



Mapping Media Freedom

2014-18

SPECIAL REPORT | JANUARY 2019



THE NUMBERS ARE STARK AND THE CONTEXTS VARY, BUT THE UNMISTAKABLE MESSAGE THEY CONVEY IS THAT JOURNALISM IS AT RISK



“Mapping Media Freedom is essential to getting to the bottom of the two biggest issues plaguing media today: violence against members of the media and impunity from prosecution by their assailants.”

DUNJA MIJATOVIC,
Former OSCE representative on
freedom of the media, 2016



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY
Ilcho Cvetanoski, Alessio Perrone and Sean Gallagher with contributions
by Jodie Ginsberg, Joy Hyvarinen and Paula Kennedy and Mapping Media
Freedom correspondents: João de Almeida Dias Adriana Borowicz, Valeria
Costa-Kostritsky, Amanda Ferguson, Dominic Hinde, Investigative Reporting
Project Italy, Linas Jegelevicius, Juris Kaza, David Kraft, Lazara Marinkovic,
Fatjona Mejdini, Mitra Nazar, Silvia Nortes, Platform for Independent
Journalism (P24), Katariina Salomaki, Zoltan Sipos, Michaela Terenzani, Pavel
Theiner, Helle Tiikmaa, Christina Vasilaki, Lisa Weinberger

DESIGN
Matthew Hasteley



ABOUT THIS REPORT

A companion to *Demonising the media: Threats to journalists in Europe*, the numbers contained in this document are drawn from 3,187 press freedom violations reported to **Mapping Media Freedom**, an **Index on Censorship** project, between May 2014 and July 2018 covering 35 European Union member states, candidates and potential candidates for entry.



ABOUT MAPPING MEDIA FREEDOM

MAPPING MEDIA FREEDOM -- partially funded by the European Commission -- investigates the full spectrum of threats to media freedom in the region -- from the seemingly innocuous to the most serious infractions -- in a near-real-time system that launched to the public on 24 May 2014.

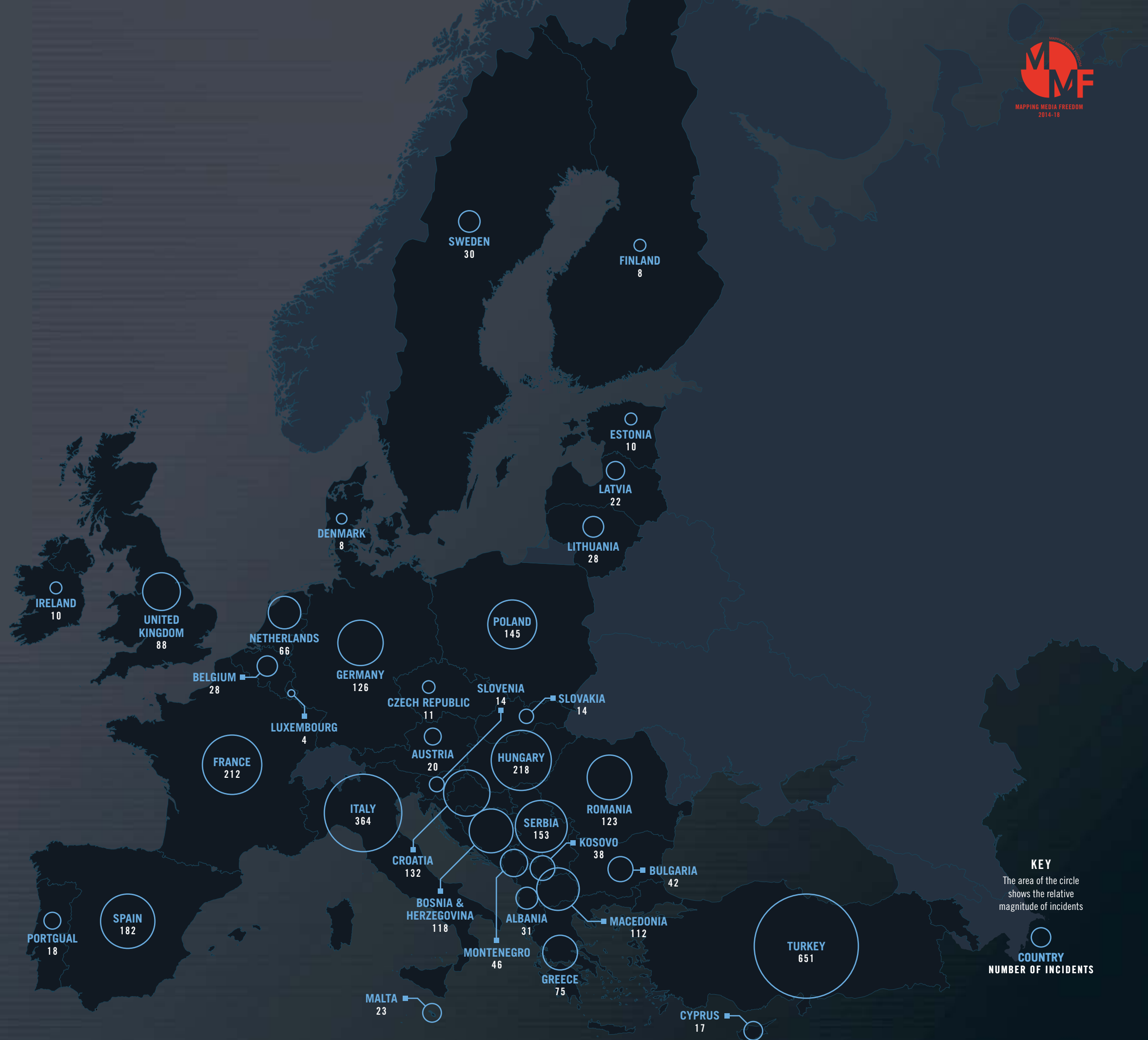
Driven by Index on Censorship's decades-long experience in monitoring censorship across the globe, Mapping Media Freedom set out to record the widest possible array of press freedom violations in an effort to understand the precursors to the retreat of media freedom in a country. The ambitious scope of the project called for a flexible methodology that draws on a network of regional correspondents, partner organisations and media sources.

Mapping Media Freedom defines a media worker as anyone partaking in the gathering, assessing, creating and presenting of news and information.

Each report is fact-checked with local sources before becoming publicly available on the Mapping Media Freedom map. The number of reports per country relates to the number of incidents reported to the map. The data should not be taken as representing absolute numbers. For example, the number of reported incidents of censorship appears low given the number of other types of incidents reported on the map. This could be due to an increase in acts of intimidation and pressure that deter media workers from reporting such cases.

Incidents by country

Reports filed to Mapping Media Freedom between May 2014 and 31 July 2018



KEY
The area of the circle shows the relative magnitude of incidents

COUNTRY
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

3187

**MEDIA FREEDOM
VIOLATIONS WERE
REVIEWED FOR
THIS REPORT**

KEY CATEGORIES 2014-2018



Each report is flagged against seven main categories and 64 subcategories to provide a sortable and searchable database of the types of press freedom violations taking place. Reports can include one or more incidents and appear in multiple categories. Full descriptions can be viewed online in the Methodology section of mappingmediafreedom.org. In this section, we detail 18 of the most serious categories.

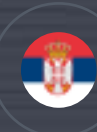
Please note: Histograms in the following categories include Q2 2014 and Q3 2018 as partial quarters. Q2 2014 includes 1 May-30 June 2014; Q3 2018 includes 1-31 July 2018.

CATEGORY

Death

The 19 reports of death from EU member states, candidate states and potential candidate states record a variety of situations

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES



SERBIA

Journalist and radio host Luka Popov was murdered at his home in Srpski Krstur during a burglary in June 2016. Three suspects were later arrested and police said they confessed to the crime.



TURKEY

Syrian journalists Orouba Barakat and her daughter Halla Barakat were murdered by a distant relative in September 2017. They had been subjected to threats from groups associated with the Bashar Assad government.

In April 2017 Saeed Karimian was killed in Istanbul by several hooded men who shot him and his business partner, a native of Kuwait. Karimian, an Iranian television executive based in Istanbul, was condemned in absentia in Tehran for "spreading propaganda against Iran".

During the failed July 2016 coup attempt, soldiers shot and killed Mustafa Cambaz, a photographer with the pro-government newspaper Yeni Şafak, in the Çengelköy neighbourhood of Istanbul.

Journalist Mohammed Zahir al-Sherqat was murdered in April 2016 by members of Isis, which claimed he was killed for presenting "anti-Islamic State programs".

Journalist Gülşen Yıldız was killed in February 2016 during a terrorist attack on a military convoy in Ankara. The journalist was among 28 people killed in the incident.

The body of Rohat Aktaş, a news editor and reporter for the Kurdish-language daily Azadiya Welat, was recovered in February 2016 from a Cizre basement, where he was trapped with dozens of others during clashes between Kurdish separatists and Turkish forces.

Syrian journalist Naji Jerf was shot and killed in Gaziantep. Jerf's murder was seen as an assassination because he had documented atrocities by Isis and trained hundreds of citizen journalists.

Syrian citizen-journalist Ibrahim Abd al-Qader was beheaded in the city of Şanlıurfa, where he had been living as

MEMBER STATES



FRANCE

Twelve people were murdered in a January 2015 terrorist attack on satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.



