The second quarter of 2025 recorded 34 violations in 12 countries across West Africa. Below is the summary narrative of the incidents, some of which involve more than one violation:

Benin

On June 2, 2025, Beninese activist Steve Amoussou was sentenced by the CRIET to two years in prison and a two-million CFA franc fine for "politically motivated insult" and "spreading false information". Arrested in August 2024 in Togo, he had faced broader charges but was convicted on two counts linked to allegations that he ran the Facebook page "Frère Hounvi", which posted critical content about President Patrice Talon

Cote d'Ivoire

On June 9, 2025, Dr. Boga Sako Gervais, President of the International Foundation for the Observation and Monitoring of Human Rights and Political Life (FIDHOP), in collaboration with the Platform for Citizen Engagement in Côte d'Ivoire, publicly criticized President Alassane Ouattara's decision to seek a fourth term and raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the electoral register ahead of the October polls. In the aftermath of his statement, Dr. Boga reportedly received threats from senior security officials and was informally summoned by the Abidjan police commissioner. Confronted with mounting intimidation and fearing for his safety, he fled into exile in the United States.

Ghana

On April 16, 2025, NPP Third Vice-President Alhaji Masawudu Osman deliberately shoved TV3's microphone off the table at a press conference, part of his party's ongoing boycott of all Media General outlets, announced January 26, 2025 over alleged bias. Osman later confirmed on Ashh FM that the act was intentional and warned that any NPP communicator who appears on TV3, 3FM or Onua FM would be suspended. He also threatened to have Media General journalists assaulted if they attend future NPP events. In response, Media General issued a press release on April 18, 2025, condemning Osman's threats and filing an official complaint with the Ghana Police Service to protect its staff.

On May 27, 2025, Iddrisu was reporting live from the premises of the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), where NPP supporters had gathered to protest the arrest of the party's Ashanti Regional Chairman, Bernard Antwi Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi. While covering the protest, Iddrisu was first confronted by security personnel deployed at the scene, who seized his mobile phone and forced him to delete videos he had recorded.

Guinea

On April 28, 2025, Guinea's media regulator, the Haute Autorité de la Communication (HAC), has suspended journalist Toumany Camara and his news website *presseinvestigation.com* for three months over alleged defamation against Aïssata Beavogui, Country Manager of the mining firm Predictive Discovery. The sanctions, issued under Guinea's press freedom law, also include the temporary withdrawal of Camara's press card. The case stems from an article in which Camara reported on Beavogui's appointment and warned of environmental and compliance risks tied to mining activities in the UNESCO-protected Haut Niger National Park. The HAC ruled that Camara failed to provide evidence or give Beavogui a right of reply. The Guinean Press Professionals Union (SPPG) condemned the decision as "unfair, arbitrary, and dangerous," defending the report as a matter of public interest focused on environmental protection.

On 20 June 2025, Mohamed Traoré, a prominent lawyer and former president of the Guinea Bar Association, was abducted from his home in Conakry by armed men. He was assaulted, forced into a vehicle, and then left unconscious in Bangouyah, approximately 170 km from the capital. During his detention, he suffered severe physical abuse, including whipping and death threats. This attack appears to be linked to his public criticism of the military junta that has been in power since 2021.

Mali

On 9 May 2025, Mali's High Authority for Communication (HAC) ordered the immediate withdrawal of TV5Monde from all audiovisual packages in the country, accusing the channel of biased reporting in its Afrique news programme broadcast on 3 May. The report in question focused only on parties opposed to the repeal of the Political Parties Charter, without giving a voice to cultural leaders or security forces. Already sanctioned several times in the past, TV5Monde has now had its broadcasting suspended indefinitely, a decision that raises serious concerns about respect for press freedom and media pluralism in Mali.

Malian journalist Alfousseini Togo was arrested on 9 April 2025 in Bamako for 'undermining the credibility of the state' and 'defamation' following a critical article about the Minister of Justice. He was provisionally released on bail on 12 May, but remains under prosecution and is due to appear in court on 12 June 2025, despite calls from press freedom organisations for the charges to be dropped.

On 13 May 2025, Mali's transitional president, General Assimi Goïta, decreed the dissolution of all political parties and organisations, drastically reducing the country's democratic space. This decision was accompanied by the arrest of several opposition figures and a ban on all political activity, including meetings and gatherings. These measures, widely perceived as a crackdown on dissenting voices, raise serious concerns about respect for fundamental freedoms and the future of political pluralism in Mali.

Mauritania

On April 26, 2025, activist Abdoulaye Bâ, head of the Immigration Section of the IRA movement, was arrested after posting a video urging the Interior Minister to stop arrests and expulsions of irregular migrants. He appeared before a judge on June 5 and was later convicted on June 12 by the Nouakchott West Court of incitement to hatred, receiving a one-year sentence (with six months suspended) and a 20,000 MRU (USD 500) fine. Bâ was prosecuted under Law n°2021-021 on the Protection of National Symbols, a controversial law often used to silence dissent, also applied against university students critical of the president and activist Sidi Mohamed Ould Bedki.

On May 19, 2025, former Mauritanian minister Seydina Aly Ould Mohamed Khouna was arrested at his home without explanation. The next day, the Front Démocratique pour le Changement (FCD), which he leads, denounced the arrest as illegal and politically motivated. At a Nouakchott press conference, ex-minister Mohamed Ould Jibril claimed Khouna was targeted for opposing the regime, criticizing the prosecution of ex-President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, denouncing shrinking civil liberties, and warning about government neglect of insecure border regions. Khouna was later confirmed to be held at the Direction Générale de la Sûreté.

