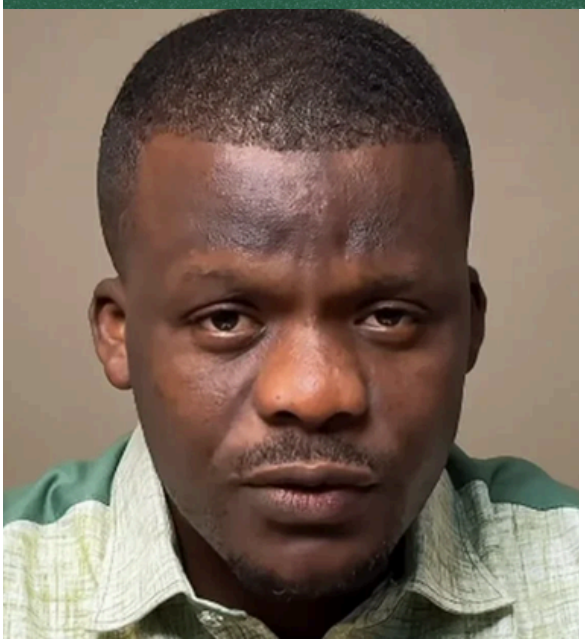
Media Foundation for West Africa

TOGO WATCH

Freedom of Expression Situational Report

FEBRUARY 2026

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN FEBRUARY 2026





Roger Amemavoh, founder of online media outlet, Capture Media

The freedom of expression landscape in Togo in February 2026 was marked by an incident of threat against a journalist who reported about the plight of residents in a neighbourhood following some construction works. Fortunately, the government, through the Minister for Communication and the Minister of Security, pledged to ensure safety for the journalist.

The journalist, Roger Amemavoh, who is also the founder of online media outlet, Capture Media, reported receiving threats after publishing a report on a land and construction dispute in the Laté Kopé neighbourhood of Agoè-Nyivé. According to Roger's report, some residents of Laté Kopé neighbourhood indicated that the constructions disrupted their lives and forced some of them to leave their homes.

On February 16, 2026, Roger shared a video alerting about the threat he had received and supporting the claim with screenshots of messages warning him that influential individuals angered by his report were trying to locate him. He also indicated in the video that friends and relatives had earlier warned him to stay low and even leave the country. Roger was also summoned by Togo's media regulator (HAAC), which criticised his report for presenting only one side of the story.

However, some media professional bodies issued statements condemning the attempt to muzzle the journalist. And the government reacted promptly, by acknowledging the situation in a joint statement issued by the Minister for Communication and the Minister of Security, both pledging to ensure safety and uphold civil liberties.

MFWA'S POSITION AND CALL TO ACTION

Although the threat to the journalist was an attempt to restrain him from reporting about the land and the construction dispute, the prompt solidarity from the media professional bodies, and the intervention of the government of Togo, through the Ministers of Communication and Security, saved the situation. The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) commends the media professional bodies for their show of support. The organisation also highly commends the two Ministers for their prompt action which assured Roger of his safety.

The MFWA believes such progressive and timely interventions will contribute to restoring trust in the government's apparent resolve to improve the civic space in Togo, a country that has often been criticised for its repressive tendencies. The MFWA, therefore, calls on all the ministries and agencies in the country to follow the path charted by the Ministers of Communication and Security to help improve the country's record in the areas of respecting and protecting fundamental human rights and civil liberties.

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.

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 Voices for Public Good

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