DENMARK

Swedish freelance journalist Kim Wall was murdered during a trip on an experimental submarine in August 2017.



POLAND

Journalist Łukasz Masiak was beaten to death in Mława in June 2015.



SLOVAKIA

Investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his partner were killed at their home in February 2018.



MALTA

Anti-corruption journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed when the car she was driving exploded as a result of a bomb in October 2017.



THE NETHERLANDS

Crime journalist Martin Kok was shot dead in December 2016.

a refugee. Al-Qader was a contributor to the "Raqqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently" information network and the Ayn al-Watan website. The journalist's body was found at the home of a friend, Fares Hammadi, who had also been decapitated.

Influential Turkish blogger Ferdi Özmen was killed in Istanbul in October 2014. Özmen was an ardent supporter of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's policies and a critic of the government.

Serena Shim was killed in a car crash in Suruç in October 2014. Shim, a reporter for Iran's Press TV, had been reporting from the Turkish-Syrian border on Isis militants crossing into Turkey, and had recently said on air that she was accused of spying by Turkish intelligence.

Media worker Kadri Bağdu was murdered in October 2014 while distributing the Kurdish dailies Azadiya Welat and Özgür Gündem in Seyhan, in the south-eastern province of Adana. He was shot five times by two individuals who then fled on a motorcycle.g

24

JOURNALISTS WERE MURDERED



ROHAT AKTAS, HALLA BARAKAT, OROUBA BARAKAT, CABU (JEAN CABUT), MUSTAFA CAMBAZ, ELSA CAYAT, CHARB (STÉPHANE CHARBONNIER), DAPHNE CARUANA GALIZIA, PHILIPPE HONORÉ, NAJI JERF, MARTIN KOK, JÁN KUCIAK, BERNARD MARIS, ŁUKASZ MASIAK, MUSTAPHA OURRAD, FERDI ÖZMEN, IBRAHIM ABD AL-QADER, MICHEL RENAUD, MOHAMMED ZAHIR, AL-SHERQAT, SERENA SHIM, TIGNOUS (BERNARD VERLHAC), KIM WALL, GEORGES WOLINSKI, GÜLSEN YILDIZ

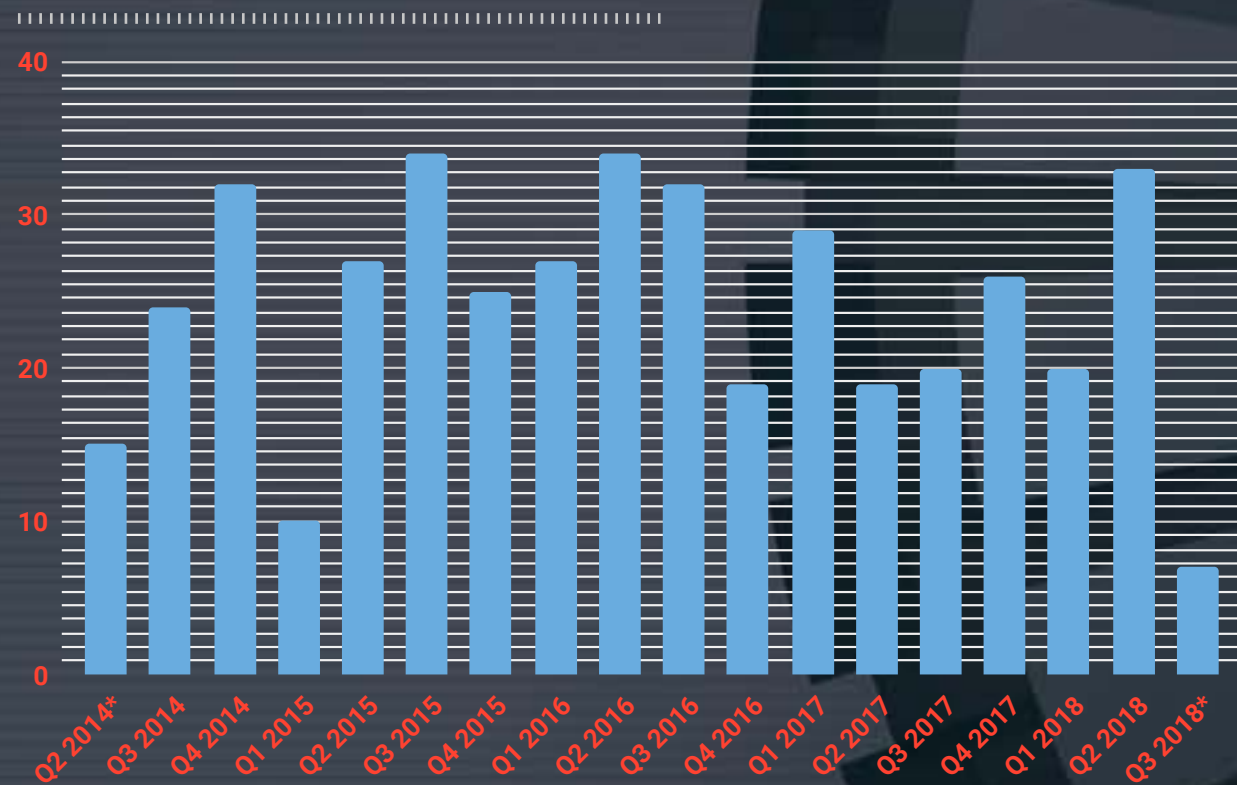
Mapping Media Freedom defines a journalist as individuals gathering, assessing, creating and presenting news and information..

CATEGORY

Physical Assault

Violence against media professionals

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



433

REPORTS INCLUDED
PHYSICAL ASSAULT

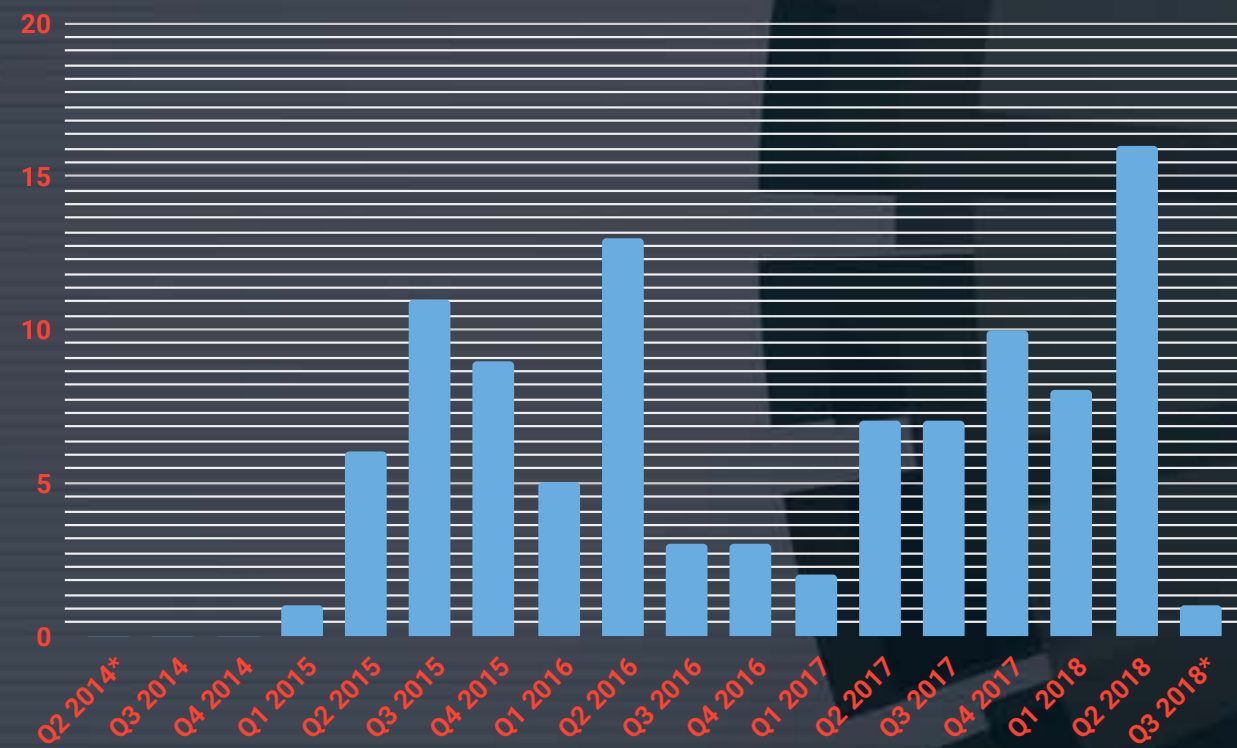


CATEGORY

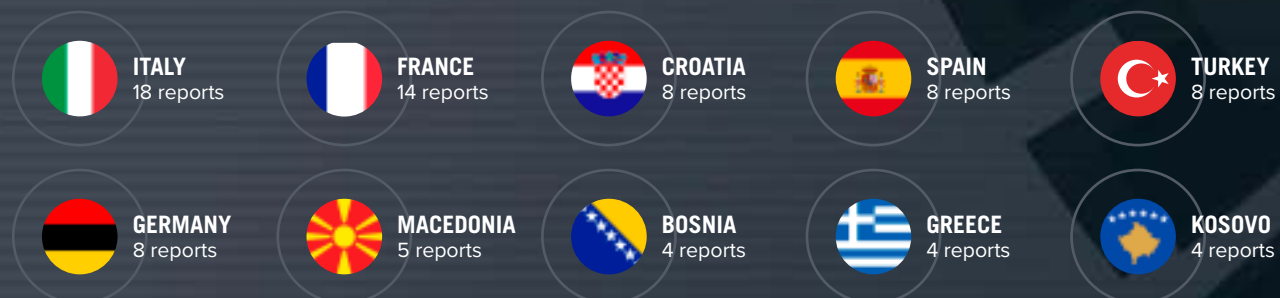
Injury

Media professionals harmed while working
(not necessarily related to physical assaults)

