



ZIMBABWE

National Overview: Zambia | 2010

Communiqué

Date: January 25, 2010

Person/ institution:

Violation/ issue: Other

The newly elected Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ) executive on 29 December 2009 opted to stand down and allow fresh elections to be held on 27 February 2010.

This comes in the wake of a High Court application filed by four freelance journalists on 17 December 2009 seeking the nullification of the election of the new ZUJ executive at How Mine outside Zimbabwe's second city of Bulawayo.

March 2, 2010: The re-run elections for a new executive of the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ) held in Bulawayo on 27 February 2010 have yet again sparked controversy with some members of the union describing them as null and void.

Alert

Date: January 18, 2010

Person/ institution: Stanley Kwenda

Violation/ issue: Threatened

Senior freelance journalist Stanley Kwenda was reported to have fled the country after he was allegedly phoned and threatened with death by a senior police officer. Kwenda fled after he was phoned on his cellphone on 15 January 2010 by the alleged senior police officer over a story reportedly published in The Zimbabwean newspaper.

Alert

Date: January 18, 2010

Person/ institution: Andrison Manyere

Violation/ issue: Detained

Freelance photojournalist Andrison Manyere was on 18 January 2010 arrested in Harare while covering a march by members of the Women and Men of Zimbabwe Arise pressure groups.

Alert

Date: January 25, 2010

Person/ institution: Lovemore Moyo, Roger Stringer

Violation/ issue: Other

Roger Stringer, a Harare publishing consultant, challenged the Speaker of Parliament Lovemore Moyo to explain the verification process that led to the short-listing of nominees subject to final appointment to serve on the statutory Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC).

Alert

Date: January 17, 2010

Person / institution: Barnabas Madzimore, Fortune Mutandiro

Violation/ issue: Detained, Legislation
Barnabas Madzimore and Fortune Mutandiro directors of a company that distributes the privately owned The Zimbabwean newspaper were initially arrested on 17 January 2010 in Harare's high density suburb of Mbare while distributing copies of the Zimbabwean on Sunday, a weekly sister publication of The Zimbabwean. They were released without charges

February 12, 2010 Barnabas Madzimore and Fortune Mutandiro were on 11 February 2010 charged under the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which deals with publishing falsehoods prejudicial to the State. The charges arose from a story published

in the edition of the newspaper on 10 January 2010 under the headline: Mnangagwa plots fight back: talk of new splinter group.

Alert

Date: February 23, 2010

Person/ institution: Robert Mugabe, ZMC

Violation/ issue: Legislation

President Robert Mugabe on 11 February 2010 gazetted the establishment of the long awaited Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) amid expectations that the Commission will immediately call for applications for licenses for new and old players in the print media. May 24, 2010: The Zimbabwe Media commission (ZMC) was set to issue licenses by 26 May 2010. According to The Financial Gazette, sources within the Government of National Unity allege that the ZMC scheduled crucial board meetings to go through applications and issue licenses on 24-26 May 2010. The announcement of successful applicants was to be made on the last day of the meetings, the sources said.

March 25, 2010: Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai on 19 March 2010 urged the newly constituted statutory Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) to speedily register new media houses. In a meeting with members of the Commission, Prime Minister Tsvangirai said the ZMC should rapidly implement its mandate in terms of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and the enabling Constitutional Amendment No 19.

May 18, 2010: The Zimbabwe Media

Commission (ZMC) allegedly postponed to the end of May 2010 a crucial workshop to expedite the licensing of new newspapers owing to financial problems and reports on allegations of disagreements among commissioners on resource persons to the workshop.

Communiqué

Date: October 24, 2010

Person/ institution: MISA-Zimbabwe, Econet

Violation/ issue: Victory

MISA-Zimbabwe welcomes the announcement by Zimbabwe's largest mobile phone services provider Econet Wireless of its advanced plans to link the country with the rest of the world through a fiber optic cable through the Zambian capital of Lusaka.

Alert

Date: February 24, 2010

Person/ institution: Andrison Manyere, Zanu PF

Violation/ issue: Detained

Freelance photojournalist Andrison Manyere was detained and questioned at Zanu PF's provincial offices in Harare at the start of a march by the party's supporters against targeted sanctions imposed by the West on senior Zanu PF officials.

