The IFJ documented cases of 50 journalists detained or jailed in South Asia from May 2019 to April 2020.

In Afghanistan, ten journalists were arrested or detained for short periods for crimes such as criticism of government or alleged links to the Taliban but most were released within hours after the intervention of media advocacy groups, unions and the joint committee on government and media. In the period, 30 journalists were detained for 24 hours or less, highlighting issues of threat and intimidation to silence journalist reporting in the region.

India again was the region’s leader in detention and incarceration of journalists for longer periods, with ten journalists detained or jailed in the year, compared to eight the previous year, including the ongoing incarceration of Asif Sultan from 2018. Concerningly, a large number of journalists continued to be charged for sharing content on social media platforms, with an overwhelming majority of cases relating to politicians or political media coverage.

Four journalists currently remain behind bars in the region; two in Bangladesh, one in India and one in Pakistan. The case of Pakistan’s Mir Shakil-ur-Rehman remained in news headlines in March and April 2020. The editor-in-chief of the Jang and Geo Media Group was arrested on March 12 on a case dating back 34 years.

Bangladesh still sits on a critical watch list for the IFJ with six journalists detained or in continuing incarceration in the period.

Detainment and arrests increased drastically in Nepal, from four the year prior to 24 in the current period. This was largely a result of police propensity to round up and detain journalists at protests.

Of the 50 detained, at least 10 journalists were released on bail. Nasrullah Chaudhry, who was arrested in Karachi on allegations of carrying journals and booklets about Afghan Jihad and the Punjabi police propensity to round up and detain journalists at protests.

The ongoing incarceration of Asif Sultan from 2018. Concerningly, a large number of journalists continued to be charged for sharing content on social media platforms, with an overwhelming majority of cases relating to politicians or political media coverage.

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IN THE PERIOD, 30 JOURNALISTS WERE DETAINED FOR 24 HOURS OR LESS, HIGHLIGHTING ISSUES OF THREAT AND INTIMIDATION TO SILENCE JOURNALISTS REPORTING IN THE REGION.

JOURNALISTS DETAINED FOR LESS THAN ONE WEEK

• Gawhar Safi (M), 08-10/4/20, Kunar Province, Afghanistan: Arrested for criticizing the Kunar governor’s office about its use of the of the ‘anti-corona’ budget. Released after intervention from media advocacy groups.

• Prashant Kanojia (M), 08-11/06/19, Uttar Pradesh, India: Arrested for sharing a video deemed as ‘defaming’ the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, on Twitter. Released on bail.

• Ghulam Jeelani Qadri (M), 08-27/06/19, Kashmir, India: Arrested over a report on the recommencement of trains in Bandra after it allegedly prompted mass gathering of migrants during the Covid-19 lockdown. Released on bail.

• Rahul Kulkarni (M), 14-16/04/20, Osmanabad, India: Arrested over a report on the recommencement of trains in Bandra after it allegedly prompted mass gathering of migrants during the Covid-19 lockdown. Released on bail.

JOURNALISTS DETAINED 24 HOURS OR LESS

• Nine (9) journalists detained together at a protest in Dhanusha, Nepal – 12/06/19 - RN Biswas (M), Shyam Sundar Yadav (M), Baidhanth Yadav (M), Nabin Kumar Gupta (M), Bhushan Kumar Singh (M), Bindu Yadav (M), Dharmapal Raut (M), Gopal Gupta (M), Parish Kama (M).

• Asadullah Samim, Paktika, Afghanistan, 23/07/19 (M)

• Sajan Saud, Pokhara, Nepal – 02/08/19 (M)

• Nine (9) journalists detained together at a protest in Kathmandu Nepal – 16/09/19 – Ram Prasad Dahal (M), Ajaya Babu Shiwalker (M), Jamnadev Jaisi (M), Yar Pradesh Sharma (M), Min Barm (M), Dilip Paudel (M), Chatra Kuarav (M), Yogendra Balayar (M), Prakash Bahadur Barm (M).

• Six (6) journalists from Taleem-Ul-Islam radio arrested for alleged links to the Taliban in Farah, Afghanistan, 25/09/19 – Noorul Haq Mazhari (M), Bismellah Amin (M), Habibullah Amin (M), Abdul Qahar Hanif (M), Abdullah Taeb (M), Mohammadullah Imran (M).

• Abdul Rahim Sekandari, Khost, Afghanistan, 02/10/19 (M)

• Habib Kamran, Khost, Afghanistan, 02/10/19 (M)

• Kamran Yousuf, Kashmir, India – 16/02/2020 (M)

• Gawhar Safi, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, 08/04/20 (M)

Job: Freelance journalist
Location: Andaman, India
Accusation: Freelance journalist Zubair Ahmed is arrested and taken to Aberdeen police station for his tweet asking why a family has been put under quarantine for a phone call with Covid-19 quarantine patients. Police charged Zubair under the Disaster Management Act for obstruction, disobedience and the publishing of information that may cause alarm to the public.
Status: Released on bail on April 28, 2020

Nepal
Name: Khem Thapaliya
Gender: Male
Detained: August 10, 2019
Job: Editor-in-chief, Jaljala
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
Accusation: Police arrested Thapaliya for alleged involvement in the outlawed Chand-led Nepal Communist Party after the party was declared a criminal outfit by the government and all its activities banned in March 2019.
Status: Released on August 26, 2019.

Names: Rabi Lamichhane & Yubaraj Kandel
Gender: Male
Detained: August 15, 2019
Job: Journalists, News24
Location: Chitwan, Nepal
Accusation: Lamichhane and Kandel were arrested for their alleged connection to the suspicious death of journalist Shalikram Pudasaini, who was found hanging in a hotel of Chitwan on August 5. The journalist had accused them and others for the suicide in a video that was said to be taken by Pudasaini before killing himself.
Status: Released on bail on August 26, 2019.

Name: Om Bahadur Hamal
Gender: Male
Detained: December 11, 2019
Job: Journalist, Nai Baat
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
Accusation: Hamal was arrested on the allegations of carrying journals and booklets about Afghan Jihad and the Punjabi Taliban. The items were said to include materials that help sow disharmony on sectarian grounds and motivate people to take part in jihad. The charge-sheet alleged Chaudhry had links with al-Qaeda leader Khalid Mukshi.
Status: Acquitted by the Siddh High Court on April 9, 2020.

Sri Lanka
Name: Mohammed Rizvi Maharoo
Gender: Male
Detained Date: May 27, 2019
Job: Journalist
Location: Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka
Accusation: Maharoo was arrested on suspicion regarding the possession of 326 CDs alleged to contain sermons and other publicity material of the National Thowheed Jamath, which was accused of carrying out the Easter Sunday attacks in April 2019.
Status: Released on bail after one week.

Pakistan
Name: Agha-ul Haq Wahid
Gender: Male
Detained: January 16, 2020
Job: Reporter, Channel Five TV & Khabrain
Location: Karachi, Pakistan
Accusation: Wahid was detained for criticising the Pakistani government for comments on Facebook, that were alleged to be ‘anti-state’ and defamatory, including comments against former military general Pervez Musharraf. He was also accused of sharing an offensive version of Pakistan’s national anthem on social media.
Status: Released on bail on March 26, 2020.

Name: Nasrullah Chaudhry
Gender: Male
Detained: August 23, 2019
Job: Editor, janasanchar.com
Location: Pokhara, Nepal
Accusation: Charged with sedition for allegedly supporting the banned Communist Party of Nepal led by Netra Bikram Chand.
Status: Released on September 10, 2019.

Name: Jitendra Maharjan
Gender: Male
Detained: April 9, 2019
Job: Editor, Nhuu Jwoloppa
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
Accusation: Police arrested and charged Maharjan under crimes connected to state and organised crime. He was alleged to have close relations with the Netra Bikram Chand-led Communist Party of Nepal, which was branded a criminal outfit by the government in March 2020.
Status: Released on bail on April 30, 2019.

in the period, 30 journalists were detained for 24 hours or less, highlighting issues of threat and intimidation to silence journalists reporting in the region.
MEDIA RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA BY JOURNALISTS’ SAFETY INDICATORS (JSI)
MAY 1, 2019 – APRIL 30, 2020

IFJ-SAMSN violations monitoring is undertaken by the IFJ Asia-Pacific, together with IFJ affiliates in South Asia. IFJ mapping provides specific categorisation of violations of journalists’ rights across the region by UNESCO Journalists’ Safety Indicators (JSIs). These indicators are further categorised by IFJ classifications.