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



102

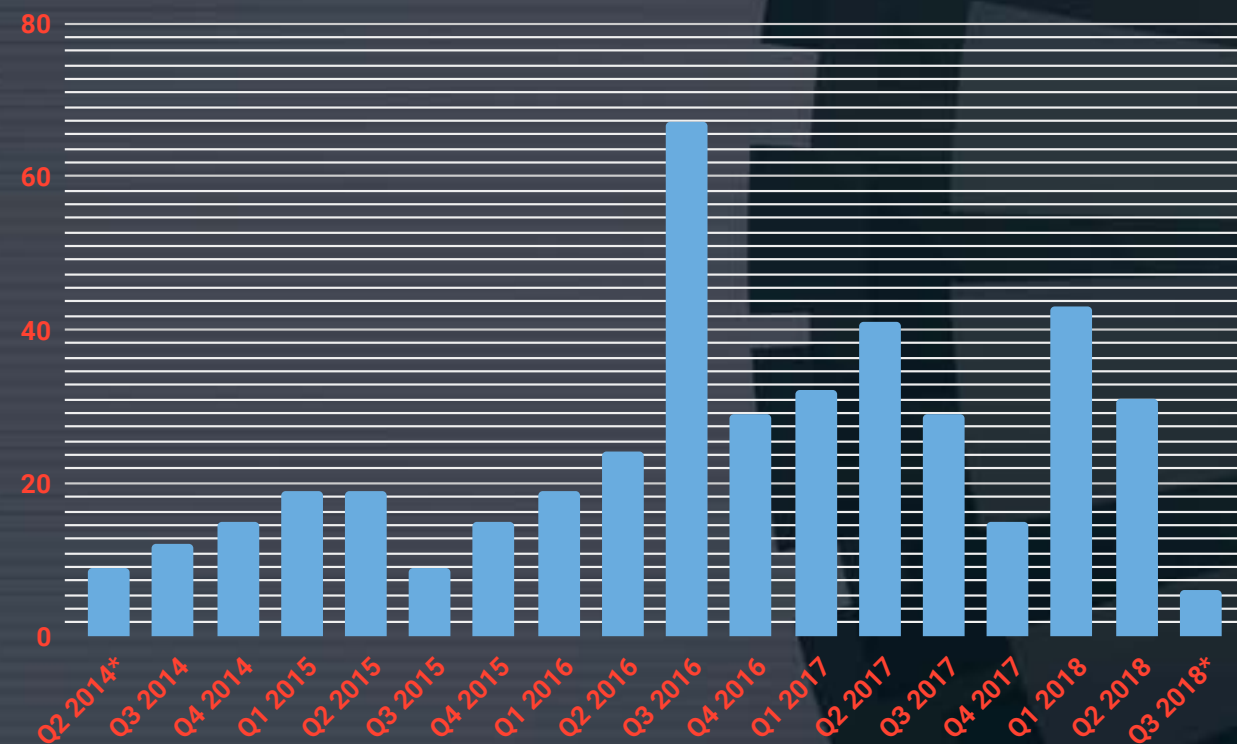
REPORTS INCLUDED
INJURIES

CATEGORY

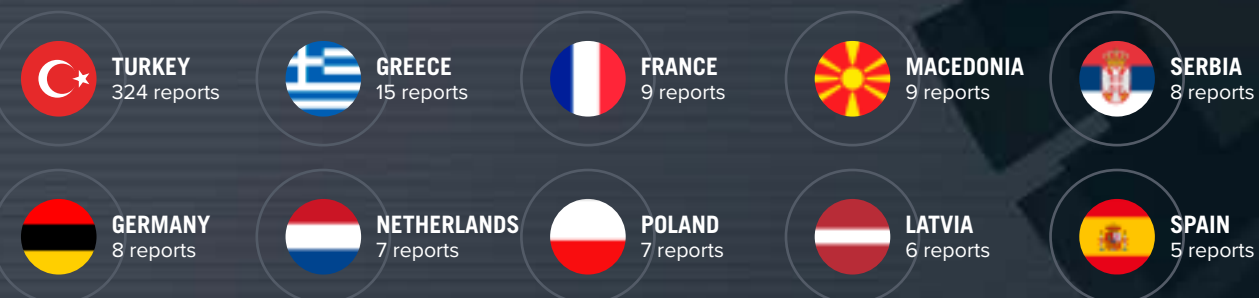
Arrest/Detention

Media professionals taken into custody

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



434

REPORTS INCLUDED
ARRESTS AND
DETENTIONS

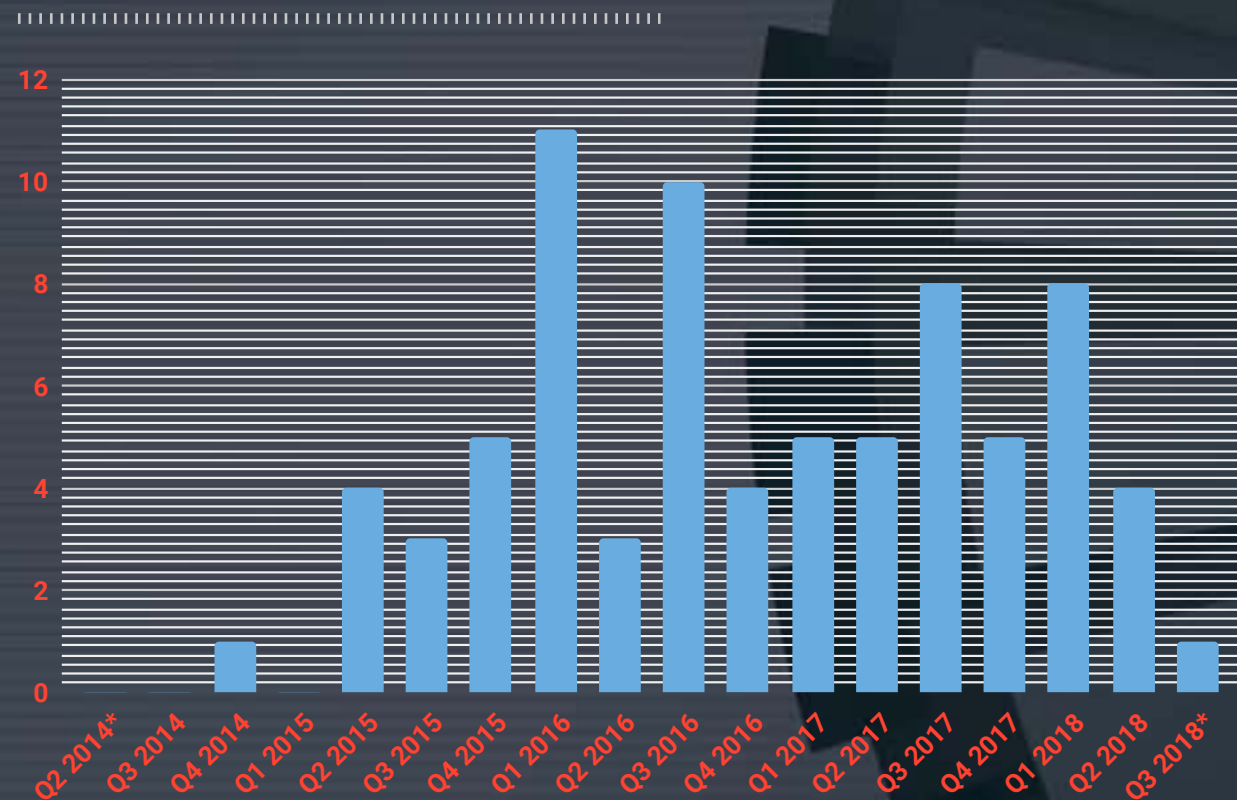


CATEGORY

Interrogation

Media professionals questioned about work

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



77

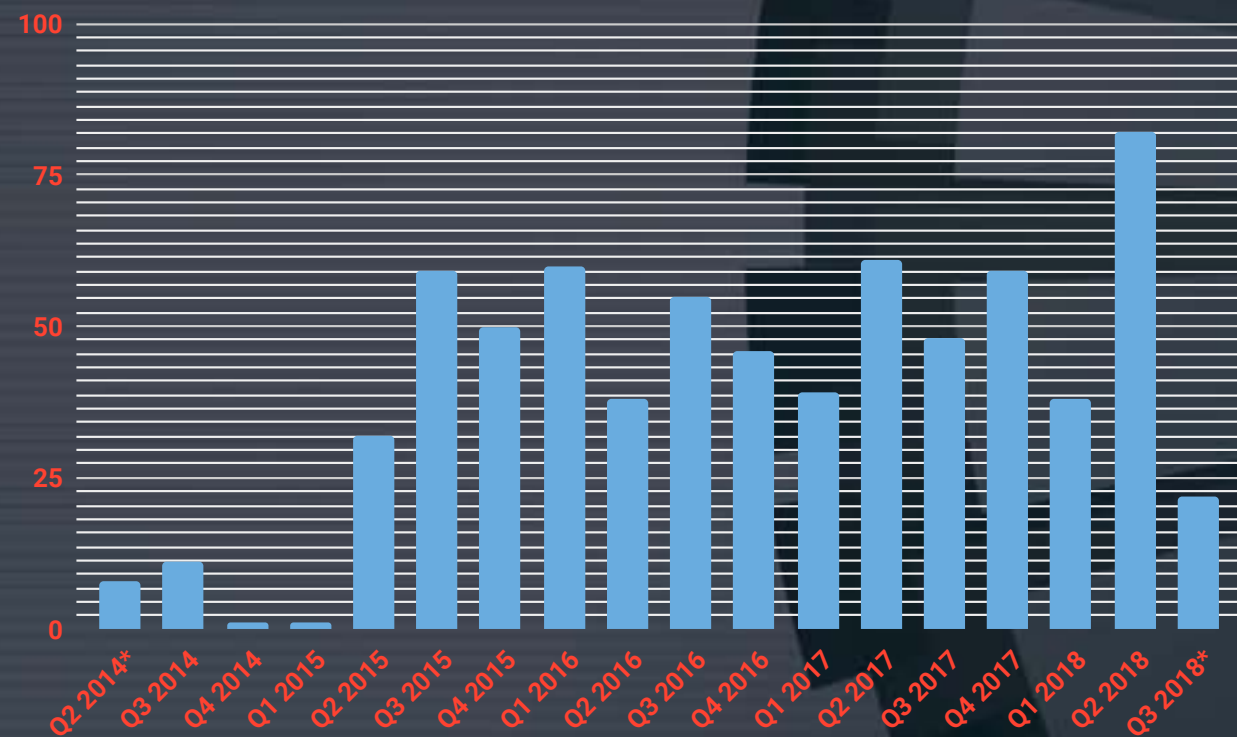
