



# Annual Report

PROMOTING  
**FREE EXPRESSION**  
IN **ZIMBABWE**

**2023**

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## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

A free and unhindered media plays a critical role in disseminating information that triggers citizen participation in governance issues for informed choices and decisions on issues that affect their daily lives.

This is of critical importance ahead of scheduled elections and the post-election period, of which Zimbabwe held its harmonised elections on 23 -24 August 2023.

Election periods thus thrust immense responsibility on the media to provide the public with accurate information that will enable the electorate to make informed decisions and choices when they eventually cast their votes.

In line with our 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan, mission, vision and values, the bulk of our programming and activities in 2023 were thus deliberately framed and devised to secure a conducive media operating environment that enhances citizens' access to vital electoral related information.

The safety and security of media workers is therefore critical as citizens rely on unfettered media for credible and verifiable information to participate in elections freely.

Reports by election observer missions to Zimbabwe's 2018 elections also influenced our programming as part of efforts to address the shortcomings identified or highlighted in the reports as it pertained to the media operating environment.

This also came on the backdrop of the scourge and menace of misinformation and disinformation which tends to increase during an election period.

These interventions, among others, involved journalism training workshops on election reporting, journalism safety and security (online and offline) and fact-checking.

Key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Information, Zimbabwe Media Commission, Zimbabwe Republic Police, journalists, media organisations and political parties were also engaged in that regard.

Resultantly, Zimbabwe's harmonised elections were conducted in a drastically improved media operating environment regarding journalists' and media workers safety and security.

This is evidenced by the massive reduction in media freedom violations, which tend to spike during the country's election campaign seasons.

While we are happy to report on the positive outcomes and impact of these various interventions and actions as showcased in our 2023 Annual Report, more can still be done to secure a conducive media operating environment.

The issue of dual accreditation, wherein media practitioners accredited with the Zimbabwe Media Commission are requested to pay additional fees upon being accredited by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission for purposes of covering elections, remains of concern.

There is also need to revisit provisions of the Cyber and Data Protection Act which impact on free expression and media freedom such as the ones on the transmission of false data messages.

This entails increasing awareness on the Freedom of Information Act to ensure citizens are aware of the law and utilise it to enjoy their right to access to information, more so during election periods.

Suffice to note that partnerships and collaborations do work as demonstrated through the engagement meetings held with key stakeholders to improve the media operating environment.

MISA Zimbabwe therefore extends its sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Zimbabwe Republic Police, Zimbabwe Media Commission, political parties and our colleagues under the auspices of the representative Media Alliance of Zimbabwe for making that possible.

MISA ZIMBABWE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

**GOLDEN MAUNGANIDZE**



## MEDIA OPERATING CONTEXT

During the year under review, Zimbabwe held its harmonised elections on 23 -24 August 2023.

Previous elections in Zimbabwe were generally marred by increased incidents of media freedom violations. These violations involve the unlawful arrests, assaults, and harassment of journalists by state and non-state actors, such as supporters of political parties.

Such violations impede the media from freely fulfilling its mandate during elections, thereby compromising citizens' ability to access information that enables them to make informed decisions and choices. The safety and security of journalists is therefore of paramount importance in that regard.

On the other hand, election periods throughout the world, thrust immense responsibility on the media to provide the public with accurate information that will enable the electorate to make informed decisions and choices when they eventually cast their votes.

In Zimbabwe, freedom of the media is protected by Section 61, which also stresses that freedom of expression and media freedom excludes, among others, incitement to violence, advocacy of hatred or hate speech.

The right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media should also be read in tandem with Section 62 on access to information, which states that the media has the right to access information held by the State or by any institution or agency of government at every level.

This right is guaranteed as far as the information is required in the interests of public accountability or the exercise or protection of a right.

Section 160G (1) of the Electoral Act says public broadcasters shall afford all political parties and independent candidates contesting an election such free access to their broadcasting services as prescribed.

Further, the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections outlines, among other principles, the need for member states to promote the necessary conditions to foster transparency, freedom of the media, access to information by all citizens, and equal opportunities for all candidates and political parties to use the State media.

A free and unhindered media thus plays a critical role in disseminating information that triggers citizen participation in governance issues for informed choices and decisions on issues that affect their daily lives.

It is with that in mind that MISA Zimbabwe, in conjunction with key stakeholders, took various steps and interventions to secure a conducive media operating environment ahead of Zimbabwe's 2023 harmonised elections, resulting in the vastly improved safety and security environment for the country's journalists and media workers.

