



# REPORT ON PRESS FREEDOM, INFORMATION, INTERNET AND DIGITAL RIGHTS IN SIERRA LEONE



**June – November 2025**

**Fifteenth Edition**

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms & Abbreviations	Meaning
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
ACR	Annual Compliance Report
APC	All Peoples Congress
AYV	Africa Young Voices
BBC-MA SL	BBC Media Action Sierra Leone
CID	Criminal Investigations Department
CDIID	Complaints, Discipline, and Internal Investigations Department
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ETU	Eastern Technical University
IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
IGP	Inspector General of Police
IMC	Independent Media Commission
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MoICE	Ministry of Information and Civic Education
MRCG	Media Reform Coordinating Group
MP	Member of Parliament
MFWA	Media Foundation for West Africa
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NaTCA	National Telecommunications Authority
ONS	Office of National Security
RAIC	Rights to Access Information Commission
RSLAF	Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces
SLAJ	Sierra Leone Association of Journalists

SLBC	Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation
SLRU	Sierra Leone Reporters Union
SLP	Sierra Leone Police
SWASAL	Sport Writers Association of Sierra Leone
WIMSAL	Women in the Media Sierra Leone

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report, which addresses issues on ‘Freedom of Expression and of the Press, Access to Information, and Internet Freedom and Digital Rights in Sierra Leone,’ is the **Fifteenth** in a series produced by the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) as part of a project titled “**Enhancing Press Freedom and Media Reforms**”, supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the United States of America. The Report, which covers the period June to November 2025, is the outcome of the monitoring of the exercise and legal guarantees of freedom of expression and the press, and internet freedom and digital rights issues in Sierra Leone, including invitations, intimidation, attacks, assaults, arrests, detentions, and prosecution of journalists and other citizens; and also tracks media performance.

This edition is structured around the following areas: Thematic Issues- Freedom of Expression and the Press (focusing mainly on the assault, arrest, and detention of journalists and other citizens); Right to Access Information, Internet Freedom, and Digital Rights; Media and Good Governance; Performance of Media Institutions; Positions of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists and the Government on these issues; Status of Media and Communication Laws in Sierra Leone; Conclusion; Recommendations; References, and Appendices.

The Report was produced by monitoring issues related to freedom of expression and the press, internet freedom, and digital rights, as they were broadcast on radio and television stations, published in newspapers, and posted on social media platforms. Where necessary, individuals who were either reported to have been attacked or arrested were interviewed. Officials from institutions implicated in some of the reported issues were also interviewed.

The cases and issues covered in this report are:

1. The alleged arrest and intimidation of Hassan Kamara, a reporter for *Citizens Radio* in Freetown, by the Sierra Leone Police, under the instruction of Sierra Leone’s National Football Team Manager, Mohamed Kallon, a former captain and Leone Star footballer, over a social media post in June 2025.
2. The assault on Mohamed Mattia, a reporter at *Eastern Community Radio FM 96.5* in Kono, by some unknown supporters of the Sierra Leone People’s Party during their district executive election in Kono on 15 June 2025.
3. The withdrawal and suspension of frequencies from *Truth Media* and *G8 Media Group* by the National Telecommunications Authority (NatCA) in July 2025.
4. The invitation of Thomas Dixon, Chairman of the Guild of Newspaper Editors, by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Sierra Leone Police for questioning on 18 August 2025.
5. The intimidation and harassment of Christian Conteh, Editor at *Truth Newspaper* and Managing Editor at *Sierra Check*, by some unknown police personnel whilst investigating a story on 2 September 2025.
6. The intimidation of Amadu Lamrana Bah, presenter of the ‘*Morning Devotion*’ programme on *Truth Radio*, by Admire Bio following public comments on 14 October 2025, on the devastating impact of Kush on the youths of Sierra Leone.
7. The threat to Yusuff Moseray Suma, News Editor and Head of Current Affairs at *Unity Broadcasting Online TV* in Freetown, by an unknown individual during a live broadcast on Unity Broadcasting TV Online on 22

October 2025.

8. The invitation of Sahr Memphis, Chief Executive Officer of *Born to Blog*, by the Cyber Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department regarding a post about the disappearance of a container suspected to contain “Kush” at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority on 5 November 2025.

The MRCG data indicated that two of the seven cases remained inconclusive.

The MRCG noted that there were still inconclusive cases at the end of the reporting period across the first edition of the Press Freedom Reports (June to November 2018), second edition (December 2018 to May 2019), third edition (June to November 2019), fourth edition (December 2019 to May 2020), fifth edition (June to November 2020), sixth edition (December 2020 to May 2021), seventh edition (June to November 2021), eighth edition (December 2021 to May 2022), ninth edition (June to November 2022), tenth edition (December 2022 to May 2023), eleventh edition (June to November 2023), twelfth edition (December 2023 to May 2024), thirteenth edition (June to November 2024), fourteenth edition (December 2024 to May 2025), and fifteenth edition (June to November 2025). **One hundred and four** cases were monitored from the Press Freedom Report’s first to the fifteenth edition. **Seventy** were concluded, settled, resolved, or dropped because of lack of progress; **eight** were still in court, **twenty-six** were still under police investigation, and **nine** were abandoned due to lack of progress. **See details in the appendices.**

While the MRCG urges media practitioners to adhere to the ethical and legal standards of journalism, it also calls on the government, media organizations, civil society, and the public to ensure the safety and security of journalists nationwide at all times. The MRCG also notes with concern that issues related to journalists' safety extend beyond politicians and the police, as there have been reports of attacks by local authorities, youth, and members of the public. The MRCG reminds media owners and managers that a report indicates that most media outlets lack a safety and security policy, raising concerns about the protection of journalists' welfare.

The MRCG on 2 November 2025, joined media organizations and other press freedom advocates across the world to commemorate the ‘International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists’ under the theme: “Chat GBV: Raising Awareness on AI-facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women Journalists.”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly transformed information ecosystems globally, offering new opportunities for journalism, media innovation, and public engagement. However, it has also expanded the tools and scale of online harassment, discrimination, and threats—particularly against women journalists. In Sierra Leone, where the media sector is still strengthening in terms of digital literacy, institutional protection, and gender mainstreaming, this emerging threat presents serious implications for press freedom, women’s participation in media, and democracy.

Female journalists in Sierra Leone already face gender-based violence (GBV), intimidation, and harassment, both online and offline. The rise of AI-enabled technologies, including deepfakes, AI-powered misinformation campaigns, automated trolling, image manipulation, and data scraping, increase the risk and sophistication of attacks, amplify harm and threaten their safety, credibility, and careers. The MRCG condemns the threats women journalists face in the digital space and the chilling effect this can have on freedom of expression. Since 2018, the MRCG, with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), has been monitoring and publishing media freedom reports detailing cases of invitations, intimidation, attacks, assaults, arrests, detentions, and prosecutions of journalists. MRCG’s Fourteenth report on ‘Press Freedom in Sierra Leone,’ published and launched in June this year, showed that 98 cases were monitored since the Press Freedom Report’s First Edition. Sixty-six were concluded, settled, resolved, or dropped because of lack of progress; eight were still in court, twenty-four were still under police investigation, and nine were abandoned due to lack of

progress.

The MRCG noted that attacks on journalists by government and local authorities, as well as by young people and members of the public, particularly online, raised concerns about journalists' safety and security. In the World Press Freedom Index for 2025, Reporters Without Borders noted that journalists are not immune to harassment; they can also be targeted by threats, online intimidation campaigns, and even attempted murder when working on sensitive investigations.

As we observed the day, MRCG reminded the Government of Sierra Leone that from January 2025 to date, it continued to monitor various cases, including the barring of journalist Melvin Tejan Mansaray, a member of the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Press Gallery, from accessing the precincts of parliament based on allegations of “malicious criticism”; the dismissal of Umu Thoronka from her job and her alleged attack and harassment on social media after posting a TikTok video about a lady's contribution to the Presidential Town Hall Meeting in Freetown on 23 July 2024; the arrest of RTL Nieuws Africa Correspondent, journalist Sophie Van Leeuwen, in Freetown on suspicion of possible espionage and for allegedly conducting documentary work without permission from the Government of Sierra Leone; the attack and assault of journalist Alusine Rehme Wilson, Northern Chairman of the Sierra Leone Sport Writers Association (SWASAL); the physical assault of journalist Prince Christopher Kamara, Editor of Open Space Newspaper; the physical assault of journalist Foday Fofanah of the Africa Young Voices (AYV); the invitation of Thomas Dixon, President of the Guild of Newspaper Editors; the online intimidation of Amadu Lamrana Bah, Co-founder of Truth Media; and the online intimidation of Yusuff Moseray, Suma News Editor and Head of Current Affairs at Unity Broadcasting Online TV in Freetown.

With support from its regional partner, the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), the MRCG has, over the years, conducted training for female journalists and raised awareness of digital safety and the use of AI tools on topics including: deepfake sexual images and videos; AI-generated disinformation campaigns; automated hate speech and trolling; identity theft and impersonation; doxxing and privacy invasion; and gendered misinformation narratives. The MRCG is currently implementing a project on ‘Enhancing Press Freedom, Women’s Digital Rights, and Accountability Governance in Sierra Leone’, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana.

In a General Assembly Resolution, the UN General Assembly declared 2 November the “International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.” The Resolution called on Member States to take decisive action to combat the current culture of impunity. The day was selected to honour the 2 November 2013 assassinations of two French journalists in Mali. This historic resolution denounces all forms of violence and assault against media professionals. Additionally, it urges Member States to take all reasonable steps to stop violence against media professionals and journalists, to prosecute those who commit crimes against them, and to guarantee that victims have access to suitable redress.

The MRCG is a Coordinating Secretariat comprising the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), the Faculty of Communication, Media and Information Studies (Fourah Bay College), the Independent Media Commission (IMC), the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE), the Guild of Editors (GoE), Women in the Media Sierra Leone (WIMSAL), Independent Radio Network (IRN), the Sierra Leone Reporters Union (SLRU), the Sport Writers Association of Sierra (SWASAL), and the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC).



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This **Fifteenth report**, produced by the MRCG, is part of the “Enhancing Press Freedom and Media Reforms” initiative. The initiative continues to assess media performance and oversee the enforcement of press freedom and freedom of expression in Sierra Leone, including incidents of attacks, intimidation, assaults, arrests, detentions, and prosecutions involving journalists and civil society activists, as well as issues related to the internet and digital rights.

The report covers six months, from June to November 2025. It is divided into the following areas: Thematic Issues focusing mainly on the cases/issues of Freedom of Expression and of the Press; the Right to Access Information; Internet Freedom and Digital Rights; Media and Good Governance; the Performance of Institutions Dealing with Freedom of Expression and of the Press, Information, Internet Freedom and Digital Rights; the Performance of Media Institutions; the Position of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists on Freedom of Expression and of the Press, Information, Internet Freedom and Digital Rights; the Government’s Position on Freedom of Expression and of the Press, Information, Internet Freedom and Digital Rights; the Status of Media and Communication Laws in Sierra Leone; Conclusion; Recommendation; References; and Appendices.

This edition’s report covers eight cases and issues concerning freedom of expression and the press. In addition, it follows up on cases from the First to the Fifteenth Editions, from June 2018 to November 2025, that remained inconclusive. **One hundred and four** cases were monitored from the Press Freedom Report’s First to the Fifteenth Edition. **Seventy** were concluded, settled, resolved, or dropped due to a lack of progress; **eight** were still in court; **twenty-six** were still under police investigation or inconclusive; and **nine** were abandoned due to a lack of progress. **See details in the appendices.**

Sierra Leone has specific statutes (Acts) that set out laws, regulations, policies, and institutions governing the media. The key laws regulating the media are the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 (Section 25(1) and Section 11); the Independent Media Commission Act, 2020; the Defamation Ordinance, 1961; and the Independent Media Commission (Print and Electronic Media) Regulations, 2022. In terms of professional standards, there is the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) Code of Ethics.

The Right to Access Information Act 2013 allows individuals to obtain specific information from public bodies. The Right to Access Information Regulations 2022 further enhance the effectiveness of the Commission's operations. The Cyber Security and Crime Act 2021 aims to prevent, detect, prosecute, and penalise cybercrimes while safeguarding personal privacy rights.

The report was produced by monitoring issues relating to freedom of expression and the freedom of the press. MRCG monitors kept daily records of significant matters relating to freedom of expression and the media, the right to access information, internet freedom, and digital rights, by tracking radio, television, and newspaper content, as well as following up on issues on social media platforms such as Facebook, X, and WhatsApp. Interviews were conducted where necessary with individuals who were reportedly attacked, intimidated, or arrested. Officials from institutions named in some issues were also interviewed. Special thanks also go to the author of the monthly reports, Saidu Kamara, and his supervisor, Ishiaka Sannoh. This Fifteenth Biannual report was written by Francis Sowa (Ph.D., Esq.) and Augustine S. James.

## 2. THEMATIC ISSUES

### 2.1 Freedom of Expression and the Press

The MRCG monthly media monitoring reports from June to November 2025 documented the following.

**In June 2025**, Hassan Kamara, a reporter at *Citizens Radio* in Freetown, was reported on social media to have been arrested and intimidated by the Sierra Leone Police, allegedly under the instruction of Sierra Leone's National Football Team Manager, Mohamed Kallon, over a social media post. According to the journalist, Mohamed Kallon ordered his arrest after he published a write-up about one of the candidates in the SLFA Presidential election, Ms. Aminata Bangura, in which he claimed that Mohamed Kallon and another individual boasted of supporting her for the SLFA Presidency. The journalist later told MRCG that the matter had been resolved amicably.

**On 15 June 2025**, Mohamed Mattia, a reporter at *Eastern Community Radio FM 96.5* in Kono, was allegedly assaulted and stabbed by unknown supporters of the Sierra Leone People's Party during the district executive election in Kono. According to the journalist, he had gone to interview the First Lady, Mrs Fatima Bio, after the winner of the executive election was announced, when some unknown supporters of the SLPP identified him as having been critical of the First Lady on the radio. He added that the supporters chased and assaulted him, stabbing him in the left arm, and that he was rushed to the hospital by his colleague journalists. The Mayor of Kono, Komba Sam, told MRCG that, on behalf of the SLPP supporters, he had apologised to the journalist and compensated him for all damages incurred during the assault. The journalist later confirmed that he had been compensated and that the Mayor had publicly apologised.

**In July 2025**, the National Telecommunications Authority (NatCA) withdrew frequencies from *Truth Media* and *G8 Media Group* just days before their planned launches. In a statement, Amadu Lamrana Bah, co-owner of Truth Media, expressed frustration at the withdrawal, saying he felt maltreated. Bah affirmed his willingness to cooperate in resolving the matter. The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), in meetings with the Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernor Bah, and the Director General of NaTCA, Amara Brewah, raised concerns about the recent licence withdrawal from *Truth Media* and the pending status of *G8 Media Group*, cautioning that such action, if not swiftly addressed, could undermine press freedom. Minister Bah and DG Brewah explained that the issue with *Truth Media* concerned licence fees and renewal, while *G8 Media Group* was on a waiting list for spectrum allocation. The Minister and the Director General assured SLAJ that engagements with both media houses were ongoing and that the matter was close to resolution. The co-owner of *Truth Media*, Amadu Lamrana Bah, announced on Facebook **in August 2025** that *Truth Media* was now fully operational, adding that *Truth Radio 103.9FM* was on air. The President of SLAJ, Alhaji Manika Kamara, said they were still engaging with NaTCA on the pending status of *G8 Media Group* to resolve their matter.

