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ARTICLE 19

Safety and Protection: Baseline Survey of Journalists in South Sudan

May 2016

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Abbreviations

AMDISS	Association of Media Development in South Sudan
AMWISS	Association of Media Women in South Sudan
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CPJ	Committee for the Protection of Journalists
DWA	Akadamie
IDI	In-depth Interview
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Agency for Development
INSI	International News Safety Institute
IMS	International Media Support
IPI	International Press Institute
JHR	Journalists for Human Rights
MDI	Media Development Institute
MOIB	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
NEF	National Editors Forum
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
PI	Protection International
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SSMSWG	South Sudan Media Sector Working Group
SSPS	South Sudan Police Service
TCSS	Transitional Constitution of South Sudan
UJOSS	Union of Journalists of South Sudan
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

Definition of Terms

Safety

Safety in this report is defined as ‘freedom from risk or harm as a result of unintentional acts such as accidents, natural phenomena and illness’. (www.protectiononline.org)

The safety of journalists is a fundamental pillar and fulcrum of the universal right to press freedom. This right is enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19, Paragraph 2, of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights. Each State has a duty to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their Public Interest Duty independently and without any interference.

The African Charter on Human and People’s Rights guarantees individuals against arbitrary deprivation of the right to life (Article 4), establishes an absolute prohibition of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 5) and guarantees the right to liberty and security of the person (Article 6), and freedom of expression (Article 9).

Security

Security refers to ‘the freedom from risk or harm resulting from violence or other intentional acts. In other words, security is what the individual and the organizations will be doing to assess risks and consciously implement measures to mitigate the same risks which amount to security management (www.protectiononline.org).

In practice, among organizations and media, the safety of journalists could mean and apply to both non-human and human-made threats. Therefore, in this report we use ‘safety’ to include ‘security’ aspects.

Protection

Protection refers to ‘measures taken to influence other actors to enhance security such as deterrence, evacuation, hiding or any other support that will minimize the consequences of risk’. (www.protectiononline.org)

Risk

There is no widely accepted definition of risk. However, in this report ‘risk’ refers to ‘possible events, however uncertain, that result to harm’. (www.protectiononline.org)

Executive Summary

The safety of journalists and media professionals online and offline in South Sudan just as elsewhere globally is a major issue of concern as seen in the increasing cases of violations against them that are being documented.

The baseline survey was carried out with the aim of shedding light, assess industry awareness, generate public interest and raise public awareness, create interest both within and without the industry on safety issues and provide a knowledge-based platform on which to lay future interventions and initiatives to address the violations for the benefit of the industry, profession and the country.

The survey established that violations against journalists and media workers in South Sudan exist. There is serious impact of the increasing cases of violations on freedom of expression and access to information and the industry seemed unable to systematically deal with the issue. These violations are cause of self-censorship by journalists/media workers and media houses, because in some extreme cases, journalists have been harassed, intimidated, their equipment confiscated and their media houses closed down.

The journalistic profession in South Sudan is facing one of its most dangerous period in the country's short history as the political-cum-security-economic elite in the country has identified the media as a key area of concern. In this regard, the control, incorporation and harassment and indeed, intimidation of journalists and other media workers is part of the larger power control methods employed by the ruling elite in South Sudan.

This survey has established a case for immediate intervention to halt the rising tide of violations against journalists online and offline. This can be achieved through elaborate, multi-dimensional approaches incorporating individuals, media houses, media and human rights support groups and the relevant State agencies in South Sudan.

As this survey shows, there is a gap between the reality on safety of journalists and media professionals online and offline as many media houses have not established clear mechanisms for dealing with the problem. The existing media laws have not made matters better, and State agencies, especially the security apparatus, regularly violate the journalists/media workers' rights on the pretext of national security.

Violations against free speech go beyond traditional media and extend to community whistle blowers, community media workers and citizen media workers across the country. Increasingly, harassment and impunity have a serious gender dimension. Female journalists require extra interventions that are gender sensitive.

Key Findings

- A total of 91.7 per cent of the respondents indicated that they have experienced one form of violation or another.
- 62.5 per cent of journalists and media practitioners have had their rights violated more than five times in their career. This is a worrying trend and serious cause for concern.
- Violations include; journalists being harassed/threatened (43.8 per cent), journalists/media workers arrested (28.1 per cent), media houses being suspended (21.9 per cent), journalists being detained (21.9 per cent), media workers' families harassed/threatened (3.1 per cent)
- 81.3 per cent of the respondents sought to know who was behind the violations and reported the matter mostly to their media houses and/or editors. Most of the respondents indicated that they knew the suspects responsible.
- Over 85 per cent reported that the violations of their rights have affected their ability to report professionally as required journalistically.
- Over 87.5 per cent of the respondents have seen their rights violated offline largely through arrests, beatings, confiscation of equipment or newspapers and being chased from functions.
- Female journalists are equally vulnerable to the violations and susceptible to threats. Their male counterparts made up 59.4 per cent of the victims while female journalists made up 40.6 per cent which is nearly half. All respondents indicated having experienced a violation.
- Majority of the respondents reported the violations to their editors (43.8 per cent) while others reported to unions/associations (37.5%).
- 90.6 per cent felt it was important to monitor and document press freedom because this forms a good basis for engaging the Government and the international community while 9.4 per cent felt this was not necessary.
- 87.5 per cent doubted the adequacy of the existing in-house safety measures and found them inadequate to mitigate against the myriad violations facing journalists and media practitioners.
- 53.1 per cent of the respondents indicated that their news organizations have safety plans to deal with violations to their staff while 46.9 per cent responded in the negative.

