

Report for the Universal Periodic Review of Paraguay

Third Cycle, Working Group Session 38

By the IFEX-SPP Coalition (CIFEXSPP)

ORGANISATIONS PRESENTING THIS REPORT:

IFEX: IFEX is the leading global network of organisations defending and promoting the right to freedom of expression and information. The network was founded in 1992 and now consists of more than 100 organisations in over 65 countries.¹ In Latin America and the Caribbean, IFEX has 24 member organisations based in countries throughout the region. Together these organisations form the IFEX-ALC network,² which was created in 2009 out of a need for the various groups to share experiences and capacities, with the common objective of defending freedom of expression in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SPP: IFEX's local partner in Paraguay is the Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay (Paraguayan Journalists Union, SPP). The SPP was founded in 1979 with support from the Confederación Paraguaya de Trabajadores (Paraguayan Workers Confederation, CPT). At that time, Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship refused to recognise the organisation and it was not until 25 July 1988 that the Paraguayan government granted the SPP official recognition. The organisation's activities focus on defending freedom of expression, denouncing impunity in cases of violence against journalists, protecting communicators' labour rights and addressing issues of media concentration.³

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following is a joint report submitted by the IFEX-SPP Coalition. The objective of the report is to present information in order to bring to light the situation of impunity in cases of violence against journalists and the associated effects on freedom of expression and press freedom in Paraguay. The information is being submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Paraguay scheduled to take place in 2021.

The findings detailed in this report were obtained by collecting and analysing information in reports issued by SPP.

WHY WAS THIS REPORT PREPARED?

1. During the second cycle of the UPR, Paraguay received 193 recommendations, of which 187 were accepted by the state. All nine of the recommendations addressing freedom of expression and press freedom were accepted.
2. This report provides information to the UN Human Rights Council regarding the Paraguayan freedom of expression situation, such that issues that have been documented may be examined within the UPR process, resulting in specific recommendations addressing limitations on freedom of expression and press freedom in the country.
3. Two journalists have been assassinated in Paraguay since 2016, and the circumstances of their deaths have not been clarified in a prompt manner despite the existence of the Multisectoral Roundtable for Journalist Safety, which was reactivated in early 2020.⁴
4. Aggressive actions against press workers that have taken place within the context of their journalism work must also be addressed, taking into consideration in particular the fact that the majority of these actions are perpetrated with impunity by public servants.
5. Despite the seriousness of the situation of violence against journalists in Paraguay, processes oriented toward approving laws that would provide protections for journalists have not been prioritised. In addition, regulations providing for guarantees of access to information and the right of citizens to be informed have not been updated.
6. Unjustified dismissals, threats of dismissal and employment insecurity in general, along with closures of media outlets or withdrawal of advertising in order to censor information, also represent serious violations that have taken place during the period covered by this report.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS FREEDOM

7. Paraguay has ratified a number of international instruments that protect freedom of expression and press freedom, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Joint Declaration on Diversity in Broadcasting, the

⁴ Desde Viceministerio de Asuntos Políticos, articulan acciones para reactivar la “Mesa de Seguridad para Periodistas” (Political Affairs Vice Ministry details actions for reactivating the “Roundtable for Journalist Security”), 18 February 2020, available at: <http://www.mdi.gov.py/index.php/planeamiento-y-control/itemlist/date/2020/2/18?catid=4>

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Labour Organization's Conventions 87 and 98 regarding union rights and protections.

8. According to Article 26 of Paraguay's Constitution, the state must guarantee "free expression and press freedom, as well as the dissemination of thoughts and opinions, without censorship." Likewise, Article 29 of the Constitution stipulates that the "practice of journalism, in all its form, is free" and journalists "have the right to publish their opinions bearing their signature, without censorship, via the media outlet for which they work."
9. Based on the information detailed in this report, however, freedom of expression and press freedom rights as stipulated in the Constitution are not being guaranteed in Paraguay, resulting in censorship that affects the right of citizens to be informed and limits the practice of journalism.