**On 18 August 2025**, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Sierra Leone Police invited Thomas Dixon, Chairman of the Guild of Newspaper Editors and Managing Editor of *New Age Newspaper*, to report to the CID Headquarters in Freetown for questioning regarding an alleged case of cyberstalking and cyberbullying reported by Leone Rock Metal Group. According to the journalist, Leone Rock Metal Group reported him for cyberbullying and cyberstalking after he published a News Alert entitled "Criminal Charges have been filed against the CEO of Leone Rock Metal Group...". The journalist later disclosed in an interview that the company offered to withdraw its complaint on the condition that he stop reporting on its affairs, which he declined. In a press release dated **26 August 2025**, SLAJ noted that Dixon was released on bail in the amount of NLE 100,000 after several hours of questioning at the CID. ASP Kabba Lavalie, an Officer attached to the Cyber Unit of CID, told MRCG that the matter was under investigation and that the journalist and the company were engaging in alternative dispute resolution.

**On 2 September 2025**, Christian Conteh, Editor at *Truth Newspaper* and Managing Editor of *Sierra Check*, was intimidated by unknown police personnel while investigating a story about a corpse lying on Lumley Beach Road. According to the journalist, after he discovered where the dead body was lying, he reached into his pocket to document the scene when five officers, two in plain clothes, rushed towards him, grabbed his hands, rubbed his clothes, and demanded his phone. He added that a female officer among the five snatched his two phones and stormed off towards a police van. At the police station, he was threatened with detention by an unknown officer. Later, the officer returned his phone after deleting a few photos he had taken from the scene. The journalist told MRCG that he did not intend to report the matter as long as he was not injured or did not lose any property.

**On 14 October 2025**, Amadu Lamrana Bah, presenter of the ‘*Morning Devotion*’ programme on *Truth Radio*, was allegedly intimidated by Admire Bio following public comments on the devastating impact of Kush on Sierra Leone’s youth. According to [SLAJ's](#) press release dated 14 October 2025, the threat arose after the journalist made a public comment on the devastating effects of Kush, a dangerous substance destroying the lives and potential of Sierra Leone’s youth. SLAJ stated that in the video where the threat was made, a voice in the background issued threats and hurled abusive language at Mr. Bah, referring to him in vile and unprintable language. **On 14 October 2025**, [SLAJ](#) and MRCG strongly condemned the alleged threats and insults directed at the journalist, stating that they were not only disrespectful and dangerous but were also a direct attack on press freedom and freedom of expression. They called on the police to urgently investigate the matter and ensure that journalists can continue their work without fear of intimidation or reprisal. Truth Media, in a [public statement](#), said that they had reported the matter to the CID for investigation. Kabbah Lavalie, an officer attached to the Cyber Unit at CID, in charge of the investigation, told MRCG that they had received a statement from the journalist, adding that the investigation into the matter was ongoing.

**On 22 October 2025**, Yusuff Moseray Suma, News Editor and Head of Current Affairs at *Unity Broadcasting Online TV* in Freetown, was allegedly threatened online by an unknown individual during a live broadcast. The journalist stated that the discussion focused on the All Peoples Congress (APC) Party’s press release, published on 20 **October 2025**, which addressed the Sierra Leone People’s Party’s (SLPP) threat to democracy and a statement of political suppression by the SLPP Chairman at their inaugural ceremony for the new executive. He added that they hosted a representative of the APC, Abdul Karim Kamara Esq, along with Moses Mambu, SLPP Publicity Secretary, to discuss the issue. A commenter on the programme said he was frequently interrupting the SLPP PRO compared with the APC representative, and Noe Morales commented, “We will handle him, and as a journalist, he should be responsible and fair.” The journalist told MRCG that he had reported the matter only to SLAJ and MRCG and planned to report it to the police.

**On 5 November 2025**, Sahr Memphis, Chief Executive Officer of *Born to Blog*, was [invited](#) by the Cyber Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department regarding a post about the alleged disappearance of a container suspected of containing “Kush” at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. According to *Born to Blog*, the post was a comment they had made about the Director General of the Ports Authority, Yankuba Bio, concerning the alleged disappearance of the container at the port. Following an intervention by the Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernor Bah, Sahr Memphis’ matter was [resolved](#), and *Born to Blog* later posted that they [had apologised](#) to the Director General and the management of the Ports Authority for the post they had published earlier without first verifying it. Assistant Superintendent of Police Kabbah Lavalie, an officer attached to the Cyber Unit in charge of the investigation, told MRCG that *Born to Blog* had issued a retraction statement and that the matter had been resolved.

## 2.2 Right to Access Information

The Chairman and Information Commissioner of the Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC), Dr Ibrahim

Seaga-Shaw, told MRCG that between June and November 2025, the Commission recorded continued progress in public-sector compliance with information disclosure requirements, alongside persistent structural and operational challenges. Overall, the Commission notes steady improvement in public authorities' responsiveness, evidenced by increased use of the RAIC digital platforms, higher proactive disclosure rates, and greater public engagement in requesting information.

Despite these gains, he told MRCG that significant compliance gaps remain. The Commission continues to engage institutions, including the National Minerals Agency (NMA), on outstanding disclosures related to the FG Gold annual mining report, as required under the Mines and Minerals Act. He pointed out conflicting claims between the NMA and FG Gold over whether the report was submitted, which, he said, have prolonged the resolution of this matter. The Commission has issued a formal directive requiring both parties to clarify the status of the outstanding information within 7 days. Additional cases remain pending with the Judiciary, the Freetown City Council, and other public bodies, some of which have progressed into court proceedings. The recent Bank of Sierra Leone case, in which the institution paid the fine imposed following the High Court's upheld appeal decision, has demonstrated the Commission's enforcement authority and sent a strong message across the public sector, he said.

The expansion of RAIC's digital interfaces has led to a notable rise in requests from journalists, civil society organisations, and citizens. In the Western Area alone, an estimated 60 requests were received during the review period, with further requests expected from other regions once full data consolidation for the 2025 Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report is complete. Historically high activity in the Northern Region continues, attributed to its broader geographic and administrative coverage. The Commission anticipates even higher reporting compliance following the State House's decision to include access to information indicators in the annual performance evaluation of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). As public authorities will now be required to submit updated compliance templates for 2025, ATI obligations will be reinforced across the governance structure.

Proactive disclosure continues to improve. While only 37 MDAs complied in 2024, the 2024 cycle saw 79 submissions, with 53 institutions fully meeting their proactive disclosure requirements. However, progress is constrained by the limited availability of functional websites across MDAs, which inhibits full compliance with statutory obligations for online publication.

Recurring institutional challenges hamper the Commission's ability to accelerate reforms. These include inadequate office space, low staff morale driven by uncompetitive remuneration relative to comparable governance institutions, limited operational logistics, insufficient vehicles, and reduced budget ceilings for the fiscal year. Staff attrition has intensified these constraints. RAIC is pursuing improved working conditions and resource support to sustain an effective nationwide ATI compliance management.

Looking ahead, the Commission is preparing for a significant institutional transition as the forthcoming Data Protection Bill advances to Parliament. The legislation will consolidate oversight of both access to information and data protection under a single authority with enhanced enforcement powers. This authority will regulate not only public bodies but also private entities that hold or process personal data, further expanding RAIC's mandate and responsibilities.

The Commission recommends stronger collaboration with the MRCG, particularly in jointly supporting training and capacity-building initiatives for information officers, records officers, and civil society actors. Strengthening these frontline actors is essential to improving institutional responsiveness, public use of digital ATI platforms, and overall transparency. Enhanced, coordinated interventions will accelerate the removal of entrenched culture of secrecy within public institutions and promote the public's right to access information across Sierra Leone.

## 2.3 Internet Freedom and Digital Rights

Since the enactment of the Cyber Security and Crime Act 2021, there have been arrests made according to breach of its provision (s). The Act, among other things, provides for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution, and punishment of cybercrimes and the protection of privacy rights. Sierra Leoneans who use social media and mobile phones to communicate may face criminal prosecution for cyberstalking and cyberbullying under Section 44 of the Cyber Security and Crime Act 2021 if they share information or opinions perceived as abusive, harassing, insulting, or that harm others.

## 2.4 Media and Good Governance

The establishment of the National Fund for Public Interest Media (NaFPIM) remains a pivotal investment in Sierra Leone's democratic governance. It reflects a national recognition that independent, well-resourced media are foundational to transparency, civic participation, and accountable leadership. A media ecosystem that informs, investigates, and empowers requires structural support and economic stability. Good governance cannot flourish without a free, functional, and resilient press; therefore, sustained financing and policy commitment to public interest media must remain a national priority.

The launch of the grant-making phase of NaFPIM marked a transformative milestone in strengthening media viability and independence. Led by the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) in partnership with BBC Media Action and the International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM), this milestone is the result of the 2022 Media Viability and Investment Conference and the National Action Plan (NAP).

From June to November 2025, NaFPIM entered a consolidation and expansion phase marked by significant developments. The first cohort of grantees completed mid-term reviews, revealing early gains in investigative outputs, strengthened newsroom governance, increased production of public interest content and financial management skills, as these were areas identified as critical gaps during the Fund's initial monitoring cycle. At the time of this report, the Fund had awarded the first set of grants to fourteen deserving grantees nationwide following a thorough review of the applications received.

As the media continues to face threats, including disinformation, financial instability, and safety risks, these combined reforms underscore the importance of NaFPIM as a foundational mechanism for safeguarding press freedom and reinforcing democratic norms. The progress achieved, coupled with the new National Media and Information Policy, demonstrates that strategic investment, policy reform, and sustained collaboration can empower the media to fulfil its essential role in promoting accountability and advancing an informed and engaged society. The MRCG therefore strongly reminds the Government of Sierra Leone and other development partners to commit to the National Fund for Public Interest Media (NaFPIM) initiative, which was one of the recommendations of the Media Viability and Investment Conference held in April 2022.

Also, during the reporting period, MRCG continued implementing the Media Empowerment for Democracy, Inclusion, and Accountability (MEDIA) Project, focusing on its two major components: amendments to the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) Act and Indirect Subsidies, Tax Incentives, and Waivers for Community Media. Under the reporting period, the MRCG held various consultative engagement meetings with relevant stakeholders on the two components of the project. In the same vein, the MRCG also had a national consultation with all registered political parties, CSOs, the SLBC, the Ministry of Information and Civic Education, and representatives from other relevant national institutions to explain the rationale and need for a review of the SLBC Act. The Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service (SLBS) and United Nations (UN) Radio merged to form the SLBC, the country's public broadcaster, per the SLBC Act of 2010. SLBC holds a special place in Sierra Leone's media

landscape as the oldest broadcaster in West Africa, having been founded in 1934. Its official purpose was to represent the country's diverse voices and cultures while educating, entertaining, and informing the public. SLBC is essential to the nation's democratic and developmental processes since it is the sole broadcaster with a nationwide legal mandate and reach, notwithstanding the liberalization of the media sector, which has witnessed an increase in both private and community channels.

Another significant development within this period was the government's approval of the new National Media and Information policy - a framework designed to promote transparency, improve public access to information, and strengthen the enabling environment for independent media. The policy introduces clearer standards for government information disclosure and establishes uniform guidelines for public communication. Notably, the policy explicitly recognises the critical role of public interest media, which aligns with NaFPIM's objectives by committing the government to predictable information flows, improved institutional coordination, and enhanced protections for journalists performing accountability functions. This policy approval has strengthened the broader ecosystem supporting media freedom and good governance.



### 3. PERFORMANCE OF INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS, INFORMATION, INTERNET FREEDOM, AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

On 10 September 2025, the IMC Complaint Committee presided over the matter of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) against *Daybreak Newspaper* for a publication dated 20 December 2024 titled “**As They Are Under Investigation...TEC Walks Journalists Out**”. After thorough deliberations, the IMC Complaint Committee found the following: That the allegations published in the Newspaper were inaccurate and unsupported by credible evidence. However, the Committee notes that the journalist made reasonable efforts to cross-check the accuracy of the story with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). Evidence presented confirmed that the journalist did not rush to press immediately upon receiving the information, but instead contacted the Executive Director of TEC to obtain their version of the event. This was followed by a visit to the TEC office for clarification, but they were reportedly embarrassed and discredited and walked out after attempting to obtain responses to critical questions. While these efforts show some professional due diligence, the Committee held that the final publications still fell short of the accuracy requirement stipulated in the media regulation. The Committee further confirmed that TEC was not under investigation by any state institution at the time of the publication. The IMC Complaint Committee on 10 September 2025 fully endorsed the following recommendations: That the Newspaper, having failed to meet the standard of accuracy in its publication despite some efforts to cross-check facts, publishes a retraction and an apology with the same prominence as the original story, immediately upon receipt of this ruling.

On 10 September 2025, the IMC Complaint Committee presided over the matter of Dr Alhaji Bakar Kamara on behalf of the University of Management and Technology (UNIMTECH) against *AIM Network Newspaper* for publication dated 20 December 2024 titled “UNIMTECH: A Hub for Homosexual Practices.” The IMC Complaint Committee found that the Managing Editor of *AIM Network Newspaper* failed to submit a copy of the press release he claimed to have relied on. It was further established that the Editor could distinguish between a press release and a letter. The document he referred to as a press release was, in fact, a letter submitted by the complainant. The Committee also found that the Editor had no evidence to support his claim that UNIMTECH was “a hub for homosexual practices.” He failed to conduct any further investigation into the matter and used a blanket banner headline, apparently based on issues he associated only with the Kono branch of the university. The Editor further failed to cross-check the story before publication. Consequently, the Committee concluded that the article was inaccurate and misleading. The IMC Complaint Committee on 10 September 2025 fully endorsed the following recommendations: That a fine of NLE 5000 (five thousand leones) be imposed on *AIM Network Newspaper* for breach of the accuracy principle, in line with regulation 5 (1) (a) of the Print and Electronic Media Regulations 2022. That a further fine of NLE 5000.00 (five thousand leones) be imposed in line with regulation 19 (1) (2) of the Print and Electronic Media regulations 2022. That the Editor publishes a retraction with equal prominence in the next edition of the Newspaper upon receipt of this ruling.

#### 4. PERFORMANCE OF MEDIA HOUSE AND SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

Improvements in media institutions' outputs are reflected in their content and programming. However, there were concerns that several media institutions continued to publish and broadcast content that breached ethical standards or contravened the country's media laws, the IMC Act, and its Regulations.

On the court matter of the Right to Access Information Commission and the Bank of Sierra Leone which started on 10 May 2021 in the high court of Sierra Leone, in the judgment of the learned Judge the Honorable Justice Fisher on 26 May 2025 ruled that upon hearing the counsel for the Applicant and the respondent and upon reading the notice of appeal, originating notice of motion and other relevant documents; that the declaration sought by the Applicant that the order of the respondent dated 17th December 2020 to impose a fine of Le 70,000,000 on the Applicant for failure to comply with sections 2 and 3 of the Right to Access Information Act 2013 is refused, save that the said fine is reduced to NLe 40,000.00; That the declaration sought by the applicant that it did comply with sections 2 and 3 of the 2013 Act and has not violated any provision of the Act is refused; That the order of certiorari to quash the order of 17th December 2020 is refused; That the injunction sought to restrain the Respondent from taking any step to enforce payment of the fine of Le 70, 000,000 is refused, save for the fact that the said fine is reduced to NLe 40, 000.00; That the said fine of nLe 40 000,000.00 shall be payable by the applicant to the respondent, forthwith; The cost of this action, summarily assessed at NLe 20,000.00, shall be borne by the applicant and payable to the respondent.