REPORTS INCLUDED
INTERROGATION

CATEGORY

Intimidation

Media professional threatened, implied or implicit

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



702

REPORTS INCLUDED
INTIMIDATION

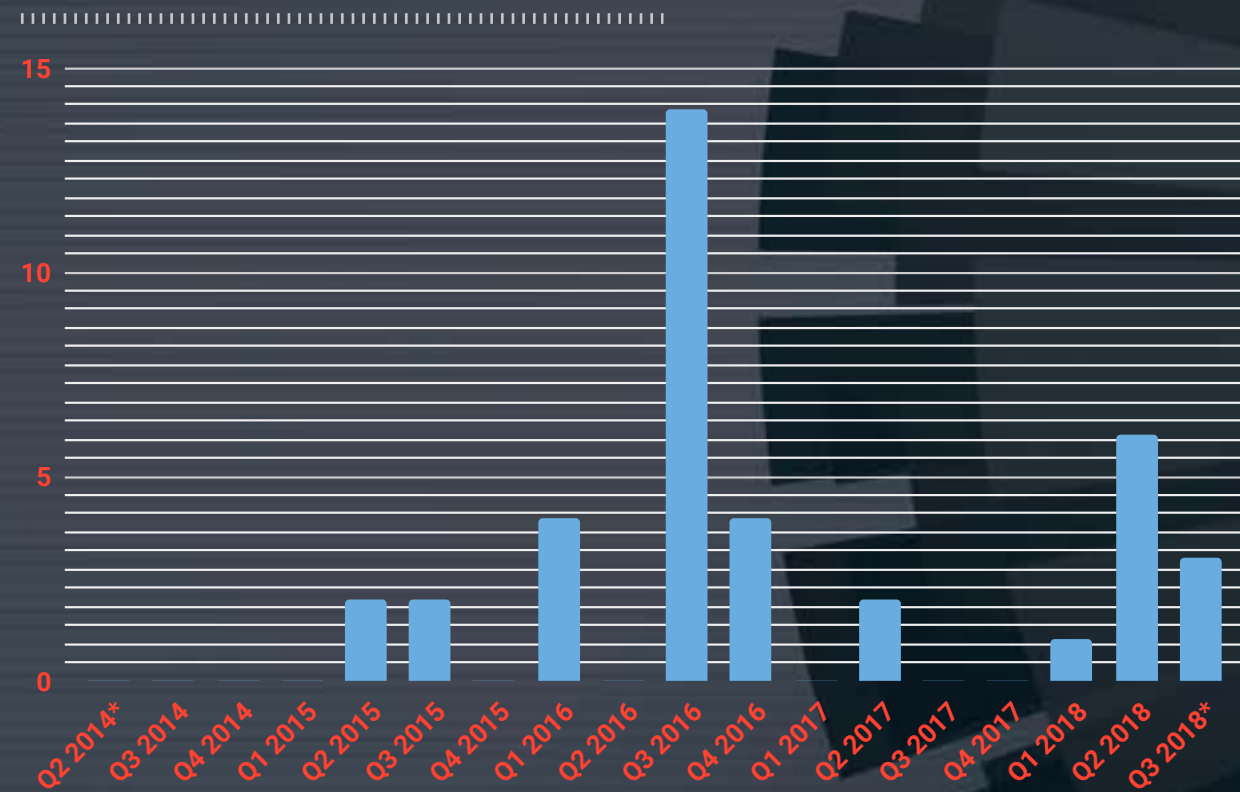


CATEGORY

Collateral Targets

Family and friends of media professionals

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



38

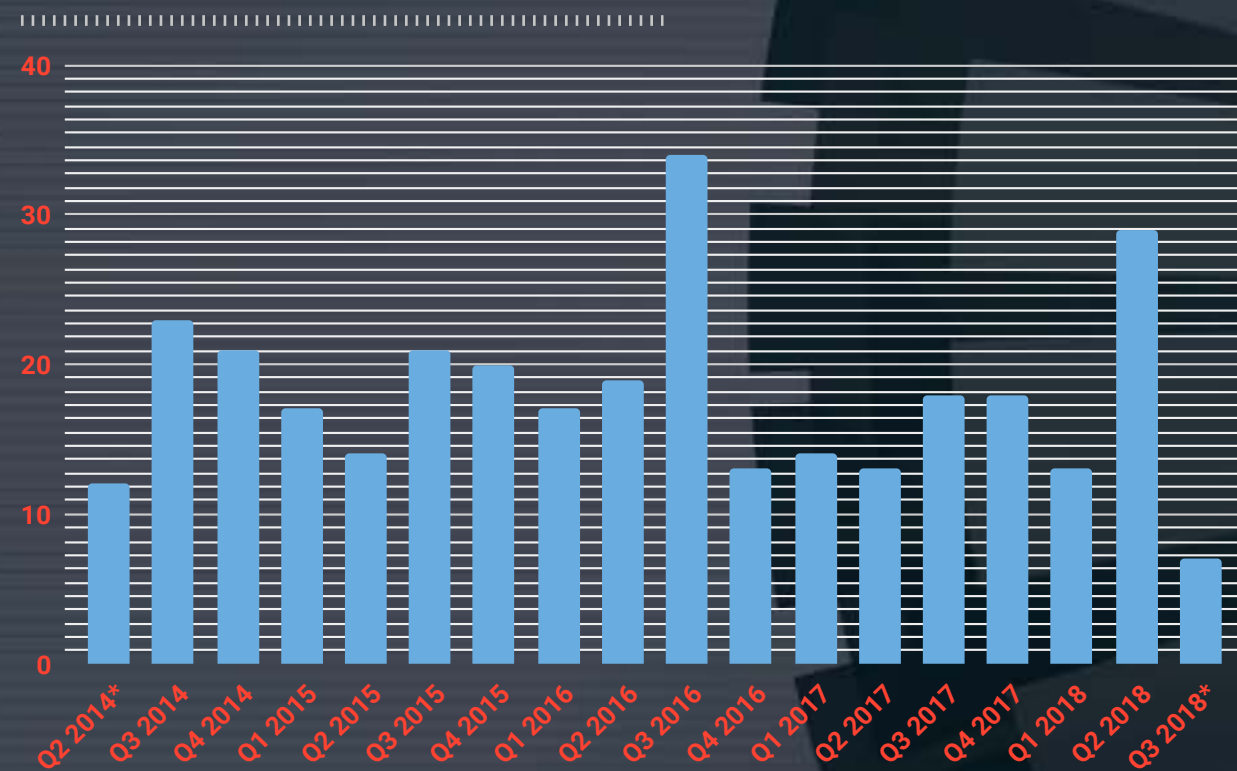
REPORTS INCLUDED
COLLATERAL
TARGETING

CATEGORY

Attack to Property

Professional tools damaged/seized

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