Recommendations

Media Support Groups

- i. Develop a comprehensive national safety and protection training program for journalists and media workers in South Sudan aimed at sensitizing journalists and media practitioners on safety and protection issues.
- ii. Develop national outreach strategies on safety and protection. The strategies should include campaign tools to target journalists, civil society and state actors, media owners and managers and other relevant stakeholders.
- iii. Develop on a national protocol as well as safety and protection standards for journalists and media practitioners in South Sudan.
- iv. Carry out a comprehensive study on the safety and protection of journalists status in all the 10 States.
- v. Scale up media and security dialogues to enhance understanding of the place of free speech in national development, peace, reconciliation and healing and the democratization process.
- vi. Establish an emergency fund to assist individual journalists and media houses meet their immediate operational and survival thresholds including medical and safety evacuation for their journalists and media workers under direct personal threats.

Media Houses and Unions/Associations

- i. Initiate training on safety and protection on on-line platforms and offline for journalists and media practitioners.
- ii. Establish trauma counselling and support mechanisms for journalists, media practitioners and workers who have been victims of attacks, harassment and intimidation. This will help them to heal and come out of the trauma and psychological stress and distress that afflict many of them.
- iii. Establish monitoring/documentation and safety desks/focal points within media houses and unions/associations.

Government

- i. Initiate training and media security dialogues to enhance respect for freedom of expression.
- ii. Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of the violations.

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter gives the background of the baseline survey. It provides the rationale, scope of work and methodology used in undertaking the study.

1.1 Background to the Survey

The seriousness of violations of journalists and media workers' rights in South Sudan is best illustrated by the fact that the country is among five that are implementing the UN Action Plan on Safety of Journalists following the approval of the same by the UN General Assembly in 2012. The implementation of the UN Action includes building capacity and to identify and implement mechanisms that can provide safety and protection to journalists and media workers in countries marked by conflict and organized violence. Interventions envisaged under the UN Plan of Action include requiring the countries to developing a national approach to safety and legal protection.

The last four years have witnessed numerous incidents of violations of media freedom. These incidents include but are not limited to unlawful detention and surveillance, physical and psychological attacks and intimidation, self-censorship and forced closure through economic sanctioning or other kinds of threats. In 2016, 7 journalists have been killed in South Sudan.

A Committee to Protect Journalists research shows that journalists working in South Sudan are subject to arbitrary arrests and threats. In August, President Salva Kiir publicly threatened to kill journalists for reporting "against the country". In January 2015, five journalists were killed in an ambush on a

political convoy in Western Bahr al Ghazal state.¹

According to Amnesty International, South Sudan's authorities, especially the National Security Service (NSS) have harassed, intimidated and arbitrarily detained journalists while the Government has failed to pass key laws to protect freedom of expression. As a result, this fundamental right has been increasingly eroded in South Sudan since independence in 2011.

Since the beginning of the country's internal armed conflict in mid-December 2013, the Government of South Sudan has further clamped down on journalists, writers and commentators, creating an atmosphere of fear. Journalists cannot report freely on the ongoing conflict and newspapers are unable to participate in open debate on how the country could move towards sustainable peace without fear of retribution by state security forces.

In the past months, senior government officials have banned journalists from interviewing opposition leaders. Those who have done so, or who have reported on human rights violations by Government forces, have faced intimidation. Journalists have been harassed, intimidated, summoned for questioning by the NSS and told to leave

¹

the country. One newspaper, *Almajhar Alsayasy*, was explicitly instructed to cease publication. Another, *Juba Monitor*, has had issues held temporarily or confiscated eight times in the past seven months. In June 2014, an entire run of *The Citizen* was seized.²

According to an assessment of media development in South Sudan supported by UNESCO/IMS, there are increasing violations of journalists' rights both online and offline. This is coupled with a low degree of awareness of the problem, lack of understanding of the magnitude of the problem and lack of any promising and coordinated interventions for addressing the violations.³

1.2 Historical Perspective

South Sudan consists of 10 states which in turn are made up of many counties inhabited by people of different ethnic lineage. The country gained independence in 2011 and three years into self-rule, a civil war broke out in December 2013, which has made the lives of journalists/media workers extremely difficult. In early 2015, seven journalists were killed in the course of duty for unknown reasons. Media, like other sectors, have been hit by the current widespread conflict, which has exacerbated an already bad situation.

² https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/South%20Sudan%20Freedom%20of%20Expressio%20Amnesty%20International%20August%202014.pdf

³ http://www.i-m-s.dk/files/publications/1792%20SudanSMEC_final_web.pdf

The media indicators are weak, according to a country media assessment as detailed below.

A study by UNESCO established that there is a need for improvement of the management and regulation of the media industry in South Sudan. 72.7 per cent of editors who participated in the study indicated risks of harassments for those who refuse to reveal their sources. Journalists are at risk of facing criminal charges for printing allegedly false news or allegedly seditious material due to the undefined national security laws and hate speech rules in the penal code. Media are largely concentrated in Juba and majority of the respondents (70 per cent) noted that that it was either 'unlikely' (38 per cent) or 'extremely unlikely' (32 per cent) for those who harass journalists to face prosecution. Some 73 per cent of reporters and bloggers and 56 per cent of editors said there are no health or safety and protection mechanisms for media workers, including freelancers. Some 48 per cent of journalists believed self-censorship was 'likely' to take place, and a further 43 per cent thought it was 'very likely' to take place. Just nine per cent of respondents believed self-censorship was 'very unlikely' among media professionals.

This possibility represents a real threat to freedom of expression and media freedom and to the building of a democratic environment. It could potentially constitute a serious threat to journalists' safety should the government decide to punish those refusing to align themselves to the regime in power. To

avoid this danger and to ensure the possibility of developing a real democracy based on participation and freedom of expression, it is necessary to move forward with the adoption of a coherent legal framework – as presented in the original draft laws - that would ensure freedom of the press as well as a responsible practice of the journalistic profession as the precondition to a media system able to serve the interests of South Sudanese citizens.⁴

agencies have used provisions in the Constitution, especially on national security and communication surveillance, to violate the right to freedom of expression.