Law on protection of journalists and human rights defenders

10. In 2016 a proposed law on "Freedom of Expression and Protection of Journalists, Media Workers and Human Rights Defenders" was introduced. This bill, however, has stagnated and it is unclear, based on the time elapsed, whether it has been shelved or is still pending consideration.⁵

Broadcasting spectrum legislation: situation of community radio stations

11. Community radio collectives have been asking for Telecommunications Law No. 642 to be amended because this legislation weakens their functioning and hinders their abilities to finance themselves via fundraising. There has, however, been no progress in this regard since the 2016.

Law 5282 on Open Citizen Access to Public Information and Government Transparency

12. Regarding the recommendation to the Paraguayan state to amend legislation in order to promote freedom of expression, it should be noted that although Law 5282 on Open Citizen Access to Public Information and Government Transparency, which has been in force since 2014, represents a significant advance in transparency and access to information, there is still resistance to full application of this legislation, especially as regards sworn statements made by public servants and other authorities.
13. Law 6355, which regulates Sworn Declarations of Goods, Revenue, Assets and Liabilities, represents an impediment to unrestricted access to the sworn declarations of public officials since it contains a requirement for a court order to be issued in order for these declarations to be made public. In June 2020, the Supreme Court issued an order for publication of the sworn declarations of authorities, which represented a historic ruling. Law 6355, however, remains in force, contrary to the ruling issued by the highest court in the country.
14. Another of the difficulties associated with application of the legislation relates to ascertaining the degree to which the information provided is incomplete, along with failures to respond to requests, which have in a number of cases resulted in automatic cancellations of requests as deadlines expire.

⁵ Chamber of Deputies – Ordinary Session No. 234, 13 September 2017, available at: <http://silpy.congreso.gov.py/SIL3py-web/sesion/102740>; ABC Color, La libertad es la mejor protección del periodista (Freedom is the best protection for journalists), 10 April 2016, available at: <https://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresas/editorial/la-libertad-es-la-mejor-proteccion-del-periodista-1469611.html>; ABC Color, Quieren crear ente para "proteger" periodistas (They want to create a body to "protect" journalists), 16 November 2016, available at: <https://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresas/politica/quieren-crear-ente-para-proteger-a-periodistas-1538516.html>

VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS

15. During the previous cycle, eight of the nine recommendations to the Paraguayan state focused on the need to adopt effective measures for investigating complaints about attacks on journalists and associated issues of impunity. The recommendations also covered freedom of expression protections and the maintenance of a secure environment for journalists to carry out their legitimate work, free from threats, violence or reprisals, with the establishment of improved protection mechanisms for threatened journalists in particular.⁶
16. Violence against media workers has included assassinations, threats, cyber-bullying, stigmatisation, judicial harassment and sexual violence, all associated with their professional activities. Two journalists have been killed since 2016. In early March 2016, Eduardo González, a journalist from Carmen del Paraná, was brutally beaten in 2016 and died of his injuries. On 12 February 2020, Leo Veras, was shot 12 times in the city of Pedro Juan Caballero.
17. In the Eduardo González case, the crime was deemed a traffic accident, despite the fact that his motorcycle was intact and he had been brutally beaten. González had previously been harassed and arrested by police after reporting on police complacency in a case involving cattle thieves.⁷ Leo Veras was in the same city where journalist Santiago Leguizamón had been killed in 1991. In the Leguizamón case, the IACHR issued recommendations that the state has thus far failed to comply with.⁸
18. Of the 19 journalist assassinations that have taken place since 1991, only the cases of Samuel Román and Pablo Medina have been solved, with the perpetrators being sentenced. In the case of Salvador Medina, the hit man was convicted but not the masterminds behind the crime.⁹
19. Between 2016 and 2019, a number of cases of attacks and assaults on journalists have been reported. The cases include threats linked to the journalists' work, cyber-bullying and Internet harassment, stigmatisation, judicial harassment and sexual violence.¹⁰ An example is the case of Noelia Díaz Esquivel, who received death threats on the social networking platform Twitter in October 2018. Díaz Esquivel's case clearly involves gender-based harassment.¹¹
20. In 2018, 55.26% of attacks were perpetrated by public servants, while supporters of individual politicians were responsible for 28.95%. It is also evident that a number of attacks were never reported and others remain undetected. Since June 2019, 11 attacks on press freedom have been documented, involving assaults on 15 journalists. Three journalists were attacked by public servants, another three by political affiliates and two by