341

REPORTS INCLUDED

ATTACK TO
PROPERTY

TOP COUNTRIES

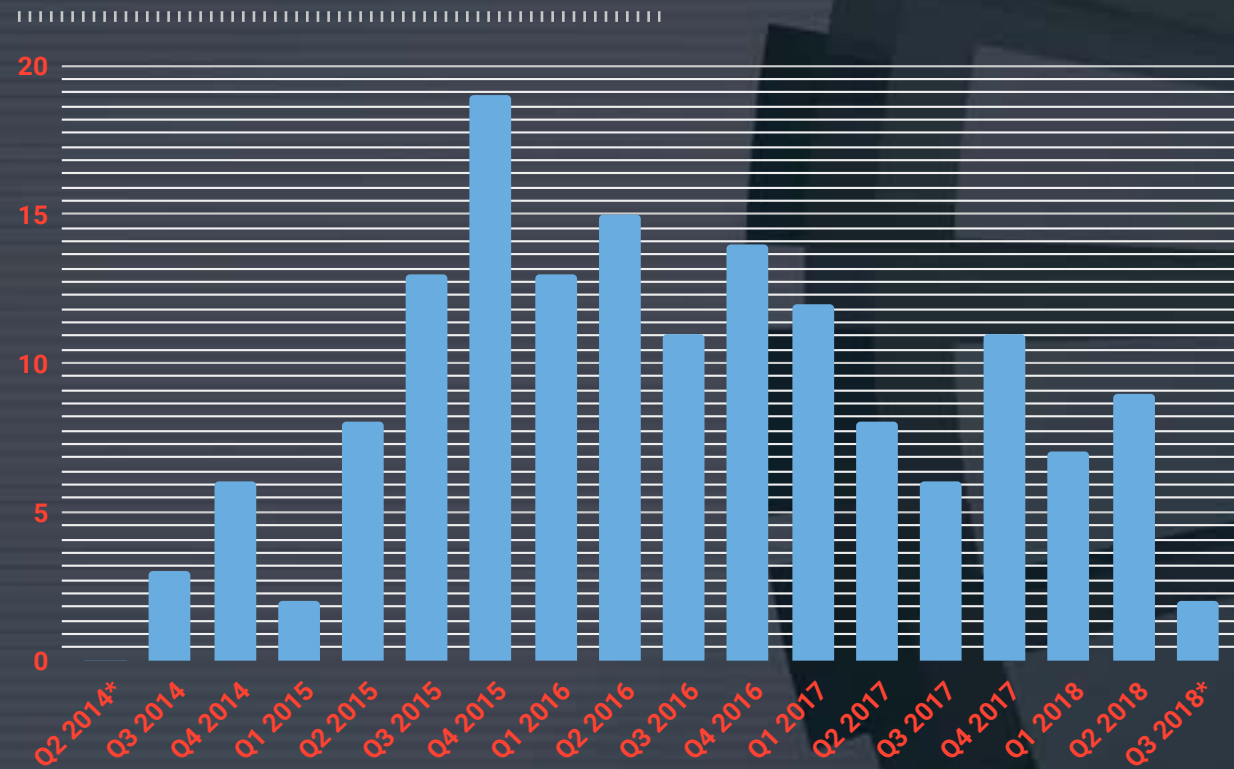


CATEGORY

Civil Lawsuits

Non-criminal legal actions

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



159

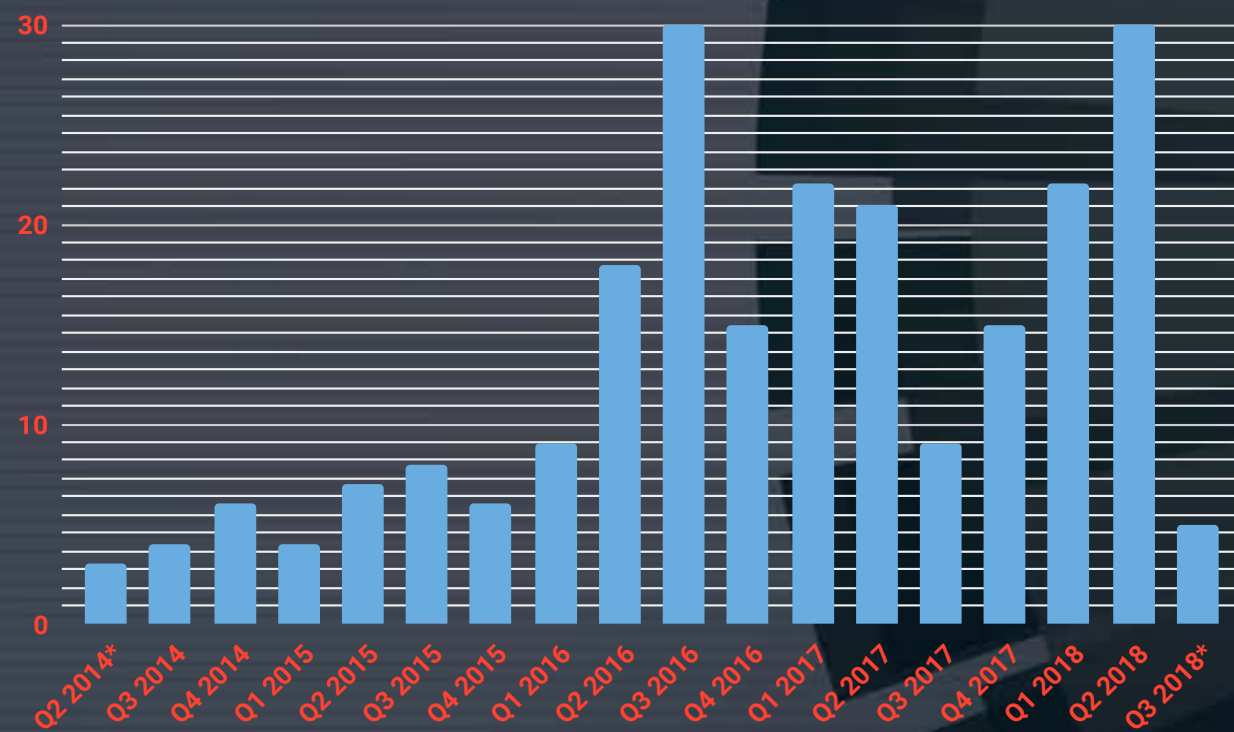
REPORTS INCLUDED
CIVIL LAWSUITS

CATEGORY

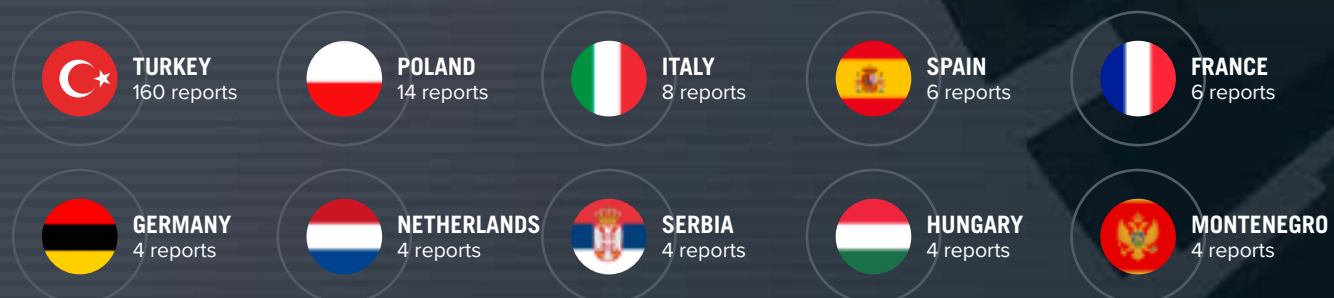
Criminal Charges

Media professionals accused of violating laws

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



74

REPORTS INCLUDED
CRIMINAL CHARGES

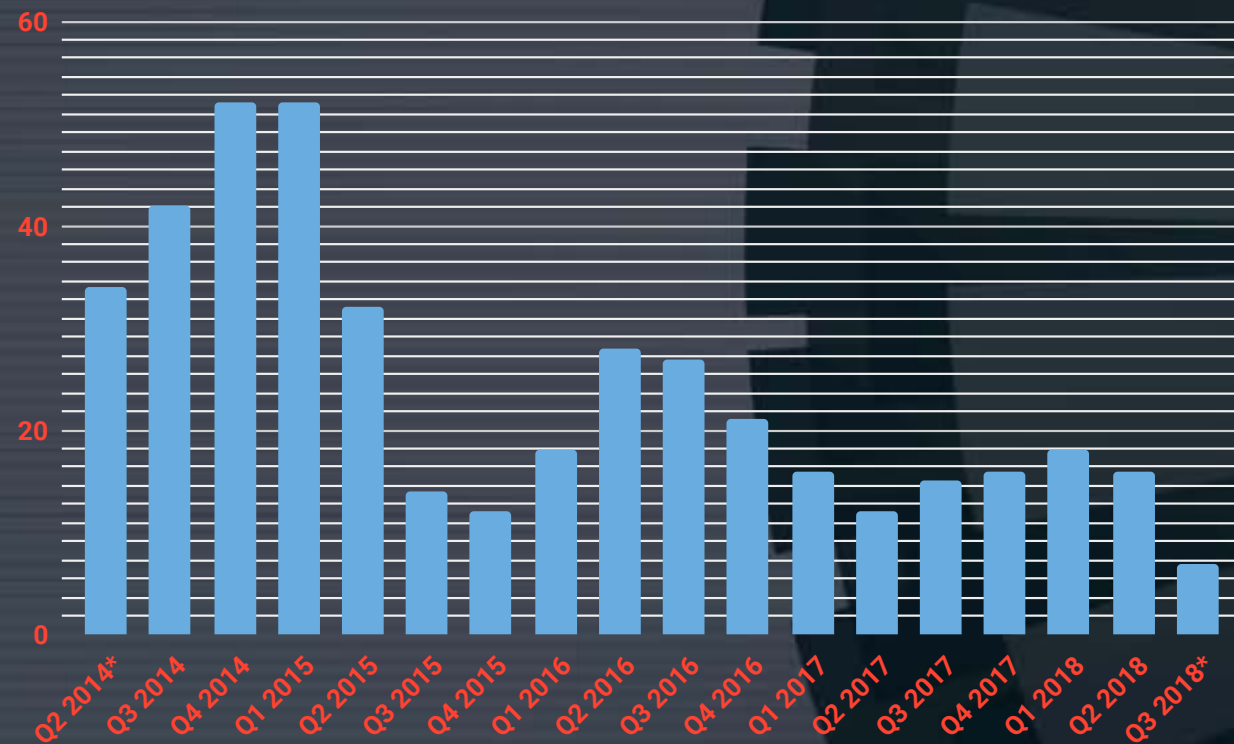


