

## **Trends identified in the safety reports**

### *Legal inhibitions for the work of journalists*

The new country reports confirm general global trends concerning journalist's safety. Trends such as the many restrictive legal measures that have been implemented worldwide, facilitated by the emergency legislation that 107 countries have adopted during the pandemic. These laws and measures limit the ability of journalists to do their jobs freely.

### *An increase in attacks on journalists*

Another trend is the increase in physical attacks on journalists, even by police and security forces. In the countries researched, peaceful protest was met with an enormous increase of police brutality. The number of incidents with journalists reporting on such protest have multiplied as a result, often causing mental health issues. On top of that, women journalists increasingly suffer from digital attacks, sexual abuse and misogyny.

### *Economic hardship adds to the insecurity of journalists*

Two regional reports produced by the International Press Institute (IPI) and the African Centre for Freedom of Information (AFIC) also indicate a widespread concern for the economic hardship that journalists face. Revenue streams have dried up at an alarming speed. In one of the countries that IPI investigated in South Asia, Bangladesh, more than half the journalism work force lost their job and many changed their status to working as a freelancer. Job security has become an added security risk for journalists,

### *Restrictions on access to information*

In Africa the research shows that access to information was restricted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Information requests were denied, procurement procedures of the states were dismantled for speed reasons, increasing the risks of corruption and abuse of funds. Journalists asking critical questions were sidelined by authorities or arrested under allegations of false news.