Freedom of expression and the media in Sub-Saharan Africa: old regimes, new challenges

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MEDIA FREEDOM: CENSORSHIP

In nearly all of Sub-Saharan Africa, except South Africa, the one law that remained unchanged from the colonial period into independence, and remains on the books in several countries was the one relating to various forms of media censorship (jailing journalists, banning publications, denying access to information, licencing presses).
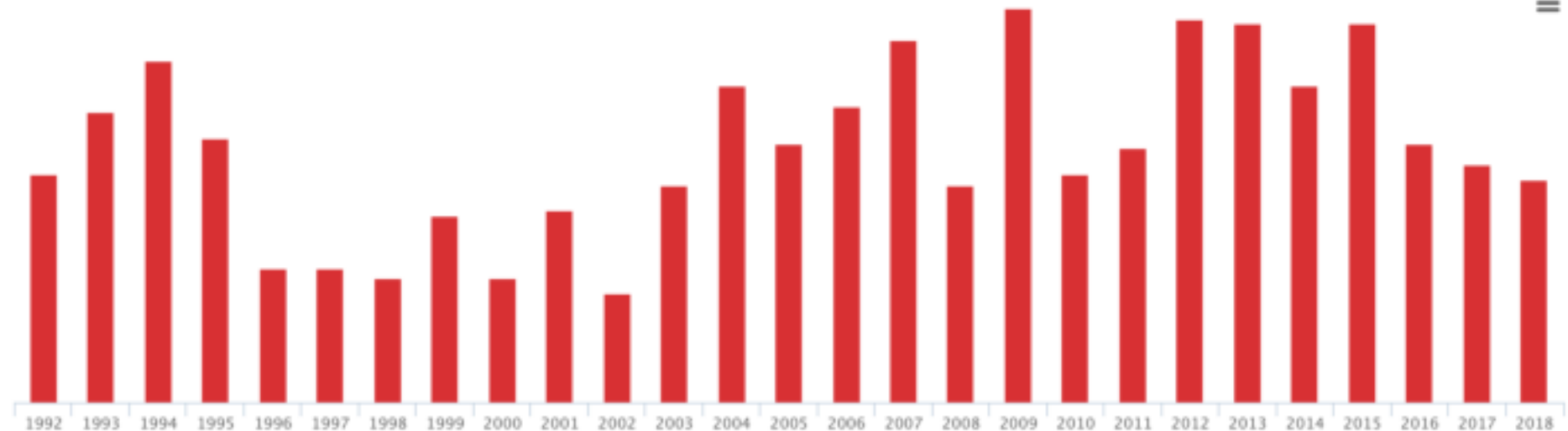
WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS SO?

Attacks on journalists haven't changed with the ebb and flow of democracy, the reforms of the post-Cold War era – have actually been worse in some years!

1322 Journalists Killed

between 1992 and 2018 / Motive Confirmed

Reset

CPJ

Killed Journalists/The Africa Picture

Journalists Killed

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What patterns do we see? And what story do they tell us about media freedom and rights of journalists?

Liberalisation of the airwaves (radio and TV) of the 1990s and the explosion of the Internet
(thanks in part to mobile phone in Africa) BOTH **expanded**, but also brought **more and NEW forms of media repression.**

The September 11, 2011 coordinated terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda against the United States, changed everything! In the "global war against terrorism", a battery of anti-terror laws were born.

The anti-terrorism laws were unique, in that in most of Africa JOURNALISM was the only other profession they targeted.

From Zambia, Tanzania, Benin, Uganda, Kenya, social media has given birth to a fresh round of repressive laws? WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF MEDIA/EXPRESSION IN AFRICA FROM ALL THIS?

Strategies for Protection, and Winning Small But Important Wars for Media Freedom