

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2018



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

KEEPING POWER IN CHECK:
MEDIA, JUSTICE AND
THE RULE OF LAW

PROGRAMME

Dates:

1-4 May 2018

Venue:

Kempinski Hotel
Gold Coast City Accra



#WorldPressFreedomDay
#PressFreedom



PRE- AND POST- WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY EVENTS

30 APRIL AND 1&4 MAY, ACCRA, GHANA

IREX events

Organizer: IREX

Date: 1 May

Contact: Lilian Makokha (lماكوكها@irex.org; cc wpfd@unesco.org)

Type of event: Open for professionals working in the area of Journalism/Media Safety/Human Rights

Introduction to SAFE - Brief introduction of the SAFE Program (15 mins)

SAFE Analogy of Journalist Safety - Introduction to journalism safety in a holistic and integrated approach using simple and engaging techniques to enhance engagement, ownership and implementation of training. (45 mins)

Journalism Safety Planning - Integrated practical approach to educating on the importance of planning and its critical importance in playing a key preventative measure in reducing media freedom infringements and/or risks and threats. (1 hour)

Self-Awareness and its relation to journalist safety - The importance of being self-aware as a journalist and its relation to safety and how it is connected to other elements of safety i.e. from digital safety to physical safety. A practical sessions shall be conducted to create awareness of their psychosocial well-being and connect it to safety related topics. (1 hour)

Annual meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's IPDC

Organizer: UNESCO / International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

Date: 30 April - 1 May

Type of event: Closed

Contact: wpfd@unesco.org

The 62nd IPDC Bureau Meeting serves as a platform for the Bureau to assume full responsibility for project selection, approval and allocation of funds from the Special Account, and plans the organization of work of the Council session.

Authors/Journalists' Rights in Africa

Organizer: Ethical Journalism Network (EJN) / Federation for African Journalists (FAJ)

Date: 1 May

Venue: Kempinski Hotel

Type of event: Open for journalists, media practitioners, editors and media owners

Contact: Chris Elliott and Gabriel Baglo: chris.elliott@ethicaljournalismnetwork.org, gabriel.baglo@africanjournalists.org, wpfd@unesco.org

Roundtable on "Authors/Journalists Rights in Africa" to discuss the issue of copyright, share experiences and raise awareness of authors'/journalists rights in Africa.

Workshop on Safety of Women Journalists

Organizer: Embassy of Norway in Accra, Norwegian Union of Journalists

Date: 30 April to 1 May

Venue: Ghana International Press Center

Contact: Eva Stabell (eva.stabell@nj.no; cc wpfd@unesco.org)

Type of event: Closed

Reports on attacks and harassment against female journalists have increased worldwide. Surveys and stories told have also shown that the newsroom is a place of vulnerability for women journalists. Gender-based discrimination at work can be reduced when women have the tools to stop harassment and discrimination. Knowledge about women's rights and international law is also useful in journalism. And all journalists reporting from protests, unrest and conflict zones need to know about safety rules and how to protect themselves.

Since 2015, The Norwegian Union of Journalists has trained journalists in Africa to organize workshops for their female colleagues in Safety and Equality. The training - funded by the Norwegian MFA - is done in alliance with the International Federation of Journalists and in cooperation with our African sister unions. Currently, more than 1000 journalists have attended the Safety and Equality workshops.

Special Mechanism for Media Freedom in the Arab World

Organizer: MedMedia Programme and International Federation of Journalists

Date: 1 May

Venue: Kempinski Hotel, Palm Jumeirah meeting room

Contact: Sarah Bouchetob (sarah.bouchetob@med-media.eu, monir.zaarour@ifj.org, cc: wpfd@unesco.org)

Type of event: Banquet with buffet (invitation) and a panel discussion (Open with invitation)

Existing intergovernmental mechanisms for freedom of expression vary in terms of mandate, structure and resources. With the support of MedMedia, an EU-funded programme, the IFJ launched a discussion on the development of a Special Mechanism for Media Freedom that responds to the needs, constraints and legal framework of the Arab region.

A comprehensive consultation process was carried out in this context, bringing together experts, media organizations, journalists' leaders, regulatory authorities and representatives from national human rights centers across the Arab World, to give their insight on the mechanism's technical proposal and the Declaration for Media Freedom in the Arab World, a ground-breaking charter which sets out 16 key principles aimed at promoting the highest international standards of media freedom and protecting journalists' rights.

The Declaration was launched following a 20-month open consultation process on World Press Freedom Day 2016 in Casablanca, with the support of over 100 delegates representing a wide range of groups from across the Arab World and global organisations, including the UNESCO (cf. final statement). Since then, the initiative has been given wider support, including from Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHR). Six Arab countries have formally signed its Declaration: Palestine, Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan, Morocco and Mauritania.

This meeting will discuss the methodology for an annual review to be developed in the context of this initiative, a background paper clarifying the Declaration's key principles and the state of play of the initiative.

Moderator: Monir ZAAROUR, IFJ Arab World and Middle East Policy Director & MedMedia expert

Speakers:

- Sylvie COUDRAY, Chief, Section for Freedom of Expression, UNESCO
- Younes M'JAHED, IFJ Senior Vice President, SNPM General Secretary & MedMedia expert
- Réal BARNABÉ, Team Leader, MedMedia
- Toby MENDEL, Director, Centre for Law and Democracy
- Ammar el-DWAIK, Director of the Independent Human Rights Commission (IHRC) in Palestine and member in the Arab Network of Human Rights Institutions (ANHRI)

West Africa Regional Convening of MFWA and National Partners

Organizer: Media Organization for West Africa (MFWA) with support from Open Society Foundation (OSF)

Date: 1 May

Contact: wpfd@unesco.org

Type of event: Closed

Over the course of the last decade, the media landscape and conditions of press freedom in West Africa have changed rapidly. A vast array of trends manifested itself within the region, ranging from the growing access and influence of new media technologies to the continued existence and application of restrictive laws in several countries, amongst others. These changes have had a profound effect on journalism, press freedom and the safety of journalists, both positively and negatively.

Press freedom, safety of journalists and the journalistic landscape in West Africa are faced with a myriad of interwoven complex issues. It requires deeper analysis and introspection among the press freedom and media development community in the region. A better understanding allows for informed strategies in dealing with the prevailing challenges at both national and regional levels.

Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) will convene a regional strategic meeting with the heads of all MFWA national partner organisations from 16 countries. Challenges to press freedom and the safety of journalists in West Africa and how to tackle them will be addressed, with an aim to strengthen partnerships and to share knowledge. A representative of at least one other organisation from outside the region will also be present to share some experience on the issue of safety of journalists from the Eastern Africa perspective.

Vigil for Killed Journalists

Organizer: Ghana Journalism Association (GJA)

Date: 1 May 6:30 PM to 9PM

Venue: Ghana International Press Center

Contact: Linda Asante-Agyei (e-mail to: lindaagyei13@yahoo.co.uk, wpfd@unesco.org)

Type of event: Open (without registration)

This event honours journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty and welcomes foreign journalists. Open to all journalists and other media stakeholders.

Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Forum for Media Development

Organizer: Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)

Type of event: Closed

Lecture/debate on European and international perspectives on press freedom, freedom of expression and access to information: lessons for Ghana

Organizer: University of Ghana Centre for European Studies, EU Delegation to Ghana, Media 4 Democracy

Date: 4 May at 10AM - 1PM

Venue: Law faculty conference hall, University of Ghana

Contact: Caroline Giraud (caroline.giraud@media4democracy.eu , wpfd@unesco.org)

Type of event: On invitation. Priority will be given to Ghana stakeholders.

