



## 4.3.7. Journalists

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Colombia's 1991 Constitution enshrines the right to freedom of expression and freedom of information.<sup>730</sup> No entity has regulatory powers over the press.<sup>731</sup> On 9 September 2024, President Petro signed Presidential Directive 7 to strengthen freedom of expression and press freedom.<sup>732</sup> While noting the existence of this framework, Colombia is described as one of the most dangerous countries on the continent for journalists.<sup>733</sup> The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Relatoría Especial para la Libertad de Expresión, RELE) noted that it ranked second in the region for murders of journalists in 2024.<sup>734</sup> Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) stated that covering certain topics such as the environment, armed conflict, armed groups and corruption can draw harassment, intimidation and violence.<sup>735</sup> Sources indicate that hostility towards the press has been exacerbated by stigmatising statements made by the authorities,<sup>736</sup> including by President Petro over the recent years,<sup>737</sup> government spokespersons and officials, and against women journalists in particular.<sup>738</sup> Sources reported on several cases of legal proceedings and investigations against media outlets during the reference period,<sup>739</sup> including orders to reveal information related to journalistic investigations.<sup>740</sup> RSF reported that the high-risk situation for journalists was exacerbated by the expansion of armed groups and other criminal actors operating across large regions of the country.<sup>741</sup> Sources noted that the reported attacks on journalists were mainly conducted by illegal actors, including criminal gangs and armed groups.<sup>742</sup> The Freedom of the Press Foundation (Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, FLIP) reported that several types of attacks against journalists show a 'significant increase' between 2023 and 2025, from digital attacks and to threats, illegal surveillance by state agents, and aggression by armed and criminal groups as well as sexual violence.<sup>743</sup> In 2024, the FLIP recorded 530 attacks against 330 journalists, including 215 incidents of threats, 20 cases of forcibly displaced journalists, 4 cases of exiles, 2 kidnappings and 3 murders. RSF reported 5 media professionals killed between 2023 and 2025.<sup>744</sup> The RELE recorded the murder of at least 7 journalists and media workers in 2024.<sup>745</sup> Sources reported that another journalist survived an attempted murder in 2025.<sup>746</sup> According to the FLIP, the increase of violence against the media is connected to the escalation in armed conflict, with attacks increasing each year since the 2016 FARC-EP Peace Agreement.<sup>747</sup> Incidents of violence against journalists by individuals participating in demonstrations are also reported in the context of media professionals covering social protests in several cities around the country, such as harassment, verbal attacks, destruction of journalistic material, death threats and physical assault.<sup>748</sup>

Journalists are among the individuals at risk who can theoretically seek the assistance of the UNP,<sup>749</sup> established in 2011<sup>750</sup> for the protection of media professionals amongst 16

categories of citizens.[751](#) However, the process can be lengthy as it can take between 4 and 7 months to address a threat, and measures are described by sources as 'completely impractical'[752](#) and 'insufficient'.[753](#) Sources gave the view that the UNP is facing a crisis due to lack of means and allegations of corruption.[754](#) At least two journalists have been reported to have been murdered between 2022-2024 while under protection measures from UNP,[755](#) while others continue to receive death threats from armed groups in 2024-2025.[756](#)

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