CATEGORY

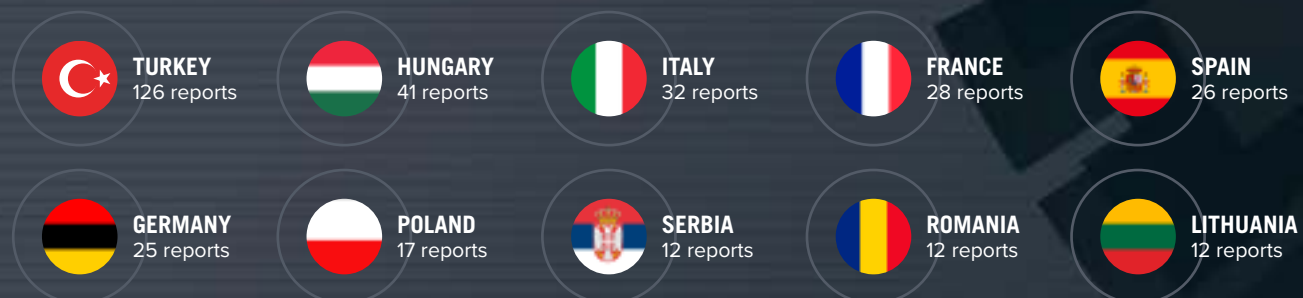
Legal Measures

Laws or court orders restricting media freedom

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



432

REPORTS INCLUDED
LEGAL MEASURES

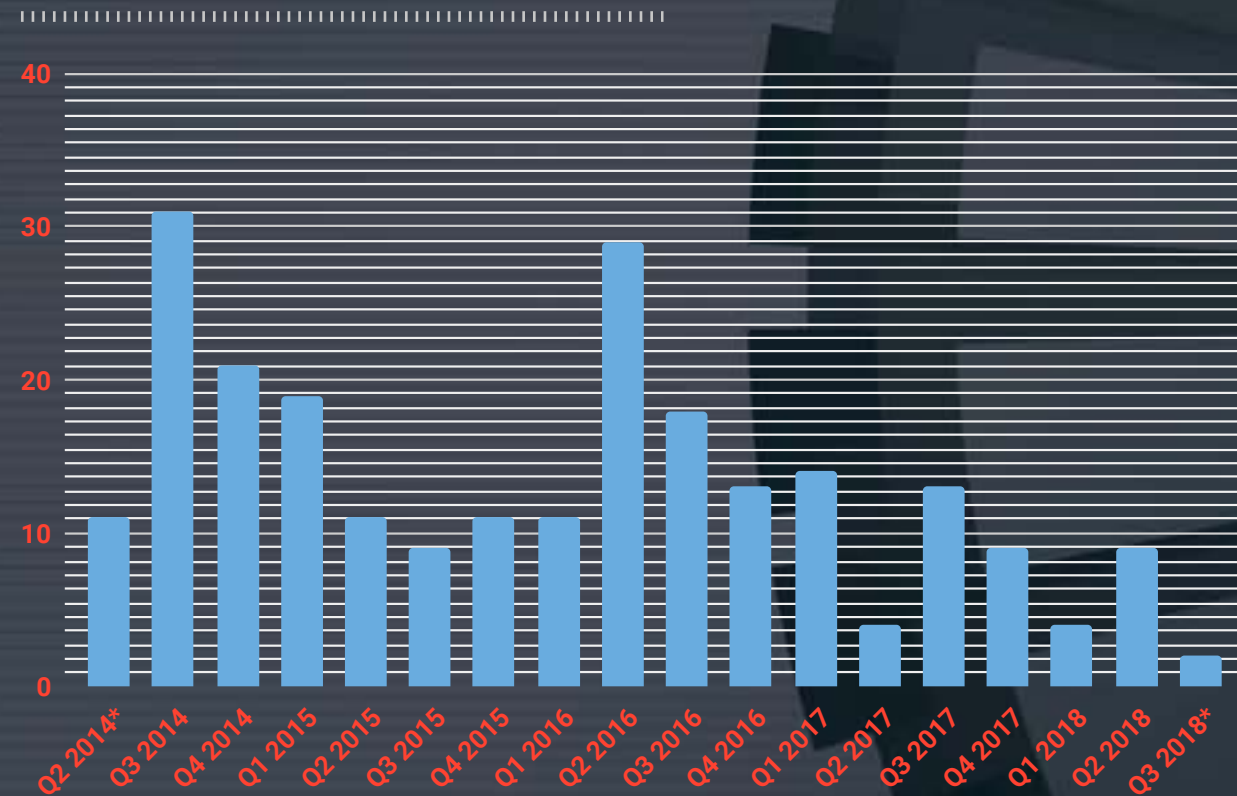


CATEGORY

Loss of Employment

Terminations or job cuts

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



239

REPORTS INCLUDED

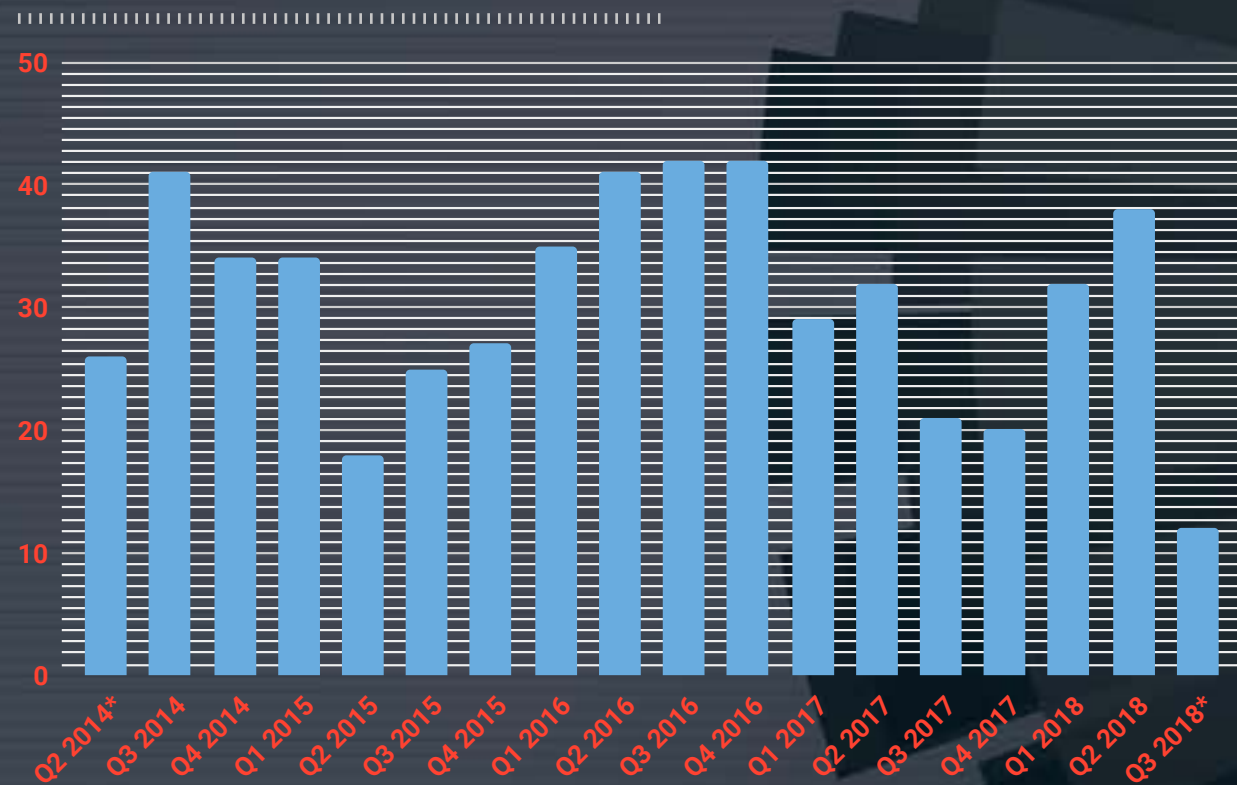
LOSS OF
EMPLOYMENT

CATEGORY

Blocked Access

Prevention of reporting through obstacles

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



