



GLOBE NEWS

Supporting the rights of independent media

This bi-monthly newsletter is operated by Globe International, a Mongolian NGO and highlights the latest media news in Mongolia

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garav@globeinter.org.mn

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Please visit Globe International web site: www.globeinter.org.mn, www.monitoring.mn

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1. Free expression spotlights

[CRIMINAL CHARGES PRESSED AGAINST JOURNALIST](#)

(Globe International/IFEX) Criminal charges were pressed against “Zuuni Medee” newspaper’s reporter B. Tsognemekh on 9 April 2007 and the newspaper’s editor-in-chief B. Ganbold on 11 May 2007, respectively, pursuant to the complaint by Member of Parliament Ch. Ulaan.

B. Tsognemekh has been charged under the Criminal Code’s Article 110.1 (insult – imprisonment for a term of up to 3 months) and Article 111.2 (libel – imprisonment for a term of up to 6 months).

B. Tsognemekh’s 3 articles in “Zuuni Medee” issues of 22 September 2006, 5 February 2007 and 5 March 2007 featured stories about Member of Parliament Ch. Ulaan’s alleged cases of power abuse and bribe receipts. The articles’ description of Ch. Ulaan as “shameless” was considered by a group of experts to be an “insult”. [Read more...](#)

[JOURNALISTS ABUSED BY AUTHORITIES](#)

(Globe International)-On 24 January, the Press Office of the President issued a statement concerning articles in the newspaper “Udriin Sonin”, which allegedly defamed the President. In its statement the Press Office warned the newspaper not to infringe on the President's immunity and reputation, demanded apologies, and threatened to file a lawsuit in case of non-compliance with its demands. The other day, Member of Parliament Ts. Bataa also insulted journalists at the Parliament’s session and proposed to forbidden journalists to enter the State House. [Read more...](#)

[PARLIAMENTARIAN INSULTED JOURNALISTS](#)

On February 27, Member of Parliament Ts. Bataa insulted journalists at the press conference regarding the crash of a Mi-8 helicopter. On the day before the press conference the police staff prohibited to take a picture of the helicopter that crashed in Bornuur Soum of Tuv Aimag, almost 100 kilometres northwest of city capital Ulaanbaatar.

On February 25, journalist from daily newspaper Unuudur Ms. G. Erdenetuya came to the crash scene but a police officer guarding the scene covered the camera lens and did not allow to take a picture. At the press conference MP Ts. Bataa attacked journalists by saying: “Uneducated journalists and policemen are hampering our work for the cause of Mongolia”. [Read more...](#)

[FEMALE JOURNALIST THREATENED](#)

(Globe International) At 23.30 on 5 April 2007, S. Delger, director of “Shine Suvag” (New Channel) television channel in Dornod Aimag (province), found a menacing letter in her apartment’s door. The letter said “I will kill you”. On the next day she found insulting, vulgar words and sentences addressed against her painted on the wall of her apartment building. [Read more...](#)

[JOURNALIST CONVICTED FOR THE UNNAMED ARTICLE](#)

(Globe International) On 30 February 2007, an appeal court reaffirmed the ruling delivered by a court in Kherlen Soum (village) of Dornod Aimag (province) convicting “Dornod” newspaper’s editor-in-chief B. Tuya of defamation pursuant to a complaint filed by Miss Mongolia 1994 G. Tuul. In “Dornod” newspaper’s 10 November issue, an article entitled “WOMEN TRAFFICKING NETWORK EMERGES” said: “... Even a woman who was once Mongolia’s Miss and was the face of her aimag got in bed with a foreigner, was kicked out of the balcony and became disabled ...”. Miss Mongolia 1994 G. Tuul identified herself with this sentence and turned to court to restore her reputation. [Read more...](#)

[SHALL JOURNALIST BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR WRITING CRITICAL ARTICLE](#)

(Globe International) Huvsgul Aimag’s general judge Mr. Khosbayar and inter-soum (village) judge Ms. M. Narmandakh summoned Ms. Yu. Gereltuya, the aimag’s “Freedom” newspaper’s editor-in-chief, and told her that they would bring her newspaper to court to restore the aimag court’s good name. The motive for the judges’ actions was a critical article entitled “Is there any democracy in the aimag’s court”, which emerged in the 20 March 2007 issue of “Erkh Chuluu (Freedom)” newspaper in Huvsgul Aimag. Mr. J. Chimedtseren, author of the article and correspondent at “Freedom” newspaper, wrote this critical article drawing on his personal experience with Judge Ms. N. Sarangun’s bureaucratic manners. [Read more...](#)

[JOURNALISTS RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION VIOLATED](#)

On March 4-5 foreign-invested orphanages “Mother Tereza” and “Uguumur” operating in the capital city Ulaanbaatar, violated the right to access to information of Mongolian National Broadcaster journalist Mr. J. Altangerel and TV5 commercial television’s journalist Ms. D. Dorjmaa. In the frame of the day “Mongolian children with their parents”, TV 5 television and MNB in cooperation with the Mongolian Parliament and National center for children’s rights are making a series of TV programs on “The life of children living without parents”. It was with this purpose that MNB journalist J. Altangerel and TV5 journalist D. Dorjmaa turned to the orphanages for information. [Read more...](#)

2. Current news

[GLOBE INTERNATIONAL'S INITIATIVE ON STATE SECRECY LEGISLATION IS SUPPORTED](#)

The General Intelligence Authority (GIA) of Mongolia has organized a meeting to discuss the new versions of the State Secrecy Law and the Law on the List of State Secrecy on 17 May 2007. The meeting involved more than 30 participants representing Globe International, NGO, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs and other ministries and public institutions such as the State Professional Supervisory Authority, State Archive etc.

