

Update on Journalism and Media Safety in Myanmar

July-September 2024



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HIGHLIGHTS

There were no reports of arrests of journalists in Myanmar in the third quarter of 2024. However, two journalists were injured in a junta air attack while on assignment in Hsipaw, Shan State.

A citizen journalist was sentenced to 27 years in prison after being charged with contacting the People's Defence Forces (PDF). This is among the longest prison sentences reported so far.

Two journalists left prison in this quarter. One was a citizen journalist who was released after serving her sentence in Insein prison, Yangon. The second was a journalist who escaped from prison during fighting between Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the junta's military forces in Lashio township, Shan State.

The media industry lost four journalists during this reporting period. Two died due to health conditions resulting from the lack of adequate healthcare in prison, and two freelancers were shot dead by soldiers who raided one of the journalists' homes.

As of September 2024, 54 Myanmar journalists and media professionals remained behind bars. Cumulatively, since the February 2021 coup, 213 journalists and media workers have been arrested, 76 convicted, and 160 released under the military regime.

Eleven journalists have died since 2021. Of this number, four deaths were reported in this quarter.

Meantime, Myanmar journalists in exile continue to organise themselves through various groups aimed at providing support, setting standards and carrying out advocacy work. The latest among these is the Myanmar Journalists Club, which was established in August 2024. It will focus on investigating the abuses of journalists' rights in their news organisations.

In the wake of concerns about journalists being able to carry out independent reporting in regions controlled by ethnic armed organisations, the Independent Press Council of Myanmar (IPCM) met with the Karen

National Union (KNU) in August to discuss the media guidelines that the KNU previously issued for journalists in its areas. The two groups agreed to respect each other's roles, to settle media-related disputes through dialogue and to promote media development and literacy.

Another challenge came from a September announcement by the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok, which said that short-term student visa holders in Thailand now need to return to Myanmar to renew their passports. This new requirement is of concern to exiled journalists because some among them hold education visas for Thailand.

Journalists' work in Myanmar was disrupted further by damage to communication infrastructure during Typhoon Yagi, which affected wide parts of the country in late September.

ARRESTS AND DETENTION, INJURIES

There were no reports of journalists arrested during the third quarter of 2024. But two journalists were reported injured in late September, while they were on coverage in a conflict zone in Hsipaw, Shan State.

On September 23, 2024, Mai A Nai from Shwe Phee Myay news agency and Ko Gyi Aka Thura Aung from Than Lwin Khet News were injured, along with other civilians, when the junta's jet fighters bombed the area where their tents, where were resting, were located. Although they received an 'aviation hazard warning' in advance, they chose to remain in the area where they thought would be safe, in order to capture footage of the bombardment.

Ko Gyi [sustained](#) severe injuries to his leg, while Mai A Nai was reported to be in good condition. Ko Gyi was receiving medical treatment, Shwe Phee Myay reported.

CONVICTED

A citizen journalist from [CJ Platform](#), Si Thu, was sentenced to a total of 27 years of prison in Ayeyarwaddy region after his conviction on charges that he had contacted the People's Defence Forces (PDF) and was involved in carrying out explosions and armed attacks against the military. The details of the charges against him remain sketchy as of the time of this report.

According to CJ Platform, Si Thu was first arrested in November 2022 in Yangon. After his family paid bribes to prevent his prosecution under charges that carry heavy penalties, he was charged with incitement under Section 505A of the Penal Code. This has been the most common law used against journalists since the coup.

He was released on 14 June and was planning to move to Mae Sot, Thailand but was arrested again when he went to pay respects to his parents in Kyangin township in Ayeyarwaddy region. This time, he was charged with contacting PDF groups and involvement in attacks against the military.

RELEASES AND ESCAPES

Two journalists left prison during this quarter - one was finished serving her sentence and another escaped after the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) took control of Lashio township in July 2024.

A citizen journalist from Oway news agency, Thet Wai Sam, was released from Insein prison, Yangon in July after the completion of her sentence. She had been arrested in Mingaladon township in Yangon on 30 November 2022.

