredible courage and conviction women journalists work with in spite of the hurdles they face. Our job is to ensure their circumstances are made visible so accurate resources can be directed for their safety and growth.

Women Press Freedom is an initiative by the Coalition For Women In Journalism.

This report was developed with the support of Craig Newmark Philanthropies.

Executive Editor: Kiran Nazish

Editor: Inge Snip

Research: Sonila Sota, Máire Rowland, Rabia Mushtaq

Design: Weilee Yap

Editor's Note

As we present the February 2024 report, we do so with a deep sense of responsibility and urgency. The findings within these pages lay bare the systemic and pervasive challenges faced by journalists across the globe. In February alone, we documented **105 violations** against journalists, including **2 tragic deaths**, showcasing not just the dangers of the profession but also the heightened risks women in media confront for doing their jobs.

The data presented offers a stark overview of the multitude of hazards: from **legal harassment**, which tops the list with 23 instances, to **detentions** and **physical assaults**, each numbering 13. These figures are not just statistics; they represent individual stories of courage, resilience, and, at times, unspeakable adversity.

The geographical spread of these violations, from Europe to the MENA region, South America to Asia, highlights a universal problem transcending borders. Yet, certain regions and countries exhibit particularly alarming trends.

Argentina emerges as a focal point, with assaults at protests contributing significantly to its high violation count. During demonstrations against far-Right President Javier Milei's proposed reform package, known as the omnibus bill, police deployed excessive force against the press. This not only resulted in the injury of over 30 journalists but also spotlighted the egregious disregard for press freedom and the physical safety of those covering events on the ground.

Russia and Turkiye, too, are highlighted for their concerning numbers. Russia upped its surge in detentions following Navalny's death and at protests against its war in Ukraine by mothers of soldiers, while Turkiye is back to the levels of legal harassment under the guise of anti-terrorism operations, as we documented prior to the election year in 2023.

Editor's Note

Transnational repression and the killing of Palestinian journalists Alaa Hassan Al-Hams and Angham Ahmed Adwan, underscore the dire circumstances under which many journalists operate. Similarly, the imprisonment of Nasrin Hassani in Iran for her reporting on public interest events points to the widespread issue of governments silencing dissenting voices.

This report also shines a light on online harassment, organized troll campaigns, and workplace harassment. These insidious forms of abuse have profound impacts on the mental health and professional lives of journalists, often aiming to discredit and silence their work.

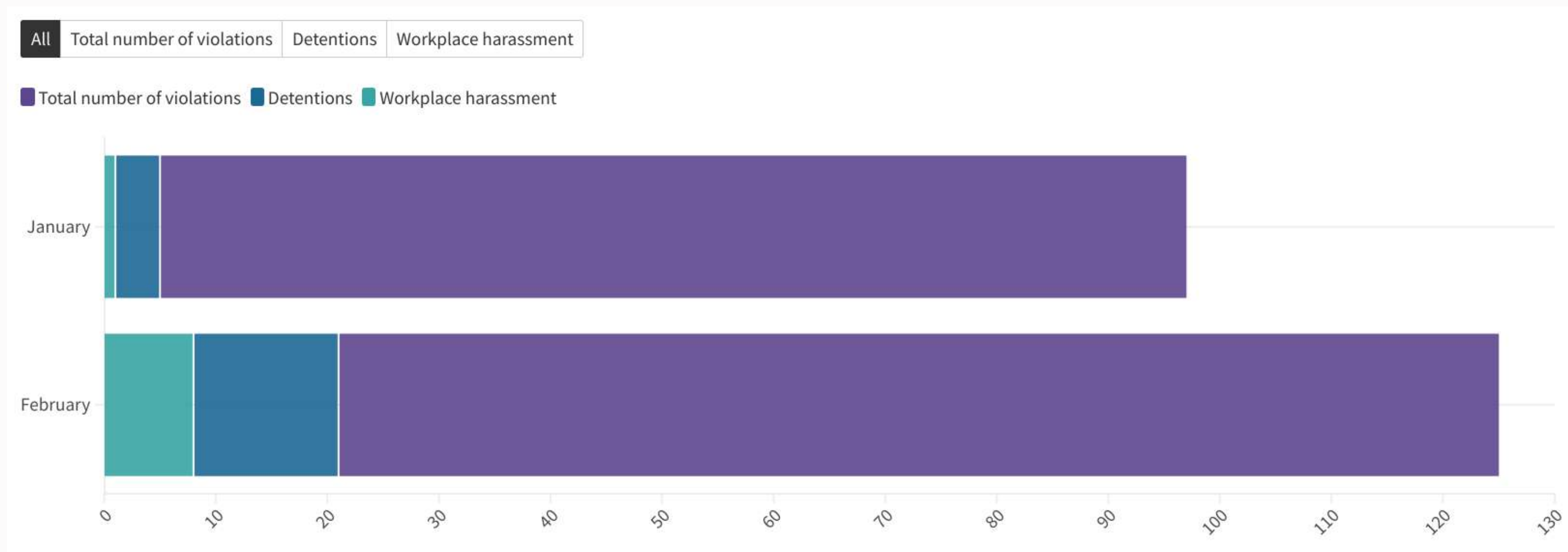
As we document and disseminate these findings, it's imperative to recognize the resilience and tenacity of journalists worldwide. Despite facing daunting challenges, they continue to report, investigate, and tell the stories that need to be told. However, acknowledging their bravery is not enough. It calls for action from governments, institutions, and society at large to ensure that women journalists can work free from harassment, intimidation, and violence. Accountability remains a critical concern, with only a handful of cases seeing any form of redress.



