



## MEDIA FREEDOM REVIEW- OCTOBER 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 October 2025, MRCG monitored the online intimidation of a journalist and an alleged threat against another journalist in Freetown. It also followed up on the withdrawal of frequency from **G8 Media Group**, by the National Telecommunications Authority, the 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.

Amadu Lamrana Bah, presenter of the 'Morning Devotion' programme on **Truth Radio**, was intimidated on 14 October 2025 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 occurred after the journalist made a public comment about the devastating impacts of Kush, a dangerous substance destroying the lives and potential of youth. SLAJ stated that in the video where the threat was made against the journalist, a voice in the background issued threats and threw abusive language at Mr. Bah, using despicable and unprintable language. SLAJ and MRCG strongly condemned the alleged threats and insults on the journalist, as the threats were 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 of intimidation or reprisal. Truth Media, in a [public statement](#), said that they had reported the matter to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for investigation. Kabbah Lavalie, an officer with the CID Cyber Unit and the lead investigator, told MRCG that they had received a statement from the journalist and that the investigation was ongoing.

Yusuff Moseray Suma, News Editor at **Unity Broadcasting Online TV** in Freetown, was on 22 October 2025, allegedly threatened online by an unknown individual during a live broadcast. The journalist stated that the topic of discussion during the broadcast was based on the press release of the All Peoples Congress (APC) Party, published on 20 October 2025, concerning 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 Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara, an APC representative, and Moses Mambu, the SLPP Publicity Secretary, to discuss the issue. A commenter on the program stated that the journalist interrupted the SLPP guest in the studio more frequently than the APC representative. The commenter, "Noe Morales," wrote, "We will handle him, and as a journalist, he should be responsible and fair." The journalist told MRCG that he had only reported the matter to SLAJ and MRCG and would report it to the police.

In a follow-up on the matter of **G8 Media Group**, regarding the withdrawal of their frequency 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 engaging with NaTCA on the pending status of **G8 Media Group** to resolve the matter. The Co-founder of **G8 Media**, Thomas Dixon, said he has engaged all relevant stakeholders, including the Minister of Information and Civic Education and the Chief Minister, but was yet to receive a positive response.

On the alleged threat of journalist Kandeh Sesay, Managing Editor of **The Watch Newspaper**, from Anthony Vandy, a member of the First Lady of Sierra Leone, Mrs. Fatima Bio's media team, regarding the alleged corrupt property of the First Lady of Sierra Leone, Fatima Bio, in Gambia on 11 May 2025, the journalist still maintained that he was yet to report the matter to the police.

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 Sierra Leone Police personnel 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 Media Empire, Aki Coker, said that the police had promised to call them and that they were ready to present their two identified witnesses.

On the matter of Tejan Sheik Rogers, a lecturer at Milton Margai Technology University, who appeared in court on 17 March 2025 charged with one count of cyberstalking 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 audio and text messages in a Whatsapp group called "Maada must stay campaign", which was 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, but it has not come up since.

There has been no further progress on the case 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 promised to write an open letter to President Bio expressing his dissatisfaction over the lack of progress on the matter, but he has yet to do so.

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, reportedly murdered by the Station Manager, Joseph M Lamin, and others in Waterloo, Western Rural of Freetown, has been committed to the High Court. Magistrate Mustapha Braima-Jah dismissed the no case submission by the defence counsels of the three accused. The primary suspect, Joseph M Lamin, who police said confessed to the crime, along with two others, was charged in court on two counts of Conspiracy to murder and Murder and had been appearing before the Margistrate Court since July 2025.

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 about the contribution of a lady at the Presidential Town Hall Meeting in Freetown on 23 July 2024, there has been no further progress on it. The journalist informed MRCG 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 matter. He maintained that all his efforts to pursue justice had been futile, adding that he had put his matter on hold as sufficient efforts had not been made to address it.

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).**