ANALYTICAL REPORT ON SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND PRESS FREEDOM SITUATION IN UGANDA

By Human Rights Network for Journalists in Uganda (HRNJ-Uganda)
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About the report

This report is a product of the examination of abuses and violations against journalists for the past two years based on statistics and narratives which point to the safety and security situation of journalists in Uganda. The statistics are just a tip of the iceberg of a media sector that is systematically being influenced and potentially suffering under the yoke aggression from both state and non-state actors.
1.0 Introduction

Uganda’s media landscape has since the early 1990s been liberalized with the proliferation of both print and electronic media outlets. Currently, the country is said to have over 260 radio stations, at least 100 television channels and above 50 newspapers print and online.

Despite this seeming diversity in Uganda’s media space, the freedom of expression and press freedom environment continue to shrink as a result of measures being adopted by state actors through the introduction of legislations both policy and administrative in order to control the media. Free press has continued to shrink as manifested in overt and covert acts by state agents, prevalent media legislation, policy and administrative actions.

Presently, Uganda Police Force (UPF) has been identified as the major perpetrator of freedom of expression (FOE) and press freedom violations in the country. Some of the violation perpetrated by the police against journalists, media practitioners, bloggers, activists include physical assault, arrest and detentions, destruction and/or confiscation of working equipment, closure of media houses among other.

Moreover, the communications regulator, Uganda Communications Commission (herein after called UCC), has also been responsible for interfering in the work of media outlets in the country. Over time, UCC is gradually extending its powers through administrative actions to force broadcast media into submission and acts in self-censorship. For instance, the UCC, has in the past, closed down radio stations; forced media owners or managers to suspend journalists and other staff working with the media outlets; maliciously warned numerous radio stations against breach of minimum broadcasting standards; and forced radio and TV channels in the country to relay live broadcasts of speeches by the President of Uganda on New Year’s Eve of 2018; as contained in a December 28th 2017 directive and withdrawal of broadcast licenses belonging to media houses and in some cases journalists. A recent example was seen on May 2, 2019 when the UCC issued a directive to suspend 39 journalists from about 13 media outlets for carrying live broadcasts of police officers brutally dispersing a procession of Musician cum politician and Member of Parliament Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu alias Bobi Wine and his supporters who was going to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) for interrogation. Fortunately, the High court in Kampala presided over by Her Lordship Lydia Mugambe issued an injunction staying the implementation of the directive by UCC. The hearing of the main application seeking to quash UCC’s directive and another application contesting the legality of UCC’s previous directives filed by Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda is due for hearing in October 2019 since both cases were consolidated.

Additionally, the government of Uganda has over the last three years (2016-2019) extended its quest to regulate the offline media space online. In 2016, the UCC was responsible for two Incidents of Internet shutdowns on separate occasions amidst heightened public protests during elections. The battle for control of cyberspace intensified in 2018 when the Ugandan government was the first country to adopt a law aimed at taxing the use of social media platforms in the country. The introduction of social media tax has negatively impacted the enjoyment of Internet freedom by forcing many Ugandan mobile phone users to stay offline.

Journalists and other media practitioners and activists remain the major victims of FOE violations recorded in Uganda. In 2017 journalists suffered abuses and violations particularly
for reporting on politically sensitive or national security related stories or subjects. These have in the past included stories or reports on land grabbing and proposed amendments to the Land Act 1998; follow-up stories on the assassination of Assistant Inspector General of Police Andrew Felix Kaweesi which happened on March 17 2017; the alleged dismissal of the then Inspector General of Police Gen. Kale Kayihura; Parliamentary and public debates on proposals by government to amend the Constitution to lift the age limit cap for presidential candidates in 2017, a move which was seen as meant to benefit the incumbent President Yoweri Museveni and opposing views in the media were often met with harsh treatment from State agents. Media houses were barred from carrying live broadcasts of the parliamentary proceedings in regard to lifting of the age limit cap.

2.0 Findings

Uganda is party to several international and regional human rights instruments that guarantee the freedom of expression and by extension, media rights. These international standards form part of Uganda's legal framework on freedom of expression and the attendant media rights. In assessing the freedom of expression for the media in Uganda for the past two years, HRNJ-Uganda benchmarked these national, regional and international standards. As such, any alleged violation or abuse is weighed against these standards which are briefly explained below.