Alert

Date: March 2, 2010

Person/ institution: Andrison Manyere

Violation/ issue: Detained

Freelance photojournalist Andrison

Manyere was on 1 March 2010 arrested at the Harare Magistrates Courts while filming the arrival of accused persons charged with attempting to overthrow the government of Zimbabwe.

March 2, 2010: Freelance photojournalist Andrison Manyere was been released from police custody after paying US\$20 admission of guilt fine for disorderly conduct in a public place.

Alert

Date: March 25, 2010

Person/ institution: Nunurai Jena, Security Officials

Violation/ issue: Detained

Freelance journalist Nunurai Jena was on 21 March 2010 detained by security officials at Beitbridge Border Post on his way home from South Africa. Jena told MISA-Zimbabwe that the incident happened after the security officials discovered that he had tape-recorded Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) officials as they searched and questioned passengers that were travelling with him on a Harare-bound bus.

Alert

Date: March 30, 2010

Person/ institution: Webster Shamu

Violation/ issue: Victory

Journalists should not be harassed or arrested while conducting their lawful professional duties, the Minister of Media, Information and Publicity Webster Shamu said in Harare on 28 March 2010. The minister made the rare remarks on the harassment, arrests and detention of journalists when addressing

delegates at the Federation of African Journalists conference in Harare.

Alert

Date: March 31, 2010

Person/ institution: Stanley Gama, Feluna Nleya, Jennifer Dube, Ignatius Chombo, Phillip Chiyangwa, The Sunday Times

Violation/ issue: Threatened

Freelance journalist Stanley Gama was on 30 March 2010 summoned to Harare Central Police Station where he was questioned in connection with an article that appeared in the Zimbabwean edition of The Sunday Times published in South Africa. The story in question exposed alleged irregularities and corruption in the acquisition of land by Local Government and Urban Development Minister Ignatius Chombo and Harare businessperson Phillip Chiyangwa.

April 7, 2010: Feluna Nleya and Jennifer Dube reporters with the privately owned Standard weekly were on 31 April 2010 questioned by police from the Law and Order Section for exposing an alleged massive land scandal involving the Minister of Local Government Ignatius Chombo and businessperson Philip Chiyangwa.

27 April 2010: Four journalists with the weekly Standard newspaper were summoned to appear in court on 6 May 2010 as state witnesses in the criminal defamation case against Harare Mayor Muchadeyi Masunda and eight councillors on allegations of defaming businessman Philip Chiyangwa.

April 28, 2010: Freelance journalist

Stanley Gama was subpoenaed to appear in court on 6 May 2010 together with four journalists from the weekly Standard newspaper. The journalists will be state witnesses in the criminal defamation case against Harare Mayor Muchadeyi Masunda and eight councillors on allegations of defaming businessman Philip Chiyangwa.

May 10, 2010: Harare magistrate Olivia Mariga on 6 May 2010 postponed to 26 May 2010 the case in which five journalists are state witnesses in the trial of Harare mayor Muchadeyi Masunda and eight councillors on allegations of criminally defaming businessman Philip Chiyangwa.

23 June 2010: The trial of Harare mayor Muchadeyi Masunda and eight councillors on allegations of criminally defaming businessman Philip Chiyangwa in which five journalists will appear as witnesses was on 22 June 2010 moved to 23 September 2010 by Harare magistrate Olivia Mariga.

September 23, 2010: Harare magistrate Olivia Mariga on 23 September 2010, issued out a warrant of arrest against Harare Mayor Muchadeyi Masunda after he failed to appear in court.

Alert

Date: April 9, 2010

Person/institution: Mashundu

Netsianda, The Chronicle

Violation/ issue: Detained

Mashundu Netsianda a correspondent with a regional daily publication The Chronicle who is based in Beitbridge was on 8 April 2010 arrested in the

southern border town over a story involving a shooting incident in which a Zimbabwean Man based in South Africa shot at police while they tried to search him..

Communiqué

Date: April 14, 2010

Person/ institution: ZBC

Violation/ issue: Victory

The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation will on 1 May 2010 launch its second television station Channel 2. State owned newspaper, The Herald reported on 13 April 2010 that ZBC public relations manager Sivukile Simango said Channel 2 would be available to viewers within an 80km radius of Harare.

