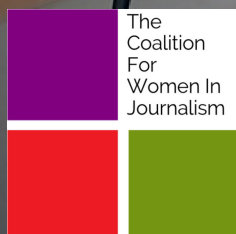


PRESS FREEDOM STATUS FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS: JUNE 2021



The
Coalition
For
Women In
Journalism

**2021
MONTHLY
REPORT**

Photo credit: Farhat Javed

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.

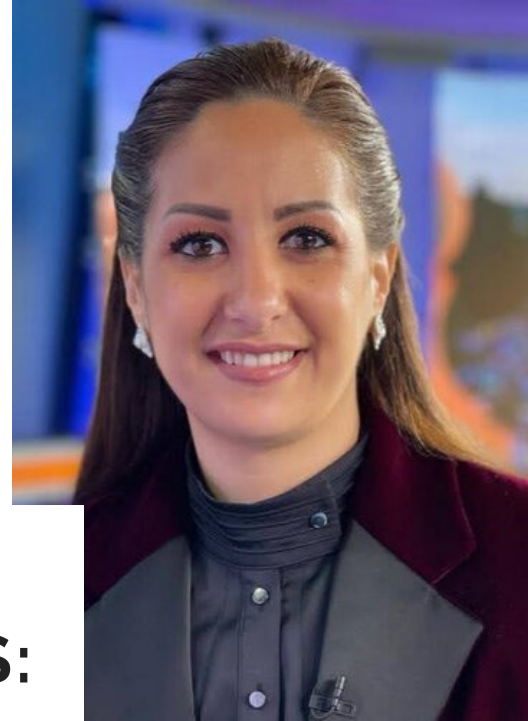
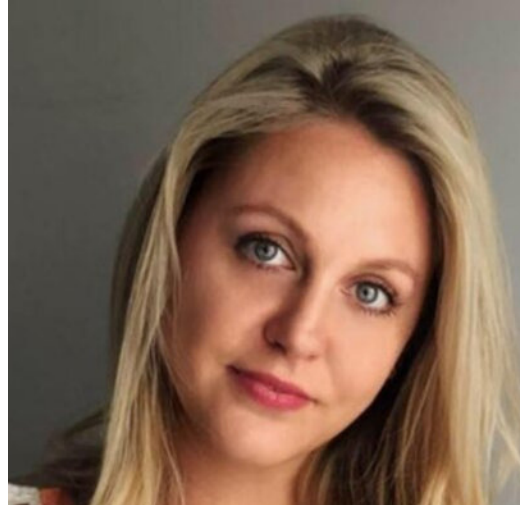
This report was developed with the support of Craig Newmark Philanthropies.

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During the month of June 2021, The Coalition For Women In Journalism documented an alarming 77 cases of violations against women journalists. Types of violations include murder, abduction, detentions, and physical assaults in the field, among other various kinds of press freedom attacks towards women journalists reporting from different parts of the world. Read our June 2021 report to find out more about the Press Freedom challenges women journalists have encountered in the physical and digital world this month.

One woman journalist was killed in the past month

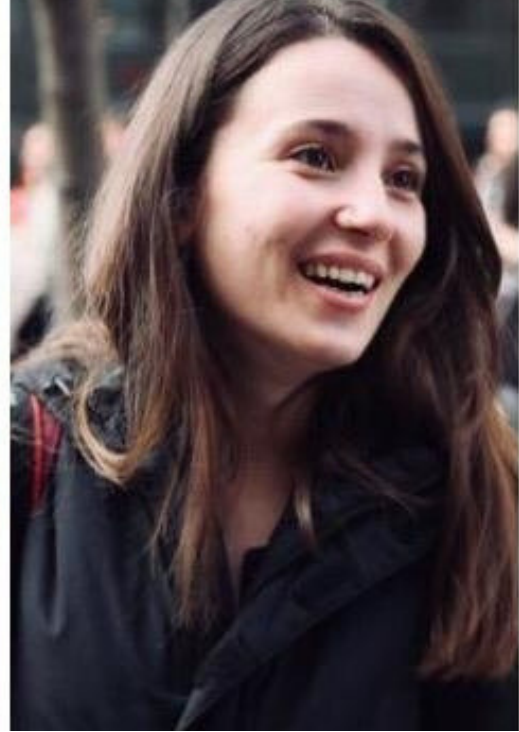
Afghanistan: A reporter for Ariana News, Mina Khairi was murdered in Kabul. Khairi died alongside her mother in an IED blast. She is the fourth Afghan journalist to be killed this year, raising alarm on the dangers the Afghan journalist community, specially women journalists, are being forced to confront.