SOUTH ASIA VIOLATIONS BY JOURNALIST SAFETY INDICATORS (JSIs)
1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 19
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 80
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 65
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 16
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 35
6. ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 4
TOTAL: 219 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS:
A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 52
B. ATTACKS/THREATS AGAINST FREELANCERS: 2
C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 81
D. DEFAMATION CASES/THREATS: 4
E. DISAPPEARANCES: 2
F. GENDER-BASED ATTACKS: 8
G. LEGAL CASES: 3
H. LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT CONTROLS: 8
I. ONLINE ATTACKS/INTERNET SHUTDOWNS: 9

Notes: Internet shutdowns for the purpose of monitoring are recorded as an attack on the media. Intimidation and harassment are considered threats to journalists. The shutdowns recorded here indicate those where IFJ has issued statements. A more detailed listing of shutdowns is recorded on the IFJ Shutdown Listing. Arrests and jailing are listed under threats to journalists but further detailed under the IFJ indicators above.

AFGHANISTAN
1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 11
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 19
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 25
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 3
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 80
TOTAL: 86 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS:
A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 11
B. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 48
C. GENDER-BASED ATTACKS: 5

THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS
May 9, 2019: Puli Khumri (C)
Ismail Sadat, from Sima radio, is threatened by armed men.

May 19, 2019: Takhar (C)
Irfan Bazgar and Shafiqlallah Poya journalists of Salam Watanand radio and Khoshid TV are threatened by the provincial commander of Takhar for sharing news without coordination with the commander.

December 2, 2019: Logar (C)
Matullah Sarwar, manager of Paiwand Milli radio, is threatened by Shahpor Hasanzai, a member of parliament from Logar.

December 7, 2019: Uruzgan (C)
Sharifullah Sharafat, reporter with Azadi radio, is threatened by local scholars for publishing a report about an unregistered madrassa in Uruzgan province.

December 15, 2019: Nangarhar (C)
Hamid Ahmadzai, a reporter with Enekaas Radio, is threatened by provincial commander of Nangarhar. Local officials provided temporary security.

January 18, 2020: Kabul
Najib Payman, the editor-in-chief of radio and television channel Music Afghanistan, receives threats over the telephone.

January 18, 2020: Badghis (C)
Sayed Abdul Rahim, editor-in-chief of Haniza Radio, is threatened by unidentified men. A protection plan is put in place.

January 27, 2020: Farah (C)
Mohammad Ibrahim, a reporter for Uroj TV; Ahmad Shah Fikrat, editor-in-chief of Dunya Radio; and Hamidullah Hamidi, editor-in-chief of Neshad Radio receive death threats over the telephone.

May 15, 2019: Semangan (C)
Abdul Rahman Saeed, a journalist with Shahrwan radio in Samangan province, is insulted by the assistant governor.

June 18, 2019: Kabul
Photographer and comedians Naweed Nayel, Qudratullah and Qais, of Malwand and Khoshid TV, are beaten by the locals of Mir Bacha Kot district of Kabul after they were accused of insulting and humiliating a number of elders in a program.

July 4, 2019: Nangarhar (C)
Mikaal Farooqi, a reporter for the Farhat news agency, is assaulted and threatened by police soldiers while trying to film. While trying to film a protest at the Pakistan embassy, a police soldier grab the journalist and deletes his images and footage. He is also prevented from interviewing visa clients.

July 11, 2019: Takha (C)
Journalists are prevented from entering a prison in Takhar province during a prison strike. Prison authorities say this to prevent injuries.

July 23, 2019: Herat (C)
A publisher for Baran radio, Asadullah Samim, is arrested by the National Directorate of Security (NDS).

July 23, 2019: Balkh (C) (F)
Rahima Yazdani, a reporter for the Afghan Women Awareness Association (AWAA), is insulted by the assistant governor.

August 4, 2019: Kabul
Reporter Omid Nabizada and videographer Navid

May 9, 2019: Puli Khumri (C)
Ismail Sadat, from Sima radio, is threatened by armed men.
Corona budget.

August 20, 2019: Zabul (C) Abdul Gayom Ajez, a reporter in Zabul, is insulted and humiliated by the director of women’s affairs.

August 31, 2019: Kabul Members of the media are insulted by Roohullah Ahmadzai, a spokesperson of the vice governor office, who is also head of the Afghanistan Journalists’ Protection Committee.

September 3, 2019: Samangan (C) Journalists are verbally abused by guards of the vice governor office, who is also head of the Afghanistan Journalists’ Protection Committee.

September 14, 2019: Kunduz (C) Faiz Muhammad and Qudratullah Rezwan, of Warangi local radio, are insulted by unknown people.

September 25, 2019: Farah (A) (C) Six employees of Taleem-Ul-Salam radio station are arrested by National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces on charges of alleged links to the Taliban. Twelve computers, nine telephones and three recorders are searched. They are released after 12 hours with no charges laid or evidence found.

September 28, 2019: Parwan (C) Maqbool Noori, a reporter from Salam Watandar radio, is insulted and humiliated by the brother of the head of the provincial assembly.

September 29, 2019: Helmand (C) Journalists Abdul Aziz Safdari (Sheen Hava news agency), Safetullah Zahidi (Salam Times), Abdullah Hamim (Tolo News), Rafullah Pashtoon (Zhwandontv), and Abdul Wali Tawhidli (Melma local radio) are insulted by the chief of police of Helmand Province.

October 2, 2019: Khost (A) (C) Abdul Rahim Sekandari, a reporter for Salam Watandar, and Habib Kamran, a reporter for Sahar news, are arrested by National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces on charges of weakening the system and insulting the president.

November 7, 2019: Takhar (C) Nazeebullah Nazari, manager of Mahe Naw TV, is insulted during an address by the governor.

December 6, 2019: Balkh (C) Yaqoob Azorda, a reporter from Tamodon TV, is insulted by the director of Balkh University.

March 12, 2020: Kabul Zahra Rahimi, a reporter for Tolo News, is insulted by local police in the second police district.

March 12, 2020: Samangan (C) Local radio reporters Shamsudin Merzai, Shahudin Bawar and Mahboob Al Rahmani Sahi, are insulted by local government officials.

April 8, 2020: Kunar (A) (C) Gawhar Saft, the editor-in-chief of Zula Radio, is arrested by National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces under the orders of the Kunar governor for criticizing his performance on the use of the anti-Corona budget.

May 13, 2019: Faarab (C) Muhammad Ayub Amini, a photographer at Ayena TV, is beaten by members of National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces.

May 25, 2019: Jalalabad (C) Imran lemar, a journalist of Mazal local radio station, is injured by unknown assailants and is admitted to hospital intensive care with serious injuries.

June 2, 2019: Kabul Journalists Jawed Kargar and Muhammad Faseh Moaadak kel on Al Jazeera TV, are wounded while reporting on an attack for which ISIS claimed responsibility. The perpetrators were killed in an operation by security forces.

July 4, 2019: Nangarhar (A) (C) Michael Farooqi, a reporter of Farhat news agency, is beaten and insulted by the police. Farooqi is arrested but the case is dismissed.

August 28, 2019: Uruzgan (C) Reporter Muhammad Nisam Watandost is beaten by a soldier for the national army in Uruzgan.

August 30, 2019: Kabul Farid Toghi, of Uzbek News at Noor TV, is beaten in Kabul. The attackers are arrested.

September 27-29, 2019: National – Afghanistan (C) At least three journalists are attacked during the fourth round of Afghanistan’s presidential elections held on September 28. Rahmatullah Nikzad, a reporter for Al Jazeera TV, is injured when a bullet hit him in his leg in Ghazi province on September 27, a day before the election. Ahmad Rahman Hamad, of Kawoon Ghag Radio, is wounded in an attack on September 28 in Baghlan province. On September 29, journalist Maqbool Noori, of Salam Watanda is threatened verbally attacked and his phone confiscated.

November 7, 2019: Kabul Jarnesh Yama Amin, the manager of Keshwar news agency, is beaten by a police officer while preparing a report on an election rally.