Participants: Students, Ghana media actors and civil society

The Centre for European Studies (CES), in collaboration with MEDIA4DEMOCRACY presents a public lecture in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day. The debate will be held with international experts and Ghana Civil Society and Media representatives.

Main speaker: Helen Darbishire, Media 4 Democracy. Chairman - Professor Ransford Gyampo, Director, CES



MAIN SCHEDULE

ACCRA, GHANA 2-3 MAY 2018



DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, 2 MAY

■ Adlon Ballroom Full (GF)

■ Adlon Ballroom 2 (GF)

■ Stafford

■ Adlon Ballroom 1 (GF)

■ Adlon Ballroom 3 (GF)

■ Siam

08:30
- 18:30

Registration
(for all participants)

09:45
- 10:30

Opening Ceremony

10:30
- 12:00

Plenary 1

Media under Fire: What are the New Challenges to Press Freedom 27 Years after the Windhoek Declaration? *(French interpretation provided)*

12:00
- 13:30

Lunch Break

Informal meeting of donors

- by invitation only
Organized by Sida

13:30
- 15:00

Parallel Session 1

Covering Elections and Electoral Campaigns: Old and New Challenges in Times of Media Disinformation
ICFJ, STAR Ghana

Parallel Session 2

Joint Session Special Rapporteurs
ARTICLE 19

Parallel Session 3

Joint Launch of the UNESCO Report on "World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development" and the UNESCO Global Report "Re|Shaping Cultural Policies"
UNESCO with the support of Sweden/Sida
(French Interpretation provided)

Academic Conference

Panel A: Digital Media and Journalists' Safety
University of Ghana, UNESCO, University of Sheffield, University of Malaga

15:00
- 15:30

Refreshment Break

15:30
- 17:00

Parallel Session 4

Debate: Does Online Speech need Regulation or Self-regulation?
Deutsche Welle Akademie

Parallel Session 5

Right to Information: How can Freedom of Information Laws Contribute to Sustainable Development in Africa?
World Bank, EU, AFIC
(French interpretation provided)

Parallel Session 6

Artistic Freedom in the Digital Age
UNESCO

Academic Conference

Panel B: Non-State Actors and Journalists' Safety

17:00
- 18:30

Refreshment Break

Parallel Session 7

Flourishing Societies and the Role of Press Freedom
EJC, CIMA, Project Syndicate

18:30
- 22:00

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony & Gala Dinner - by invitation only

DAY 2 THURSDAY, 3 MAY

09:00
- 10:30

Plenary 2

Focus on Investigative Journalism: Uncovering Corruption and Political Malpractice
(French interpretation provided)

Academic Conference

Panel C: Gender, Sexuality, Religion, Conflict and Other Sensitive Issues

10:30
- 11:15

Refreshment Break

11:15
- 12:45

Parallel Session 8

Internet Shutdowns and Service Restrictions – ‘New Tools’ in Restricting the Free Flow of Information?
Access Now

Parallel Session 9

Investigative Journalism: Ethics and Risk Mitigation
IFJ

Parallel Session 10

National Mechanisms for the Safety of Journalists in Africa
UNESCO, IMS
(French interpretation provided)

Parallel Session 11

Towards the Piloting of Internet Universality Indicators
UNESCO

12:45
- 14:15

Lunch Break

Film Screening

‘Courage’
(2018, dir. Tom Heinemann, funded / developed in cooperation with IMS)

JSRN Lunch Meeting

(Closed meeting)
CFOM
(University of Sheffield)

Parallel Session 12

(Closed session)
Fighting Fakes the Nordic way
Nordic Council of Ministers

14:15
- 15:45

Parallel Session 13

Sexual and Gender-based Harassment in the Media Industry
IWMF

Parallel Session 14

Ensuring Effective Safety Protocols for Journalists
Al Jazeera

Parallel Session 15

Ensuring the Rule of Law and Fighting Impunity: What Role for the Judiciary in Enhancing Freedom of Expression in Africa?
UNESCO
(French interpretation provided)

Policy Lab

National Safety Mechanisms for Journalists
UNESCO, GDN, University of Ghana

15:45
- 16:15

Refreshment Break

16:15
- 17:45

Parallel Session 16

Changing the Gaze: Repositioning Africa through Press Photography and Videography
World Press Photo

Parallel Session 17

New Threats to Journalism: Artificial Intelligence, Bots, Trolls
RSF

Parallel Session 18

Promoting Journalists’ Safety and Countering Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists in Africa
MFWA
(French interpretation provided)

Film Screening

‘City of Ghosts’
(2017, dir. Matthew Heineman)
Q&A with Feras Hanosh and Hussam Eesa (Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently)

Policy Lab

18:30
- 19:30

Closing Session: Adoption of the Accra Declaration

20:00
- 22:00

Closing Dinner - by invitation only (venue: Mövenpick Hotel Restaurant)
Sponsored by Al Jazeera

PLENARY SESSION 1

MEDIA UNDER FIRE: WHAT ARE THE NEW CHALLENGES TO PRESS FREEDOM 27 YEARS AFTER THE WINDHOEK DECLARATION?

TIME AND VENUE

10:30 - 12:00, 2 May
Adlon Ballroom

FORMAT

Panel discussion
(French interpretation provided)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nnenna Nwakanma
Senior Policy Manager, World Wide Web Foundation

SPEAKERS

Stephen Dunbar
President International, The New York Times Company
Ferial Haffajee
Editor-at-large, Huffington Post South Africa
Kwame Karikari
Founder, Media Foundation for West Africa
Mostefa Souag
Acting Director-General, Al Jazeera Media Network
Gwen Lister
Executive Chairperson, Namibia Media Trust

MODERATOR

Nadia Abdel-Massih
Broadcast journalist, France24

ORGANIZER

UNESCO

SUMMARY

This plenary will discuss the current challenges to press freedom and freedom of expression, including freedom of artistic expression. 25 years after the first edition of World Press Freedom Day, press freedom is not an established fact, but a goal that constantly needs to be fought for. UNESCO's report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development has shown that even in countries where freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed, political developments and power shifts have been trending towards a clampdown on press freedom. New challenges, related to political developments, technological advances and national security concerns, require advocates of press freedom to constantly battle for its preservation and further enhancement. The recent trend of rising criticism of the media by political figures encourages self-censorship and undermines the media's credibility. The recent rise in verbal attacks on the media by political figures has encouraged self-censorship and undermined the media's credibility. Self-censorship is also a result of misogyny and sexual harassment targeting women journalists. While there is a trend towards greater access to information, partly due to technology, repression of free speech remains a crucial problem in many countries. This comes at a time of unprecedented business challenges for news media around the world, weakening the ability to maintain editorial independence.

The world over, freedom of expression needs to be defended on many fronts: political attacks against the media, the issue of freedom of expression online and physical attacks against journalists are only some examples. Furthermore, an ever-changing political environment and developing media landscape also require the development of adequate legal structures and laws strengthening freedom of expression.

This plenary will thus offer an occasion to scrutinize the situation of press freedom in 2018: Where are we concerning freedom of expression globally? What are the most pressing current challenges? How can freedom of expression be upheld and defended in 2018?

