



IPI MONITORING REPORT

Attacks and threats to climate and environmental reporting in Africa

IPI AFRICA PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

Key findings

Journalists across Africa continue to face serious threats and obstacles to coverage of climate and environmental topics.

The International Press Institute (IPI) documented 26 incidents of attacks and threats to journalists working on environmental topics in sub-Saharan Africa from October 2025 to March 2026.

- IPI identified 26 press freedom violations
- affecting 38 journalists
- in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa

26

38

10

Risky beats for Africa's journalists

IPI's monitoring shows that journalists reporting critically on **natural resource exploitation** — especially illegal mining, deforestation, and oil management — are at particular risk. During this six-month period, IPI documented cases of journalists in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, and Mozambique** who faced assault, abuse, and threats while reporting on illegal mining and logging operations. In **Chad** and **Namibia**, reporters faced arrest and intimidation following scrutiny of management of national oil resources.

Journalists covering stories about land and water management and its impact on local communities also experienced harassment. These stories — frequently covering disruptions to lives and livelihoods stemming from mining or construction projects — underscore the often local nature of environmental stories and the crucial role that independent journalism plays in telling them and empowering communities.

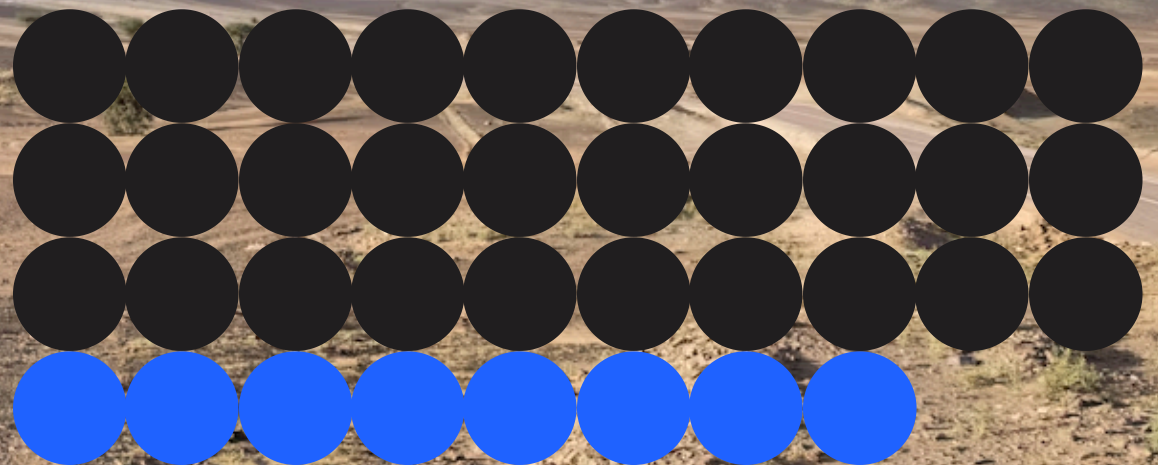
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Country	Incidents	Journalists	
		<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>
Somalia	6	5	2
DRC	5	7	1
Ghana	4	7	1
Namibia	3	0	3
Chad	2	2	0
Mozambique	2	2	0
Kenya	1	3	1
Tanzania	1	2	0
Togo	1	1	0
Zimbabwe	1	1	0
TOTAL	26	30	8