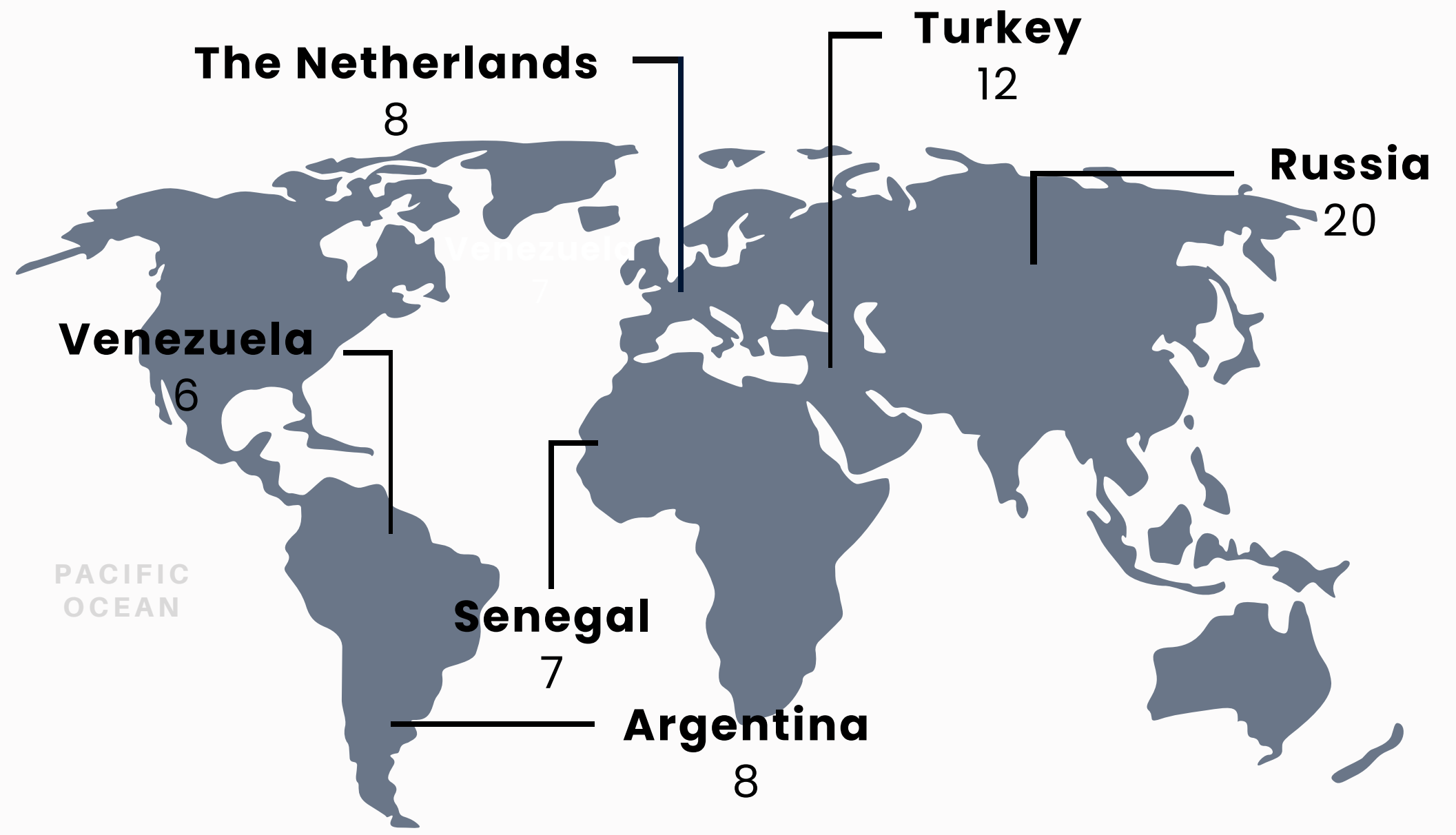
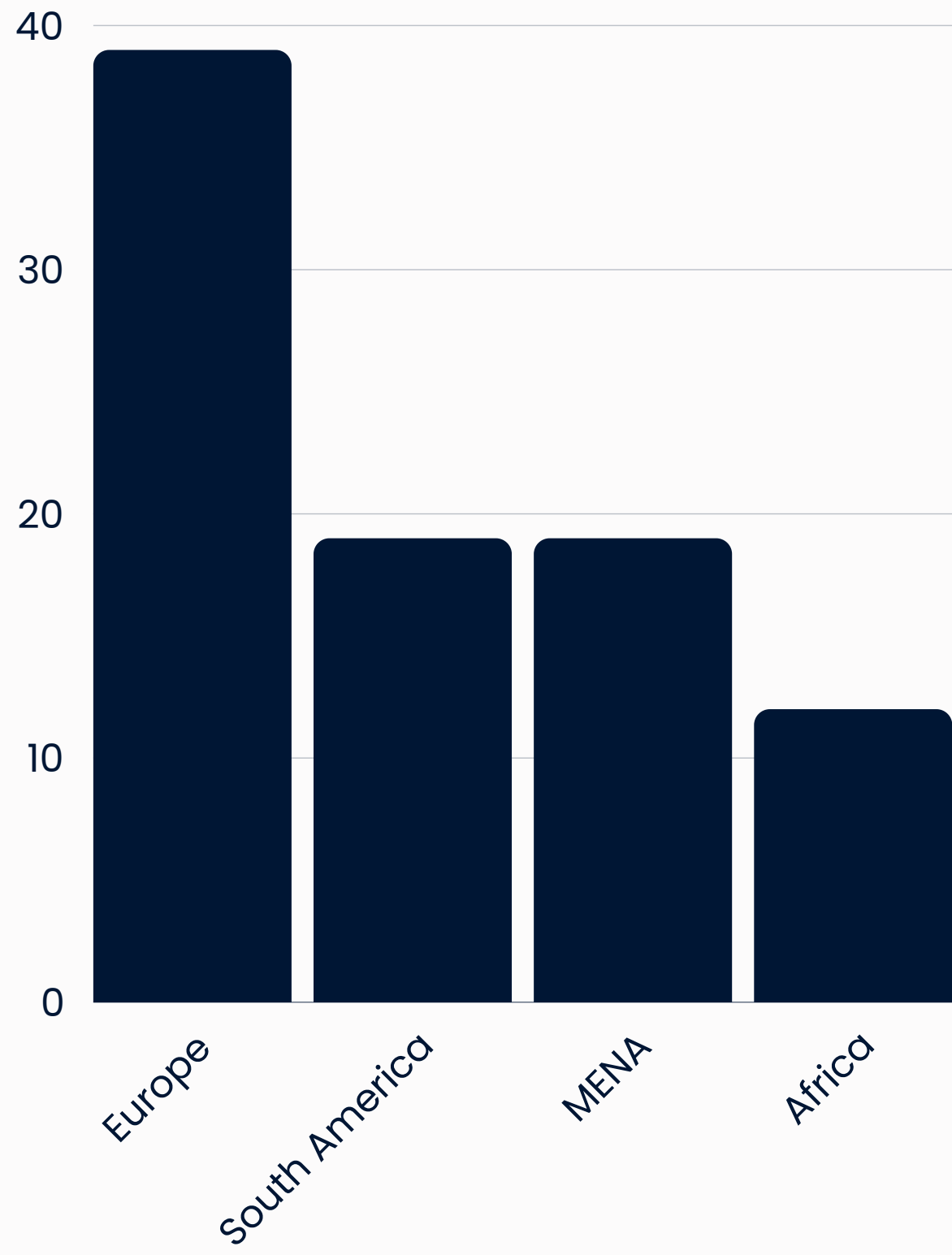
Inge Snip