On 24 and 25 June 2025, the MRCG and Paradigm Initiative (PIN) [hosted](#) a two-day workshop as part of the Digital Policy Engagement Series for policymakers, CSOs, journalists, and digital rights advocates to examine the intersection of digital rights, press freedom, and online safety in Sierra Leone's digital landscape.

On 26 June 2025, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, with support from UNDP, [launched](#) a nationwide campaign to promote the use of the iVerify platform, an initiative to combat the spread of disinformation, misinformation, and hate speech.

On 11 July 2025, SLAJ [held](#) its handover and inauguration ceremony at the Bintumani Hotel in Freetown to usher in the new executive.

On 24 July 2025, the Sierra Leone Association of Women in Journalism (SLAWIJ) hel an orientation ceremony for its new members in Freetown. The Executive President, Mrs. Millicent Kargbo, warmly welcomed the new members and praised their decision to join the association. She remarked, "Your decision to join SLAWIJ is not just a step forward in your professional journey; it is a bold declaration of your commitment to a media landscape where women are empowered, heard, and represented in leadership."

On 25 July 2025, MRCG completed the [training](#) of field data collectors for the baseline Survey of the Communication and Visibility study for the European Union in Sierra Leone. The enumerators were deployed nationwide to collect research data.

On 30 July 2025, the newly elected SLAJ executives, led by its immediate past President, Ahmed Sahid Nasralla, and an ex officio member, paid a courtesy [visit](#) to three distinguished former Presidents of the Association. According to Nasralla, the purpose of the visits was to formally introduce the new Executive, recognise the pivotal roles each former President played in building SLAJ's legacy, and seek their continued guidance and moral support.

On 31 July 2025, the Independent Media Commission (IMC), with support from the European Union through the international IDEA, completed nationwide regional consultations on the [review](#) of the IMC ACT 2020 and the Media Regulation 2022, a key step in aligning media laws with today's digital realities. The process forms part of



the implementation of the Tripartite Recommendation 7.

On 2 August 2025, SLAJ paid a courtesy [visit](#) to the Minister of Information and Civic Education (MoICE), Chernor Bah, at his office in the Youyi Building in Freetown to formally introduce the newly elected President, Alhaji Manika Kamara, and members of the new National Executive.

On 5 August 2025, the [Ministry of Information and Civic Education](#) and [Statistics Sierra Leone](#) concluded a 2-day workshop on message development and communication strategy for the 2026 Population and Housing Census at the Sierra Psalms Hotel in Freetown. The workshop brought together representatives from the media, civil society, bloggers, communication experts, and musicians to develop a compelling publicity and communication strategy for the Census.

On 6 August 2025, BBC Media Action in Sierra Leone, with support from the European Union, [launched](#) a Digital Media Literacy Internship Program to equip participants to become champions of digital media literacy. The initiative brought together journalists and university students from across the country for hands-on training in digital media literacy.

On 13 August 2025, MRCG [held](#) a consultative meeting with the management of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation to review the SLBC Act 2010 at the MRCG Secretariat in Freetown.

On 13 August 2025, SLAJ, led by President Alhaji Manika Kamara and accompanied by Immediate Past President and ex officio Ahmed Sahid Nasralla, held a wide-ranging discussion with the Cuban Ambassador at the Cuban Embassy in Freetown on promoting bilateral ties through stronger media collaboration.

On 15 August 2025, SLAJ, as part of the ongoing leadership transition process led by the immediate past President Ahmed Sahid Nasralla, paid a courtesy [visit](#) to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), William Fayia Sellu, at Police Headquarters in Kingtom, Freetown. The visit was to introduce the new SLAJ leadership formally and to present an award of appreciation to the IGP for the strong partnership forged between the media and the Sierra Leone Police over the past six years under Nasrallah's leadership.

On 21 August, MRCG engaged diverse regional stakeholders from various sectors across the North and North West regions of Sierra Leone to review the SLBC Act 210. The consultation was part of the European Union-funded Media Project through the BBC Media Action in Sierra Leone.

On 28 August 2025, with support from the National Fund for Public Interest Media (NaFPIM) and the BBC Media Action, through the support of the International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM), the organization officially [announced](#) the award of grants to fourteen media institutions in Sierra Leone to support public interest media initiatives across the country.

On 30 August 2025, MRCG held a [meeting](#) with community stakeholders to discuss indirect subsidies, tax incentives, and waivers for community media in Sierra Leone.

On 1 September 2025, MRCG, with support from the EU in Sierra Leone through the BBC Media Action, completed regional [consultations](#) with community media stakeholders and other local authorities on the Community Media Ecosystem, focusing on tax incentives, indirect subsidies, and waivers.

On 2 September 2025, the new executive of SLAJ paid a [courtesy call](#) on the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy in Freetown. The purpose of the visit was to introduce SLAJ's new leadership. Jacqueline Moore, a staff within the unit, welcomed the team, expressed delight at the meeting, and reaffirmed the Embassy's commitment to support press freedom, independent journalism, and the professional development of Sierra Leonean journalists. Alhaji Manika Kamara, President of SLAJ, thanked the Embassy for its long-standing

partnership with the Association and appealed for sustainable collaboration.

On 4 September 2025, the MRCG, with support from the Netherlands Embassy in Ghana through the Media Foundation for West Africa, completed a two-day Digital Literacy and Skills [training](#) in Kenema, Sierra Leone, for female journalists. The 25 female journalists, bloggers, and activists were introduced to online rights, women's rights, online issues, social media, privacy rights, and more.

On 9 September 2025, the MRCG, with support from the European Union through the BBC Media Action in Sierra Leone, concluded nationwide consultations with various stakeholders representing diverse groups on the [review](#) of the SLBC Act, 2010. The process, which began with regional consultations in Makeni for the North and Northwest regions and in Bo for the South and Eastern regions, brought together regional and national stakeholders to review the current Act and suggest possible changes for the independent public service broadcaster.

On 15 September 2025, four former commissioners of the Independent Media Commissioners, Dr. Victor Suma, Dr. Samba Sesay, James Tamba Lebbie, and Emma S Banya Esq, made a formal complaint to the RAIC regarding the IMC's refusal to disclose information request submitted 14 August 2025 to the Executive Secretary of the IMC seeking access to specific correspondence between IMC and Ministry of Finance which includes; (a) The final letter submitted by the IMC requesting ministerial approval for the payment of sitting fees and (b) The ministerial response conveying approval. They have requested that the RAIC address this matter, ascertain the legality of the IMC's refusal, and direct the IMC Executive Secretary to release the requested correspondence without further delay.

On 17 September 2025, Borbor Dan Kamara, a journalist, wrote to the Right to Access Information Commission to request a review of the Minister of Tourism's decision to refuse to acknowledge a letter he had written to the Minister in August, requesting information on the status of Tacugama Sanctuary, which has been closed to the public for the past four months, and brief clarification on the Government's support for tourism development areas.

On 20 September 2025, the MRCG, with support from the Netherlands Embassy in Ghana through the Media Foundation for West Africa, concluded a comprehensive training [workshop](#) in Bo on digital literacy, AI skills, and online safety for women journalists, bloggers, and activists in Sierra Leone's southern regions.

On 22 September 2025, the MRCG, with support from the Netherlands Embassy in Ghana through the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), [trained](#) 25 female journalists and activists in Port Loko on digital rights, AI skills, women's rights, and online issues.

On 23 September 2025, the Campaign for Human Rights and Development International (CHREDI) submitted a complaint to the Chairman and Information Commissioner of the Right to Access Information (RAIC) against the Judiciary of Sierra Leone for violating the provisions of the Right to Access Information Act 2013. In the letter, CHREDI stated that on 21 August 2025, they submitted a request to the Judiciary of Sierra Leone under section 3(1) of the RAIC Act 2013. Despite previous attempts to obtain the information, the Judiciary has not provided it, thereby denying them their right to access information. In light of this, CHREDI requested that RAIC investigate the matter and take the necessary action to ensure that the Judiciary complies with the provisions of the Act.

On 25 September 2025, SLAWIJ held its Extraordinary [Meeting](#) under the theme "Restructuring with Purpose: Strengthening the Voices of Women Journalists and Building on five years of Impact". The Executive President of SLAWIJ, Mrs. Millicent Kargbo, said the meeting was an opportunity to pause, reflect on the organisation's achievements over the past five years, and recommit to its mission of empowering journalists in

Sierra Leone. She emphasised that this new phase requires restructuring and strengthening institutional frameworks.

On 26 September 2025, [ECOWAS](#) – Cedeao, in partnership with MFWA and supported by the Government of Germany through its Directorate of Communication, completed a two-day capacity-building training workshop for journalists and media practitioners in Sierra Leone to strengthen information integrity and counter misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and democratic narratives. The workshop aims to promote Media and Information Policy by equipping participants with practical skills to detect misinformation networks, enhance conflict-sensitive reporting, and advance democracy, peace, and good governance in West Africa.

On 29 September 2025, the United Nations Development Programme in Sierra Leone, in partnership with the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, opened a two-day Strategic Communication [workshop](#) with the Sierra Leone Police. The purpose of the training is to build a strong foundation for effective communication, open listening, and meaningful engagement with the communities they serve.

On 11 October 2025, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) paid a [courtesy call](#) on the Chinese Embassy in Freetown. The visit was part of ongoing outreach to partners to foster collaboration, explore training and capacity-building opportunities for journalists, and strengthen institutional ties. The delegation engaged the Embassy's leadership on possible areas of cooperation, including media training, exchange programmes, and media investment opportunities that could support the professional development of journalists in Sierra Leone.

On 15 October 2025, the RAIC issued an [order](#) imposing a fine of Le 70,000 on the Freetown City Council (FCC) for failing to comply with the provisions of the Right to Access Information Act, 2013, following a formal complaint by Ms. Eleanor Thompson of Citizens Barray after the Council failed to grant her Freedom of Information Request.

On 23 October 2025, the northern regional office of the Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC) [engaged](#) stakeholders in Masingbi, Tonkolili District, to popularise the Right to Access Information (RAI) Law, raise public awareness, educate citizens in the region about their rights to access information held by public authorities, and explain mechanisms for accessing and receiving information.

On 3 November 2025, MRCG, with support from the EU in Sierra Leone through the BBC Media Action, [engaged](#) the leadership of the Ministry of Information and Civic Education in the review of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation's (SLBC) Act of 2010.

On 4 November 2025, the Independent Media Commission (IMC), with support from the European Union and in collaboration with the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), held a two-day [retreat](#) in Bo to draft and review key provisions of the IMC Act on Online Media Registration, Licensing and Regulation.

On 4 November 2025, the MRCG [organized](#) a Community Engagement meeting in Tonkolili at Mile 91 on Transitional Justice Issues.

On 6 November 2025, the RAIC [engaged](#) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation regarding compliance with the Right to Access Information Act (RAI Act 2013) and the RAIC's preparedness to host the 17th edition of the International Conference of Information Commissioners in Freetown next year.

On 19 November 2025, the Sierra Leone Reporters Union (SLRU) paid a courtesy [visit](#) to the National Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NPRA) at its Tower Hill Office in Freetown. According to SLRU President Yeanor Esther Kabia, the visit aimed to foster a collaborative relationship between the union and NPRA to promote national development.

On 26 November 2025, the Independent Media Commission (IMC), in collaboration with the [Sierra Leone Association of Journalists](#) (SLAJ) and with support from BBC Media Action, facilitated the reconstitution of the governance and management structure of Community Radio Kolenten in Kambia District. This initiative marked a significant milestone in strengthening community broadcasting and promoting accountability, transparency, and professionalism in local media operations. The event brought together key district stakeholders.

On 21 and 22 November 2025, the Sierra Leone Reporters Union (SLRU) held its Annual General Meeting ([AGM](#)) in Makeni, Northern Region, under the theme ‘The New Constitution: A Blueprint for the Welfare of Reporters.’

## **5. POSITION OF THE SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OF THE PRESS, INFORMATION, INTERNET FREEDOM, AND DIGITAL RIGHTS**

Between June and November 2025, SLAJ has undertaken several significant initiatives to advance press freedom, strengthen media institutions, and deepen the culture of accountability and professionalism within the Sierra Leonean media landscape. These months marked a period of renewal, as SLAJ transitioned in a new leadership structure under the visionary ACTION agenda (Advocacy, Commitment, Transparency, Innovation, Organisation, and Networking). The new administration, led by President Alhaji Manika Kamara and National Secretary General Edward Marah, demonstrated continuity, reform-minded leadership, and a strong commitment to media viability and journalists' welfare.

The period commenced with the successful holding of the SLAJ Triennial Elective Congress on 13 and 14 June 2025. The election was widely acclaimed for its transparency and credibility, reaffirming SLAJ's reputation as a model of internal democracy. The transition marked the end of the Ahmed Sahid Nasralla administration and the beginning of a new era focused on more institutional growth and advocacy-driven leadership. Shortly after the election, SLAJ was represented at an International Labour Organization (ILO) workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, on ethical reporting in labour migration and fair recruitment, signalling his administration's commitment to international engagement from the outset.

In partnership with the Independent Radio Network (IRN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), SLAJ launched a nationwide media literacy campaign to promote the iVerify platform, a vital initiative combating misinformation and hate speech. The campaign, which began on 26 June 2025 in the Port Loko and Bombali Districts, urged citizens to embrace fact-checking and responsible information sharing. The second phase, which extended into July 2025, reached Bo, Kenema, and the Western Area, and addressed the emerging risks of AI-generated disinformation, particularly in the context of the upcoming 2028 general elections.

A formal handing over and inauguration ceremony for the new SLAJ leadership was held on 11 July 2025 at the Bintumani Hotel, preceded by a comprehensive orientation for national and regional executives on 4 July 2025 in Kenema. During the event, President Kamara officially unveiled his administration's A.C.T.I.O.N. Vision, which outlines the strategic pillars guiding SLAJ's future: advocacy for press freedom, institutional strengthening, innovation, and partnership building. In the same month, SLAJ celebrated media creativity and innovation by supporting the launch of The Aged Times Magazine, a publication dedicated to the welfare of the elderly, founded by Doreen Barrie, a former WIMSAL President.

In August 2025, SLAJ focused on partnership building, media sustainability, and legislative advocacy. SLAJ paid courtesy visits to three former Presidents, Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, Umaru Fofana, and Kelvin Lewis, to strengthen mentorship and formally inaugurate the SLAJ Elders Council. These engagements underscored the importance of intergenerational dialogue in shaping the association's policy direction. SLAJ also met with the Minister of Information and Civic Education, the Independent Media Commission (IMC), and NaTCA to advocate for the inclusion of a standalone Chapter 12 on press freedom in the constitutional review process.

During the same month, SLAJ intervened to defend press freedom after journalist Thomas Dixon was invited to appear for questioning by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) under the Cyber Security and Crime Act (2022). In a statement, SLAJ condemned the act's potential chilling effects on journalism and called for its urgent review. In September 2025, SLAJ continued institutional and diplomatic engagements, visiting the U.S. Embassy to secure renewed support for digital and financial literacy training for journalists. The executive also participated in consultations on the review of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) Act 2010, advocating for the SLBC's transformation into a genuinely independent public service broadcaster. The month

also saw the formation of a new bilateral partnership with the Cuban Embassy, focusing on journalism training and cultural exchange, thereby officially signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Cuban Embassy, formalizing the new partnership in journalism education and professional exchange.

