

## Model Table assisting responses by Member States

### Section 1: Table

Current List of Journalists Killed (as condemned by the UNESCO Director-General) and Legal Investigations (as reported by UNESCO Member States)

Date: To be sent to UNESCO \_\_\_\_\_

Name of journalist	Gender	Date of alleged murder	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional remarks
<b>Christopher Lozada</b>	Male	24 October 2017	Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS); Philippine National Police Police Regional Office (PNP-PRO) XIII	2020-205973 to 74B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>On Going Trial</b></li> <li>- Pending before the Bislig City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 46, Surigao del Sur</li> <li>- Suspect is detained</li> </ul>	<p>Date of verdict: Trial is on-going</p> <p>Name of alleged perpetrator(s): Rolly Mahilum</p> <p>Sentenced to: (n/a)</p>	Waiting for the verdict to be handed down by Bislig City RTC Branch 46 Presiding Judge Ambrosio N. Moleta
<b>Dindo Generoso</b>	Male	07 November 2019	PTFoMS; PNP PRO VII – Dumaguete City	NPS Docket No. VII-II-INV-19K-00645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>On-going Trial</b></li> <li>- Pending before the RTC Branch 42 Dumaguete City</li> <li>- 2 suspects at-large; 1 suspect is detained; 1 was out on bail</li> </ul>	<p>Date of verdict: (n/a)</p> <p>Name of alleged perpetrator(s): Teddy R. Salaw (Arrested) Glenn M. Corsame (Out on Bail) Roger Rubio (at-large) Tomasino Aledro (at-large)</p> <p>Sentenced to: (n/a)</p>	Trial on-going for the arrested suspects. Manhunt operations for the rest are being conducted. An immigration Look-Out Bulletin Order was issued by Bureau of Immigration against Aledro. Corsame was out on bail to undergo dialysis twice a week.

<b>Dennis Denora</b>	Male	07 June 2018	PTFoMS; PNP PRO XI/ DOJ Prosecutors Region XI- Davao del Norte	425-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Filed in Court</b></li> <li>- Davao del Norte RTC Branch 11</li> <li>- Suspect at-large</li> </ul>	<p>Date of verdict: (n/a)</p> <p>Name of alleged perpetrator(s): Richard P. Bolastig</p> <p>Sentenced to: (n/a)</p>	Manhunt operation for the capture of Bolastig is currently being undertaken by the police.
<b>Joey Llana</b>	Male	20 July 2018	PTFoMS; PNP PRO V/ Daraga Municipal Police Intelligence Operatives and Trackers Team	15091	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Filed in Court</b></li> <li>- Ligao City RTC Branch 4</li> <li>- Suspect at-large</li> </ul>	<p>Date of verdict: (n/a)</p> <p>Name of alleged perpetrators: Erwin D. Talagtag, Gilbert Concepcion</p> <p>Sentenced to: (n/a)</p>	In a recent report of PNP-PRO V to PTFoMS dated September 30, 2020, an armed confrontation occurred while implementing the arrest warrants against the suspects Gilbert Concepcion and Erwin Talagtag and other John Does last June 8 2020 at Brgy. Malosbolos, Libon Albay, resulting in the death of one of the suspects' cohorts. Unfortunately, the suspects were able to escape. The PNP is exhausting all efforts to locate and arrest the suspects.
<b>Eduardo Dizon</b>	Male	10 July 2019	PTFoMS; PNP PRO XII - Kidapawan CityI	5281- 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Filed in Court</b></li> <li>- Kidapawan City RTC Branch 61</li> <li>- Suspects at-large</li> </ul>	<p>Date of verdict: (n/a)</p> <p>Name of alleged perpetrator(s): Junell Jane Andagkit Poten (at large) Sotero Jacolbe, Jr (on bail). Dante Tabusares (at large)</p>	On 02 October 2020, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through its public affairs office chief, Capt. Jonathan Zata, sent PTFoMS a detailed report confirming that Tabusares has cowered behind the Communist