Several meetings were held with the police and political parties to secure a conducive media operating environment ahead of the 2023 elections.

Further, in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Media Commission and UNESCO Regional Office Southern Africa, MISA engaged the media to re-commit to the ideals of professionalism while covering elections.

This was drawn from MISA's experiences in the Lesotho elections of 2022, where MISA Lesotho took leadership in mobilising the media to commit and recommit to professionalism while covering the election.

Zimbabwe's media, comprising state-owned, private and community media, campus radio stations and freelance journalists, committed themselves to the highest ethical standards in the coverage of the 2023 elections.

Media advocacy groups and academics also appended their signatures to the Harmonised Elections Media Code of Conduct Pledge 2023 in Bulawayo on the 10th of August 2023. The pledge was endorsed by the Government of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Zimbabwe Media Commission and political parties, among other critical stakeholders.

## PROGRAMMES

Our programming was hinged on five programme areas which are:

- Campaign for Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information- promotes legal reform and the introduction of new legislation to improve the protection and implementation of media freedom and the right to information.
- Media Freedom Monitoring - monitors media freedom violations and developments and issues action alerts. Provides MISA with an important advocacy platform.
- Campaign for Broadcasting Diversity-promotes an open system of broadcasting licensing, editorial independence and the introduction of a three-tier system of broadcasting comprising public, commercial and community broadcasting.
- Media Support- aims to promote and enhance media accountability and professionalism. Seeks to create awareness of the need for a code of ethics and self-regulatory bodies. Also promotes professionalism in the media through media training initiatives.
- Legal Support - Provides funds under the Media Defence Fund, for legal assistance to media practitioners and institutions with the aim of protecting freedom of expression.

## INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

### Secure Online Means of Communication for vulnerable groups

MISA Zimbabwe held two workshops on Secure Online Means of Communication, for vulnerable groups in Bulawayo and Harare. Participants were drawn from Hwange, Tsholotsho, Plumtree, Gwanda, Gweru, Lupane, Harare, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Mutare, Masvingo, Kwekwe, Beatrice, Chinhoyi, Kariba and Bulawayo.

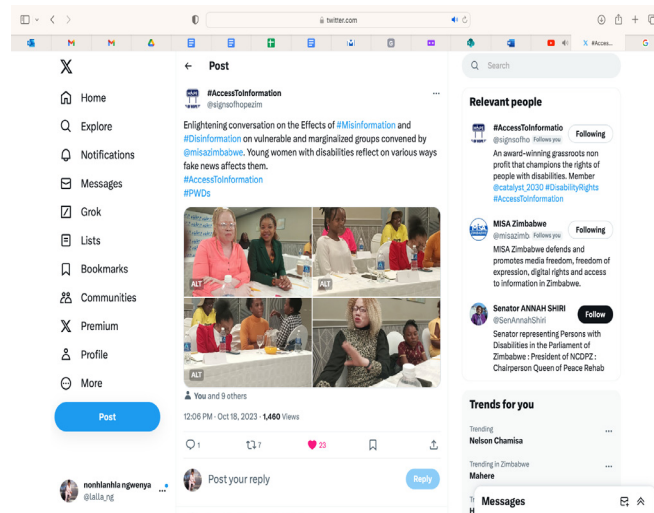
These included persons with disabilities (PWDs), LGBTQI, rural women who are community leaders, journalists and development practitioners. MISA provided a sign language interpreter to those with hearing impairments. The workshop was attended by 25 participants in Bulawayo (14 females, 7 males and 4 others) and 29 participants in Harare (26 females and 3 males).



*Harare participants at the training*



*Bulawayo participants at the training*



*X post by one of the participants*

## Outcome

- Participants' capacity to identify information disorders enhanced.
- Participants were equipped with practical tips and skills to stay safe and secure online, particularly during election time.

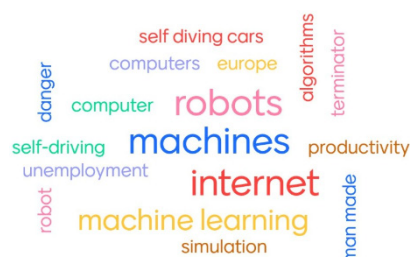
## AI deployment and uptake in Southern Africa focus group discussion workshops

Three focus group discussions were conducted namely in Bulawayo, Harare and Johannesburg, South Africa.