November 30, 2019: Lashkar Gah, Helmand (C) A roadside bomb seriously injures Sardar Mohammad Sarwari, a reporter with Shamshad TV, who is travelling in a military convoy from Lashkargah to Marjah. Sarwari sustains severe injuries to his head and leg from a Taliban attack on the convoy. Sardar is one of three civilians injured in the attack. Two security officials are also killed.

December 11, 2019: Farah (C) Qubudulla Kohi, a reporter from the Pajhwak news agency, is kidnapped by the Taliban near Farah-Bandkhoy highway.

January 1, 2020: Takhar (C) (F) Musamat Arezu, a reporter for Berlink Radio, is allegedly raped by Mohammad Ehsan. Authorities are investigating the case.

January 1, 2020: Nangarhar (C) A police officer beating and insults five journalists in Nangarhar province.

January 7, 2020: Herat (C) Sunam Nikzad, the host of local TV entertainment program, is injured and police open an inquiry into the case. Sunam Nikzad, was stabbed by two motorcyclists when he left the university at 8 am and tried to cross the public road. The perpetrators fled. The case was pursued by the police.

January 18, 2020: Pakhtia (C) A group of journalists from Shamshad TV, headed by Detsouz Sayed, are abducted by anti-government militants. Local police and intelligence agency officers intervene to rescue the journalists.

January 18, 2020: Herat (C) Female journalists lodge a complaint about lack of security and gender discrimination in a letter to the Afghanisthna Federation of Journalists. An inquiry is instigated.

January 27, 2020: Kabul Fazal Haq Haydari, a program officer at Maaref TV, is threatened over the phone.

February 12, 2020: Kabul Zabihullah Jahnalmal and Bahis Mujadadi, reporters for Tolo TV, are insulted and their recorded videos are forcibly deleted by a guard commander from Afghanistan’s finance ministry.

March 5, 2020: Parwan (C) A group of journalists for various media outlets are forced to leave the office of Shah Wali Shahed, a deputy for Parwan governor. Shafiq Qasimi. A freelance journalist is directly insulted by the Parwan governor.

March 5, 2020: Ghor (C) Reporters in the province are insulted by members of the health department of the province.

March 6, 2020: Uruzgan (C) Noor Rahim Afif, editor-in-chief of Kayhan Radio in Kunduz province, is kidnapped nearby 10 km from the city by the Taliban.

March 8, 2020: Kunduz (C) Mohammad Esa Qalarny, reporter for National TV, is abducted by the Taliban. He is released the following night.

March 12, 2020: Kunduz (C) Noor Rahim Afif, editor-in-chief of Kayhan Radio, is abducted by the Taliban and later released.

May 11, 2019: Kabul (F) Mina Mangal, parliamentary adviser and former journalist is shot dead on May 11 in Kabul on her way to work. Mangal, who served as television presenter for more than 10 years, was working as an adviser to the Cultural Commission of Wolesi Jirga when the incident happened. She had received death threats in the months preceding her murder.

KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS

January 7, 2020: Herat (C) Sunam Nikzad, the host of local TV entertainment program, is injured and police open an inquiry into the case. Sunam Nikzad, was stabbed by two motorcyclists when he left the university at 8 am and tried to cross the public road. The perpetrators fled. The case was pursued by the police.

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March 5, 2020: Ghor (C) Reporters in the province are insulted by members of the health department of the province.

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March 8, 2020: Kunduz (C) Mohammad Esa Qalarny, reporter for National TV, is abducted by the Taliban. He is released the following night.

March 12, 2020: Kunduz (C) Noor Rahim Afif, editor-in-chief of Kayhan Radio, is abducted by the Taliban and later released.
June 9, 2019: Zabul (C)
Sakhi Baloch, a technical assistant of the National Radio Television in Zabul province, is abducted by unknown people on his way home. He is found dead the next day in Qalat city.

July 1, 2019: Kabul (F)
Abdul Rauf Eymal Zay, a security guard of Shamshad TV, is shot dead while another seven Samshad TV workers are injured in a car bomb explosion. The guard was shot dead as he walked onto the street where Afghan security forces and foreign troops were deployed. Five men and two women media workers from Shamshad TV were injured in the car bomb attack which is reported to have been targeting defence and government offices in the area. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast.

July 12, 2019: Gardiz (C)
Editor-in-chief for Radio Gardez Ghar, Nader Shah Sahebzadeh, disappears after leaving his home in Gardiz city to visit a friend. His body is found the next day. The case was investigated and the person accused of the murder is prosecuted.

September 24, 2019: Kundahar (C)
Abdul Hamid Hotaki, a political talk show host at the Hewad independent public media group, is critically injured in an explosion near the campaign office of President Ashraf Ghani, in the southern city of Kundahar. He dies from his injuries the next day. Afghanistan’s Interior Ministry blamed Taliban militants for the attack. Hotaki was on his way to pick up medicine from a clinic when he was caught in the bombing. The explosion also killed three other people, including a child. Seven others were wounded in the blast.

January 1, 2020: Lashkar Gah, Helmand (C)
Safar Mohammed Atal, a technical worker at Samoun Radio, goes missing. His body is found the next day in Safyan area of Lashkar Gah. The motive of the murder remains unknown.

OTHER THREATS AGAINST JOURNALISTS

May 26, 2019: Jamalpur (C)
Mustafa Monju, Kaler Kantho’s Jamalpur correspondent is attacked and seriously injured in an attack by a group of people while investigating the use of forged documents for land registration at the Sadar sub-register office. The attack is allegedly led by the ward councillor of Jamalpur 2 and stamp vendor Hasanuzzaman Khan Runu.

December 13, 2019: Dhaka (A) (H)
Police in Dhaka arrest Abdul Asad, editor of Daily Sangram, after the newspaper referred to Abdul Quader Molla hanged over crimes committed during Bangladesh’s 1971 war of independence, as a “martyr”. A case is filed under the Digital Security Act.

January 5, 2020: Jamalpur (C)
Samsar radio is suspended due to security threats by the Taliban in Ghazni province. After the crime management department intervenes, the radio recommences operation.

April 8, 2020: Daikundi (C)
Mirza Hassan Subhani Allah, a member of the provincial council, threatens to close down Aftab Radio and Radio Rasana following a news report on the mismanagement of the budget for fighting Covid-19.

January 18, 2020: Baghlan Province (C)
Arman Shahr Radio faces security threats. The local police develop a plan to protect the radio station.

February 9, 2020: Kabul
After a series of threats directed at Afghanistan’s independent media, the Taliban issues a statement against the media portal khabarial.com, signed by the spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahed. After the Taliban’s statement, 80 per cent of khabarial.com staff quit their jobs because of the ongoing punitive Taliban threats.

BANGLADESH

1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS - 0
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 6
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 7
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 1
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 5
6. ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 1

TOTAL: 20 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS:

A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 5

C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 5

E. DISAPPEARANCES: 2

F. LEGAL CASES: 1

G. LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT CONTROLS: 2

H. ONLINE ATTACKS/INTERNET SHUTDOWNS: 3

NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

May 12, 2019: Mymsensingh (A)
Mohammad Abdul Kaim, the editor of news portal Mymsensinghi is arrested and allegedly tortured in custody. He is released on bail on July 3.

August 3, 2019: Dhaka (E)
Mushfiqur Rahman, a senior reporter of Mohona TV is allegedly abducted after boarding a Mirpur-bound bus from Guishan. The abductors were said to spray a liquid substance on his face and beat him severely. He had earlier received threats for his news coverage.

December 18, 2019: Jamalpur
Shelu Akondo, a correspondent for Bangla Bazar Patrika and Polly Kontho Protidin, is severely beaten and his legs broken by a local leader of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling party. He is attacked with metal bars while on his regular evening walk near the Brahmaputra river.

February 1, 2020: Dhaka
At least nine cases of attacks on journalists and obstruction to reporting are documented during the Dhaka North and South city elections.

June 7, 2019: Dhaka

March 10, 2020: Dhaka
Shafigul Islam Kajol, a photographer and editor of Pakkakhal Shafigul, goes missing after being accused by the ruling Awami League of disseminating false information. A day before his disappearance, Kajol is accused of publishing false information under the Digital Security Act, along with 31 others including Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, the editor-in-chief of the Bangla daily Manab Zamir.