Nigeria

On April 9, 2025, Nigeria's National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) banned radio and TV stations from airing Tell Your Papa, a new track by rapper Eedris

Abdulkareem, calling it "inappropriate" and against broadcast codes. The Afrobeat song, released April 6, criticizes President Bola Tinubu through his son Seyi, highlighting insecurity, poor infrastructure, and economic hardship.

Niger

On April 3, 2025 two Nigerien citizens, businessman Ibrahim Kalla and union leader Sani Hercule were arrested, for criticising regional officials in a WhatsApp group. They had denounced worsening economic conditions in Maradi and called for the resignation of the governor and customs chief. MFWA says the arrests violate freedom of expression and reflect growing repression under Niger's military regime since July 2023. The case also raises alarm over possible surveillance of private, encrypted conversations, threatening citizens' privacy and digital rights.

On May 8, 2025, three Sahara FM journalists were detained after airing a France-based LSI Africa article alleging Niger had ended intelligence ties with Russia and Turkey and cancelled a deal with a Moroccan firm over Western influence concerns. Although a judge ordered their release on May 9, they were rearrested that same night. According to Sahara FM, police interrogations focused on why the station broadcast the story, with authorities hinting the journalists might have been paid to air it.

On June 20, 2025, journalist Moussa Garba of Dounia Radio and TV in Maradi was arrested after publishing an article about four missing girls in the city. Accused of "dissemination of data likely to disturb public order," he was detained and sent to Maradi Civil Prison.

Senegal

On April 14, 2025, Abdou Nguer and colleagues Oumar Ndiaye and Fatima Coulibaly were summoned by Dakar's Colobane Police Division over a TikTok post on the "Abdou Nguer Seul" account calling for an autopsy of the late Constitutional Council President Mamadou Badio Camara (d. April 10). After hours of questioning, only Abdou was initially detained. He denied posting, noting his genuine accounts were "Abdou Nguer Official" and "Awa Nguer." Investigators then identified the true account owner, Pape Amadou Ndiaye Diaw, who admitted authorship. Both Abdou and Pape were brought before an investigating judge on April 17, formally placed under custody

On April 10, 2025, Senegalese journalist Simon Faye, Managing Editor of Sen TV and Zik FM, was arrested after Zik FM's Facebook page shared an article from Afrique Confidentielle claiming ECOWAS had asked Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara to summon Senegalese Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko over political tensions. Authorities deemed the piece defamatory and charged Faye with disseminating false news, even though his outlet only republished it. He remained in custody until April 14, when he was released on bail.

On June 10, 2025, former Senegalese MP Moustapha Diakhaté was arrested and charged with "offending the Head of State" after criticising President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko, and the National Assembly Speaker for walking side by side at an event, which he called a breach of protocol. He described their behaviour as that of "gougnafiers" (ignorant people). Despite his lawyer arguing the comments defended republican values rather than insulting officials, the Dakar Court upheld the charges on June 18.

Sierra Leone

On June 15, 2025, journalist Mohamed Tamba Mattia, Head of Programmes at Eastern Community Radio, was assaulted and stabbed in the arm by three police officers stationed at First Lady Fatima Maada Bio's residence in Koidu City. Mattia and colleagues had gone there to seek clarification on SLPP district elections and compensation plans for former Koidu Holdings workers. He was accused by two SLPP supporters of insulting the First Lady on air, after which a woman inside the compound allegedly incited police to deny him access. The officers then attacked and stabbed him before other journalists and security intervened. He also lost two phones

Togo

On April 8, 2025, Togoscoop editor Albert Agbeko was taken to Tsévié police station for refusing to delete photos he took while covering voter register revisions. Despite showing his press credentials, he was forced by the police commissioner to erase the footage before being released.

On May 26, 2025, Togolese rapper Aamron (Tchala Essowè Narcisse) was arrested at his Lomé home for social media posts and videos criticizing President Faure Gnassingbé and urging youth action, including a "satirical mobilisation" on the president's birthday.

On June 5–6, 2025, security forces in Lomé, Togo, arrested and reportedly assaulted peaceful protesters opposing recent constitutional reforms and rising living costs, including a 12.5% electricity tariff hike.

Flore Monteau, a journalist covering a protest in Agbalépédo, Lomé, had her phone and filming equipment confiscated by police on site despite showing valid press accreditation. She was forced to delete footage of police dismantling protest barricades before being released. The protest, organised by opposition figures and cyber-activists, opposed Togo's political and economic situation and denounced the arrest of activist Aamron.

On June 16, 2025, Togo's media regulator, HAAC, suspended broadcasts of French public outlets RFI and France 24 for three months, citing alleged failures in impartiality and fact-checking, though no specific examples were provided. The suspension surprised the broadcasters, who reaffirmed their commitment to independent journalism.

From June 26–28, 2025, citizens in Lomé, Togo, protested against constitutional reforms that could allow President Faure Gnassingbé to remain in power indefinitely, amid rising living costs and previous arrests of activists. Despite being declared illegal by the government, demonstrations went ahead but were violently dispersed by security forces and plainclothes militia. Seven people were killed, dozens injured, and over 60 arrested.

Liberia

On May 5, 2025, Smile FM, a community radio station in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia, was violently shut down under the reported orders of Superintendent Alex Grant. During the raid, broadcast technician Cyrus Gbewaya was assaulted, dragged from the station, and had his phone destroyed.