The objective of these workshops was to gather primary data for the study on Artificial Intelligence (AI) deployment and uptake in Southern Africa as well as analysing how it influences patterns of misinformation disorders during election seasons.

Word clouds were generated including the ones below:

When you hear the word AI what do you think?  
24 responses



*Bulawayo word cloud*

When you hear the word AI what do you think?  
22 responses



*Harare word cloud*

When you hear the word AI what do you think?  
22 responses



*Johannesburg word cloud*

As can be noted from the above word clouds, there were different perceptions on what AI entails. In Bulawayo most participants believed AI meant doom and job replacements.

In Harare the general view was on how AI was affecting the type of information that is shared, with misinformation disorders being raised.

In Johannesburg the general sentiment was how AI was impacting lives as one notes words like automation and turmoil in the word cloud. The meaning and uptake of AI varies from region to region and there was no uniformity in the answers received.

The discussions also addressed who the main sources of information are, how to address issues around disinformation, who uses AI in the region and what it is used for. The first draft report of this study is expected in January 2024.

### Recommendations and way forward

- Africa needs to play a role in the setting of algorithms that make use of our data to ensure languages are acknowledged and preserved.
- More capacity building needs to be done around AI as it will affect Africans in one way or the other.



## ACCESS TO INFORMATION

### Kariba Field Trip

The two-day Kariba field trip featured a training session for Kasambabezi FM community radio station staff on information disorders and access to information, as well as a visit to the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority offices to discuss collaboration with the media.

The following day, a roadshow was conducted by Kasambabezi FM staff, where they taught their audiences on information disorders and access to information.

The roadshow included a competition where participants had to explain the difference between misinformation and disinformation, with winners receiving t-shirts and caps. Overall, the field trip successfully enhanced knowledge on information disorder and access to information.



*Kasambabezi FM roadshow on information disorders*

### outcome

- Community radio stations in marginalised areas do not have reliable sources on technical issues such as media literacy and access to information. There is therefore a need to build capacity on these key areas through training of radio presenters for them to competently articulate these issues.
- Community radio stations experience high staff turnover due to lack of remuneration. This can be addressed through learning from other sustainable community radio business models in the region.
- Communities need to be equipped with fact-checking skills and trained on information

disorders, access to information.

### **Workshop on promoting a healthy information eco-system**

This workshop was held in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights - University of Pretoria. The workshop was conducted prior to elections in the country and focused on creating a healthy ecosystem in the media industry during elections.

Civil society organisations, journalists, parliamentarians were invited to discuss and map the way forward.

One of the major objectives of the workshop was to counter misinformation disorders that are prevalent during elections. Fact-checking sources was discussed at length, and stakeholders were encouraged to verify information before sharing.

The workshop explored the concepts of misinformation and disinformation and its impact on elections and democracy in general.

It covered regulatory responses to disinformation in Zimbabwe and the opportunities and threats which these responses may pose to human rights, particularly freedom of expression.

The analysis was guided by international human rights law and standards relating to freedom of expression, including Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and other relevant human rights instruments.

The participants were also introduced to [LEXOTA](#), an interactive online tool that tracks and analyses laws and policies related to the restriction of freedom of expression across Sub-Saharan Africa. Participants discussed how political actors can ensure relevant regulations are in compliance with international laws and standards, and effectively guide government action.

### **outcome**

- Participants were capacitated with a tool – LEXOTA to keep track on laws and policies around the region.
- They also agreed on the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to tackling misinformation disorders.

### **International Day for Universal Access to Information**

MISA commemorated the International Day for Universal Access to Information on 28 September 2023 in Harare under the universal theme: The importance of the online space for access to information.

The theme was instructive and timely in this era of convergence, where citizens increasingly access information on the internet.

MISA Zimbabwe, during the commemorations, stressed the need for the Zimbabwe Media Commission and the Ministry of Information Publicity to raise awareness on the Freedom of Information Act and training of relevant government officials on the mechanics of the Freedom of Information Regulations to



enhance the exercise and enjoyment of the right to access to information.

## outcome

The Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Dr Jenfan Muswere renewed government's commitment to [legal reforms](#) and an enabling media operating environment.