PLENARY SESSION 2

FOCUS ON INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM : UNCOVERING CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL MALPRACTICE

TIME AND VENUE

09:00 - 10:30, 3 May
Adlon Ballroom

FORMAT

Panel discussion
(French interpretation provided)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Job Rabkin
Investigations Editor, Channel 4

SPEAKERS

Anas Aremeyaw Anas
Undercover Ghanaian investigative journalist
Oluwatoyosi Ogunseye
Head of West Africa, BBC World Service
Petra Caruana Dingli
Journalist, Sunday Times of Malta
Jose Ugaz
Former ad-hoc Attorney of Peru, board member of Transparency International
Will Fitzgibbon
Head of Africa Desk, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

MODERATOR

Stephanie Busari
Africa Digital Editor, CNN

ORGANIZER

UNESCO

SUMMARY

This panel will focus on investigative journalism and specifically, its role in uncovering corruption and political malpractice. Journalists are keeping power in check by researching malpractice, uncovering illegal activities and connections, and making this information accessible to the public. Recently, journalists have especially excelled in uncovering financial and political scandals such as tax evasion schemes, money laundering and misuse of political power. In response to the increasingly transnational nature of corruption and financial scandals, journalists have formed international networks to collaborate in their investigations, relying more on exchanging and storing information online. The ambition to confront power makes investigative journalists frequent targets of physical attacks and legal action, aimed at silencing journalists. Due to the threats against their work, source protection is especially important for investigative journalists.

POINTS TO PONDER:

- What are the specific risks that investigative journalists are currently facing?
- What initiatives can be taken to address these risks?
- How can legal source-protection online and offline safeguard investigative journalists and their sources?
- How can international networks of investigative journalists amplify media's work in uncovering corruption? How do such networks organize themselves and do they provide additional protection for the journalists involved?

PARALLEL SESSION 1

COVERING ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS: OLD AND NEW CHALLENGES IN TIMES OF MEDIA DISINFORMATION

TIME AND VENUE

13:30 - 15:00

Adlon Ballroom 1

FORMAT

Panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Catherine Gicheru

Investigative Journalist, ICFJ Knight Fellow

Sulemana Braimah

Executive Director, Media Foundation for West Africa

Grant Masterson

Senior Programme Manager, Governance Institutions and Processes, EISA

Nezar Patria

Vice Editor-in-Chief, CNN Indonesia

MODERATOR

Joyce Barnathan

President, International Center for Journalists

ORGANIZERS

International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)

STAR Ghana

POINTS TO PONDER

In recent elections around the globe, there have been attempts to use fabricated media reports as a way of manipulating the electorate.

- How can professional journalism amplify its distinctiveness from disinformation posing as news, and from the mass of unverified information and uninformed comment that pervades the social media-
scape?
- How can the news media help to build a culture of openness and disclosure, and contribute to the media and information literacy of audiences?
- What strategies can be used to counter a growing trend in the over-reach of internet shut-downs as a means to curtail freedom of expression in the run-up to elections?

SUMMARY

Across the globe, elections are magnets for disinformation. In efforts to confuse or manipulate voters, a variety of anti-democratic forces are challenging reliable news sources as never before. They are using bots, fabricated reports and internet shutdowns to wreak havoc during elections. In this panel, we'll look at how journalists can counter these disinformation campaigns. What new techniques are available now to ensure that fact-checked information travels faster than falsehoods? With the democratization of the news industry, what can professional news organizations do to build trust and ensure that audiences are media literate? What strategies can news organizations adopt to fight back against internet shutdowns designed to curtail vital information during elections? Journalists and other experts will discuss how they're fighting back in the age of disinformation.

PARALLEL SESSION 2

JOINT SESSION SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

TIME AND VENUE

13:30 - 15:00
Adlon Ballroom 2

FORMAT

Panel discussion

SPEAKERS

David Kaye
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, OHCHR

Harlem Desir
Representative on Freedom of Expression and Special Rapporteur, OSCE

Edison Lanza
Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, The Organization of American States

Lawrence Mute (Video message)
Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Fatou Jagne
Director West Africa, ARTICLE 19

Toby Mendel
Director, Center for Law and Democracy

MODERATOR

Barbora Bukovska
Senior Director for Law and Policy, ARTICLE 19

ORGANIZER

ARTICLE 19

SUMMARY

At this session, four freedom of expression mandates will launch their 2018 Joint Declaration addressing key freedom of expression issues of the day. Four mandate holders are appointed by intergovernmental bodies across the globe to protect and promote free media and expression. The joint declarations have proven to be a noteworthy example of international co-operation in the field of media-freedom advocacy and a great opportunity to speak with a common voice. Focusing every year on a particular threat to free expression and recommending specific actions, the declarations reflect the evolution of media during a time marked by tremendous technological change. Joint Declarations by the rapporteurs have been adopted annually since 1999, covering current universal challenges to freedom of expression.

The previous declarations are available at <https://www.osce.org/fom/66176>

PARALLEL SESSION 3

JOINT LAUNCH OF THE UNESCO REPORT ON "WORLD TRENDS IN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT" AND THE UNESCO GLOBAL REPORT "RE|SHAPING CULTURAL POLICIES"

TIME AND VENUE

13:30 - 15:00
Adlon Ballroom 3

FORMAT

Panel discussion
(French interpretation provided)

OPENING REMARKS

Getachew Engida
Deputy Director-General, UNESCO

SPEAKERS

Marie Ottosson
Deputy Director-General, Sida
Guy Berger
Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO
Ramon Tuazon
President, Asian Institute of Journalism (AJIC) & Secretary General of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC)
Julie Reid
Researcher, University of South Africa
Danielle Cliche
Chief of Section of Diversity of Cultural Expressions and Secretary of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO
Ojoma Ochai
Director of Arts West Africa, British Council
Sara Whyatt
Campaigner and Researcher

MODERATOR

Bernard Avle
Broadcast Journalist

ORGANIZER

UNESCO
Sweden/Sida

SUMMARY

UNESCO's new two 2018 Global Reports examine from different but interdependent perspectives the global situation of freedom of expression and creation, access to information and cultural life, and the protection of fundamental freedoms. They also provide new information and data on the new challenges in media development and cultural policy for the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In so doing, they remind us that free, plural and independent media, as well as artistic freedom and creativity are key to the functioning of strong and vibrant democratic societies.

POINTS TO PONDER:

- How do media and cultural stakeholders assess the two Reports?
- How can stakeholders ensure that media independence and participatory governance for culture are included as priorities in national policies and frameworks for sustainable development?
- What are the efficient ways to support artists and journalists at risk?
- How can we improve gender equality in the media and culture workplace?
- What is needed to protect freedom of expression and civic engagement in the global digital ecosystem in the coming years?

PARALLEL SESSION 4

DEBATE: DOES ONLINE SPEECH NEED REGULATION OR SELF-REGULATION?

TIME AND VENUE

15:30 - 17:00

Adlon Ballroom 2

FORMAT

Debate of two teams

SPEAKERS

Jeremiah Sam

Programmes Director, Penplusbytes

Maria Carolina Hoyos Turbay

President, Fundacion Solidaridad por Colombia

George Sarpong

Executive Secretary, Ghana National Media Commission

Mira Milosevic

Executive Director, Global Forum for Media Development

Jean-François Furnémont

Expert for Canal France International

MODERATOR

Daniel Blank

Country Representative Ghana, Deutsche Welle Akademie

ORGANIZER

DW Akademie

POINTS TO PONDER

- What can effective self-regulation look like?
- Is it possible to regulate online speech at scale with algorithms - without unjustifiably restricting freedom of expression in the process?
- Online media, internet service providers, search engines, social networks – what are the roles of the different actors?
- Sharing good practices and potential dangers/ challenges

SUMMARY

Parallel Session 4 brings together two opposing teams. The discussion will focus on the question whether online speech needs regulation or self-regulation. The session will be a moderated, interactive debate between speakers from different countries, who will discuss where and how to draw the line between Freedom of Speech and protection of people from harmful speech and content. The following questions will be at the core of the debate: What can effective self-regulation look like? Is it possible to regulate online speech at scale with algorithms – without restricting freedom of expression? In the end, the audience will get to decide which team had the better arguments.

