AGGRESSION AND THREATS AGAINST JOURNALISTS

Experiences with aggression and threats

Journalists are encountering more and more aggression and threats. In 2017, this was experienced by 61% of journalists, and increased to 82% in 2021. Cameramen and photo journalists are most likely to encounter it.

Verbal aggression is encountered most often. Two-thirds of journalists have experienced this at least once in the past twelve months. Over a third encountered verbal aggression at least four times.

Discussion or reporting

70 percent of journalists that encountered threats or aggression reported or discussed the incident.

Reasons for not discussing incidents:

1. Incident not serious enough (58%)
2. Nothing gets done about it (12%)
3. Part of the job (10%)
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#### Effects of incident

1. **Personal**
   - My behaviour: 36%
   - Job satisfaction: 34%
   - Mental: 16%
   - Physical: 4%
   - Damage to property: 3%
   - Other: 9%

63% experience personal consequences after an incident, mainly in terms of behaviour and job satisfaction.

2. **Work**
   - The risk of encountering aggression and threats has an influence on my work as journalist: 52% agree, 20% neither agree nor disagree, 25% disagree, 2% don't know.
   - I have considered stopping as a journalist because I encountered aggression and threats: 13% agree, 10% neither agree nor disagree, 75% disagree, 2% don't know.

#### 3. Freedom of the press

In 2017, 79% thought that threats against journalists pose a risk to the freedom of the press. This increased to 93% in 2021.

- Threats against journalists are a topical and genuine threat to the freedom of the press: 93% agree, 3% neither agree nor disagree, 3% disagree, 1% don't know.
- Journalists have become more cautious in recent years due to aggression and threats: 71% agree, 14% neither agree nor disagree, 4% disagree, 11% don't know.

#### Familiarity and use of support

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<tr>
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<th>% PersVeilig</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Familiarity</strong> (% with name)</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Use</strong> (% sometimes)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Future use</strong> (% definitely or maybe)</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>71%</td>
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#### Explanation about survey

I&O Research conducted this survey among 689 journalists under instruction from PersVeilig. The questionnaire was shared as an open link with members of the NVJ, VVOJ and Genootschap van Hoofdredacteuren. The survey was carried out between 22 April and 6 May 2021.