

When replying please quote

KNCU/CI/SPP/MD/19

26th May 2021

H.E. Ambassador Phyllis Kandie, EGH
Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO
1 Rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15
France
Email: dl.kenya@unesco-delegations.org

Dear *Baboz,*

RE: SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS 2021

Reference is made to the letter by the Deputy Director-General for Communication and Information A.I. dated 23rd March 2021 on the above subject, requesting for updated information regarding the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity for crimes committed against them.

As regards to the status of legal investigations being conducted into the unresolved cases of the murder of the late Francis Nyaruri and the late John Njakusi Kituyi, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, in consultation with the Media Council of Kenya and the Kenya Union of Journalists, has established that:

Case 1:

The late Francis Nyaruri was a correspondence with the *Weekly Citizen newspaper*. According to police reports, he went missing on 15th January 2009. His body was found two weeks later. Official reports indicate that two suspects were apprehended but later released for lack of evidence. The case still remains unresolved.

Case 2:

The late John Nyakusi Kituyi was the Editor and owner of the *Mirror Weekly*; an independent regional publication published in Eldoret. Police reports state that on 30th April 2015, the late Kituyi was attacked by unknown assailants on a motor cycle while walking home from work. He succumbed to his injuries while receiving treatment. No arrests have been made so far. The case remains unresolved.

Attached, please find a duly filled in form on the Impunity Monitoring Mechanisms Model Guidelines 2021 form.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours *Sincerely,*

EW

Dr. Evangeline W. Njoka, MBS

SECRETARY GENERAL/CEO

Encls.

Model Table assisting responses by Member States.

Section 1: Table

Current List of Journalists Killed (as condemned by the UNESCO Director-General) and Legal Investigations (as reported by UNESCO Member States)
Date: To be sent to UNESCO before 30 May 2021

Name of journalist	Gender	Date of alleged murder	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional remarks
<i>Example:</i> NONE		<i>Example:</i> NA	<i>Example:</i> NA	<i>Example:</i> NA			

Section 2: Positive or Innovative Measures the Member State is taking to promote safety of journalists and combat impunity

Activity	Actors	Outcome(s)
1. In November 2019, the National Mechanism for the Safety and Protection of Journalists was realized	-Government officials, civil society, National police Service Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, media actors, Human Rights defenders	-The National Police Service and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions appointed senior officers including the Police spokesman as the focal point for Journalists Safety who will oversee the national plan of action on this issue. -Quarterly meeting meetings between the members of the national mechanism to share monitoring reports on press freedom violations and review interventions by all actors
2. March 2020- Formation of Media sector response team for Covid 19	-Media associations/organizations/MCK	-Publication of COVID 19 Safety guidelines for journalists
3. 2020-Media Sector policy review	-All media stakeholders	-A report of 20 repressive laws that curtail media freedoms with recommendations on amendments published on May 3 2021



Activity	Actors	Outcome(s)
4. Continuous monitoring, documentation, response and interventions on press freedom violations	-All media stakeholders	-Trainings and sensitization of journalist , media stakeholders, the public and police on safety and protection of journalist. Psychological support, Humanitarian support, evacuation and provision of safe houses to victims. National database with over 100 cases of press freedom violations documented over the last one year

Section 3: Steps the Member State has taken to consider the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work

*1. The Member State has a national committee on sexual harassment in the media environment which among other things monitors and collects data on the vice, conducts trainings on what constitutes sexual harassment, responds to violations through psychological/trauma support and facilitating the process of justice for victims.
1. A training program on gender sensitive reporting and conflict sensitive reporting with special focus on gender-based violence, online and physical safety*

Section 4: Agreement to post the submitted information on UNESCO's dedicated webpage