PARALLEL SESSION 5

RIGHT TO INFORMATION: HOW CAN FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAWS CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA?

TIME AND VENUE

15:30 - 17:00
Adlon Ballroom 3

FORMAT

Panel discussion
(French interpretation provided)

SPEAKERS

David Kaye
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, OHCHR
Gilbert Sendugwa
Executive Director, Africa Freedom of Information Centre
Nnenna Nwakanma
Senior Policy Manager, World Wide Web Foundation
Helen Darbishire
Founder, Access Info Europe
Mina Mensah
Regional Coordinator, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

MODERATOR

Sumir Lal
Director for External and Corporate Relations, The World Bank

ORGANIZERS

World Bank
European Union
Africa Freedom of Information Center (AFIC)

POINTS TO PONDER

- What is the current state of affairs in Africa?
- Context of target SDG 16.10 – ensuring public access to information
- Only 21 out of African 54 countries have specific RTI legislation
- How can states be encouraged to adopt the Draft Model law on RTI for Africa by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

SUMMARY

Citizens' access to information (ATI) is crucial for the realisation of sustainable development as a target of its own and as a driver for the realisation of other SDGs. Goal 16 target 10 seeks to ensure that citizens' access to information and fundamental freedoms are protected in accordance with national and international agreements. Access to information is linked to all SDGs related to poverty, health, education, gender equality, inclusive development and inequality among others. For example, it is recognised that Africa is endowed with vast natural resources ranging from natural gas to forests, minerals, forests and fresh water and its resources. Further, many governments have invested in boosting food security and family incomes, however, these investments have left many women, people with disabilities, youth and rural communities behind because either they lack information on these opportunities or on legal protection on the means of production such as land.

A new report on the status of access to information by Africa Freedom of Information centre finds that 61% of African countries have not adopted national access to information laws while all the 21 countries that have adopted these laws are challenged with their implementation. The study also finds that moment for adoption of ATI laws has slowed down despite the launch of SDG framework two years ago.

The lack of ATI laws presents challenges of determining what information to release, when, to whom, how and by whom. Wide discretion undermines accountability and risks failure of attainment of sustainable development. The session aims to:

- a. Create awareness on the urgent importance of access to information as a means to promote the realisation of SDGs.
- b. Mobilise member states, multilateral agencies, civil society and other stakeholders on the need to promote adoption and implementation of ATI laws.
- c. Build alliances for action on the realisation of SDG 16.10.2.

PARALLEL SESSION 6

ARTISTIC FREEDOM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

TIME AND VENUE

15:30 - 17:00
Stafford

FORMAT

Panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Bright Ackwerh
Satirical Artist

Fatou Jagne
Regional Director, ARTICLE 19

Hija Kamran
Head of Communications and Research, Digital Rights Foundation

Ole Reitov
Founder, Freemuse

MODERATOR

Ojoma Ochai
Director of Arts, West Africa, The British Council

ORGANIZER

UNESCO

POINTS TO PONDER

- What documentation/empirical evidence is available to demonstrate the extent of surveillance and other restrictions on the digital environment specifically as it relates to artists/artworks?
- Are ISPs censorship mechanisms (such as guidelines on 'standards of behaviour') having a corrosive effect on arts freedom?
- What are the ways to improve the conditions for artistic freedom in the digital environment?
- Are women artists more affected by threats in the digital environment?
- What are the models and good practices to be developed that can contribute to the documentation, analysis, monitoring and advocacy to promote artistic freedom in the digital environment?

SUMMARY

As UNESCO published its second Global Monitoring Report "Re | Shaping Cultural Policies: Advancing Creativity for Development", this session puts the focus on artistic freedom in the digital age.

UNESCO understands artistic freedom as a bundle of rights that relate to freedom of creation, freedom of expression, freedom of movement, social and economic rights of artists and cultural professionals. The new digital environment opens up multiple opportunities for the creation, distribution and funding of creativity (books, music, films, visual arts, etc), digital and social media platforms (youtube, soundcloud, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc) on which artists publicly comment, display and promote their work. These platforms are also spaces where artists receive threats to their rights and freedoms: internet censorship, online 'trolling' and harassment, individual artworks removed, posts and accounts blocked, non-transparent and arbitrary "community guidelines criteria" (on nudity and indecency, for example) laws to control access and content shared online. Fair remuneration of artists is also at risk, and it is unclear how artists' rights will be protected when AI is used to produce new creative works.

Is the digital space becoming a blurred space of control and standards out of step with international human rights standards? The proposed discussion seeks to critically review the emerging challenges faced by artists and cultural professionals in the digital environment and discuss strategies to enable their continued participation in civic, cultural and economic life.

PARALLEL SESSION 7

FLOURISHING SOCIETIES AND THE ROLE OF PRESS FREEDOM

TIME AND VENUE

17:00 - 18:30

Stafford

FORMAT

Panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Jeffrey Sachs (Live video chat)

Director, Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development

Nina L. Khrushcheva

Book Author

Dorothy Nyambi

Executive Vice President, African Institute of Mathematical Sciences

Carl Manlan

Chief Operating Officer, Ecobank Foundation

Nanjala Nyabola

Writer and Political Analyst

Binyavanga Wainaina

Author and journalist

MODERATOR

Mark Nelson

Senior Director for National Endowment for Democracy

ORGANIZERS

CIMA

EJC

Project Syndicate

SUMMARY

An independent press is the lifeblood of healthy, inclusive societies. But in an era when media freedom is under assault, it is vital that all segments of our global community understand the value of a high quality, sustainable media and open information systems. Drawing on Project Syndicate's list of high-profile contributors, this session will demonstrate and discuss the importance of vigorous, independent media and the free flow of information to the functioning and sustainability of society. It will feature a diverse range of presenters representing the fields of development, economics, gender, youth empowerment, the sciences, and the arts who will discuss their views on the role of media in human progress and how we can contend with the current challenges facing media freedom around the world.

PARALLEL SESSION 8

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS AND SERVICE RESTRICTIONS – ‘NEW TOOLS’ IN RESTRICTING THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION?

TIME AND VENUE

11:15 - 12:45
Adlon Ballroom 1

FORMAT

Panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Serge Daho
Researcher, PROTÉGÉ-OV
Julie Owono
Executive Director, Internet Without Borders
Alp Tokar
Founder, Turkey Blocks
Hija Kamran
Head of Communications and Research, Digital Rights Foundation
Kwaku Sakyi Addo
Chairman, Ghanaian National Communications Authority
Corinna Zarek
Senior Tech Policy Fellow, Mozilla Foundation

MODERATOR

Melody Patry
Advocacy Director, Access Now

ORGANIZER

Access Now

POINTS TO PONDER

- When and where do internet shutdowns occur and what are justifications used to disrupt access to the internet or specific services?
- Can national security concerns ever justify such measures?
- What are the effects on the media?
- How should the law deal with internet shutdowns?
- Right to encryption
- ‘Trumping’ effect of national security / anti-terrorism laws

SUMMARY

Shutdowns can range from partial shutdowns, such as the blocking of specific communication tools or social media platforms, to the full closing down of the internet for a given period within a geographical area. Internet shutdowns and the blocking of communication tools often occur in the lead-up or aftermath of elections and during times of political unrest. They can constitute a violation of human rights, since they block the free flow of information. They can also disrupt the media’s work, impeding reporting and information-sharing. When tools for encrypted communication are targeted, citizens’ ability to share information privately is affected. This constitutes a particularly grave threat to human rights defenders, journalists and activists.

