JOURNALISTS DETAINED IN SOUTH ASIA
(MAY 1, 2019 – APRIL 30, 2020)

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, 29 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.

India documented cases of 10 journalists detained, including three in April 2020. 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 Taliban on December 11, 2019, was acquitted by the Sindh High Court on April 9, 2020.

JAIRED JOURNALISTS - CURRENTLY IN JAIL
BANGLADESH
Name: Aarif Islam
Gender: Male
Detained: March 13, 2019
Job: Journalist, Bangla Tribune
Location: Kurigram, Bangladesh
Accusation: Islam was charged and convicted with alleged possession of 450ml of liquor and 100g of hemp by a mobile court after a midnight raid. The court sentenced him to one year in prison and a fine of BDT 50,000 (USD 650).
Status: Currently in jail.

INDIA
Name: Aasif Sultan
Gender: Male
Detained: August 27, 2018 (Sultan was held in police lock-up from August 27 until being formally arrested on August 31)
Job: Assistant editor, Kashmir Narrator
Location: Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India
Accusation: Sultan was charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an anti-terror law which has come under sharp criticism for curtailing freedom of expression. The journalist was charged for publishing a feature story in July 2018 on the second anniversary of the death of the young Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani, a killing that sparked months of strife on the streets.
Status: Currently in jail.

PAKISTAN
Name: Mir Shakil-ur-Rehman
Gender: Male
Detained: March 12, 2020
Job: Editor in chief, Jang & Geo Media Group
Location: Karachi, Pakistan
Accusation: Rehman was arrested following an investigation by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) into allegations that a property he purchased 34 years prior had been bought illegally. Jang & Geo Media Group is one of the largest media groups in Pakistan and is famous for its critical investigations of Pakistani politicians.
Status: In solitary confinement in a NAB facility. Yet to be formally charged.

JOURNALISTS JAILED FOR MORE THAN ONE WEEK
BANGLADESH
Name: Mohammad Abdul Kaimun, Gender: Male
Detained: May 12, 2019
Job: Editor, Mymensinghive
Location: Mymensingh District, Bangladesh
Accusation: Kaimun, a journalist and IT professional, was arrested for illegally carrying US dollars and dealing in currency exchange. He was detained after he allegedly received US currency for a provided IT service to a client who was a relative of a member of parliament for the ruling Awami League. He was charged with digital/electronic fraud and for publishing or sending of offensive, false or fear inducing or defamatory information.
Status: Released on bail on July 3, 2019

INDIA
Name: Anuj Shukla (M) & Ishita Singh (F)
Gender: Male & Female
Detained: June 8, 2019
Job: Journalists, Nation Live News
Location: Uttar Pradesh, India
Accusation: Shukla and Singh were arrested for sharing a video on Twitter which was deemed to defame the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath. The video contained claims made by a woman against the minister.
Status: Released on bail on June 19, while Shukla was released on bail on July 21.

Name: Qazi Shiblani
Gender: Male
Detained: July 25, 2019
Job: Journalist, Jansandesh Times
Location: Uttar Pradesh, India
Accusation: Shiblani was arrested after tweeting an official order regarding the deployment of paramilitary troops across the Kashmir region that allegedly leaked crucial details about imminent troop movements in Jammu and Kashmir. He was charged under the Public Safety Act.
Status: Released on April 23, 2020.

Name: Santosh Jaiswal
Gender: Male
Detained: September 6, 2019
Job: Photographer, Jansandesh Times
Location: Uttar Pradesh, India
Accusation: Shukla and Singh were arrested for sharing a video on Twitter which was deemed to defame the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath. The video contained claims made by a woman against the minister.
Status: Released on bail on June 19, while Shukla was released on bail on July 21.