March 13, 2020: Kurigram (A) (C)
Ariful Islam, Kurigram-based journalist at Bangla Tribune, is arrested for alleged possession of 450ml of liquor and 100g of marijuana and sentenced within a few hours by a “mobile court”. He is taken to the Kurigram deputy commissioner’s office and reportedly tortured. He is convicted and sentenced by the mobile court to one year in prison and fined BTD 50,000 (USD 560). His family and members of the media accuse police of convicting him in retaliation to an article on the misuse of power by Kurigram deputy commissioner Sultana Pervin.

April 23, 2020: Narsingdi (C)
Sajal Bhuyan, Narsingdi district correspondent for SA Television is beaten by men wielding batons while collection information at the office of Amigarj Union Parishad chairman Nasir Uddin Khan’s. Sajal was investigating the chairman in connection to the alleged embezzlement of relief rice marked for public distribution to assist Bangladeshi households during the Covid-19 lockdown.
KILLING OF JOURNALISTS
May 22, 2019: Jamalpur
The body of Ishan Ibn Reza Fagun, the sub-editor of the online news portal Priyo.com is found near the railway track in Jamalpur. It is reported that unknown persons beat the journalist to death and dumped his body. The motive for the killing is unknown.

ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS
May 19, 2019: Dhaka (H) (I)
Access to PoriBorton.com is blocked by Bangladesh authorities. The website had earlier received a threat from an incumbent minister to remove a news story or face a shutdown.

December 28, 2019: Bangladesh / Sweden (I)
Access to the Sweden-based investigative journalism website Netra News is blocked for 72 hours after publishing a report alleging corruption by Obaidul Quader, an influential party leader and a minister in the Awami League government. The report alleged the minister had “received a luxury brand watch in exchange for awarding a lucrative contract”.

March 9, 2020: Dhaka (G)
Saifuzzaman Shikhor, ruling party lawmaker for Magura 1, files a case against Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor-in-chief of Manab Zamin daily, its staff reporter Al Amin and 30 others under the Digital Security Act on charge of publishing and sharing of false news.

April 2, 2020: Dhaka (I)
The Bangladesh government blocks domestic connections to BenarNews.org, an online affiliate of Radio Free Asia, for alleged spread of misinformation amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

April 18, 2020: Thakurgaon (C)
Momnul Islam Bhashani, president of Bariadangi upazila Swechchha Sebak League, an associate body of the Awami League political party, files a case against Toufique Imrose Khalidi, the editor-in-chief of bdnews24.com; and Mohiuddin Sarker, acting editor of agonews24.com, for publishing news defaming him and the Awami League. Two local correspondents, Shawon Amin and Rahim Shuvo are also sued by Momnul for sharing the story on Facebook.

ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS
December 13, 2019: Dhaka
Members of Muktijoddho Mancho (Freedom Fighters Platform) and Bangladesh Chhatra League burn copies Daily Sangram and vandalise its Dhaka office for a report referring to Abdul Quader Molla, who was hanged over crimes committed during Bangladesh’s 1971 war of independence, as a “martyr”.

BHUTAN
1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 0
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 0
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 0
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 0
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 0
6. ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 0
TOTAL: 0 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

INDIA
1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 0
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 19
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 8
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 4
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 6
TOTAL: 37 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS:
A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 14
B. ATTACKS/THREATS AGAINST FREELANCERS: 1
C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 3
D. DEFAMATION CASES/THREATS: 4
G. LEGAL CASES: 1
H. LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT CONTROLS: 2
I. ONLINE ATTACKS/INTERNET SHUTDOWNS: 6

OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS
May 2, 2019: Leh (D)
Two BJP leaders attempt to bribe journalists for favourable poll coverage and then threaten them with a defamation suit for “fake propaganda”. The incident is recorded on social media.

June 8, 2019: Uttar Pradesh (A) (B) (D)
Three journalists – freelance journalist Prashant Kanoja and Nacion Live journalists Anuj Shukla and Ishita Singh – are arrested for sharing a video deemed as ‘defaming’ Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

June 24, 2019: Jammu & Kashmir (A)
Ghulam Jeelani Qadri, editor of Daily Afaaq, is arrested in late night raid over a 27-year-old terrorism case. He is later released on bail by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Gowhar Majeed, when police are unable to provide any clear details and specific justification for his arrest.

July 25, 2019: Jammu & Kashmir (A)
Qazi Shibli, news editor of The Kashmiriyat, is arrested after tweeting an official order regarding troop movements in Jammu and Kashmir. He is charged under the Public Safety Act.

August 14, 2019: Jammu & Kashmir
Irfan Malik, of Greater Kashmir, is picked from his residence from Tral in south Kashmir at midnight. He is released after spending one night in custody. No reason is given for his arrest.

September 6, 2019: Uttar Pradesh (A) (C)
Journalist Santosh Jaiswal working with Jansandesh Times is arrested for taking photos and videos of children mopping floors at a local primary school in Azamgarh district.

September 8, 2019: Uttar Pradesh
A complaint against STV Haryana journalist Anoop Khundu is registered by the State Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department official. The complaint states a report aired in July featured an alleged fake video of the warehouse aimed at “spoiling the image of the department and the official.”
During the Covid-19 lockdown, it allegedly prompted mass gatherings of migrants on the recommencement of trains in Bandra after journalists were invited to write about its welfare schemes and offering them money in return. The Journalists Working Journalists Union, says the BJP Government of Raghav Das issued advertisement in various online and print newspapers by inviting articles on its public welfare schemes, wherein 30 journalists were selected to be paid Rs 15,000 (USD 197) each.

November 1, 2019: Delhi (I)
Revelations emerge that several journalists, activists, lawyers and senior government officials have been targeted by Israeli spypware in a hacking spree in May 2019. Those targeted were subject to surveillance for a two-week period until May, when the general election was held.

December 19, 2019: Uttar Pradesh (A)
Journalist Omar Rashid, of The Hindu, is taken to Hazratganj police station with activist Robin Verma and accused and threatened as being part of a group of anarchists who vandalised police property and engaged in violence during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act. He and Verma are released without charge.

February 8, 2020: Jammu & Kashmir
Police summon media workers, Naseer Ahmad Ganie, from Outlook Magazine, and Haroon Nabi, from the news agency CNS, for questioning for allegedly publishing a statement from the banned Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and sharing a post on WhatsApp.

February 16, 2020: Jammu & Kashmir (D)
Kamran Yousuf, a multimedia journalist with NewsClick, is detained by Pulwama police and interrogated for several hours. Yousuf is taken by police van to the office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police where he is accused of running a Twitter account under the name Kamran Manzoor to post a video of Syed Ali Geelani, a pro-Pakistan freedom leader in Kashmir. It is later established to be a case of mistaken identity.

March 23, 2020: Delhi and Hyderabad (H)
Police assault at least four journalists as India begins a nationwide lockdown in efforts to contain the Covid-19. In New Delhi, police stop Naveen Kumar, a reporter with Hindi news channel Aaj Tak. In Hyderabad, three police officers attack Ravi Reddy, the Hyderabad bureau chief for The Hindu, when he asks police to allow him through a barricade on his way home from work. Police in Hyderabad also beat and insult Mendum Srinivas, political bureau chief of Andhra Jyothi, and hit Mohammed Hussain, a reporter for news site Siasat, for alleged lockdown violations while they were returning from work.

April 2, 2020: Delhi and Uttar Pradesh
Police in Uttar Pradesh file a First Information Report (FIR) against The Wire editor, Siddharth Varadarajan, for alleged ‘defamatory’ comments against the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Yogi Adityanath. The police notice requests he appear at the Ayodhya police station, 700 km from his home in Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Yogi Adityanath. The police notice requests he appear at the Ayodhya police station, 700 km from his home in Uttar Pradesh.

April 4, 2020: Osmanabad (A)
Journalist Rahul Kulkarni is arrested over a report on the recommencement of trains in Bandra after it allegedly prompted mass gatherings of migrants during the Covid-19 lockdown.

April 18, 2020: Jammu & Kashmir
Police in Srinagar charge photojournalist Masrat Zahra under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) Zahra for social media posts allegedly promoting “anti-national posts with criminal intention to induce the youth and promote offences against tranquility”. She is summoned to the police station for questioning.

