

IPI

International
Press
Institute

Africa Press Freedom Tracker

IPI Africa Programme

JANUARY – MARCH 2026

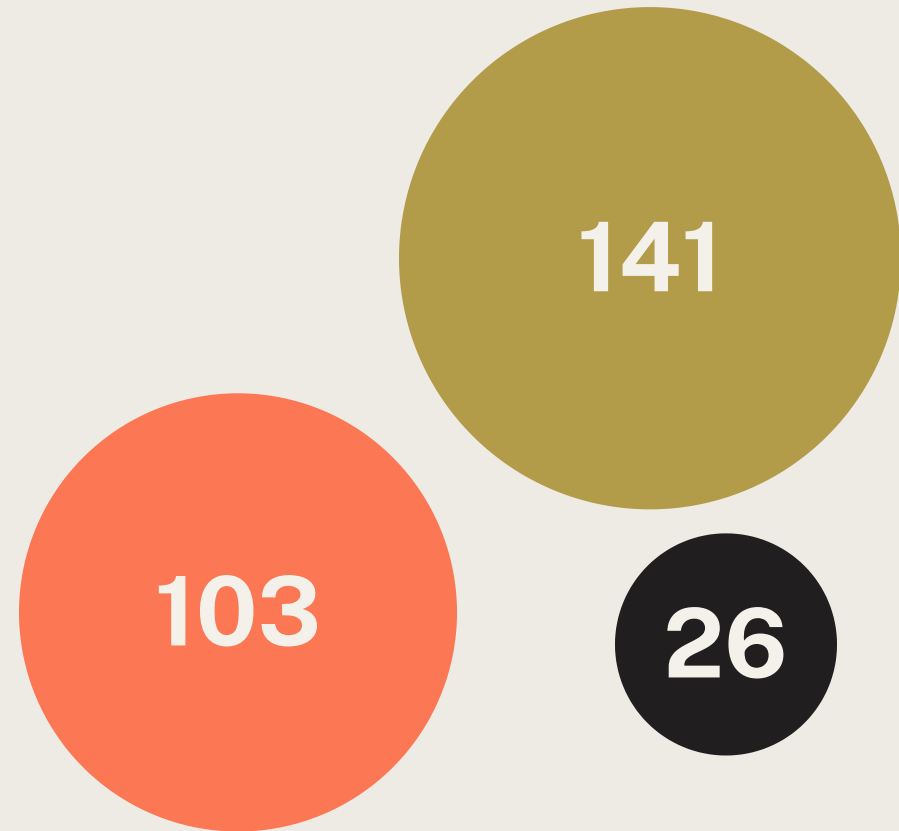


Key findings

During the first quarter of 2026, IPI's monitoring programme recorded 103 press freedom violations and threats in 26 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

These incidents spanned legal threats, arrests, and physical attacks, including the killing of a journalist in Somalia by a police officer.

The incidents affected 141 journalists, including 21 women journalists.



- IPI identified 103 press freedom violations and threats
- affecting 141 journalists
- in 26 countries

Press freedom violations and threats per country

How we count and categorize cases: IPI collects data on press freedom violations and threats across Africa. These incidents can involve individual journalists and/or media outlets. Each incident is assigned different categories of violations (which can include physical assaults to legal threats). There can be multiple types of violations or threats involving the same case and the same journalist or media outlet. When these incidents involve individual journalists, we record the gender of individual journalists, if this information is available. For this reason, the total number of violations does not always equal the total number of incidents recorded by gender.

Country	Incidents	Journalists	
		male	female
Botswana	1	1	0
Cameroon	4	8	2
Chad	3	3	0
DRC	14	13	0
Ethiopia	4	3	0
Gabon	2	2	0
Gambia	1	1	0
Ghana	6	8	0
Guinea	3	2	0
Guinea Bissau	1	0	0
Kenya	2	3	0
Mali	2	1	0
Mozambique	1	1	0
Namibia	4	0	4
Niger	1	1	1
Nigeria	5	3	0
Senegal	3	3	0
Somalia	18	38	7
Somaliland	1	1	0
South Africa	6	11	0
South Sudan	1	0	0
Sudan	1	0	3
Tanzania	1	2	0
Togo	1	1	0
Uganda	7	4	2
Zimbabwe	10	10	2
TOTAL	103	120	21