**26 violations or
threats affected
38 journalists**

● 30 incidents affecting male journalists

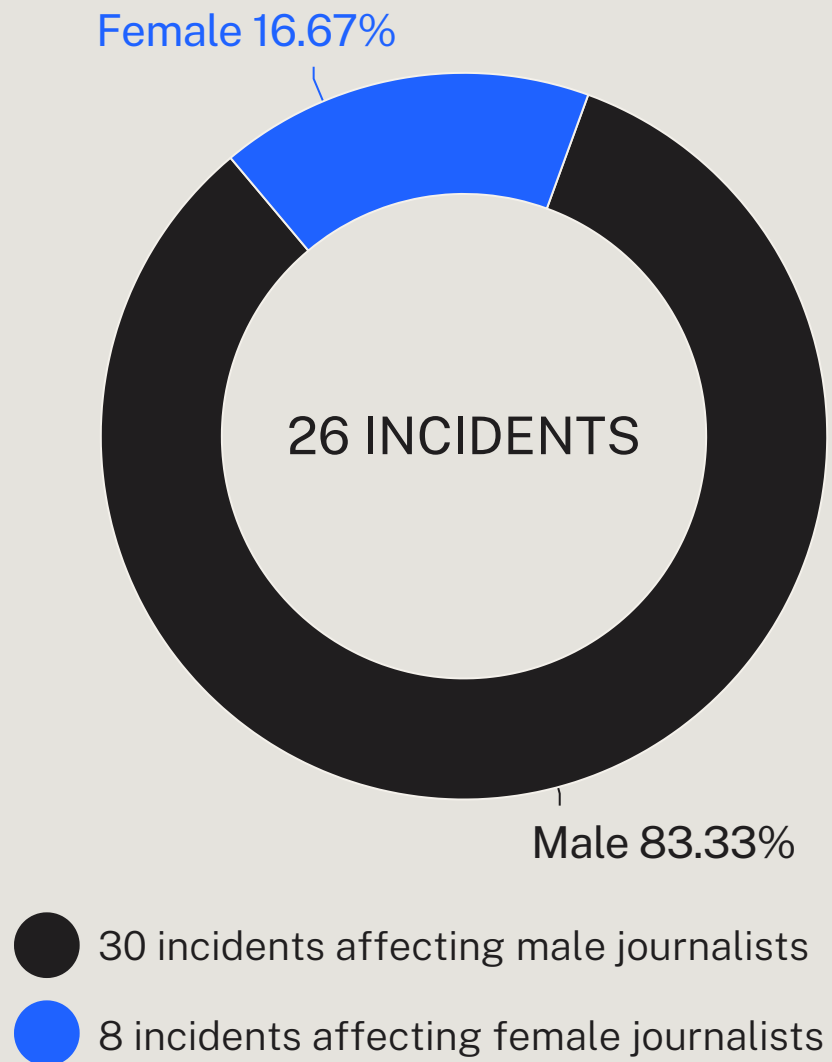
● 8 incidents affecting female journalists



