



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Legal Research and Analysis on Global Laws that Criminalize Journalism

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal. CPJ protects the free flow of news and commentary by taking action wherever journalists are under threat.

CPJ is made up of journalists and advocates who use journalism to defend journalists and press freedom. With decades of research, international visibility, and high levels of credibility and influence, CPJ can mobilize the media and lead coalitions that maximize the impact of our advocacy worldwide.

PURPOSE

An objective in CPJ's 2019-2021 Strategic Plan is to combat laws worldwide that criminalize journalism, including "fake news" laws; secure the release of journalists imprisoned on such charges; and engage with political leaders who use the term to justify media repression. In order to develop a strategy we need a comprehensive understanding of the relevant national laws and case law, with an emphasis on identifying global emerging and growing legal threats.

With this research, CPJ seeks to gain a global understanding of:

- 1) Existing national laws that criminalize journalism
- 2) Proposed national laws that criminalize journalism
- 3) Case law that indicates shifting applications and interpretations of national law, resulting in the criminalization of journalism
- 4) Whether there is a correlation between anti-media rhetoric and negative changes in the legal environment

SCOPE OF WORK

CPJ is seeking specific subject matter expertise in legal analysis of national laws affecting press freedom. The required legal analysis and consultative services are intended to assist and support CPJ staff in their development and delivery of reporting and advocacy around the criminalization

of journalism globally. The research should include a synthesis of CPJ and external data, including information from NGOs, academic institutions, and multilateral organizations. Types of legislation to consider include false news, criminal defamation, counter-terrorism, and cyber crime.

The deliverables for this project are:

- 1) A written analysis of findings
- 2) An annotated bibliography of sources used

TIMELINE

Please submit a proposal to Natalie Meltzer, nmeltzer@cpj.org, no later than June 14, 2019.

Proposals must contain:

- Name
- Contact information
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume for principal expert/consultant
- Work sample demonstrating successful and effective research and written analysis in the topic area
- Research plan

Follow up with candidates may be conducted to obtain any necessary clarification on items described within proposals.

Upon notification, the work will begin immediately and must proceed quickly to meet the project timeline. The deliverables should be submitted no more than three months after engagement.