SLAJ further met with the Inspector General of Police, William Fayia Sellu, to renew and expand the existing Media-Police MoU to strengthen cooperation and mutual respect. Meanwhile, the Mass Communication Students Association (MACOSA) paid a courtesy call on the new SLAJ leadership, seeking mentorship and partnership to revitalize media student initiatives such as the annual MACOSA Week.

October and November 2025 were dedicated to consolidation and accountability. A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process was launched for media institutions that benefited from the NaFPIM grants to ensure transparency, professionalism, and accountability in project implementation. This process is expected to attract additional donor and government support in the coming year.

The Advocacy Forum on Cyber Law and Press Freedom, brought together Parliament, the Attorney General's Office, the Sierra Leone Police, and civil society organizations to debate the implications of the Cyber Security and Crime Act, particularly Section 44, which continues to threaten free expression. SLAJ reiterated its call for a comprehensive review of the law to ensure that it protects journalists while upholding national security interests. The month also concluded with the review and renewal of the SLAJ-SLP MoU, which expanded cooperation to include the integration of media ethics and communication modules into police training programs.

SLAJ has demonstrated strategic leadership, proactive advocacy, and effective partnership-building to advance media freedom and institutional development. Its engagement across local and international platforms reinforced its mission to safeguard journalists, promote ethical reporting, and strengthen democratic governance.

As SLAJ continues to implement the 'ACTION' agenda, its priorities remain centred on advancing media viability, defending press freedom, and protecting journalists' welfare. SLAJ will continue to collaborate with government institutions, development partners, and civil society actors to foster an enabling environment for independent journalism in Sierra Leone. The association remains resolute in its belief that a free, ethical, and sustainable media is essential to democracy and national progress.



## **6. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OF THE PRESS, INFORMATION, INTERNET FREEDOM, AND DIGITAL RIGHTS**

In an interview with the Director of Information at the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE), Emmanuel A.B. Turay, he noted that the Government of Sierra Leone has expressed its commitment both locally and internationally. At the local level, the government works with the IMC and has taken a key position in the Media Freedom Coalition, of which we are a member. The government has the political will and commitment to enhancing press freedom and freedom of expression in the country, despite the proliferation of social media.

He continued that the government has committed to making the media a viable entity, and since the repeal of Part Five of the Public Order Act of 1965, the government has also, in several statements of His Excellency, made a commitment to enhance professionalism in the media sector and improve payment of salaries for journalists, which is enshrined in the IMC Act. The government is doing all it can to support professionalism in that direction.

The national media and information policy has been approved by the cabinet, meaning it may now be implemented. As key indicators for measuring our performance under the policy, we have an ongoing advertising policy or media code for the country, which is part of our plan. An activity for next year: the safety of journalists; encouraging bloggers to form an association that could regulate itself, or to regulate themselves. We are also considering the advertising policy and regulations to be enacted, the direct-to-home television aspect, and the digital migration of electronic media. These programs are now time-bound for 2026, and we are on course and at an advanced stage of implementing the media and information policy. If fully implemented, it will affect the media landscape with a view to enhancing our key objective, which is media viability and sustainability.

He continued that the government may not wish to establish a new agency, but rather adopt a best-practice model from other countries, such as South Africa, where the right to access information incorporates data protection. We have conducted a consultation on this matter, and the Right to Access Information Act is being reviewed to include data protection, which has now been put before the Cabinet for resolution before taking it to Parliament. Sierra Leone's active participation in international media forums is essential for advancing the national media freedom agenda as a member of the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC). Sierra Leone benefits from global advocacy efforts aimed at protecting journalists from harassment, violence, and legal threats, especially in conflict zones. This collaboration enhances the country's ability to advocate for press freedom on the international stage. "Sierra Leone is still a member of the Media Freedom Coalition. We do condemn certain abuses against journalists, and behind the scenes, we are working with other partner organizations to ensure that the aspect of media freedom is enhanced in the country," said Mr. Turay.

He recalled that in 2021, the government facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the security sector and media organizations. This MOU focuses on improving cooperation between law enforcement and the media. It establishes protocols governing interactions during press coverage of events, with the aim of reducing confrontations and violence. Additionally, the MOU sets out mechanisms for resolving conflicts or disputes between the media and security agencies, thereby enhancing the safety of journalists in the field. The MOU has fostered better communication between journalists and the police, leading to improved relationships and reduced hostility during coverage of protests, events, or sensitive security operations. This has created a more conducive environment for journalists to report without fear of intimidation. Under the MOU, security agencies have pledged to respect the rights of journalists and to protect them while they are at work. This is particularly important in situations where journalists cover protests or demonstrations, where tensions between the media and security forces may otherwise escalate. The MOU also

includes provisions granting journalists access to non-sensitive information regarding security operations. This fosters transparency, enabling the media to report accurately on matters affecting national security without compromising public safety.

He added that the government remained firmly committed to the National Fund for Public Interest Media, as establishing a fund for journalists to enhance media poverty alleviation is central to the government's agenda. It is part of the Ministry's national budget for the financial year 2026, to support the Fund's long-term commitment. "The National Cyber Security Coordination Centre works with the judiciary and the police with a view to addressing the issue of cyber crimes. We are also considering measures to reduce the likelihood of signal transmission, such as fencing the area to protect it from attack and other threats. Additionally, there is ongoing sensitization about reporting cybercrimes, along with the corresponding numbers. So the National Cybersecurity Coordination Center is taking care of that area of cybersecurity.

Recognizing the need for greater media sustainability, particularly in rural and underserved areas, the government has initiated several programs to address this issue. One key strategy focuses on enhancing digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. This initiative will improve access to both digital and traditional media platforms, enabling rural communities to engage with a broader range of information and become active participants in the media landscape.

He encouraged media institutions to employ professionals within their organisations to ensure compliance with media regulations and ethics. He also encouraged collaborations, partnerships, and share purchases, rather than maintaining more than 500 media institutions, which are ineffective. "It is also good that we partner with other institutions to make our institutions greater and more powerful."



## 7. STATUS OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION LAWS IN SIERRA LEONE

All media and communications laws and regulations remain unchanged for the reporting period. The Data Protection and Privacy Bill, developed by the Ministry of Information and Communication (now the Ministry of Information and Civic Education), has yet to be enacted.

**Table 7.1: Specific Acts containing Media Laws and Regulations still in Force**

No.	Specific Statutes on Media Laws/Regulation - Acts of Parliament	Year	Status of the law
1.	Undesirable Publications Cap 113 of the Laws of Sierra Leone, 1960	1961	In force
2.	Undesirable Advertisement Ordinance - Cap 114 in the Laws of Sierra Leone, 1960	1960	In force
3.	Defamation Ordinance - Act No. 32	1961	In force
4.	Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation Act, 2009 (Act No. 1 of 2010).	2010	In force
5.	The Independent Media Commission (IMC) Act, 2020 (Act No. 5 of 2020)- It repealed and replaced the Independent Media Commission (IMC) Act, 2000 (Act No. 12 of 2000) as amended in 2006 and 2007	2020	In force
6	Cybersecurity and Crime Act 2021	2021	In force

Source (Sowa & Kapuwa, 2015 and updated regularly.

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<sup>1</sup> Francis Sowa and Joseph Egbenda Kapuwa, Media Laws and Regulations: Review and Update on Sierra Leone's Statutory and Self-Regulatory Models (2015)

**Table 7.2: Other Statutes (Acts of Parliament) relating to Media Regulation still in Force**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Other Statutes (Acts of Parliament) with laws relating to media regulation</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Status of the law</b>
1.	The Treason and State Offences Act, 1963	1963	In force
2.	Criminal Libel - The Public Order Act, 1965 (Act No 46 of 1965)	1965	Repealed
3.	Publication of False News - The Public Order Act	1965	Repealed
4.	Seditious Libel - The Public Order Act	1965	Repealed
5.	Constitution of Sierra Leone - Freedom of Expression and of the Press	1991	In force
6.	Constitution of Sierra Leone - Public Emergency Law	1991	In force, but under review
7.	Constitution of Sierra Leone - Law of Contempt of Parliament	1991	In force
8.	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1995	In force
9.	Pharmacy and Drugs Act	2001	In force
10.	The National Electronic Communication Act, 2022 (Act. No. 16 of 2022) Repealed and replaced the Telecommunications Act 2006 as amended	2021	In force
11.	The Child Rights Act 2007 (No. 7 2007)	2007	In force
12.	The Anti-Corruption Act, 2008 (Act No No. 12 of 2008) as amended in the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Act No. 9 of 2019).	2008, as amended in 2019	In force
13.	The Copyright Act, 2011 (No. 7 of 2007)	2011	In force
14.	The Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (Act No 00 of 2012) as amended	2012, as amended in 2019	In force
15.	The Right to Access Information Act, 2013 (Act No No. 2, 2013 )	2013	In force
16.	Public Order (Amendment) Act, 2020 (Act. No 4 of 2020)	2020	In force
17.	The Law on Contempt of Court	Common Law	In force

Source (Sowa & Kapuwa, 2015; updated regularly)<sup>2</sup>

**Table 7.3: Codes Dealing with Media Regulation Still in Force**

No.	Codes	Year	Status of the law
1.	Code of Conduct of the Sierra Leone the Association of Journalists	2000 (reviewed 2014/2015)	In force.
2.	The Independent Media Commission (IMC) Media Code of Practice	2007	The section on Advertising is still applicable.
3.	Right to Access Information Regulations 2022 (Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 2022)	2022	In force.
4.	Independent Media Commission (Print and Electronic Media) Regulations, 2022 (Statutory Instrument No. 11 of 2022)	2022	In force.
5.	Independent Media Commission Elections (Coverage and Reporting) Regulations, 2022 (Statutory Instrument No. 17 of 2022)	2022	In force.

Source (Sowa and Kapuwa, 2015; updated regularly)<sup>3</sup>

## 8. CONCLUSION

The issues addressed in this report concern freedom of expression, press freedom, access to information, internet freedom, digital rights, and the safety and security of journalists in Sierra Leone. The Media Reform Coordination Group (MRCG) reiterates a key provision from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report: “Freedom of expression is the lifeblood of democracy. A culture of public debate and tolerance for differing ideas signifies a vibrant and healthy democracy. Restrictions on freedom of expression indicate a fearful state; they reflect a government that lacks confidence in its ability to promote and disseminate its doctrines in the marketplace of ideas.”

The MRCG continues to monitor the implementation and promotion of several legislative measures, including the Right to Access Information Regulations 2022 (Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 2022), the Independent Media Commission (Print and Electronic Media) Regulations 2022 (Statutory Instrument No. 11 of 2022), and the Independent Media Commission Elections (Coverage and Reporting) Regulations 2022 (Statutory Instrument No. 17 of 2022). These laws set out new guidelines on information access, media ethics, and the coverage and reporting of elections.

The MRCG also calls for the effective implementation of the Cybersecurity and Crime Act 2021 without impeding freedom of expression or press freedoms, and for careful consideration of the SLAJ position paper on the proposed Counter-Terrorism Bill of 2025.

The safety of journalists remains a central concern for the MRCG. The organization urges the government, media owners, and security sectors to ensure journalists' safety while they perform their duties. Furthermore, the MRCG calls on the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) to expedite investigations into all reported cases, emphasizing that delays in delivering justice amount to a denial of justice.

The MRCG commends the government, particularly through the Ministry of Information and Civic Education, for the significant steps taken to complete the various consultation and validation processes for the National Media and Information Policy. The policy aims to create a free, safe, proactive, progressive, and participatory media and information environment that supports the nation's development and transformation. It would encourage a free, independent, forward-thinking, and innovative media landscape that provides timely and accurate information and commentary.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The government, together with SLAJ and other partners, should continue to implement the recommendations of the Media Viability and Investment Conference.
- Media stakeholders to collaborate with the Constitutional Review Committee to include a standalone chapter on the media in the National Constitution.
- The government and relevant stakeholders should establish mechanisms to address online attacks.
- The government should expedite the enactment of the Data Protection Law to fully protect citizens' digital rights, safeguard personal data, and ensure consumer protection, while also closing potential loopholes in the exploitation of data by private entities and government agencies.
- The government should ensure that journalists and citizens continue to enjoy their rights to freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly, without fear of intimidation, harassment, assault, arrest, detention, or prosecution.
- Media owners and employers should ensure that their reporters are paid at least the minimum wage and that staff enjoy improved working conditions.
- The Sierra Leone Police should expedite the investigation and resolution of all cases involving journalists and civil society activists, particularly those who have been assaulted, threatened, or detained without charge.
- Media owners and managers should develop in-house safety policies based on the national safety policy for journalists established by the MRCG, to ensure journalists' safety.
- The MRCG, SLAJ, and other media organizations should continue to provide training and capacity-building for journalists to align with international best practice, supported by non-governmental organisations through mentorship and fellowship program.
- The judiciary should fast-track rulings on all pending cases involving journalists from 2018 to the present.

## 10. REFERENCES

- Link to [SLAJ's](#) Press release on the threat against Amadu Lamarana Bah by Admire Bio (Accessed on 14 October 2025)
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## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.1 Reported Cases in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Editions of the Press Freedom Reports.

The table below shows the cases, dates of attack/arrest or invitations, and their current status.

The ‘gold columns’ cases have been concluded, settled, resolved, dropped, or abandoned.

Those in ‘blue columns’ are in court.

Those in the ‘red columns’ are under police investigation/inconclusive/stalled.

Those in the ‘brown columns’ are abandoned cases.

From the First to the Fifteenth Edition of the Press Freedom Report, **104** cases and issues were monitored. **Seventy** were concluded, settled, resolved, or dropped for lack of progress; **eight** were in court, **twenty-six** were under police investigation or inconclusive, and nine were abandoned.

Table 11.1: Status of cases monitored by MRCG from March 2018 to September 2025

No	Completed Cases Monitored by the MRCG since 2018	Date of Attack/Arrest/Invitation	Status of Cases as at the time of reporting
1	Attack on a reporter of <i>Concord Times Newspaper</i> , Patrick Jaiah Kamara, by thugs allegedly on the instruction of former Mayor of the Freetown City Council, Herbert George Williams, Sanusi Bruski, and other All Peoples Congress (APC) Party members during the 31 March 2018 Presidential run-off election.	During the 31 March 2018 Presidential run-off Election	Matter resolved out of court after a few appearances.
2	Attack on the late Editor of <i>New Age Newspaper</i> , Ibrahim Samura, by the then ruling APC party members and supporters, allegedly on orders of former Freetown Mayor of the APC, Herbert George Williams, and the APC Public Relations Officer, Abubakar, at a polling station in Lumley during the 31 March 2018 Presidential run-off election, who later died at the 34 Military Hospital at Wilberforce on 6 June 2018.	31 March 2018 Presidential run-off Election	The two accused had been acquitted and discharged for murder and conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm by Justice Augustine Musa of the High Court of Sierra Leone in Freetown, as the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.
3	Arrest and detention of a civil society activist, Edmond Abu, Executive Director of the Native Consortium and Research Centre, by the Sierra Leone Police for staging a peaceful protest in Freetown against the increments in fuel pump price.	17 July 2018	Released on bail, the matter was not charged in court.