Senior Editor, Women Press Freedom

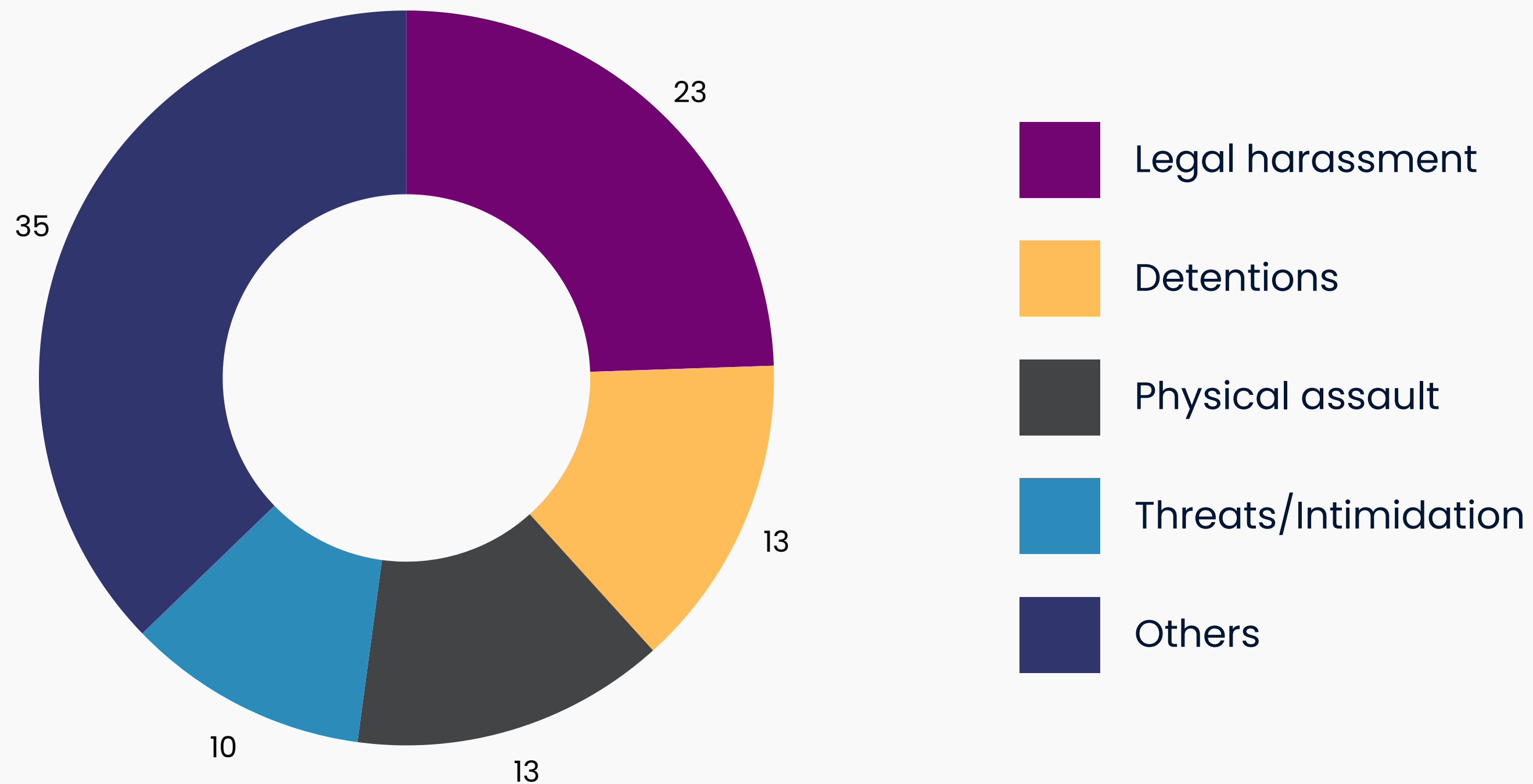
Summary



Top Press Freedom Violators in February 2024



Top Press Freedom Violations in February 2024





2 journalists killed

Gaza:

Amidst Israel's relentless assault on Gaza, two Palestinian journalists, **Alaa Hassan Al-Hams** and **Angham Ahmed Adwan**, were killed by Israel on February 12, bringing the death toll to a staggering 19 women journalists killed since October 7, 2023. Al-Hams worked for the local Sanad News Agency, while Adwan was associated with Libya's February Channel.

Two journalists killed

1 journalist imprisoned

Iran:

Nasrin Hassani, a journalist residing in Bojnurd was imprisoned on February 4 to serve a seven-month sentence. Hassani was arrested in September 2022 for reporting on events of significant public interest, including the protests ignited by the tragic death of Mahsa Amini. She was charged in September 2022 but released on bail.