Name: Zubair Ahmed
Gender: Male
Detained: April 27, 2020

TOTAL JAILED OR DETAINED:
Currently in jail: 4
Detained for more than one week: 13
Detained for less than one week: 4
Detained for one day or less: 30
Women jailed: 1
TOTAL: 51

TOTAL JAILED OR DETAINED BY COUNTRY IN SOUTH ASIA
Afghanistan: 10
Bangladesh: 3
Bhutan: 0
Nepal: 24
India: 10
Maldives: 0
Pakistan: 3
Sri Lanka: 1
IN THE PERIOD, 29 JOURNALISTS WERE DETAINED FOR 24 HOURS OR LESS, HIGHLIGHTING ISSUES OF THREAT AND INTIMIDATION TO SILENCE JOURNALISTS REPORTING IN THE REGION.

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, Nai Baat
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: Reporters, Chain Five TV & Khabrain
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
Accusation: Police arrested Lamichhane and Kandel 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.

Job: Freelance journalist
Location: Chitwan, Nepal
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

Job: Freelance journalist
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, Nhujo Jwojoloppa
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

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: December 11, 2019
Job: Journalist, Nai Baat
Location: Karachi, Pakistan
Accusation: Chaudhry 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 Mukishi.
Status: Acquitted by the Sindh High Court on April 9, 2020.

SRI LANKA
Name: Mohammad Rizvi Maharoof
Gender: Male
Detained Date: May 27, 2019
Job: Journalist
Location: Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka
Accusation: Maharoof 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.

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), 24-25/06/19, Kashmir, India: Arrested for alleged involvement in terrorist and disruptive activities 27 earlier linked with his news agency JAK News. Released on bail.
• Rahul Kulkarni (M), 14-16/04/20, Osmania, 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), Bhalhanath 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 Shiwakoti (M), Jannadev Jaisi (M), Yam Prasad Sharma (M), Min Baram (M), Dilip Paudel (M), Chakra Kuwar (M), Yogendra Balayar (M), Prakash Bahadur Barm (M).
• Six (6) journalists from Taleem-Ui-Islam radio arrested for alleged links to the Taliban in Farah, Afghanistan, 25/09/19 – Noorul Haq Mazhari (M), Bismellah Amini (M), Habibullah Amini (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 Youssuf, Kashmir, India – 16/02/2020 (M)
• Gawhar Safi, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, 08/04/20 (M)
MEDIA RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA BY JOURNALISTS’ SAFETY INDICATORS (JSIs)
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 as 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 indicate those where IFJ has issued statements.

** 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 – 6
5. THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS – 5
TOTAL: 66 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS: **
A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 5
B. ATTACKS/THREATS AGAINST FREELANCERS: 2
C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 48
D. FEMALE JOURNALISTS: 5
E. DISAPPEARANCES: 2
F. GENDER-BASED ATTACKS: 8
G. LEGAL CASES: 3
H. LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT CONTROLS: 8
I. ONLINE ATTACKS/INTERNET SHUTDOWNS: 9

** 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 Shafigullah Poya journalists of Salam Watan radio and Khoshid TV are threatened by the provincial commander of Takhar for sharing news without coordination with the commander.

June 27, 2019: Uruzgan (C)
Sharifullah Sharafat, reporter with Azadi radio, is threatened by the Taliban.

December 15, 2019: Nangarhar (C)
Hamid Ahmadi, a reporter with Enekaas Radio, is threatened by the Taliban.

December 12, 2019: Logar (C)
Matiullah Sarwar, manager of Paiwand Milli radio, is threatened by local scholars for publishing a report about an unregistered madrasa in Uruzgan province.

December 12, 2019: Uruzgan (C)
Abdul Rahman Saeed, a journalist with Maiwand radio, is threatened by the provincial commander of Takhar.

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

** OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS **

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

June 18, 2019: Kabul
Photographer and comedians Naweed Nayel, Qudratullah and Gas, of Maiwand 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)
Mikael 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 Takhara province during a prison strike. Prison authorities say this is to prevent injuries.

July 23, 2019: Balkh (C)
Photographer and comedians Naweed Nayel, Qudratullah and Gas, of Maiwand 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 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)
Rahima Yazdani, a reporter for the Afghan Women Awareness Association (AWAA), is insulted by the head of Salam Telecommunications and a company guard. She directs her complaint to the crime management office.
NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

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

May 25, 2019: Jalalabad (C)
Imran Ismar, 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 Mobawakil of Azad news agency and kilid local radio station, 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 Feroqoi, a reporter of Farhat news agency, is beaten and insulted by the police. Feroqoi is arrested but the case is dismissed.