PARALLEL SESSION 9

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM: ETHICS AND RISK MITIGATION

TIME AND VENUE

11:15 - 12:45
Adlon Ballroom 2

FORMAT

Storytelling followed by panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Adriana Hurtado Cortés
President, Federation of Colombian Journalists
Citra Dyah Prastuti
Chief editor, KBR
Roland Affail Monney
President of the Ghana Journalists Association
Erick Oduor
Secretary General, Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ)
Dapo Olorunyomi
Editor-in-Chief, Premium Times Limited

MODERATOR

Jeremy Dear
Deputy General Secretary, International Federation of Journalists

ORGANIZER

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

POINTS TO PONDER

- Investigative journalists often work in extremely dangerous conditions
- How much risk can/ should journalists take?
- What measures can be taken to mitigate the risks?
- Do the ends justify the means when it comes to investigative journalism?
- Is it ethical to use any investigative technique, including false identities or hidden cameras, to expose wrongdoing?
- How can the tension between the public's rights to know and an individual's claim to anonymity and privacy be addressed?

SUMMARY

Investigative journalism is at the heart of the journalism's ability to fulfill its mission of holding power to account. Those who wish to silence journalism first target investigative reporters. It is those reporters ability to be able to shine a light in the dark corners of our societies that enable citizens to exercise some democratic control.

But everywhere investigative journalism is under attack. Sometimes starved of resources by media companies intent more on commercial gain but more often than not by politicians, paramilitaries and terrorist organisations. This session will share the experience of frontline investigative journalists and those who represent them in some of the most hostile environments and discuss and debate the methods used by investigative journalists. We will seek, through storytelling and free-flowing debate to answer some key questions, to analyse the risks faced by investigative journalists, to understand how those risks can be mitigated, to evaluate the craft of the investigative journalists, to tackle the thorny question of do the ends justify the means and to chart some common actions that journalists organisations can take to support and enhance the role investigative journalism can play in holding the powerful to account.

Each contributor will have 5 minutes to talk about a key investigation and the lessons learned – there will then be plenty of time for a moderated and lively Q&A session.

PARALLEL SESSION 10

NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN AFRICA

TIME AND VENUE

11:15 - 12:45

Adlon Ballroom 3

FORMAT

Round table

(French interpretation provided)

SPEAKERS

H.E. Ambassador Salah Siddig Hammad

Head of the African Governance Architecture (AGA)

Secretariat at the African Union (AU)

H.E. Anna Bossman

Ambassador of Ghana to France

Filippa Arvas Olsson

Senior Advisor, Swedish Ministry of Culture and

Democracy

Robert Shaw

Manager - International Media Support

Tabani Moyo

National Director, MISA Zimbabwe

Eyesan Okorodudu

Head of Democracy and Good Governance Programs,

ECOWAS Commission in Abuja

Boubacar Diallo

Nigerian Journalist

Nasrin Mohamed Ibrahim

Journalist and Activist

Muheeb Saeed

Programme Officer, MFWA

Roukaya Kaysanally

CEO, African Media Initiative (AMI)

Victor Bwire

Programmes Manager, Media Council of Kenya

Irene Ayaa

Media Development Officer, Association for Media

Development in South Sudan

Dhikra Sarsam

Founding member - Burj Babel for Media Development

Organization

MODERATOR

Lydia Gachungi

Regional Communication Expert, Safety of journalists and

Media Development, UNESCO Office in Nairobi

Edetaen Ojo

IMS board member and Media Rights Agenda (Nigeria)

SUMMARY

This session on National Mechanisms for Safety of Journalists in Africa is expected to produce key recommendations that are actionable in promoting safety of journalists in Africa. It will commence with a brief presentation of recommendations emanating from an online discussion on National Mechanisms for Safety of Journalists that has been moderated by UNESCO and the International Media Support (IMS), in preparation of the World Press Freedom Day in Ghana. The report will highlight existing examples of coordination mechanisms for safety of journalists, as well as challenges and lessons learnt that can inform the African countries embarking on this process.

Panelists to this session will include the African Union Political Affairs and Human Rights section, representatives from African media associations and networks and international media stakeholders with a mandate to promote safety of journalists at national, regional and global levels.

The panelists and other participants to this session will be responding to the recommendations emerging from the online discussions report mentioned above, with a view to establishing concrete actions and a roadmap to their implementation.

The outcome from this session is expected to feed into the ongoing process, in establishing an African Initiative on Safety of journalists. This is a process led by the Federation of the African Journalists, with the support of the African Union, UNESCO and other media development partners. It includes the proposed Working Group on Safety of journalists and the roll out of National Mechanisms for Safety of Journalists on the African continent.

ORGANIZERS

UNESCO

International Media Support (IMS)



PARALLEL SESSION 11

DEFINING INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS: A STEP TOWARDS INTERNET DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPROVEMENTS

TIME AND VENUE

11:15 - 12:45

Stafford

FORMAT

Panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Ursula G. Owusu-Ekuful

Minister of Communications of Ghana

Kwami Ahiabenu, II

Founder and President, Penplusbytes

Juliet Nanfuka

Journalist, CIPESA

Moctar Yedaly

Head Information Society Division, African Union

Babatunde Okunoye

Research Officer, Paradigm Initiative

Karin Karlekar

Director, PEN America's free expression at risk programme and Council member, IFEX

Constance Bommelaer de Leusse

Senior Director, Global Internet Policy and International Organizations, ISOC

MODERATOR

Guy Berger

Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO

ORGANIZER

UNESCO

POINTS TO PONDER

- How could Internet Universality R-O-A-M framework and indicators enable a conducive environment for freedom of expression, the right to information and the safety of journalists, as part of achieving the SDGs?
- What data sources are available for measuring an indicator?
- What efforts are still needed to formulate recommendations and stimulate change?.

SUMMARY

UNESCO's project "Defining Internet Universality Indicators" aims to elaborate appropriate Internet indicators, which can enrich the stakeholders' capacity to assess Internet development, broaden international consensus and foster online democracy and human rights.

The draft indicators include five categories concerned with the R-O-A-M principles, which promote an Internet: that is based on human Rights (R); that is Open (O); that is Accessible to all (A); and that is nurtured by Multistakeholder participation (M). A crosscutting category (X) addresses the relationships between the four previous ones and includes issues on gender, children and the youth...

The first draft Internet Indicators gather more than twenty indicators concerned with freedom of expression and the right to information. These include indicators on restrictions on Internet access and use, journalists and bloggers subject to arbitrary detention, prosecution, intimidation as well as harassment for disseminating and accessing information online.

PARALLEL SESSION 12

FIGHTING FAKES – THE NORDIC WAY

TIME AND VENUE

12:45 - 14:15

Siam

FORMAT

Lunch Roundtable (by invitation only)

ORGANIZER

Nordic Council of Ministers

SUMMARY

Propaganda, lies, disinformation and fake factory stories are threats against the credibility of media and create hostility against journalism leading to threats and unsafety conditions. We can and shall fight back by the lead of media industry itself through high ethical standards and self-regulatory mechanisms.