A journalist from Myitmakha media, whose name is not being disclosed for security reasons, [escaped from prison](#) in Lashio, Shan State after MNDAA fighters seized the town from junta troops. The MNDAA is one of the three groups that make up the Three Brotherhood Alliance, which launched [Operation 1027](#) in October 2023 to fight the junta and its allied groups in northern Shan State.

After his arrest in December 2023, this journalist was subsequently convicted and sentenced to a total of 33 years in prison under various security-related charges, including treason under Article 121 of the Penal Code.

He was reported to have escaped along with a Pyithu Hluttaw legislator in Naung Cho township, U Tun Tun Hein, and other political prisoners. (U Tun Tun Hein, a representative of the Phyithu Hluttaw of Naung Cho, became Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw under the National League of Democracy-led government.)

Four journalists died during this reporting period. Two of them died from illnesses, including untreated health conditions, stemming from and made worse by inadequate medical care in prison. The two others were shot dead by junta soldiers.

Phay Maung Sein, a documentary filmmaker serving time in prison, [died](#) in Sakura hospital in Yangon on 19 August 2024. Already in very poor health due to [bone tuberculosis and lung cancer](#), as well as problems from broken ribs suffered during interrogation, he had been released from Insein prison just three days before, on 16 August. He had earlier been transferred from Loikaw prison in Kayah state to Insein to due his deteriorating health.

Arrested in May 2022, he was serving a three-year sentence for violating the junta's Unlawful Association Act.

Nay Lin Htike

Nay Lin Htike, a journalist from Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) who was arrested in February 2022, died in Insein prison from oral cancer on 29 July 2024. He had been transferred from Daik-U prison for better treatment in July 2022, when his cancer had progressed to stage four.

According to Myanmar Now, a military controlled court [convicted](#) him under Section 505A of the Penal Code, Section 52(a) of the Counter Terrorism Act and the Natural Disaster Management law. He had been sentenced to eight years in prison, according to monitoring data. Quoting DVB, a [Radio Free Asia](#) report says according to his

friends, Nay Lin Htike died because he did not receive adequate medical care in prison.

Htet Myet Thu & Win Htut Oo

On 21 August 2024, freelance journalists Htet Myet Thu and Win Htut Oo were shot to death by junta soldiers who raided Htet Myet Thu's house in Kyaikto, Mon State.

According to RFA Burmese, an informer had reported Htet Myat Thu to authorities and said PDF members had visited his home. He had been previously been arrested in 2021, charged with Section 505A of the Penal Code in 2022 and released after serving his sentence.

MONITORING MEDIA REPRESSION IN MYANMAR

Journalists and news workers

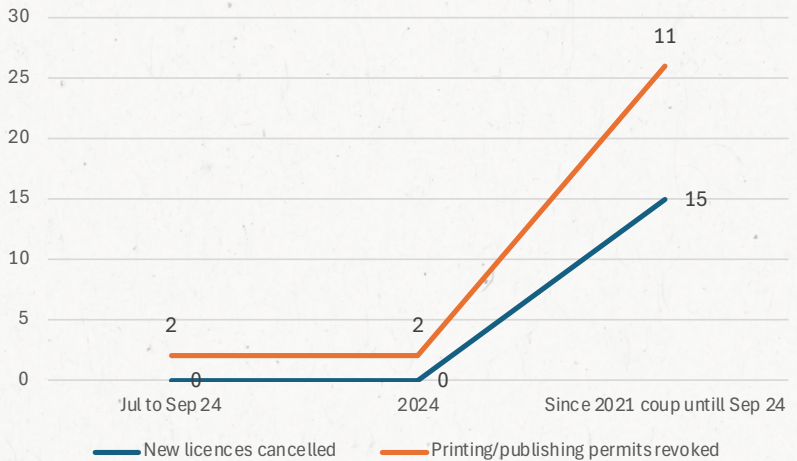
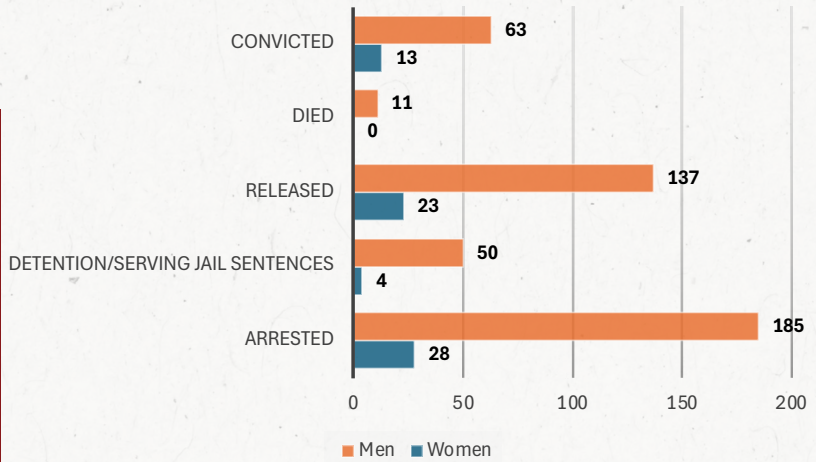
76 Convicted