						Sentenced to: (n/a)	Party of the Philippines – New People’s Army (CPP-NPA) terrorist group by joining its ranks in Arakan, North Cotabato. Manhunt operations for the capture of the suspects are ongoing.
<b>Larry Que</b>	Male	20 December 2016	PTFoMS; PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG); PNP CIDG-RCIDU	NPS-Docket No. XVI-INV-17E-00113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Under Investigation</b></li> <li>- PNP CIDG – RCIDU is conducting intensive investigation of the case.</li> </ul>	<p>Date of verdict: (n/a)</p> <p>Name of alleged perpetrator(s): Joseph Cua Prince Lim Subion Vince Masagca Vincent Tacorda “John Doe”</p> <p>Sentenced to: (n/a)</p>	In a separate case, Tacorda was found guilty of frustrated murder on Feb. 14, 2020. Case filed against Cua, Subion, Masagca and a “John Doe” was dismissed due to insufficient evidence.
<b>Rex Cornelio Pepino</b>	Male	05 May 2020	PTFoMS; Dumaguete City PNP CIDG/ National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Under Investigation</b></li> <li>- Various search warrants issued against several Persons-Of-Interest.</li> </ul>	<p>Date of verdict: (n/a)</p> <p>Name of alleged perpetrator(s):</p> <p>Sentenced to: (n/a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Special Investigation Team activated</li> <li>- Filing of cases against various suspects imminent.</li> <li>- The PNP identified a certain Rodel Barillo as the primary suspect in the case. A court-issued search warrant resulted in the recovery of a 9mm gun from Barillo’s residence which the PNP said matched with the bullet slugs found in the crime scene. Barillo, however, was shot dead a week after the killing of Pepino.</li> </ul>

							<p><i>The NBI, on the other hand, conducted an exhumation of the body of Pepino wherein a bullet fragment was recovered. Forensic examination revealed that it came from a 9mm-caliber bullet.</i></p> <p><i>In spite of these findings, PTFoMS ordered law enforcement agencies to conduct a much deeper investigation of the case.</i></p>
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**Section 2: Positive or Innovative Measures the Member State is taking to promote safety of journalists and combat impunity**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Actors</b>	<b>Outcome(s)</b>
<p><i>Administrative Order No. 1 signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte upon assumption of office in 2016, creating the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) whose mandate is to “establish a government-wide program of action where the whole system of the bureaucracy is involved in the efficient, coherent, and comprehensive resolution of unsolved cases of violence in the form of killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and other grave violations of the right to life, liberty, and security of persons against the members of the press”.</i></p>	<p><i>President Rodrigo Roa Duterte</i></p>	<p><i>Through the efforts of the PTFoMS, much has been done to prevent or minimize violence perpetrated against Filipino journalists of all genders. The PTFoMS is mandated to record and address every complaint of harassment and violence against media workers in the Philippines. The State response to such complaints is both immediate and immense. All are given utmost importance. These cases are all painstakingly documented, investigated, and prosecuted to the full extent of the law with assistance of all relevant agencies of the government. Kindly note that Administrative Order No. 1 creating PTFoMS enjoined all branches and agencies of the government to render full support, assistance and cooperation to the task force in carrying out its mandate of providing security to all media workers. Media workers that are in danger are provided immediate protection.</i></p> <p><i>The PTFoMS has a dedicated 24/7 hotline (+639178406790) for media workers to ensure a prompt response and immediate access for protective measures. It also has an online platform, the PTFoMS Facebook page, which provides useful information for media practitioners.</i></p>

