

**GUATEMALA**  
**STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES,**  
**AND THREATS ANALYSIS**

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p>	<p>There is the will of journalists throughout the country to continue organizing and forming networks of support and solidarity in the face of the belligerent attitude of the government. Networks such as “Nos nos callarán” (We will not be silenced) and the “Red Rompe el Miedo Guatemala” (Break the Fear Guatemala Network) are consolidated, their objective is to defend union interests and provide support to journalists who face threats and criminalization processes.</p> <p>Despite violence, judicial harassment, criminalization and exile, journalists continue to make efforts to get information to their audiences and have deployed regional and international networks to overcome the government’s censorship siege.</p> <p>In a context of growing repression against groups of human rights defenders, citizens have begun to assume freedom of expression as part of the repertoire of their demands.</p>
<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p>	<p>Violence against journalists increased in intensity and quantity. From January to July 2023, the situation has been marked by the electoral process that implied an increase in belligerence against the journalistic union. A journalist was murdered at the beginning of the year, but the Public Ministry has not made any progress in the investigations. The Prosecutor’s Office for Crimes against Journalists, instead of defending their rights, the objective for which it was created, directs its actions to re-victimize the union, dismissing complaints, not investigating ongoing cases and providing data to other prosecutor’s offices for criminalization actions.</p> <p>About thirty journalists have had to go into exile as a measure to safeguard their integrity in the face of the judicial terrorism of which they have been victims. There is no official record, therefore, this figure could be higher.</p> <p>Violence against female and indigenous journalists has specific characteristics that are not addressed by the institution created for that purpose.</p> <p>The alliance of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches continues to strengthen to attack the exercise of journalism through intimidation and criminalization.</p>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p>	<p>The diverse and persistent strategy of silencing journalists operated by the powers of the State has strengthened citizen support for journalistic work and freedom of expression.</p> <p>Increase in union cohesion.</p> <p>International support for the journalistic profession, which is reflected in the increase in specific missions in the country, reports from various international organizations that</p>

	show violations of human rights and freedom of expression through persecution and criminalization of journalists and human rights defenders.
<b>THREATS</b>	The weakening, capture and closing of spaces of the institutionality of human rights and of the political institutionality itself persists. Increased militarization of civilian life. Influence of organized crime in various regions of the country that places journalists and communicators at a very high level of risk.