April 19, 2020: Jammu & Kashmir
A First Information Reports (FIR) is filed against special correspondent for The Hindu Peerzada Ashiq over a report. He is summoned for questioning within six hours in police stations located in two different districts.

April 21, 2020: Jammu & Kashmir
Journalist and author Gowhar Geelani is booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act by the Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone for allegedly “indulging in unlawful activities” through social media that was “prejudicial to the national integrity, sovereignty and security of India”. Geelani moved the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to quash the FIR against him.

April 27, 2020: Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A)
Freelance journalist Zubair Ahmed is arrested and taken to Aberdeen police station for his tweet asking why a family has been put under quarantine for a phone call with Covid-19 patients. Police charged Zubair under the Disaster Management Act for obstruction, disobedience and the publishing of information that may cause alarm to the public.

NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

May 6, 2019: West Bengal (C)
Journalists from Newsox, ABP Ananda and Zee News are attacked, allegedly by Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers, during voting in the fifth phase of India’s national elections in seven constituencies in West Bengal. Journalists are physically assaulted and media vehicles vandalised.

September 1, 2019: West Bengal (C)
Police assault several journalists covering violent clashes between supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal. The deputy commissioner of police in Barrackpore, Ajay Thakur, is caught on camera as he hits a journalist. Several other journalists also say they were assaulted during the incident.

February 25, 2020: Delhi
Akash Napa, a journalist with JK 24×7 is shot and at least four other journalists injured during communal unrest in Delhi over the country’s controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Journalists came under attack while covering the communal violence in northeast Delhi over several days from February 23. Attacks are made on journalists Anvind Gunasekar, Saurabh Shukla, Maryiam Alvi and Sushil Rathi. There are also reports of mob members checking the religious identities of journalists covering the protests.

March 4, 2020: Jammu & Kashmir
Police bar two journalists from reporting on an operation in Pulwama district and confiscate their equipment.

March 16, 2020: Tamil Nadu
M Karthi, a reporter with Kumudam, sustains serious head injuries following an attack in Sivakasi. Karthi loses eight teeth after being set upon by two men brandishing iron rods. He had earlier received harassing calls from a minister and others regarding a story. Two men are arrested in connection with the assault.

March 23, 2020: Arunachal Pradesh (I)
Tongam Rina, associate editor of The Arunachal Times, files a FIR with the crime branch after continued online trolling for an article on the alleged rise in cases of wildlife hunting in the state during the Covid-19 lockdown.

March 23, 2020: Mumbai
Serial journalist Ansh Goswami and his wife are attacked by two thugs as they returned home from the Mumbai office of Republic TV. The attackers threw objects at the car and were later caught by his security. The day before, the Congress party and its supporters launched an extensive social media campaign demanding his arrest over his comments criticising party president Sonia Gandhi.

April 24, 2020: Tamil Nadu (A)
Andrew Sam Raja Pandian, founder and chief executive of Simplicity news portal, is arrested on grounds of violating the Epidemic Diseases Act and two sections of the Indian Penal Code. Police allege corruption in food distribution during the Covid-19 pandemic and attempting “to bring a bad name to the state government” and creating unrest among government officials.

KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS

June 19, 2019: Madhya Pradesh (G)
Chakresh Jain, journalist with a Hindi daily, dies after sustaining burns under mysterious circumstances in Madhya Pradesh’s Sagar district. His family accuses agricultural officer Aman Chowdhary and his supporters of setting him ablaze. Jain and Chowdhary had been involved in a legal dispute and the case was in its final stages of hearing when the incident took place.

October 14, 2019: Andhra Pradesh
Journalist K Satyanarayana is stabbed and killed by unidentified assailants, just a month after he was attacked in a separate incident. The 45-year-old worked as a reporter for Andhra Jyothi. He had previously filed a report to police concerning an attack in September. Six persons were arrested.

February 18, 2020: Coimbatore
B Chandrasekar, 36, who worked as a reporter for Captain TV, is killed in a car accident with university student, R Kishore, 19. Both died after the car rammed into a road barrier.

April 21, 2020: Kamataka
Mananthu, 21, of Kannada news channel Public TV, is killed in a road accident in Ramanagara district on his way back to Bangalore from Ramanagara jail after covering a story related to Covid-19.

THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

July 18, 2019: Delhi (H)
Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman imposes restrictions on journalists from accessing the ministry’s office. Journalists are banned from entering the offices in an attempt to control reporting.
July 23, 2019: Delhi (H)
The Government of India introduces two controversial labour codes, namely Code on Wages and the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH). The codes repeal the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and the Miscellaneous Provisions Act of 1955, and the Working Journalist (Fixation of rates of wages) Act, 1958 along with 11 other labour laws. The code on wages is passed by both houses of parliament with the president’s assent to become the Code on Wages Act, 2019. The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) is sent to the Standing Committee on Labour and is submitted its recommendations to both Houses of Parliament in February 2020.

August 16, 2019: Meghalaya
Meghalaya police pressures news portal Northeast Now to remove a news item and disclose its sources. The item dealt with a BJP membership drive.

October 1, 2019: Tripura (H)
The registration of the Daily Desher Katha is cancelled by the Registrar of Newspapers India (RNI) within hours of issuing fresh registration due to a “change of management”.

October 16, 2019: Andhra Pradesh (D) (H)
The Andhra Pradesh government submits a proposal to allow department secretaries to sue media organisations for alleged “false news”. The cabinet of Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh aims to empower secretaries of various departments to file defamation cases against print, electronic, digital and social media.

March 6, 2020: Delhi  (H)
Malayalam-language news channels Asianet News and Media One are banned for 48-hours for alleged “bias” while covering the Delhi protests amidst the climbing death toll. The ministry claims the coverage has potential to “incite violence and pose danger to maintenance of law and order”. The ban is lifted within six hours.

MALDIVES
1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 0
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 0
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 0
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 0
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 3
TOTAL: 3 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS
July 11, 2019: Male
Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) representatives are denied entry as observers at the eighth hearing of Yameen Rasheed’s murder case. The MDN was urging the Criminal Court of Maldives to uphold its obligation to conduct a fair and transparent hearing in line with the Maldivian Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

November 5, 2019: Male
The Maldivian Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment – which regulates the activities of NGOs – announced the decision to shut down the operations of the Maldives Democracy Network. The decision was linked to a 2015 report on radicalisation in the Maldives. The closure came against the backdrop of threats to the MDN’s staff, including its director, Shahinda Ismail, from religious hardliners.

January 2020: Male
Maldives Independent formerly Minivan News suspends operations. The online platform was an influential voice promoting democracy and human rights in the country since 2004. In its wake, Minivan Radio, once anchored from Colombo by exiled journalists, also closed operations ostensibly because the premises had to be vacated. Local associates said that political pressure had been exerted to shut the station down.

NEPAL
1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 3
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 21
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 12
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 0
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 3
6. ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 3
TOTAL: 41 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS:
A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 24
C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 8
F. GENDER-BASED ATTACKS: 1

THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS
September 11, 2019: Kathmandu
Journalist Prahlad Rijal, editor of Arthik Dainik, receives a death threat from Royal Casino operator Bed Prasad Kapri after it published news about conflicts associated with the casino.

April 5, 2020: Khotang
Nepal Congress (NC) Khotang district president, Naresh Kumar Shrestha, issues a death threat to Uttam Chaulagain over a news report on prabhavnews.com about Shrestha’s obstruction of a quarantine facility in Durchhim Village.

April 15, 2020: Kathmandu
Dilip Poudel, a reporter for Alagagarik, is threatened via Facebook and mobile for a story on violence by a houseowner to a female tenant for her frequent hospital visits amid the Covid-19 lockdown.

OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS
April 30, 2019: Kathmandu (A)
Jitendra Maharjan, editor of Nhuug Thojooppa, is released after being charged under crimes
connected to state and organised crime. He is alleged to have close relations with Netra Bikram Chand-led Communist Party of Nepal.

May 22, 2019: Sunsari (C)
Mayor of Itahari in Sunsari district, Dwarkar Lal Chaudhary, verbally abuses journalists after being questioned on his involvement in the physical assault of a district employee.