11 Died

160 Released

54 Detention/
Serving Jail Sentences

213 Arrested



*In detention, after subtraction of those who died, released and escaped, the updated number counts 54.

**Escaped one is counted in the released category.

** Phay Maung Sein is counted in both released and deceased data because he was died after 3 days his release

ANOTHER JOURNALISTS' ORGANISATION FORMED

One more new independent organisation of journalists, called the Myanmar Journalists Club, was established during the third quarter of 2024.

The Club's creation brings to four the number of journalists' groups formed after the coup. The others are the Independent Press Council of Myanmar (IPCM), the Independent Myanmar Journalists Association (IMJA) and the Burma Media Consortium (BMC).

Established on 17 August 2024, the Club is composed of journalists from within Myanmar and those in exile. In a [statement](#), it said it seeks to support journalists whose rights are violated in their workplaces, promote fair and non-repressive work environments and foster a stronger network among media workers. It will document the violations faced by journalists and advocate for justice on their behalf, the group said.

Journalists have been faced with severe repression, including violent arrests, killings by the military, and significant rights violations within their workplaces. These harsh conditions have diminished their capacity to deliver quality information to the public," it said in a statement on 22 August. "While journalists report on human rights abuses, they themselves are subject to violations, particularly concerning job security and livelihood. When they do speak out about these abuses, they often face defamation and dismissal."

The Myanmar Journalists Club also said it would not seek financial support from external sources in order to maintain its independence.

On 23 September, it [released](#) its membership criteria, code of conduct, vision, mission and policy. Journalists eligible for membership are those who do not hold decision-making positions in news outlets and "must not engage in or endorse any form of oppression or verbal/physical abuse against media workers" and "must follow journalistic ethics".

The three other media groups and networks address different issues of concern to the community of Myanmar journalists and news organisations.

**IPCMI**

IPCMI, [established](#) in December 2023, handles complaints related to news media content but has limited capacity to intervene in internal disputes between journalists and employers.

**IMJA**

For its part, [IMJA](#), created in June 2023, is an association of journalists, media organisations, and individuals working on promoting and protecting press freedom in Myanmar and ensuring the safety and protection of Myanmar journalists.

In [August](#), IMJA issued an announcement that [criticised](#) IPCMI after it held a conference that month among Myanmar journalists and media proprietors to discuss the creation of a media council. “We hereby announce that the Independent Press Council of Myanmar (IPCMI) does not adequately represent the diverse landscape of journalists,” its 23 August statement said. It said that the IPCMI discussions were characterized by the “absence of a guarantee for the involvement of all independent journalists and media outlets, freelance reporters, Myanmar journalists representing international media, and professionals from the media sector.”

[Formed](#) on 13 June 2023, the Burma Media Consortium is made up of nine media agencies. Its aim is to foster a federal democracy in a future Myanmar, with unrestricted access to information and freedom of expression. Its members are The 74 Media, Shwe Phee Myay, Mekong News, Zalen News Agency, Mandalay Free Press, Myaelatt Athan, Western News, Ayeyawaddy Times and Tanintharyi Times.

FOR MANY WOMEN JOURNALISTS, WORKPLACES ARE UNSAFE

Myanmar's women in media experience gender-based discrimination, violence and sexual harassment in the work environment, according to a recent report that has documented these cases.