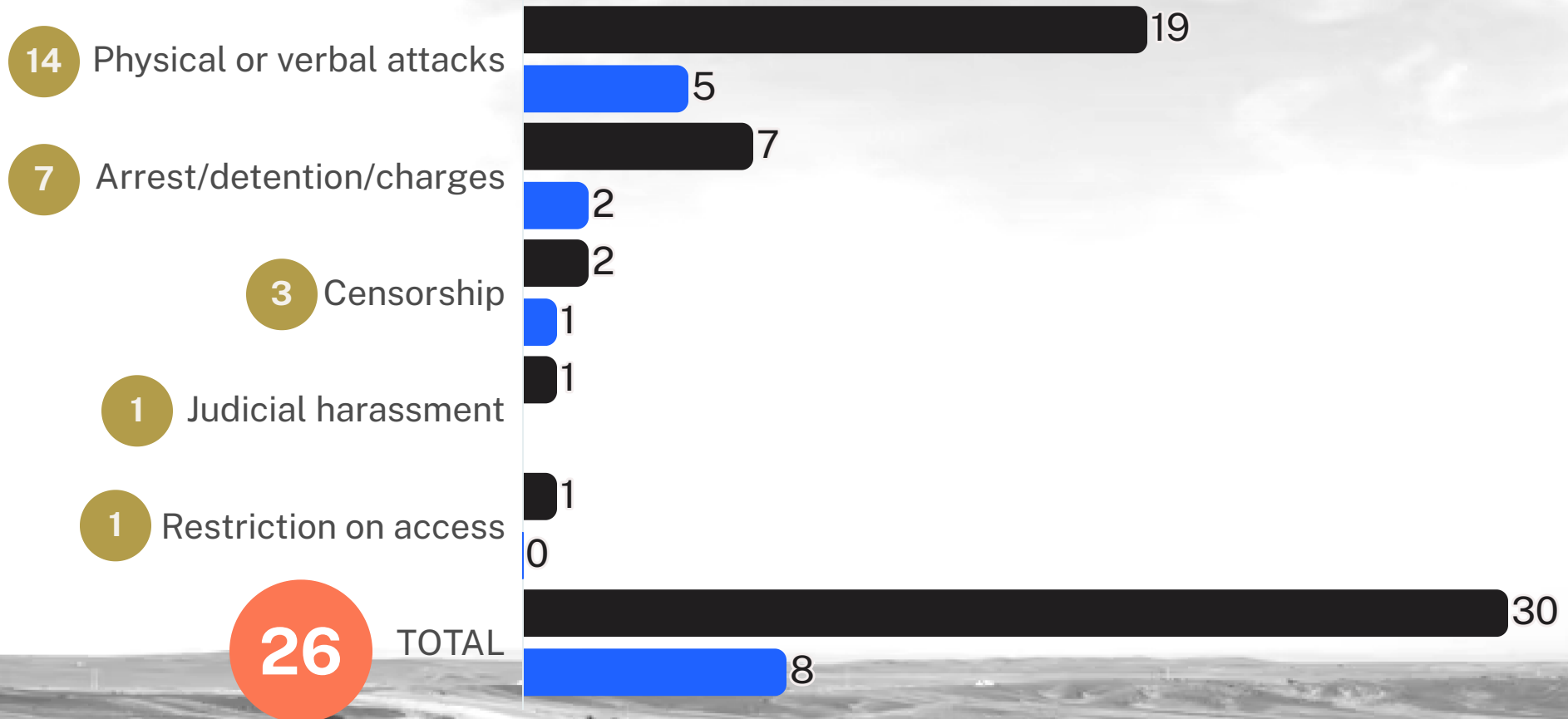
How we count and categorize cases

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.

