

NEPAL:

**PHYSICAL
ATTACKS AND
PRESSURE ON
JOURNALISTS
CONTINUES**

At least 40 press
freedom violations
in six months

**PRESS FREEDOM
VIOLATIONS IN NEPAL**

(APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2022)



Despite the constitution's commitment to “full freedom of the press,” journalists in Nepal operate in an uncertain and intimidating environment and regularly face physical attacks, threats, legal harassment, and arrests. Political interference in media outlets remains rampant and independent journalism in Nepal is hampered by a myriad of restrictive laws, including provisions in the country's penal code. Pressures on journalists in Nepal intensified leading into the general election in November 2022.

40

During the six-month period between April and September 2022, IPI documented at least **40 press freedom violations**, which included physical attacks, threats and arrests, as well as restrictions on reporters' access.



State actors were responsible for a majority of these incidents.

The majority of press freedom violations identified were physical attacks on journalists as well as verbal threats and harassments. In April, journalist Narajan Tamang received a death threat related to his reporting on a dispute among political parties ahead of a local election.

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IPI documented numerous cases in which journalists were **prevented from reporting on events**. In July at least 15 journalists were barred by security officers from entering the media gallery to report on the election of deputy speaker at the House of Representatives.

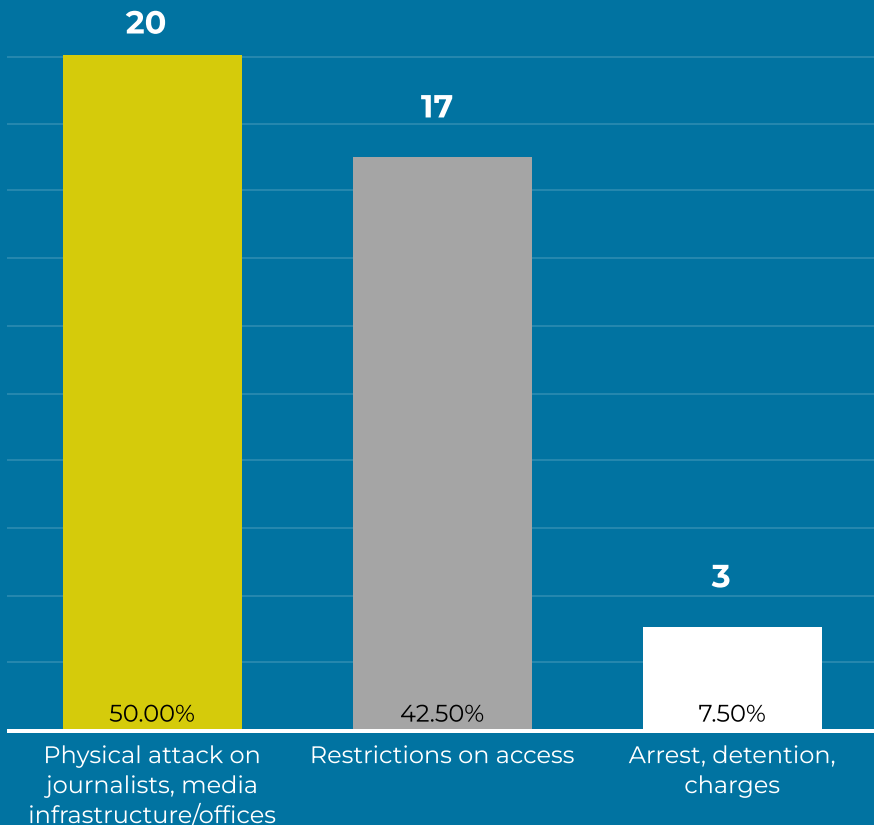


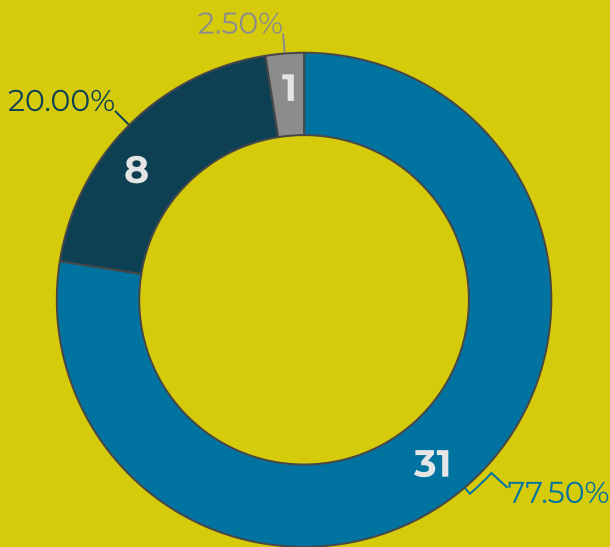
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At least **three journalists were arrested** during this monitoring period. In May, police arrested journalist and editor Yegge Bahadur Budha for a social media comment about a local election. In June, police arrested and charged journalist Kailash Majhi with indecent behavior for his critical reporting about local leadership in the Saptari district. He has been using the Right to Information Act to request information from public offices in Saptari and to inform people about ongoing public issues.

40 press freedom violations

The majority of press freedom violations identified were physical attacks on journalists, as well as verbal threats and harassment.





- State actor*
- Unknown
- Non-state actor

* Approximately three out of four incidents of press freedom violations involved a state actor (police, security agencies, courts).

Source of incidents



- MALE
 - FEMALE
- JOURNALISTS

IPI monitors and collects data on press freedom violations in Nepal as part of an ongoing cross-border project that brings together partner media outlets in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal to create public awareness about attacks on journalists and highlight the erosion of press freedom across South Asia.



To report a violation:
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