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Shining the spotlight on Resolution 522 (16 days of activism against #GBV)

In December 2023, MISA Zimbabwe held a workshop in Harare as part of the 16 Days of Activism, to highlight and lobby for implementation of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) Resolution 522 on the Protection of Women Against Digital Violence in Africa.

Resolution 522 highlights that “digital violence is increasingly gendered and disproportionately affects women, through inter alia threats of sexual violence, misogynistic disinformation campaigns and “revenge pornography...”

Stakeholders were drawn from the Ministry Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Zimbabwe Media Commission, Gender and Media Connect, Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Zimbabwe Republic Police, Zimbabwe Union of Journalists, and Voluntary Media Council of Zimbabwe and journalists from various media houses from across the country.

The Resolution encourages member states to undertake measures to safeguard women journalists from digital violence, including gender-sensitive media literacy and digital security training.

It also calls on member states to facilitate cooperation between law enforcement and service providers to identify perpetrators and gather evidence for online harms.

Zimbabwe's Cyber and Data Protection Act has provisions that deal with cyber-bullying and harassment. Such provisions are progressive as far as women's rights online are concerned.

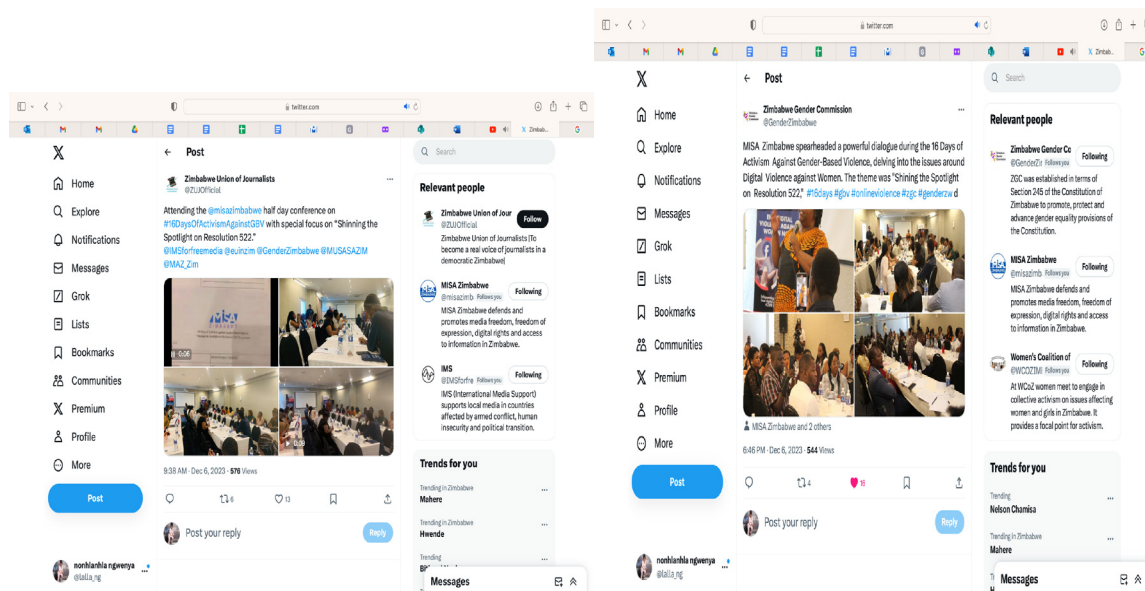
Several women, particularly female journalists and female politicians in Zimbabwe, have been victims of cyber-bullying and harassment, which has greatly affected the exercise of digital rights by women.

## outcome

The Ministry of Women Affairs said government remains committed to preventing and reducing violence against women and girls and was in the process of coordinating the review of the National Strategy for Preventing and Addressing Gender Based Violence, a strategy document that will provide guidance to-

wards GBV programming.

Through this event which also received wide media coverage, female journalists were also mobilised and empowered to articulate, demand and defend their right to free expression online.