⁶ Recommendations 102.125; 102.119; 102.129; 102.135;102.133; 102.131; 102.115; 102.116. A/HRC/32/9, available at: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/32/9>

⁷ ABC Color, Periodista fallece tras una larga agonía (Journalist dies after long period of agony), 12 March 2017, available at: <https://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresa/interior/periodista-fallece-tras-una-larga-agonia-1573322.html>

⁸ El País, Asesinado a tiros un periodista brasileño en una zona “de alto riesgo” de la frontera paraguaya (Brazilian journalist shot to death in “high risk area” on the Paraguayan side of the border), 13 February 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/32FSUap>; ABC Color, CIDH se expidió sobre responsabilidad del Estado en asesinato de Santiago Leguizamón (IACHR issues report on state responsibility in assassination of Santiago Leguizamón), 26 August 2020, available at: <https://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/2020/08/26/cidh-se-expidio-sobre-responsabilidad-del-estado-en-asesinato-de-santiago-leguizamon/>

⁹ ABC Color, Cámara confirma la condena de 39 años de cárcel para Neneco Acosta (Court confirms 39-year prison sentence for Neneco Acosta), 20 December 2018, available at: <https://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresa/politica/camara-confirma-la-condena-de-39-anos-de-carcel-para-neneco-acosta-1770892.html>

¹⁰According to the Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay's report on press freedom attacks in 2018, 51 journalists suffered some type of attack, whether assault, harassment, threats linked to their work or some other type of aggression. Fifty-eight percent of the attacks involved physical aggression, 15.79% involved harassment including online bullying or threats, 13.16% involved stigmatisation, 7.89% involved judicial harassment and 5.26% involved sexual violence. It should be noted that 14 of the 51 journalists who were attacked were women, representing 27.45% of the total.

¹¹ IACHR Press Release R228/18, Committee of Experts and Special Rapporteur of the IACHR express their concern over the threats against journalist Noelia Díaz Esquivel in Paraguay, 30 October 2018, available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/expression/showarticle.asp?artID=1122&IID=1>

police officers. In addition, three were threatened, two suffered online harassment, and two were judicially harassed, one by a businessman and the other by a former senator.¹²

21. On 31 March 2017, at least 23 journalists from various media outlets were injured, including by rubber bullets, during coverage of protests against a proposed constitutional amendment that would have paved the way for presidential re-election. The IACHR's special rapporteur for freedom of expression, Edison Lanza, issued a statement on the incident. Formal complaints were filed in some of the cases and financial compensation arrangements were agreed upon, but in other cases settlements of this nature were not achieved.¹³
22. There have also been reports of judicial persecution via the filing of complaints,¹⁴ in addition to calls from the Public Prosecutor's Office inquiring about the information sources behind journalistic investigations¹⁵ and attempts to link journalists to legal cases as witnesses. Likewise, businesses or groups of businesses have applied pressure via threats against media outlets, wreaking havoc with information quality.¹⁶
23. Cases of threats against journalists also go unpunished. Threats constitute punishable criminal acts that have impact freedoms, but the Public Prosecutor's Office does not intervene or investigate these cases until the threats have been carried out in the form of an attack or assassination. Obstacles to filing complaints, cumbersome judicial processes, associated costs and low expectations of penalties generate a climate in which cases involving threats are rarely brought to justice. The Roundtable for Journalist Security, however, is available to be activated in order to provide police protection to those who are threatened.
24. Cases involving interception of telephone calls of journalists who investigate corruption have also been documented, representing an attempt to identify the sources responsible for leaking information to the media. These cases constitute attacks on constitutional rights to freedom of expression and the free practice of journalism.¹⁷

Censorship

25. A survey of 55 press workers located in the capital and interior regions of the country, including individuals working for various journalistic platforms such as radio, television, print and digital media, revealed that 61.1% had been forced at some point to refrain from publishing journalistic material. In addition, in the years covered

¹² Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay report on press freedom attacks in 2018 and 2019.