3 journalists arrested


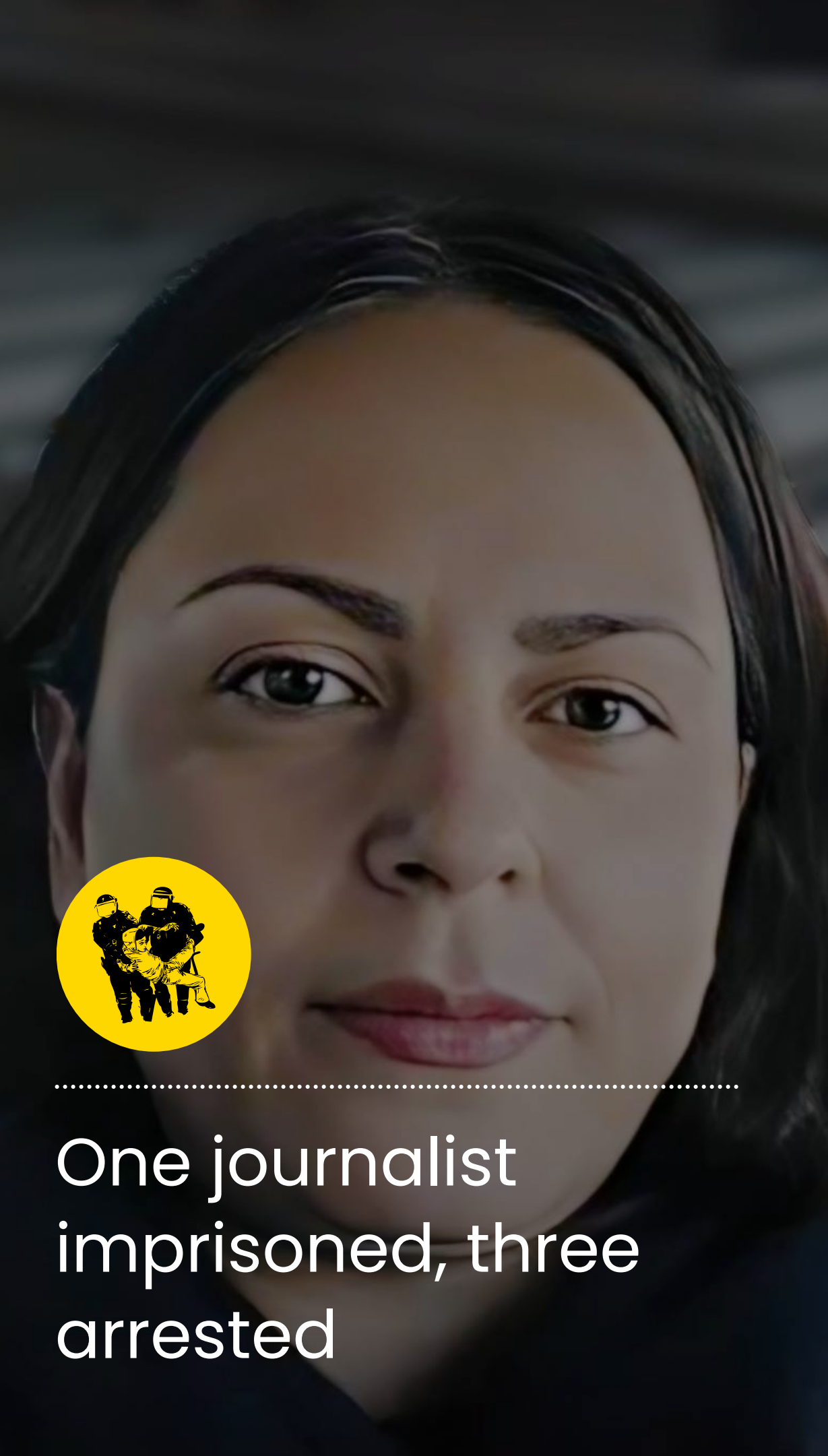
Nepal:

On February 10, police in Kanchanpur district of western Sudurpaschim province arrested **Aishwarya Kunwar**, a reporter for the privately owned news website Nigarani Khabar, following their reporting and social media commentary on allegations of police misconduct.

Turkiye:

Police conducted a dawn raid on the home of journalist **Selamet Turan** in Sirnak on February 9. After the search, she was detained. According to reports, the journalist was taken to the Sirnak Police Department. Three days later, a Diyarbakir court decided to arrest and jail Turan, pending a trial. The journalist was reportedly charged with “membership in a terrorist organization.”

On February 16, after four days behind bars, **Melike Aydın** and three other Kurdish journalists in Izmir were put under house arrest. They are under investigation for “membership of a terrorist organization.” The journalists also were issued travel bans.



One journalist
imprisoned, three
arrested

13 journalists detained

Nigeria:

On February 22, **Kasarachi Aniagolu**, a journalist with The Whistler Newspaper, was unlawfully detained by the anti-violence crime unit of the Nigerian Police Force. Aniagolu was covering a police raid on Bureau de Change operators in Abuja when she was violently apprehended.

Russia: 6

After the death of Alexei Navalny at least four journalists were detained on February 17 while covering spontaneous memorial's to the opposition figure in cities throughout Russia. In Moscow, journalists **Yulia Petrova** and **Zosya Rodkevich** were detained while covering a rally in memory of Navalny. Security forces demanded Petrova show her documents and stopped her from recording. In Chelyabinsk, RusNews correspondent **Ksenia Starikova** was detained while filming a man dismantling a spontaneous memorial to Alexei Navalny. In St. Petersburg, **Elina Kozich** was detained while covering another memorial event. All were later released.

On February 24, 2024 RusNews journalist **Yulia Petrova**, SOTAvision correspondent **Anna Sliva** were detained at a Moscow rally of wives of those mobilized in Russia's war with Ukraine. Officers demanded the journalists stop filming the rally and forcefully took them away from the protests in police vans. All journalists had press cards and were wearing "PRESS" vests.



Thirteen journalists
detained

13 journalists detained

Ukraine:

On February 22, 2024, armed and masked Russian occupation forces stormed the home of journalist **Lutfiye Zudiyeva** in Dzhankoi, occupied Crimea. The journalist was detained and released after questioning.

Senegal:

On February 4, Agora TV's **Sokhna Ndack Mbacké** and Itv's Khadija **Ndate Diouf** were detained by gendarmerie while reporting on protests in Dakar following the postponement of elections. The journalists faced verbal abuse, confiscation of equipment, and threats of imprisonment from authorities. They were released without charge after a brief detention.

Turkiye:

In a morning raid on her home in Kocaeli on February 9, journalist **Kirbriye Evren** was detained by the anti-terror unit. The journalist is now facing terrorism charges for sending money to a friend in prison. She was released under judicial control (on bail).

On February 13, police raided the residences of numerous Kurdish journalists in Izmir. Authorities detained six journalists including **Semra Turan** and Melike Aydın from JIN News. Days later Melike Aydın was placed under house arrest and Turan was released under judicial control.



