



MEDIA FREEDOM REVIEW- DECEMBER 2025

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

In December 2025, MRCG followed up on the intimidation of journalist Lamarana Bah, the alleged threat to journalist Yusuff Moseray Suma, the withdrawal of frequency by the National Telecommunications Authority from **G8 Media Group**, the alleged physical assault of a journalist, the verbal threat against a journalist, the physical assault of a journalist, the murder of a journalist in Waterloo, and the barring of a journalist from entering Sierra Leone's Parliament.

There is no new development on the matter regarding the alleged intimidation of journalist Amadu Lamrana Bah, presenter of the 'Morning Devotion' programme on **Truth Radio**, by Admire Bio on 14 October 2025, following public comments on the devastating impact of "Kush" on Sierra Leone's youth, Kabbah Lavalie, an officer attached to the Cyber Unit at CID and in charge of the investigation, told MRCG that investigation matter was ongoing.

Regarding Yusuff Moseray Suma, the former News Editor and Head of Current Affairs at **Unity Broadcasting Online TV** in Freetown, who was threatened online by an unknown individual during a live broadcast on 22 October 2025, the journalist told MRCG that he had not yet reported the matter to the police. The broadcast concerned the Sierra Leone People's Party's (SLPP) threat to democracy and the SLPP Chairman's statement of political suppression at the party's inaugural ceremony for the new executive.

There is still no new development on the withdrawal of frequencies from **G8 Media Group** by the National Telecommunications Authority (NaTCA). The Co-Owner of **G8 Media**, Thomas Dixon, stated that after engaging with relevant stakeholders, including NaTCA, the Minister of Information and Civic Education – Chernor Bah, and the Chief Minister – Dr. David Senggeh, there has been no positive response. It could be recalled that on 30 July 2025, just days before their planned launch, the President of SLAJ, Alhaji Manika Kamara, said that they were still having an engagement with NaTCA to resolve the pending status of **G8 Media Group**.

There has been no further progress in the case of journalist Foday Fofanah, a camera operator for the **Africa Young Voices (AYV)**, who was allegedly assaulted by armed personnel of the Sierra Leone Police on 21 May 2025 at the Old Road Model Road Junction after intervening in a public incident involving police officers and a commercial motorbike rider during which female street vendors' goods were destroyed. Fofanah expressed concern about the woman's loss. He was physically attacked by the officers and sustained multiple injuries. The Head of Television at **AYV**, Aki Coker, again said that the police had yet to call them as promised. Police said they were waiting for the journalist to help with the investigation.

There was no new development regarding Tejan Sheikh Rogers in December 2025. Tejan Sheik Rogers, lecturer of Milton Margai Technology University who 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 What Sapp number to create and post recorded audios and text messages in a What Sapp group called “Maada must stay campaign” deemed to have damaged the reputation of the university’s Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr. Philip Kanu. The Matter had come up on 11, 13, and 20 June 2025 at the Pademba Road Magistrate Court No.2. On 20 June 2025, Magistrate John Manso Fornah issued a bench warrant for the defendant, Sheik Tejan Rogers, for failing to appear before the court on 20 and 24 June 2025. On 1 July 2025, the accused appeared in court, and Magistrate John Manso Fornah committed the matter to the High Court for further hearing.

There has been no further progress on the matter of journalist Melvin Tejan Mansaray, a member of the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Press Gallery (SLPPG), who, on 10 January 2025, was barred by the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas, from accessing the precincts of parliament based on allegations of “malicious criticism.” The journalist maintained that the Privileges and Ethics Committee of Parliament had tabled the report on his hearing, but no date has been set for debate. The journalist had yet to write the open letter he had promised to President Bio, expressing his dissatisfaction over the lack of progress on his matter. He said his lawyers were reviewing the open letter drafted to President Bio, expressing his dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on his matter.

The matter of journalist Samuel Brima Mattia, Deputy Station Manager of *Voice of Peace and Development (VOPAD) radio FM 96.5*, was heard on 4 December 2025. On 4 December 2025, Abu Bakarr Kargbo, a police investigator, told the court that Joseph M Lamin had admitted to murdering Samuel Mattia to the police and further explained how the murder was done and how the two other accused were involved. Musa Baratay Esq, on behalf of the first accused (Joseph Lamin), rejected the statement of the witness and said that the first accused denied the murder allegations when it was put to him at the CID. He added that there was no evidence to show that the first defendant fought with the deceased at *VOPAD radio*. The matter was adjourned until 11 December 2025, but there was no sitting on the matter on the adjourned date. Justice Mark Ngebga of High Court No 1 adjourned the matter to 15 January 2026. Journalist Samuel Mattia was, on 16 January 2025, allegedly murdered by his Station Manager, Joseph M Lamin, and others in Waterloo, Western Rural of Freetown.

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

MRCG is the coordinating Secretariat for media reform, research and capacity building. It comprises Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), Independent Radio Network (IRN), Guild of Editors (GoE), Women in the Media Sierra Leone (WIMSAL), Sierra Leone Reporters Union (SLRU), Sport Writers Association of Sierra Leone (SWASAL), Mass Communication (Fourah Bay College), Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Independent Media Commission (IMC) and the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC).