



NEPALI MEDIA SUFFERS SEVERE INTIMIDATION



PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MEDIA STATUS DURING
SEPT 8-9 GEN-Z PROTEST

2025



Nepali Media Suffers Severe Intimidation

(Preliminary report on media status during Gen-Z protest)

Nepal witnessed a turmoil in the wake of Gen-Z protest launched against corruption, nepotism and social media ban. The protest organized on September 8 was so vehement that it forced the Prime Minister to step down. The demonstration initially begun peacefully turned violent, to which security persons resorted to firing which took the lives of 19 youths the same day, while the total fatalities in the two-day protest has crossed 70 so far. The number of casualties is likely to increase. The September 8 protest and killing of the youths in the federal capital, Kathmandu, flared up the protest nationwide causing massive destruction of public and private property next day, September 9. More than 1,100 persons are injured across the country. Even the media persons were seriously injured on September 8 and media houses set on fire and vandalized throughout the country. Some media houses failed to continue dissemination of news, while some resumed operation amidst ruins in Kathmandu from September 12. Most of the print media out of the Kathmandu Valley stopped publication, citing insecurity. Accurate loss of property at media houses is yet to be ascertained. By the night of September 12, an interim government was made by the President in a bid to avert further crises. With the lift of curfews and prohibitory orders, normalcy has restored now.

This is a brief preliminary report on the attack on journalists and media houses in course of the Gen-Z protests in Nepal. The agitated mob had attacked various public properties, including media houses in many places, especially on the second day. The protestors burnt down Kantipur Television and publication house, and the Annapurna Post daily building. Following this, these media including other broadcasting channels were forced to stop their operation for at least 24 hours. However, most of the media in the federal capital have resumed their operation amid this crisis.

A total of 35 incidents were reported nationwide impacting 17 media houses through vandalism and arson. Twenty journalists and their equipment were directly affected and approximately twelve television broadcasts were disrupted

KOSHI PROVINCE

The media outlets in this province have also faced attacks. According to information provided by Koshi Province's representative of Freedom Forum, Bikram Niraula, newspapers published from Biratnagar, the capital city and other districts of the province stopped print publication, citing the rising threat after the protest. In Ilam, the violent protestors vandalized offices of [Radio Nepal Bani](#) and Ilam Express daily.

He further informed that that media halted their publication owing to increased risks to journalists, printing press workers and newspaper distributors. The media sector was further affected due to the curfew and prohibitory order imposed by the local administration after the incidents of vandalism and arson.

Although online media and FM radios were operating, atmosphere was still not conducive to the newspaper printing and distribution. Additionally, journalists faced interrogations on their way by the security persons deployed to enforce curfew.

Though physical damage was not reported till date, media persons report through online medium. The print publications resumed after five days of the scourge- from September 14, according to Niraula.

MADHESH PROVINCE

FF representative for the province, Rajan Singh, reported that the protestors threw stones and vandalized the office of the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) Saptari on September 9.



FNJ Saptari building after vandalism

In this province, dozens of newspapers have shut down their publication for at least four days, citing insecurity following curfews, vandalism, and arson. Radio and television outlets also reduced their news bulletins.

Journalist Attacked

In another incident, protestors manhandled [Mero Shan TV](#) journalist Rajiv Sah while covering news of arson at the local police station in Sarlahi. He was also forced to delete the video footage he had recorded.

Editor at [Apkhabar.com](#), Anil Kumar Tiwari, was attacked and his laptop destroyed while covering protest in Bara on September 9. As soon as Tiwari published news about locals attempt to stop the protestors from vandalizing Jitpur Municipality Office, few protestors attacked Tiwari while he was working on his laptop at a café.

BAGMATI PROVINCE

Kathmandu

The agitated people vandalized and set on fire buildings of national media outlets.

Violent mob vandalized and set on fire the offices of the Public Service Broadcasting ([Nepal Television](#) and [Radio Nepal](#)) inside Singh Durbar complex, [Kantipur Television](#), [Radio Kantipur](#), [Annapurna Media Network](#) and [Thaha Sanchar](#).

The mob after setting fire on Singha Durbar (central administration complex of Nepal government) approached [Nepal Television](#) office and vandalized the vehicles, equipment and offices of the media. However, journalists at the media were able to rescue the media house from major attack and arson. The broadcast was not interrupted.

Journalist at [Ekantipur.com](#), Durga Dulal, told Freedom Forum that [Kantipur print](#) and online teams were working from home in view of violent situation. Though no human casualties are recorded at the publications house in Thapathali, entire news system collapsed. “We are reporting through the social media page ([@ekantipur](#)) of the media”, informed journalist Dulal on September 9.

But situation was more tense in the television office located at Tinkune.