Communiqué

Date: May 12, 2010

Person/ institution: MISA-Zimbabwe

Violation/ issue: Victory

MISA-Zimbabwe held belated World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) celebrations throughout the country on 8 May 2010 which were attended by members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Media, Information and Communication Technology.

May 12, 2010: MISA-Zimbabwe on 10 May 2010 partnered with Artists for Democracy in Zimbabwe Trust (ADZ Trust), Savanna Trust and Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ) in staging a concert titled "Free our Media Now! The concert was held at Machipisa shopping centre in Highfield, Harare, was attended by more than 1 300 people in line with MISA-Zimbabwe's 2010 Word Press

Freedom Day (WPDF) theme: Media Freedom & Access to Information should be Constitutional Rights.

Alert

Date: May 18, 2010

Person/ institution: Golden

Maunganidze, The Masvingo Mirror

Violation/ issue: Threatened

Golden Maunganidze the editor of The Masvingo Mirror was on 10 May 2010 summoned to Harare Central Police Station where he was interrogated for six hours following publication of a story that allegedly criminally defames Walter Mzembi, the Minister of Tourism.

Communiqué

Date: May 18, 2010

Person/ institution: Zimbabwe NGO

Human Rights Forum

Violation/ issue: Other

The Zimbabwe NGO Human Rights Forum on 14 May 2010, raised concern over the continued human rights violations a year into the formation of the country's inclusive government.

Alert

Date: June 23, 2010

Person/ institution: Simba Makoni,

MKD, ZBC

Violation/ issue: Censorship

Mavambo/Kusile/Dawn (MKD) party leader Simba Makoni attacked the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) for not airing an interview that was recorded in 2009 with Super Mandiwanzira under the state-controlled broadcaster's Talking Business

programme.

Alert

Date: June 28, 2010

Person/ institution: Nkabazwe

Community Radio

Violation/ issue: Banned

Gweru based Nkabazwe Community Radio Initiative was on 24 June 2010 denied police clearance to hold a road show for the third time in a space of less than two months because it is not licensed to broadcast.

Communiqué

Date: July 15, 2010

Person/ institution: Robert Mugabe

Violation/ issue: Legislation

President Mugabe announced that the Media Practitioners' Bill, which was on the cards for more than a year following recommendations of the All Media Stakeholders Conference held in Kariba in May 2009, was among the 23 Bills constituting the legislative agenda of the next parliamentary session.

Alert

Date: July 23, 2010

Person/ institution: SEC, Journalists

Violation/ issue: Other

Journalists and media organisations have denounced the move by the Securities Commission of Zimbabwe (SEC) to register financial journalists as security investor advisers in terms of the Securities Act of 2004.

Communiqué

Date: August 4, 2010

Person/ institution: The Voice of

Zimbabwe

Violation/ issue: Victory

Voice of Zimbabwe radio, a subsidiary of the state-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH) was officially launched in the Midlands capital of Gweru on 30 July 2010. Voice of Zimbabwe was established in 2007 and broadcasts on shortwave frequency.

Alert

Date: August 31, 2010

Person/ institution: Kudakwashe Zvarayi

Violation/ issue: Detained

Kudakwashe Zvarayi, a Kwekwe-based freelance journalist in the Midlands province was on 27 August 2010 arrested in Bulawayo while taking pictures of the statue of Zimbabwe's deceased Vice President Joshua Nkomo. Vice President Nkomo's statue was erected in Bulawayo's central business district but was still covered awaiting the official unveiling ceremony.

Alert

Date: March 26, 2010

Person/ institution: Owen Maseko

Violation/ issue: Detained, Banned

Visual Maseko was arrested on 26 March 2010 initially on charges of violating Section 30 of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act which alludes to insulting or undermining the authority of the president; the charges were since been changed to Section 31 which deals with the publication of false statements prejudicial to the state.

September 3, 2010: MISA-Zimbabwe

condemned the government ban on any films and Bulawayo-based artist Owen Maseko's exhibition depicting Gukurahundi disturbances that took place after independence. In a government gazette published on 27 August 2010, Home Affairs Secretary Melusi Matshiya announced that it was an offence in terms of the Censorship and Entertainment Control Act (Cinematography and Publications, Production of Pictures and Statutes) for anyone to show the Gukurahundi material.