		<p><i>It has put forth a 2020 Task Force’s Action Plan based on the book Defending Journalism with 5 principles for Developing and Implementing a National Safety Response (Strategy, Presence, Collaboration, Influence, and Sustainability)</i></p> <p><i>The Handbook on Personal Security Measures for Media Practitioners, a guide specifically created for journalists on the Do’s and Don’t’s of how to protect oneself and the family against violence, threats and intimidation, has been published by the task force and given free of charge to journalists.</i></p> <p><i>A Quick Response System has been put in place where an “Incident Report Form” is provided to journalist to report complaints.</i></p> <p><i>A WATCHLIST of Person/s of Interest (POI) has been created which identifies individuals or groups that have been verified as sources of threats against media workers. This includes giving “Red-flag” warnings to POIs as a form of deterrence.</i></p>
<p><i>Launching of PTFoMS Moving 4Ward Webinar Series on “Safeguarding Press Freedom on Media Coverage during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2022 Election”</i></p>	<p><i>PTFoMS, PCOO, PIA, FOI</i></p>	<p><i>Pursuant to these mandates, the goal of the PTFoMS is to intensify the campaign of the administration to safeguard press freedom, especially during times of natural disasters, pandemics, and of course, elections when political threats and reprisals against journalists are expected to rise.</i></p> <p><i>Dubbed as “PTFoMS MOVING 4WARD: SAFEGUARDING PRESS FREEDOM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE 2022 ELECTIONS SEASON”, the Task Force will be advocating MEDIA ETHICS, SAFETY and SECURITY through the WEBINAR SERIES.</i></p> <p><i>In partnership with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and the Freedom of Information (FOI) program of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), experts on the subject matter will lead the discussions in the webinar.</i></p> <p><b>Topic 1: Media coverage safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic</b></p> <p><i>The pandemic and other natural calamities have made the practice of journalism even more difficult, which is why it is important for the Task Force to reinforce the skills of media workers while fulfilling their work. The first topic will equip media workers with the necessary skills and knowledge on how to better protect themselves during these kinds of calamities.</i></p>

		<p><b>Topic 2: Media coverage safety during the 2022 elections season</b></p> <p>The Task Force has identified three major factors why violence against media workers spike during election period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So-called “dirty politics”</li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Vulnerability of the sector</li> </ul> <p>In order to avoid election-related violence against media workers, the second topic of the webinar will equip media workers on how to effectively guard against political threats, reprisals and other dangers while practicing their profession, especially during times of elections.</p> <p>Each of these causes must be addressed to ensure the creation of a safe and protected atmosphere for media workers conducive to a free and fruitful media work.</p>
<p><i>Resolving 51 cases of media killings which resulted to the convictions of 67 Killers of Journalists</i></p>	<p><i>PTFoMS, DOJ</i></p>	<p><i>In the 4th year of PTFoMS, the Philippines has achieved another world’s first by so far resolving 51 cases of media killings with the latest conviction of accused Leonardo Banaag Jr. for the murder of broadcaster Jovelito Agustin.</i></p> <p><i>This brings to 67 the total number of suspects that were found guilty by the courts for the killing of journalists, with sentences ranging from reclusion temporal to life imprisonment.</i></p>
<p><i>Passage of the Media Workers Welfare Bill by the House Committee on Labor and Employment</i></p>	<p><i>House of Representatives, PTFoMS</i></p>	<p><i>To address the various vulnerabilities of the media sector, the Task Force has forged a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Anti-Crime and Terrorism—Community Involvement and Support (ACT-CIS) party-list to push for measures seeking to improve the welfare of thousands of media workers in the country.</i></p> <p><i>ACT-CIS Partylist Representative Niña Taduran, who sponsored House Bill No. 2476 with Partylist Representatives Eric Yap and Jocelyn Tulfo, believed that this will empower the Fourth Estate. On December 4, 2020, the bill has been approved by the House Committee on Labor and Employment. The bill aims to ensure that media workers shall, at the minimum, be paid the wages, allowances, and benefits provided by law to workers.</i></p>

