

EU FACT SHEET 2024

PRESS AND MEDIA FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN EU MEMBER STATES

 **942**
RECORDED
VIOLATIONS

 **1446**
ATTACKED PERSONS/ENTITIES
RELATED TO MEDIA

TYPES OF ATTACKS

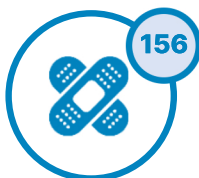
In 2024, **verbal attacks** were the **most common** form of aggression against journalists, accounting for 41.5% (391 cases) of all incidents. In two out of five cases, journalists faced threats, intimidation, harassment, or smear campaigns, with 46 cases involving **death threats**.



Censorship was the **second most prevalent attack**, making up 35.6% (335 cases). Journalists were frequently blocked from reporting on events or accessing crucial information, while editorial censorship also emerged as a significant issue, with **60 documented cases**.



Physical attacks **ranked third**, comprising 16.6% (156 cases). Of these, approximately 41% resulted in **injury**.



CONTEXTS

Online and digital attacks were the **most common**, making up 23.6% (222 cases). Journalists frequently faced online threats, smear campaigns, and spoofing.



Demonstrations remained the **second most dangerous workplace** for journalists, accounting for 20.2% (190 cases).



PERPETRATORS

Private individuals were the **primary perpetrators** of press freedom violations in 2024, accounting for 36.7% (346 cases).

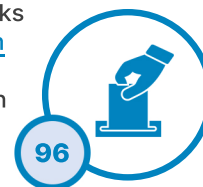


They were **followed** by **government and public officials**, who were responsible for 19.5% (184 cases) of reported incidents.



TRENDS

In 2024, **elections** heightened the risks for journalists, with **96 press freedom violations** recorded in connection to election reporting. The most common issue was **discrediting** journalists (22.9%), primarily by public officials (59.1%) and political parties (22.7%).



Environmental reporting also posed significant dangers, leading to **54 attacks** on press freedom. More than half (55.6%) of these incidents occurred at climate and environmental demonstrations, with **police and private individuals** being the main perpetrators.



Spoofing attacks were documented **31 times**. Alarming, in 80% of cases, the perpetrators remained unknown. **Seven incidents** were linked to the Doppelgänger campaign, which targeted European media to spread disinformation. Additionally, deepfake impersonations of journalists or media outlets were recorded in **10 cases**.



 **MEDIA FREEDOM
RAPID RESPONSE**