549

REPORTS INCLUDED
BLOCKED ACCESS

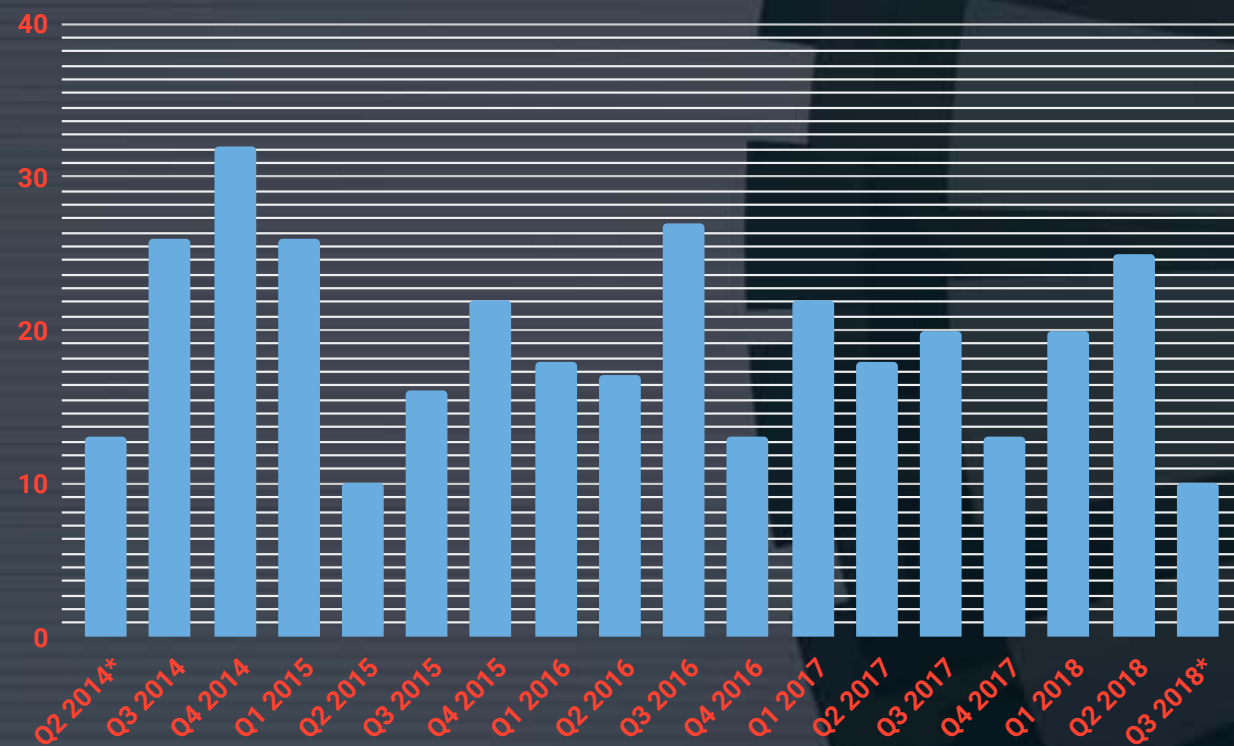


CATEGORY

Defamation/ Discredit

Public ridicule of a media professional

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



348

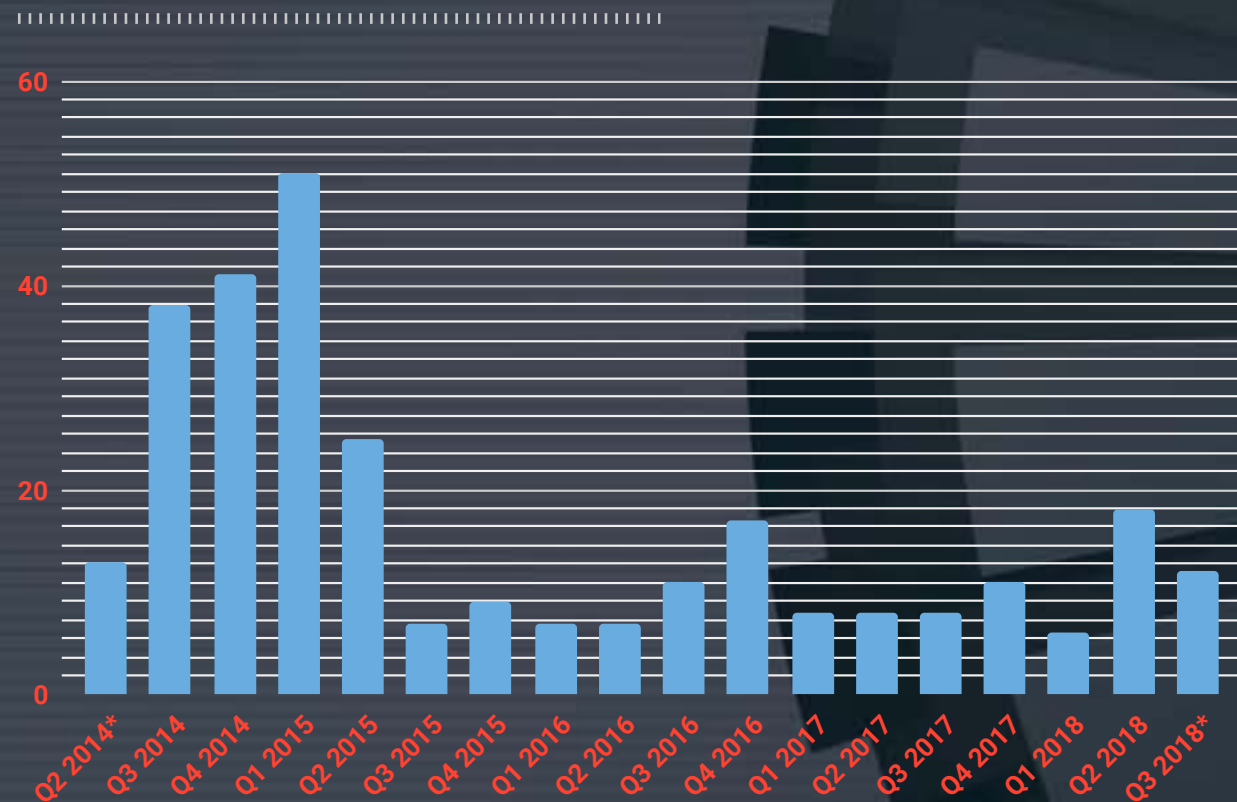
REPORTS INCLUDED
DEFAMATION AND
DISCREDIT

CATEGORY

Psychological Abuse

Verbal harassment/offline bullying

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



298

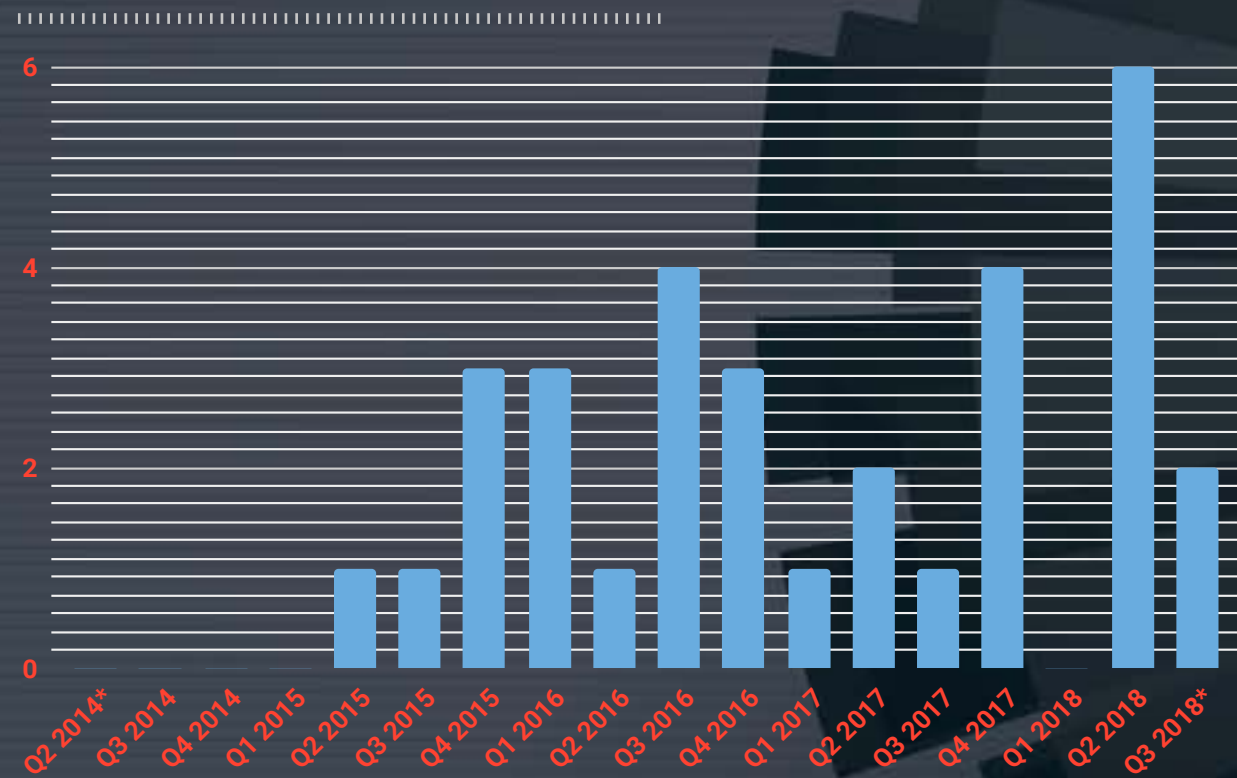
REPORTS INCLUDED
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ABUSE