**International human rights law Instruments that Uganda has accented**

There are various international human rights frameworks which guarantee the freedoms and rights of the media that Uganda is party to. These international instruments include the following:

The *Universal Declaration for Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) of 1966 all collectively constituting the International Bill of Rights.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), under Article 19 of the ICCPR, guarantees the right to freedom of expression in the following terms;

(a) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of opinion.

(b) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art or through any other media of his choice.

The UN Human Rights Committee, the oversight body for the implementation of ICCPR by State parties, adopted General Comment 34, which is an additional interpretation guideline of the freedoms of opinion and expression guaranteed by Article 19 among other provisions.

Uganda acceded to the Covenant on 21st January 1987, and since, it is obligated to ensure that it implements the provisions of the Covenant.
**Continental and Sub-Regional Standards and Instruments**

Continentally, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) – guarantees the right to freedom of expression. These guarantees are largely similar to those found in the ICCPR. The Charter under Article 9 states:

(1) Every individual shall have the right to receive information.

(2) Every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law.

Additionally, the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights in its 32nd Ordinary Session meeting on 17th to 23rd October 2002 adopted the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa. According to the Declaration, freedom of expression is ‘…an individual human right… a cornerstone of democracy and… a means of ensuring respect for all human rights and freedoms …’. Principle 1 of the Declaration is to the effect that:

(a) Freedom of expression and information, including the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other form of communication, including across frontiers, is a fundamental and inalienable human right and an indispensable component of democracy.

(b) Everyone shall have an equal opportunity to exercise the right to freedom of expression and to access information without discrimination.

The Declaration elaborates a number of principles and standards on freedom of expression and enjoins State parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights to make every effort to give practical effect to these principles.

**The Force of the International human rights standards in Uganda**

These international instruments became part of the Uganda legal system when they were ratified by the legislature and subsequently domesticated through acts of Parliament. As such, they are supposed to be promoted, respected and implemented just like any other law of the land. The Constitution of Uganda (1995) also contains several provisions that were inspired by the aforementioned international human rights obligations and commitments that the country is party to since Independence in 1962. In essence, the same provisions or standards were replicated in the Uganda Constitution, some of which are summarized below;

- Article 28 (XXVIII) (b) that provides the principles on which Uganda should conduct its foreign policy which should include respect for international law and Conventions that the country has ratified.

- Article 287 that saved and adopted all conventions that previous governments had entered with any country or international organization since Independence Day October 9th 1962, and were still running when this Constitution came into force.

- Articles 119 (4); 123(1) 123(2) all give different perspectives on the accession to, domestication, and execution of international conventions.
It is therefore important for State actors to appreciate the international obligations on freedom of expression and the press that Uganda has committed itself to under the range of international instruments that it has domesticated.

**National Provisions for Freedoms of Expression and the Press**

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda elaborately provides for freedom of opinion, expression and access to information in the various provisions Article 29(1a) provides that everyone shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression which shall include freedom of the press and other media. In the same vein, Article 41(1) provides that everyone shall have the right of access to information in possession of the State.

Additionally, Article 20 guarantees that the freedoms of expression and of access to information are inherent and not granted by the State.

These Constitutional provisions and international instruments discussed earlier provide the framework for the enjoyment of freedoms of expression and of the media. It is against these standards that this report holds violators of media freedoms accountable; that provisions of subsequent laws that limit fundamental freedoms of expression and the media are flagged and critiqued; that recommendations for improvement are later made.

**Legal provisions that limit enjoyment of Freedom of Expression in Uganda**

Despite Uganda’s ratification of various national, regional and International Freedom of Expression instruments, the country has enacted legislation that is inconsistent with appropriate standards as provided in the laws captured here below;

**The Penal Code Act, Cap 120**

This basic criminal compendium has several sections that undermine freedom of expression. It provides for a range of offences in relation to respective pieces of legislation. For instance Sections 53 and 179 criminalize defamation. Section 41 criminalized sectarian speech and forbids talk along tribal, religious, ethnic or other lines of differences among people. It thus criminalizes media scrutiny of demographic imbalances in the sharing of the national cake.