Journalist killed in Somalia



**Abshir Khalif
Shidane
killed on
March 2, 2026
(Somalia)**

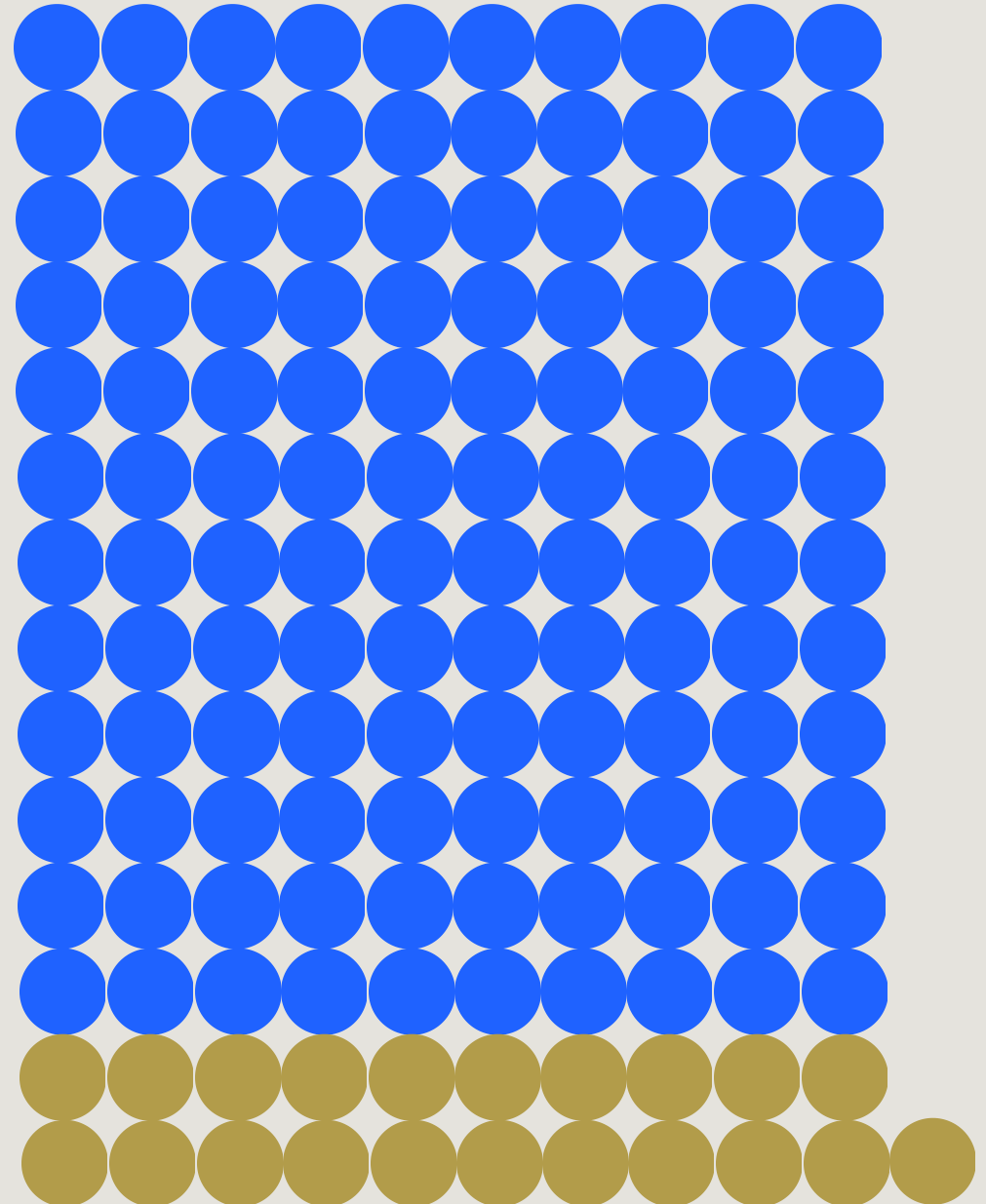


On March 2, 2026, a police officer in Mogadishu killed Abshir Khalif Shidane, a cameraman for the private media outlet Horn Connect. Shidane previously worked for Radio Waamo and Jubaland State TV. His killing heightens the precarious situation for journalists in Somalia, as the country continues to face injustice and impunity for crimes committed against media workers. The motive behind this incident remains to be established. The officer responsible for the incident was arrested. According to the local press defence group, the Somalia Journalist Syndicate (SJS) indicated that the police launched an investigation into the incident. The police have yet to release the report of their investigation.