1.3 Legal Framework on Freedom of Expression

While South Sudan is not party to core international human rights treaties, the right to freedom of expression is protected under South Sudan's 2011 transitional Constitution.⁵ However, the President has powers to declare a state of emergency during crises that threaten the unity of the nation. During such times, he can suspend human rights, including the right of freedom of expression.

The country has some progressive Bills that were passed by the National Assembly; the Media Authority, the Broadcasting Corporation and the Right to Access of Information Bills – but their enactment has been shrouded in secrecy and thus remains problematic.

In the absence of laws, and with the political situation in the country fluid, the security

⁴ http://www.i-m-s.dk/files/publications/1792%20SudanSMEC_final_web.pdf

⁵ Safeguarding Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists in South Sudan: Challenges and Responses

Chapter Two

Methodology

1. The baseline survey was a national undertaking and targeted all the 10 states in South Sudan.
2. A number of stakeholders were involved in data collection, including the Union of Journalists of South Sudan, AMDISS, AMWISS, the National Editors Forum and Media Owners, human rights defenders, individual media houses and individual journalists and members of the journalists' safety and protection working group.

The survey was carried out at two levels:

- a. Literature review: This involved a comprehensive review of relevant literature; journals, newspapers and case reviews among others on matters relating to press freedom, access to information, safety and protection of journalists and media workers in South Sudan.
- b. In-depth Interviews (IDIs): As part of the base-line survey research methodology tools, key Informant In-depth Interviews were conducted with three senior editors (two Editor-in-Chiefs and one Managing Editor), a senior media programme officer with the Association of Media Development Association (AMDISS), a senior Union of Journalists official (Secretary-General) and a media owner. Four of the Key Informant interviewees were male while the other two were female, with a combined total journalistic experience of thirty years in journalism/ media management in both Sudan and

South Sudan. Indeed, two of the Key Informants were founder editors of their publications, while one was the first female managing editor of a national daily newspaper in South Sudan. The average level of education for the key informants was a university degree equivalent and over ten years' practical journalistic experience and exposure in both Sudan and South Sudan.

- c. Questionnaires: 32 journalists/media practitioners responded out of the 40 that were sent out to the eight states that make up South Sudan.

2.1 Sampling

The sample was purposively selected, targeting 40 journalists from the ten states that make up South Sudan.

2.2 Data Analysis

A variety of methods was used as follows:

- a. Document review and analysis of literature
- b. Review of comparative international literature on the safety of journalists, underlying causes, action and policy intervention practices and their bearing on media freedom.
- c. SPSS was used in analyzing quantitative data that was backed up with qualitative methods of arriving at conclusions.

Chapter Three

Research Findings and Analysis

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the pertinent parts of the research. The results are consequent from the responses of the 32 journalists and four key informative interviews that were held in the month of December 2015 and January 2016 in South Sudan.

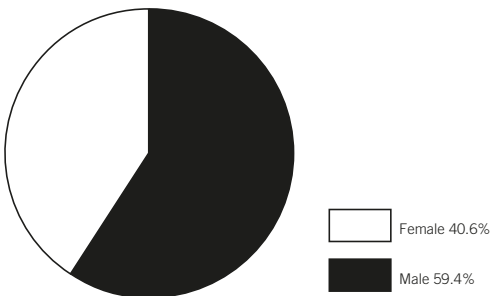


Figure 1: Gender

The respondents were fairly distributed in terms of gender during the study. Males made up 59.4 per cent of the sample while females formed 40.6 per cent, which is nearly half. This then has a bearing on the subsequent analyses because most of the other parameters discussed will cut across gender. Female journalists are equally vulnerable to violations and susceptible to threats and seemed more worried about their situation and future in journalism and media industry in general. Violations to female journalists' safety included extreme personal incidences of sexual harassment including rape at the work place.

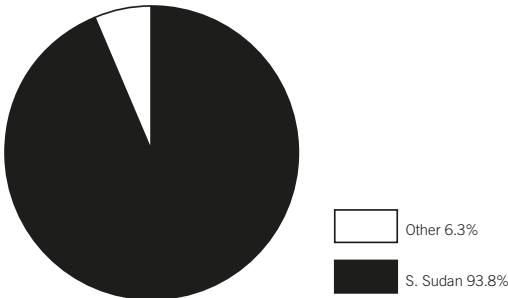


Figure 2: Nationality

Nearly all the respondents were South Sudan Nationals (93.8 per cent), meaning the media

sector in the country is local. We also interviewed nationals from Kenya and Uganda working in the media sector (6.2 per cent).

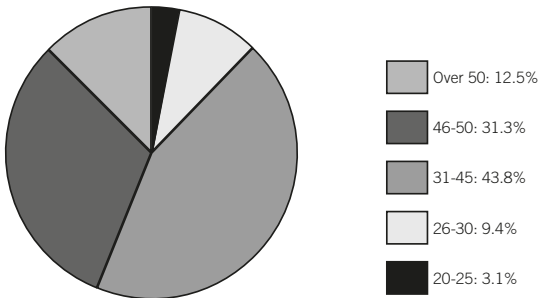


Figure 3: Age Range

The average working age for journalists and media workers in South Sudan is 31 to 50 years as the combined score for the two categories is 75.1 per cent. When such critical age group is not producing at maximum because of safety concerns, and sees a big number exiting the profession, it represents serious challenges to level of professionalism in the media sector in the country.

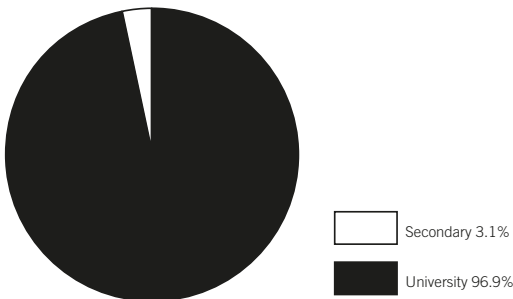


Figure 4: Academic Qualification

That 96.9 per cent of the respondents are graduates is an indication of the level of training of journalists or an interview bias during sampling. Such a group need to be secured and given a safe working environment. To push them out of working or hamper their productivity is a serious disservice to a country such as South Sudan, that because of prolonged war, is struggling to stabilize its human resource base capacity.