“The findings suggest women media professionals face significant gender-based discrimination, gender-based violence and sexual harassment on a regular basis,” said the March report, entitled ‘[Crisis under the Coup](#)’ and produced under the Myanmar Digital Research series of the [Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar \(K4DM\)](#) initiative. “However, the lack of formal legal mechanisms for filing complaints has increased their insecurity in Mae Sot and Chiang Mai.”

Using information from focus group discussions involving 36 women and 20 men in these two cities, which host many journalists who relocated after the 2021 coup, the report found that the major concern by many women in media was “identity theft and identity fraud”- usually in instances where “women journalists had their names or their reputations used without consent by media houses and those seeking grant funding”.

Instances of discrimination and sexual harassment included unequal opportunities for field reporting and “unsafe interactions with men while on the job and during other formal as well as informal work-related activities”, such as requests for personal contact information, “unwanted staring at their bodies, unwanted touching, requests for sex and unsafe travel such as shared sleeping arrangements or inappropriate sexual conversations while riding to field sites with men”.

Women have limited options for coping with such situations, and often “ignore the situation” for fear of losing jobs, the report explained. “Revenge was commonly described as a result of women rejecting the sexual advances of men colleagues and seniors. This took the form of reduced salary, refusal to publish women-written articles, and harassment until being driven to quit.”

Selected accounts from women journalists interviewed in the ‘Crisis under the Coup’ report (page 12):

“While meeting with a partner media group, they met at a restaurant. They were drinking, and the CEO of a media organization, despite having gender knowledge, was sexually harassing me. There was unwanted physical contact, like touching me intimately, and he said, ‘Can you get a motel with me?’ “

“They called a junior journalist to drink with them. After they were drunk, they verbally harassed her. They said, ‘if you sleep with us, we will try and promote you.’ One of them is an editor. He said ‘you have to sleep with my friends too.’ They wanted to have group sex. They were in the field and were all senior journalists and human rights defenders.”

MEDIA POLICIES IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY ETHNIC ARMIES

THE KNU said its media regulations “were not intended to exert influence or control over media but to facilitate interaction in a proper way”, adding that it would follow international practices as “outlined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR Article 19) concerning freedom of expression and access to information”.

The Independent Press Council of Myanmar and the Karen National Union (KNU) met on 6 August to discuss concerns aired by journalists about the space for independent news coverage in areas of Myanmar controlled by the KNU. In April, the KNU was one of two ethnic organisations that issued guidelines for journalists doing news work in their areas.

Held at KNU headquarters at Karen State, the [meeting](#) focused on balancing the media’s independence with security concerns in KNU-controlled areas. “Both parties agreed to respect KNU security concerns and media houses safety and independent role,” the KNU and IPCM said in a joint statement issued the day after their meeting.

This agreement represents a step toward fostering media freedom in conflict-affected areas while addressing security and operational challenges for both the KNU and independent media. The emphasis on using negotiations to resolve disputes and the promotion of media and information literacy highlights a cooperative framework towards accurate reporting and safe media practices in Karen State.

CHALLENGES FOR EXILED JOURNALISTS: THAI CRACKDOWN AND NEW MYANMAR RULES

Since the February 2021 coup, Myanmar's journalists have been facing challenges around getting proper documents that allow them to stay on in neighbouring Thailand.

In recent months, there has been a climate of fear and uncertainty in the Myanmar community, including among journalists in exile, in the wake of the latest crackdown by Thailand's immigration officials. The Thai government launched a 120-day programme in June to go after migrant workers without proper identification or documentation. While this is officially for undocumented migrant workers, this crackdown is of concern for exiled journalists because migrant-worker documents are among the options for staying in Thailand, and to avoid being undocumented and thus at risk of deportation.

A total of 193,430 Myanmar nationals have been arrested in the immigration campaign as of late September, according to [news reports](#) quoting Thailand's Department of Employment. Myanmar nationals made up the largest group among the more than 256,000 foreign nationals arrested during this period – with the others from being from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and other countries.

Some arrested individuals were facing criminal prosecution, but while others were fined between 5,000 to 50,000 Thai baht (153 to 1,537 US dollars). Those arrested, mainly migrant workers, can be freed if they have a Certificate of Identity card or a labour card, and have the guarantee of their employers. The maximum punishment for staying without proper documents is deportation.