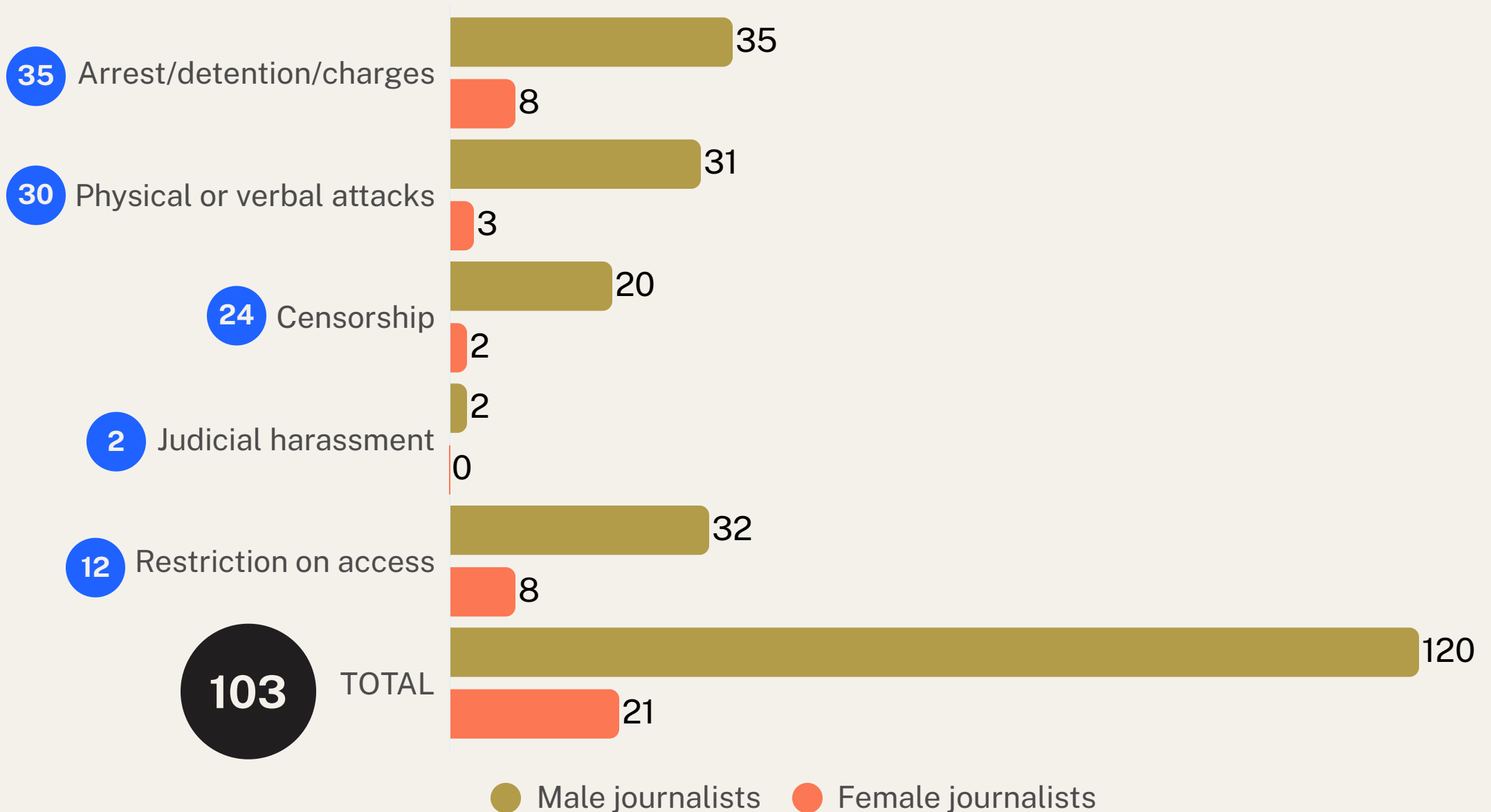
[Read more here](#)