June 4, 2019: Sunsari (C)
Mayor of Itahari in Sunsari district, Dwarkar Lal Chaudhary, threatens journalist Birat Anupam after being question on why the mayor posted derogatory statements about a journalist on his Facebook page.

June 12, 2019: Dhanusha (A)
Police arrested nine journalists padlocked to the District Post Office, Dhanusha, who were demanding the refund of funds by Dhanusha after it deducted 40 per cent to 100 per cent of the distribution of funds in public service advertisement. Journalists arrested were R N Biswas (Kantipur TV), Shyam Sundar Yadav (Nepal TV), Bairdhyanath Yadav (Avenues TV), Nabin Kumar Gupta (ABC TV), Bhushan Kumar Singh (Radio CPM) and Bindu Yadav (Local Purva Prabhath Daily), Dharmaal Raut (Rajbiraj Today), Gopal Gupta (Biruwa weekly) and Paris Karna (Green Madhesh daily). Later, they were released after an hour of detention.

July 26, 2019. Tanahu
Deputy mayor of the Sukhla Gandaki Municipality in Tanahu verbally abuses journalists Samundra Poudel and Damber Adhikari, editors of Khabarpati Saptayik for a news report on her involvement in the construction of a playground.

August 10, 2019: Kathmandu (A)
Police arrest poet and journalist Khem Thapaliya for his alleged involvement in the outlawed Chand-led Nepal Communist Party.

August 23, 2019: Kaski (A)
Journalist and anti-corruption activist Om Hamal is arrested in the Kaski district. Journalist Hamal, the editor of janasanchar.com, is arrested by security personnel for his alleged association with the Biplab-led Maoist group. Hamal is also known for his anti-corruption investigative reports in the Kaski district.

August 15, 2019: Chitwan (A)
Police arrest two journalists, Rabi Lamichhane and Yuvraj Kandel, in connection with the suspicious death of journalist Shalikram Pudasaini. The arrest came nine days after journalist Shalikram Pudasaini found dead after posting a suicide video message blaming the journalists for driving him to take his own life.

September 16, 2019: Kathmandu (A)
Nine NPU union leaders are detained for protesting against the arbitrary sacking of three journalists from Radio Nepal. Those arrested were including Ajaya Babu Shiwakoti, Ram Prasad Dahal, Jannadev Jaisi, Yami Birahi, Min Bam, Dili Paudel, Chakra Kuwar, Yogendra Balayar and Prakash Bam.

October 4, 2019: Kathmandu (F)
Nepali journalist and union leader Ajaya Babu Shiwakoti receives threats and is put under surveillance after publishing his exclusive report on the alleged rape of a female employee of Nepal’s Federal Parliament by speaker, Krishna Bahadur Mahara.

October 20, 2019: Achham (C)
Kantipur Daily journalist Maneka Dhungana is subjected to online harassment on social media sites after publishing a story on the tender process for the construction of two schools.

November 2, 2019: Kathmandu (I)
Shiva Lamsal, news chief at YoHo Television, is threatened after broadcasting a story on a scandal regarding a patient who died at Blue Cross Hospital in Kathmandu. Lamsal is threatened on social media by the hospital’s administrative representative, Rajat Shrestha.

November 27, 2019: Chitwan
Cadres of ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) abuse journalists, Raju Sapkota, Mahendra Shrestha and Krishna Sunuwar, and delete footage recorded while covering the by-election in Butapur.

December 4, 2019: Saptari
Police raided the house of journalist Abadesh Kumar Jha from the Kantipur Daily in Tilathi Kohiladi village, Saptari.

December 4, 2019: Siraha
A customs office official in Jatahi threatens journalists Santosh Barali Shuvender Das, confiscates their cameras and verbally abuses them after they filmed the officer taking bribes.

February 26, 2020: Kathmandu
Journalist Ajaya Babu Shiwakoti is threatened for exposing various corruption cases involving cabinet ministers. Shiwakoti, the editor of hamarakura.com, is threatened by unknown men following a story about Rs 700 million in commission sought by the sitting minister for communication and information technology, Yuvraj Kandel, for the procurement of printing.

March 26, 2020: Itahari
Journalist Rajan Katwal, of Arena Television, is verbally abused by Dwarkar Lal Chaudhary, the mayor of Itahari sub-metropolitan city, after inquiring about the city’s preparedness to mitigate the impact of Covid-19.

April 22, 2020: Kathmandu
Nepal Republic Media, Avenues Television, Rajdhani daily and Annapurna Media Group fail to pay outstanding journalist salaries dating back several months. Kantipur Media Group (KMG) requests journalists to take unpaid leave but later revokes the decision.

April, 27 2020: Chitwan
Police detained Binodbabu Rijal, the editor of Kayakakaran Daily, and Ajrun Adhikari, of Radio Triveni, for breach of Nepal’s lockdown. They are taken to the quarantine and their photos and videos deleted.

May 9, 2019: Kathmandu
A Bill to Amend and Integrate the Media Council Act is registered by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology with a provision of fine up to NPR 1 million (USD 8,850) for publishing content in violation of the media code of ethics. Section 18 of the bill provides that publishers, editors and/or journalists can be fined for publishing content found to be tarnishing the dignity or reputation of any individual.

NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

May 5, 2019: Kailali (C)
Janak Bista, from Dinesh FM 98.3 in Dhangadi, far-western Nepal, is physically and verbally assaulted by local businessman Tejendra Thapa while covering a story on school rental space. Bista received treatment at the local hospital for his injuries.

June 20, 2019: Bhaktapur (C)
Editor of Salleri News, Dinesh Basnet, is attacked by a group of locals in Lokanthali, Bhaktapur. Basnet sustained serious injuries to the head and other parts of his body and was admitted to Annapurna Neuro Hospital, Kathmandu.

July 3, 2019: Sunkhet (C)
Officials and employees of Sunkhet Valley Drinking Water Consumers’ Organisation are physically and verbally attack journalists Buddh Shankar Thakarki and Narawar Rolkaya and cameraperson, Bhim Parthi, of Deuti HD TV, as they reported on a water dispute.

July 6, 2019: Sindhuuli (C)
Journalists Hom Kumar Kariki and Min Kumar Dahal are beaten by constable Salam Singh Lama for not deleting a video.

August 2, 2019: Kathmandu
Journalist Prakash Chandra Dahal is attacked by an unknown group in Bagbazar, Kathmandu. Dahal, who is an editor of the online portal sancharkhabar.com, is attacked by a group of four people wearing helmets.

September 27, 2019: Banke
Journalist Liyakat Ali is attacked by an unidentified group of people on his way home. The unidentified assailants physically assaulted and seized his mobile phone before fleeing.

December 7, 2019: Kaski
News 24 journalist Prasad Adhikari is physically and verbally assaulted by plain clothes police officers under orders from the Kaski District Police Chief Dan Bahadur Karki after Adhikari reported on police collusion in a gambling operation in Pokhara.

December 10, 2019: Kathmandu
Suman Chapagain, a journalist with the Nagarki Daily, is beaten by police during the reporting of the 13th South Asian Games (SAG) in Kathmandu. Chapagain was taking photos of angry football fans when he was caught in the clashes with police.

December 12, 2019: Sunsari
Journalist Sumeet Kafle is attacked on the pretext of arriving late at a press conference by the press conference organizers. After sustaining injuries to his face, he is admitted to hospital.

December 22, 2019: Banke
Journalist Sangeen is seriously injured in a physical assaulted by two unidentified assailants.
December 28, 2019: Kathmandu (H)
Nepal’s parliamentary committee passes the Information Technology Bill that includes provisions to impose fines of up to Rs 1.5 million (over USD1,200) or jail terms up to five years for posting content on social media that the government deems a threat to the “country’s sovereignty, security, unity or harmony”. The bill also includes mandatory provisions for social media companies to be registered in Nepal.

February 18, 2020: Kathmandu (H)
The Embassy of China in Nepal threatens action against media companies to be registered in Nepal.

April 12, 2020: Kailali (C)
A group of seven people including Santosh Mudhbari, the ward chairperson of Dhangadi Sub-Metropolitan city in Kailali district, picket Radio Dhandagi offices and attempt to attack journalist Nabaraj Dhanuk after an interview with the chairperson about alleged embezzlement on distribution of relief materials.