[The Pink Card system](#), which many migrant workers use, is one that many Myanmar nationals, including journalists and activists, depend on to stay in Thailand after the coup. The TR 38/1 work permit issued under this system is a temporary registration document issued to undocumented migrant workers in Thailand. It allows them to live and work in the country legally for a limited period.

Apart from the Thai government campaign, Myanmar journalists were concerned about another challenge stemming from Myanmar's military regime.

On 20 September, Myanmar's State Administration Council [tightened the procedures](#) for passport renewals of some Myanmar nationals studying in Thailand. It announced that short-term student visa holders in Thailand now need to return to Myanmar to renew their passports, and will no longer be able to do this through the Myanmar embassy in Thailand.

This rule is of concern to exiled journalists because a number hold education visas for Thailand. Returning to Myanmar for passport renewals poses significant risks for journalists in exile given the junta's crackdown on the media and its military conscription.

This junta policy could drive more Myanmar nationals to stay in Thailand without proper documents as they may choose to overstay in Thailand rather than risk returning home. A shift to undocumented status would increase their vulnerability to deportation, labour exploitation or human trafficking. For exiled journalists, undocumented status further complicates their ability to continue reporting safely. Their ability to remain under the radar could be compromised by increased scrutiny from both Thai and Myanmar authorities.

The new passport-renewal requirement does not apply to Myanmar nationals enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at Thai universities, who can continue to apply for a 'Passport for Education.'

DISRUPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM TYPHOON YAGI

Myanmar journalists found their work made even more difficult by the destruction caused by [Typhoon Yagi](#), one of the strongest storms to hit the region this year, in September.

Severe flooding and landslides hit several regions of Myanmar after the typhoon swept through southern China, Vietnam and Laos. Central Mandalay region as well as Kayah, Kayin, Shan and Rakhine states were badly affected by the storm, adding to the country's already grave humanitarian crisis in the widespread armed conflict since the coup. As of 3 October, the United Nations reported that one million people in 70 of Myanmar's 330 townships had been affected by flooding. At least 226 people were [reported killed](#).

Many journalists found it challenge to report from flooded regions, where phone and internet services were disrupted or down due to extensive damage to infrastructure in the flood disaster.

Earlier in June, [Kachin State was hit](#) by its most severe flash floods in two decades. This also caused interruptions in phone and internet services provided by various operators.

As it is, armed conflict has been disrupting communications that journalists need to do their work. During intense clashes across Kachin State in March, phone lines and mobile data services were unavailable, leaving only Wi-Fi networks operational.

Network disruptions have followed a pattern of communication blackouts carried out by the junta, aimed at restricting information flow in areas of increased armed resistance.

VOICES

‘We do not want to see more media oppression in liberated areas’

Below is a conversation with IPCM Secretary U Toe Zaw Latt, who discusses the council’s work on media issues and discussions with local/ethnic forces on policies that affect journalists.

What is the purpose of IPCM?

With the military coup, there has been no more independent press council. So we realised that there should be an independent press council that works for media freedom.

What is IPCM response after some ethnic groups (to be specific, IEC and KNU- read more about it [April-June report](#)) released media a What is IPCM’s response after some ethnic groups (Interim Executive Council of Karenni State and KNU, reported in the [April-June media monitoring report](#)) released media guidelines to adhere to journalists in their controlled areas? guidelines to adhere to journalists in their controlled areas?

In ethnic regions, IEC and KNU released media guidelines and we (IPCM) have been approached by journalists who are concerned about these guidelines. We had concerns about whether these would have an impact on access to information. We were asked to play a mediation role and on May 3, World Press Freedom Day, a seminar was held in Chiang Mai and we added a session in which journalists on the ground got a chance to present their challenges and difficulties.

I mean, people know that there is no media freedom under the military junta – over 50 journalists are still behind bars, 19 media organisations had their licences revoked, and more than 200 journalists were arrested. But we do not want to see more media oppression in liberated areas where revolutionary forces announced people’s liberation, so we founded a media consultation committee where I was involved.