September 14, 2010: Bulawayo Magistrate Ntombizodwa Mazhandu on 13 September 2010 foiled an attempt by the State to prefer new charges against visual artist Owen Maseko.

September 16, 2010: Visual artist, Owen Maseko on 15 September 2010, made an application before Bulawayo Magistrate Ntombizodwa Mazhandu to have his case referred to the Supreme Court for determination on whether the criminalization of his artistic work was not a violation of his right to freedom of thought and expression.

September 20, 2010: Bulawayo Magistrate Ntombizodwa Mazhandu on 18 September 2010 granted an application by visual artist Owen Maseko to have his matter referred to the Supreme Court for determination on whether the criminalisation of his work of art is an infringement of his right to freedom of expression.

Communiqué

Date: September 21, 2010

Person/ institution: Tim Mutero Nyahunzvi

Violation/ issue: Other

MISA-Zimbabwe Trustee Tim Mutero Nyahunzvi, a veteran journalist and accomplished media trainer, died. Nyahunzvi, 72, died in Harare on 20 September 2010. He had previously been admitted at Parirenyatwa Hospital battling with prostate cancer for which he was supposed to have been operated on.

September 25, 2010: Veteran journalist, Tim Nyahunzvi, a trustee of MISA-Zimbabwe and accomplished media trainer, was buried at Warren Hills Cemetery.

Communiqué

Date: October 7, 2010

Person/ institution: Politicians

Violation/ issue: Legislation

Parliamentarians in the country's major political parties, ZANU PF and the two MDC factions on 4 October, 2010 agreed to amend the draconian law, Public Order and Security Act (POSA) during the Second reading stage of the Amendment Bill.

December 10, 2010: The proposed amendments to the draconian Public Order and Security Act (POSA) by MDC-T chief whip, Innocent Gonese sailed through parliament in its entirety after a third reading on 8 December 2010.

Communiqué

Date: October 8, 2010

Person/ institution: Hopewell Chin'ono

Violation/ issue: Victory

Zimbabwean journalist Hopewell Chin'ono was nominated for a prestigious Rory Peck award honouring freelance camerawork in news or current affairs. Chin'ono's film, A violent response, which depicts Zimbabwe's violent land reform programme, was selected a finalist together with three other films on 29 September 2010 by a panel of news professionals, both executive and freelance.

Alert

Date: October 11, 2010

Person/ institution: Flata Kavinga, Midlands Observer

Violence/ Issue: Detained

Flata Kavinga, a journalist with the Kwekwe based Midlands Observer was arrested and detained on 10 October 2010 around 1100 hrs while covering a demonstration by St Bernard Roman Catholic church members against the parish's priest.

October 12, 2010: Flata Kavinga, a journalist with the Midlands Observer in Kwekwe, was on 11 October 2010 released without charges after spending more than 24 hours in custody.

October 18, 2010: Flata Kavinga, a journalist with the Midlands Observer in Kwekwe, was on 14 October 2010, cleared of any possible charges by the police after he produced proof of his

accreditation with the statutory Media and Information Commission.

Communiqué

Date: October 12, 2010

Person/ institution: Edwin Dube

Violation/ issue: Other

MISA-Zimbabwe learnt with great shock and sadness the tragic death of Edwin Dube, deputy editor with the Zimbabwe Independent. Dube, 37, was killed in a traffic accident in the Midlands town of Gweru on the evening of 11 October 2010.

Communiqué

Date: October 18, 2010

Person/ institution: GEMSA, MISA, Journalists

Violation/ issue: Victory

Two Zimbabwean journalists on 15 October 2010 scooped regional awards at the fourth Gender and Media Summit Awards convened by Gender Links, Gender and Media Southern Africa (GEMSA) and the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) in Johannesburg.

Communiqué

Date: October 19, 2010

Person/ institution: MISA-Zimbabwe, Ntepe community radio station

Violation/ issue: Victory

MISA-Zimbabwe on 16 October 2010 set up the first rural community radio in Ntepe, 40kms South-West of Gwanda town. Ntepe community radio station is the first rural community radio initiative in Zimbabwe.

Alert

Date: October 29, 2010

Person/ institution: Journalists, State Security, Robert Mugabe

Violation/ issue: Banned

State security agents on 15 October, 2010 allegedly blocked accredited journalists from covering the graduation ceremony at Great Zimbabwe University in Masvingo, officiated by President Robert Mugabe.