Sections 49, 51 and 52 criminalize what authorities might interpret as inducing a boycott, incitement to violence and incitement to refuse or delay payment of tax. As such this law restricts free debate on matters of public interest and undermines public affairs journalism.

**The Press and Journalist Act 2000**

This law was enacted in 1995 by the National Resistance Council that acted as the National Assembly of the Republic of Uganda. In 2000, it was proclaimed an Act of Parliament. Its commencement on 28 July 1995 repealed the Newspaper and Publications Act Cap 305 and the Press Censorship and Correction Act Cap 306 both of which were colonial laws.

This law has many provisions that limit freedom of expression and of the media in unnecessary ways. It limits persons authorized to practice journalism; it imposes requirements
for journalists to register before practicing; to have an annual practicing certificate; and to register editors and forces journalists to belong to the government sanctioned National Institute for Journalists of Uganda (NIJU).


The laws that govern freedom of expression for media arise from international and regional Conventions as well as from national laws, which include the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. Protection and promotion of these freedoms by the government of Uganda is an international obligation and their violation is more than a domestic issue. These standards constituted the reference point when HRNJ-Uganda was assessing the state of freedom of expression in Uganda for the past two years.

**Attacks/Violations against journalists and other media workers**

The violations and abuses against journalists and media houses were of different kinds and nature. There were 276 violations in the past two years with 113 violations in 2017 and 163 violations in 2018 according to the Press Freedom Index (PFI) Report by Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda.

In 2017, the major FOE violation recorded in Uganda involved the arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists in 45 incidents whereas in 2018 most of the violations against the media were blockage of access to news scenes with 40 incidents being documented.

Assault on journalists was the second most reported violation in 2018 with 37 cases as compared to 27 cases in 2017. Assaults are a very worrying trend, especially as the country again prepares for the 2021 elections, because they cause bodily harm to journalists. Assaults took various forms including but not limited to; threats to beat, manhandling the journalists, chasing after journalists to grab and confiscate their cameras and recorders, physically beating journalists causing minor injuries and in other instances grave injuries leading to partial disability among others.

There was however, a reduction in the incidents of arbitrary arrests and detention of journalists in 2018 with 31 cases as compared to 45 violations recorded in 2017.

Five (5) cases of causing malicious damage to journalists’ equipment were reported in 2018 compared to seven (7) similar cases reported in 2017. There was one case of kidnap in 2018 just as was the case in 2017.
Inhumane and degrading treatment during arrest

There were 76 arrests reported in the past two years (2017 & 2018). Majority of these arrests were related to events surrounding the arrests of opposition politicians including but not limited to Hon. Kyagulanyi Sentamu a.k.a Bobi Wine, Member of Parliament for Kyaddondo East Constituency.¹

An analysis of these journalists’ arrests, which was done in context of a political contest points to a larger scheme and a new strategy of using various tactics to prevent journalists from reaching news sources and news scenes in an attempt to deny the public of information that is critical of government.

Arrests by Resident District Commissioners (RDCs)

Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) who are representatives of the President at district level have involved themselves in the arrest and dentition of journalists. Case in point is the Lira Resident District Commissioner, Milton Odongo, who in November 2018 ordered the closure of Unity FM in Lira.² The arrested staff who were later released, included Charles Odongo, a technical director; Kenneth Opio, an assistant station manager; Félix Ogwang, a presenter; Moses Alwala, a news reporter; Micheal Ogwal, a news anchor and Aron Ebwola, a producer.³ The Lira arrests brought back the spectre of Resident District Commissioners interfering in media matters and ordering radio stations off air. This behavior had greatly reduced and in 2017 no abuses were being reported against RDCs.

Blocking access to news scenes

Blocking journalists from accessing news scenes and news sources as a violation contributed 11 and 40 cases in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The main contexts where journalists were blocked were the return of Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi from the United States in September 2018 and the trial of Assistant Superintendent of Police Muhammed Kirumira in a police disciplinary court.⁴

Blocking journalists from covering an event of immense public interest is problematic because people have a right to know what is happening around them, about their leaders and actions that their government is taking. Blocking journalists from reporting on legitimate news events creates suspicion of sinister motives by those in authority. Journalists are the eyes and ears of society, whom society legitimately assigned that role of informing them.