May 13, 2019: Parsa
Avenues Television’s office in Birgunj is vandalised by unidentified masked youths. Windows, doors and a camera are damaged in the attack. Activists from Samajwadi Party-Nepal (SPN) are reported to be behind the vandalism.

March 30, 2020: Kathmandu
The prime minister’s IT consultant, Asgar Ali, allegedly hacks into online portal kathmandupress.com and deletes a news item about collapse of the prime minister’s aides and relatives in the controversial procurement set of rules.

April 27, 2020: Kathmandu
State-owned Radio Nepal takes down an interview with former prime minister, Dr Baburam Bhattarai, from its online archive after pressure from the government. The interview was critical of the current government and prime minister, KP Sharma Oli. Radio Nepal also issues a press release apologizing for language used by the former leader and the views expressed.

Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf leader Masroor Siyal assaults Imtiaz Khan Faran, president of Karachi Press Club during a live TV broadcast on K21 News on June 24, 2019. CREDIT: TWITTER

Pakistan

1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 2
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 5
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 5
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 4
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 8

THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

December 29, 2019: Kathmandu (H)
Nepal’s parliamentary committee passes the Information Technology Bill that includes provisions to impose fines of up to Rs 1.5 million (over USD1,200) or jail terms up to five years for posting content on social media that the government deems a threat to the “country’s sovereignty, security, unity or harmony”. The bill also includes mandatory provisions for social media companies to be registered in Nepal.

May 7, 2019: Pakistan (I)
Pakistan journalists critical of the government and military are targeted by hate-speech campaigners on social media platform Twitter. The social media hashtag #ArrestAntiPakJournalists begins spreading on July 4, following a tweet by an account claiming to be the leader of a group called Imran Khan Warriors (derived from the name of Pakistan’s Prime Minister).

December 21, 2019: Karachi (A)
The Anti-Terrorism Court of Pakistan convicts journalist Nasrullah Chaudhry for allegedly possessing banned literature and spreading religious hatred. He is handed down a five-year sentence and Rs 10,000 fine (USD 64).

January 16, 2020: Lahore (A)
Azharr-ul Haq Wahid, a reporter for Channel Five TV and the newspaper Khabrain, is arrested for posting “anti-state” content on Facebook under article 11 and 20 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act.

March 12, 2020: Islamabad (A)
Mir Shakil ur Rehman, editor-in-chief of the Jang and Geo Media Group is arrested following an investigation by the NAB into allegations that property purchased 34 years earlier. He is arrested despite a ruling by the Islamabad High Court that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had acted in violation of the law and even their own set of rules.

NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

June 24, 2019: Karachi
Imtiaz Khan Faran, president of Karachi Press Club, is punched and pushed off a chair by a ruling party politician during a live TV broadcast. Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf leader Masroor Siyal launched the assault during their appearance as panelists on the live talk news program News Line with Aftab Mugheri on K21 News.

July 8, 2019: Sargodha (C)
Shaik Rizwan, a journalist working for Sargodha Khabrain in Sargodha city, 185 km from Islamabad is beaten up by local land grabbing mafia.
July 8, 2019: Khushab (C)
Bashir Malik, a local journalist with 24 News in Khushab, is beaten and threatened with death by local thugs.

July 23, 2019: Faisalabad
Mohammad Tayyab and Ali Raza, two reporters of Channel 24 News, are brutally beaten by a group of lawyers and their accomplices in Faisalabad. The journalists are picked up by a group of lawyers and taken to an undisclosed location before being beaten after a broadcast about a police attack on journalists on July 20.

October 22, 2019: Pakistan Administered Kashmir
Several journalists are injured after police attack the Muzaffarabad Press Club. Local police raid the press club during a media briefing by the Jammu Kashmir People’s National Alliance (JKPNA). Police fire tear gas shells, use batons and destroy journalists’ recording equipment in the raid.

KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS

September 12, 2019: Punjab
Journalist Zafar Abbas, who had been missing since September 7, is found dead. Abbas, who worked for 7-News, was on his way home from work late at night when he was kidnapped. He is found in a dry well at Mauza Kali Shah in Punjab.

November 25, 2019: Lahore (F)
Urooj Iqbal, a female journalist, is shot dead by her husband. The crime reporter was allegedly killed by her husband for not agreeing to quit her job. According to the police report, the 27-year-old journalist who worked for an Urdu daily, was entering her office located in central Lahore, when her husband, Dilawar Ali, fatally shot her in the head.

February 16, 2020: Sindh
Aziz Memon, a journalist with Kawai Television Network (KTN) TV and Sindhi-language daily Kawai is found dead in an irrigation channel in Mehrapur in Southern Sindh. The body of 56-year-old Memon was recovered with wire wound around his neck.

February 25, 2020: Swat Valley (C)
Javedullah Khan, the 36-year-old bureau chief for Urdu newspaper Afsaf, is gunned down in Matta, 40 km northwest of the Swat Valley. He died on the spot when two gunmen opened fire on his vehicle. According to reports, Khan’s relatives were targeted for their involvement in anti-Taliban peace committees formed to help defend villages from militant atrocities.

April 29, 2019: Kasur
Local journalist Saeed Qasir Inphool Nagar is found hanging in the Kasur district, 40 km from Lahore. It’s alleged that the murderers tried to prove it was suicide. The journalist had been missing since April 27.

SRI LANKA

1. THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS – 3
2. OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS – 10
3. NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS – 8
4. KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS – 0
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 5
6. ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 0
TOTAL: 26 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS:
A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 2
B. ATTACKS/THREATS AGAINST FREELANCERS: 2
C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 14
F. GENDER-BASED ATTACKS: 1
H. LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT CONTROLS: 3

OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS

May 9, 2019: Colombo (A)
A journalist from Thinakaran newspaper is detained for carrying newspaper cuttings that feature the leader of the National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ), the terrorist group accused of having carried out the Easter Sunday attacks in which 258 people were killed.

May 13, 2019: Colombo (A)
Journalist Mohammed Rizvi Maharoo is arrested for possessing speech notes, promotional videos and a CD featuring the NTJ.

June 16, 2019: Colombo (C)

THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

July 1, 2019: Islamabad (H)
An interview with Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan’s lawmaker from Sindh Province and former president, is taken off air within minutes of commencing broadcast on Geo News. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) orders a halt to the broadcast due to an ongoing investigation by the National Accountability Bureau.

July 6, 2019: Karachi
Television stations, Abb Takk, 24 News HD and Capital TV are taken off air after broadcasting an “unedited live telecast” of an opposition politician. The channels are suspended from cable networks following the broadcast of the speech by the vice president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Maryam Nawaz, recorded at a press conference.

July 21, 2019: Pakistan (H)
Private broadcaster Geo News is forced off air and its channel frequency abruptly changed in many parts of the country during Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to the US from July 21-23. Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) issues the block order without notice or explanation.

September 17, 2019: Pakistan (G) (H)
The Pakistan government announces a plan to introduce media courts to regulate the press. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Information, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, announces the plans for special tribunals and media regulatory bodies without consultation with the media.

October 27, 2019: Pakistan (H)
Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) bars television anchors from giving opinions during the talk shows. The also directive instructs media houses to select the guests in talk shows with utmost care.

February 8, 2020: Pakistan (H) (I)
The Pakistan government passes strict controls over digital content creators. The Consultation on Regulating the Web TV & Over the Top (OTT) Content Services seeks to regulate online content creators and imposes license fees up to PKR 10,000,000 (USD 65,000).

January 28, 2020: Pakistan
Pakistan’s federal cabinet approved Citizens Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules 2020 which requires social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok to establish offices in Pakistan. The bill empowers the national coordinator of the ministry of communications to fine social media companies up to PKR 500,000,000 (USD 3,240,000) if a company refuses to comply.

March 13, 2020: Pakistan (H)
PEMRA orders cable operators to block GEO TV broadcasts or move the channel to last on the list of channels in retaliation for the network’s coverage of the arrest on March 12 of its editor-in-chief Mir Shakilur Rahman.

August 12, 2019: Gampaha (C)
Sisira Kuruppu, a correspondent with Sinhala language daily Divayina is threatened with death by three local politicians after reporting a clash between politicians over their business dealings.