Thirteen journalists
detained



Six journalists
sentenced

6 journalists sentenced

Morocco:

On February 12 the Court of First Instance in Sale imposed a one-month suspended imprisonment and a fine of 500 dirhams (approximately US\$50) on journalist **Hanane Bakour**. She was also ordered to pay the National Rally of Independents (RNI), Morocco's ruling party, a symbolic compensation of one dirham, the equivalent of \$0.27. Bakour was convicted of "publishing fake news by using electronic means that harm private life."

Turkiye:

Several journalists and media workers, including **Nazlı Ilıcak**, were retried on terrorism charges related to their alleged links to the Gülen movement, which the Turkish government accuses of orchestrating the failed coup attempt in 2016. On February 14, the Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court handed down a prison sentences of five years and three months to Nazlı Ilıcak.

On February 20, **Neşe idil** was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison by the 22nd Heavy Penal Court in Istanbul for a 2015 Twitter post related to the liberation of Kobani, Syria, from ISIS. The execution of the sentence has been suspended for five years.



Six journalists
sentenced

6 journalists sentenced

Malaysia:

On February 7, British journalist **Clare Rewcastle-Brown**, the award-winning editor of Sarawak Report, was given a two-year sentence in absentia by the Terengganu Magistrate's Court. The journalist was convicted of defaming the queen consort Sultanah Nur Zahirah of Terengganu in her book, "The Sarawak Report - The Inside Story of the IMDB Exposé."

Iran:

Saba Azarpeik and **Kimia Fathizadeh** were convicted by a Tehran court on February 26 on charges of "spreading false information, defamation, and threats." Azarpeik received a two-year prison sentence, with the possibility of an extension for any similar conduct, and a social media ban. Fathizadeh was sentenced to six months in prison, a fine, and a two-year prohibition from engaging in journalism.

Thirteen journalists physically assaulted

Argentina:

On February 1, 2024, protests against President Javier Milei's proposed reform package, known as the omnibus bill, entered its second day. Police used excessive force to disperse protesters outside Congress, resulting in injuries to over 30 journalists, among them **Celeste Alonso, Daniela María Coradeghini, Diana Quiroz, Kresta Pepe, Lorena Tapia, Paula Acunzo, Sol Arezo, and Susi Maresca.**

Senegal:

Maimouna Ndour Faye, a journalist and Director at the private television channel 7TV, was viciously attacked in Dakar on February 29. According to accounts from Faye's relatives, an unknown assailant repeatedly stabbed the journalist outside her home following her television program, where she frequently engages in heated political discussions. Images circulating on social media show Faye covered in blood clutching her stomach.

On February 9, four women journalists, **Absa Hane, Fana Cissé, Isabelle Bampoky, Ngoné Diop**, were assaulted by police during widespread protests throughout Senegal. The unrest followed the decision to postpone the presidential election originally scheduled for February 25, 2024.



Thirteen journalists
physically assaulted

10 journalists faced threats and intimidation

Mexico:

On February 22, President López Obrador inadvertently doxxed New York Times Bureau Chief for Mexico **Natalie Kittroef**'s contact information, including her phone number. The journalist had sent a letter to the president requesting a comment on a U.S. investigation into allegations that people close to him received funds from drug traffickers both before and after his 2018 election. During his daily press briefing, the President displayed and read aloud the letter, showing Kittroef's phone number to the public.

Colombia:

Journalists for Publimetro, **Eliana Peñaloza** and **Luz Lancheros** receive death threats after criticizing influencer Westcol for animal cruelty. Westcol attacked Peñaloza's appearance and discredited her work leading to a barrage of hateful messages and threats from his followers. When Lancheros tried to defend her colleague, she too became a target and was threatened.

On February 9, 2024, multiple journalists, including RCN's **Angie Alquichides** were attacked by a group of protesters in Bogotá. During their attempt to report on the upheaval, the journalist from RCN, along with her cameraman, found themselves in a threatening scenario when a man demanded to know their affiliation with the media organization. The situation quickly escalated as more people joined, shouting "Get out of here" and attempting to physically harm them.



Ten journalists faced
threats and
intimidation

10 journalists faced threats and intimidation

Azerbaijan:

Azerbaijan journalists continue to face harassment and intimidation from authorities while living in Georgia. Reports from several journalists indicate a disturbing pattern of attacks and surveillance by what they believe to be Azerbaijani security services. Despite seeking refuge in Georgia, these journalists, including **Aytan Farhadova**, continue their work of reporting on and speaking out against the regime.

Germany:

On February 15, verbal abuse and insults were directed at Bloomberg reporter **Petra Sorge** and reporters from several outlets, as they sought to report on Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck's visit to a chocolate factory in Seligenthal.

Kenya:

On February 3, journalist for The New Humanitarian, **Namukabo Werungah**, shared a dangerous encounter she and her reporting team faced while on location. Without mentioning the specific area where the attack occurred, the journalist said she and her crew had a lucky escape when an armed group surrounded them.



Ten journalists faced
threats and
intimidation

10 journalists faced threats and intimidation

Kosovo:

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)'s **Adelina Ahmeit** and a camera operator were intimidated while interviewing a local resident in Klina e Eperme. They were reporting on a proposal to build a Catholic church in the area on February 26 when they were confronted and insulted.

Montenegro:

On February 22, **Tamara Vučinović** was reported to the police by the principal of an educational institution in the city of Tivat. The complaint was filed after Vučinović refused to disclose her source of information for an article on the school.

Russia:

On February 9, 2024, several journalists in Moscow, including DER SPIEGEL's **Christina Hebel**, were visited by security authorities and intimidated, apparently in response to their coverage of an upcoming protest by wives, mothers, and sisters demanding the return of their family members from the Ukraine war. Media workers were warned by police officers not to attend the protest. Some journalists received calls and requests to report to the police station, while others faced direct threats of house raids and criminal proceedings.



Ten journalists faced
threats and
intimidation

22 journalists legally harassed

Russia: 11

The Interior Ministry issues arrest warrants for numerous women and non-binary journalists including, **Maria Chistyakova, Veronika Belotserkovskaya, Marina Ovsyannikova, Alla Gutnikova, Maria Menshiko, Natalia Tyshkevich, Anna Narinskaya, Yevgenia Baltatarov, Maria Efrosinina, Nataliia Moseichuk and Svetlana Anokhina**. The list, which was revealed on February 13, includes Russian and Ukrainian journalists. All the Russian journalists listed live in exile.

