

State of the Media Report December 2002

Media Institute of Southern Africa - Zimbabwe Chapter (MISA-Zimbabwe)
December 17, 2002

Media violation statistics 2002

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ARRESTS

Victim	Charge	Date
Thabo Kunene BBC correspondent ¹	Arrested without charge in Lupane released after one hour	29 January 2002
Rhodah Mashavane, Foster Dongozi (Daily News) and Cornelius Nduna (The Standard)	Arrested and charged under POSA for participating in a demonstration, released after four hours	30 January 2002
Basildon Peta	Arrested and charged under POSA for allegedly organizing a demonstration	4 February 2002
Moses Oguti: Botswana Journalist	Arrested under the Immigration Act for allegedly having illegally crossed into Zimbabwe released on 25 April 2002	17 February 2002
Newton Spicer (Spicer Productions)	Arrested and detained while covering an opposition demonstration. Released after five hours. Video camera confiscated but returned on 25 February.	19 February 2002
Edwina Spicer and Jackie Cahu	Charged under the Protected Areas Act for allegedly filming the state house. Camera taken & the two are released after 5 hours. Arrested while filming the MDC leader who had been summoned to the police station which is near the state house	18 February 2002
Peta Thornycroft correspondent for British paper	Arrested under AIPPA and POSA in Chimanimani while on course of duty. Released on 31 March 2002.	27 March 2002
Geoff Nyarota	Arrested and charged under AIPPA for publishing a story that the Registrar General misrepresented figures on the Presidential election	15 April 2002
Dumisani Muleya: Chief Reporter Zimbabwe Independent	Arrested and charged under AIPPA and Criminal defamation for allegedly lying that the first lady was involved in a bid to take over a company with his brother	15 April 2002 (Criminal defamation) and 17 April (AIPPA)
Iden Wetherell Editor Zimbabwe Independent	Charged under AIPPA (See Muleya's first lady story)	17 April 2002
Geoff Nyarota and Lloyd Mudiwa, Collin Chiwanza (Daily News)	Arrested and charged under AIPPA for writing that an opposition member had been beheaded by ruling party supporters. The journalists were released on bail on 2 May. The story was proved to be false and the paper apologized. Matter referred to the Supreme Court on 24 July.	30 April 2002
Andrew Meldrum correspondent for a British paper	Arrested and charged under AIPPA. (See Mudiwa and Chiwanza story). , Magistrate finds Meldrum innocent on 15 July	1 May 2002
Pius Wakatama (Daily News columnists)	Charged under AIPPA for commenting on the alleged incompetence of the Registrar General's	6 May 2002

	office concerning the vote counting	
Assel Gwekwerere and Aaron Ufumeli (Daily News)	Arrested while taking photographs of an arrested criminal. Police thought the two were part of a gang they had waylaid in an undercover operation. Released after hours of interrogation. Film confiscated	7 May 2002
Brian Mangwende (Daily News)	Arrested for allegedly writing a false story that teachers were being harassed. Released after two hours. No charges were preferred.	10 May 2002
Bornwell Chakodza and Farai Mutsaka (The Standard)	Arrested and charged under AIPPA for writing that the police have bought anti riot gear. Released on bail on 17 May.	15 May 2002
Bornwell Chakaodza and Fungayi Kanyuchi (The Standard)	Arrested and charged under AIPPA for writing that the police were involved in "sex for freedom deals" with sex workers.	15 May released on bail 17 May 2002
Bornwell Chakaodza Editor and Fungayi Kanyuchi (Entertainment Editor) The Standard	Arrested and charged under the Censorship and entertainment Controls Act for publishing picture captions of semi naked alleged sex workers accompanied by a story on the police's "sex for freedom deals" with sex workers.	21 May 2002
Bornwell Chakaodza and Farai Mutsaka	Arrested and Charged under AIPPA for writing that the Department of Information is mooted editorial changes at the state owned media	23 May 2002
Bornwell Chakaodza and Fungayi Kanyuchi	Arrested and charged under AIPPA for writing a story that the police were unfairly arresting private media journalists. The story was titled "The Private Media's burden" and was partly a narration of Kanyuchi's experiences in police cells	28 May 2002
Iden Wetherell Editor (Zimbabwe Independent)	Charged under the Censorship Act for publishing a picture of semi naked Amazonian man playing football in his traditional attire	30 May 2002
Guthrie Munyukwi (Reporter), Urgurnia Mauluka (Photographer) and Shadreck Mukwecheni (Driver) Daily News	Arrested, beaten and charged under POSA while covering a pro constitutional reform demonstration in Harare released 17 June 2002	16 June 2002
Chris Gande (Daily News) Bulawayo	Arrested and charged under AIPPA for allegedly publishing falsehoods about the vice president	4 July 2002
Stanley Karombo (Freelance)	Harassed and arrested for five hours while covering the Kadoma mayoral elections.	25 July
Tawanda Majoni (The Daily Mirror)	Arrested and Charged under AIPPA and the Police Act for having written falsehoods on the health of the Police Chief and for having resigned from the police unprocedurally. Detained for two days. Sentenced to 3 months in prison but is out of custody pending the hearing on his appeal	12 September 2002
Henry Makiwa (Reporter) Aaron Ufumeli (Photographer) Trust Maswela (Driver) Daily News	Arrested and Detained by the police for one and a half hours whilst covering a demonstration by students in Harare. Film confiscated. Released without charge	21 October 2002
Henry Makiwa, Gally Kambeu (Photographer) and Trust Maswela, Daily News	Arrested and detained for four hours while covering an anti rape demonstration in Harare. No charges were preferred.	19 November 2002