December 10, 2019: Colombo
Maduka Thakshala Fernando, former editor of the Digital and New Media (Lake House) and founder of popular social media page ‘Madyawediya is attacked and threatened with death by the president of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) trade union. Maduka Thakshala Fernando made a police complaint about the incident.

January 10, 2020: Colombo
Mulleriyawa Police in the Central Province refuses to record a death threat complaint of Nimanthi Ranasinghe, a court correspondent for Lankadeepa. The police officer turned the journalist away when Ranasinghe refused to reveal her source of threat.


July 21, 2019: Kandy
Journalist M N Aminullah from Lake House is blocked by security personnel from covering a Sri Lankan Air Force Commander's visit to a Buddhist monastery.

August 4, 2019: Sri Lanka (H)
Palani Digambaram, the minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development threatens journalist K Prasanna for an article in Tamil Thinakkural on alleged irregularities under the ministry.

January 19, 2020: Jaffna (C)
The house of journalist I Rajeskaran, of Tamil Buddhist monastery.

August 4, 2019: Sri Lanka (H)
Sri Lankan Air Force Commander's visit to a Buddhist monastery.

Journalist M N Aminullah from Lake House is blocked by security personnel from covering a Sri Lankan Air Force Commander's visit to a Buddhist monastery.

January 19, 2020: Jaffna (C)
The house of journalist I Rajeskaran, of Tamil Buddhist monastery.

August 4, 2019: Sri Lanka (H)
Sri Lankan Air Force Commander's visit to a Buddhist monastery.

Sri Lankan police threaten the family members of the Tamil correspondent of the Guardian S Nilanthan after forcibly entering his home. Nilanthan is summoned to the police station the next morning. Police refuse to provide reasons for seeking Nilanthan's arrest. On January 8, he appeared in court and was released on bail.

January 23, 2020: Batticaloa (C)
Leaflets threatening to kill seven Tamil journalists are left at the Batticaloa Press Club and a nearby bus stop in Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka. The leaflets said: “Beware! Beware! These are the reporters who received money from the Tigers abroad and acting against the state. We will soon execute them.” The pamphlet contains pictures of all seven journalists attending the memorial of murdered journalist Lasantha Wickrematunge.

February 4, 2020: Trincomalee (C)
Journalist W G Roshan Kumara is threatened by Ariwathi Galappathi, a local politician and bus company owner while covering a bus accident.

March 2, 2020: Vavuniya (C)
The director of Tamil language newspaper Vavuniya Daily Mirror and his wife are attacked by club-wielding assailants. Around 10 to 15 men armed with clubs are alleged to have attacked the journalist and his wife in their home the Kulutara District. Both victims sustained head injuries in the attack believed to be associated with Thushitha’s investigative report on the manufacture of illegal alcohol. At least five suspects are arrested for the attack.

December 20, 2019: Puttalam (C)
Video and print journalist Prasad Jayamanne is attacked while photographing a protest by villagers against illegal sand mining in Mukku Thoduwawa area in Maduranukkiliya. A person in a truck transporting sand attacked the journalist and damaged his camera.

Threats Against Media Institutions

May 28, 2019: Mullaitivu (C)
Police officer in charge of the Kokkilai police station in Mullaitivu verbally and physically abuses K Kumanan, a Tamil Guardian journalist after he took photographs of the repainting and removal of CCTV footage in a temple. The officer snatched his camera, deleted photographs and physically assaulted the journalist who was covering a dispute at the temple.

August 13, 2019: Bopiliya (B)
Anne Ranaweera, a freelance journalist for the Catholic newspaper Gnanartha Pradeepaya, is assaulted by police at the Pamunuwama Police Station. The police dragged Ranaweera out of her home and took her to a police station. No reason was given for the detention and assault.

September 3, 2019: Jaffna (C)
Thillainathan Shobithan, a Tamil journalist with Virakesari, is summoned in relation to an article quoting a disappeared activist who had commented on the oppression of Tamils.

September 5, 2019: Kilinochchi (C)
Jinasena Rathugamage, a senior Sinhala journalist in Vavuniya is interrogated by Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) for six hours for allegedly threatening national security after reporting on the arrest of Kilinochchi’s Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) for alleged links to terrorist activities.

November 1, 2019: Kathankudy (C)
Batticaloa based journalist Mohamed Saji, of Vasantham TV, is assaulted by an unidentified group. The group also threatened Irfan Mohamed, the manager of Vasantham TV. Following the attack, he was hospitalised.

November 14, 2019: Galle (B)
Three unidentified assailants with firearms attack Lasantha Wijeratna, a freelance journalist and anti-corruption activist in his home. Wijeratna sustains injuries including severe lacerations to his hand and is admitted to the intensive care unit in Karapitiya Hospital. It is reported as a retaliatory attack for his reporting on alleged acts of corruption committed by Gota parliamentary candidate.

November 22, 2019: Vavuniya (C)
Sri Lankan police visit and interrogate Sakthivelpillai Prakash, the editor of the Vavuniya-based Tamil newspaper Thinakural. The police demand details of all reporters and correspondents at the publication.

November 26, 2019: Colombo
Police search the premises of NewsHub.lk after receiving a complaint that the company possessed defamatory material targeting a presidential candidate. A team of around 10 police from the Mirihana police station arrived at its premises with a search warrant and checked computer servers, laptops and PCs.

November 28, 2019: Colombo (C)
Sri Lanka's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) summons digital journalists Dhanushka Sanjaya, from The Leader, and Thushara Vitharana, from VoiceTube, for interrogation. Neither is informed of the reason for the summoned, which is required by Sri Lankan law. It is believed to be related to a complaint made by a pro-Sinhalese organisation.
# Internet Shutdowns Recorded in South Asia
## The Three Biggest Shutdowns in South Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Service Impacted</th>
<th>Justification</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-Jul</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>FATA</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Ongoing All</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Communal violence, armed clashes, militants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Aug</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Kashmir Valley</td>
<td>Ongoing Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Revocation of Kashmir's semi-autonomous status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Sep</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Cox Bazaar</td>
<td>Refugee Camps</td>
<td>Ongoing Mobile</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Refugee protests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total Internet Shutdowns or Online Controls Recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Shutdowns</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>82</td>
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## Internet Shutdowns by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Shutdowns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN</td>
<td>DATE</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>1-Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>2-Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>5-Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>5-Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>8-Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>16-Jul</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>17-Jul</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>18-Jul</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>19-Jul</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>25-Jul</td>
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<td>27-Jul</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>30-Jul</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>8-Aug</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>13-Aug</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>25-Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>11-Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>9-Nov</td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>10-Nov</td>
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<td>10-Dec</td>
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<td>63</td>
<td>10-Dec</td>
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<td>64</td>
<td>11-Dec</td>
</tr>
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<td>65</td>
<td>12-Dec</td>
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<tr>
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<td>13-Dec</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>18-Dec</td>
</tr>
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<td>19-Dec</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>20-Dec</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>22-Dec</td>
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<td>72</td>
<td>22-Dec</td>
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<td>73</td>
<td>27-Dec</td>
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**BANGLADESH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>SERVICE IMPACTED</th>
<th>JUSTIFICATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>2-Sep</td>
<td>Cox Bazaar</td>
<td>Refugee camps</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Refugee protests</td>
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<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>10-Sep</td>
<td>Cox Bazaar</td>
<td>Refugee camps</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Refugee protests</td>
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<td>74</td>
<td>31-Dec</td>
<td>Selected</td>
<td>Districts bordering India</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Security concerns regarding India's citizenship law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PAKISTAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>SERVICE IMPACTED</th>
<th>JUSTIFICATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Since June, 2016</td>
<td>FATA</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>National Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>Kashmir</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Protests against India's revocation of Kashmir's special status</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>7-Sep</td>
<td>Kashmir</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Protests against India's revocation of Kashmir's special status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>8-Sep</td>
<td>Selected</td>
<td>Faisalabad, Multan, Lahore, Karachi &amp; Islamabad</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Protests against India's revocation of Kashmir's special status</td>
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</table>

**SRI LANKA**

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<th>DAYS</th>
<th>SERVICE IMPACTED</th>
<th>JUSTIFICATION</th>
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<td>National</td>
<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>False News</td>
<td>Controls imposed because of terrorist bombings of hotels and churches</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>13-May</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>False News</td>
<td>Terrorist bombings of churches</td>
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