Brazil:

On February 14, Bahia State court has rejected an appeal by journalist **Alana Rocha** against her criminal conviction. The journalist served eight months in open detention after being sentenced for defamation for reporting on Rádio Gazeta FM in 2021.

Pakistan:

On February 1, news anchor Ashfaque Ishaque Satti served news anchor **Rabia Anum** with a defamation notice in response to her reporting on domestic violence. Anum, a prominent journalist with a substantial social media following, shared the plight of Satti's wife, Nomaika, on Twitter on January 29. Nomaika accuses her husband of abuse.

Ukraine:

On February 23, **Lutfiye Zudiyeva** was slapped with charges of "misuse of freedom of mass media" for her Facebook posts. These posts included content from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), labeled an "undesirable" organization by Russia, and references to the banned Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir. If convicted, Zudiyeva faces fines of up to 100,000 rubles (\$1,050).



Twenty-two
journalists faced
legal harassment

22 journalists legally harassed

Turkiye:

Çiğdem Toker revealed on February 1 that she was summoned by Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office for her comments made on Fox TV during a program following a presidential election runoff in May 2023.

On February 16, after four days behind bars in Izmir, Kurdish journalist **Semra Turan** was released under judicial control. She and five of her colleagues are under investigation for alleged membership of a terror group. Turan was issued a travel ban and must sign in at a police station twice a week

Nagihan Yılkin, a reporter for Cumhuriyet, was convicted for "insulting a public official" on February 16. The outlet's Editor-in-Chief, Mustafa Büyüksipahi, was acquitted of the same charge. The Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court fined Yılkin approximately €200 for the offense.

On February 16, 2024, Istanbul prosecutor Mehmet Said Küçük bursa announced he was seeking severe penalties for ETHA editor **Nadiye Gürbüz** on charges of affiliation with a terrorist group and promoting its ideology. The prosecutor advocated for a disproportionately harsh sentence ranging from 9 to 22.5 years of imprisonment.

At a hearing at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance on February 22, the prosecutor demanding the punishment of columnist **Gözde Bedeloğlu** for the alleged crime of "insulting a public official due to their duty."



Twenty-two
journalists faced
legal harassment

22 journalists legally harassed

United States:

On February 29 a federal judge held journalist **Catherine Herridge** in contempt of court. The ruling stems from Herridge's refusal to reveal her confidential sources for a series of investigative reports published in 2017 during her tenure at Fox News. The journalist plans to appeal.

India:

Jashoda Desai was charged with defamation on February 6. The journalist who works for Prathna Sandesh News, is facing slander accusations for uploading content on social media that questions the educational qualification of a local politician of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Thailand:

On February 6, a decade after being acquitted of defamation charges linked to her reporting on human trafficking, **Chutima Sidasathian** is yet again on trial for criminal defamation — this time for her 2021 exposé on a corrupt lending scheme involving state officials. Defamation is a criminal offense in Thailand, and Sidasathian faces years behind bars if convicted.

Egypt:

On February 20, Mada Masr's editor **Lina Attalah** was subjected to questioning by prosecutors for nearly two hours and is now facing charges of "publishing false news without checking its sources" and "running a website without a license." Following the interrogation, she was released on bail.



Twenty-two
journalists faced
legal harassment

5 journalists faced online harassment

Australia:

Anti-Zionist activists in Australia have published the names, images, professions and social media accounts of hundreds of Jewish people working in academia and creative industries, in an escalation of social tensions over the October 7 attacks and subsequent war in Gaza. The dissemination of almost 600 names and their personal details was taken from the purported membership of a private WhatsApp Group formed last year by Jewish writers, artists, musicians and academics.

Slovakia:

Following being targeted in a smear campaign by politicians, journalist **Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová** is doxxed and harassed online by conspiracy theorist Daniel Bombic on February 15. Bombic launched degrading online attacks against Hanzelová including vile edited photos of the journalist.

France:

On February 1, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, voiced profound concern regarding the continuous harassment faced by French Muslim journalist **Rokhaya Diallo**. This harassment, spanning over several years, encompasses various forms of intimidation and obstruction, emblematic of the challenges journalists, particularly women of color, encounter in advocating for human rights and freedom of expression.



.....
Five journalists faced
online harassment

5 journalists faced online harassment

Germany:

Alexandra Förderl-Schmid, the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Süddeutsche Zeitung, was targeted with an aggressive, defamatory campaign spearheaded by the right-wing populist platform "Nius." This campaign has included accusations of plagiarism tied to her PhD dissertation, with "Nius" commissioning "plagiarism hunter" Stefan Weber to scrutinize her work. The online harassment campaign was further inflamed by these allegations, which primarily focused on the 30-year-old dissertation from the University of Salzburg.

Zimbabwe:

On February 19, journalist **Rutendo Maraire** filed a police report against controversial businessman Wicknell Chivayo whom she accuses of cyberbullying and sexual harassment after the reporter quizzed him about expensive vehicles he had generously lavished on musicians.



Five journalists faced
online harassment

2 journalists targeted by organized troll campaigns

United States:

Digital activism turned harassment targets American podcast host, content creator, and comedian **Elyse Myers**. "Operation Watermelon" has emerged as a controversial campaign on social media platforms like TikTok, where pro-Palestinian supporters aim to hijack comment sections of popular influencers to amplify the Palestinian cause. However, the campaign's latest target, Myers, has spotlighted the ethical boundaries of such digital movements.

Pakistan:

On February 1, an organized online harassment campaign targeted journalist **Gharida Farooqi** after she found herself tagged in abusive tweets with slanderous hashtags. Women Press Freedom investigation reveals that this is a deliberate and organized effort to silence the journalist. It marks the most extensive instance of organized digital violence we have ever recorded in the region against a journalist after Rana Ayyub.