Alert

Date: November 2, 2010

Person/ institution: Andrison Manyere, Nkosana Dhlamini

Violation/ issue: Detained

Freelance journalists Andrison Manyere and Nkosana Dhlamini were arrested and detained overnight at Waterfalls police station in Harare on 30 October 2010 while covering a constitutional information gathering meeting.

Alert

Date: November 8, 2010

Person/ institution: Wilf Mbanga, Police

Violation/ issue: Threatened

The police issued a warrant of arrest against Wilf Mbanga the London-based editor of The Zimbabwean newspaper following publication of a story linked to the death of a senior official with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) in 2008.

Alert

Date: November 12, 2010

Person/ institution: George

Charamba, Government

Violation/ issue: Other

Permanent Secretary for Information and Publicity George Charamba said the government will not be issuing licences to new private players anytime soon. Charamba told the Parliamentary Committee on Media, Information and Communication Technology on 11 November 2010 that this could only be done after the government develops capacity to monitor and regulate the new players.

Alert

Date: November 18, 2010

Person/ institution: Munyaradzi

Doma, One Tawanda, CCAP

Violation/ issue: Assaulted

Munyaradzi Doma and One Tawanda, two journalists with the Harare based daily tabloid H-Metro were assaulted by youth members of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) on 14 November 2010 in Harare's township of Mbare.

Alert

Date : November 17, 2010

Person/ institution: Dumisani

Sibanda, Newsday, Police

Violation/ issue: Detained, Threatened
Dumisani Sibanda bureau chief with the privately owned daily, Newsday, was on 16 November 2010 briefly detained and questioned by the police at Bulawayo Central Police station.

Alert

Person/ institution: Nqobani Ndlovu

Violence/ issue: Detained, victory

Date: November 18, 2010

Nqobani Ndlovu a reporter with the weekly Standard newspaper who is based in Bulawayo was on 17 November 2010 arrested in connection with a story alleging the cancellation of police promotional examinations, which were alleged to have been scrapped to facilitate the absorption of war veterans and retired police officers in the police force ahead of the 2011 elections.

22 November 2010: Bail hearing in the case of Nqobani Ndlovu was expected on 22 November 2010 at Bulawayo Magistrates Courts.

November 22, 2010: Journalist Nqobani Ndlovu remained in prison after the State invoked section 121 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (CPEA) effectively quashing the US\$100 bail granted by Bulawayo Magistrate Sibongile Msipa.

November 23, 2010: Media organisations and journalists in Zimbabwe roundly condemned the detention of Standard reporter Nqobani Ndlovu saying they would be mounting a campaign for his release from Remand prison.

November 26, 2010: Zimbabwean journalists and representatives of media organisations on 26 November 2010 petitioned Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai expressing grave concern with the increase in the number of cases involving the arrests and harassment of journalists.

November 29, 2010: Nqobani Ndlovu was finally released from Khami remand prison on the afternoon of 26 November

2006 in compliance with the order for his immediate release by High Court judge Justice Nicholas Matonsi.

Alert

Date: November 30, 2010

Person/ institution: Nevanji Madanhire, Walter Marwizi

Violation/ issue: Detained, Legislation

Nevanji Madanhire and Walter Marwizi the editor and deputy editor with The Standard weekly newspaper faced arrest after police visited their offices in Harare on 29 November 2010 looking for the two. This was in connection with story authored by Nqobani Ndlovu and published in the Standard Newspaper alleging the cancellation of police promotional examinations, which were alleged to have been scrapped to facilitate the absorption of war veterans and retired police officers in the police force ahead of the 2011 elections.

December 2, 2010: Nevanji Madanhire editor with The Standard weekly newspaper was on 30 November 2010 arrested and charged with breaching Section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which deals with publication of falsehoods prejudicial to the state. He appeared in court on 1 December 2010 and granted bail of US\$ 100.

Alert

Date: December 7, 2010

Person/ institution: Tatenda Chitagu, Newsday

Violation/ issue: Assaulted

Tatenda Chitagu, a Newsday correspondent based in Masvingo was on 5 December 2010 harassed by ZANU PF youths at the instigation of senior party members at an inter-district meeting held at Masvingo Polytechnic College.