News Producer at [Kantipur TV](#) Pushpa KC shared with FF, “We were in the newsroom, broadcasting live the protest all over Nepal. Deputy News Chief Rupesh Shrestha stepped outside the studio and Chief Editor Vijay Paudel was about to go on air. Meanwhile, we noticed protestors vandalizing the office. We were panicked as there was no way out.”



Kantipur TV Journalist Sabina Karki reporting from the office premise following arson attack

“However, News Chief Shrestha broke the glass door of the studio and we were able to get out of the building. As we came out, one building was already burning, vehicles parked outside were blazing. Protestors were pelting stones at the building. We were able to reach home safely. Few colleagues were injured. But, my mind is in a state of void”, journalist KC wrote in her social media post after September 9.

“Television broadcast is also completely halted after the incident. All the infrastructures are destroyed”, KC said. [The Kantipur Television](#), however, resumed its broadcast on September 12 from the temporary studio made in front of the burned building.

FF also talked to Ram Kala Khadka, News Coordinator at the [Annapurna Post daily](#). Khadka said in a panicked voice that the protestors suddenly started shouting all the people inside the office to go outside while they were working. All the staffs ran out of the office and then, they set the building on fire.

“Though we were able to save ourselves, the infrastructures have burnt down. However, we continued to report through the online portal and print publication”, Khadka said. She further shared that after locals' interventions, newsrooms and offices were less damaged except that of the Annapurna Express. The Annapurna Express office is totally damaged due to the attack, so, our colleagues are working from the Annapurna Post's office.

Other television channels- [Avenues](#), [AP1](#), [Prime TV](#), [News Nepal](#), [Himalaya](#), [ABC](#) and [Space 4K](#) had displayed notice on their respective channels, stating that the service of channels were disrupted from the broadcaster's side and that the channels would resume soon. All these channels had broadcasted the protests live.



Kantipur TV office and vehicle set ablaze on September 9

The disruption lasted for at least 24 hours.

Similarly, vehicles of [News24](#) and [Prime TV](#) were torched and reporting devices seized.

Journalists attacked

Four journalists were injured by the rubber bullets fired by the security persons to tame the protest in front of the Federal Parliament building at New Baneshwor on September 8. Injured were Shyam Shrestha from [Kantipur TV](#), Dipendra Dhungana from [Nayapatrika](#), Umesh Karki from [Nepal Press](#), and Shambhu Dangal from [Nayapost.com](#).

Journalist Shrestha was shot in the arm, Dhungana received injuries just below the ear and Karki was in his arm. Shrestha and Karki received treatment at the Civil Service Hospital near New Baneshwor and continued reporting after being discharged on September 9. Journalist Dhungana was admitted at the Patan Hospital following the attack. He was discharged on September 15.

Talking to Freedom Forum, journalist Dhungana shared that the gunshot seemed to be targeted towards us as we were only four or five journalists in the place when I and journalist Karki were injured. There were no protestors there. "Even after being discharged, I am unable to work for few more days as I am still under medication. The incident has severely impacted me. "It may have a long term effect on my health and work. Hence, I urge the concerned authority to investigate the attack and ensure justice to those who were killed and injured in these attacks," he mentioned.

Journalist Dungal received injury due to gunshot in leg and is undergoing treatment at the National Trauma Center. "I was shot by metal bullets fired by the police while recording video of the mob entering Federal Parliament. I have undergone two surgeries. It has already been 12 days since I was admitted to the hospital. I don't know how many more days I will have to stay here", he said.

On the same day, a multimedia journalist at [Deshsanchar.com](https://www.deshsanchar.com) Barsha Shah was hit in her stomach by the stones while covering protest. "I don't know whether I was hit by stones thrown by police person or protestors, but the situation was quite scary", she shared.

Senior journalist at [Nepal Television](https://www.nepal-television.com), Arati Chataut, also faced abuses and threats while trying to protect the media office from protestors' rage.

Chitwan

FF representative from the province, Ram Mani Dahal informed that security persons briefly detained Hiralal Acharya, journalist at [Chitwanaaja.com](https://www.chitwanaaja.com), while reporting protest. They also forced him to delete the recordings and let him go.

Director at [Kalika FM Chitwan](https://www.kalika-fm.com), Dipak Dhungel, was injured by stones hit during the protest.

Protestors vandalized and torched offices of [Kalika FM](https://www.kalika-fm.com), Chure Sandesh weekly and [Safalkhabar.com](https://www.safalkhabar.com) in Chitwan. They also vandalized and set fire on residences of journalists Suresh Chandra Adhikari and Santosh Deuja.