Assault of journalists

Incidents of assault against journalists were 64 in the past two years making it the second most recurrent violation in which the Police and the army (the Uganda People’s Defence Forces) featured prominently. There were different contexts during which journalists were assaulted but the main ones are listed below:

a) Assaults by security forces (the SFC, Military Police, Regular Police) in political situations.5
b) Assaults by Police on journalists in context of reporting ongoing in-fighting within groups and sections in the Police Force. 6
c) Assaults by UPDF forces attached to the Royal Guards Units charged with protecting the Kabaka (king) of Buganda, the royal family and the Katikkiro (Premier of Buganda). 7

d) Assaults by groups of civilians in both political and non-political situations.8

Sections of the Uganda People’s Defence Forces particularly the Special Forces Command and Military Police were in the spotlight for several cases of assault against journalists during the conflicts that followed the Arua Municipality by-election in 2018.

Several journalists were arrested including an NTV crew of Hebert Zziwa, Leonard Muwanga and their driver while covering the murder of Bobi Wine’s driver Yasin Kawuma by suspected security officers.

9 Others, including NBS Tv cameraman Yiga Julius Bakabaage were assaulted. When the pro-Bobi Wine protests spread to other parts of the country particularly Kampala, after his arrest and detention incommunicado, journalists suffered more assaults by Police and Military Police as they covered street battles between security forces and protesters. On August 21, 2018, James Akena of Reuters, Ronald Galiwango and Juma Kiirya both of NTV; Julius Muhumwa from Dream TV and Alfred Ochwo from the Observer all sustained body injuries after they were beaten by soldiers.10 Nevertheless, HRNJ- Uganda received reports that several journalists individually received compensation for the injury, including payment of medical bills and replacement of any damaged equipment. Government spokesman Ofwono Opondo also confirmed this. And the victim journalists have also not pursued prosecution of offending soldiers.

5 https://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Editorial/We-condemn-army--attack-on-Journalists/689360-4723776-nr218/index.html
7 http://dispatch.ug/2018/05/03/press-freedom-uganda-not-getting-better-journalists/
10 https://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Editorial/We-condemn-army--attack-on-journalists/689360-4723776-nr218/index.html
Death threats

Threats to journalists occur from time to time, but death threats have been a rare occurrence. However, on 5th November 2018, a letter was found at the offices of the Masaka-based Southern Buganda Journalists Association, in which serious threats including death threats were issued to 12 Masaka region journalists. The origin of the letter is not known. A copy of the same letter was deposited at the entrance of CBS Radio offices in Masaka town. It was titled in Luganda language:

“Bannamawulire bano wammanga tujja kubakuba amasasi, okubatematema n’okubawa obutwa.” It is loosely translated in English thus: “We shall shoot, hack and poison the journalists listed below.”

The document typed in capital letters also indicated why each of the journalists was being targeted but they all revolved around the execution of their journalistic work. The Internal Security Organisation took over investigation of the threatening letter.

The journalists whose names were on the anonymous letter include: Tomusange Kayinja, Kalanzi Jamiru, Male John and Ssozi Sekimpi of the Central Broadcasting Services (CBS FM), Nsubuga Robert of BBS TV, Jacinta Bwanika of Bukedde, Mukasa Kipecu and Kabugu Norman of Kamunye, Dismas Buregeya of New Vision, Mutyaba Gertrude of Daily Monitor, Issa Aliga of NTV and Farisi Magembe of NBS Television. Several of the targeted journalists told HRNJ-Uganda that they lived in fear, given the increased attacks on journalists and unresolved killings of some prominent persons in the country.

A month earlier, Tomusange Kayinja, one of the journalists listed, was ambushed by gunmen who shot at his car and shattered the windscreen. He escaped unhurt. The attack happened not far from his home.

Issuing death threats also constitutes an offence under the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (2012) Section 2(c) --- causing a person to suffer severe pain or harm by living in fear of an imminent death; and Section 1(c) about intimidating or coercing a person (in this case a journalist) to do or to refrain from doing any act.