ARTIGO-MISA ZIMBAWE-STID 2010

Por Jealousy Mawarire

Desde 2000, e na sequência do aparecimento de um formidável então opositor Movimento para Mudança Democrática (MDC), a comunicação social no Zimbabwe tem sido campo de batalha para contestações de controle pelos partidos políticos. O controle dos meios de comunicação tem sido, uma grande preocupação por agentes políticos no país, especialmente os que fazem parte do governo.

O princípio orientador para controlar o mídia tem sido fundamentalmente em duas vertentes. O primeiro argumento é que o mídia é muito poderosa em moldar a opinião do público consumidor e os vontades. Portanto quem tem o controle da mídia está firmemente posicionado para determinar a psique do público e, portanto, conquistá-los para seu lado, no caso de o público ter que tomar uma decisão política sobre quem deve estar dentro ou fora do governo.

O segundo argumento está enraizado na teoria do imperialismo do mídia, a crença de que o mídia, sendo parte do sistema económico ocidental, traz a marca ideológica dos principais centros da economia capitalista. Assim, o consumo do mídia externa aumenta " a

homogeneização cultural e ideológica do mundo" (Schiller, 1976:17) em benefício dos países e economias ocidentais, e consequentemente, em detrimento das pessoas locais, seus valores culturais, identidade soberana e a capacidade de fazer um julgamento político independente, especialmente quando se trata de escolher quem deve estar no governo.

Em consonância com este pensamento, foi assumido por alguns agentes políticos no país, que consumindo o conteúdo do mídia dos países ocidentais, críticos do sistema do governo Zimbabweano, não importa quão mundano, iria influenciar o desvio da lealdade ao governo. Assim, os cidadãos devem ser protegidos contra as mensagens do mídia ocidental através da introdução de conteúdos locais e proibir os textos estrangeiros, que podem provavelmente ser "veneno" para os consumidores locais.

Compreender a comunicação social no Zimbabwe no âmbito da rubrica académica descrita acima faz que seja fácil de apreciar o estado actual do nosso e a razão das medidas de controle que foram impostas no campo do mídia. Em 2010, assim como todos os outros anos que passaram desde a mudança do milénio, os zimbabweanos foram ainda aprendidos com a mesma tarefa difícil de tentar dismantlar o monopólio que a (Zanu-PF) tem sobre o mídia no país, ambos a imprensa escrita e a electrónica. Olhando para o estado do mídia, portanto, implica analisar como Estado (leia-se o

Zanu-PF) tem sido capaz de manter o monopólio nos meios de transmissão e controle sobre a imprensa escrita através de participação direta, em alguns casos, e um conjunto de medidas restritivas e leis draconianas em outras instâncias.

A Situação da Imprensa

O ambiente do mídia em Zimbabwe continua sendo campo minado tanto quanto o governo de Unidade Nacional (GUN) manteve as antigas leis restritivas e draconianas que são incompatíveis com o florescimento de uma imprensa livre e vibrante no país. A lei penal (Codificação e Reforma) ainda criminaliza o criticismo contra o presidente e aos membros das forças armadas, enquanto o acesso à informação e a lei de protecção da privacidade (AIPPA) ainda insula o acesso às informações encobertas pelos órgãos públicos e secretarias de Estado. O aprisionamento dos jornalistas, Nqhani Ndlovu em 17 de Novembro de 2010 e Nevanji Madanhire em 30 de Novembro testemunha o perigo apresentado pelas legislações acima referidas.

Ndlovu e Madanhire que trabalham para um semanário privado "standard" como repórter e editor, respectivamente, foram presos e acusados de violar a secção 31 da lei penal (Codificação e Reforma) que trata da publicação de declarações prejudiciais ao Estado.

O artigo sobre os serviços de difusão (ABS) de 2001 continua operacional, garantindo o Zimbabwe Broadcasting

Corporation (Zbc) monopólio exclusivo sobre as ondas. Este monopólio é assegurado por dificultar qualquer pessoa investir nos serviços de difusão através disposições legislativas restritivas e irracionais. Por exemplo o financiamento externo é limitado no momento em que a economia está praticamente gritando pelo investimento estrangeiro directo.