Two journalists
targeted by
organized troll
campaigns

A journalist faced sexual harassment

Brazil:

On February 27, sports reporter **Gisele Kumpel** filed a complaint against a mascot for sexual harassment, accusing the club icon of pushing her head and motioning to kiss her. The **incident was alleged to have taken place during a football match, when Gisele Kumpel claims the home team's mascot constantly made gestures towards her. The journalist is pressing charges.**



Two journalists faced
sexual harassment

8 journalists harassed in the workplace

The Netherlands:

In a revealing investigation on February 27 by the Dutch newspaper AD, over eight women journalists have come forward with allegations of systematic bullying, discrimination, and a pervasive culture of fear at WNL, a prominent broadcaster within the Dutch public broadcasting system NPO. The allegations have brought to light significant issues within the organization, challenging the public's perception of the media landscape in The Netherlands.



Eight journalists
harassed in the
workplace

4 journalists discredited

Germany:

On February 26 during demonstrations in Dresden, fake AI-generated audio clips from the Tagesschau news program were played. These recordings contained false apologies purportedly from Tagesschau presenters, including **Susanne Daubner**, for alleged "lies" and "deliberate manipulations" in their reports for the ARD broadcasting network. The deepfakes were played at a demonstration on Wilsdruffer Street, where thousands of people gathered for so-called Monday Demonstrations to protest government policies.

Kosovo:

Journalist **Saranda Ramaj** and media outlets KOHA and Kohavision faced attacks and attempts to discredit their work after reporting on a property exchange involving the Municipality of Pristina and its mayor.

Slovakia:

Starting on February 11, high-ranking politicians from the Direction – Social Democracy (Smer) party launched a coordinated smear campaign against journalist **Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová**. The campaign was led by Deputy Speaker of the Parliament and Vice Chair of Smer, Ľuboš Blaha, who used his Telegram channel to launch a series of scathing attacks.

Venezuela:

On February 2, **Hilianni Vásquez** faced attacks and insults from local government officials in Cumaná after covering a protest by residents in Terrazas del Sol.



Four journalists
discredited

A journalist's accreditation was revoked

United States:

On February 23, **Amanda Moore** was unjustly targeted and barred from reporting on the CPAC convention, even though she had a valid ticket and her press credentials had been approved initially. The sudden revocation of Moore's credentials followed by her removal from the conference on the grounds of being on a red-flag list, sets a troubling precedent for press freedom. This act of censorship is especially concerning given the unrestricted access of extremist people to CPAC, in stark contrast to the deliberate exclusion of a journalist renowned for her coverage of neo-Nazis and far-right movements.



A journalist's
accreditation
revoked

A journalist surveilled

Canada:

On February 1 alarming revelations emerged regarding the possible secretive surveillance of journalist **Brandi Morin** by Welund, a multinational intelligence firm with active contracts with the Alberta government.



A journalist surveilled

Eleven women journalists faced denial of access

Azerbaijan


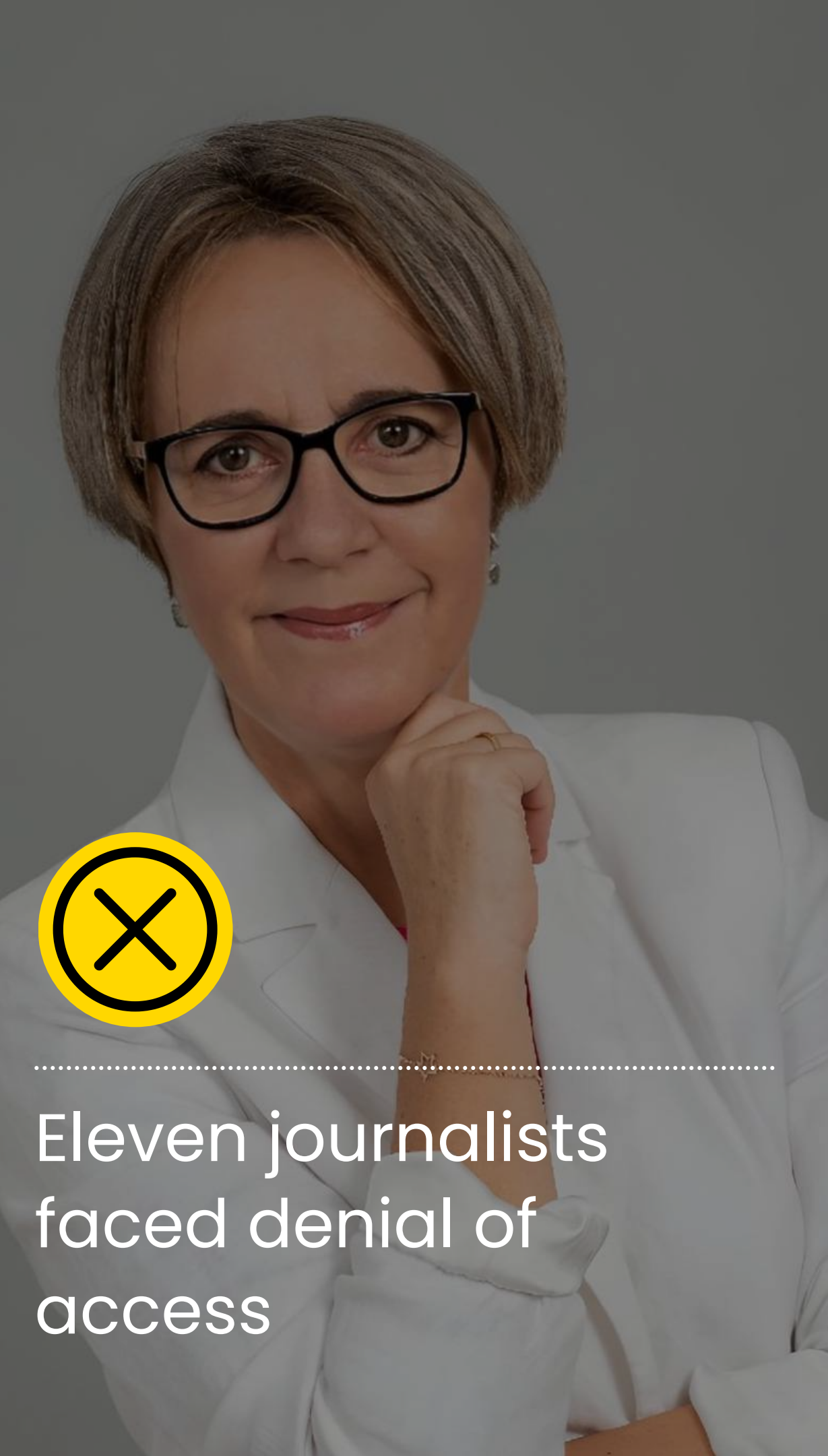
During February 7 elections, multiple journalists including **Ulviyya Ali** and **Lida Abbasli** were obstructed and prevented from filming at polling stations.