4	Invitation of the Leader and Chairman of the Alliance Democratic Party (ADP), Mohamed Kamarainba Mansaray and Abdul Fonti Kabia, formerly of <i>AYV</i> , to CID for an interview he granted in response to an allegation relating to the alleged publication of false news, contrary to the Public Order Act of 1965.	22 July 2018	All charges dropped, and the matter was terminated.
5	Invitation of a journalist to Parliament to answer some questions in connection with a story broadcast on <i>African Young Voices TV</i> , titled “Caught on Camera”, involving a member of parliament, Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay, and two others in a land matter.	September 2018	The <i>AYV</i> Director of News and Current Affairs, Samuel Wise Bangura, appeared before Parliament and was asked to retract and apologize. But he refused/ declined, and nothing happened after that.
6	Attack on <i>AYV TV</i> journalist, Ransford Metzger, while investigating an alleged corruption matter at the St. Joseph Secondary School in Freetown.	September 2018	Alleged perpetrators arrested and held at the CID, but were released after the journalist and <i>AYV</i> management accepted the perpetrators' apology.
7	Arrest of Fayia Amara Fayia of <i>Star Radio and Standard Times Newspaper</i> by CID officers outside the <i>AYV</i> media on what the CID said was a post on his Facebook page containing defamatory words against His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio.	29 September 2018	Police said since Part 5 of the Public Order Act of 1965 has been repealed, the file has been closed.
8	Harassment of Alhassan Jalloh, Editor of the <i>Unique Newspaper</i> , by police officers attached to the Lumley Police Station in the West End of Freetown, while investigating a fracas between Leonco Filling Station at Lumley and a mosque.	5 November 2018	Mr. Jalloh said the matter was not progressing, and he has dropped it and moved on.
9	Arrest and detention of Emmanuel C Thorli, Managing Editor of <i>the Night Watch Newspaper</i> , by the Sierra Leone Police on 14 January 2019 on the allegation of publishing false information that several diplomatic passports were illegally given to families of the ruling government officials.	14 January 2019	Police said the matter has been closed because of the repeal of Part 5 of the Public Order Act of 1965.



10	Attacks on and intimidation of civil society leaders, including the Executive Director of Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), Madam Marcella Samba-Sesay, who had publicly expressed critical views on the media about the governance challenges.	3-6 May 2019	Matter ended after several press releases condemning the attack on her.
11	Attack on a civil society activist, Morlai Conteh, President of the National Youth Coalition of Sierra Leone, allegedly by a group of military officers of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) after the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) party did a walkout protest of the ceremony marking the Presidential State Opening of Parliament on 2 May 2019.	2 May 2019	Mr. Conteh said his moves to further the case were fruitless, so he decided to drop it.
12	Arrest and detention of four local journalists- Sallieu Tejan Jalloh, Publisher of the <i>Times SL Newspaper</i> ; David Johnson, Editor of <i>Times SL Newspaper</i> ; Mustapha Sesay, General Editor, <i>Standard Times Newspaper</i> ; and Abu Bakarr Kargbo (Father Bakish), a Senior Staff Writer of <i>Standard Times Newspaper</i> - in Freetown on Friday, 28 June 2019. They were charged with eight counts for allegedly publishing defamatory articles in the <i>Times SL Newspaper</i> and the <i>Standard Times Newspaper</i> , respectively, against Pa Momoh Fofanah Esq, a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone.	28 June 2019	Journalists discharged.
13	Assault on two female sport journalists (Francess Bernard-Bundor and Easter Marie Samura) of <i>SLBC</i> by Officers of the Sierra Leone Presidential guard on Sunday, 8 September 2019 at the National Stadium, during the FIFA 2022 World Cup Preliminary return-leg match between Sierra Leone and Liberia.	8 September 2019	Action taken against the presidential guards. The government refunded the medical expenses incurred by the journalists, and their property was destroyed or stolen.
14	The arrest and detention of the Managing Editor of the <i>Times Newspaper</i> Sallieu Tejan Jalloh (Sal Tee) on 11 November 2019 in Freetown, by plainclothes police officers in connection with an SMS text message that he sent to the Chief Minister of Sierra Leone, Prof. David Francis enquiring about an alleged payment of US\$ 1.5 million into his private ECOBANK account by SL Mining, which license had been cancelled by the state.	11 November 2019	Police said the matter has been closed because of the decriminalization of Part 5 of the Public Order Act of 1965.

15	Alleged threat by the former Inspector General of Police to arrest Alex Lawrence Koroma, a producer of <i>Radio Democracy FM 98.1</i> ‘Good Morning Salon Programme’, for a programme he produced on the state of security.	23 February 2020	Arrest not affected.
16	Arrest and detention of Chernor Jalloh, Reporter, <i>Radio Democracy</i> , Yusuf Bangura, reporter, <i>Concord Times</i> , and a civil society activist, Thomas Moore Conteh, Executive Director of Citizens Advocacy Network (CAN), by police during a Limkokwing University protest over fee subsidies by the Government of Sierra Leone.	5 March 2020	The two journalists were released, while the matter of Mr. Moore was dismissed by the Court.
17	Invitation of the Managing Editor/Publisher of the <i>Nationalist Newspaper</i> , Mohamed Sankoh (AKA, One Drop), by the police in connection with an opinion piece he authored titled ‘Is the Catholic Church in a Mess?’	20 March 2020	Police dropped the case against Mr. Sankoh as they said it was a mistaken identity, as they mistook Mr. Sankoh for another person.
18	Assault on Stanley Sahr Jimmy, Station Manager, <i>Wusum Radio FM 88.5</i> in Makeni, allegedly by five police officers at the Mena Police Station.	April 2020.	The police said four of the officers were seriously reprimanded in the presence of the complainant and that there was no case against one of the officers. The police said the matter had been closed. Mr. Jimmy confirmed to MRCG that the matter had been settled out of police.
19	Arrest and detention of Adeyemi Jackson of <i>Universal Radio</i> by police in Freetown after reportedly requesting an interview with Dr. Ibrahim Bundu, a medical doctor attached to the Connaught Hospital in Freetown, in relation to an alleged sexual assault matter.	1 May 2020	Police said the matter had been closed.
20	The arrest and detention of Dr. Sylvia Blyden and Hussain Muckson Sesay by CID in Freetown, because of her alleged critical and controversial publications and postings on social media. She was later charged with 10 counts of various offences, ranging from seditious libel to publication of false news, and defamatory libel, among others.	June 2020	The matter was rendered “Nolle Prosequi,” as the Government of Sierra Leone dropped all charges against them on 16 November 2020.

21	On the Police harassing and intimidating the Manager of <b>Lunsar Radio</b> , Mr. Alhaji Foday Labay, to produce a recording of a radio program he hosted Prof Sheikh Umaru Kamara, the Community Relations Officer of Sierra Leone Mining Company in Lunsar, on 23 April 2020, which led to a strike action calling for the Resignation or replacement of their Paramount Chief.	12 June 2020	The matter had been dismissed.
22	The Supreme Court of Sierra Leone ordered the arrest of Lawyer Augustine Sorie-Sengbe Marrah for publishing information on social media about the ruling on the qualification of lawyers in holding certain offices, which have political undertones and allegedly had the tendency to put the legal profession into disrepute, as his post was rated as demeaning to the apex court of the land.	28 October 2020	The matter ended when he complied with the Supreme Court ordering him to do a retraction of the said post in an article and write a letter of apology to the judiciary and the presiding judges; and also publish the said letter of apology in the front pages of two widely read newspapers in Sierra Leone.
23	The verbal attack, insult, and intimidation of <b>BBC</b> reporter, and Former President of SLAJ Umaru Fofana in December 2020, from social media for his alleged “biased reports on political events in Sierra Leone” from people claiming to be members of the main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC) party.	December 2020	Umaru Fofana said he has decided to move on as he receives such threats frequently. “I find it very harassing and sort of bullying that they can dedicate so much time to attacking and seeking to intimidate me. And the fact that the APC party doesn’t distance itself from it, let alone condone it, is irksome. Failing to condemn it is akin to condoning it.”
24	The arrest and detention of Emmanuel C. Thorli, a reporter for the <b>Night Watch Newspaper</b> , on 7 February 2021, by the Sierra Leone Police for allegedly taking snapshots of the 7 February 2021, Jui demolition exercise carried out by the police at Jui Junction, Western Area Rural.	7 February 2021	Police said the matter had been closed.
25	The invitation and detention of the Editor-in- Chief and Proprietor, Joseph Turay and Ezekiel Dumbuya, News Editor of the <b>Public Review Newspaper</b> , on 22 March 2021, by officers of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in Freetown for more than five hours, over a matter involving land dispute in the Western Rural Area which police claimed that the newspaper had reported erroneously on.	22 March 2021	The police said none of them was detained. “They were only at CID for statement making; maybe, according to them, they see it as detention,” said the police. Police said the matter has been closed.

26	The arrest and detention of Hassan Gbessay Koroma, a <b>Concord Time Newspaper</b> journalist on 6 May 2021 by the Sierra Leone police for allegedly taking pictures of the Minister of Internal Affairs, David Panda Noah at the Siaka Stevens Street during an operation of him and police chasing commercial bike riders off the Central Business District (CBD) area, an operation that is said to clean the CBD of commercial motor bikes.	6 May 2021	The matter has been closed.
27	The alleged verbal attack on <b>BBC</b> Sports Journalist Mohamed Fajah Barrie by the Adviser to Sierra Leone's Sports Minister, Alie Kadar, for publishing a story on his Facebook timeline relating to Leone Stars players spending several hours at the Sierra Leone-Guinea border crossing point after they were refused entry into Guinea by the Guinean Immigration Authorities for lack of COVID-19 test results.	13 June 2021	The Minister of Sports intervened, mediated, and settled the matter between both parties.
28	The dismissal of Phebian Swill-Randall from the Sierra Leone Board of Entertainment and Investment by the Ambassador of Entertainment and Investment, Amara Dennis Turay, commonly known as 'Kao De Nero', for a Facebook post she made on increment in the pump price of fuel in the country.	12 August 2021	Phebian Swill-Randall accepted her dismissal and did not apologize to be reinstated.
29	The arrest and detention of 10 of <b>Star Radio's</b> journalists for allegedly obstructing the Sierra Leone Police as they went to the media house to investigate an alleged illegal electricity connection, a complaint made by the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA).	5 October 2021	Station Manager of Star Radio, Abdul Rahman Kamara, told the MRCG that the matter had been discharged from court and their meter returned to them.
30	The intimidation of and death threat against Journalist Salieu Tejan Jalloh of <b>Times Newspaper</b> as a result of his publications exposing perpetrators behind the 'alleged attempted ritual murder of the six virgins.'	8 October 2021	The matter had been settled as the alleged anonymous callers contacted and apologized to the journalist.
31	The raiding of the Editor of <b>Voice of Salone Newspaper</b> , David Johnson, on the grounds of 'insulting statements' via WhatsApp by the Sierra Leone Police, a complaint filed by Sydney Campbell Esq. On 29 November 2021, the matter came up at the Ross Road Magistrate Court No. 3. The editor was charged with 5 counts.	22 November 2021	The matter had ended as the journalist did a retraction and apologized to Sydney Campbell Esq.

32	The invitation of the National Chairman and Leader of the National Grand Coalition (NGC) Party, Dr. Dennis Bright to the Police Headquarters in Freetown by the Inspector General (IG) of Police due to an interview he granted Radio Democracy 98.1 FM in connection to the proposed 2021 Mid-term Census which the NGC and the Coalition of Progressive Political Parties (CoPP) objected to.	7 December 2021	He was released on the same day after a closed-door interview in the presence of his lawyers for close to two hours.
33	The physical assault and detention of Ransford Wright, a journalist of the <i>AYV Media Empire</i> , by the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) in Freetown.	13 December 2021	The journalist told MRCG that he received the sum of one million Leones (Nle one thousand Leones) from the police as compensation, and he, through the advice from family members, moved on. The Police said the matter had been resolved.
34	The verbal attack and insult against Asmaa James, station manager of <i>Radio Democracy 98.1 FM</i> , by Alhaji Amadu Bah, a popular artist known as LAJ, in a Facebook live video circulated on social media platforms as a result of a report aired by <i>Radio Democracy</i> on a bench warrant ordered by a magistrate for LAJ.	13 December 2021	The matter had ended after LAJ apologized to Asmaa James and the women of Sierra Leone as he expressed regret and took full responsibility for his actions. On 22 December 2021, Asmaa James, in a Facebook post, said she had forgiven LAJ and let go of the matter after some moments of prayer and fasting.
35	The arrest and detention of the 2018 presidential aspirant for the Unity Party, Femi Claudius-Cole, at the CID for an alleged negative comment she made on <i>Radio Democracy 98.1 FM</i> in relation to the 2021 mid-term housing and population census.	13 December 2021	The matter had ended as she was later released.
36	The arrest and detention of Pastor Septimus Yambasu for allegedly using obscene and insulting words against President Julius Maada Bio. He was charged with insulting conduct contrary to section 3 (1) of the Public Order Act of 1965 at the Pademba Road Magistrate Court No 1 in Freetown.	14 December 2021	The matter had been resolved and discharged from court, and Pastor Yambasu's vehicle returned to him.

