

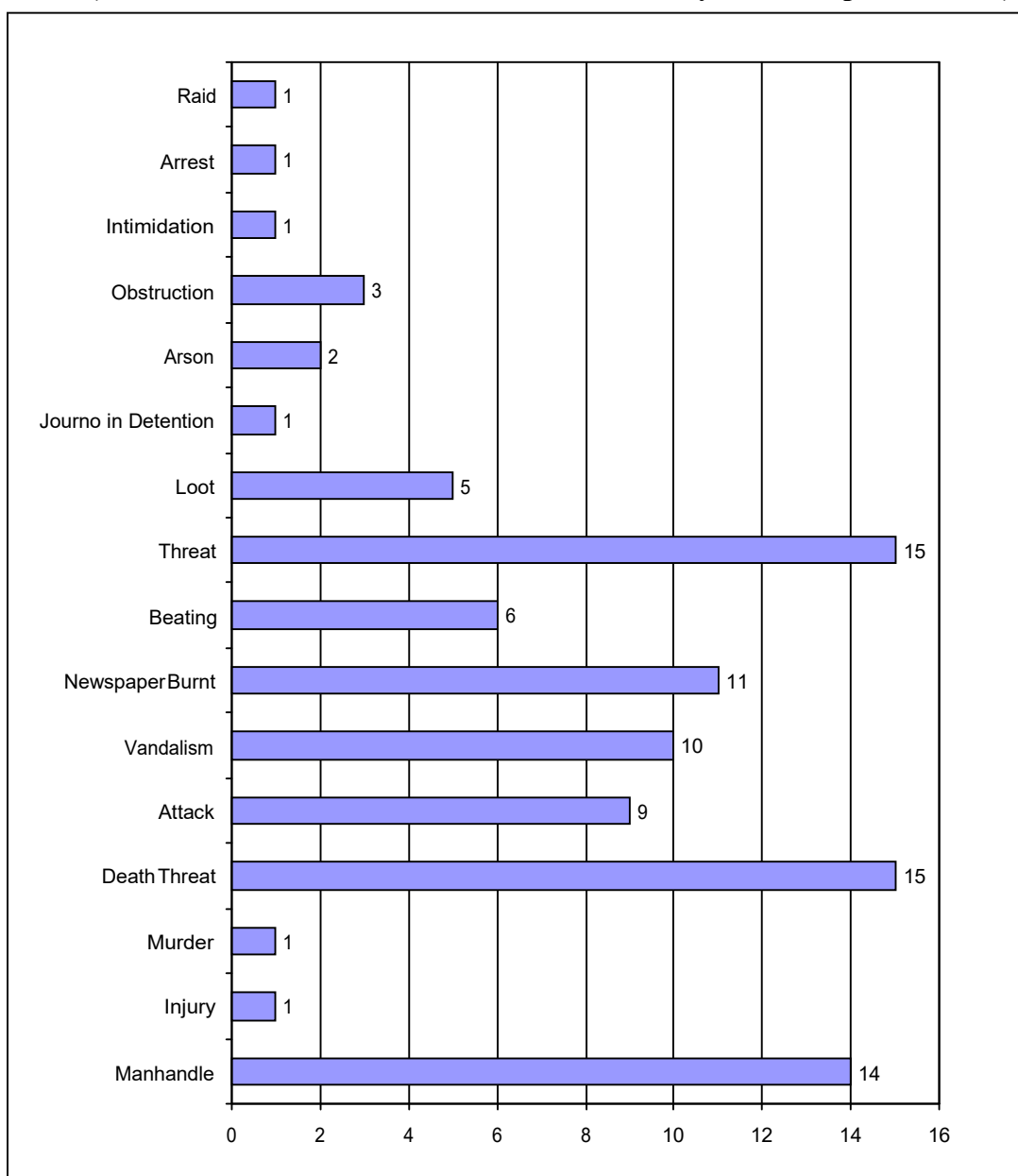
# Nepali Media under Constant Terror

(Nepali Media in a year from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012)

With the spurt of media, people's access to information has gradually increased in Nepal thereby building information regime. The more the country is going through transition, the more the media is bearing brunt from various sectors. Nepali media remained shocking this year. Brutal attacks on two journalists, and a murder of a journalist in the eastern region obviously painted gloomy picture of Nepal.

- Compared to the last year, the number of the incidents of press freedom violation dropped slightly. A total of 96 incidents of press freedom violation occurred this year throughout the country, down by 5 in comparison with the last year.
- On June 5, 2011, journalist associated with the *Republica* and *Nagarik dailies*, Khila Nath Dhakal, was attacked brutally at Biratnagar, a city in the eastern south of country. He was attacked by the cadres of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) because of his reporting about a crime. Similar attack was made on journalist Kishor Budhathoki, reporter with the *Annapurnapost daily* from Sankhuwasabha, a hilly district in the eastern part of Nepal on August 11, 2011 for his reporting about domestic violence.
- On the night of April 3, 2012, Nepali media witnessed a gruesome murder of journalist Yadav Poudel in Jhapa, a district in the southern plain of the east of Nepal. Late Poudel was district reporter for the *Rajdhani daily*, and the *Avenues Television*.
- Although the government and the concerned ministers time and again spoke in favour of media freedom, there were no supportive and protective steps by the government to decline and deter press freedom violation in the country. The commitment was limited to words. As a result, the journalists and media houses had to face threats, attacks, death threats, vandalisms, murder, intimidations, loots, arson, and others from various quarters.
- Inaction from the government side to deter press freedom violation stoked the sense of insecurity among journalists. The political parties and their sister organizations remained hostile to journalists and media freedom. As a result, the self-censorship grew among journalists.
- On the other hand, even the media house and journalists' professional incompetence sometime became a source of self-censorship and threats in media.

**(Incidents of Press Freedom Violation from May 1, 2011-April 30, 2012)**



- The media and the civil society organizations did their level best to make government transparent in terms of citizens' right to information.
- The Media Monitoring Desk of the Freedom Forum recorded a total of 96 incidents of press freedom violation this year (May 1, 2011-April 30, 2012). According to the Monitoring Desk, there were 14 cases of manhandles while 15 death threats, 1 murder, 15 threats, 5 loots, 1 journalist in detention, 6 beatings, 11 newspapers burning, 10

vandalism, 9 attacks, 1 injury, 2 arson, 3 obstruction, 1 intimidation, 1 arrest, and 1 raid  
(See Chart for details)

- However, it must be concluded that the media has been serving the people's right to information and promoting and protecting democracy and justice in the country. Similarly, the Nepali media is in need of professional security, and safety.

