



TOGO WATCH

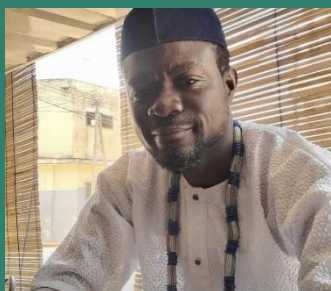
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SITUATIONAL REPORT

- JANUARY 2026

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN JANUARY 2026



Togo started 2026 with no recorded incident of attack against expression or journalist safety in the first month of the year. However, a section of the detainees who benefited from the presidential clemency granted in December 2025 remained under judicial supervision. Some of those freed but under judicial supervision included some known activists such as cyber activist and poet [Honoré Sitsope Sokpor](#), human rights defender [Koumayi Grace](#), and [Yawo Attiso](#), secretary general of the Togo Students' Union and a member of Tournons La Page Togo; among others.



Honoré Sitsope Sokpor
Cyber activist and poet



Koumayi Grace
Human rights defender



Yawo Attiso
Secretary general, Togo Students' Union

Judicial supervision generally involves a set of restrictions and prohibitions imposed by a court pending a final judgment. In particular, it restricts movement, requires regular reporting to

authorities, and prohibits certain contacts or participation in activities deemed likely to influence the ongoing proceedings. Thus, although the individuals concerned have been freed in accordance with the Presidential pardon, they remain under the supervision of the judicial authority and must ensure strict compliance with the conditions imposed on them while awaiting the outcome of their respective trials. Any violation of the conditions of their judicial supervision could unequivocally result in the revocation of their provisional release and their return to detention.

For the activists among them, this situation could have significant implications for their activities as the judicial restrictions may require them to keep a low profile. According to sources, most of the activists who benefited from the clemency are required to refrain from making public comments about their ongoing cases and to present themselves at the court every first Monday of each month. And it will remain so until the court issues its final decision on their case

Thus, even though they have been released from detention, these civil society actors continue to operate within caution and fear, knowing their cases have not yet been fully closed. This situation limits their freedoms and ability to fully participate in social and democratic life.

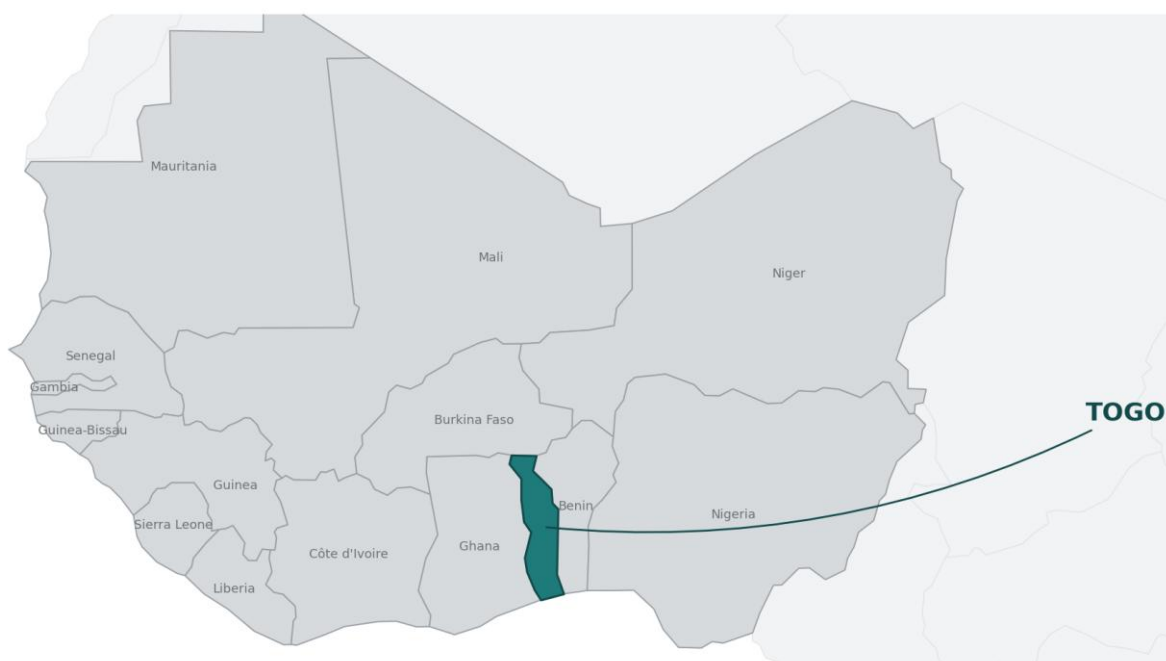
Equally concerning is the fact that there is no timeline for the judicial supervision. As long as the final trial for each of the activists is not determined, these restrictions will remain in effect and thus, limit or regulate their activities and movements. These concerns are fuelling the perception that these measures have been strategically put in place to limit the civic engagement of these leading figures in Togolese activism.

MFWA'S POSITION AND CALL TO ACTION

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), while once again welcoming the release of the detainees, including the activists, expresses its deep concern about the judicial restrictions placed on them, a condition that continues to restrict them in their work. We, therefore, call on the Togolese authorities to make the presidential clemency meaningful by relieving them of the judicial restrictions. We further call on the government of Togo to leverage and consolidate the goodwill gained through the presidential clemency by ensuring that the cases of all those placed under judicial supervision are determined within a reasonable time. The government should also put in place measures that create a more enabling environment for expression as guaranteed by the Togolese constitution.

MFWA'S INTERVENTION IN TOGO

The above situational report is part of an intervention by the MFWA to contribute to creating an enabling environment for expression and participation in governance processes in Togo, and across West Africa at large. The monitoring and reporting of freedom of expression situation in Togo falls under an MFWA project titled, **Promoting Press Freedom and Women's Digital Rights in Togo**. The 12-month project is made possible with funding support from the Dutch Foreign Ministry through the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana.



Togo (highlighted) within West Africa.

The project seeks to contribute to improving the freedom of expression (offline and online) environment in the country, strengthening the capacity of the media and improving the safety of journalists' conditions in the country to ensure that the media are able to play their watchdog role and serve as agents for improving the rule of law in Togo. The project is also targeted at empowering female journalists, activists and civil society actors on how to optimise online platforms for participation in public discourses and governance processes while staying safe.

As part of the project, the MFWA monitors and produces monthly reports on the press freedom, freedom of expression (including expression through protests), and safety of journalists' conditions in the country. The monthly reports serve as awareness creation and advocacy materials for drawing attention to the situation in the country, demanding redress, and advocating for policy and regulatory reforms.



*Empowering Media and
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