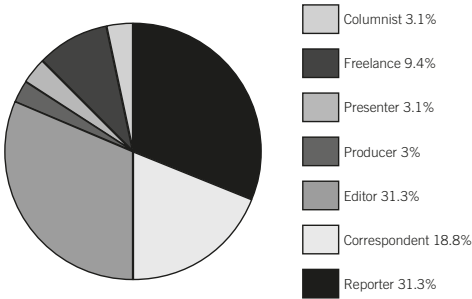


Figure 5: Position in the Organisation

Editors represented nearly double the number of representatives because of the nature of interviews. Most of the journalists were based in the field while others had taken a Christmas break during the exercise.

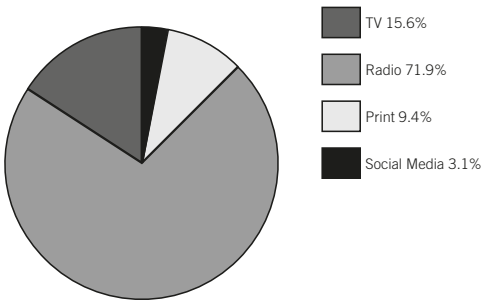


Figure 6: Media Category

As indicated in the introductory pages, media is dominated by radio in South Sudan. The literacy levels also work against print or TV media types in the country.

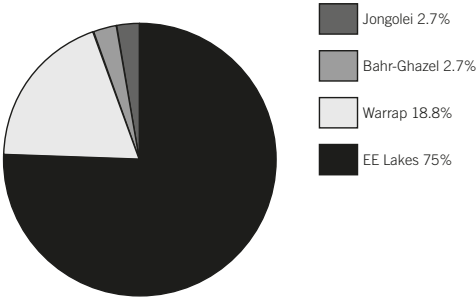


Figure 7: Region Based

75 per cent of the respondents were from Eastern Equatorial State. We were not able to get any contacts in two out of the ten states. In addition to the fact that the field work was done during the festive period (December), it is also traditionally very challenging to get to journalists in those states, because of logistical and communication reasons.

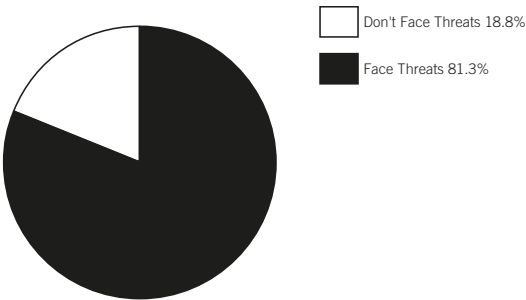


Figure 8: Do You Face Risks and Threats in Your Journalism Work?

That 81.3 per cent of the respondents said they had face violations in the course of duty is a confirmation of the shrinking space for freedom of expression in South Sudan. The environment is increasingly becoming hostile, which threatens free speech. Prevailing and widespread social-political violence in the country due to the on-going political-cum-economic polarization is increasingly getting even more pronounced, as the socio-political and economic dislocation and upheaval continues unabated.

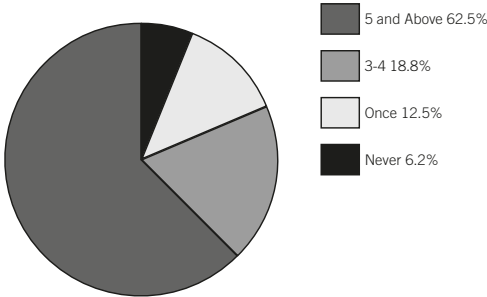


Figure 9: Number of Times Your Freedom of Expression as a Journalist has been Violated

That 62.5 per cent of the journalists and media practitioners have had their rights violated more than five times in their career is worrying and a serious cause for concern. A combined score of 91.7 per cent of the respondents have had their rights violated, confirming fears about the safety of journalists in South Sudan. This has serious implications on the quality of free speech and access to information.

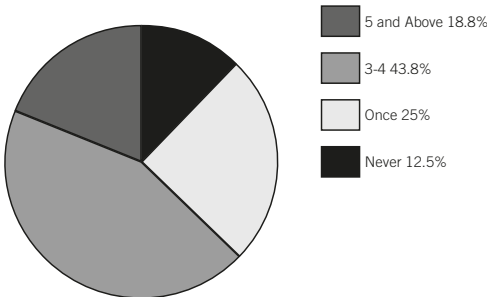


Figure 10: How Many Times was this Offline?

Over 87.5 per cent of the respondents have seen their rights violated offline largely through arrests, beatings, confiscation of equipment or newspapers and being chased from functions. Those reporting a violation five times and above constituted 18.8 per cent, more than three times in the working life (43.8 per cent) while those who have only experienced a violation stood at 25 per cent. Only 12.5 per cent reported not having experienced any violation in their working life as journalists/media practitioners.

In addition to the safety of the journalists, harassment causes ridicule in the eyes of the public.

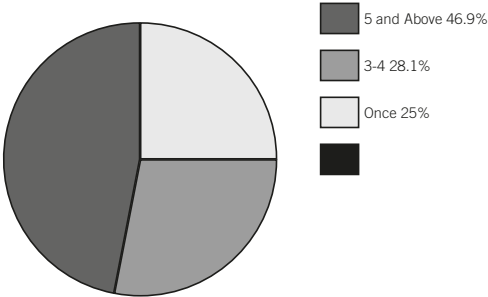


Figure 11: How Many Times was this Online?

All the respondents had the violations meted through online means, through phones, email and related online means. This is an indication of State surveillance against journalists of exposure to danger by journalists because of use of electronic gadgets.