1 British Broadcasting Corporation
2 Movement for Democratic Change

BOMBED

Victim	Date
The Daily News offices in Bulawayo and the Daily press printing company (not related to the Daily News) are petrol bombed in Bulawayo	11 February 2002
Voices of the People (VOP) communications trust offices in Harare. Bombed and property worth millions of dollars is lost	29 August 2002

BEATEN

Victim	Date
Patrick Jemwa Cameraperson ZBC beaten and seriously injured by soldiers while covering a pro constitutional reform demonstration in Harare	6 April 2002
Urgunia Mauluka, Guthrie Munyuki and Shadreck Mukwecheni (Daily News) beaten and injured by the police while on duty.	16 June 2002
Urgunia Mauluka (Daily News) was assaulted by a high profile corruption suspect at the High Court in Harare	6 May 2002

KILLED

Victim	Date
Shepherd Ngundu a teacher in the rural area of Mount Darwin beaten to death for possessing a copy of The Daily News	5 February 2002

HARASSED/THREATS

Victim	Incident	Date
Daily News and The Financial Gazette	Newspapers destroyed by ZANU PF youths on their way to the airport	10 January 2002
Basildon Peta former Secretary General of ZUJ ¹	Peta's house is forcibly searched by the police	31 January 2002
Daily News Offices in Bulawayo	Campaign posters of President Mugabe are pasted all over the outside walls of the building	8 February 2002
Private Media	President Mugabe castigates the private media on a visit to Beira Mozambique accusing it of lying and being used by the west	17 February 2002
Private Media, freedom of expression	AIPPA signed into law by President Mugabe	15 March 2002
Daily News	Vendors Tongai Manomano and Munyaradzi Mapingo are beaten and newspapers destroyed by 15 ruling party youths in the town of Rusape	20 March 2002
Geoff Nyarota	Threatened with arrest by Information and Publicity Minister Jonathan Moyo over a story that appeared in the Daily News	27 March 2002
Peta Thornycroft	Denied access to her lawyer the first day after being arrested on 27 March. She was released on 31 March 2002	27 March 2002

Radio Dialogue Bulawayo	Raided by the police, searched and some documents and tapes are confiscated	16 April 2002
Marceline Nyangoni ZBC reporter	Threatened with ejection from a meeting that was addressed by the mayor of Harare	24 April 2002
The Daily News	Information Minister urges government departments and parastatals to stop advertising in the paper	29 April 2002
Transmedia	State owned signal transmission company is licensed. The company is so far the sole signal transmission company.	3 May 2002
The Daily News	The State owned Bulawayo based daily paper The Chronicle calls for the banning of the Daily News in a front page lead story	3 May 2002
State Media, The Herald, The Chronicle and ZBC	Barred from covering an MDC rally in Bulawayo	7 May 2002
The Daily News	Ruling party ZANU PF to sue the paper for writing that its supporters beheaded a woman. The paper apologized saying it was misled	13 May 2002
Foreign Correspondents Association	Supreme court rules that its challenge of AIPPA will not be heard as an urgent matter	16 May 2002
The Daily News and The Standard	Sued by Police Spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Wayne Bvudzijena for defamation over stories that said that he once served in the colonial force	21 May 2002
Chris Gande Daily News Bulawayo	Thrown out of court by prison officers	28 June 2002
Capitol Radio	Challenges the broadcasting Act and seeks a license to operate. The supreme court reserved judgment and is yet to deliver it so far i.e. end of 2002	1 July 2002
Zimbabwe private media and journalists	In a Sunday Mail story Information Minister Moyo threatens that media houses and journalists who do not register will be arrested	23 June 2002
Voice of the People Communications Trust (VOP)	Raided by the police and tapes and files are confiscated. These were later returned.	4 July 2002
Media Houses and journalists	The Media and Information Commission sets 31 October 2002 as the deadline for registration.	11 July 2002
Aspiring Satellite Broadcasters	Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe announces that none of the four aspiring satellite broadcasters applications for a license have been approved by Minister Moyo	11 July 2002
Precious Shumba, Daily News and Peta Thornycroft British Daily Telegraph	Held hostage by war veterans and ruling party supporters for five hours together with a commercial farmer they were interviewing at a farm 26 km to the west of Harare	14 August 2002
ZBC	Bomb threat made in a phone call at the Mbare Studios. A search however finds nothing	13 September 2002
The Daily News	Information Minister Moyo calls on advertisers and readers to abandon the paper after a story that President Mugabe was snubbed by his colleagues at a regional meeting	8 October 2002
The Daily News	450 Newspapers confiscated by youths from the Border Gezi National Service Programme in Mutare, The vendors are threatened. Such incidents continued throughout the year and many are not recorded	9 October 2002
Media, freedom of expression	The government announces plans to amend AIPPA.	11 October 2002
The Herald	Four opposition MDC MPs threaten to sue and call on the police to arrests the editor and journalists of the paper for writing falsehoods	25 October 2002