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

August 30, 2019: Kabul
Farid Taghi, 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 At Jazeera TV, is injured when a bullet hit him in his leg in Ghazi province on September 27, a day before the election. Abdul 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 Watandar is threatened verbally attacked and his phone confiscated.

November 7, 2019: Kabul
Jarshed 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 (A)
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: Faryab (A)
Qubudin Kohi, a reporter from the Pajhwak news agency, is kidnapped by the Taliban near Faryab-Andkhoy highway.

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

January 1, 2020: Nangarhar (C)
A police officer beats 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 motorcycle 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 Detouz Safi, are abducted by anti-government militants. Local police and intelligence agency officers intervene to rescue the journalists.

January 18, 2020: Herat (C) (F)
Female journalists lodge a complaint about lack of security and gender discrimination in a letter to the Afghanistan 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
Zahibullah Janhmal 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 8, 2020: Kunduz (C)
Noor Rahim Atif, editor-in-chief of Kaihan Radio in Kunduz province, is kidnapped nearly 10 km from the city by the Taliban.

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

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. Shayeq 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: Urguzan (C)
Sharifullah Shariff, a reporter for Radio Azadi, receives a death threat from local mullahs.

March 6, 2020: Kabul
Kabul News TV’s reporter Mansour Nikmal and cameraperson Najim Sultani are wounded when members of the Islamic State attack a commemorative event in Kabul when the ceiling at the program venue collapses after IS gunman open fire in the hall. At least 32 people were killed and another 58 civilians wounded in the attack.

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

KILLINGS OF JOURNALISTS

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.
June 9, 2019: Kabul (C)
Sakhi Baloch, a technical assistant of the National Radio Television in Kabul 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 Eynal 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 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 Sahebzadah, 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 personal accused of the murder is prosecuted.

September 24, 2019: Kandahar (C)
Abdul Hamid Hotaki, a technical worker at the Hewad independent public media, is murdered in an attack by a group of people while was traveling to work in Kandahar, which is considered as one of the main centers of the ongoing punitive Taliban threats.

October 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 working. The attack is allegedly led by the ward councillor of Jamalpur 2 and stamp vendor of the local police station.

November 1, 2019: Dhaka (E)
Sutirtha Bhowmik, a news editor at the Bangladesh Press Foundation, is attacked in his office. He is later found dead in Dhaka city. The motive of the murder remains unknown.

** IFJ INDICATORS: **
- ARRESTS/JAILING: 5
- ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 5
- DISAPPEARANCES: 2
- LEGAL CASES: 1
- LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT CONTROLS: 2
- ONLINE ATTACKS/INTERNET SHUTDOWNS: 3

** THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS **

** 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

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. Media workers across Dhaka from Agami News, Bangla Daily, The Daily Star, Banglaxion TV, Press Bangla Agency, Bangladesh Partidin, Business Standard, Poriborton.com, Jugantor Daily, Daily Nayadiganta and Daily Inquilab are assaulted at polling booths. Some journalists are denied entry into polling stations. Dipon Dewan, of Banglavision Television, is barred from entering polling booths at Uttara High School.

March 10, 2020: Dhaka
Shafiqul Islam Kajol, a photographer and editor of Pakkhakal Shafiqul, 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 Zamin.

March 13, 2020: Kurigram (A) (C)
Artif 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 BDT 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 Bhuiyan, Narsingdi district correspondent for SA Television is beaten by men wielding batons while collection information at the office of Amiring 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.

THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

May 19, 2019: Dhaka (H) (I)
Access to Portborton.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 Metra 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)
Sailuzzaman Shiktor, ruling party lawmaker for Magura 1, files a case against Matur 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)
Mominul Islam Bhashani, president of Baliaadangi 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 Mominul for sharing the story on Facebook.

ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

December 13, 2019: Dhaka
Members of Mukti joddho 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 TO 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 Nation 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 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 the deployment of paramilitary troops that allegedly leaked crucial details about imminent troop movements in Jammu and Kashmir. He is charged under the Public Safety Act.