		<p><i>Media workers shall be covered by the Social Security System, the Home Development Mutual Fund or the Pag-IBIG Fund, and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. upon employment.</i></p> <p><i>It guarantees security of tenure to media workers after the probationary work period of six months of continuous work.</i></p> <p><i>The Department of Labor and Employment shall be mandated as the agency in charge of monitoring compliance with the provisions of the proposed law.</i></p> <p><i>A News Media Tripartite Council that shall serve as a link among stakeholders, provides a platform where media workers and employers can agree upon mutually beneficial policies that will promote the interests of the media industry, and serve as an avenue to express their aspirations, discuss their programs, or settle conflicts.</i></p> <p><i>With 218 affirmative votes, zero negative vote, and no abstention, the chamber passed on final reading House Bill 8140 or the proposed Media Workers' Welfare Act on January 18, 2021.</i></p> <p><i>Senate Bill No. 1820, a counterpart of the HB No. 2476 was filed by Senate President Vicente Tito Sotto in the Senate on September 2, 2020. Also, Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. had filed Senate Bill No. 2021 to push for "enhanced" protection, security and benefits for media workers on January 26, 2021. To date, Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development Chairman Senator Joel Villanueva is preparing the series of hearing for the said Senate bill.</i></p>
<p><i>Massive manhunt and reward set for Maguindanao Massacre suspects</i></p>	<p><i>PTFoMS, PNP</i></p>	<p><i>Acting on the directive of former Chief PNP P/GEN ARCHIE FRANCISCO GAMBOA, the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) of the PNP has issued a Memorandum dated March 13, 2020 to all units "on the Tracking and Accounting of Wanted Persons Involved in the Maguindanao Massacre."</i></p> <p><i>In response to this PNP-wide directive, P/LT COL EDILMAR ALVIAR, officer-in-charge of the Operations Management Division (OMD) of the Police Security and Protection Group (PSPG), for one, issued another Memo directing his men to "publish the photos of the</i></p>

		<p><i>above-mentioned accused via TV, Radio, Internet and Media (TRIM) and cause the implementation of their Warrant of Arrest (WOA)”.</i></p> <p><i>It will be noted that the Special Agents of the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) are members of the PSPG. Other PNP units besides the PSPG similarly cascaded the directive to their field personnel, who are also required to submit their action taken by 5:00pm of March 26, 2020. Authorities have placed a bounty for the capture of suspects Datu Bahnarin A. Ampatuan and Datu Saudi Ampatuan Jr. at PHP 300,000 each, while the amount of PHP 250,000 each will be the reward for the arrest of the remaining suspects.</i></p>
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**Section 3: Steps the Member State has taken to consider the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work**

*The Philippines is one of the most gender equal countries in the world. The country has consistently ranked higher in several gender-equality indexes than most OECD-member states such as the United States, Canada, Australia, France, or Switzerland. In the latest World Economic Forum's annual Global Gender Gap Report, the Philippines maintained its position as the most gender equal country in Asia. According to the report, Filipino women outnumber men in senior and leadership roles, and in professional and technical fields. The Philippines already had two women presidents, several women law-makers, and countless women in high government positions such as department heads, commissioners, justices and the like. Two women have already served as chief justice of the Supreme Court. The current vice-president is a woman. While there are jobs that are traditionally considered for men due to the physical demands of the work such as those in construction and public transportation, the arena of journalism is not among them. Among the major media organizations in the Philippines such as Manila Bulletin, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Philippine Star, women hold high editorial positions. The news departments of the major TV networks in the Philippines such as ABS-CBN and GMA were reportedly led by women.*

*While violence against women exists in the country just like in all parts of the world, the Philippines has made tremendous strides in addressing this menace at home or in the work-place. Of particular importance is the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (Republic Act (RA) 9262), a controversial yet ground-breaking law even to western standards. Other laws of this nature include the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law (RA 7877), the Anti-Rape Law (RA 8353), the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710) the Rape-Victim Assistance and Protection Act (RA 8505), the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act 2003 (RA 9208) and many more.*

*With regard to women journalists in particular, available data suggests that any violence perpetrated against them is not gender-based but are primarily due to the nature of their work as journalists (work related). The Philippines is proactive in clamping down any violence against women*



and has put in place various laws and other programs to protect Filipino women's rights and enforce legal measures to reduce and eradicate incidents related to violence against women in general. These are applicable to women journalists as well. These include:

- **Republic Act 6725**, also known as **Anti-Discrimination Against Women Act** prohibits discrimination with respect to terms and conditions of employment solely on the basis of sex.
- **Republic Act 9262**, or **An Act Defining Violence Against Women and Their Children, Providing Protective Measures for Victims, Prescribing Penalties Therefor and for Other Purposes**, recognizes the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security.
- **Republic Act 7882**, also known as the **Women in Development and Nation Building Act** the act that states the Provision of Assistance to Women Engaging in Micro and Cottage Business Enterprises, and for other purposes.
- **Republic Act 7877**, also known as **Anti-Sexual Harassment Act**, addresses the issue of sexual harassment committed in employment, education or training environment.
- **Republic Act 8353**, also known as **Anti-Rape Law of 1997** states that any person having carnal knowledge of a woman through force, threat, or intimidation or by means of fraudulent machination or grave abuse of authority will be punished.
- **Republic Act 8505**, also known as **Rape Victim Assistance Protection Act of 1998** declares the policy of the State to provide necessary assistance and protection for rape victims.
- **Republic Act 9710**, also known as the **Magna Carta for Women** is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination through the recognition, protection, fulfillment, and promotion of the rights of Filipino women, especially those belonging in the marginalized sectors of the society. Pursuant to this law is Executive Order 273 that states the approval and adoption of Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development, 1995-2025.
- **Republic Act 6949**, declares the National Women's Day every 8<sup>th</sup> day of March yearly, considering as a special working holiday.
- **Republic Act 11210**, also known as the **Expanded Maternity Leave Law** extends the previous 60-day (78 days for caesarian section delivery for women workers in the private sector) paid maternity leave to 105 days, one of the longest in the world.

Worth mentioning is House Bill 2476 (HB 2476), otherwise known as the "Media Workers' Welfare Act" (MWWA), pending before Congress. The bill seeks to provide media workers of all genders with security of tenure and better pay, insurance and conditions of work.

The Philippines has already passed several laws which criminalizes online violence against the public in general. These laws specifically deal with the use of current technology as means to promote violence against its citizen and may be utilized by women journalists. These include:

- **Republic Act No. 9995**, an act defining and penalizing the crime of photo and video voyeurism.
- **Republic Act No. 10627**, an act requiring all schools to adopt policies to prevent and address the acts of bullying in their institutions, including cyber bullying. This can be used by student journalists as a means to protect against any form of bullying.

- **Republic Act 10175**, also known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act is an act defining cybercrimes and providing for the prevention, investigation, suppression and the imposition of penalties therefor.

Last but not the least, **Administrative Order No. 1** signed by President Duterte upon assumption of office in 2016, creating the PTFoMS whose mandate is to “establish a government-wide program of action where the whole system of the bureaucracy is involved in the efficient, coherent, and comprehensive resolution of unsolved cases of violence in the form of killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and other grave violations of the right to life, liberty, and security of persons against the members of the press”.

To properly address complaints of threats and violence specifically targeting journalists, the presidential task force is mandated to “receive, process, and take necessary action upon complaints of abuse and other acts of violence filed by Media Workers” in coordination with the law-enforcement agencies. This includes “aid in witness protection” involving journalists of any gender. Some of the various transparent measures and policies already put in place by the task force include:

- The PTFoMS has a dedicated 24/7 hotline (+639178406790) for media workers to ensure a prompt response and immediate access for protective measures. Also, an online platform, the PTFoMS Facebook page, providing updated and factual information related to media practitioners. PTFoMS has the power to provide police protection to women journalists 24/7 who are victims of threats or harassments.
- The 2020 Task Force’s Action Plan, based on the book *Defending Journalism* with 5 principles for Developing and Implementing a National Safety Response (Strategy, Presence, Collaboration, Influence, and Sustainability)
- The Handbook on Personal Security Measures for Media Practitioners is a guide specifically created for journalists on the Do’s and Don’t’s of how to protect oneself and the family against violence, threats and intimidation.
- The PTFoMS Quick Response System through Incident Report Form is provided to the victims to report complaints.
- Creation of a PTFoMS WATCHLIST of Person/s of Interest (POI). The term POI applies to individuals or groups that have been verified as sources of threats against media workers. This includes giving “Red-flag” warnings to POIs.

Through these initiatives, much of the threats and harassments against women journalists have been significantly reduced or deterred. Any attempted harassment or threats against journalists are given utmost priority by the task force using all available law enforcement agencies at its disposal and are therefore resolved immediately.

#### **Section 4: Agreement to post the submitted information on UNESCO’s dedicated webpage**

Yes, we agreed that the information submitted will be posted/published on UNESCO’s dedicated webpage.

