

### "Attacks against Journalists"

On October 3, unidentified gunmen fatally shot Percival Mabasa, a radio commentator in Las Pinas, a city in Metro Manila. Popularly known on-air and online as Percy Lapid, he was the second journalist killed since President Marcos took office. On September 18, a man stabbed radio broadcaster Renato Blanco to death in Negros Oriental in the central Philippines. Two other journalists were murdered in 2022, according to UNESCO. Federico Gempesaw, a radio commentator, was shot dead on June 29 in Cagayan de Oro City, while Jaynard Angeles, also a radio journalist, was killed on January 12 in Tacurong City, in the southern Philippines.

Apart from these killings, the harassment of journalists also persisted in the past year. In July, the government sought to silence journalists critical of the administration by shutting down websites Bulatlat and Pinoy Weekly, two alternative press publications. The National Security Council sought to close these two outlets because of alleged links to communist insurgency, a charge the editors and journalists denied.

During the year, the government used the cyber-libel law several times against journalists, columnists, critics of the government, and ordinary social media users. In August, police arrested activist and former member of parliament Walden Bello after a staff member in the office of Vice President Sara Duterte, the daughter of the former president, made allegations against him.

The Justice Department's Office of Cybercrime reported that 3,700 cyber-libel cases were filed as of May 2022. Of that number, 1,317 were filed in court while 1,131 were dismissed. Twelve cases ended in a conviction. Among those who have been convicted of cyber-libel is 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa, the CEO of the news website Rappler.

#### Reference:

Hassan, T. (2023, December 5). "Attacks Against Journalist" World Report 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/philippines>

**Variables:**

Attack

Journalist

Gunshot

Killing

Stabbing

Death

Harassment

Shutting down websites

Communist insurgency

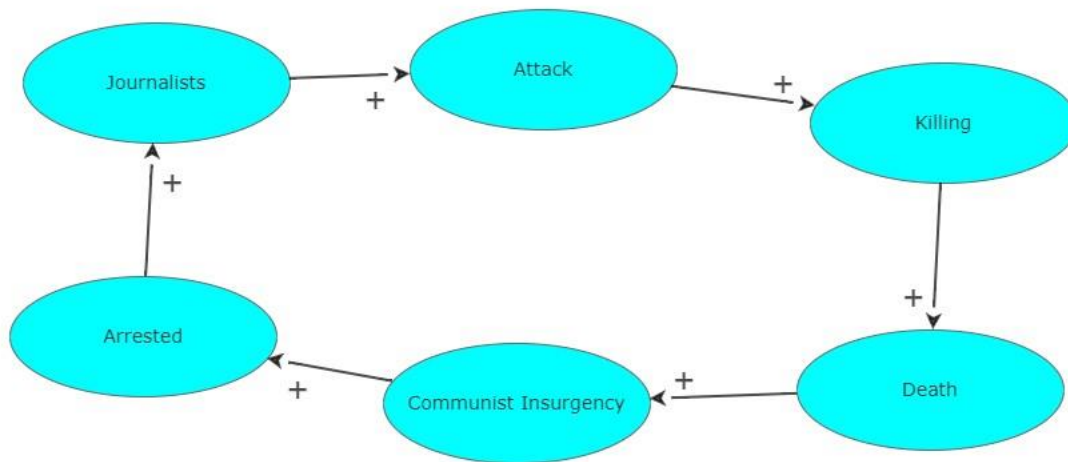
Arrested

Dismissed

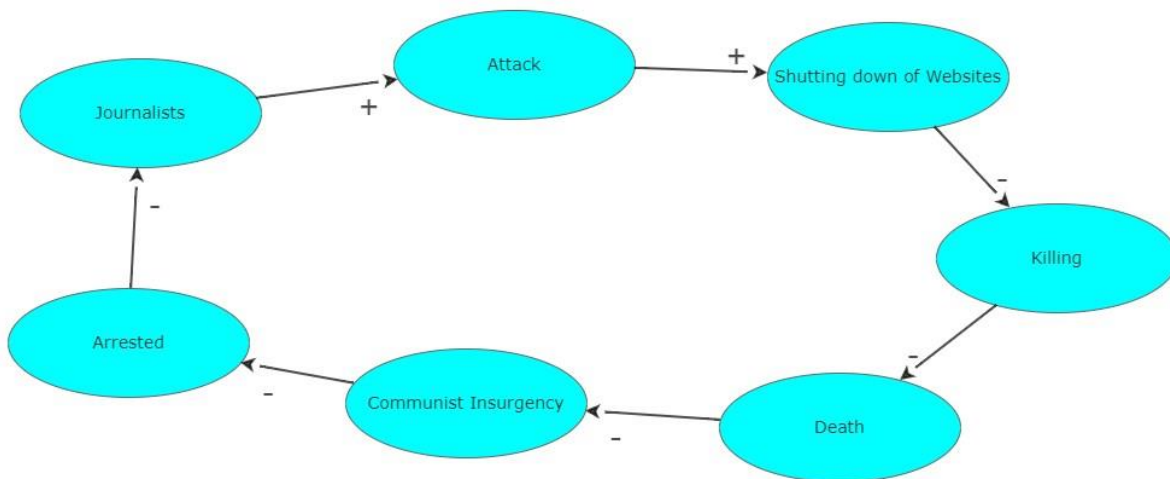
Convicted

**Solution:**

The solution would be is the need to shut down some websites as painful as it maybe but if killings are lessening due to it, is one way to help.

**REINFORCING LOOP:****STORY:**

With Journalists continuing to release articles, leads to more attack on them as truth comes to light, leading to more killings, leading to more death, to which communist insurgency would increase, leading to more arrest of killers, leading to more journalist releasing the press.

**BALANCING LOOP:****STORY:**

With Journalists continuing to release articles, leads to more attack on them as truth comes to light, would lead to a need to shut down more websites, which would lead to less killings, leading to less death, to which communist insurgency would lessen, leading to less arrest of killers, leading to less journalist dying.