Guinea-Bissau

Presidential communication advisor prohibited journalists **Fátima Tchuma Camará** and **Indira Correia Baldé** from reporting on events at the nation's presidential palace on February 8. Targeting occurred following alarming attacks by the president against the media.

Israel/Egypt

In an open letter on February 28, addressed to the governments of Israel and Egypt, over 50 British and American journalists expressed the necessity of on-the-ground reporting for foreign media in Gaza to provide accurate and comprehensive coverage of the conflict. The journalists are urging the Israeli government to openly declare permission for the international press to operate in Gaza and implore Egyptian authorities to facilitate foreign press access through the Rafah crossing.



Eleven journalists
faced denial of
access

Eleven women journalists faced denial of access

Spain

The government of the Region of Murcia continues to refuse to issue press accreditation to freelance journalist **Rosa Roda**. Despite multiple attempts, both formal and informal, oral and written, Roda received vague and discouraging responses from the government's press office.

Venezuela

Officials from the Scientific, Criminal, and Criminal Investigation Corps (CICPC) in Porlamar, in the state of Nueva Esparta, enforced restrictions that impeded reporters from ten media outlets from capturing visual documentation, including photographs and videos, at approximately 50 meters from the police headquarters during a riot that unfolded within the institution on February 15. At least five women journalists were impeded.



Eleven journalists
faced denial of
access

Major Layoffs of Journalists Continue in Canada and the United States

In a significant shake-up within Canada's media landscape on February 8, **Bell Media** — the country's largest media and telecom company — has announced the cessation of multiple television newscasts and the sale of a substantial portion of its regional radio stations, amounting to approximately 4,800 job cuts across the organization. While specific layoff figures for Bell Media were not disclosed, it is estimated that ten percent of the total job losses are within the media subsidiary.

February also saw the continuation of troubling media layoffs in the United States with significant staff cuts at outlets **NowThis** and **The Intercept**. By the end of January, the media industry accumulated losses of over 980 jobs. Sources tell Women Press Freedom that NowThis dismissed an astonishing 50% of its staff, 19 of whom are women. The Intercept reduced its staff by one-third. Among the impacted are **Jasmine Amjad, Luria Freeman, Shayna Posses, Emily Sullivan Barger, Aryana Azari from NowThis and Rashmee Kumar, Elise Swain, Alice Speri, Skyler Aikerson, Andrea Jones, Morgan DeMartis and Schuyler Mitchell** from The Intercept



Major layoffs of
journalists

Turkiye: Dicle Müftüoğlu Released From Detention

After spending 10 months behind bars in the third hearing of her case on February 29, 2024, **Dicle Müftüoğlu** was finally released from jail. A travel ban was imposed upon the journalist. She still faces terrorism charges. Her next trial trial hearing is on June 13, 2024.

Egypt: Three Women Journalists Released From Detention

On February 7, 2024, Egyptian authorities released 32 pre-trial detainees, including three women journalists Safaa El-Korbaji, Hala Fahmy and Manal Agrama, who had been imprisoned for two years.

United States: Katie G. Nelson and 6 Journalists Secure Settlement for Police Misconduct

On February 8, 2024, the Minneapolis City Council approved a settlement of nearly \$1 million for seven journalists, including **Katie G. Nelson**, who were plaintiffs in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Minnesota. The lawsuit alleged that Minneapolis police intentionally targeted journalists during 2020 protests, disregarding their press credentials and resorting to violence against them.

United States: Man Pleads Guilty to Harassing New Hampshire Journalist Lauren Chooljian

On February 9, 2024, Michael Waselchuck, pleaded guilty to charges related to a conspiracy to harass and intimidate journalists from New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR), including **Lauren Chooljian**, and their relatives. Waselchuck admitted to conspiring to commit stalking through interstate travel and the use of communication facilities. His sentencing is scheduled for May 10, 2024.



Accountability

Ukraine: Investigation into State Surveillance of Independent Media Outlet Bihus.info Leads to Dismissal

Roman Semenchenko, head of the SBU state protection department, was fired for his part in the surveillance of Bihus.info staff on February 7, 2024. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved the dismissal following revelations of monitoring by the SBU.

Turkiye: Nadiye Gürbüz and Canan Coşkun Acquitted of Terror-Related Charges

ETHA Editor **Nadiye Gürbüz** was acquitted of charges of "being a member of an organization" and "making propaganda for an organization" on February 27, 2024. Similarly, on February 22, 2024, the İstanbul 14th Heavy Penal Court officially dismissed the case against **Canan Coşkun**, citing the expiration of the 5-year probation period. This decision marks the end of a legal ordeal for Coşkun, who had faced charges under Article 6/1 of the Anti-Terrorism Law for her investigative journalism.

Kosovo: Court Rejects Imam's Defamation Case Against Arbana Xharra

On February 21, 2024, the Basic Court of Pristina ruled in favor of exiled journalist **Arbana Xharra**, rejecting Imam Enes Goga's defamation suit. Goga had filed the lawsuit against Xharra and Gazeta "Zeri," seeking compensation for alleged damage resulting from an article published on April 6, 2016. The judge's ruling stated that Xharra's article addressed matters of public interest and involved a public figure, Imam Enes Goga; it, therefore, did not constitute defamation or insult. Goga was also ordered to cover Xharra's legal expenses.



Accountability

**CFWIJ and WPF is working hard to
change these circumstances everyday.**

Join us in this mission



Contact Email: info@womeninjournalism.org

Website: www.womeninjournalism.org

Twitter: [@CFWIJ](https://twitter.com/CFWIJ)

Facebook: [@coalitionforwomeninjournalism](https://www.facebook.com/coalitionforwomeninjournalism)

Instagram: [@womeninjournalism](https://www.instagram.com/womeninjournalism)