¹³ EFE, La CIDH tacha de "inaceptable" la represión a periodistas en protestas en Paraguay (IACHR characterises repression of journalists during protests in Paraguay as "unacceptable"), 26 May 2017, available at: <https://www.efe.com/efe/america/politica/la-cidh-tacha-de-inaceptable-represion-a-periodistas-en-protestas-paraguay/20000035-3278507>

¹⁴ Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos Paraguay (Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinator, Codehupy), Derechos Humanos Paraguay 2019 segunda edición (Human Rights in Paraguay 2019, second edition), January 2020, available at: http://codehupy.org.py/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/DDHH-2019_SEGUNDA-Edicion-DIGITAL.pdf

¹⁵ Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay, Exigimos que se garantice la libertad de expresión y la protección de fuentes de información (We demand guarantees for freedom of expression and protection of sources of information), 22 March 2018, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/sindicatodeperiodistasdelparaguay/photos/manifestamos-nuestro-apoyo-a-la-periodista-mabel-rehnfeldt-quien-el-jueves-22-de/10156249717318044/>; Instituto de Prensa y Sociedad, Paraguay: Piden a periodista revelar sus fuentes en caso que develó presunta corrupción en el gobierno (Journalist pressured to reveal sources behind reporting on alleged government corruption case), 3 April 2018, available at: <https://ifex.org/es/piden-a-periodista-revelar-sus-fuentes-en-caso-que-develo-presunta-corrupcion-en-el-gobierno/>; ABC Color, CIDH podría intervenir en caso audios filtrados (IACHR may intervene in case involving leaked audio recordings), 23 March 2018, available at: <https://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/cidh-podria-intervenir-en-caso-audios-filtrados-1686546.html>

¹⁶ Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos Paraguay (Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinator, Codehupy), Derechos Humanos Paraguay 2019 segunda edición (Human Rights in Paraguay 2019, second edition), January 2020, available at: http://codehupy.org.py/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/DDHH-2019_SEGUNDA-Edicion-DIGITAL.pdf

¹⁷ ABC Color, Gobierno usó su sistema de inteligencia para espiar periodista (Government used its intelligence system to spy on journalists), 24 August 2016, available at: <https://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresa/notas/gobierno-uso-su-sistema-de-inteligencia-para-espiar-periodista-1511976.html>; International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Paraguay: Cae la red de espionaje ilegal más grande del país (Country's largest illegal espionage network collapses), 17 May 2020, available at: <https://www.ifj.org/es/centro-de-medios/noticias/detalle/category/health-and-safety/article/paraguay-cae-la-red-de-espionaje-ilegal-mas-grande-del-pais.html>

by this report, there have been clear cases of influence by the church, political parties and powerful business sectors.¹⁸ In 2018, four journalists were deterred or denied access when attempting to cover a story. Journalistic equipment was reported stolen and a case of censorship directed against a media outlet was also documented.

26. In the press worker survey, 46.3% of the journalists indicated that they had to soften or moderate the tone of a story, or the opposite, exaggerate or harden the tone, in accordance with the editorial stance of a media outlet. None of the people affected, however, filed complaints against their bosses.
27. Likewise, 64.2% of the press workers surveyed indicated that they had decided against publishing a story on at least one occasion for political or business reasons, including because they feared losing their jobs.

Expansion of organised crime

28. There are conflict zones in Paraguay that impact the activities of journalists. Organised crime groups have become established in the departments of Ñeembucú, Misiones (on the border with Argentina), Concepción, Canindeyú and Amambay (on the border with Brazil), taking control both informally and formally. In recent years, several of these groups, such as Comando Vermelho (CV) and the Primer Comando Capital (PCC), have expanded throughout the country, including in the capital, Asunción.
29. These groups are constantly fighting for territorial control and, within this context, journalists are increasingly exposed, becoming targets for attacks. In fact, the assassination of Leo Veras has been linked to stories that were published about the PCC.¹⁹
30. Drug trafficking is on the rise in Paraguay, which suggests that the primary drug trafficking players and groups are financing political campaigns, or are even participating directly in the country's main political parties, in order to demand compensation via arrangements that facilitate their activities in the areas where they operate.