The Nordic Council of Ministers focus on fakes in a booklet urging for

- * Media and Information Literacy not only in the educational system but widespread in the society
- * Strong focus on ethics and self-regulatory entities - respected by any authority
- * Optimizing of quality in media including support of financial sustainable media

PARALLEL SESSION 13

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY

TIME AND VENUE

14:15 - 15:45
Adlon Ballroom 1

FORMAT

Storytelling, followed by a moderated discussion

SPEAKERS

Rana Ayyub
Journalist and Writer
Louise Carol Serwaa Donkor
Founding Director, Aya Institute for Women, Politics and Media
Gwen Lister
Journalist, columnist and press freedom activist
Stella Paul
Independent multimedia journalist
Lamia Radi
War correspondent

MODERATOR

Nadine Hoffman
Deputy Director, IWMF

ORGANIZER

International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)

POINTS TO PONDER

- How significant is the problem of sexual harassment within the media industry?
- What forms of sexual harassment are media workers experiencing, including online?
- What are the experiences of LGBTQI journalists?
- What role has the media played in the #MeToo revelations and how should the media coverage of this issue be assessed?
- What initiatives exist to assist victims of sexual harassment and violence in the media industry and what more can be done?

SUMMARY

Gender-based violence and in particular sexual harassment has been a frequently covered topic in the last months, more and more victims from different industries (such as film, politics, technology) have come forward.

In the nearly 30 years of its existence, the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) has repeatedly heard of aggressions perpetrated against remarkably brave journalists in all corners of the world. These are often the first women in their newsrooms, the first to push into the ranks of leadership, and the first to be attacked just because of their gender. In the IWMF's report "Violence and Harassment against Women in the News Media: A Global Picture," two-thirds of those surveyed experienced acts of intimidation, threats and abuse, and one-fifth had experienced digital hacking or electronic monitoring.

We suggest a solutions-focused approach to the panel which features case studies from each panelist followed by a discussion of strategies to address harassment and threats women in news media face around the world. We will explore how misogyny and harassment both online and offline pose a direct threat to free expression, silencing diverse voices. With the #metoo movement sparking a global conversation about sexual harassment, momentum is gaining to tackle this pervasive issue head on. We will hear different examples of how newsrooms and individual journalists are confronting gender-based harassment, creating safe spaces for women in media and ensuring that they are supported and their voices heard.

PARALLEL SESSION 14

ENSURING EFFECTIVE SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR JOURNALISTS

TIME AND VENUE

14:15 - 15:45
Adlon Ballroom 2

FORMAT

Round table

SPEAKERS

Maina Henry
Regional Director Eastern Africa, ARTICLE19
Andrew Heslop
Director, World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA)
Paula Slier
Middle East Bureau Chief, Russia Today
El Hadji Abdoulaye Seye
Founder of AICA (Agence d'Information et de Communication Africaine)

MODERATOR

Rosiland Jordan
Correspondent on US State and Defence Departments, Al Jazeera

ORGANIZER

Al Jazeera

SUMMARY

When one thinks of a reporter in danger, the first thought is usually that of the grizzled war correspondent, taking notes on the front lines, all the while smoking a cigarette.

The reality is that war correspondents are not the only ones dodging bullets and shrapnel. Around the world, journalists are being murdered, kidnapped, arrested, harassed, stalked, raped, or attacked while on the job. (Ask anyone covering a protest or a sports celebration.) All too often, journalists either don't make it to work, or never come home, just because someone doesn't like their reporting. It happens too often.

The range of risky assignments is broad: Dictatorships, drug cartels, communities in conflict, poachers, or terrorist groups — even the changes in social and cultural relations can put journalists in harm's way. What can and should newsrooms around the world do to keep their staff safe, especially in places and circumstances where physical safety is usually taken for granted?

This panel features diverse speakers who will share with each other and the audience key ways of preparing news personnel to protect themselves while in the field— including hostile environment training, carrying contact lists, and cultural education. They will also propose innovative ways to protect news teams, including by using technology, social media, and common sense. Finally the panelists will take questions from the audience, which too may have its own ideas on how to make the journalists' work environment as safe as circumstances permit.

It's a necessary discussion, and one that can help keep the journalists where they want to be: Witnessing the story.

PARALLEL SESSION 15

ENSURING THE RULE OF LAW AND FIGHTING IMPUNITY: WHAT ROLE FOR THE JUDICIARY IN ENHANCING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN AFRICA?

TIME AND VENUE

14:15 - 15:45
Adlon Ballroom 3

FORMAT

Panel discussion
(French Interpretation provided)

SPEAKERS

Jérôme Traoré
President, Court of Justice, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza
Justice in the Supreme Court of Uganda
William Atuguba
Justice in the Supreme Court of Ghana
Lucy Freeman
Chief Executive Officer, Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI)
Anneke Meerkotter
Litigation Director, Southern Africa Litigation Centre
Madieyna Bakhoun Diallo
Deputy Director, Centre for Judiciary Training in Dakar
Ndey Tapha Sosseh
Advisor to the Minister of Information and Communication Infrastructure, The Gambia

MODERATOR

Sylvie Coudray
Chief of Section for Freedom of Expression, UNESCO

ORGANIZER

UNESCO

POINTS TO PONDER

- What is the role of the judiciary in ensuring the rule of law, fighting impunity and enhancing freedom of expression in Africa?
- How can the African legal framework on human rights be strengthened and the decisions of the courts on freedom of expression be applied by judges at the national level?
- What initiatives can be launched to reinforce the capacities and awareness of multiple stakeholders (including judicial officers, civil society members, lawyers, law enforcement personnel etc.) on issues of freedom of expression and journalists' safety?

SUMMARY

The objective is to bring together key figures from the judicial institutions of the continent and civil society organizations, to exchange experiences on strengthening the capacities of the judiciary to promote freedom of expression and the safety of journalists. It is especially important to involve the judiciary in the process of enhancing freedom of expression and protecting journalists, as it constitutes a fundamental freedom.

This session will aim to facilitate regional capacity building and foster a cooperation between national and regional courts to promote freedom of expression and fight impunity for crimes against journalists. UNESCO's previous training of judges in Latin America and Africa, through the combination of a MOOC and an on-the-ground training, and its scope of expansion in francophone African countries will be an important reference point for discussion and potential plans of action to reinforce capacities of members of the judiciary and civil society. The session will also focus on promoting efforts to better integrate regional standards on freedom of expression, the right to access to public information and the multiple threats faced by journalists through legal training modules across the continent.

The agenda of the session will also include a multi-stakeholder approach in raising awareness on the role of the judiciary in enhancing freedom of expression and effectively communicating on the role and the decisions taken by the African Court on Human & People's Rights and the ECOWAS Court of Justice to the citizenry at large. The panelists represents stakeholders from varied fields and their expertise in the field of human rights with special emphasis on press freedom will contribute greatly to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

PARALLEL SESSION 16

CHANGING THE GAZE: REPOSITIONING AFRICA THROUGH PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

TIME AND VENUE

16:15 - 17:45
Adlon Ballroom 1

FORMAT

Panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Nana Kofi Acquah

Photographer

Laeila Adjovi

Photographer and visual artist

Nii Obodai

Photographer

Sarah Waiswa

Photographer

MODERATOR

Lars Boering

Managing Director, World Press Photo

ORGANIZER

World Press Photo

POINTS TO PONDER

- Africa is often represented through images of conflict and poverty, reproducing stereotypes
- How can stereotypical representations of Africa be countered through images provided by African photographers?
- In what way does photojournalism perpetuate stereotypes about Africa and what initiatives have African photographers / African media taken to counter such stereotypes?
- What is the state of African press photography?

