Laws that impact freedom of expression

- Freedom of expression is guaranteed under Article 41 of the Constitution and Article 19 of the UDHR and ICCPR
- The Prakas on Social Media and Website Control gives authorities unfettered power to censure online content seen as critical
- The State of Emergency Law gives authorities sweeping powers to restrict or prohibit freedom of expression
- The Sub-Decree on the National Internet Gateway enables mass surveillance of online activities and permits censorship of critical content online
- Article 305 of the Criminal Code outlaws defamation
- Article 425 of the Criminal Code prohibits "falsifying information"
- Article 437-bis of the Criminal Code prohibits defaming or insulting the King
- Articles 494 and 495 of the Criminal Code are frequently used to stifle freedom of expression

Incidents related to freedom of expression

165 incidents

18 incidents targeting the press

- 11 journalists were arrested
- 3 journalists were charged
- 11 journalists were detained
- 3 journalists were convicted
- 6 journalists were physically attacked
- 6 journalists had their equipment confiscated
- 4 media licenses were revoked

58 incidents targeting human rights defenders (HRDs)

- 9 HRDs were arrested
- 12 HRDs were charged
- 10 HRDs were detained
- 1 HRD was convicted
- 8 HRDs were threatened
- 2 HRDs were physically attacked
- 5 HRDs were made to thumbprint agreements

*HRDs include CSO and NGO Staff, Trade Unions, Environmental Activists, and Community Representatives.

All data collected from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Source: FFMP Media Monitoring Database

June 2021