[Kapurbot.com](https://www.kapurbot.com)'s journalist Deuja reported to Freedom Forum that on September 9, a group of people carrying weapons entered his house and vandalized his personal property and set on fire the whole property. He has claimed that the property worth around Rs. 3.3 million was destroyed in the attack. "My house was my lifetime-earned property and seeing it turning into wreckage is painful. However, I was able to save my media office from further attack. I had to hide for two days to save myself and my family, as the mob specifically targeted me and my properties", Deuja told FF.

Journalist at [Safalkhabar.com](https://www.safalkhabar.com), Adhikari, informed that around 20 to 25 people stormed into his house and media house office, vandalized furniture, reporting equipment and

looted the properties. After the incident, print publication and TV broadcast are disrupted while online news is in operation.

This has caused mental distress among the journalists. The journalists have demanded proper investigation to book the attackers and ensure compensation.

GANDAKI PROVINCE

Journalists' vehicles and reporting equipment were seized and vandalized in Kaski on September 9. Freedom Forum's provincial representative, Rajan Pokhrel, reported that motorcycles belonging to [Radio Dhorbarahi](#) and its Station Manager, Ashok Bishwakarma, were vandalized while covering the protest in Kaski. Agitated protestors also pelted stones at the office of [Radio Dhorbarahi](#), causing disruption in its operation for around eight hours. They also seized the camera of [Kendrabhag.com](#)'s Chief Editor, Govinda Subedi, and damaged the camera. The loss is approximately Rs. 200 thousand, claims Subedi.



Journalist Govinda Subedi's camera damaged by protestors

[Setimadi daily](#)'s publisher Dambar Adhikari also faced abuse and was manhandled while covering news.

[Madiseti FM](#)'s technician Suman Shretha's vehicle worth was also vandalized. [Bhanjyang daily](#)'s office was also vandalized. Damage to the vehicles worth Rs. 40000, according to Pokhrel.

LUMBINI PROVINCE

Although there were no major attacks on media in the province, print outlets stopped their publication for at least two days, according to representative for the province Sudeep Gautam.

According to the FNJ Province Chief Shukra Rishi Chaulagain, protestors vandalized office of [Radio Jagaran](#) in Butwal and journalist from Nepathya Media Niraj Singh's camera was destroyed in the arson at the Kohalpur Municipality, Banke.

In a separate incident, journalist Shambhu Tharu was manhandled by the protestors. They later, apologized for the attack, stating that they had mistaken him. Tharu had to show his press card to avoid further attack.

KARNALI PROVINCE

Representative for the province, Laxmi Bhandari, said, "No damage to media outlets was reported in Karnali Province. Similarly, there were no attacks or threats against journalist in the province." However, journalists shared that they faced minor problems during news collection due to prohibitory order and insecure atmosphere.

SUDURPASCHIM PROVINCE

Min Bam from the province reported that the protestors attacked [Lokdarpan FM](#) in Darchula. According to Station Manager Lokendra Joshi, documents and furniture in the office were destroyed in the attack.

[Sagarmatha Television](#)'s journalist Dipendra Bhatt's motorcycle was destroyed in the arson in Kailali.



Journalist Bhatt's motorcycle after attack

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS MANHANDLED

In addition to these incidents of attack on media and vandalism, even the foreign media persons faced intimidation while making news on the protest in Kathmandu. On September 9, Sikta Deo, a reporter for [NDTV](#), and her colleague Pooja, [TV9's Bharatvarsh](#) Bipin Chaubey were manhandled by those in the protest. On September 10, [Republic TV](#) journalist Raghawendra Pande was misbehaved, while, on September 11, [News 18 India's](#)

Anand Tiwari and [CNN News 18](#)'s Sidhant Mishra faced hostility while reporting in the federal capital, Kathmandu.

OBSERVATION

These are among the attacks reported through various sources. However, there may be more incidents that are yet to be reported.

Karnali Province did not witness any threat and attack. Despite these challenges, it is worth noting that few media have resumed their operation amid limited facilities. Freedom Forum acknowledges the resilience of Nepali media outlets for standing strong at this time of crisis.

FF continuously observed the adverse situation Nepal faced that posed severe difficulty to journalists and media houses as well. Updates were made on it, condemning the attacks upon media. Media and journalists have always been targeted during the protests and demonstrations though they are waged for human rights, good governance, justice, equality. Such acts against the media, that is a major source of information to the public, is deplorable. Attack on media is attack on democracy.

Despite having interim government in place, getting mandate to hold the election to the House of Representatives on March 5, 2026, thereby preventing further deterioration of the security, and normalcy returning gradually, the journalists are yet to rid of the fear as is the case to the Nepali social psyche.

Worrying that with the dissolution of the lower house of federal parliament, House of Representatives, around 30 bills under consideration have become inactive. The Media Council Bill and the Information Technology and Cybersecurity Bill have become defunct.

