



MEDIA FREEDOM REVIEW-JULY 2021

The monthly '**Media Freedom Review**' is a publication of the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) produced from the monitoring and reporting on freedom of expression, media freedom, internet, digital and online rights and safety and security of journalists in Sierra Leone.

In July 2021, the MRCG followed up on incidents of alleged verbal attack of a journalist, arrest and detention of a journalist, and the unfolding events that followed the reconstitution of the Parliamentary Press Gallery by Parliament.

The matter relating to the BBC sports journalist, Mohamed Fajah Barrie's alleged intimidation and verbal attack on June 13, 2021 by the Adviser to Sierra Leone Sports Minister, Alie Kader in Conakry, Guinea for publishing a story on his Facebook timeline, was settled. The Minister of Sports intervened, mediated and settled the matter between both parties.

On the arrest and detention of Osman Hardy Jalloh in June 2021, for the second time, on orders of Magistrate Joseph Toby of Court Number 2 in Kenema, TV-News24 on July 24, 2021 wrote an official complaint to the Human Rights Commission-Sierra Leone with concerns that the Magistrate did not 'articulate any points of authority' that he 'relied on' to 'warrant the unlawful detention, arrest and jailing...' of the journalist.

On July 27, 2021, the Clerk of Parliament issued out a public notice reconstituting the Parliamentary Press Gallery (PPG) pursuant to Standing Order 80 of the House's Rules of Procedures in the Parliament of Sierra Leone. The notice stated that 12 journalists from different media houses constitute the new interim executive. The President of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Hassan Y. Koroma in a release condemned the action of the Clerk of Parliament stating that the PPG is not a Parliamentary unit that takes instruction from the Clerk. He said they are only answerable to SLAJ.



The details of the cases and issues will be published in the MRCG Bi-Annual Press Freedom Report for June to November 2021.

The MRCG's freedom of expression, media freedom and internet and digital rights initiative is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the United States of America. The MRCG seeks to strengthen democratic dialogue and accountability, consolidate peace and ensure development through professional, independent and sustainable media, based on the right to freedom of expression and of the press.