



زندانی هستند

33 JOURNALISTES  
19 NET-CITOYENS  
EMPRISONNÉS

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS  
FREE JOURNALISTS  
IN IRAN

The Coalition For Women In Journalism

REPORTERS SANS FRONTIÈRES  
R 179  
LIBERTÉ DE LA PRESSE

# Press Freedom Status For Women Journalists

*Violations against women journalists trying to do their work have continued*

January 2023

PHOTO CREDIT: JACKY NAEGELEN / REUTERS





# 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.

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### Four women journalists arrested

**Iran:** The government persecution of women journalists continued in Iran this month with three further arrests documented.

On January 22, Tehrani journalists **Saeedah Shafiei** and **Mehrnoosh Zarei Hanzaki** were arrested at their homes by the Iranian security forces. There is no information on why they were arrested.

The authorities also detained **Melika Hashemi** after summoning her for "explanations". Hashemi works for Shahr or City news agency. [Read more about arrests of journalists in Iran.](#)

**Iraq: Soma Khalid**, a journalist working for Kurdish media outlet KNN TV, was released after spending a night in a Sulaimani prison. Khalid was targeted over a report criticizing management and staff of Sulaimani's Shar Hospital. [Read details of her arrest.](#)

### Three women journalists imprisoned

**Iran:** Kurdish journalist **Nazila Maroufian** was sentenced to two years in prison without a proper court hearing. Iranian judicial authorities arrested the journalist for interviewing Amjad Amini, father of Mashsa Amini, whose death at the headquarters of the morality police sparked nationwide protests. [Read more about arrests of journalists in Iran.](#)

**Ukraine:** Citizen journalist and human rights defender **Iryna Danylovych** was sentenced to seven years in prison for exposing problems in the healthcare sector in Russian-occupied Crimea. International human rights organizations have called the charges against the journalist politically motivated. [Read more about the sentencing.](#)

**Burundi:** [Floriane Irangabiye](#), a journalist who returned home from exile was sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Burundian High Court. Evidence shows that she was sentenced because of her profession as a journalist.

**Turkey:** Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG) Co-chairman, Dicle Müftüoğlu was sentenced to six months in prison. [Read more about legal harassment of female journalists in Turkey.](#)



Seven women  
journalists arrested  
and imprisoned



## Eight women journalists subject to legal harassment

**Turkey:** The Turkish authorities have ramped up their persecution of women journalists. The government has initiated legal proceedings against 7 journalists and detained a journalist for unknown reasons. Recently, new investigations have been opened against arrested journalists, making it difficult for them to get out of prison. [Read about more about the investigations.](#)

Lawsuits have been filed against Ceylan Şahinli and Öznur Değer, two of the six female journalists arrested on October 29, 2022. Currently detained, Ceylan Şahinli is unclear what charges are being brought against her. These legal proceedings began five years ago, she was only informed of the lawsuit when she was arrested last year. [Read more about the case.](#)

Short Wave writer, journalist **Hale Gönültaş** is being investigated after reporting on the disappearance and rape of a 12-year-old girl who was staying in a children's dormitory. The investigation was launched against Gönültaş after a police officer filed a criminal complaint. [Read more about this investigation.](#)

After a hearing this month, **Ayşegül Doğan** continues to be banned from travel, despite having charges against her overturned. The travel ban has been in place since 2017. [Read more about this case.](#)

Journalists **Pinar Gayip** and **Nazlan Ertan** have both faced legal harassment for social media posts this month. [Read more about harassment.](#)

**France:** On January 19, the Paris Criminal Court initiated trial proceedings against senior reporter for Libération **Maria Malagardis**. The charges are related to an alleged public insult against the former head of military intelligence in Rwanda, Aloys Ntiwiragabo. [Read more on the case.](#)

**Finland:** The Helsinki District Court convicted Helsingin Sanomat journalist **Laura Halminen** and her colleague Tuomo Pietiläinen over allegedly divulging state secrets in the infamous Finnish Intelligence Research Center case. [Read more about this conviction.](#)



Eight women  
journalists legally  
harassed

### Three women journalists detained

**Belarus:** A court in Minsk has ordered journalist **Yekaterina Yanshina** to fifteen days in jail for “petty hooliganism”. Yanshina was reporting on a case on January 5 when she was detained trying to leave court. [Read more about this case.](#)


