



Nation-wide survey among journalists on censorship

English Summary

The survey involved 215 journalists from Ulaanbaatar and provinces working in the news and covering politics, social and economic issues. 67.5 % of respondents are female and 32.5% are male journalists. It says that female journalists dominate in the critical and investigative journalism. 68.8% of journalists work in Ulaanbaatar and 31.2% in the provincial media.

Working experiences of journalists:

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|--|-------|
| • Up to 3 years of working experiences | 31.2% |
| • Up to 5 years | 26.0% |
| • Up to 10 years | 23.7% |
| • Over 10 years | 19.1% |

Type of media where the responds work:

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|-------------------|-------|
| • Print media | 53.9% |
| • Broadcast media | 45.6% |
| • Freelance | 0.5% |

The survey did not apply for the on-line media journalists.

Ages of respondents:

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|----------------------|-------|
| • Up to 25 years old | 25.6% |
| • 25-30 years old | 37.2% |
| • 30-35 years old | 15.8% |
| • 35-45 years old | 12.1% |
| • Over 45 years old | 67.4% |

60.4% of the total respondents or 130 journalists faced attacks and affected by the defamation cases.

Types of attacks:

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|--------------------------------|-------|
| • Threats | 50.8% |
| • Pressures | 40% |
| • Affected by defamation cases | 23% |

Content of threats:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| • Bring the case to the court | 42.3% |
| • Make fired from job | 33.1% |
| • Make imprisoned | 7.7% |
| • Will kill | 6.9 |

- Will beat 5.4%
- Attack your family member 5.4%

Type of pressure

- Accusing through telephone calls 70.8%
- Demand to repeal information source 36.9%
- Accusing journalist through individual meeting 33.1%
- Demanded to come to their offices 16.1%
- Assaults 3.8%

Defamation cases

14% of respondents said they had court cases on defamation. Maximum award was 100,000 mln. MNT and fine paid by the media averaged between 300,000 MNT and 2 mln. MNT. In 77% of the cases journalists received claims after their materials released, in 14%- during the information gathering and in 9%- during the production or publication processes.

Complaints/Claimants

69.2% of the complaints were authorities, 21.4%- businessmen/private companies and 9.4% were others, i.e. stars, international organizations, NGOs etc.

Journalists as witnesses

29 journalists were called by the police (in 26 cases) and intelligence service (in 3 cases) as witnesses.

Editorial censorship

66% of journalists responded that there is editorial censorship. Editorial censorship occurs through:

- Censor the content of their materials 57.7%
- Bans critical materials about the ad-s suppliers 42.9%
- Media leaders refuse to publish or air 38.7%
- Media leaders demand to cut some parts of the material 28.9%
- Media leaders do not publish their own stories 22.5%
- Imposed penalty, for example reduce salaries 7.7%

Self-censorship

48.8% or nearly half of questioned journalists said they are self-censored. The reasons of their fear are:

- From being fired 29.5%
- From being their salaries reduced 9.5%
- From being attacked and insulted 51.4%
- From physical attacks/assaults 21.9%
- From being family members pressured 22.8%
- From being called by the courts 40.9%
- From being imprisoned 13.3%

Conclusion

1. One of six journalists faced complains of people that media critical materials defamed their honor. Most of complaints threatened, attacked and pressured the journalists. Majority of the complaints frightened journalists by civil and criminal defamatory legislation
2. Nearly 20% of respondents received threat messages to kill, beat and attack their family members. The respondents reported on five cases of assaults. It evidences that the works of journalists are going to be harsh in Mongolia
3. 81% of complaints are authorities and people in power, so they use the civil and criminal defamation laws as censorship tool
4. One of three journalists were demanded to repeal their information sources and one of two journalists called by the police and intelligence service as witnesses.
5. The survey results evindece that editorial censorship is very high in the Mongolian media.
6. The survey results also show that jurnalists are prohibited to criticize the private companies which supply advertising, so it evidences economic censorship is high in Mongolian media .
7. The survey results show that journalists are highly self-censored. They fear from attacks, insults, imprisoned and fired from their jobs.
8. The survey results show that the public's right to access uncensored true information is violated
9. The critical and investigative journalism in Mongolia faces many difficulties and problems

So the research team reccomends to carry out the following activities in elimination of censorship in Mongolia

- To repeal the criminal defamatory legislation
- To provide the legal guarantee of the editorial independence
- To enact the laws protecting the journalistic confidential sources and banning to call the journalists as witnesses
- To strengthen the collaboration of media, journalists and NGOs to monitor the implementation of the Media Freedom Law that bans the censorship
- The strengthen the works to protect the professional rights of journalists
- To gain the public support by monitoring and dessiminating information on the violations of professional rights of journalists