Criminal libel and Compulsion to reveal sources

In 2018, police summoned and charged seven journalists from seven online publications with criminal libel and offensive communication for writing stories about the wealth of Ms. Justin Bagyenda, former Director of Banks Supervision in the Bank of Uganda. Ms. Bagyenda and several senior Bank of Uganda managers were appearing before a sectoral parliamentary committee investigating the sale and closure of several local banks in the past 15 years.

The writers charged were from *Eagle Online, Chimp Reports, Business Focus, Spy Reports, Matooke Republic, Spy Uganda and CEO Magazine* publications. They were accused of publishing details about bank accounts and land titles of Ms. Justine Bagyenda and of Mr. Louis Kasekende, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Uganda. The Police released the journalists on bond and they are to date still required to report to police regularly to have their bond extended.
The Police also violated the journalists’ rights central to the execution of their work—protecting their sources from identification when it forced them to reveal the sources behind the stories. Section 38 of the Press and Journalist Act on the protection of source of information states that “a journalist shall not be compelled to disclose the source of his or her information except with the consent of the person who gave him or her the information or on an order of a court of law.” The on-line journalists resisted being compelled to reveal their source, seeking refuge in this section of the law. The Police released them on bond.

**Damaging and Confiscation of equipment**

Incidents of confiscating and vandalizing journalists’ equipment—cameras and other recording equipment have also been witnessed in the past two years totaling to 23 cases. The main perpetrators were soldiers of the UPDF, Police and civilians. Majority of these incidents happened when journalists were reporting on protests and demonstrations. The confiscation and damaging of equipment falls in the larger scheme of incapacitating journalists and preventing them from either reporting on anti-government protests or evidence of how the security forces violently deal with demonstrators.

**Media Station Closure and staff suspension**

In 2018, Unity FM Lira, was closed on the orders of the Resident District Commissioner. A number of journalists were also arrested but later released Unity FM was reopened one month later under very strict conditions by UCC that included the suspension of four staff members of the Station. UCC also launched investigations into all eight radio stations broadcasting in Lira, which it warned of possible closure.

In a similar dimension, in February, 2018, the Gulu district security committee, headed by the Resident District Commissioner, Captain Santos Okot Laporo, recommended to the Minister for ICT and National Guidance, Mr Frank Tumwebaze, the closure of Radio Maria, Gulu Station, which the committee accused of spreading anti-government propaganda during Sunday sermons aired on the radio. The sermons were delivered by the Station Manager, Fr Charles Onen. The issue was resolved amicably by the Interreligious Council before which Fr Onen apologized. The station was never closed. The non-closure notwithstanding, the domineering nature of the UCC and the increasing dominant role of the RDCs as heads of security committees at district level in regulating media, a role they are not mandated to undertake.

**Denial of Accreditation**

In September 2018, the working environment for foreign correspondents hit a setback when 10 journalists, names withheld, were denied accreditation to work in Uganda. The Foreign Correspondents Association in Uganda said the process, which had been smooth, was becoming more complicated especially in the prevailing political environment. The denial of accreditation was seen as yet another aspect in gagging the press in Uganda.

The Press and Journalists Act places to duty of accreditation of foreign correspondents in the hands of the Media Council, but strangely, this work is being done by the Media Center.
Uganda’s Social Media tax and its negative impact on Freedom of Expression

The introduction of the Social Media Tax (Over the Top Tax or better known as OTT) for one to access online platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and others, narrowed the space for freedom of expression in that one has to pay the tax first on top of the data bundles. The tax became effective on July 1, 2018. The OTT tax shows that government is retrogressing when it comes to improving and widening the communicative space in the country. For both journalists and their audiences, these social media platforms are modern ways of communicating and interacting.

Social media provides journalists with a huge harvest of content from citizen journalists and other users, which mainstream media can then curate and refine into rational debate. Taxing social media, therefore, disrupts and weakens this new communicative environment.