INFRINGEMENTS ON THE LABOUR RIGHTS OF PRESS WORKERS

Mass Layoffs

31. In the last four years there have been repeated mass dismissals at media outlets and communications agencies in Paraguay. This has become a characteristically illegal practice, especially between 2019 and 2020. This type of rights infringement also includes Provision of Services Agreements that fail to provide any employment contract or guarantees, representing an absence of the minimum conditions required to practice journalism.²⁰

¹⁸ Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos Paraguay (Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinator, Codehupy), Derechos Humanos Paraguay 2016 (Human Rights in Paraguay 2016), December 2016, available at: <http://codehupy.org.py/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Informe-derechos-humanos-2016-1.pdf>

¹⁹ Ultima Hora, Crimen organizado avanza en todo el país ante corrupción e inacción (Organised crime spreads throughout country in face of corruption and inaction), 15 September 2019, available at: <https://www.ultimahora.com/crimen-organizado-avanza-todo-el-pais-corrupcion-e-inaccion-n2843890.html>; Juan A Martens, Rodrigo Estigarribia and Roque A Orrego, Primer Comando Capital, telecriminología y sub registro delictivo: Principales desafíos para la gestión de la seguridad pública en Paraguay, 2018-2023 (Primer Comando Capital, tele-criminology and criminal registry: Main challenges for public security management in Paraguay, 2018-2023), 2018, available at: <https://ojs.ministeriopublico.gov.py/index.php/rjmp/article/view/147/108>

²⁰ Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos Paraguay (Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinator, Codehupy), Derechos Humanos Paraguay 2019 segunda edición (Human Rights in Paraguay 2019, second edition), January 2020, available at: http://codehupy.org.py/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/DDHH-2019_SEGUNDA-Edicion-DIGITAL.pdf; Informe anual sobre la situación de Derechos Humanos en Paraguay 2017 (Annual report on the human rights situation in Paraguay, 2017), 15 December 2017, available at: <http://codehupy.org.py/informe-anual-sobre-la-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-2017/>; Derechos Humanos Paraguay 2016, (Human Rights in Paraguay 2016), December 2016, available at: <http://codehupy.org.py/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Informe-derechos-humanos-2016-1.pdf>

32. In addition, a lack of firm decision-making by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security²¹ further complicates the situation of press workers as there is a failure to ensure compliance with constitutional guarantees, such as the legal provisions stipulated in the Labour Code. This can be presumed to be due to political-economic power factors. For this reason, the mass layoffs have included individuals who are engaged in union activities, conveying a message of reprisal and warning to those defending or wanting to defend their labour rights.
33. In 2019, cases of mass layoffs involving 50 journalists were documented among both public and privately-owned media outlets. Meanwhile, in the first half of 2020 alone, approximately 100 journalists were dismissed in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has been used as a justification for the dismissals.²²

Media concentration

34. At present, at least 36 mass media outlets (television, radio, print media, digital dailies, magazines and others) are in the hands of just four players, of which three are entrepreneurs with businesses in different sectors, and one is a former president of the country.²³
35. The power that has been conferred on these business groups is such that in the current context of the pandemic the mass dismissals took place without prior notice to the Labour Ministry, which is a condition stipulated in the Labour Code in cases involving definitive terminations of work. As examples, this is what took place in the case of a dismantled television station (Canal Pro) and a cancelled television programme (on Telefuturo).

Rights of women journalists

36. Women journalists endure negative situations that are directly linked to their gender, such as workplace harassment and issues relating to respect for health and caregiving rights that have been established in order to achieve gender equality. In a 2017 survey undertaken by the SPP, 73% of women reported having felt harassed in the workplace, 61% said they had suffered discrimination because of their gender during their career, and 53% indicated that they felt their rights to maternity leave and health benefits were not guaranteed.²⁴
37. Likewise, other issues linked to gender equality have been identified, such as an absence of daycares in the workplace, objectification and psychological aggression.

