

1.7.1. Journalists' main syndicates, protection and remedies

There is a significant number of professional associations and trade unions that represent the interests of journalists in Somalia.^{[701](#)} Some indicative examples include the Federation of Somali Journalists (FESOJ), which is a national union of professional journalists in Somalia, with headquarters in Mogadishu and with a mandate to monitor, investigate and report violations of press freedom and human rights of journalists.^{[702](#)}

Another organisation is the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), founded in 2002 as an association called Somali Journalists Network (SOJON) with the aim to promote and protect freedom of the press and the interests of journalists.^{[703](#)} NUSOJ monitors, investigates and provides information on violations of media freedom and journalists' human rights. It also organises national solidarity actions with journalists who have been targeted.^{[704](#)} The Somali Journalists Syndicate (SJS) is described as an independent trade union of journalists that aims to protect their human rights.^{[705](#)} The SJS provides legal support to journalists in legal proceedings, as well as advocacy for legal reform.^{[706](#)} There are also women's journalist associations, such as the Somali Women Journalists Rights Association (SOWJRA)^{[707](#)} and the Somali Media Women Association.^{[708](#)}

In September 2020, a special prosecutor for crimes against journalists in Somalia was appointed by Somalia's Attorney General, with a mandate to investigate and apprehend individuals who were involved in the killings and harassment against journalists.^{[709](#)} In September 2024, the International Press Institute (IPI) reiterated the request they had shared together with the Somali Journalists Syndicate (SJS) for accountability for the killings of journalists dating back to 2016 and highlighted that according to their research there had been no progress in these cases or any prosecutions.^{[710](#)}

Following the Consultative Forum on the Safety and Security of Journalists held in Mogadishu in September 2022 organised by the National Union for Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), journalists in Somalia developed and adopted the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Safety of Journalists in Somalia, with the aim to create a safe working environment for journalists and address 'impunity' against journalists.^{[711](#)} The NAP is implemented at a federal level and is a multi-stakeholder initiative supported by the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), different media houses, the Federal Government, UNESCO and the International Labor Organisation.^{[712](#)} No additional information on the implementation of the NAP could be found.

^{[701](#)}

Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2024 Country Report — Somalia, 19 March 2024, [url](#), p. 35

^{[702](#)}

FESOJ, What we do, n.d., [url](#)

^{[703](#)}

NUSOJ, About NUSOJ, n.d., [url](#)

[704](#)

NUSOJ, State of the Media report 2023, November 2024, [url](#), p. 15

[705](#)

SJS, About SJS, n.d., [url](#)

[706](#)

SJS, SJS Annual Report 2023 – State of Press Freedom in Somalia, 8 March 2024, [url](#), p. 25

[707](#)

SOWJRA, Somali Women Journalists Rights Association, n.d., [url](#)

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Somali Media Women Association, About Us, n.d., [url](#)

[709](#)

FESOJ, Somalia's Attorney General Appoints Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Journalists in Somalia, 9 September 2020, [url](#)

[710](#)

IPI, Somalia: Impunity for crimes against journalists must end, 23 September 2024, [url](#)

[711](#)

NUSOJ, National Action Plan (NAP) for the Safety of Journalists in Somalia, n.d., [url](#), p. 3; ATMIS, Somalia journalists adopt a National Action Plan to strengthen work safety and security, 6 September 2022, [url](#)

[712](#)

UNESCO, National Safety Mechanisms – Somalia, n.d., [url](#)