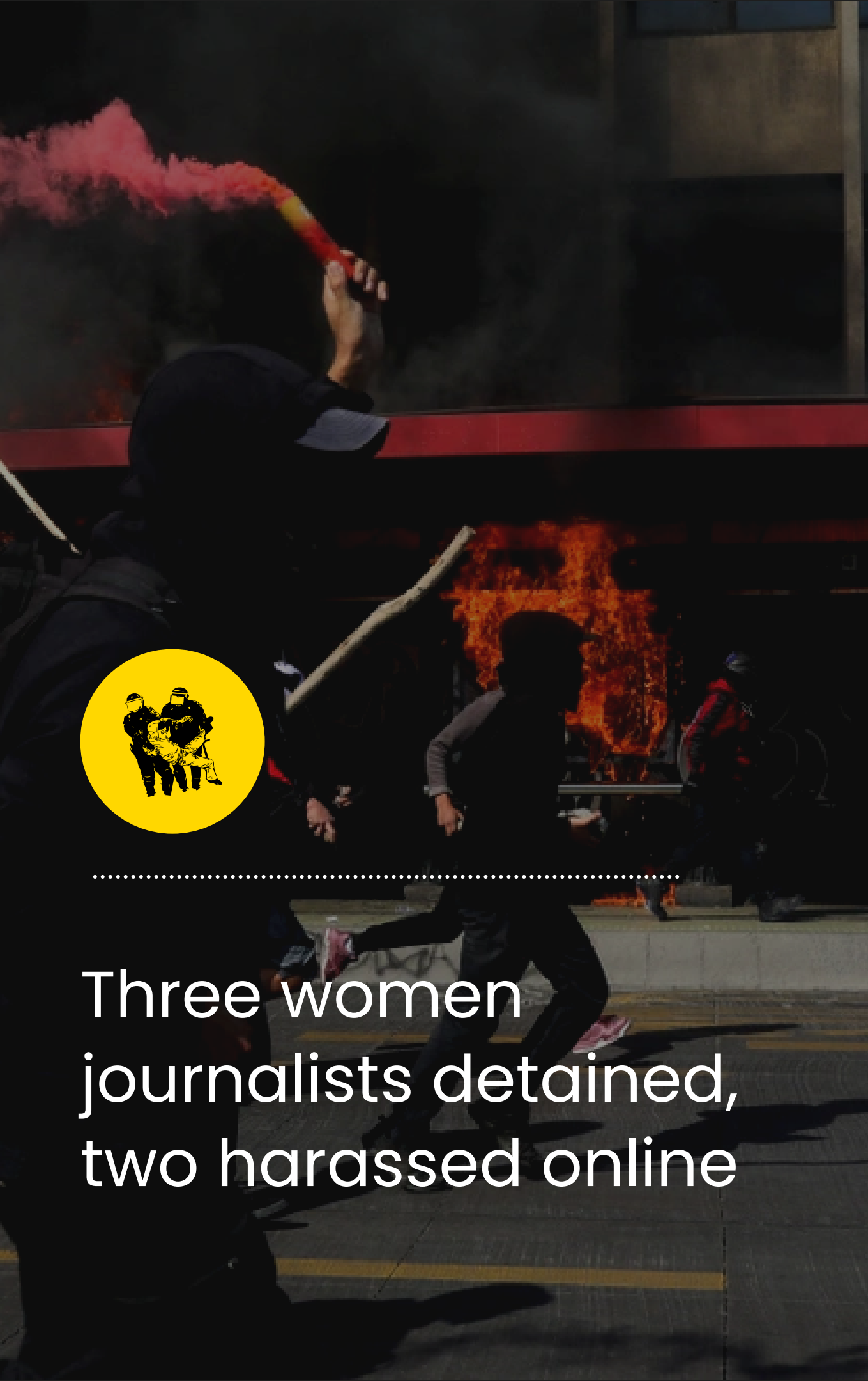
**Russia:** Russian journalist Maria Ponomarenko [was detained](#) after being attacked by her ex-husband while under house arrest. She was arrested in April 2022 for reporting on civilian deaths in Mariupol, Ukraine. [Read more about this case.](#)

**Turkey:** Journalist Rojin Altay working at pro-Kurdish daily newspaper Yeni Yaşam, [was detained](#) for four days by Turkish authorities. No information was provided on the reason for the detention.

### Online harassment targeting two women journalists

**Canada:** Women journalists in Canada continue to be the target of threatening messages because of their job. Global News journalist Teresa Wright is just the [latest example](#). More and more journalists are on the receiving end of daily messages of harassment and death threats online.

**Ireland:** [Emer O'Neill](#), a presenter for Irish national broadcaster RTÉ has been subjected to a flood of abuse after writing an Instagram post criticizing a popular Irish comedian for a racist joke made during his live show. [Read more about the case.](#)



Three women  
journalists detained,  
two harassed online



### A woman journalist under surveillance

**China:** Isolated in an apartment in Urumqi, the capital of China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, ethnic Kazakh journalist Zhanargul Zhumatai expresses that she cannot leave the house where she is currently residing in without being targeted by authorities. Chinese police forces have threatened her family and have said they will send Zhumatai to a psychiatric ward against her will, despite the fact the journalist does not suffer from any mental health conditions.

### A woman journalist insulted

**Turkey:** After questioning a politician about a murder at a press conference, journalist **Yıldız Yazıcıoğlu** was told to mind her own business. The politician later targeted her on Twitter, labeling her an "agent provocateur". [Read more about the case.](#)

### Victory against corruption

**Philippines:** On January 18, 2023, Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa and her news outlet Rappler were acquitted by the Philippine Court of Tax Appeals putting an end to the legal action launched against them by the Philippine government in 2018 marking a win not only for independent journalism, but for democracy as well.

### Accreditation reinstated

We applaud the Ukrainian authorities for finally reinstating Danish journalist **Matilde Kimer's** accreditation. However, it is concerning when trustworthy journalism is impeded. After a lengthy campaign to restore her credentials, the award-winning journalist is free to report on the war. Kimer has reported for Danish public radio and television on Ukraine and Russia for years. Her insight and expertise on the region are critical to coverage of the invasion.



Women Journalists  
Insulted, Under  
Surveillance



CFWIJ is working hard to change these  
circumstances everyday.  
Join us in this mission



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