August 14, 2019: Jammu & Kashmir (A)
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 Jansansh 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) (C)
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.”

Journalist leaders join a protest rally in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka about ongoing violations against the journalists community in Bangladesh. CREDIT: BMSF.
September 20, 2019: Jharkhand
Evidence is revealed of the Jharkhand government efforts to influence media reports by inviting journalists to write about its welfare schemes and offering them money in return. The Jharkhand Working Journalists Union, says the BJP government of Raghuvar 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 (US$ 197) each.

November 1, 2019: Delhi (I)
Revelations emerge that several journalists, activists, lawyers and senior government officials have been targeted by Israeli spymare 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 Newslckr, 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 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 Hindu 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 Munde Srinivas, political bureau chief of Andhra Jyothy, 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 Delhi despite a nationwide Covid-19 lockdown.

April 14, 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) for social media posts allegedly promoting “anti-national posts with criminal intention to induce the youth and promote offences against tranquillity”. 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 Newox, ABP Andana 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 TMC supporters. The police chief of West Bengal arrested, taking 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 Arvind Gunasekar, Saurabh Shukla, Maryam Alavi 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 bat two journalists from reporting on an operation in Pulwama district and confiscate their equipment.

March 3, 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.

April 23, 2020: Arunachal Pradesh (I)
Tangam 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.

April 23, 2020: Mumbai
Senior journalist Ashok 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 criticizing 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 Chowdhry and his supporters of setting him ablaze. Jain and Chowdhry 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 Jyothy. 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
Hanumanthu, 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 also barred 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 “fake 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

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: 20
C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 8
F. GENDER-BASED ATTACKS: 1

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 (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).

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 exile 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.

OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS

April 29, 2019: Kathmandu (A)
Jitendra Maharjan, editor of Nugu. Arojiloppa, is arrested and 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, Dwarka 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, Dwarka Lal Chaudhary, threatens journalist Birat Anupam after being questioned 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), Baidhyanath Yadav (Avenues TV), Neoh Kumar Gupta (ABC TV). Bhushan Kumar Singh (Radio CPM) and Bindu Yadav (Local FM) were including Ajaya Babu Shiwakoti, Ram Chandra Lama, Dhan Bahadur Lama and Krishna Sunuwar. Delays and legal action with the Biplab-led Maoist group. Hamal is also 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 Lamsls, 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. Lamsl 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 Biratnagar.

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

December 4, 2019: Siraha
A customs office official in Jatahlal 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 hamrakura.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, Gokul Banskota, for the procurement of printing.

March 26, 2020: Itahari
Journalist Rajan Katwal, of Arena Television, is verbally abused by Dwarki 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 Annuparna 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 Kayakarian Daily, and Arjun 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 Lokhantali, 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: Surkhet (C)
Officials and employees of Surkhet Valley Drinking Water Consumers’ Organisation are physically and verbally attack journalists Buddha Singh Thakuri and Nawaraj Rolkaya and cameraperson, Bhim Parjyari, of Deuti HD TV, as they reported on a water dispute.

July 6, 2019: Sindhuuli (C)
Journalists Hem Kumari Karri 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 Nagarik 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
News 24 journalist Santosh Kaffe 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 assault by two unidentified assailants.
December 27, 2019: Humla
Journalist Narajung Tamang is manhandled by an employee of Prabhu Bank Ram, Jung Shahi, and another person Jagdish Hamal when returning home from work after a report in Nayapatrika Daily on the distribution of subsidized rice by the Nepal Food Corporation.

January 7, 2020: Dhanusha
Three journalists - Amarkanta Thakur, Subhas Karna and Raja Jha - are attacked by supporters of the mayor of Janakpurdham Sub-Metropolitan City, Lal Koshore Shah after they asked the mayor questions about the encroachment of land belonging to the Janaki Temple.

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.

February 18, 2020: Kathmandu (H)

April 12, 2020: Kailali (C)
A group of seven people including Santosh Muddhbari, 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.