### *Safety and security training for female journalists.*

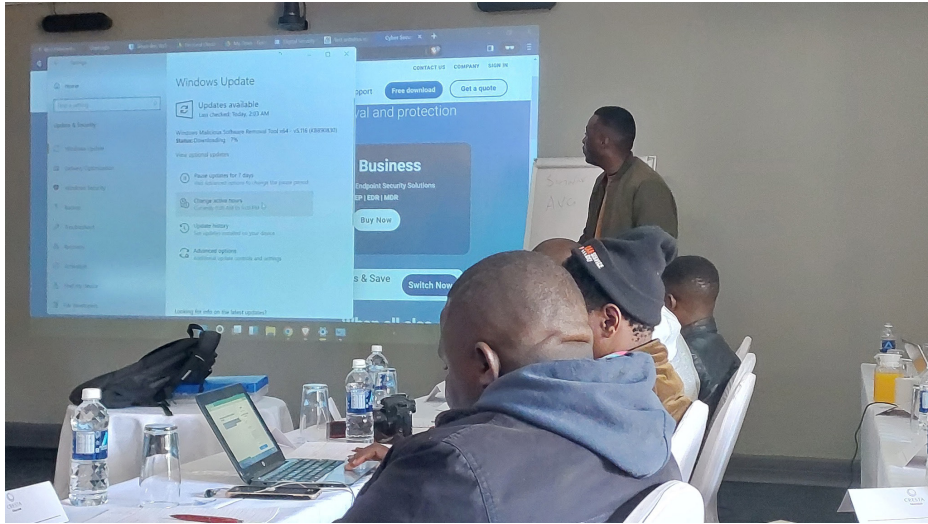
The training came after at least three young female journalists were harassed during public gatherings or campaign rallies in 2022. The training also focused on sexual harassment as the young female journalists are at times targets of harassment in the newsroom and by some sources who demand sexual favours in exchange for news.

## **MEDIA SUPPORT**

### **Journalism Digital Safety**

In August 2023, MISA Zimbabwe trained a total of 66 journalists [46 males and 20 females] on digital safety, and fact-checking skills and tools necessary to address election-related misinformation and disinformation.

The trainings were held in Harare and Bulawayo and participants were drawn from Bulawayo, Harare, Masvingo, Kwekwe, Gweru, Gwanda, Zvishavane, Kariba, Chegutu, Chipinge, Beitbridge, Bindura and Banket.



*Sean Ndlovu training journalists on digital safety and fact-checking.*



*Bulawayo workshop group picture.*

### **Assessment of new trends and emerging practices in election reporting**

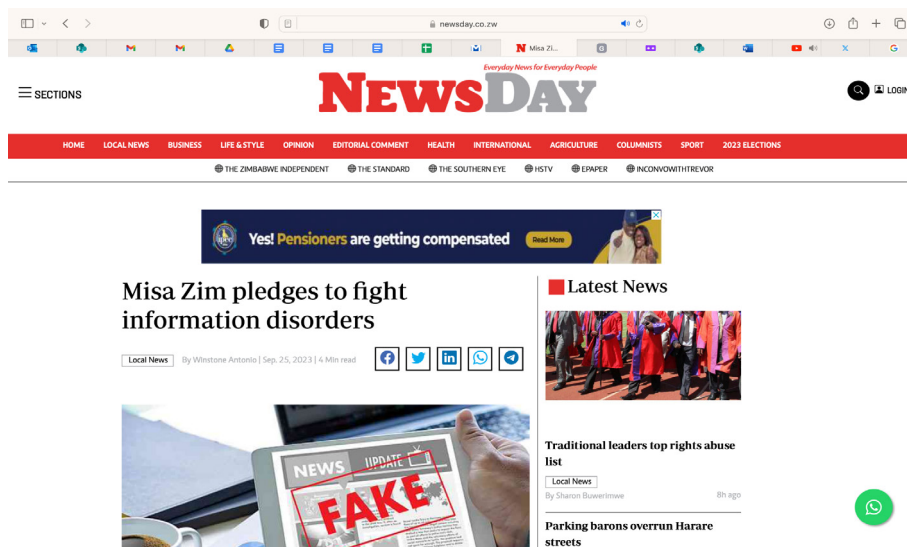
The post-election New Trends and Emerging Practices workshop, which served as an assessment of the media coverage of the post-election period was held over two days in Bulawayo.

Participants comprised journalists and broadcasters from various media houses, political party representatives from Zanu PF, CCC and ZAPU, academia (National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and Lupane State University), civic society and people with disabilities.

It was attended by 34 participants (19 males and 15 females).



*Participants group picture.*



*Article in the NewsDay on the training.*

## Court reporting workshop

MISA Zimbabwe in partnership with East West Management Institute, conducted a court reporting workshop aimed at raising public awareness on the justice system through media coverage of the judiciary in Zimbabwe.

