



Press Freedom Status For Women Journalists

Most women journalists arrested in a month

October 2022



Objective of report

Every day, worldwide, women 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.

CFWIJ'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 CFWIJ team register 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 The Coalition, 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.

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

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Another woman journalist was shot dead

Iraq: Prominent Kurdish journalist and academic Nagihan Akarsel was shot multiple times and killed in broad daylight in Sulaymaniyah city, Northern Iraq, on October 4, amid increasing assassinations of Kurdish people. [Read more about the murder.](#)



Another woman
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Iran: Seven women journalists were arrested amid protests in Iran. **Safiyeh Qarabaghi**, a freelance reporter who covers women's issues in her hometown of Zanjan, was arrested on October 1, according to a tweet by her husband, who said she was taken to an undisclosed location.

Sepideh Salarvand, an award-winning documentary maker, was arrested from her Tehran home on October 3. Her most recent project focused on Afghan child laborers in Iran.

Mehrnoosh Tafian, a freelance politics reporter, was arrested in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, in the majority Arab province Khuzestan, according to IranWire and CPJ sources.

On October 19, journalist and political activist **Mandana Sadegi** in Abadan and journalist **Farkhondeh Ashori** in Shiraz were arrested according to CFWIJ sources on the ground. Mandana Sadeghi was previously prosecuted during the protests of November 2018 and criticism of what happened during the construction and then the collapse of the Metropol building in Abadan and has a case in the judiciary of Khuzestan province. Freelance journalist **Farzaneh Yahyaabadi** was also arrested from her office in Abadan. [Read more about arrested women journalists in Iran.](#)

Turkey: On October 25, houses of 11 journalists, including seven women, were raided by the police and detained after being subjected to police violence. Mezopotamya Agency (MA) Editor-in-Chief Diren Yurtsever, MA reporters Zemo Ağgöz, Berivan Altan, Ceylan Şahinli, JINNEWS reporters Habibe Eren, Öznur Değer and Derya Ren were detained in police raids on their homes in corresponding cities. After two days of detention period, six of them were arrested and sent to Diyarbakır Prison. [Read more on mass detention of Kurdish journalists.](#)




13 women
journalists were
arrested

Turkey: Solfasol TV reporter Zişan Kürüm was physically assaulted and injured by the police while following Mahsa Amini events in Ankara. Evrensel journalist Eylem Nazlier was attacked and choked by police despite that she has press card.

Vietnam: The guards had beaten and choked Huynh Thuc Vy at the Gia Trung Prison. Vy is presently serving a 33-month prison sentence at Gia Trung Prison. Vy has been the target of infliction of physical and psychological distress for allegedly helping other inmates. She has been denied proper medical supplies and treatment as well as family visits. Read more about her case.

Serbia: While reporting on a demonstration against the construction of a bridge over the Danube River, Emilija Marić, editor-in-chief of Novi Sad TV, was the target of a physical attack. She was covering the attempts to hinder the commencement of construction by environmental activists. While filming on her mobile, activists reportedly identified her and began to slander Marić and Bogdanović. Marić reported that one of them went up to her, hit her and knocked the phone out of her hand, which then hit her on the head. Read details of the incident.



Four women
journalists were
physically assaulted

Poland: Respected Brussels correspondent for Polsat, Dorota Bawolek, was tasked by the prominent free-to-air television channel to cover the EPP (European People's Party) pre-summit meeting on Thursday, October 20. Due to manipulation tactics used by a TVP employee, Bawolek is now facing a smear campaign and death threats. [Read details of troll campaign.](#)

United States: Political analyst and journalist Negar Mortazavi has been the target of a bomb threat while being hosted as a panelist by the University of Chicago. According to the [University of Chicago](#) they [received several emails and phone calls](#) asking for cancellation of Mortazavi's speech. She was maliciously accused of having ties to the Iranian government due to her connection with NIAC as the director of Persian & New Media in early 2014. [Read more about the smear campaign.](#)



Two Women Journalists Faced Online Attacks and Organized Trolling Campaigns



Serbia: Courageous investigative journalist [Dragana Pećo](#) at [KRIK](#), and a researcher at [OCCRP](#) has been sued for the second time by [Nikolas Petrović](#). The SLAPP case against Pećo is a typical practice in Serbia. It is considered as the most common method of intimidation and censorship of free media. [Learn more about the SLAPP case.](#)



Another woman
journalist was
targeted by SLAPP



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One woman
journalist was forced
to deport



Afghanistan: Photographer and independent reporter Stefanie Glinski has been forced to deport from Afghanistan and denied re-entry. Her recent charting on the rise of the Islamic emirate has cost her the right to remain in Afghanistan and report freely. Glinski, like many other journalists working on the ground, is an important voice in shedding light on the Taliban takeover. [Read details on her case.](#)



CFWIJ is working hard to change these
circumstances everyday.
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