ATTACKS ON MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

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 31, 2020: Kathmandu
The prime minister’s IT consultant, Aagor Ali, allegedly hacks into online portal kathmandupress.com and deletes a news item about collusion of the prime minister’s aides and relatives in the controversial procurement of medical supplies from China to fight against Covid-19.

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

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

TOTAL: 20 VIOLATIONS RECORDED

** IFJ INDICATORS:
A. ARRESTS/JAILING: 3
C. ATTACKS/THREATS ON RURAL, REGIONAL OR MINORITY JOURNALISTS: 3
F. GENDER-BASED ATTACKS: 1
G. LEGAL CASES: 1
H. LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT CONTROLS: 1

December 27, 2019: Islamabad
A group of people protest against Dawn newspaper outside the newspaper’s Islamabad office. The three-hour protest turned violent with demonstrators threatening Dawn staff. The demonstration was in response to a Dawn report on Usman Khan, a UK national of Pakistani origin, who was convicted in the UK for engaging in acts of terrorism. Protestors called for the hanging of Dawn editor Zafar Abbas.

March 3, 2020: Stockholm (E)
Pakistani journalist Sajid Hussain is reported missing in Sweden. Hussain, who fled the country in 2012 to escape death threats, was granted political asylum in Sweden. There are fears that he was abducted at the behest of a Pakistani intelligence agency over his reports on organised crime in Pakistan.

OTHER THREATS TO JOURNALISTS

May 24, 2019: Rawalpindi
Jang reporter Shahid Sultan’s home in Rawalpindi is stormed by police at 2.30 am. Shahid’s two sons’ bedroom door is broken and they are brought out of the room by gunpoint by police officers. Shahid is also held at gunpoint.

July 5, 2019: Pakistan (I)
Pakistani 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)
Azhar-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.

12 March, 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 Insaaf leader Masroor Siyal launched the assault during their appearance as panellists on the live talk news program News Line with Aftab Mugheri on K21 News.

July 8, 2019: Sargodha (C)
Shaikh Rizwan, a journalist working for Sargodha Khubrain 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
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 25, 2020: Swat Valley (G)
Javedullah Khan, the 36-year-old bureau chief for Urdu newspaper Ausaf, 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 Qaisar 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.

-threat 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)
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.

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)
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)
On January 19, 2020, Prasanna for an article in Tamil Thinakkural.

January 20, 2020: Batticaloa (C)
The house of journalist I Rajeskaran, of Tamil newspaper The house of journalist I Rajeskaran, of Tamil newspaper Valampuri, is ambushed and vandalised by a group of unidentified men in Mannipay.

January 20, 2020: Batticaloa (C)
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 Sakthivelpillai Prakash, and his wife are summoned by Sri Lanka’s Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) following the paper’s coverage of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, where Sri Lanka withdrew co-sponsorship of a resolution on accountability.

NON-FATAL ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

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: Bopitiya (B)
总线员 Anne Ranaweera, a freelance journalist for the Catholic newspaper Nirantha 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 5, 2019: Kilinochchi (C)
Thillainathan Shobithan, a Tamil journalist with a Vavuniya newspaper, is summoned, which is required by Sri Lankan law. It neither is informed of the reason for the summons, which is required by Sri Lankan law. It is believed to be related to a complaint made by a pro-Sinhalese organisation.

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: Trincomalee (C)
Batticaloa based journalist Mohamed Saji, of Vasantha TV, is assaulted by an unidentified group. The group also threatened Irfan Mohamed, the manager of Vasantham TV, 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.

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 Gotabaya Rajapaksa during his tenure as Sri Lanka’s former secretary of defense.

December 6, 2019: Vavuniya
Thuthika Kumara de Silva, a correspondent for Sri Lanka’s 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 Thuthika’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 Muku Thoduwawa area in Madurankuliy. A person in a truck transporting sand attacked the journalist and damaged his camera.

THREATS AGAINST MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

May 29, 2019: Colombo
Sri Lanka media are barred from reporting the live proceedings of the Parliament Select Committee (PSC) investigating the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka in April 2019. The PSC’s proceedings were initially open to the public, but the telecast was later suspended due to political interference.