Outros requisitos legais, como a restrição a participação máxima dos intervenientes para apenas 10 por cento por indivíduo, em qualquer empresa de radiodifusão também cria barreiras logísticas desnecessárias, pois que é muito difícil, senão impossível, para se obter nove investidores potenciais com mesmo pensamento dispostos a iniciar uma empresa de radiodifusão, tudo ao mesmo tempo e "in loco".

Do lado da imprensa escrita, enquanto o ano 2010 testemunhou o licenciamento de novos jornais como o "Newspaper" e o relicenciamento do "Daily News", o facto de que mais de cinco novas empresas de imprensa escrita que foram licenciadas, somente o "Newspaper" apareceu nas ruas (a partir de dezembro de 2010), é instrutivo que na medida em que a avaliação da situação do mídia no país está em causa. É imperativo considerar que para além das leis restritivas, existam mais factores que dificultam o funcionamento do mídia no país.

O estado económico do Zimbabwe também é um factor que impede o

crescimento da imprensa vibrante independente, enquanto que série de leis restritivas impostas sobre o mídia acabam por deteriorizar situação. Embora que praticamente não seja atraente investir no mídia na economia Zimbabweana, é igualmente insustentável injectar dinheiro no negócio do mídia, enquanto as leis que regem o funcionamento da indústria permanecem inalteradas. Acesso à Informação

No contexto do Zimbabwe, AIPPA continua sendo um termo impróprio para possibilitar os cidadãos terem direito de acesso à informação, uma vez que mantém as disposições restritivas que são incómodo para exercício desse direito fundamental, ainda mais no contexto do papel fiscalizador do mídia sobre os três braços do estado nomeadamente; o Executivo, Legislativo e a Judiciária.

Apesar da multa cosmética de 2008, AIPPA, a lei matem a disposição, que dentre outros, que dá em termos da cláusula 8 de AIPPA para alguém obter informações a partir de uma instituição pública; deve primeiro escrever para o chefe desta instituição pública sob custódia das informações precisadas. No entanto, o chefe da instituição pública tem um período de 30 dias para responder ao pedido e que ele/ela tem margem de manobra para prorrogar o prazo com consentimento da comissão. Não há justificativo para o prazo de resposta em 30 dias que é um período desnecessariamente longo e insensível

às necessidades daqueles que precisam desta informação.

Situação da Imprensa Escrita
O desenvolvimento mais notável na imprensa escrita foi o licenciamento de novos intervenientes do mídia, tais como o "Daily Gazette", O "Newspaper", a proibição do "the Daily News", o trabalhador (publicado pelo Congresso de Sindicatos do Zimbabwe) e o Estado de SP, pela Comissão Media Zimbabwe (ZMC) Maio 2010 seguido pelo licenciamento de organizações adicionais do mídia escrita, nomeadamente a "Cable news Agency", as Empresas tais como "Bermark", "Fevjay Investments", e "Africa Midia Investments" em Julho. Porém, graças ao "Newspaper" que chegou às ruas à 04 de Julho de 2010 e que, até Dezembro de 2010 nenhum dos outros jornais licenciados havia começado publicar.

Este desenvolvimento é instrutivo, pois mostra que não é só o ambiente legislativo que vem afectando o surgimento de novos publicadores de notícias escritas, mas o estado da economia também. Enquanto não existir uma investigação exaustiva que seja feita com o objectivo de determinar as razões que impedem outros jornais licenciados vir à bordo; informações obtidas dos seus sites de trabalho indicam que o estado da economia não é favorável para esse tipo de empreendimentos.

É importante sublinhar que, enquanto as detenções de jornalistas como Nqhani Ndlovu e Madanhire Nevanji que foram mencionados acima e toda a gama de

leis opressivas que foram desencadeadas na indústria do mídia representam uma grande ameaça para o crescimento de uma imprensa vibrante, crítica e útil no país. A crise económica que estamos vivendo nos últimos anos é hostil a liberdade de imprensa, bem como as leis em questão.

A situação é ainda pior se um dos factores na competição que os novos actores do mídia escrita devem enfrentar for relacionada as publicações financiadas pelo Estado.

Radiodifusão

Zbc mantém o monopólio dos meios de radiodifusão, apesar da proibição do monopólio, na caso da Rádio do Capitól de 2000 e do acordo dos três partidos políticos no Acordo Político Global (GPA) para reformar os meios de comunicação e garantir licenças de novos actores da imprensa escrita.