It was also aimed at increasing the capacity and skills of local journalists on the various court processes and procedures. Court reporting is a vital skill for a journalist to have. A journalist needs to have a good understanding of the justice system and the various applications that come before different courts for them to competently report on the judiciary and the country's justice system.

outcomes

- Increased knowledge and capacity of journalists on court processes and hierarchy of the Zimbabwean courts.
- Journalists acquired skills on how to report on sensitive matters involving minors.
- Journalists capacitated on how to read and interpret court rulings or judgments and were schooled on basic understanding of courtroom etiquette.



## Media Pledge

Representatives of private and public mainstream media signed the Harmonised Elections Media Code of Conduct Pledge on 10 August 2023.

The Pledge committed the media to professionalism and fair coverage of the 2023 elections while also promoting peace. Other organisations that signed the Pledge included Zimpapers, Zimbabwe Media Commission, MISA and Zimbabwe Union of Journalists.

<https://www.chronicle.co.zw/media-houses-sign-professionalism-peace-pledge-ahead-of->

The Pledge, endorsed by the Government of Zimbabwe, was an initiative pushed by MISA Zimbabwe at an all stakeholders meeting on the media's coverage of the 2023 elections convened by the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) in conjunction with UNESCO in Mutare on 10 -11 July 2023.

## outcome

Zimbabwe's media, comprising state-owned, private and community media, campus radio stations and freelance journalists, committed themselves to the highest ethical standards in the coverage of the 2023 elections.

The pledge was endorsed by the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ), Zimbabwe Media Commission, Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and political parties, among other key stakeholders.

Election observer missions to the 2023 elections noted improvement in the coverage of the elections.

## MEDIA REFORMS

### Police-Media Engagement Meetings

MISA Zimbabwe, in conjunction with key stakeholders, took various steps and interventions to secure a conducive media operating environment ahead of Zimbabwe's 2023 harmonised elections, resulting in the vastly improved safety and security environment for the country's journalists and media workers.

Several meetings were held with the police and political parties to secure a conducive media operating environment ahead of the 2023 elections in terms of the Police-Media Action Plan of December 2017.

## Police and Media Practitioners agree to work together

News

**T**he Zimbabwe Republic Police and media practitioners in the country have agreed to continue with dialogue in order to promote professionalism on information dissemination. The move to find each other, was broached by Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) – Zimbabwe Chapter – who reached out to the police for dialogue in order to understand each other's roles. Over the years, the relationship between the two parties has been acrimonious and characterised by suspicion and lack of common understanding. Hence, the Commissioner General of Police Tandabantu Godwin Matanga commissioned the interface meetings to be held between media representatives and police commanders at provincial and district levels.

A series of meetings were held during the month of February this year in all the 10 administrative

provinces, where issues of the safety and security of journalists were topical in the discussion. Both parties were in agreement that they serve one constituency (members of the public) and that they must try to build and cement relationships on issues that bind them together as professionals. While it is inevitable that differences in opinion and interests will always arise, mutual respect for each other's roles and professionalism must always prevail.

The media practitioners pleaded with law enforcement agents not to criminalise the journalism profession, while the latter also called for journalists to respect their constitutional mandate of enforcing the law, maintaining peace and order. In case of any differences, both parties must try to resolve issues amicably and promote professionalism and good ethical conduct.

On the other hand, the law enforcement agents beseeched media practitioners to allow them to enforce law, maintain peace and order as enshrined in the constitution. The misunderstanding between police and journalists usually arise from the competing interests of the right to information and dissemination, while the law enforcement agents would also be keen on gathering evidence from the crime scenes, and also maintaining law and order.

The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Board of Trustees Chairman, Mr Chris Chinaka was consistent in his message; that media houses are staffed by professional human beings and must promote unity and development in the country.

Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ) Chairperson and Zimbabwe Union

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Assistant Commissioner Arnold Makomo (seated centre) with Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi (seated second from left), MISA Board of Trustees Mr Chris Chinaka (second from right) and Mr Nigel Myamutumbu (far right), pose for a group photo with senior police officers and journalists at Chinhoi Show Grounds

The police magazine (above) captured the discussions and recommendations of the meetings on the safety of journalists.

outcome

Following the proclamation of the 2023 Zimbabwean elections on 31 May 2023 and the holding of the elections on 23 August 2023 (a period usually characterised by a spike in media freedom violations), only three (3) violations involving political actors were recorded.

No media violations involving the police or other security arms of the state were recorded during that period.