As said by Mr. S Jargalsaikhan, Deputy Chairman of GIA, new versions of the laws have been drafted due to necessity of the 1995 laws to make inconvenient to the modern demands. As he emphasized, such actions are needed due to changes in the world situation, different levels of domestic politics and economics, changes of the legal environment, the scope of state secrecy being too broad, existing laws

which restrict citizens' access to information and contradict transparency, and growing pressure from the civil society, namely Globe International, the society as a whole, and journalists. [Read more...](#)

[JOURNALISTS PLEASED WITH DRAFT LAW OF MONGOLIA OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BEING SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT](#)

"Globe International" NGO together with the Open Society Forum in Mongolia organized a round-table meeting "Against censorship!!!" on 2 May 2007 on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day. This day also witnessed several MPs submitting to the Parliament a draft Law of Mongolia on Freedom of Information. A public discussion on the draft Law took place on the Open Society Forum's premises on 7 May 2007. [Read more...](#)

[DAILY NEWSPAPERS JOINED FOR OPPOSITION](#)

On 30 November 2006, on the second page of the daily newspapers, a statement for the authorities was published. The Association of Daily Newspapers opposed the Government proposal to set aside 250 million tugrugs from the state budget for every electoral district of Parliament. The daily newspapers "Udriin sonin", "Zuunii medee", "Unen", "Ardiin erkh", "Mongoliin medee", six members of the association, dedicated their entire second page to the following statement: "The space isn't dedicated for corrupted officials, it is for the advertisement of democratic parliament activity. We oppose giving 250 million tugrugs as corruption." [Read more...](#)

[INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM MONGOLIA](#)

Enkhbaatar G. is a journalist with the Ardyn Erkh daily newspaper. In 2005, he participated in the "Media for Transparent Governance" programme. Its goal: to raise Mongolian journalists' awareness of corruption and train them in investigative journalism.

It was interesting. It was challenging. It was dangerous, too. Twenty journalists from popular Mongolian media investigated corruption issues for the first time and I felt lucky to be part of that intense eight-month programme. The team I was working with focused on three articles whose titles were: Suspicious Facts of Law School, True Face of Two Friends and Freedom to Journalists!

[Read more..](#)

3. Here are the article and interviews with the eminent persons in the Mongolian media

[INTERVIEW WITH TRANSLATOR AND JOURNALIST B.GALAARID](#)

Journalism suffered much when one of the Democratic leaders, Ts.Elbegdorj, said to journalists that "journalists possibly fabricate information".

Some researchers think Mongolia has good media freedom but others oppose this claim. Once we talk about media freedom we should talk about journalists' ethics. Some people think that media outlets have lost their reputation due to some other media outlets. Therefore we talked about journalists' ethics with the journalist and translator Mr. B. Galaarid. [Read more...](#)

[FIRST YOU SHOULD CRITICIZE](#)

Ch. Erdene

We met with the journalist and researcher Ch.Erdene, and talked on the current state and prosperity of Mongolian journalism.

You once noticed that Mongolian media was missing a publicly recognized political commentator and media review.

-It is important for daily newspapers and multiple television programs to criticize and comment on each other's news and programs and how they are distributed. If this is fulfilled then media and journalism should approach the classic standards of journalism. It means media outlets push each other in the right directions. Due to their inability to do this, newspapers haven't changed in the last ten years. Political articles should exist and professional commentators should comment on domestic and foreign events, if not daily, then once a week. Readers and society wait for what the commentators are going to say about the event. Currently no person exists who is able to analyze the quality and meaning of any daily news. Newspapers are partisan due to the lack of commentators. [Read more...](#)

[MEDIA FREEDOM IN ONE PERSON'S HAND](#)

Report on Media Freedom in Mongolia given by J. Myagmarsuren, editor in chief of "Daily" newspaper, at the meeting "What to do", a discussion on how to overcome the current political and social critical situation.

Media freedom in one person's hand

Journalists are the most honest people in our society. They don't fight against authorities out of greed for wealth. Journalists are often self-less, and they often have difficult lives. Our journalists began the democratic revolution and modernization. In 1990 they received partial freedom and according to the law of 1998 they received total freedom. Free media flourished since the law on Media freedom was approved. Everybody knows that the media faced difficulties in the year 2000. Mr.Enkhbayar, the current president, showed the public that he had all the authorities under his control by arresting Mr. E Bat-Uul, a member of the opposition party, and began to investigate media outlets. Under the pretext of a fight against pornography, they examined all free media. [Read more...](#)