One journalist had her accreditation revoked

Uzbekistan: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected the press accreditation of Agnieszka Pikulicka, a CFWIJ fellow member and freelance journalist for Al-Jazeera and The Guardian.

16 women journalists were physically assaulted

Palestine: Christine Rinawi of Palestine TV continued to face harassment and persecution by Israeli forces and official authorities who extended the ban on her news production company.



Turkey: Four women journalists were beaten with force and impeded while covering women's demonstration in Ankara.

Palestine: Journalists Najwan al-Sumari and Bara'a Abu Romouz were assaulted by Israeli armed forces while covering the events unfolding in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood.

Pakistan: Veteran journalist Syeda Maimanat Mohsin, popularly known as Jugnu Mohsin survived an assassination attempt on Monday, June 7. Her convoy was attacked by armed assailants in Okara when she left after attending an event.

Israel: Far right group, La Familia, assaulted journalists with rocks, including journalist and TV presenter Ayala Hasson.

Russia: Veronika Samusik, a correspondent for independent news website, Sota.Vision, was detained by the police on June 11.

Turkey: Dokuz8Haber reporter Fatoş Erdoğan was physically assaulted by the police during a protest she followed in Kadıköy, Istanbul.

Turkey: At least five women journalists were impeded in the field following LGBTI+ Pride in İstanbul. Journalists were also beaten by the force.



Pakistan: Veteran journalist Syeda Maimanat Mohsin, popularly known as Jugnu Mohsin survived an assassination attempt on June 7.

Palestine: Journalists Najwan al-Sumari and Bara'a Abu Romouz were assaulted by Israeli armed forces while covering the events unfolding in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood.

Turkey: At least five female journalists were brutally beaten by the police while following the LGBTI+ Pride in Istanbul.

One woman journalist was threatened

Belarus: Valyaryna Kustava, a poet and an anchor for Belarusian television was forced to leave the country along with her toddler daughter amidst threats to her safety.

One woman journalist was expelled from her workplace

United States: Ivory Hecker, Fox 26 correspondent for Houston, was fired after her on-air claim that “her corporate bosses had been muzzling her”.

12 women journalists were forced to confront legal harassment

Belarus: Journalist Maria Malevich’s apartment was raided by the police in her absence on Friday, June 4.



Palestine: Givara Budeiri, Jerusalem correspondent for Al Jazeera Arabic was assaulted and arrested by Israeli forces while she was on a work assignment in Sheikh Jarrah.

Four women journalists were threatened with violence:

South Africa: eNCA correspondent Ayesha Ismail endured public harassment along with her cameraman while reporting on an anti-racism protest in Cape Town. Supporters of the opposition party, South African Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), threatened the journalist.

Belarus: Valyaryna Kustava, a poet and an anchor for Belarusian television was forced to leave the country along with her toddler daughter amidst threats to her safety.

United Kingdom: Camilla Tominey, award-winning journalist and associate editor for The Telegraph, received online death threats via email to her website. Camilla primarily covers politics and the Royals for The Telegraph. She believes the death threat might have come from a fan of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Liberia: Aryee Davis has endured life-threatening messages following two of her publications on Green Coast TV's online news platform.

One woman journalist was expelled from her workplace

United States: Ivory Hecker, Fox 26 correspondent for Houston, was fired after her on-air claim that "her corporate bosses had been muzzling her".