Segundo o ex-Vice-Ministro da Informação Jameson Timba, esse monopólio é, apesar da capacidade do país para registrar 56 estações de radios distritais (comunidade), 31 emissoras de rádios comerciais, três estações nacionais de televisão e duas estações comerciais da rádio FM de acordo com a União Internacional das Telecomunicações (UIT).

Conforme observado anteriormente neste trabalho, o monopólio é deliberadamente destinado a controlar os sistemas de produção de conhecimento com vista à manipular o conteúdo do

mídia e do pensamento que influenciam os processos especialmente quando se trata de fazer escolhas informadas no tempo das eleições.

TIC e as Telecomunicações

A evolução positiva foi o anúncio feito pelo maior provedor de telemóveis no Zimbabwe, Econet Wireless, sobre os seus planos avançados para ligar o país com o resto do mundo através do cabo de fibra óptica na capital Zambiana de Lusaka.

Esta ampliação de infra-estrutura pela parte da Econet vai melhorar muito os no controle de seus dados, vídeo e ligações de voz. Os serviços serão transferidos a uma velocidade maior no valor de vários gigabytes por segundo e irá beneficiar todo o setor de telecomunicações que será capaz de utilizar as infra-estruturas com taxas credivelmente baixas. Atualmente, os provedores de serviços de telemóveis transmitem os dados usando o satélite, através da estação de base, que é bastante caro.

Houve também um crescimento significativo no número de pessoas que acessam a Internet através de seus telemóveis, como resultado das conexões da internet 3G introduzidas pelo Econet e Telecel. Isto significa que mais pessoas podem acessar os jornais online. No entanto, esse desenvolvimento não foi elogiado por causa das atualizações de graves versões feitas online por jornais locais para capitalizar sobre o grande número de pessoas que acessam os

jornais pela internet.

Migração Tecnológica

Lamentavelmente, não houve muitos pronunciamentos políticos sobre a necessidade de migração tecnológica até 2015, a digitalização de todas as rádios e televisões colocando o país sob o risco de pesadas sanções pela União Internacional das Telecomunicações (UIT).

Zimbabwe estaria muito distante de cumprir o prazo da UIT, pois que, o Ministro das Finanças, nas suas propostas de orçamento para 2011, não atribuiu nenhuma verba para a digitalização dos equipamentos de radiodifusão. Segundo o secretário para a Informação e Publicidade, George Charamba, são necessários 16 Milhões de Dólares Americanos para a transição completa do sistema analógico para o digital. Em 2010 só 465 000 Dólares Americanos foram disponibilizados para este fim. O Caminho a seguir em 2011

A maior ameaça para a liberdade de imprensa no Zimbabwe é o controle do governo e sua influência no mídia. Há, portanto, necessidade séria para fazer pressão para a revogação de todas as leis que impedem o crescimento do mídia livre. AIIPA, POSA, BSA e todos os outros instrumentos legislativos que foram usados para reprimir a emergência de um mídia livre precisam de ser alterados ou revogados.

Também há grande necessidade de defesa para dissuadir o governo de possuir, através dos paraestatais ou qualquer outro organismo, os meios de comunicação escrita para que este sector do mídia seja deixada para possibilitar os actores privados concorrem a quota do mercado sem vantagens injustas a favor daqueles que actualmente beneficiam o governo e sustentam os jornais do Zimbabwe utilizando fundos públicos. A advocacia também deve ser forte para forçar o governo conceder licenças a novos operadores no sector da radiodifusão e para acabar com as restrições de financiamento externo nos negócios do mídia e da radiodifusão. A exigência de participação máxima de 10 por cento também deve ser descartado, pois não faz nenhum sentido para os negócios.

Conclusão

Como mencionado acima, a maior ameaça para a comunicação social no Zimbabwe é representada pelo desejo que o governo tem em controlar as operações dos meios de comunicação social através de vários meios, que vão desde colocar armadilhas legislativas para o uso da força coesiva pela polícia. Mudanças fundamentais nas leis do país são, portanto, imperativas, começando com a Constituição.

As reformas constitucionais vão ajudar a proteger várias liberdades fundamentais, incluindo a liberdade de imprensa e processar outros instrumentos legais

utilizados para inconstitucionalmente amordaçar o mídia.

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