SUMMARY

Visual narratives of "Africa" have conventionally represented the continent as a singular place in negative terms. Lack of diversity is a serious problem in visual journalism, both in terms of who produces the stories and the types of stories produced. The perspectives of indigenous visual journalists have too often been unheard or marginalized when it comes to representing "Africa." Today, however, a new group of African visual journalists and storytellers are challenging the established narratives.

This panel discussion will address these issues by presenting the work of four visual journalists from different countries in Africa, consider how they challenge the conventional narrative, discuss the state of visual journalism in Africa, and review the growing number of local and international initiatives to elevate the voices of visual journalists from Africa. The discussion will be moderated by World Press Photo Foundation Managing Director Lars Boering.

PARALLEL SESSION 17

NEW THREATS TO JOURNALISM : ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, BOTS, TROLLS

TIME AND VENUE

16:15 - 17:45
Adlon Ballroom 2

FORMAT

Storytelling followed by a panel discussion

SPEAKERS

Alberto Escorcía
Mexican human rights defender and internet activist
Angelina Huynh
Advocacy Director, Viet Tan
Samantha Bradshaw
Researcher
Michelle Ferrier
Associate Professor, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University

MODERATOR

Sophie Busson
Head of Advocacy, Reporters Without Borders

ORGANIZER

Reporters Without Borders

POINTS TO PONDER

- What are the new means to censor journalists online?
- How to hold States accountable for using or not opposing such new methods of censorship?
- Are Internet giants complicit in censoring?
- How to fight trolls, bots, and other online threats without being censors?
- How to give citizen journalists ways to resist such attacks? How to specifically address gender-based violence online?

SUMMARY

In the context of digital transformation, social media tends to become among the last sanctuaries for independent press. However press freedom enemies develop new ways of censorship on those platforms : 1) to extend their propaganda and disinformation 2) to muzzle independent medias (users' account shutdowns, surveillance, cyber harassment). Women journalists are all the more on the frontline as they suffer gender based violence on the internet; Trolls, bots, AI, cyber soldiers become the new information mercenaries, serving those that pose a threat to press freedom. Internet giants sometimes honour States' abusive demands of censorship, without any public justification or accountability.

PARALLEL SESSION 18

PROMOTING JOURNALISTS' SAFETY AND COUNTERING IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS IN AFRICA

TIME AND VENUE

16:15 - 17:45
Adlon Ballroom 3

FORMAT

Panel discussion
(French interpretation provided)

SPEAKERS

Vivian Affoah
Senior Programme Officer, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)
Moses Magoola
Programme Manager, Human Rights Network for Journalists
Tuverekwevyo Muhindo Wundi Tuver
Senior Correspondent, Journaliste en Danger (JED)
Tsedale Lemma
Member of the International Advisory Board of the Bandung Journal of the Global South

MODERATOR

Zoe Titus
Strategic Coordinator, Namibia Media Trust (NMT)

ORGANIZERS

Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)
with support from IFEX

POINTS TO PONDER

- What are some of the key threats to journalists in Africa today?
- What have been some of the most innovative, effective and impactful ways of promoting journalists safety in Africa?
- How has the emergence and activities of fundamentalists groups impacted the safety of journalists in Africa?
- What are the gendered aspects of safety of journalists? Do female journalists have peculiar challenges when it comes to safety of journalists in Africa?
- Are there any new or emerging threats?
- Going forward, what should stakeholders do to improve the conditions of journalists' safety in Africa?
- What specific action points are we recommending to key stakeholders to improve the safety of journalists?

SUMMARY

Over the years, several journalists and media workers in Africa have been killed in the line of duty. Others have suffered various forms of violations ranging from physical attacks, arbitrary arrests and detentions, enforced disappearance and destruction of equipment. Beyond the actual violations, journalists working in Africa continue to face several threats on a daily basis. Unfortunately, acts of violence perpetrated against journalists and media workers often go unpunished. This fosters a culture of impunity for crimes against journalists which ends up emboldening perpetrators and encouraging others to commit similar crimes. With the continued existence and application of repressive speech laws, increasing acts of violence against journalists by political party vigilante groups and an ever increasing threat posed by fundamentalists groups across the continent, journalists on the continent need more protection and safety guarantees. This session will thus discuss the threats and challenges to the safety of journalists in Africa and explore ways of improving the safety of journalists including fighting against impunity for crimes against journalists in Africa.

AWARD CEREMONY UNESCO/ GUILLERMO CANO WORLD PRESS FREEDOM PRIZE

TIME AND VENUE

18:30 - 22:00

Adlon Ballroom (by invitation only)
(French interpretation provided)

SPEAKERS

Nana Akufo-Addo

President of the Republic of Ghana

Getachew Engida

Deputy Director-General, UNESCO

Claudia Turbay Quintero

Ambassador of Colombia to the Republic of Ghana

Gwen Lister

Executive Chairperson, Namibia Media Trust

Maria Ressa (Video message)

CEO and Executive Editor, Rappler, Chair of the Jury of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

SPONSORS

UNESCO

Fundación Guillermo Cano

Helsingin Sanomat Foundation

Namibia Media Trust

SUMMARY

On 2 May, the Award ceremony of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize will take place.

Created in 1997, the annual UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, and especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger.

The Prize was established on the initiative of UNESCO's Executive Board and is formally conferred on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day. It is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia on 17 December 1986.

Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as Shawkan, has been selected by an independent international jury of media professionals as the laureate of the 2018 Prize.

POLICY LAB

NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR PREVENTION, PROTECTION AGAINST AND PROSECUTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS: EMERGING MODELS AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

TIME AND VENUE

14:15 - 17:45
Stafford

FORMAT

Policy lab

PRESENTERS

Sara Torsner

University of Sheffield, UK

Dr Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova

University of Liverpool, UK

Eno Akpabio

University of Namibia, Namibia

Ramon Tuazon

Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication

A.B. Assensoh and Yvette Alex-Assensoh

University of Oregon, USA

ORGANIZERS

UNESCO

Global Development Network (GDN)

University of Ghana

SUMMARY

The conference will for the first time accommodate a Policy Lab, organized in partnership with the University of Ghana and the Global Development Network. This special session offer a unique opportunity for high-quality interactions between researchers and policy actors (broadly understood) who work on a same issue. The topic chosen for this first Policy Lab are national mechanisms for prevention, protection against and prosecution of violence against journalists: emerging models and their effectiveness.

CLOSING SESSION-ADOPTION OF THE ACCRA DECLARATION

TIME AND VENUE

18:30 - 19:30
Adlon Ballroom

SPEAKERS

Getachew Engida
Deputy Director-General, UNESCO
Yaw Osafo Maafo
Senior Minister of the Republic of Ghana

CLOSING DINNER:

Closing remarks by:
Tirso Dos Santos
Head of Office and Representative, UNESCO Accra

SUMMARY

The closing ceremony of the main conference of World Press Freedom Day 2018 will serve as the occasion where the Accra Declaration will be adopted by the participants. It will be followed by a Gala dinner offered by Al Jazeera which will take place at the Mövenpick Restaurant at 20:00 (by invitation only).