The purpose of this is that we also want to listen to the stories from ethnic groups' side. What are their concerns like security? Sometimes, information and news are out early before official release, not from journalists but mostly from fundraisers.

So, that committee hears both sides. Now we have discussed with KNU from 4 to 7 August and released a joint statement. We also signed a MoU with the TNLA (Ta'ang National Liberation Army - not publicly announced yet) to work collaboratively for access to information in their regions, and cooperate if there is any media and journalist issue that comes up in the region. We are also working on more engagement with more ethnic groups on the Thai-Myanmar border, already scheduled with IEC, Mon, Shan and Karenni.

What is your approach in those regions and with ethnic groups that have not publicly or officially released media guidelines, but have unofficial rules that journalists have to follow?

The NUG (National Unity Government) released a media policy on World Press Freedom Day which references some clauses in the Federal Charter. I don't remember the exact clause, though probably article 41 that recognises the role of media freedom, and access to information. So we have to discuss if they adhere to that kind of policy. We will consult more about it to relevant stakeholders.

Media development in different ethnic regions is also different. The KNU has developed both internal and external guidelines. So we have agreed to work cooperatively to develop media guidelines and media relations.

What do you think of the emergence of ethnic revolutionary forces-owned media outlets?

In that case, we provide a presentation on media information literacy and the role of media freedom. We also deliver our IPCM media code of conduct to align with media ethics. IPCM is also organised only with independent media organisations, so non-independent media organisations are not allowed to be members of IPCM. For example, NUG also has PVTV (Public Voice Television) but PVTV is not an IPCM member because we consider them not independent. So, our key message is not to control media freedom but facilitate media freedom and give respect to our own autonomy.

What is the result of IPCM's discussion with KNU?

KNU has seven brigades and we discussed with the central [one]. One key result is that it has been more systematic in solving media-related issues. KIA (Kachin Independence Army) arrested two journalists yesterday (2 October 2024) and we are asked to address this issue. We as an organisation can work on seeking more information. In that kind of situation, if we have signed an MoU, it would be much easier to get involved and solve. We do not have a bilateral agreement with KIA yet. We are open to signing MoU with relevant stakeholders for better communication and easier solving.

How do you see the media landscape in the coming years?

There are four media related laws: printing and publishing law, broadcasting media law, news media law and public service media law, which was withdrawn later. So we are working on reforming these media-related laws with relevant stakeholders, like we lobby the NUG to have media policy and other advocacy activities.

To what extent can IPCM be involved addressing funding issues that media houses and journalists face now?

Not particular to media houses, but we just had a donor meeting recently. IPCM was invited to give a presentation at a pre-donor meeting. We presented the sustainability issues of independent media organisations, including the overall financial crisis that media houses face. But we have very limited capacity to reach out to individual media houses about their financial issues.

Thai immigration policy can impact the legal stay of Myanmar journalists in Thailand. What role IPCM can play in this matter?

Honestly, we have no power or capacity to influence on immigration or visa or passport policy. But (among) our IPCM board members, we have a Thai citizen who is well-known, experienced in the Thai media industry to help us solve if something happens to journalists, like deportation. So we have two another foreign board members – one is Japanese-Australian and the second one is Thai.”

‘Journalists working in this crisis are oppressed again by the media organisations’

In this conversation, the secretary of the Myanmar Journalists Club talks about the group’s aims and work on protecting journalists’ rights in the workplace.

What is the purpose of MJC?

MJC is founded to monitor, speak out and protect oppression and violation of the rights of those involved in the media industry. MJC will stand together with oppressed Myanmar journalists and media workers and aims to work for the media industry free and fair. One significant point is that the MJC is not a group for financial gain, and is not a group that seeks funding. It is a group that will work with zero funding. As for group activities, the MJC committee members are working diligently and MJC members will only use the money they contribute voluntarily.

Who are the club's journalist members?

MJC is organised both by local journalists who are actually doing news work on the ground and exiled journalists. The MJC does not include and will not accept those who are involved in suppressing journalists. By not accepting this, we believe that conflicts of interest can be avoided when conducting organisational activities.

MJC can be said to be the first media organisation composed solely of working Journalists. There are more than 150 members, and there are many people who are registered as members. MJC has been screening and accepting those who have registered to join the group individually.