40 women journalists were forced to confront legal harassment

Belarus: Journalist Maria Malevich's apartment was raided by the police in her absence on Friday, June 4.

France: Andreina Mujica, a Franco-Venezuelan journalist was called by the French police against a complaint filed by the counsel of Venezuela on June 8.

India: Freelance journalist Saba Naqvi and the Washington Post journalist Rana Ayyub are facing a criminal complaint filed by a police inspector.

Northern Cyprus: A lawsuit was filed against Yenibakış Newspaper reporters Esengül Aykaç and Deniz Abidin Kuni following an article they published about state corruption.

Pakistan: A petition for treason charges was registered against journalist Asma Shirazi reportedly by supporters of the current government.

Romania: Writer and investigative journalist Diana Oncioiu, associated with Sa Fie Lumina, is facing legal prosecution as per a petition filed by a former bishop of Varatec Monastery.

Russia: Darya Komarova, a correspondent for the Idel Realities project of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, faced another episode of legal persecution by judicial authorities. Darya is facing trial for her coverage of the protests of August last year through to this year.



Turkey: A lawsuit was filed against journalist Ayşe Kara over her articles and her membership in the Free Journalists' Association (ÖGC).

Turkey: Journalist Rojda Oğuz appeared in court over allegations of being affiliated with a terrorist organisation and spreading propaganda in Van. The court postponed the next hearing to October 12, 2021 to completely hear the defendant's case.

Turkey: The hearing of the case against Hazal Ocak concerning her news piece "Son-in-law knows his way" was held on June 17. The hearing was postponed yet again to October 14, 2021.

Turkey: Journalists Sema Karakurt and Eylem Sonbahar were tried on charges of "resisting against public duty" and "insulting" in Antalya.

Turkey: An investigation was launched against Artı Gerçek reporter Yağmur Kaya on the allegations of "targeting people who took part in counter-terrorism".

Turkey: The trial, known as the "KCK Press Case", in which 17 women journalists and media workers were tried for nine years on charges of being affiliated with a terrorist organization and establishing and leading an armed terrorist organization was postponed for the 22nd time. Next hearing will be held on November 23 2021.

Turkey: The trial of Cumhuriyet newspaper reporter Hazal Ocak, managing editor Olcay Büyüктаş Akça, editor-in-chief İpek Özbey and photo-journalist Vedat Arık was held for the third time in İstanbul. The court adjourned the hearing to December 1, 2021, once again.



Turkey: In 2020, 35 people who joined International Women's Day March, including Gazete Yolculuk reporter Buse Söğütlü, were sued for 'being participants in a prohibited gathering, defying police orders to disband', "resisting the police officers" and "damaging property". The first hearing of the case was held at the Istanbul 58th Criminal Court of First Instance.

United Kingdom: Investigative journalist and founder of Sarawak Report, Clare Rewcastle was subjected to legal harassment by Kuwaiti investment advisor Hammad Al Wazzan.

United States: The Trump administration fought a months-long court battle in order to acquire CNN reporter, Barbara Starr's phone and email records. The news was shared by CNN on Wednesday, June 9.

At least nine women journalists were harassed by an organized troll campaign online

Israel: Journalists working in both Israel and Palestine received online threats and endured physical attacks by far-right Jewish groups.

Pakistan: Several women journalists faced gendered attacks and threats on Twitter after criticizing Prime Minister Imran Khan for his remarks on the rising rates of sexual violence in the country.



United States: Liz Essley Whyte was targeted by conspiracy theorists online following her coverage of the pandemic for Public Integrity.

One woman journalist was sexually harassed

Palestine: Freelance journalist, Stephanie Glinski reported sexual harassment by an Israeli police officer as she was covering a protest in Gaza.

And one woman journalist had to face workplace harassment

Ecuador: Journalist Fabiola Santana was forced to resign from her position at TC Televisión after repeated complaints regarding the toxic workplace culture she was being forced to confront.



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