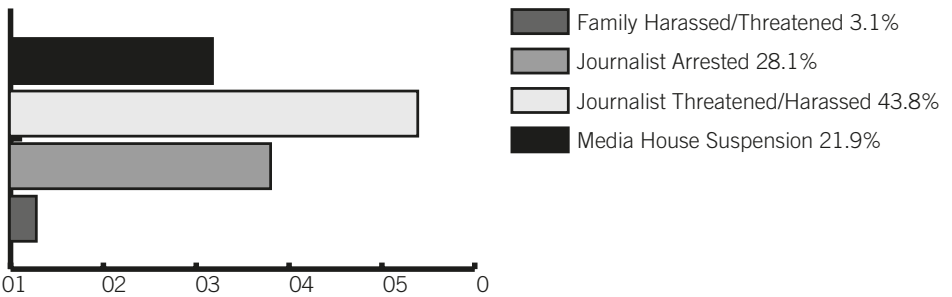


Figure 12: What Kinds of Violations have you Faced?

All the journalists interviewed indicated having experienced one form of violation or the other. Violations include journalists being harassed/threatened (43.8 per cent), journalists/media workers being arrested (28.1 per cent), media houses being suspended (21.9 per cent), journalists detained (media family harassed/threatened (3.1 per cent).

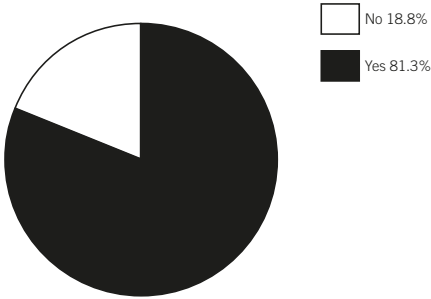


Figure 13: Did you find out why your Freedom of Expression was Violated (offline and online)?

81.3 per cent sought to know who was behind the violations and reported the matter to mostly their media houses and or editors. Most of the respondents indicated that they knew the perpetrators of the violations and in most cases it was due to political and security reasons.

With the current fluid political situation in South Sudan, most of the respondents indicated that they knew the perpetrators of the violations, who in most cases were from the security organs, especially the South Sudan Police Services (SSPS), the military intelligence and the national intelligence operatives and officers. Given the situation, a number of media and security dialogues had been organised through the SSMWSS to improve the working relations between the two and enhance the safety of the journalists and media workers.

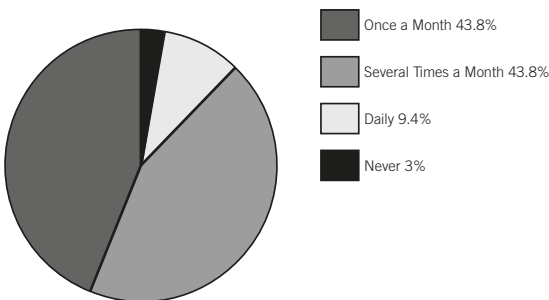


Figure 14: How frequently are you subjected to what you've enumerated above?

Over 90 per cent have had their rights violated more than once which is worrying with 43.8 per cent indicating that they receive threats once a month while another 43.8 per cent receive threats several times monthly. This has serious implications on the quality of free speech and

access to information. Such an insecure working environment is untenable for the media in a country trying to create and nurture a democratic culture. Such levels of human rights violations are unacceptable. Most journalists and media institutions are increasingly being accused of being partisan, partial and or, of pursuing and pushing an ethnic agenda in their reporting/ coverage. Because of this, they are considered legitimate targets, especially and particularly by the security and national intelligence operatives either as individuals and institutions or both.

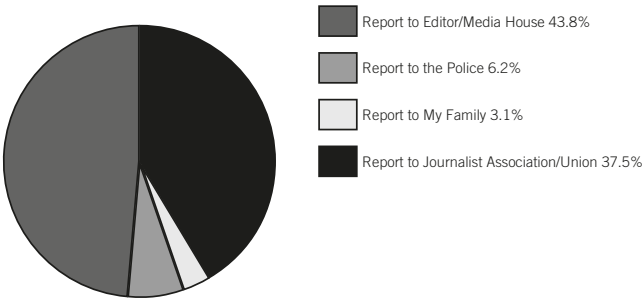


Figure 15: Where did you report the violation?

Majority of the respondents reported the violations to their editors (43.8 per cent) while others reported to unions/associations (37.5 per cent). The figures of those reporting to the police or colleagues are very low, an indication of the trust the respondents have in the system and colleagues generally.

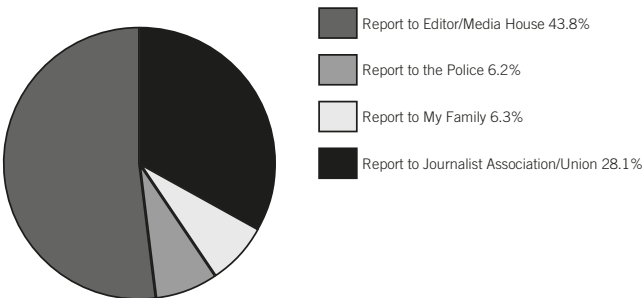


Figure 16: In case of Emergency, what are your First Steps of Action?

Most respondents, reported the violations to their editors as first call of interest, but had doubts on response levels while others reported to unions/associations (28.1 per cent) and colleagues

(15.6 per cent). Cases reported to the police were among the lowest at 6.3 per cent, indicating the lack of trust people have in the police. Security agencies ranked among the highest in violating freedom of expression of journalists and media practitioners, especially following the December 2013 political turmoil.

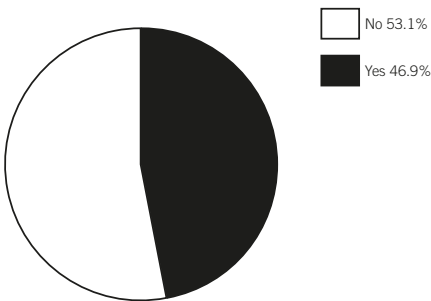


Figure 17: Does your Media Organisation have a Safety and Security Plan in case you're in Danger (offline and online)?

