



GUYANA PRESS ASSOCIATION
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Guyana's Ranking on the World Press Freedom Index
keeping power in check, media, justice and the rule of law

The Guyana Press Association notes that Guyana has been elevated five places up on the Reporters With Borders World Press Freedom Index.

Guyana is now at 55 compared to 60 in 2017. We welcome this improved ranking with some reservations.

This may seem somewhat of an achievement, but in reality there are still significant hurdles to be crossed before Guyanese can feel that an improved ranking really matters.

These include:

1. The removal of existing criminal defamation laws in line with globally accepted standards
2. The deletion of offending sections in the Cybercrime Bill that could result in further entrenchment of criminal defamation
3. The amendment to the Broadcasting Act to remove direct intervention in the programming schedule of radio and television stations, except in cases of emergencies
4. Political interference in the State-owned and privately-owned media by government and the opposition.
5. The removal of columnists from the State-owned Guyana Chronicle, a situation that appeared not to have bothered government and its professed commitment to press freedom and freedom of expression

The Guyana Press Association hopes that the various actors associated with the above-listed observations will take remedial action to further enhance our ranking on Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index in 2019.

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