How have the rights of journalists evolved since the coup in 2021?

After the military coup, it has been no longer easy for journalists to get news inside the country. The military council is targeting news media outlets and journalists to block the people's right to information, and banned independent news. The military council has arrested, tortured and imprisoned journalists, causing most journalists to flee to neighbouring countries.

Even after fleeing, they continue to work from wherever they can to work for the public's right to information. In doing this work, they have been facing difficulties such as stable employment, legal status and livelihood in foreign countries. Taking advantage of these difficulties, some media industry leaders have widely committed wage exploitation, [disproportionate] workload, unfair pay rate, violations of human rights, violent communication and sexual assault. However, journalists stay silent about these abuses."

How many cases of violations of journalists' work rights are currently documented by the MJC?

Currently, there are three incidents that have come to MJC. These three are the ones that have been requested to be resolved, and there are also some cases to keep as records. MJC has kept a record of every incident, interview records and witness information. The case currently being handled by MJC is the issue between [Ma Ingyin Naing from Voice of America](#) and freelance journalist Shakeel (or Hein Aung, who the former hired as a fixer).

What is your view of the news media landscape and how journalists are treated as employees?

There are many challenges to working in the news media sector. Despite these conditions, journalists are working for the public's right to information. The sad thing is that the journalists who are working in this crisis are oppressed again by the media organisations.

However, no organisation has taken action against these violations. There are many groups working on media development and security, but those who demand the rights of oppressed media workers remain less. In addition, those who reveal these abuses are subjected to further oppression and abuse. That is why the MJC was established in order to encourage journalists to identify the perpetrators and protect the rights of journalists.

Do you handle issues related to freelancers and citizen journalists too?

MJC is composed of both freelance and local journalists who write, produce and film news inside the country and in exile. Also, people working in the media industry can participate. MJC has set up procedures to protect not only freelancers and citizen journalists, but also those working in the media industry, from having their rights violated.”

About this brief

This is an update on the challenges and threats to press freedom and media independence in Myanmar, safety issues around journalists and individuals in the news profession, and relevant events and issues in the country's news and information environment since the military coup of 1 February 2021. This brief is produced using verified information, including the tracking of incidents and discussions with journalists and media professionals, to document and provide context for a better understanding of the country's news and information situation.

Some definitions

In the monitoring work for this series of updates, an incident is a verified event that involves action against a journalist due to his or her journalistic activities or background, such as arrest, detention, prosecution, death, torture and acts of violence, surveillance, harassment and/or threats.

Incidents include similar actions against other individuals working in independent newsrooms and news-related operations, such as news management and other administrative, creative and support personnel who are part of the production and distribution of journalistic products. They are called "media workers" in these monitoring updates.

Also included in incidents are actions taken against newsrooms, news organisations and their websites and online spaces, independent associations of professional journalists and press clubs. These include the cancellation of publishing licences, raids on news outlets' premises and their prosecution and the blocking of websites.

In this series of updates, a journalist is an individual who is engaged in gathering and reporting, taking photographs or video footage, editing or publishing and presenting news that has been produced using professional and independent journalistic standards and methods.

A journalist may be in news work as a livelihood, whether paid or not, in different types of media and platforms, and have different types of professional arrangements, such as being full-time staff, freelance, a stringer or occasional contributor.

Included in the journalists covered by the monitoring work are individuals who have been described as being former journalists, or who have left their news organisations. This is for two reasons: first, being or having been a journalist in Myanmar by itself is a risk, and persons have been targeted or arrested because of a past affiliation with a news outlet; second, safety considerations can require an individual's description as a former journalist.

“Journalist” in this monitoring work likewise includes citizen journalists, given that many news organisations in Myanmar work with them on a regular basis. In the Myanmar context, the term “citizen journalist” typically refers to a person who contributes news – whether in the form of raw content, including photographs or video, or full stories. He or she may or may not be paid for contributions and may or may not have had some news training.

After the 2021 coup, news outlets began using material sent voluntarily by citizen journalists after restrictions and arrests made news-related activities dangerous for professional journalists.

Earlier this year

Women journalists have experienced gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment by men in senior roles in different forms, according to a research done by Myanmar Women in Media, K4DM.