The police also initiated weekly meetings with journalists to review the media operating environment as well as exchange notes on issues that need to be addressed. This has also improved access to information by journalists who need police comments to write stories.

These initiatives were acknowledged by the European Union delegation report which acknowledged that MISA Zimbabwe's engagements with the Zimbabwe Republic Police had seen an improved media operating environment during the 2023 elections.

<http://www.eueomzimbabwe2023.eu>.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7fceb2>



Group photograph of stakeholders after a Kwekwe-media/police engagement meeting in February 2023



## Government stakeholders meeting

MISA participated in the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services' strategic planning meeting in Vumba on 13 November 2023. MISA lobbied the Ministry to prioritise the safety and security of the media by adopting the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists.

### Outcome

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary Nick Mangwana said the Ministry had taken note of the need to adopt the UN Plan of Action and build on the positive feedback on the media operating environment during the 2023 elections.

This also demonstrates MISA Zimbabwe's thought leadership in pushing for comprehensive media legislative reforms in Zimbabwe.

The Government also reiterated its commitment to co-regulation of the media as proposed under the Zimbabwe Media Practitioners Bill.

He said there was no need to amend the Freedom of Information Act to allow citizens to seek information from private entities because the law already allowed for this through the Constitution (Section 62 on Access to Information).

## State of the media operating environment meeting

On 19 May 2023 MISA Zimbabwe convened an all-stakeholders engagement meeting in Harare on the state of the media environment ahead of the 2023 elections.

### outcome

Deputy Minister of Information, Honourable Kindness Paradza, gave updates on the status of the Zimbabwe Media Practitioners Bill and Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill. He said the principles for the Media Practitioners Bill had since been approved by Cabinet and instructions given to the Attorney General's Office to draft the Bill.

Honourable Paradza said the thorny issue of [dual accreditation](#) would be scrapped through the Electoral Amendment Bill. The Deputy Minister said government had also instructed ZBC to freely cover any Zimbabwean who has anything to say about the elections, including the opposition.

## Political parties lobby meetings

MISA Zimbabwe held one-on-one lobby meetings with political parties namely Zanu PF, Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) and MDC-T at their respective offices in Harare as part of efforts to ensure a conducive

media operating environment ahead of and beyond the 2023 elections.

## **outcome**

During the meeting with the [Zanu PF leadership](#) on 23 May 2023, Secretary General Dr Obert Mpofu said Zanu PF was committed to the safety of journalists and did not condone the criminal harassment of journalists or the confiscation of their equipment. He said that if such incidents occur journalists should report them to the police.

CCC leader Advocate Nelson Chamisa said there was a need to transform ZBC into a public broadcaster to ensure it gives fair and balanced reportage for all political interests.

## **REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL FOOTPRINTS**

### **Panel discussion on legal threats to safety of journalists**

MISA Regional Director Dr Tabani Moyo made a presentation at the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commission Panel Discussion on Legal Threats to Safety of Journalists in commemoration of International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

Dr Moyo made the presentation which was hosted in Geneva, Switzerland, virtually on 2 November 2023.

<https://misa.org/blog/international-day-to-end-impunity-for-crimes-against-journalists-statement/>

In his presentation, he noted that civic space has generally been shrinking in Southern Africa, with attacks on journalists and civil society becoming less overt and more subtle, and more so through online attacks on journalists.

### **recommendations**

- Domestication of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists so that the safety of journalists is guaranteed by law.
- Ensure that regional and international best practices inform the cybersecurity regulation.
- Investigate and hold to account the perpetrators of attacks on journalists.
- Be transparent in how surveillance is used, and this should always be with judicial oversight.

### **World Press Freedom Day Commemorations**

On 6 May 2023, MISA Zimbabwe convened belated World Press Freedom Day commemorations in Chin-hoyi, Gwanda, Gweru, Bulawayo, Kwekwe, Masvingo, Mutare and Harare . A total of 219 participants attended the meetings of which 131 were male, 88 female and 104 youths.

Community Based Organisations participated in the meetings and they were made aware of access to information laws and other laws that affect freedom of expression such as the Cyber and Data Protection Act.



*Participants pause for a photograph in Mutare.*

The meetings also provided journalists with an opportunity to engage police and politicians on the safety and security of journalists ahead of the 2023 elections.

In Masvingo, CBOs and citizens were urged to exercise the right to freedom of expression through the media to fight gender-based violence and drug abuse. The meeting was also attended by traditional leaders.