3.0 Addressing Impunity for Crimes against Journalists in Uganda

A number of measures have been undertaken to end impunity for crimes against journalists such as;

1) Forming a national working group that HRNJ-U co-convenes with the National Union of Journalists in Uganda under the auspices of UNESCO. The working group is multi-stakeholder in nature with a composition of media houses, media associations, government representatives such as the national police, human rights commission and the media center and the civil society representatives. The working group is at its embryotic stage and periodically meets on a quarterly basis.

2) In 2018, HRNJ-U developed a journalist’s safety and security strategy using a multi-stakeholder approach with input from major state and non-state actors. The strategy is integral in informing various actions undertaken in advocating for a safe and security environment for journalists and media practitioners in the country.

3) Litigation: Tireless efforts by HRNJ-Uganda and other stakeholders continue to use the courtstes seek redress for FOE violations. This has proved a worthwhile strategy in addressing impunity for crimes against journalists. For instance, two (2) senior police officers, both Divisional Police Commanders of Wandegeya and Old Kampala Police Stations, were brought before court for acts committed against journalists. Julius Caesar Tusingwire who was charged in 2014 for unlawful detention, assault, searching and assault of Mulindwa Mukasa officially apologized to the journalist and compensated him in a consent judgment reached in 2017. Both parties agreed to a settlement and the Police Officer officially apologized and compensated the journalist. Joram Mwesigye, another Police officer, was fined Shs 1 million and ordered to pay compensation of Shs 5 million to Andrew Lwanga a journalist whom Mwesigye had assaulted and beaten to incapacitation in 2015.
4.0 Conclusion/ Recommendations

Based on the findings, HRNJ-U is cognizant of the fact that there are increasing violation of media freedoms in Uganda and many times perpetrators have gone scot free. We are mindful of the volatility of the political environment that has been characterized by increased agitation and counter action from government forces who apply violence in dealing with suspected voices of dissent in the country. This approach is undermining to the principles of freedom of the press, rule of law and good governance that form the cornerstone of every democracy. To this we wish to make the following recommendations:

To the Government of Uganda

The Uganda Police Force

Undertake transparent and public disciplinary proceedings against errant police officers who violate freedoms and rights of journalists especially during field operations.

The Police should also undertake robust and expeditious investigation of cases reported by journalists where they are attacked in line of duty to facilitate prompt prosecution of the alleged perpetrators.

The police leadership should train its forces to ensure the safety of journalists covering various news events especially political activities.

The Uganda People’s Defense Forces (UPDF)

Undertake investigations into allegations of Military brutalities against journalists and bring the culprits to publicly account for such crimes and releasing reports of actions taken against them to the public.

Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development

Government should consider scrapping the social media tax (OTT) since the tax is discriminatory, and an affront to the basic freedoms of expression guaranteed in the Constitution. Moreover, internet access already includes taxes levied on airtime, which makes OTT double taxation.

Office of the Presidency

The Government should reign in overzealous Resident District Commissioners who interfere with media rights through acts such as raiding radio studios, switching off stations and causing the arrest of journalists.
Uganda Communications Commission

The Board of UCC should step in to restrain UCC Executive Director and management from acting beyond its powers and in so doing violating media freedoms.

UCC should be compelled to put in press a tribunal as envisioned by the UCC Act 2013 to handle media disputes.

Parliament

Parliament should review the mandate of the communications regulator, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) with the objective of separating roles. Regulation of content and ethical practice should be assigned to another body, such as a revised Press and Broadcasting Council, while UCC retains the management of spectrum and other issues.

Section 60 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013 (as amended in 2016) provides for a tribunal for the Communications sector. This tribunal is long overdue and it should be established at the earliest opportunity. At present the Uganda Communications Commission wields all power, which is contrary to democratic practice.

Parliament should revise existing legislation governing the media with a view of streamlining it with prevalent dynamics in the country.

Civil Society

Media rights defenders should work together with the Police to develop a module on media rights, freedom of expression and access to information. This module should be included in the curriculum of the Police Training Schools and aspects thereof incorporated in rules of engagement during field operations.

Media Fraternity

Owners of media houses and managers need to support journalists through training, provision of safety equipment, pay a prompt and decent wage and support their staff that have fallen victim.

Journalists should act professionally at all times, respecting their ethical practice as well as observing duties and responsibilities.