

Abstract

Confrontation with violence and threatening situations has become part of the daily professional life of more and more journalists. Especially since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the situation has become more acute.

This report addresses the highly topical issue of violence against journalists during the pandemic and examines two central questions. First, the authors want to find out which new practices have emerged in the everyday work of journalists as a result of the threats and how existing practices have changed. The study goes on to examine the extent to which the attacks on journalists affect freedom of the press. In addition to the phenomenon of press freedom, practice theory found particular application as a theoretical foundation of the project. In order to answer the research questions, a total of nine qualitative online interviews were conducted with affected journalists and journalist representatives from Germany.

The results show that journalistic work is characterized by numerous new protective practices nowadays. In addition, extensive preventive and downstream actions can be identified, which can be traced back to the individual as well as the editorial level. Overall, it is also apparent that there are diverse opinions on the current state of press freedom.