103 violations or threats affected 141 journalists

-  120 incidents affecting male journalists
-  21 incidents affecting female journalists

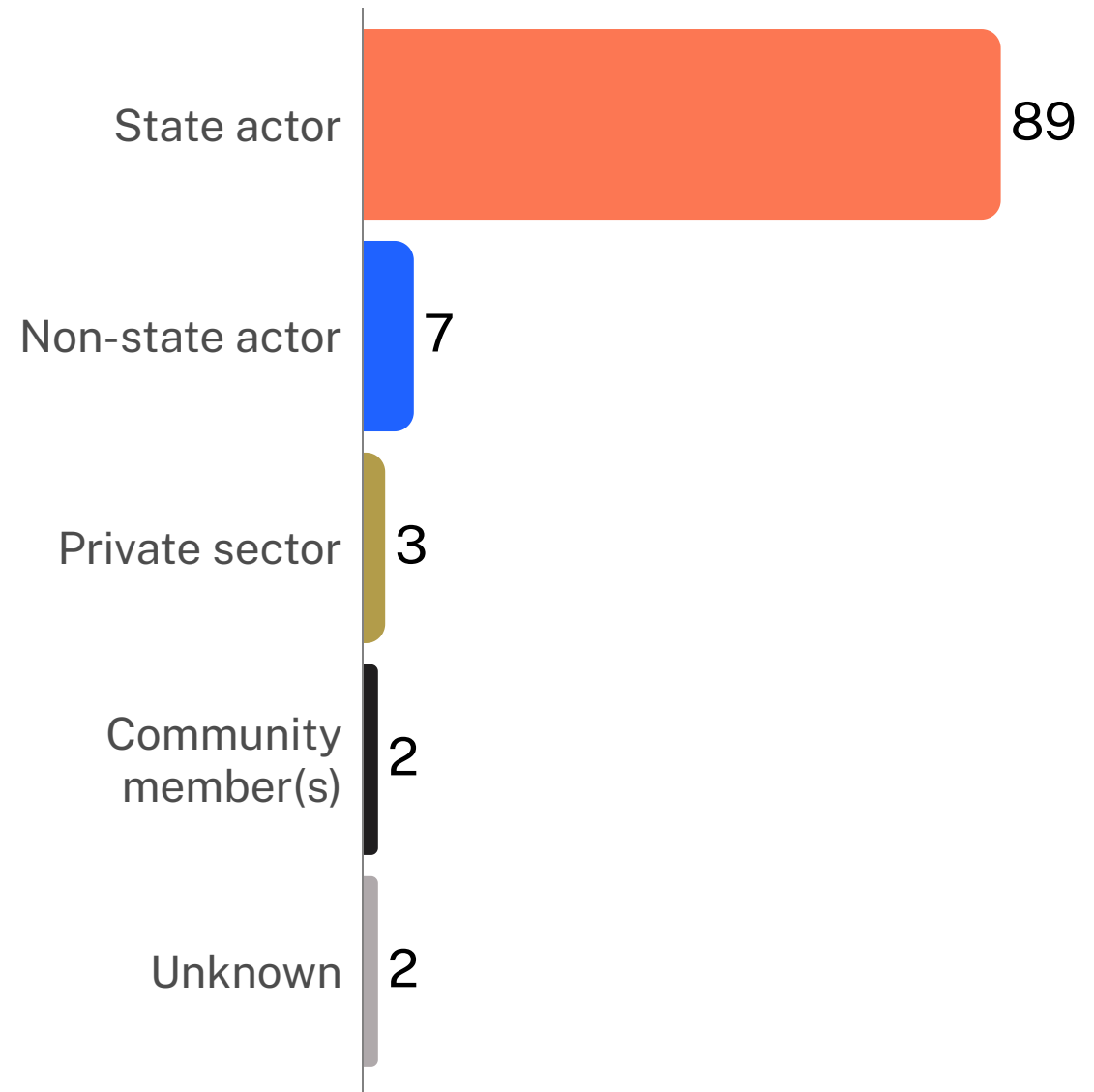


Type of incidents



Source of incidents

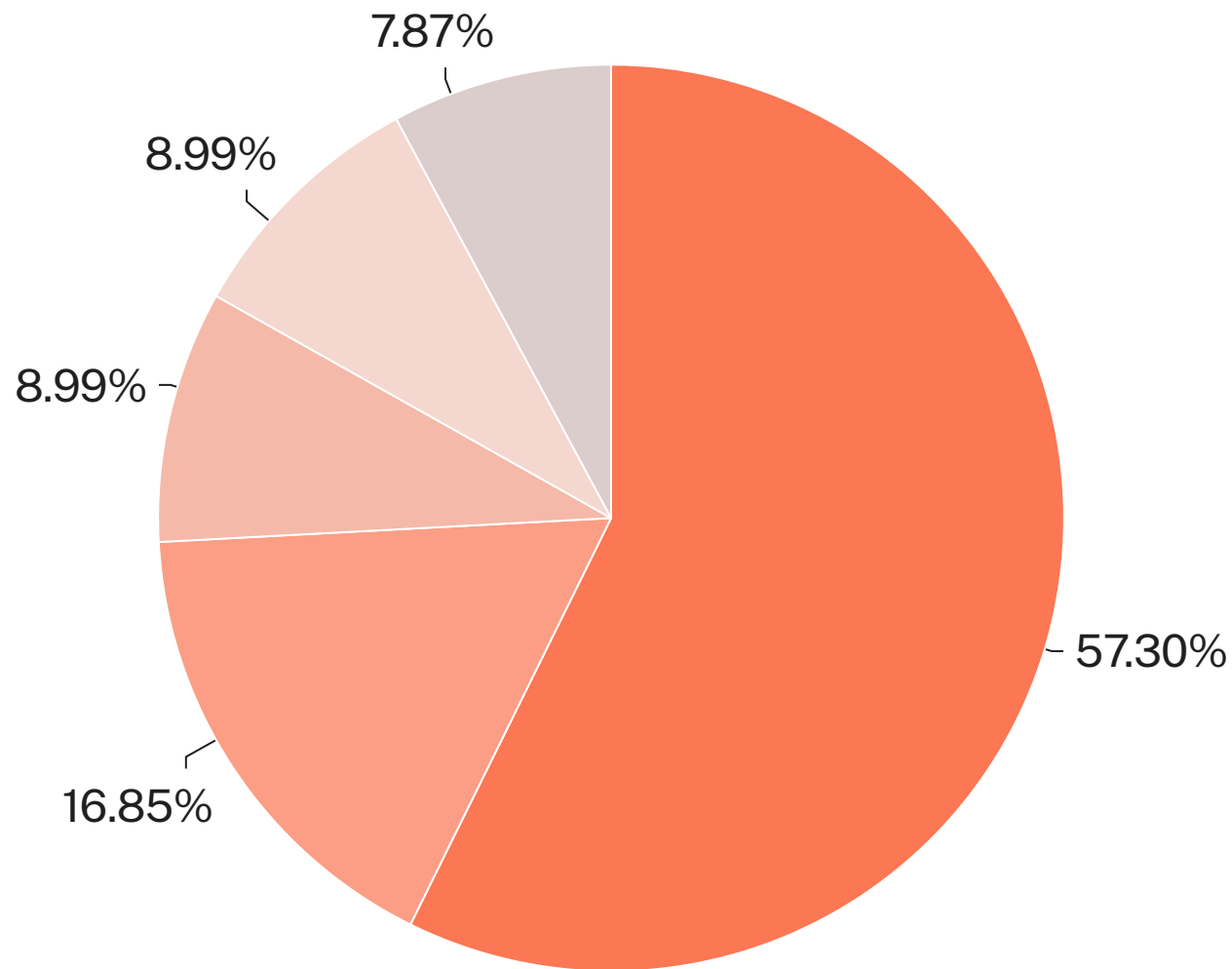
- As in previous monitoring reports, state actors (86,41%) remain the primary source of these violations, especially police and state security actors.



 Download data



● 57.30% of threats came from the police or other state security actors.



State actors

- Police/state security
- Government/public official
- Judiciary (court)
- Regulatory body
- Political parties



Free Media. Free World.

The IPI Africa programme seeks to protect and advance press freedom and the safety of journalists in Africa.

[Learn more about our work here](#)