53.1 per cent of the respondents indicated that their news organizations have safety plans to deal with violations to their staff while 46.9 per cent responded in the negative. That nearly half of the respondents indicated that their news organizations did not have safety plans for the journalists, in such an hostile environment is worrying and calls for urgent attention.

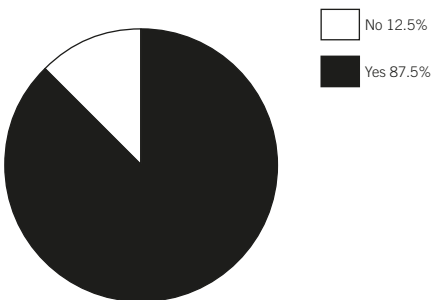


Figure 18: Do you Consider these Measures to be Sufficient?

87.5 per cent of the respondents doubted the adequacy of the existing in-house safety measures and found them inadequate. The available safety support mechanisms, both at individual, media house and associations/union levels were found to be inadequate and non-responsive and largely unknown to the majority of journalists who needed them.

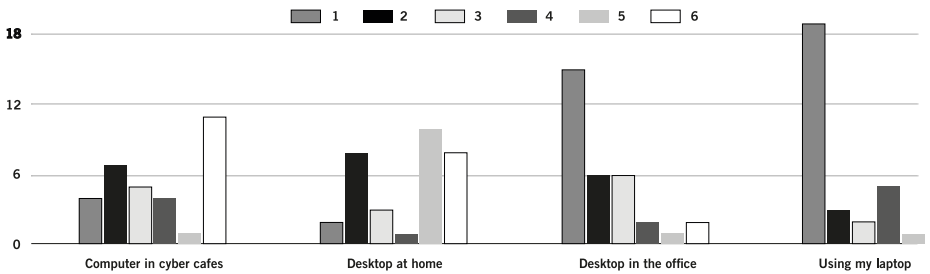


Figure 19: How do you access the Internet? (Number 1 being most frequent way and Number 6 the least common. Tick more than one choice.)

A number of the respondents indicated they use online platforms for various needs and the mode of access ranged from cybercafés, desktop computers at home and in the office, personal laptops, computers at resource centers and mobile phones.

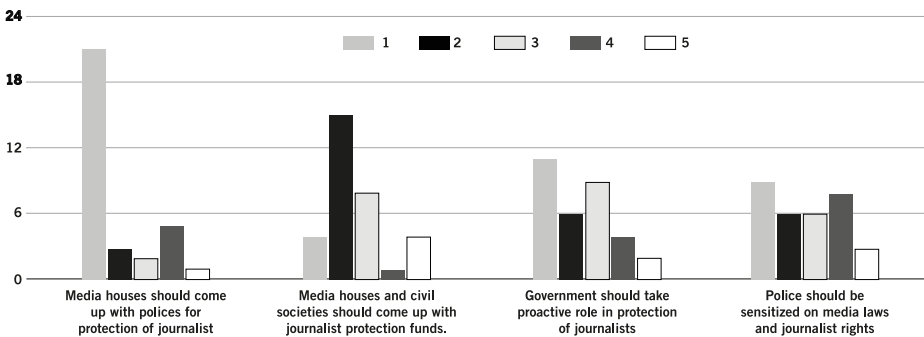


Figure 20: Rank the following statement in order of importance to you

There is overwhelming suggestion that the situation of the safety and protection of journalists in South Sudan be looked into and some urgent interventions put in place. Suggestions ranged from media houses being required to come up with policies for protection of journalists to media houses and civil societies coming up with journalist protection funds.

The Government should also take a proactive role in the protection of journalists, and the police should be sensitized on media laws and journalists' rights. Similarly, trade unions should take a proactive role in protection of journalists.

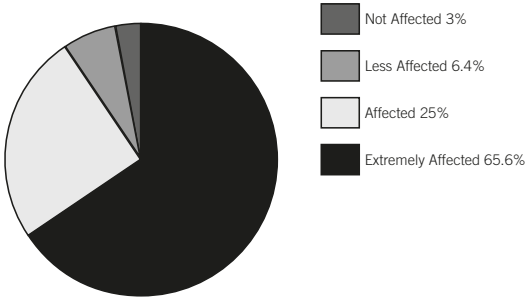


Figure 21: How does Security and Risk affect your ability to Fully Report Stories?

Over 90 per cent have had their rights violated more than once, which is worrying, with 43.8 per cent indicating that they receive threats once a month while another 43.8 per cent receive threats several times a month. This has serious implications on the quality of free speech and access to information. Such an insecure working environment is untenable for the media. Such levels of human rights violations are unacceptable. Most journalists and media institutions are increasingly being accused of being partisan and are therefore regarded as legitimate targets, especially and particularly by security and national intelligence operatives either as individuals and institutions or both.

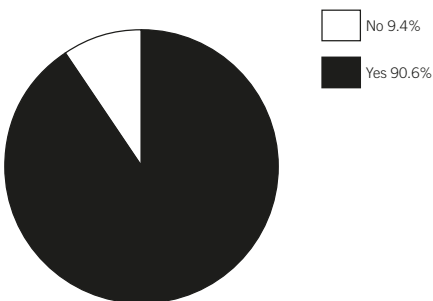


Figure 22: Is it Important to Monitor Abuses against Journalists?

90.6 per cent felt it was important to monitor and document press freedom for it formed a good basis for engaging the Government and the international community while 9.4 per cent felt it was not necessary. It came out from the in-depth interviews clearly that the current monitoring and documentation was weak, unprofessional and un-coordinated.

3.2 In-depth Interviews

As part of the base-line survey research methodology tools, six key Informant In-depth Interviews were conducted with three senior media editors (two Editor-in-Chiefs, one Managing Editor), a senior media programme officer with the Association of Media Development Association (AMDISS), a senior Union of Journalists Official (Secretary-General) and a media owner.