OCTOBER 2025 - MARCH 2026



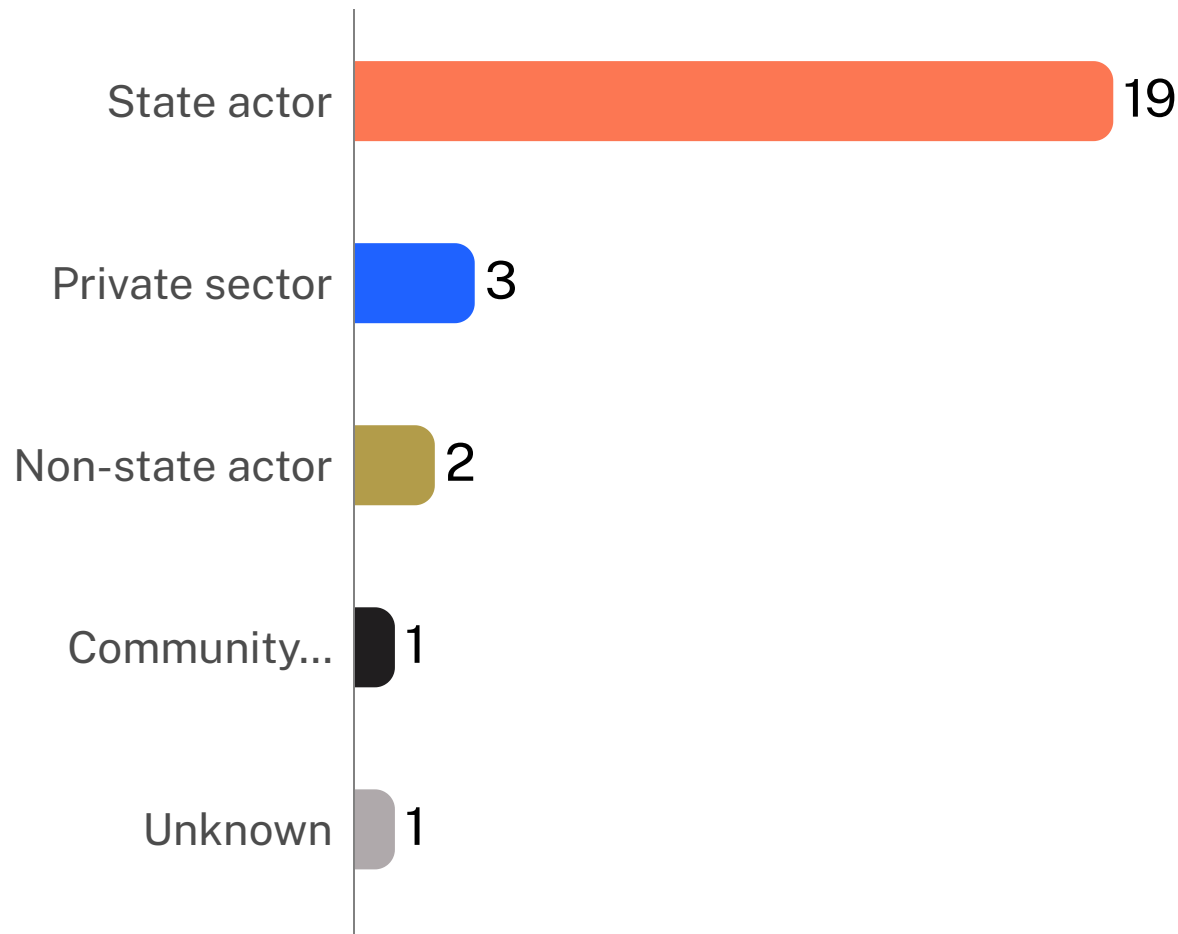
Type of incidents



Source of incidents

State authorities were responsible for the overwhelming majority (73.08%) of recorded violations during this period.

IPI's monitoring also shows that local and foreign companies, non-state actors such as armed rebel groups, or local community members are also responsible for attacks or threats in some cases. This data broadly reinforces the findings of [previous IPI research](#) showing that the source of pressure on climate and environmental reporters is complex and often emanates from a nexus of actors with different vested interests, e.g., in natural resource exploitation. It also highlights challenges from conflict and weak rule of law in some areas.



Police and security forces

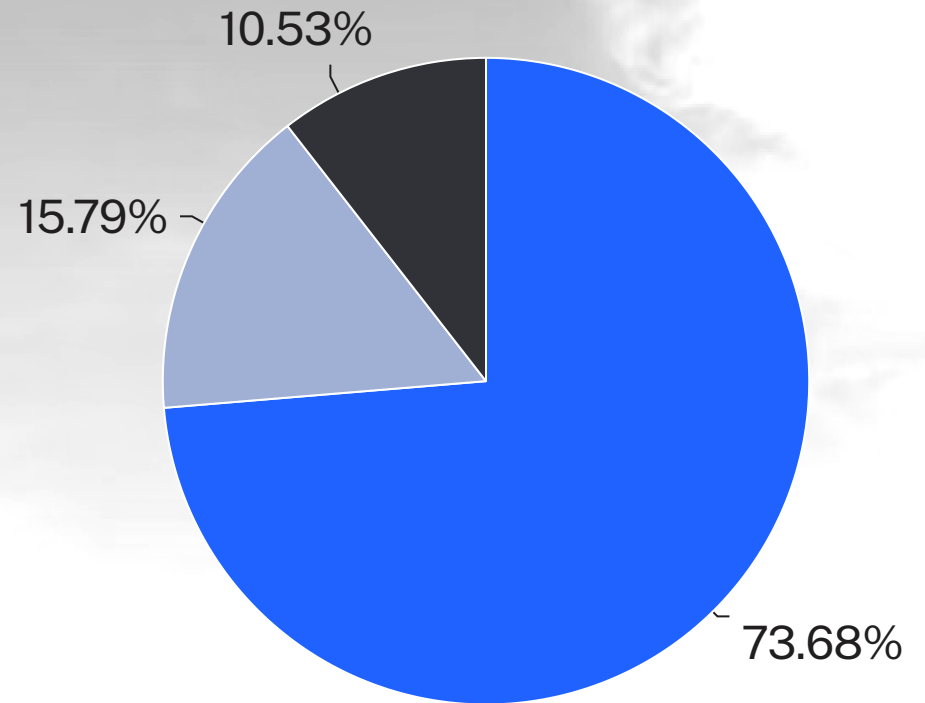
- State actors — especially police and security forces — remain a key source of threats to journalists covering environmental and climate topics (**73,68%**).

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Source of incidents

Many of the cases surfaced by our documentation involve journalistic coverage of **corruption and abuse of power** that affects the public and local communities — underscoring the close links between environmental reporting and the watchdog reporting that is core to democratic governance.



- Police/state security (14)
- Government/public official (3)
- Judiciary(court)



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](#)