*Masvingo commemorations for World Press Freedom Day at Nemamwa growth point.*

The meetings also discussed the high costs of data which now compromises freedom of expression and

access to information especially during elections. In rural Masvingo, citizens urged the government to put more boosters (transmitters) in the area to improve access to the internet.

## **KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS**

- Report on Continuing and Emerging Issues for Data Protection Authorities in Southern African Development Community
- State of Access and Use of Community Information Centres in Zimbabwe
- Reporting Elections, Safety and Security of Journalists

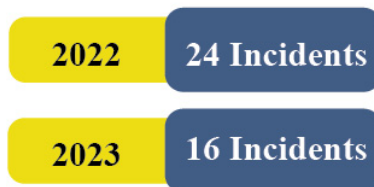
## Media Freedom Violations Statistics 2023

A total of 16 media workers and 7 groups were either arrested, charged, detained, threatened, attacked, barred or had their equipment damaged in 2023. These violations were recorded from a total of 16 incidents documented during the period under view. This marked a 33.3% decrease in the number of media freedom violations in 2023 when compared to the number reported in 2022.

Collectively 15 alerts were issued based on 16 incidents of media freedom violations and in some instances, a single violation would involve several media practitioners. In 2022 we issued 37 alerts.

### Media Freedom Violation Incidents

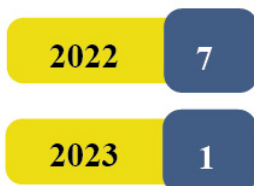
*Please note that one incident of media freedom violation may involve one or more Journalists.*



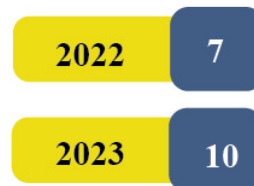
### Media Freedom Violations Categories



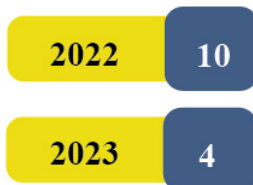
Arrested/Detained/  
Denied Bail/ Charged



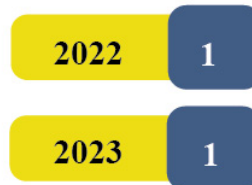
Barred/Censored



Assaulted/ Attacked/  
Injured/Threatened



Seizure/damage of  
Equipment







*Group photo of the Police and the Media in Kwekwe after an engagement meeting.*



*MISA Zimbabwe workshop on the effects of misinformation and disinformation on vulnerable groups in Zimbabwe.*





*MISA Zimbabwe workshop on deployment of AI in the SADC region and the readiness of the region to adopt AI technology.*



*MISA Zimbabwe 2023 International Day for Universal Access to Information commemorations.*





*MISA Zimbabwe workshop on new trends and emerging practices on disinformation and misinformation on election information.*



*Journalists in Gweru posing for a picture after receiving press jackets ahead of covering the 2023 elections.*





*Journalists in Masvingo posing for a picture after receiving press jackets ahead of covering the 2023 elections.*



*Journalists in Harare posing for a picture with MISA Director Dr Moyo after receiving press jackets ahead of covering the 2023 elections.*





*Zimbabwe Republic Police National Spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi addressing a Police/Media engagement meeting moderated by our advocacy officer Malvern Mkudu (right) looking on MISA Zimbabwe trustee Mr Kelvin Jakachira (left).*



*MISA Zimbabwe Police/Media engagement meeting before the August 2023 elections.*



*MISA Zimbabwe training workshop on Court Reporting with media practitioners from different newsrooms across the country.*





*MISA Zimbabwe Freedom of Information Act sensitisation meeting in Bulawayo.*



*MISA Zimbabwe Multi-Stakeholders Conference on illicit financial flows.*





*MISA Zimbabwe meeting on fostering a human rights centred approach to digital rights policies and laws in Southern Africa.*



*MISA Zimbabwe workshop on fostering a human rights centred approach to privacy, data protection, and access to the internet in Southern Africa.*



*MISA Zimbabwe State of Access and Use of Community Information Centres in Zimbabwe report launch.*





MISA Zimbabwe  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel/Fax: +264 242 776 165/ 746 838  
Email: [misa@misazim.co.zw](mailto:misa@misazim.co.zw)  
[zimbabwe.misa.org](http://zimbabwe.misa.org)



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