



## MEDIA FREEDOM REVIEW- NOVEMBER 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 November 2025, MRCG monitored the police invitation of the Chief Executive Officer of **Born to Blog**. The MRCG also followed up on the following, including, the intimidation of journalist Lamrana Bah-Co-Owner of Truth Media, the alleged threat to journalist Yusuff Moseray Suma-News Editor at **Unity Broadcasting Online TV** in Freetown, the withdrawal of frequency by the National Telecommunications Authority from **G8 Media Group**, an alleged physical assault of a journalist, verbal threat against a journalist, physical assault of a journalist, the arrest and detention of a lecturer for a cybercrime offence, the murder of a journalist in Waterloo, the barring of a journalist from entering Sierra Leone's Parliament, the dismissal and subsequent harassment of a journalist in Makeni and the verbal threat against a freelance journalist in Bo.

Sahr Memphis, Chief Executive Officer of **Born to Blog**, was on 5 November 2025, [invited](#) by the Cyber Unit of the Criminal Investigations Department regarding a post about the disappearance of a container suspected to contain "Kush" at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. According to **Born to Blog**, 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. 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 [apologised](#) 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 **Born to Blog** had made a retraction statement and that the matter had been resolved.

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 the youths of Sierra Leone, Kabbah Lavalie, an officer attached to the Cyber Unit at CID and in charge of the investigation, told MRCG that investigations into the matter were ongoing.

On the matter of Yusuff Moseray Suma, 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, concerning the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) threat to democracy and a statement of political suppression by the SLPP Chairman at their inaugural ceremony for the new executive, the journalist told MRCG that he was yet to report the matter to the police.

Regarding the matter of **G8 Media Group** on the withdrawal of their frequencies by the National Telecommunications Authority (NaTCA) 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**. The Co-Owner of **G8 Media**, Thomas Dixon, stated that after

engaging with the relevant stakeholders, including NaTCA, the Minister of Information and Civic Education, and the Chief Minister, there has been no positive response.

There has been no further progress on 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 for the woman's loss. He was physically attacked by the officers and sustained multiple injuries. The Head of Television at the *AYV*, Aki Coker, said that the police had yet to call them as promised. Police said they were waiting for the journalist to help them with the investigation.

On the matter of 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 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. 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 was, on 10 January 2025, 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*, who was, on 16 January 2025, allegedly murdered by the Station Manager, Joseph M Lamin, and others in Waterloo, Western Rural of Freetown, has begun at the High Court presided over by Justice Mark Ngeba. The matter came up on 13, 20, and 27 November 2025. Magistrate Mustapha Braima-Jah dismissed the no case submission by the defence counsels of the three accused and committed the matter to the High Court.

There has been no further progress on the matter of journalist Umu Thoronka, who was dismissed from work and allegedly attacked and harassed on social media regarding a TikTok [video](#) she posted regarding the contribution of a lady at the Presidential Town Hall Meeting in Freetown on 23 July 2024. The journalist maintained that despite the long wait, she had received no response from IMC and SLAJ regarding her case. She added that she wanted to return to the country to address the issue, but feared for her safety. The IMC still maintains that the matter is under investigation. The President of Women in the Media (WIMSAL), Estina Taylor, told MRCG that no progress had been made regarding their petition to the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on behalf of Umu.



There is still no progress on the matter of Alie Badara, a freelance journalist, who reportedly received verbal assaults and threatening remarks in May 2024, through a phone call from an unknown individual for a Facebook post he had made on the excesses of the police in their fight against the drug called “Kush” in Bo, Southern Sierra Leone. The journalist told MRCG that there was still no positive update on his case. He still maintained that all his efforts to fight for justice had been futile.

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).**