Four of the Key Informant interviewees were male while the other two were female with a combined total journalistic experience of thirty years in journalism/media management in both Sudan and South Sudan. Indeed, two of the Key Informants were founder editors of their publications, while one was the first female Managing Editor of a national daily newspaper.

The average level of education for the Key Informants was a university degree equivalent and over ten years' practical journalistic experience and exposure in both Sudan and South Sudan.

The other is one of the longest-serving journalists in South Sudan and an author of a book on the history of Media in Sudan and South Sudan, while the Union of Journalists official is one of the most experienced journalists in South Sudan both as a writer and as well as a trainer.

The media owner-cum-publisher is one of the most controversial, outspoken and brave editor in South Sudan with interests in

both electronic and print media institutions. The senior media programme officer is an acclaimed media development officer and one of the nominees to the Media Development Authority in South Sudan.

The youngest was thirty-five years old while the oldest was sixty four, all drawn from the greater Equatorial and greater Upper Nile regions of South Sudan. The top four have more than twenty years journalistic experience each in both Sudan and South Sudan while the other two have between five and ten years' experience in South Sudan.

For these Key Informants, the current critical safety and protection issue including challenges, hurdles and setbacks facing journalism as a profession in South Sudan was the following; Prevailing and widespread social-political violence due to the on-going political-cum-economic polarization which has acquired an ethnic dimension and is increasingly getting even more pronounced.

In this regard, most journalists and media institutions are increasingly being accused of being partisan, partial and or, for pursuing and pushing an ethnic agenda in their reporting/coverage and therefore, are viewed as legitimate targets, especially and particularly by the security and national intelligence operatives either as individuals and institutions or both.

As a result, the journalistic profession in South Sudan is facing one of its most dangerous periods in the country's

short history. In this regard the control, incorporation and harassment and indeed, intimidation of the media, journalists and other media workers is part of the larger power control methods employed by the ruling elite in South Sudan.

These all-encompassing threats to journalism in South Sudan are employed, deployed and activated in varying degrees and forms as the ever-evolving and rapidly mutating internal political, military and economic environment unfolds.

As the threats and risks grow and expand dependant on the prevailing political, military and economic environment, the level of individual and collective exposure both online and off-line for journalists, media practitioners and other media workers increases exponentially in intensity and extent, sometimes leading to actual deaths, injury and exile for media professionals.

Violation against free speech goes beyond traditional media and extends to community whistle-blowers, community media workers and citizen media workers spread throughout the country. Increasingly, the issue of harassment and impunity has a serious gender dimension and female journalists require extra interventions that are gender-sensitive.

If these threats and risks are not directed at individuals, then they are targeted at the media institutions and houses including enterprises, through a combination of

economic sanctions such as withdrawal of licences and business permits and denial of advertising revenue as a form of showing displeasure as a first instance.

If these rather indirect and ostensibly soft threats are not effective on the media houses/enterprises and businesses, then the authorities resort to more direct sanctions, including attacks and destruction of media house facilities, equipment and property often disguised as criminal acts.

In the extreme, the system through its agents, supporters and acolytes, targets individual journalists and their families with acts of personal injury/attacks, detention and arrests under spurious criminal acts including invoking the notorious national security laws and edicts.

The combined effect is that journalists in South Sudan have to negotiate a motley of direct and indirect threats to their personal safety and the safety of their families in the first instance, and also that of their media houses/businesses and enterprises in the second and in the third instance, a combination of all three.

According to these Key Informants, the situation is dire and increasingly getting more threatening and ever dire as the political, economic and military situation deteriorates despite the current peace settlement that is being implemented in the country.

For these key informants, the way out is both

an internal and external engagement with all the key actors/players and a sustained political and public outreach campaign, including capacity-building, training and funding to both individual journalists, media practitioners and workers and media houses.

For the moment and as a matter of urgency, the conduct of emergency training in safety and protection, including risk assessment, mitigation, distress management and evacuation are critical. This engagement must be undertaken expeditiously and in the shortest time possible to arrest the deteriorating situation.

Another urgent initiative is the establishment of an emergency fund to assist individual journalists and media houses meet their immediate operational and survival thresholds, including medical and safety evacuation for their journalists and media workers under direct personal threats.

In the same vein, an emergency digital training for safety and protection on the online platforms, including equipment and software, must be provided in the shortest time possible as the national security operatives are increasingly using electronic surveillance to track, and in the process, compromise journalists' and media houses' capacity to use the Internet and other electronic devices and services.

Finally, emergency trauma and psycho-social support, training and empowerment must be provided to the journalists, media

practitioners and media workers who have been victims of attacks, harassment and intimidation for them to heal and come out of the trauma and psychological stress and distress that currently afflicts a large number of them.

Chapter Four

Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

From the foregoing, it is fair to conclude that journalists and media workers in South Sudan face a lot of challenges in their professional lives.

Journalists, editors and media owners are responsible for taking all possible measures to safeguard the physical safety of members of the media operating in areas of conflict and on dangerous assignments, including providing personal insurance and support systems.

Indeed, as it has become clear, the safety and protection of journalists should be part of their employment contracts. This should be an integral part of the terms of employment, with the media houses committing to provide specific safety measures and support over and above the normal employment obligations.

Police force and other security agencies, the military intelligence and the national intelligence service and journalists' organizations should conclude agreements on media guidelines for the police and other security forces and train officers to ensure understanding and respect for the guidelines.

4.2 Recommendations

A number of recommendations can be derived from this survey;

I. Develop a comprehensive national safety and protection training programme for

journalists and media workers in South Sudan aimed at sensitizing journalists and media practitioners on safety and protection issues.