The Financial Gazette, and Assistant Editor Abel Mutsakani and Political editor Sydney Masamvu	Attacked by Minister Moyo and his Permanent Secretary George Charamba and threatened with arrests over two stories that appeared in the paper on 24 October	25 October 2002
Blessing Zulu, Zimbabwe Independent and Pedzisai Ruhanya, Daily News	Threatened with shooting by police Assistant Inspector Dowu at the home of deceased MDC MP Learnmore Jongwe	25 October 2002
Radar Private (ltd) and private media	Threatened by Chimanimani based Central Intelligence Operative Joseph Mwale that he will not allow an aerial media tour of its (Radar) fire destroyed plantations because private media journalists are not welcome.	26 October 2002
Media houses and journalists	Tafataona Mahoso the Chairperson of the Media and Information Commission extends the accreditation and registration deadline to 21 November	25 October 2002
Journalists	Ruling party spokesperson and former information Minister Nathan Shamuyarira calls for tougher media laws	25 October 2002
TeleAccess and CEO Daniel Shumba	Expresses frustration at the delays in the issuing of a licence to the company for the provision of fixed telephone services. Shumba cites political interference and decries the infringement on freedom of expression.	1 November 2002
SW Radio Africa	Zimbabwe's Information and Justice Ministers threaten Zimbabweans working for the station with arrest if they return to the country	13 November 2002
Private Media	Information Minister castigates private media alleging that it is unpatriotic	18 November 2002
Zimbabwe Union of journalists	Loses a case to the media and Information Commission in which it sought that its concerns over the accreditation form be heard as an urgent matter.	18 November 2002
Independent Journalists Association of Zimbabwe (IJAZ)	Challenge to AIPPA instituted by IJAZ is heard in the Supreme Court	21 November

1 Zimbabwe Union of Journalists

BANNED/DEPORTED

Victim	Case	Date
Sally Sara Australia Broadcasting Corporation	Denied accreditation and entry into Zimbabwe to cover the political events before the March elections	25 January 2002
David Blair, British Daily Telegraph	Deported upon arrival in Zimbabwe	17 February 2002
Foreign Correspondents	The Department of Information and Publicity denied accreditation to many journalists from Britain and South Africa who intended to cover the March Presidential elections The Department announced that 580 had been accredited but other sources contacted by MISA say only 72 foreign correspondents were accredited	20 February 2002
Radio Dialogue	Promotional show in Plumtree stopped by the police on grounds that it was not sanctioned as required under POSA	21 February 2002
Book Café	Banned from hosting public meetings that might include political discussions as defined under POSA	28 March 2002
Joy TV	"Banned" from flighting BBC news in its programmes	8 May 2002

Joy TV	Contract with ZBC ends and is not renewed and station is closed.	31 May 2002
Andrew Meldrum	Ordered to leave Zimbabwe in 24 hours by the Immigration department after winning his court case. On 17 July the High Court set aside the order	15 July 2002
Griffin Shea (AFP) correspondent	Deported after the Department of Information refused to have his work permit renewed	14 September 2002
MISA-Zimbabwe	Broadcasting open the airwaves campaign road show banned by the police only to be allowed to go on 31 November 2002.	9 September 2002
Owen Slot (British, The Times and Huw Turbervill (Daily Mail)	Denied visas and accreditation to visit Zimbabwe in the company of the ICC ¹ to inspect Zimbabwe's preparedness to host the cricket world cup.	26 November 2002
Stephanie Barbier (AFP Bureau Chief)	Ordered out of Zimbabwe after the refusal of the Department of Information to extend the accreditation.	27 November 2002

VICTORY

Parties	Matter	Date
Journalists, Media houses	Parliamentary Legal Committee declares some sections of AIPPA as unconstitutional	30 January 2002
Basildon Peta	Attorney General refuses to prosecute Basildon Peta who is charged with organizing an illegal demonstration.	5 February 2002
NDA ²	ZBC ordered by the High Court to bring back the NDA live TV talk show programme "Talk to the nation" banned in 2001. ZBC appealed against the ruling on 22 August 2002	30 May 2002
Andrew Meldrum	High court sets aside a deportation order pending the hearing of the matter by the Supreme Court	17 July
The Daily News, Geoff Nyarota and Lloyd Mudiwa	The Attorney General admits in the matter between Nyarota, Mudiwa Vs the state that section 80 of AIPPA under which they are being charged is unconstitutional. Matter has since been referred to the Supreme court for a constructional determination of section 80. The two were remanded to February 2003	29 October 2002
Bornwell Chakaodza and Farai Mutsaka	The state withdrew charges on the two. The journalists were being charged under section 80 of AIPPA for having published a story that the state had purchased anti riot gear.	3 December 2002
TeleAccess	The fixed telephone service company is given a license	3 December 2002

¹ International Cricket Council

² National Development Association

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