²¹ 5Días, Trabajo admite que tienen pocos fiscalizadores (Labour Ministry admits it has few auditors), available at: <https://www.5dias.com.py/archivo/trabajo-admite-que-tienen-pocos-fiscalizadores>

²² Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos Paraguay (Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinator, Codehupy), La sociedad paraguaya es informada sobre la pandemia por periodistas sobre- explotados y en medio de despidos masivos (Paraguayans are being informed about the pandemic by over-exploited journalists, amid mass layoffs), 8 July 2020, available at: <http://codehupy.org.py/la-sociedad-paraguaya-es-informada-sobre-la-pandemia-por-periodistas-sobre-explotados-y-en-medio-de-despidos-masivos/>

²³ Information obtained within the framework of the “Threats to freedom of expression in contexts of disinformation: Voices and experiences of women journalists and communicators from Europe and Latin America” seminar, organised by Cotidiano Mujer and Articulación Feminista Mercosur in collaboration with the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) and the Red Internacional de Mujeres Periodistas con Visión de Género (International Network of Women Journalists with a Gender Vision), held in Montevideo, 2019.

²⁴ Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay, Results from Women and Journalism in Paraguay survey, 8 March 2017, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/sindicatodeperiodistasdelparaguay/photos/a.10151754976378044/10155113972243044/?type=3&%3Btheater>

38. The previous Justice and Labour Ministry issued a resolution on violence in the workplace, including associated penalties. One of the obstacles associated with the resolution, however, is that employers are responsible for applying the sanctions and at times the employer is responsible for the harassment.

Community Radio Stations

39. Community radio stations have been demanding representation on the Broadcasting Council that operates under the auspices of the Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (National Telecommunications Commission, CONATEL) in order to present arguments in favour of stations that request operating authorisations or licence renewals. This demand is based on the discrimination experienced by community stations as their requests have been deferred for more than three years, resulting in raids and confiscations of equipment for failing to have up-to-date licencing.
40. Within the context of the pandemic, community radio stations are also demanding better Internet access since many of them operate in settlements or communities with inadequate or expensive Internet services, resulting in an inability to re-broadcast signals or make links within their programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the evaluation carried out for this report, which analysed information provided by Paraguayan government representatives, journalist unions, journalists, relatives of assassinated journalists, human rights organisations and community radio station organisations, it is obvious that several of the issues presented in the previous report continue to give cause for concern. As such, the following recommendations are presented so that they may be passed on to the Paraguayan government as part of the upcoming evaluation to take place within the UPR third cycle in 2021:

- Impunity in crimes against journalists must come to an end. Taking into account the progress that has been achieved to date in two of 19 journalist assassination cases, it is recommended that impartial, rapid, thorough, independent and effective investigations be conducted into the remaining 17 cases, ensuring that these investigations include a complete analysis of any relationship between the crime and the journalists' work. In addition, in each of these cases, the government must establish reparation measures and provide guarantees of non-repetition. We recommend that the authority to investigate these crimes be given to the Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor's Office until such time as a specialised prosecutorial office is created in accordance with the recommendation from the previous UPR cycle.
- The Paraguayan state should create a Truth Commission to investigate all cases of journalist assassinations in the country since 1991. This Commission should be independent and its activities should complement the work conducted in the criminal investigations.
- The work of the Multisectoral Roundtable for Journalist Safety should be strengthened via an institutional framework, with a budget in place, allowing it to improve its mechanisms for linking all the sectors and players that work to accompany and protect at-risk journalists.
- The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security must guarantee compliance with the rights of press workers, in accordance with constitutional and other legal provisions, including freedom of association and labour union rights.

- Administrative and criminal sanctions against public servants who harass or attack press workers must be strengthened.
- Use of the justice system as a means by which to harass journalists must be avoided, and judicial system operators must receive training in accordance with stipulations outlined in international instruments and Paraguayan legislation.
- There is an urgent need for parliamentary debate and approval of a law for protection of journalists and human rights defenders, with guarantees for broad participation of all the sectors involved in protecting journalists and defending freedom of expression.
- Guarantees must be provided for prevention and protection against censorship and all other limitations or infringements on freedom of expression and press freedom, in accordance with provisions established by international human rights standards.
- Amendments to the Telecommunications Law must be promoted, guaranteeing participation by the sectors and players involved in community broadcasting, with the objective of ensuring that the modifications provide assurances for the survival of community radio stations. In addition, adequate measures must be implemented to avoid excessive media concentration and ensure media diversity.
- The situation involving workplace harassment, violence and discrimination against women journalists must specifically be addressed, with the implementation of effective measures in accordance with international standards.