37	The arrest and detention of Ahmed Doyle Kamara, popularly known as Tazmo Sliz, an entertainer in Makeni, Northern Sierra Leone, for allegedly insulting and attacking the Fullah Ethnic group in a Facebook live video.	18 December 2021	On Monday, 28 February 2022, Magistrate Sahr Kekura of Pademba Road Magistrate Court No 1 in Freetown discharged the matter from court after the complainant, Mohamed Salieu Jalloh, on behalf of the Fullah Community, accepted Tazmo's apology.
38	The intimidation and humiliation of Amadu Lamrana Bah, Head of Digital Media of the <i>Africa Young Voices (AYV)</i> and the President of the Sierra Leone Reporters Union (SLRU), by Airport officials allegedly acting on the orders of 'someone' at the Lungi International Airport as a result of a Facebook post by the journalist on series of difficulties they had encountered at the airport on their flight to Cameroon for the Africa Cup of Nations.	10 January 2022.	The matter had ended as the journalist later boarded the flight to Cameroon.
39	The arrest of Solomon Joe, a journalist working for <i>KISS 104 FM</i> in Bo, by two officers from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in Freetown. They went to Bo and 'ordered the arrest' of the journalist for a broadcast concerning a transaction between two businessmen in Bo. He spent one night in police custody.	7 February 2022.	The journalist was released on 8 February 2022 with conditions. That he retracted his story and apologized to the businessman. " <b>I am not going to retract the story because I stand by my story,</b> " said Solomon.
40	The invitation and detention of the Acting Spokesperson for the main opposition All Peoples Congress Party (APC), Sidi Yayah Tunis, at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Freetown for alleged inciting utterances he made during an interview he granted on <i>Radio Democracy 98.1 FM</i> on Monday, 7 February 2022.	8 February 2022	The matter had ended as he was released from the CID.
41	SLAJ 17 March 2022 press alert calling on the Judiciary of Sierra Leone to allow media access to cover the opening session of a tribunal set up to investigate the suspended Auditor-General, Mrs. Lara Taylor-Pearce, and her deputy after a complaint from some journalists that they were denied entry to the proceedings.	17 March 2022	The matter had ended as both parties settled the issue.
42	A complaint from IMC's Monitoring, Research and Projects Unit (MRPU) against <i>Justice FM Radio</i> in connection with its program, 'Justice Show', which was aired on 27 April 2022.	27 April 2022	The IMC temporarily shut down the operations of <i>Justice FM Radio</i> in Freetown for 10 hours, connected to an alleged unprofessional conduct,

			proprietorship, and management issues that posed serious confusion to the operations and activities of the radio station.
43	The arrest and detention of Mr. Mohamed Khan, the Interim Chairman of Teachers Solidarity, by police just outside <i>AYV</i> 's premises after Mr. Khan had appeared on their 'Wake Up Salone' television program as a guest; and the arrest and detention of Lahai Jah and Joseph C Kailie at the Bo West Police Station by police after allegedly convening a protest without police clearance to convene a meeting of "The Teachers Solidarity Movement".	26 and 28 April 2022 respectively	The matter had ended as they were released on the same day of arrest.
44	The arrest and incarceration of Mohamed Mansaray, popularly known as 'Blacker', who reportedly suffers from mental illness and roams the streets of Freetown, and Kadiatu Yankaday, a trader, at the Freetown Correctional Center on 28 April 2022, for allegedly insulting President Bio.	28 April 2022	Presiding Magistrate Rashid Jalloh had discharged the matter from the Pademba Road Magistrate Court No. 4 as no evidence was proffered against the accused. Legal Link, a human rights organization, helped to secure the discharge verdict for 'Blacker.'
45	Alleged Cyber Stalking and Bullying of President Julius Maada Bio by former APC Minister of Transport and Aviation, Kemoh Sesay. He was alleged to have 'willfully and repeatedly' communicated directly to President Bio in a manner that he knows to be false, for the purpose of causing danger, insult, injury, hatred, criminal intimidation or needless anxiety to the president. He was charged with one count of Cyber Stalking and Bullying, contrary to Section 44 (2) (b) of the Cyber Security and Crime Act 2021.	9 May 2022	The matter was acquitted and discharged from court.
46	The arrest and detention of journalist Sorie Saio Sesay of <i>Okentuhun Radio FM 94.0</i> by police in Makeni, Northern Sierra Leone, for allegedly "publishing false information" on social media about an incident between the SLP and commercial bike riders in Makeni.	26 May 2022	Sorie was released on bail on 31 May 2022 with the intervention of the SLAJ. He told the MRCG that even though the police had released him, the CID still has his phone. The Director of Crime Service at the CID headquarters in Freetown, AIG William Fayia Sellu, said that the Cyber Unit of the SLP was still investigating the matter, but had ended the matter and returned the journalist's

			phone.
47	The physical assault of journalist Maada Jesse Jengo, a journalist working for <i>Voice of Peace and Development Radio FM 96.5 (VOPAD)</i> in Waterloo, Western Area Rural, by ‘four officers of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).’	2 July 2022	The Station Manager for <i>VOPAD radio</i> , Joseph Lamin, in an interview, told MRCG on 30 October 2023, that the matter had been resolved. Journalist Jengo also confirmed that with the intervention of his Station Manager, Joseph Lamin, and other community stakeholders, they had resolved the matter. The officers had apologised to the journalist and his family. In a press release issued on 8 July 2022, the Office of the Directorate of Defence, Public Relations and Information, Ministry of Defence (MOD) stated that “the MOD regrets the unfortunate occurrence which does not represent the RSLAF core values of good discipline and selfless service.”
48	The suspension of the Station Manager of <i>Radio Bintumani 93.1</i> FM by the Office of National Security (ONS) District Coordinator of Koinadugu, Mr Lawrence Kpangu, after a District Security Committee (DiSeC) meeting.	November 2022	IMC’s Complaints Committee Secretary, Fatmata Kamara, told MRCG that they have concluded their ruling on the matter, and their findings showed that all allegations against the Station Manager were false and baseless. The Station Manager was reinstated, but he later resigned.
49	The online harassment of Amadu Lamarana Bah, a journalist working for the <i>Africa Young Voices television (AYV)</i> , who also doubles as the President of the Sierra Leone Reporters Union (SLRU), by the State House Communications Director, Myk Brewa.	19 December 2022	The matter had ended as the journalist moved on with his work and did not make any formal complaint to the police.
50	The arrest and detention of the Executive Director of the Native Consortium and Research Centre, Edmond Abu Jnr., for twenty-one (21) days at the Pademba Road Correctional Centre, in relation to social media publications and utterances he made on a radio regarding the court matter between his organization and Mobile Network Operators and the National Telecommunications Authority	10 January 2023	The activist was later released from the Pademba Road Correctional Centre in Freetown. On 26 February 2021, the Court granted an Order, restraining Mr. Abu from publication and comments on the case as it was ‘ <i>sub judice</i> .’



	(NatCA).		
51	The complaint by the Inspector General of Police, William F Sellu, against Alex Lawrence Koroma, Producer of <b>Radio Democracy 98.1 FM</b> , on a radio broadcast against his person on the ‘Good Morning Salone’ Show, Monday, 22nd May 2023, to the Independent Media Commission (IMC).	May 2023	The radio station’s producer did a retraction, and the matter was resolved.
52	Civil libel action by the Inspector General of Police, William F. Sellu, through his Lawyer, Demba Barrie, instituted against <b>Radio Democracy FM 98.1</b> (First Defendant) and Producer Alex Lawrence Koroma (Second Defendant) on the 2nd June, 2023.	13 June 2023	The High Court in July 2023 ordered damages against the radio and Mr. Koroma, retraction of the broadcast, and an apology to the Inspector General. The Court ordered the lawyer for the Inspector General “to file a separate Notice of Motion for assessment of damages. Demba Barrie, the lawyer who represented the Inspector General of Police, told MRCG that <b>Radio Democracy FM 98.1</b> and the other parties involved had, in March 2024, apologized to the plaintiff and confirmed that the matter had been dropped.
53	The attack on the <b>BBC</b> Correspondent in Sierra Leone, Umaru Fofana, by supporters of the All People’s Congress (APC) party during the party’s press conference at the New Brookfields Hotel in Freetown.	14 June 2023	<p>Mr. Fofana told MRCG that he wished there was a line of action for him to take, “but it’s an exercise in futility. I don’t think the attackers acted alone. So the party won’t take any action against them. Sadly, not even to publicly condemn the action. And I don’t trust the police either, so I am dropping the matter.”</p> <p>The Secretary General of the APC, Lansana Dumbuya Esq., told MRCG that the matter was still being investigated.</p>
54	The matter of the Organizing Secretary of the opposition, APC Party in Bonthe District, Robert Kamara, was arraigned before Principal Magistrate Lyoud Jusu of Court Number One in Bo, for allegedly insulting Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President	October 2023	Magistrate Jusu of Court Number One in Bo on 14 December 2023 found the accused guilty and sentenced him to eight (8) months in prison for three counts charge

	of the Republic of Sierra Leone.		ranging from Cyber Bulling, contrary to Section 44 (1) (a) of the Cyber Security and Crime Act 2021, Sending False Message by Means of a Computer System, contrary to section 44(2) (a) of the Cyber Security Act 2021, to Sending Insulting Message by Means of Computer System, contrary to Section 44 (2) (b) of the Cyber Security and Crime Act 2021.
55	The ruling delivered by Justice Momoh Jah Stevens on a matter between Kutubu Koroma, a resident in Maryland, USA, and John Akar Foundation and Yada Williams Esq.	21 November 2023	Justice Momoh Jah Stevens ordered Kutubu Koroma, a resident in Maryland, USA, to pay NLe 1,500,000 (approximately US\$ 63,291.14) as compensation to John Akar Foundation and Yada Williams Esq. and to apologize for his libelous publications on social media.
56	The invitation for questioning of Alie Bai Kamara, the Station Manager of <i>Citizen Radio 103.7 FM</i> , by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in Freetown, who was later detained at the CID.	8 February 2024	<p>The Deputy Station Manager, Ibrahim Kalokoh (DJ Kalux), told MRCG that the invitation and detention of Alie Bai Kamara were related to a broadcast the radio did on the incident of the 26 November 2023 ‘attempted coup.’</p> <p>Police confirmed the invitation and detention and said that the matter had been investigated for some time. In subsequent follow-ups, the police and the journalist confirmed that the matter was resolved in the same month at the CID.</p>
57	The online harassment and intimidation of Amadu Lamrana Bah, a journalist working for the <i>Africa Young Voices television (AYV)</i> who also doubles as the President of the Sierra Leone Reporters Union (SLRU) for a post on his Facebook and X accounts titled ‘Guess who has added to his fleet of brand-new SUVs...’ where he also asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) about the various	March 2024	In an interview, Mr. Bah told MRCG that he had no intention to report the matter to the police for investigation. The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) was deeply concerned about the insults, intimidation, attacks, and threats and stood in solidarity with

	asset declaration categories the Commission had for government officials.		journalist Bah, who was in March 2024 recognized as ‘Journalist of the Year 2023’ by SLAJ, and all journalists in Sierra Leone who face threats, intimidation, harassment, and attacks for their commitment to truth and transparency.
58	The online attack, harassment, and intimidation of the Managing Editor of <i>Salone Times Newspaper</i> , Thomas Dixon, by one Anthony Vandy.	5 June 2024	The journalist told MRCG that he was not reporting the online attacks to the police because the attacks were not something new to him. SLAJ, in a press release, condemned the online intimidation and called for authorities to ensure the safety of journalists both online and offline.
59	The alleged attack and assault on Munya Bawoh, a journalist working for <i>All Out Radio</i> in Kenema, by some police officers in Kenema while investigating a story at the Kenema East Police Station.	7 June 2024	The Divisional Crime Officer and some other police officers reportedly slapped and molested him for allegedly making a video recording of the visually impaired persons. He continued that with the intervention of <a href="#">SLAJ</a> , he was later released on bail. The Regional Coordinator of the Complaint Discipline Internal Investigations Department (CDIID) of the Kenema East Police Division, Osman Sesay, told MRCG that they have received the complaint of Bawoh and his two witnesses, together with his medical report, and have started investigating the matter. He continued that they resolved as follows: that the journalist would be under medical observation for ninety days, with his health being taken care of by the police, and that the police in Kenema must apologize for their wrongdoing to the journalist and compensate him for all property lost and destroyed during the incident. The police in charge of the matter, Regional Coordinator, CDIID, Osman

			<p>Sesay, told MRCG that they were still on the matter with a possibility for it to end soon, after the journalist had made a withdrawal statement. <b>In August 2024</b>, the journalist told MRCG that he had made the withdrawal statement and the matter had been resolved. The Regional Coordinator for Complaint Discipline and Internal Investigations Department (CDIID), Osman Sesay, in Kenema, confirmed that the matter had been resolved.</p>
60	<p>The arrest and detention of lawyer Joy Bayoh Esq at the CID in Freetown, for allegedly cyberstalking the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.</p>	18 June 2024	<p>The Sierra Leone Police (SLP) arrested and detained lawyer Joy Bayoh Esq at the CID in Freetown, for allegedly cyberstalking the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. After a <a href="#">Facebook post</a> by the lawyer, she told MRCG that she was arrested and detained at the CID because of her tweet on the rule of law and democratic principles. The Police said the lawyer was arrested on an alleged crime of cyberstalking but had been released on bail, and the matter was dismissed.</p>
61	<p>The defamation matter between two former Leone Stars players, Ibrahim Koroma and Samuel Barley, vs. the Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA).</p>	June 2024	<p>MRCG monitored the defamation matter between two former Leone Stars players, Ibrahim Koroma and Samuel Barley, vs. the Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA). The High Court of Sierra Leone ruled in favour of the plaintiffs, Ibrahim Koroma and Samuel Barley, and ordered the defendant, SLFA, to pay damages worth 3 million dollars (1.5 million dollars each). Hassan Kamara Esq, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, told MRCG that his clients took SLFA to court for defamation of character and damage to their reputations.</p>

62	The threatening arrest of the Editor of Salone Times Newspaper, Thomas Dickson, by the Inspector General (IG) of Police, William Fayia Sellsu, following a Facebook post criticizing the IG for allegedly revoking a court bail, which the journalist described as the unnecessary use of “orders from above” to keep people in detention.	December 2024	The IG in an interview denied all social media reports that the police were looking out for or harassing journalist Dixon. He said he had not given instructions to any officer to either invite, arrest, or harass Thomas Dixon, adding that he had been advised by some senior journalists to make a formal complaint against the journalist to the IMC if he felt offended by his post. In the same effort, SLAJ met with the IG on 31 December 2024 and amicably resolved the matter between the journalist and the IG.
63	The verbal threat of Journalist Tamba Steven Ngauja, from the Chairman of the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) in Kono District, Sahrfea Moiwa, following a comment he made regarding the unfulfilled promises by the ruling SLPP to provide basic amenities to the people of Kono during the 2023 general elections campaign in Kono.	January 2025	MRCG monitored the matter involving the verbal threat against journalist Tamba Steven Ngauja by the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party, Sahrfea Moiwa, following a comment he made regarding the unfulfilled promises by the ruling SLPP to provide basic amenities to the people of Kono during the 2023 general elections campaign in Kono. After an event attended by First Lady Fatima Bio, the Chairman threatened to hire thugs to physically beat him, saying that the journalists in Kono were in the habit of disrespecting His Excellency, the President, Julius Maada Bio. The journalist said he and his colleagues were preparing to file a report to the police concerning the threat. Chairman Sahrfea Moiwa denied threatening to hire thugs to assault any journalist, including Ngauja. The Chairman apologized and made a public retraction. The matter has been resolved.
64	The arrest of <i>RTL Nieuws Africa</i> Correspondent, journalist Sophie Van Leeuwen, in Freetown on suspicion of possible espionage and for allegedly conducting documentary work without permission from the Government of Sierra Leone.	February 2025	In a press release, the SLP stated that journalist Sophie was questioned for allegedly conducting documentary work without the required permissions.