November 22, 2019: Vavuniya (C)
Sri Lanka police visit and interrogate Sakthivelpillai Prakash, the editor of the Vavuniya-based Tamil newspaper Thinapuya. 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 Dhanshika Sanjaya, from The Leader, and Thushara Sithara, from VoiceTube, for interrogation. Neither is informed of the reason for the summon, 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

## May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020

### The Three Biggest Shutdowns in South Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINCE</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>10-Sep</td>
<td>BANGLADESH</td>
<td>Cox Bazaar</td>
<td>Refugee Camps</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>National Security</td>
<td>Refugee protests</td>
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</table>

### Total Internet Shutdowns or Online Controls Recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Shutdowns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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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</table>

### 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>
</tbody>
</table>

### SN | DATE | STATE | AREA | DAYS | SERVICE IMPACTED | JUSTIFICATION | DETAILS |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3-May</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>South Kashmir</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
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<td>Killing of a militant in an encounter between government forces and militants</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Pulwama</td>
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<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Shopian</td>
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<td>Barak Valley</td>
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<td>12-May</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Bandipora</td>
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<td>Clashes with militants</td>
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<td>16-May</td>
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<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<td>16-May</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Search operation for militants and clashes</td>
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<td>Assam</td>
<td>Sopore</td>
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<td>Gunfight between militants and security forces</td>
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<tr>
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<td>31-May</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>Kendrapara</td>
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<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
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<td>Gunfight between militants and security forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>8-Jun</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
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<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
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<td>Gunfight between militants and security forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>9-Jun</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Basirhat</td>
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<td>To prevent rumours on social media following communal clashes</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>10-Jun</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Aligarh</td>
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<td>11-Jun</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>11-Jun</td>
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<td>Anantnag</td>
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<td>Mobile</td>
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<td>14-Jun</td>
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<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Precautionary measure to prevent spread of rumours on death anniversary of founder of Ummat-e-Islami (UeI), Mirwaiz Qazi Nissar Ahmad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
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<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Precautionary measure to prevent spread of rumours on death anniversary of founder of Ummat-e-Islami (UeI), Mirwaiz Qazi Nissar Ahmad</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
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<td>North 24 Parganas</td>
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<td>23-Jun</td>
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<td>Shopian</td>
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<td>28-Jun</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Badgam</td>
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<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Gunfight between militants and security forces</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>30-Jun</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Budgam</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
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<td>Gunfight between militants and security forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>SN</td>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>AREA</td>
<td>DAYS</td>
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<td>JUSTIFICATION</td>
<td>DETAILS</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>1-Jul</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Meerut</td>
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<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Communal violence</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>2-Jul</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Japur city, Rajasthan state</td>
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<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Prevent violence due to spread of rumours after a seven year old girl was raped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>5-Jul</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Meerut</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>Public Safety</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>5-Jul</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Shopian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Encounter between security forces and militants</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>8-Jul</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>South Kashmir</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Preventive in view of third death anniversary of militant Burhan Wani, from terrorist group Hizbul Mujahideen</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>16-Jul</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Udaipur</td>
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<td>Clashes over a murder</td>
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<td>Gunfire between militants and security forces</td>
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<td>Udaipur</td>
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<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Anantnag</td>
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<td>None</td>
<td>Search operation for militants launched</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>25-Jul</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Asansol</td>
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<td>Fake News</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>27-Jul</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Precautionary measure in the wake of massive search operation</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<td>8-Aug</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Mobile and broadband</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Block protests against revocation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution which gave special status to J&amp;K</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>13-Aug</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Jaipur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<td>25-Aug</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Sawai Madhopur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Preventative measure after communal violence</td>
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<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>Jehanabad</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Communal violence</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>9-Nov</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Preventive measure ahead of Ayodhya Verdict</td>
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**2016**

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**2017**

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**PAKISTAN**

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**SRI LANKA**

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Cover Photo: Activists from the Free Media Movement (FMM) hold candles and placards during a vigil organised to pay tribute to journalists killed while doing their jobs, in Colombo on January 28, 2020. Credit: LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI / AFP