- II. Develop national outreach strategies on safety and protection: The strategies should include campaign tools to target journalists, civil society actors, State actors, media owners and managers and other relevant stakeholders.
- III. Develop a national protocol and safety and protection standards for journalists and media practitioners in South Sudan.
- IV. Carry out a comprehensive study on the levels of safety and protection of journalists in all the 10 states of South Sudan
- V. Scale up media and security dialogues to enhance understanding of the place of free speech in national development and the democratization.

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Appendix 1

Questionnaire on Safety and Protection Offline and Online

Dear Respondent, ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa in conjunction with DW Akademie is doing a study to gauge the degree of awareness of the safety and protection of men and women journalists/media workers in South Sudan, understand the magnitude of the problem and look at the evolving nature of online and offline threats, sources of violation and understand any promising interventions needed for addressing the attacks in South Sudan. Thank you for

accepting to respond to this questionnaire which has been developed to know how journalists working in South Sudan are aware about their safety and protection online and offline;

1. Gender *

- Male
- Female

2. Nationality *

- South Sudan
- Other :

3. Age Range *

- 20-25
- 26-30
- 31-45
- 46-50
- Over 50

4. Academic qualification *

- Primary
- Secondary
- University

Employment Details

5. What is your position in the organisation? *

- Reporter
- Correspondent
- Editor
- Producer

- Presenter
- Freelance presenter/producer
- Columnist
- Other :

6. Media category *

- Print
- Radio
- TV
- Social Media

7. Where are you based/Region? *

- Warrap
- Upper Nile
- Jongolei
- Bahr-Ghazel
- Unity
- CE
- EE Lakes
- WE

8. Do you face any safety risks and threats in your daily work as a journalist online and offline? *

- Yes
- No

9. How Many times has your freedom of expression been violated during your career as a journalist /media worker offline and or online? *

- Never

- Once
- 3—4
- 5 and above

10. How many times was it offline? *

- Never
- Once
- 3—4
- 5 and above

11. How many times was it online? *

- Never
- Once
- 3—4
- 5 and above

12. What kind of violations have you faced? *

- Media suspended
- Journalist/media worker arrested
- Media House sued
- Journalist/Media worker sued
- Journalists/Media worker jailed
- Journalists detained
- Website blocked/hacked
- Journalists harassed/threatened
- Family harassed/threatened

13. Did you find out why your freedom of expression rights offline or/and online were violated? *

- Yes
- No

14. How frequently are you subjected to these that you have enumerated above? *

- Daily
- Once a week
- Several times a month

- Once a month
- Never

15. Where did you report the violation when it happened? *

- Report to journalist association/union
- Report to my family
- Report to the police
- Report to my editor/media house
- Report to my colleague

Risk Threat Response Mechanism

16. In case of any emergency, what are your first steps of action?*

- Report to journalist association/union
- Report to my family
- Report to the police
- Report to my editor/media house
- Report to my colleague

17. Does your news organization have a safety and security plan in place if you or your colleagues are in danger offline and online? *

- Yes
- No

18. Do you consider these safety measures to be sufficient? *

- Yes
- No

19. How do you access your internet? (You can rank them in order of importance. No.1 being the most often access method and No.6 being the least) tick more than one choice) *

- Computer in cyber cafes

-
- Desktop at home
 - Desktop in the office
 - Using my laptop
 - Computers at a resource centre
 - Through my mobile phone

20. Rank the following statement in order of importance from your own perspective. Use Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. No.1 being the highest priority and No.5 being the lowest. *

- Media houses should come up with policies for protection of journalist
- Media houses and civil societies should come up with journalist protection funds.
- Government should take proactive role in protection of journalists
- Police should be sensitized on media laws and journalist rights
- Trade unions should take proactive role in protection of journalists

21. In your professional life, how do security risks and threats affect your ability to fully report stories? *

- Extremely affected
- Affected
- Less affected
- Not affected

22. Do you think it is important to monitor abuses against journalists? *

- Yes
- No

Thank you for your time

Appendix 2

Questionnaire on Safety and Protection Offline and Online

ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa in conjunction with DW Akademie is doing a study to gauge the degree of awareness of the Online and Offline safety and protection of men and women journalists/media workers in South Sudan, understand the magnitude of the problem and look at the evolving nature of online and offline threats, sources of violation and understand any promising interventions needed for addressing the attacks in South Sudan.

Basic Data

1. Name
2. Gender
3. Position in the Media house
4. Age
5. Level of Education
6. State

Online and Offline Safety/Protection/Security Environment

1. What are the current your Online and offline Safety concerns? Do you keep records of these threats to your safety – if so, how many attacks have your received
2. Have you ever reported any of the above threats to any organization in South Sudan or elsewhere over the, two years?
3. When you reported the incident, what intervention did you get?

Mapping the Safety/Protection/Threat Zones in the Country

1. What are the most common/constant safety issues/concerns and do you face Online and offline Safety
2. Which are the most common news beats that present most threats to journalists Online and offline Safety?
3. What are the gaps that perpetuate the situation and allow for attacks and harassment against journalists and media workers Online and offline Safety?

4. Does your media house/union/association/ organization publicize attacks that happen Online and offline Safety to journalists and media workers.
5. What is your media house/union/ association/organisation doing to address/ respond and mitigate against attacks/ harassments against journalists? What specific action/response/action has your Union taken over the last two years?
6. Are you/is your media house/union/ association/organization satisfied with the government's response/action/measures to combat attacks/harassment against journalists – if not, what specific action/ measures policy and or otherwise would you recommend that the government take to end attacks/harassment of journalists.
7. What measures/policies and actions has your media house/union/association/ has put in place to address journalists' in distress/under threat – in the last one year, two years and over the last three years.
8. Has your media house/union/association/ organization sought support from international human rights defenders' for their members/journalists in distress – if so, how many instances in the last one year, two years and over the last three years?

-
9. What other issues/concerns/threats in your media house/union/association experience threaten/compromise journalists safety/protection and security?



BASELINE SURVEY OF JOURNALIST'S SAFETY AND PROTECTION IN SOUTH SUDAN

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