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE



ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

ORGANIZERS

UNESCO
University of Ghana
University Sheffield
University of Malaga

13.30

Welcome Remarks

Welcome Remarks by H.E. Mr Lionel Strengart Veer,
Ambassador of the Netherlands to UNESCO

13:30 - 15:00

Panel A - Digital media and journalists' safety

Chair: Professor Audrey Gadzekpo
Venue: Siam

Digital safety for journalists in the age of ubiquitous surveillance: Insights from newsrooms in Zimbabwe and South Africa

Admire Mare
University of Johannesburg, South Africa

The growing online threats to journalists in Europe

Alina Ostling
European University Institute
Raphael Kies
Université du Luxembourg, Luxembourg

The state of technology in global newsrooms

International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)

The shrinking space on the internet for citizen journalists in China

Doriane Lau

15:30 - 17:00

Panel B - Non-state actors and journalists' safety

Chair: Professor Jackie Harrison
Venue: Siam

Media under siege: when civil society actors use violence to gag media in Ghana's Northern Region

Amin Alhassan
York University, UK
Felix Odartey-Wellington
Cape Breton University, Canada

Advancing data collection by non-state actors on violence against journalists

Sara Torsner
University of Sheffield, UK
Leon Willems
Free Press Unlimited, The Netherlands

**How safe are campus radio stations:
A study of campus radio journalists in
North-central Nigeria**

Jude Terna, James Ashiekpe and Faith Nwaigwe
Federal University of Technology, Nigeria

**Negotiating journalist safety: A case for
refocusing media development in Africa**

Viola Milton and Winston Mano
University of South Africa, South Africa

**Financial security of journalists and
media capture: Implications for press
freedom in Ghana and Nigeria**

Gifty Appiah-Adjei, Joyce Mensah and Daniel Doh
University of Education, Winneba, Ghana

DAY 2 THURSDAY, MAY 3

**9:00 - 10:30 Panel C - Gender, Sexuality, Religion, Conflict and other sensitive
issues etc.**

Chair: Professor K. Karikari
Venue: Siam

**Covering sexual and gender minorities
& religion in sub Saharan Africa: A
Reporting Guide for Journalists**

Brian Pellot
Religion News Service, Religion News Foundation

**Freedom of expression in a time of
conflict: prosecution of journalists
in coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian
conflict**

Bakhtiyor Avezdjanov
Columbia University, USA

**Russia's deadliest newspaper:
Challenges, threats and protective
mechanisms**

Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova
University of Liverpool, UK

**Symptoms of PTSD in frontline
journalists: A retrospective examination
of 18 years of war and conflict**

Anthony Feinstein
University of Toronto, Canada

SIDE EVENTS

12:00 - 12:15 **Opening of Photo Exhibition: Laureates of World Press Photo Prize**

Organizer: World Press Photo
Date: Wednesday, 2 May
Venue: First Floor

15:00 - 15:15 **Opening of Art Exhibition: Portraits of Killed Journalists**

Organizers: UNESCO, Wahrheitskämpfer and Doha Center for Media Freedom
Date: Wednesday, 2 May
Venue: Foyer

10:40 - 11:10 **Press Conference**

Organizer: Reporters Without Borders
Date: Thursday, 3 May
Venue: Siam

12:00 - 16:00 **Drop-in legal advice for journalists**

Organizer: Media Legal Defence Initiative
Date: 2 - 3 May
Venue: Upper Lobby

Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI) provides legal defence to journalists, bloggers and independent media around the world. We do this by administering an emergency defence fund available to journalists in need of legal support; pursuing strategic litigation to challenge repressive laws and expand the space for media freedom; and by providing financial and technical support to partner organisations to provide legal defence to journalists in their home countries. We also provide training and capacity building support to lawyers. Notable cases supported by MLDI include *FAJ v the Gambia*, in which the ECOWAS court found that the rights of four Gambian journalists had been violated by the actions of the Gambian authorities, and through the enforcement of laws criminalising speech. And *Konate v Burkina Faso*, in which the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights delivered a landmark ruling on criminal libel and awarded the Burkinabe journalist Lohé Issa Konaté, compensation for the harm he suffered.

We are hosting a drop-in legal advice clinic at WPF 2018. If you would like more information or to discuss a specific case, please visit us at the Upper Lobby between 12-4pm, on 2-3 of May.

13:00 - 14:00 Film Screening **“Courage – Journalism is not a crime”**

Organizer: International Media Support (IMS)
Date: Thursday, 3 May
Venue: Adlon Ballroom 3

Across the world, journalists are being killed, harassed and imprisoned for carrying out critical or investigative journalism. Still, many carry on reporting. This is the story of three such journalists. Lawi Weng from The Irrawaddy in Myanmar, Erdem Gül from Cumhuriyet in Turkey and Emin Huseynov from Azerbaijan all went to prison for doing their job.

All are devoted to journalism, but under immense pressure by repressive governments because they seek to reveal what those in power wish to hide. They face torture, jail and the threat of death, but continue their fight in the name of democracy with one thing in common. They have courage - because journalism is not a crime.

The film has a duration of 44 minutes and features interviews with organisations such as Reporters without Borders, International Media Support, Global Investigative Journalism Network, and the Organised Crime and Corruption Project.

Lunch will be served outside the room for the participants of the session.

16:15 - 17:30 Film Screening **“City of Ghosts” – followed by Q&A Session with Feras Hanosh and Hussam Eesa, members of the collective Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently**

Organizer: UNESCO
Date: Thursday, 3 May
Venue: Siam

This documentary follows the founding members of “Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently,” an organization of Syrian citizen journalists, as they struggle to report from the besieged town of Raqqa. The young activists risk their lives in trying to provide information on the crimes committed by ISIS against the people of Raqqa. The award-winning director Matthew Heinemann follows the lives of these brave young citizens.

The film will be screened in the presence of Feras Hanosh and Hussam Eesa, founding members of the initiative Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently. In a 30 minute Q&A session the audience is invited to interact with the two journalists.

YOUTH NEWSROOM

Date: 1- 3 May

Venue: Kempinski Hotel

Since 2012, the Youth Newsroom has been a successful initiative at WPFDF celebrations. This year, it will bring 32 journalism students and aspiring young media workers from Ghana, the US, Indonesia, Algeria, Palestine, Morocco, Israel and Jordan together. With their multiple talents and specializations, they will cover the events in full. The 2018 YNR is coordinated by the Ghana Institute of Journalism and supported by professors from the University of Oregon, the Multimedia Nusantara University, and the National Film and Television Institute.

Participating universities:

Lecturers:

National Film and Television Institute; Multimedia Nusantara University; Ghana Institute of Journalism; University of Oregon

Students:

University of Cape Coast; Ghana Institute of Journalism; African University College of Communications; Islamic University College; Wisconsin University; University of Ghana School of Information and Communication Studies; National Film and Television Institute; Multimedia Nusantara University; University of Oregon

Names of trainers

Noel Nutsugah

Editor-in-chief, Ghana Institute of Journalism

Mary Ayim-Segbefia

Deputy editor-in-chief, National Film and Television Institute

Desmond Lamptey

Multimedia producer, Ghana Institute of Journalism

Abel Sumo Gayvolor

Photojournalist, Ghana Institute of Journalism

Richard Oppong

Webmaster, Ghana Institute of Journalism

Veronika Kaba

Multimedia Nusantara University

Leslie Steeves

University of Oregon

Peter Laufer

University of Oregon

Christopher Chavez

University of Oregon

Sung Park

University of Oregon

Akwasi B. Assensoh

University of Oregon

Yvette Alex-Assensoh

University of Oregon

Sponsors

UNESCO, Ghana Journalism Institute, University of Oregon, Universitas Multimedia Nusantara, European Union, NetMed Youth, International Aid Transparency Initiative, US Embassy in Ghana, STAR Ghana.



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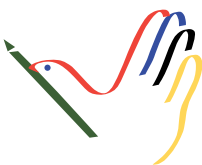




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