			<p>However, she was later released to continue her work “following her compliance with the interrogation.” SLAJ later confirmed that the personal items belonging to the Dutch journalist Sophie Van Leeuwen—her passport, mobile phone, and camera—remain in police custody, despite her release to continue her work. The police, upon completion of their investigation, released journalist Sophie on the same day of her arrest to carry on her work, but her personal belongings remained in police custody. The journalist later departed Sierra Leone on 17 February 2025 after her belongings, which were initially seized by police, were returned to her.</p>
65	<p>The arrest and detention of Hawa Madiana Hunt, a reality TV star who was charged in court on two-count charges for allegedly sending insulting messages via the computer system against President Julius Maada Bio and First Lady Fatima Bio on social media, contrary to the Cyber Security and Crime Act No. 7 of 2021</p>	January 2025	<p>Hawa Hunt was on diverse dates in January 2025, denied bail by Magistrate Santigie Bangura of Court No. 2 at the Pademba Road Magistrate Court in Freetown. 2021on 1 March 2025, First Lady Madam Fatima Bio, in a live Facebook session, called for the release of Hawa Hunt, emphasising that she had no involvement in Hunt’s arrest or subsequent charges. She urged those responsible for her detention to reconsider and allow her to reunite with her children. The Judiciary of Sierra Leone on 4 March 2025 posted on X that the Court of Appeal Judge, Hon. Justice Tonia Barnett has discontinued the matter between the STATE VS HAWA HUNT, adding that the Director of Public Persecutions, through his state counsel Yusuf I Sesay, applied for a discontinuance of the matter citing Section 66 (4) (c) of the</p>

			Constitution of Sierra Leone. The matter was resolved.
66	The invitation of Thomas Pa Alie Babadie, the Executive Director of the Forum for Sierra Leone Youth Network, by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) after expressing an opinion at the <i>AYV</i> regarding the ‘incompetence’ of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), William Fayia Sellu in managing the office	April 2025	In a social media claim, it was alleged that shortly after sharing his views on the <i>AYV</i> Program about the IG, Mr. Babadie received calls from the CID requesting that he report for questioning about his statements concerning the IG. The Deputy Head of Media, ASP Bobson Senu, told the MRCG that the allegation that Mr. Babadie was invited for questioning was false.
67	Hassan Kamara, a reporter at <i>Citizens Radio</i> in Freetown, was reported on social media to have been arrested and intimidated by the Sierra Leone Police, under the instruction of Sierra Leone’s National Football Team Manager, Mohamed Kallon, a former captain and Leone Star footballer, over a social media post.	June 2025	According to the journalist, Mohamed Kallon ordered his arrest after he published a write-up about one of the candidates in the SLFA Presidential election, Ms. Aminata Bangura, claiming that Mohamed Kallon and Tunde Scot boasted about supporting her for SLFA Presidency. The journalist later told MRCG that the matter had been resolved amicably.
68	Mohamed Mattia, a reporter at <i>Eastern Community Radio FM 96.5</i> in Kono, was allegedly assaulted and stabbed by some unknown supporters of the Sierra Leone People’s Party during their district executive election in Kono on 15 June 2025.	June 2025	According to the journalist, he had gone to interview the First Lady, Mrs Fatima Bio, after the winner of the executive election was announced, when some unknown supporters of SLPP identified him as the one who had been critical of the First Lady on the radio. He added that the supporters chased and assaulted him and stabbed him on his left arm, and he was rushed to the hospital by his colleague journalists. The Mayor of Kono, Komba Sam, told MRCG that on behalf of the SLPP supporters, he had apologised to the journalist and compensated him for all damages incurred during the assault. The journalist confirmed that he had been compensated and that the Mayor had publicly apologized.

69	Christian Conteh, Editor of <i>Truth Newspaper</i> and Managing Editor of <i>Sierra Check</i> , was intimidated by some unknown police personnel whilst he was investigating a story about a corpse lying at the Lumley Beach Road.	September 2025	According to the journalist, after he had discovered where the dead body was lying, he reached into his pocket intending to document the scene where the dead body was lying, when five officers, two in plain clothes, rushed toward him and grabbed his hands, ruffled his clothes, and demanded his phone. He added that a female officer who was among the five officers snatched his two phones from him and stormed off toward a police van, and at the police station, he was threatened to be detained by an unknown officer. Later, the officer returned his phone after they had deleted a few photos he had taken from the scene. The journalist told MRCG that he does not intend to report the matter as long as he was not hurt or lost any of his property.
70	Sahr Memphis, Chief Executive Officer of <i>Born to Blog</i> , was <a href="#">invited</a> by the Cyber Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department regarding a post about the disappearance of a container suspected to contain “Kush” at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. According to <i>Born to Blog</i> , the post concerned a comment they made about the Director General of the Ports Authority, Yankuba Bio, about the alleged disappearance of the container at the port.	On 5 November 2025	Following an intervention by the Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernor Bah, Sahr Memphis’ matter was <a href="#">resolved</a> , and <i>Born to Blog</i> later posted that they <a href="#">apologised</a> to the Director General and the management of the Ports Authority for the post they had earlier published without first verifying it. Assistant Superintendent of Police Kabbah Lavalie, an officer attached to the Cyber Unit in charge of the investigation, told MRCG that <i>Born to Blog</i> had made a retraction statement and that the matter had been resolved.



	Cases monitored by the MRCG that have still in Court since 2018	Date of Attack/ Arrest/ Invitation	Status of Cases as at the time of reporting
1	Attack on the publisher of <i>The Elephant Newspaper</i> , Nimalty Kamara, allegedly by youth of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) for allegedly criticizing the new regime of President Julius Maada Bio.	10 September 2018	The matter is still pending at the Kenema High Court. Nimalty told MRCG that there was no progress on the matter.
2	Arrest and detention of Mahmud Tim Kargbo on 20 September 2019 for allegedly publishing a defamatory article against Hon Justice Miatta Samba, an Appeal Court Judge, titled 'Justice Redefined by Miatta Samba', which is said to have accused the judge of corruption and incompetence.	20 September 2019	Granted bail after tendering an apology letter to Hon Justice Miatta Samba, the matter was still in Court.
3	Assault on journalist Fayia Amara Fayia of <i>Star Radio and Standard Times Newspaper</i> , allegedly by military officers in Kenema, and his subsequent arrest and detention by the Police in Kenema.	4 April 2020	The matter is still at the Magistrate Court No. 1 in Kenema. Fayia Amara Fayia told the MRCG that after the intervention of SLAJ, MRCG, and MFWA by issuing a petition letter to His Excellency, the President, Julius Maada Bio (through the Minister of Information and Communication), the matter had died down, and I have moved on. "The court is yet to officially discharge the matter, and I have not been called in connection with the matter," he said.
4	The alleged physical assault of Alusine Antha, a journalist working for <i>Eagle Africa FM 91.3</i> , by some youths in the Waterloo community in connection with a land saga he had gone to cover.	17 February 2022.	The matter was still in court, with no progress.
5	Alimamay N'Jai Sesay, on 17 October 2022, appeared before Magistrate Mark Ngegba of Pademba Road Magistrate Court No.1 in Freetown for allegedly sharing Abdul Will Kamara alias Adebayor's audios on social media. He is charged with five counts of various offences in the Cyber Security and Crime Act No. 7 of 2021.	17 October 2022	Police alleged that the accused person, between 1 July 2022 and 10 October 2022, through social media, sent insulting messages created by Abdul Will Kamara alias 'Adebayor' against the Government of Sierra Leone by means of a computer system and network with the intent to provoke the

			breach of peace. The matter is ongoing at the High Court.
6	The attack on the office and staff of <b>Hope FM 93.3</b> in Makeni, Northern Sierra Leone, by a group of thugs allegedly sent by the landlord of the premises housing the radio.	23 October 2023.	Mr. Stanley Bangura, proprietor of the radio, told MRCG that the matter was in court, adding that the defendants pleaded with him, Ahmed Sahid Nasrallah, Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) President, and Umaru Fofana, for an out-of-court settlement of the matter. He continued that he agreed on one condition, which is for the defendants to reinstate the radio's tenancy and pay for the damaged pieces of office property.
7	The Murder of journalist Samuel Brima Mattia, Deputy Station Manager of <b>Voice of Peace and Development (VOPAD) radio FM 96.5</b> , by the Station Manager, Joseph M Lamin, and others in Waterloo, Western Rural of Freetown.	January 2025	The police received a report of the remains of a person whose family and community members subsequently identified as journalist Samuel Brima Mattia. Upon police investigation and further inquiries, the Station Manager, Joseph M Lamin, confessed to orchestrating the killing of his deputy, Samuel Brima Mattia, because of disputes between them. The primary suspect, Joseph M Lamin, along with two others, was brought to court on two counts charges on Conspiracy to murder and Murder. The matter had come up in court on diverse dates in January, February, March, April, and May 2025. The matter was still in court.
8	Mr Tejan Sheikh Rogers, a lecturer at the Milton Margai Technical University, appeared in court on 17 March 2025 on one count charge for cyber stalking, under section 44 (2) b of the Cyber Security and Crime Act of 2021, for allegedly using his WhatsApp number to create and post recorded audios and text messages in a WhatsApp group called "Maada must stay Campaign," deemed to have damaged the reputation of the university's Vice Chancellor and Principal Dr. Philip Kanu.	March 2025	The Matter had come up on diverse dates in March, April, and May 2025 at the Pademba Road Magistrate Court No.2. The matter was still in court.

	Cases monitored by MRCG that are still under Police Investigation since 2018	Date of Attack/ Arrest/ Invitation	Status of Cases as at the time of reporting
1	Attack on the former Editor of <i>Awareness Times Newspaper</i> , John Koroma, during a Bye-Election in Tonko Limba, Kambia District, Northern Sierra Leone, on 29 September 2018, allegedly by a team of Sierra Leone Police officers and persons who openly identified themselves as SLPP supporters.	29 September 2018	Matter still with the police and no arrest effected. John Koroma said he availed his witnesses to the police and that statements were obtained from them individually. He said the police had promised to get on to him but have not done so since, and that he is gradually forgetting the matter. The police said that Koroma had not been able to identify those who attacked him, and as such, they were constrained to arrest any suspect. They, however, said that the matter had been kept in view.
2	Attack on two <i>AYV</i> journalists, Augusta Ethel Turay and Bockarie Samai, on the 16 January 2019, allegedly by supporters of the opposition All People's Congress Party (APC), while covering the visit of officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to the home of former President Ernest Koroma in Makeni, Bombali District.	16 January 2019	Matter stalled as police claim complainants were yet to return with their endorsed medical reports; hence, they could not take any further action. But Augusta Ethel Turay said they submitted their medical reports as was requested by the Police; yet, there was no progress on the matter.  “We submitted the medical reports at the Mena Police Station in Makeni as requested, but up to date, the police did not call us, nor did they discharge the matter nor charge it to court, and so we stopped following the matter.” The police said that they were still waiting for the journalists to take their endorsed medical forms to the police headquarters.
3	A death threat against the <i>BBC's</i> Umaru Fofana, apparently by a member or supporter of the opposition APC, was circulated on social media, after an interview he conducted with Sierra Leone's former Vice President, Victor Bockarie Foh.	17 January 2019	Matter still under investigation, according to the Police. However, Umaru Fofana said the Police investigating the matter disclosed the identity of his key witness, and he eventually lost confidentiality in them, and hence, he has stopped following

			up on the matter. The police, in their response, said that the matter had been kept in view.
4	Attack on three local journalists – Ibrahim Manasaray, aka ‘Hebro’ of <b>SLBC</b> , Makeni, Abdul M. Jalloh of <b>Amzas Radio</b> , Makeni, and Foday Moriba Conteh of <b>Calabash Newspaper</b> , Tonkolili Districts – in the Northern Region of Sierra Leone.	January 2020	The matter was under police investigation as police said journalists are yet to corroborate their witnesses. One of the victims, Abdul M. Jalloh of Hamzas Radio, said there was no progress on the matter, and hence they had decided to move on with their different jobs. Police said that the matter had been kept in view for lack of evidence and witnesses.
5	The arrest and detention of Osman Hardy Jalloh of <b>TV-News24</b> for the second time by Magistrate Joseph Toby of Court No.2 in Kenema on 10 June 2021 for allegedly publishing a story relating to a matter between an Imam and a female chief in Blama.	10 June 2021	<p>The matter is still at the Human Rights Commission-Kenema for further investigation. The new Deputy Director, HRCSL Regional Service East, Tom Sandi, said the complainant had yet to sign and send the admissibility study to the Commission. The owner of <b>TV-News24</b>, who was the lead complainant on the matter, told MRCG that “Hardy is no longer affiliated with TV-News24, so I can’t speak on his intentions on this matter.” Journalist Osman Hardy Jalloh told MRCG that “my former boss, owner of <b>TV-News24</b>, was pursuing the matter on my behalf, but I am no longer affiliated with the organization. I don’t have the finances to pursue the matter on my own. So, if my former boss said he was no longer pursuing it, then so be it.”</p> <p>Al Mansaray, in March 2023, posted on his channel that he had filed a legal paper against the United States Government through the U.S. State Department for failing to take appropriate action when he alerted them about the abuse of power and unprofessional conduct of Magistrate Toby. However, there had been no new development on the said matter.</p>

6	The verbal attack and threat to the entire editorial team of <b><i>Salone Compass Newspaper</i></b> from unknown members of the general public through phone calls.	14 December 2021	The proprietor, Ibrahim Alusine Conteh, told MRCG that the police did nothing about the issue. He said SLAJ had also not done anything about the official complaints made to them. Police said the matter had been kept in view.
7	An official complaint by Hawanatu Konneh Fofanah at the CID in December 2021 against an anonymous individual who allegedly attacked her personality on Facebook	25 December 2021	Hawanatu said there was no headway on the matter and that she decided to move on with her life. Police said the matter had been kept in view.
8	An alleged ‘assassination attempt’ on journalist Gibril Gottor and his family through a ‘suffocating smell of petrol’ in their house in Kambia, Northern Sierra Leone.	29 April 2022	Gibril Gottor told MRCG that “I am ok and I have taken over my security myself.” In an interview with MRCG, the Police also maintained that they had not yet got a witness or evidence to substantiate the complaint made by Gibril to support their investigation into the matter, so the matter has been kept in view.
9	The alleged physical assault of journalist Abdulai Gbla of <b><i>Gbla TV online</i></b> by a Member of Parliament (MP), Hon. Abdul Muniru Lansana of Constituency 121, in the well of parliament.	28 June 2022	There is still no new development on the matter between journalist Abdulai Gbla of <b><i>Gbla TV Online</i></b> and former Honorable Muniru Lansana. Mr. Gbla told MRCG that to date, he had neither received any update from SLAJ nor from Parliament on the matter. SLAJ President, Ahmed Sahid Nasralla, said that SLAJ had contacted the Clerk of Parliament on the matter, but he had yet to get any update from him on the status of the investigation.
10	The physical assault on the Managing Editor of <b><i>Night Watch Newspaper</i></b> , Emmanuel Christian Thorli, by staff of Njala University, in Waterloo on 11 September 2022.	11 September 2022	Mr Thorli, in October 2023, told MRCG that the matter was still at the police station for investigation, even though he had not honored the police invitation. The Acting Public Relations Officer for Njala University, Ayuba Koroma, still maintained that they had resolved the matter. Police said they were still investigating the matter, although the journalist had yet to honor their invitation.
11	The arrest and detention of Ady Macauley Esq,	6 October	The matter was still at the Directorate

	former Anti-Corruption Commissioner at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).	2022	of Public Prosecution, awaiting legal advice.
12	The alleged ‘verbal threat’ on journalist Gibril Gottor, a freelance journalist in Kambia, by a police officer at Malal Police Checkpoint in Magbema Chiefdom, Kambia District, Northern Sierra Leone.	18 January 2023	The matter is yet to be concluded as the police still maintain that they have not yet got a witness or evidence to substantiate the complaint made by Gibril to aid their investigation of the matter. Gibril told MRCG that he had left Sierra Leone because he felt his life was no longer safe in the country.
13	The alleged attack and assault on Alie Tokowa, the Station Manager of <b><i>Fountain of Peace Radio (FOP)</i></b> in Moyamba District, Alie Tokowa, on 28 March 2023 at the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) office in Moyamba district by its supporters.	28 March 2023	Journalist Alie Tokowa maintained that the State had withdrawn the matter from the police, with no progress. He said he had recently reached out to some human rights organizations to solicit help to take legal action against his attackers, but had not received any positive response from them. Police had investigated the matter. State Counsel had withdrawn the file from the police, and the matter was now with State Counsel.
14	The complaint from Ibrahim Alusine Kamara, Managing Editor of <b><i>Salone Compass Newspaper</i></b> , stated that security officials assaulted him, endangered his life, and vandalized his vehicle during an incident at the APC’s press conference on 25 June 2023 at the party’s headquarters in Freetown.	25 June 2023	<p>Mr. Kamara told MRCG that he had not yet received any update from the Independent Police Complaint Board (IPCB) on the matter.</p> <p>The investigating officer at IPCB, Hawalyn Kamara, again told MRCG that a joint force ‘wearing balaclava’ was deployed to the scene on the day the incident occurred and, therefore, their investigation into the matter had stalled due to a lack of identification of the exact security officials that assaulted the journalist.</p> <p>The journalist told MRCG that he is still preparing to, through his lawyers, take the leadership of both the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) to court.</p>
15	The online ‘death threat’ against journalist Musa S. Kamara, working for Radio <b><i>Democracy 98.1</i></b>	20 August 2023	Musa told MRCG that he was yet to receive any update from the police

