

## Challenges to Press Freedom in Pakistan

**Authors :** Awais Ahmad

**Abstract :** People of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) remains underrepresented in Pakistan's mainstream media and their miseries and concerns are unheard and unnoticed. Rising the incidents of human rights violation in KP province of Pakistan, and its absence in the mainstream media has raised many questions on the clause of press freedom known as 19/A in the constitution of Pakistan, that has claimed freedom of speech to all Pakistani citizens. Using a 'think a loud' research technique, senior most journalists of KP have been interviewed to get to know reasons of why and how Pashtun's voices have been silenced in a democratic country where individual's opinion is considered more powerful, and they can exercise freedom to protest and speak-up for their rights. The information collected from the journalists has been used to evaluate press freedom in KP and FATA by applying the institutional theory. The paper evaluates different recent cases where Pashtun journalists, media outlets and social activists were being punished for criticizing authorities and military establishment. This study also explores that the perception of local journalists regarding press freedom and what are the factors they consider it restrictions while they perform their duties.

**Keywords :** press freedom, federally administered tribal areas (fata), khyber pakhtunkhwa (kp), military establishment

**Conference Title :** ICJMC 2023 : International Conference on Journalism and Mass Communication

**Conference Location :** New York, United States

**Conference Dates :** July 06-07, 2023