



### ARTICLE 19 – FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

*“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”*

- In Sudan, human rights defenders were arrested and tortured by national intelligence and security forces.
- In Ethiopia, two prominent human rights defenders were convicted on false charges and sentenced to nearly three years in prison.
- In Somalia, a prominent human rights defender was murdered.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the government attacks and threatens human rights defenders and restricts freedom of expression and association. Provisions of the 2004 Press Act were used by the government to censor newspapers and limit freedom of expression.
- Russia repressed political dissent, pressured or shut down independent media and harassed nongovernmental organizations. Peaceful public demonstrations were dispersed with force, and lawyers, human rights defenders and journalists were threatened and attacked. Twenty murders of journalists critical of government policy remain unsolved.
- In Iraq, at least 37 Iraqi employees of media networks were killed in 2008 and 235 since the invasion of March 2003, making Iraq the world’s most dangerous place for journalists.