	<i>FM</i> , from anonymous individuals.		regarding the investigation. Police said they were investigating the matter.
16	The arrest and detention of Emmanuel C Thorli, Managing Editor of <i>Night Watch Newspaper</i> , at the CID in Freetown, allegedly for his news article titled ‘We Cannot Wait For Bio To Continue In Power Until 2028’, which was published on 21 February 2024.	21 February 2024,	Mr. Thorli told MRCG that police detained him because of the news article he published, noting that the police claimed that it was ‘inciting.’ He continued that after spending three days in detention, he was released with the condition that he report to the CID every day, until otherwise instructed by the police. Police confirmed the arrest and detention of the journalist and told MRCG that the matter was still under investigation, but the journalist had stopped reporting at the police station.
17	The invitation for questioning of Patrick Kai, a journalist working for <i>Calabash Newspaper</i> , at the Kenema Police Division concerning an alleged cybercrime committed against Eastern Technical University (ETU) in Sierra Leone.	16 April 2024	The journalist denied the allegation and told MRCG that ETU accused him of being an administrator and informant of a Facebook page known as “Kenema Kotuku,” a page that had been critical of the institution. He was detained for four hours and released on bail pending investigation. ASP Detective Tamba David Alpha told MRCG that the journalist was invited to the cyber unit of the Police Division for an alleged cybercrime reported by the Registrar of ETU and confirmed that Patrick was released on the same day, but the matter was under police investigation.
18	The warrant of arrest issued by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for Justice Boima, CEO of <i>Justice FM and TV</i> , for alleged offences relating to cyber stalking and bullying.	23 May 2024	The journalist told MRCG that his warrant of arrest was in connection with his <a href="#">online publication</a> on an alleged land grabbing by the Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Napoleon Koroma, and the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Richard P.G. Robert, Head of the Criminal Investigations Department. In an interview with the Deputy Minister, he denied all allegations made by the journalist, including the journalist’s several audio recordings accusing him of land

			grabbing, and assured MRCG that he was taking legal action against the journalist. ASP Amos Lansana, an officer attached to the Cybercrime Unit at the CID Headquarters and in charge of the matter, confirmed the warrant of arrest for the journalist and said that they were still searching for him to start the proper investigation of the matter.
19	The alleged verbal assaults and threatening remarks against Alie Badara, a freelance journalist in Bo, through a phone call from an unknown individual, for a Facebook post he made on the excesses of the police in their fight against the synthetic drug called “Kush” and other illegal substances in Bo, Southern Sierra Leone.	28 May 2024,	The journalist told MRCG that he had been investigating the allegations that the drugs, which were being seized by the police officers in their raids, marked as exhibits, were being sold by some of the same officers. He stated that his Facebook publications ( <a href="#">post one</a> and <a href="#">post two</a> ) regarding the matter irritated a group of individuals who planned to physically attack him and set his house ablaze. Inspector Tommy Ganda, a police officer attached to the Cyber Unit at the Bo East Police Division, told MRCG that they had received the complaint from the journalist and had started investigations.
20	The dismissal and alleged attack and harassment of Umu Thoronka, a journalist working for the <b>SLBC</b> , for a video she posted about a contribution of a lady at the Presidential Town Hall Meeting in Freetown.	23 July 2024	In a <a href="#">press release</a> dated 12 August 2024, Women in the Media Sierra Leone (WIMSAL) condemned the summary dismissal of the journalist and the subsequent threats to her life. The release further stated that the dismissal occurred without any prior warning letter, discussion, or written explanation, contrary to the provisions of the Employee Act of 2023, which mandates a fair and transparent termination process. The <b>SLBC</b> , in a press release dated 20 August 2024, responded that the journalist was not a reporter for <b>SLBC</b> Makeni, noting that she initially worked as a freelance contractor for <b>SLBC</b> in 2015 for three months, followed by a subsequent contract that extended until 2018 when she ceased serving the Corporation.



			<p>The release further stated that Ms Thoronka flouted the <b>SLBC's</b> policies by taking <b>SLBC's</b> footage without permission, unduly utilising <b>SLBC</b>-branded content on her personal social media platforms, and running commentary on the <b>SLBC</b>-branded content, bringing the institution's name into disrepute. <b>In September 2024</b>, the journalist told MRCG that since she reported the matter to SLAJ, she had not yet received a response from them. SLAJ told MRCG that investigations on the matter were ongoing. The matter was also extensively discussed at SLAJ's Annual General Meeting in Bo with suggestions for possible solutions. <b>In October and November 2024</b>, there was no new development on the matter; however, SLAJ's National Secretary General, Alhaji Manika Kamara, told MRCG that investigations on the matter were still ongoing.</p>
21	<p>The invitation of the 2023 Presidential Flagbearer of the All Peoples Congress (APC) Party, Dr. Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara, by the Cyber Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), concerning an alleged social media video in which he was seen referred to as the president-elect of the Republic of Sierra Leone, awaiting to assume the seat of power.</p>	February 2025	<p>Amos Lansana, an officer attached to the Cybercrime Unit at the CID Headquarters, told MRCG that Dr Samura Kamara had yet to respond to their invitation but that they were expecting him to do so. He said they would take another action if he did not report to the CID.</p>
22	<p>The alleged physical assault of Foday Fofanah, a journalist working for the <b>AYV</b>, by armed Officers of the Sierra Leone Police Force at the Model Old Road Junction.</p>	May 2025	<p>An Initial report on social media indicated that the altercation began when the journalist intervened in a public incident involving police officers and a commercial motorbike rider, during which a female street vendor's goods were destroyed. In expressing concern for the woman's loss, the officers physically attacked the journalist. According to a video circulating on social media, the journalist was physically assaulted, pepper-sprayed, and threatened with a firearm arm sustaining injuries and a</p>

			swollen eye during the assault by the officers. In their press releases dated 22 May 2025, MRCG, SLAJ, AYV, and SLRU condemned the attack on the journalist and called on authorities to swiftly investigate the matter. The Deputy Head of Media of the SLP, ASP Bobson Senu, told MRCG that the journalist had reported the matter to the CDID and that they were investigating it.
23	The alleged physical assault of Prince Christopher Kamara, the Editor of <i>Open Space Newspaper</i> , by staff members of the <i>SLBC</i> was due to an article that had upset them.	May 2025	The journalist reported to the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) that he had gone to the SLBC Broadcasting House to interview the Deputy Director General, Asmieu Bah, after receiving information about a possible strike at the SLBC compound. During his visit, a group of SLBC staff confronted and physically attacked him, ultimately throwing him out of the compound because of the critical story he had published. He sustained multiple injuries during the assault. Kamara formally reported the incident to the New England Ville Police Station, the SLBC Director General, and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ). In a report dated 15 May 2025, SLAJ condemned the physical attack on the journalist during the protest, asserting that there is no justification for violence against any journalist, regardless of the circumstances, and called for a peaceful resolution to the situation. The Guild of Newspaper Editors Sierra Leone also issued a press release on 7 May 2025, denouncing the violent assault on Kamara and urging SLBC leadership to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation. In a dialogue facilitated by SLAJ, the journalist, his employer, and the SLBC Director General expressed concern for Kamara's health and agreed to work together to amicably resolve the matter. The

			matter is under police investigation.
24	Kandeh Sesay, the Managing Editor of <i>The Watch Newspaper</i> , received a threat on 11 May 2025 from Anthony Vandy, a member of the media team for the First Lady of Sierra Leone, Mrs. Fatima Bio.	May 2025	Sesay reported to the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) that the threat was communicated through a WhatsApp group called Miracle Media Network (MMN), following his publication of an analysis related to a report by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). This report dealt with allegations of corruption concerning a property linked to First Lady Fatima Bio in Gambia. According to Sesay, Vandy threatened that he would take legal action against him and claimed he would ensure that Sesay faced jail time. Although Sesay has not yet reported the incident to the police, he does plan to do so. At the time this report was prepared, Anthony Vandy had not responded to the MRCG's inquiries. The matter is kept in view.
25	The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Sierra Leone Police invited Thomas Dixon, Chairman of the Guild of Newspaper Editors and Managing Editor of New Age Newspaper, to report at the CID Headquarters in Freetown for questioning regarding an alleged case of cyberstalking and cyberbullying reported by Leone Rock Metal Group.	August 2025	According to the journalist, Leone Rock reported him for cyberbullying and cyberstalking after publishing a News Alert entitled "Criminal Charges have been filed against the CEO of Leone Rock Metal Group...". The journalist later disclosed in an interview that the company offered to withdraw their complaint, but on the condition that he stop reporting on their affairs, which he declined. In a press release dated 26 August 2025, SLAJ Dixon was released on bail of NLE 100,000 after several hours of questioning at the CID. ASP Kabba Lavalie, an Officer attached to the Cyber Unit of CID, told MRCG that the matter was under investigation and that the journalist and company were engaging in alternative dispute resolution.
26	Amadu Lamrana Bah, presenter of the 'Morning Devotion' programme on <i>Truth Radio</i> , was allegedly intimidated by Admire Bio following	October 2025	. According to <a href="#">SLAJ's</a> press release dated 14 October 2025, the threat came when the journalist made a

	<p>public comments on the devastating impact of Kush on the youths of Sierra Leone</p>	<p>public comment on the devastating impacts of Kush, a dangerous substance destroying the lives and potential of Sierra Leone's youth. SLAJ stated that in the video where the threat was made, a voice in the background issued threats and hurled abusive language at Mr. Bah, referring to him in vile and unprintable language. On 14 October 2025, <a href="#">SLAJ</a> and MRCG strongly condemned the alleged threats and insults on the journalist, as the threats are not only disrespectful and dangerous but also a direct attack on press freedom and freedom of expression. They called on the police to urgently investigate the matter and ensure that journalists can continue their work without fear, intimidation, or reprisal. Truth Media, in a <a href="#">public statement</a>, said that they have reported the matter to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for investigation. Kabbah Lavalie, an officer attached to Cyber Unit at CID, in charge of the investigation, told MRCG that they have received a statement from the journalist, adding that the investigation into the matter is ongoing.</p>
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**Table 11.2: Abandoned cases monitored by MRCG from March 2018 to May 2025**

The cases in this table are also found in the ‘cases under police investigation’ and ‘cases in court tables.’ While the court states the cases remain on trial and the police also state they have been ‘Kept In View,’ the affected journalists have abandoned the cases, citing a lack of progress in their matters.

Cases that have been abandoned by the journalists at the Police and the Court because of a lack of progress since 2018	Date of Attack/ Arrest/ Invitation	Status of Cases as at the time of reporting
Attack on the publisher of <i>The Elephant Newspaper</i> , Nimalty Kamara, allegedly by youth of the ruling Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) for allegedly criticizing the new regime of President Julius Maada Bio.	10 September 2018	Matter is still at the Kenema High Court. Nimalty told MRCG that there was no progress on the matter. The court is yet to discharge the matter.
Attack on the former Editor of <i>Awareness Times Newspaper</i> , John Koroma, during a Bye-Election in Tonko Limba, Kambia District, Northern Sierra Leone, on 29 September 2018, allegedly by a team of Sierra Leone Police officers and persons who openly identified themselves as SLPP supporters.	29 September 2018	Matter still with the police and no arrest effected. John Koroma said he availed his witnesses to the police and that statements were obtained from them individually. He said the police had promised to get on to him but have not done so since, and that he has gradually forgotten the matter. The police said that Koroma had not been able to identify those who attacked him, and as such, they were constrained from arresting any suspect. They, however, said that the matter had been kept in view.
Attack on two <i>AYV</i> journalists, Augusta Ethel Turay and Bockarie Samai, on 16 January 2019, allegedly by supporters of the opposition All People’s Congress Party (APC), while covering the visit of officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to the home of former President Ernest Koroma in Makeni, Bombali District.	16 January 2019	Matter stalled as police claim complainants were yet to return with their endorsed medical reports; hence, they could not take any further action. But Augusta Ethel Turay said they submitted their medical reports as was requested by the Police; yet, there was no progress on the matter.  “We submitted the medical reports at the Mena Police Station in Makeni as requested, but up to date, the police did not call us, nor did they discharge the matter nor charge it to court, and so we stopped following the matter.” The police said that they were still waiting for

		the journalists to take their endorsed medical forms to the police headquarters. Police said the matter is being kept in view.
Arrest and detention of Mahmud Tim Kargbo for allegedly publishing a defamatory article against Hon Justice Miatta Samba, an Appeal Court Judge, titled ‘Justice Redefined by Miatta Samba’, which is said to have accused the judge of corruption and incompetence.	20 September 2019	<p>Granted bail after tendering an apology letter to Hon Justice Miatta Samba, the matter was still in Court.</p> <p>The journalist had moved on with his life and had abandoned the matter, but the matter was not officially discharged from court.</p>
Assault on journalist Fayia Amara Fayia of <b><i>Star Radio and Standard Times Newspaper</i></b> , allegedly by military officers in Kenema, and his subsequent arrest and detention by the Police in Kenema.	4 April 2020	The matter is still at the Magistrate Court No. 1 in Kenema. Fayia Amara Fayia told the MRCG that after the intervention of SLAJ, MRCG, and MFWA by issuing a petition letter to His Excellency, the President, Julius Maada Bio (through the Minister of Information and Communication), the matter had died down, and I have moved on. “The court is yet to officially discharge the matter, and I have not been called in connection with the matter,” he said.
The alleged physical assault of Alusine Antha, a journalist working for <b><i>Eagle Africa FM 91.3</i></b> , by some youths in the Waterloo community in connection with a land saga he had gone to cover.	17 February 2022.	The matter was still in court, with no progress. The journalist had moved on long ago. Police said that the matter had been kept in view.
The verbal attack and threat to the entire editorial team of <b><i>Salone Compass Newspaper</i></b> from unknown members of the general public through phone calls.	14 December 2021	The proprietor, Ibrahim Alusine Conteh, told the MRCG that the police did nothing about the issue. He said SLAJ had also not done anything about the official complaints made to them. Police said the matter had been kept in view.
An official complaint by Hawanatu Konneh Fofanah at the CID in December 2021 against an anonymous individual who allegedly attacked her personality on Facebook.	25 December 2021	Hawanatu said there was no headway on the matter and that she decided to move on with her life. Police said the matter had been kept in view.
An alleged ‘assassination attempt’ on journalist Gibril Gottor and his family through a ‘suffocating smell of petrol’ in their house in Kambia, Northern Sierra Leone.	29 April 2022	Gibril Gottor told MRCG that “I am ok and I have taken over my security myself.” In an interview with MRCG, the Police also maintained that they had not yet obtained a witness or evidence to

		substantiate the complaint made by Gibril to support their investigation into the matter, so the matter had been kept in view.
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