CATEGORY

Sexual Harassment

Targeting gender identity

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



32

REPORTS
INCLUDED **SEXUAL
HARASSMENT**

TOP COUNTRIES

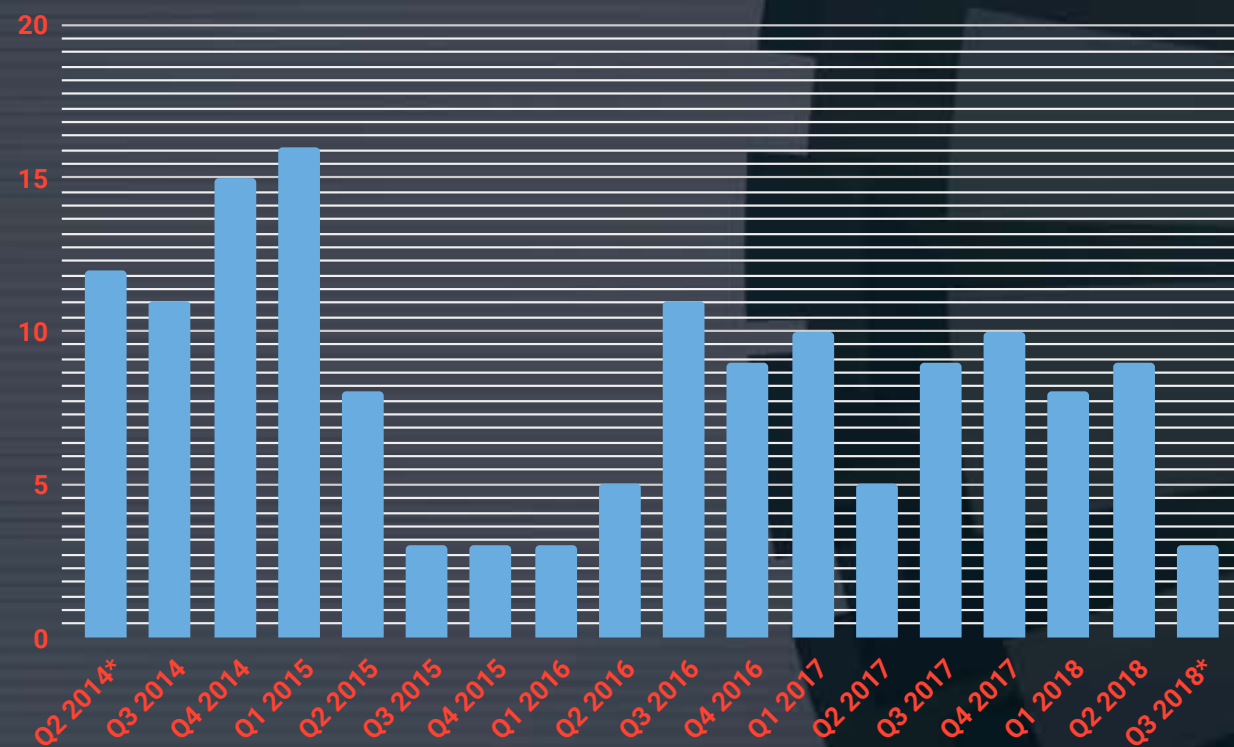


CATEGORY

Trolling/ Cyberbullying

Media professionals harassed online

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



150

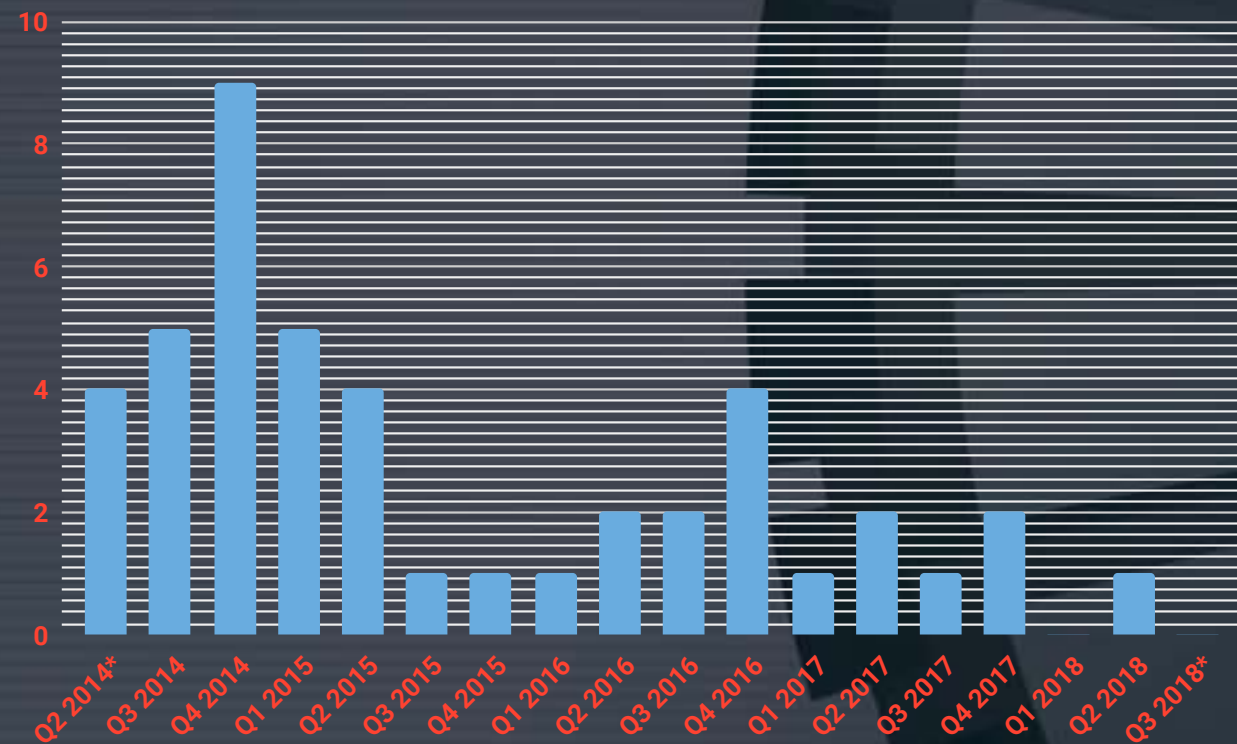
REPORTS INCLUDED
TROLLING AND
CYBERBULLING

CATEGORY

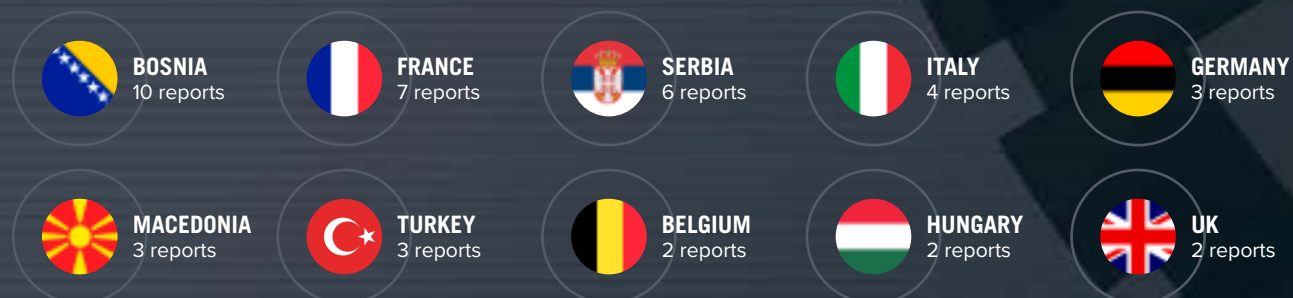
DDos/Hacking

Targeting news outlets or journalists online

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



TOP COUNTRIES



44

REPORTS INCLUDED
DDOS AND HACKING

COUNTRY BY COUNTRY 2014-2018



The information contained in this document is drawn from the incidents reported to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018 covering 35 European Union member states, candidates and potential candidates for entry

Please note: Histograms in the following categories include Q2 2014 and Q3 2018 as partial quarters. Q2 2014 includes 1 May-30 June 2014; Q3 2018 includes 1-31 July 2018.

Additional information can be browsed on mappingmediafreedom.org by clicking on the country names.

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Albania

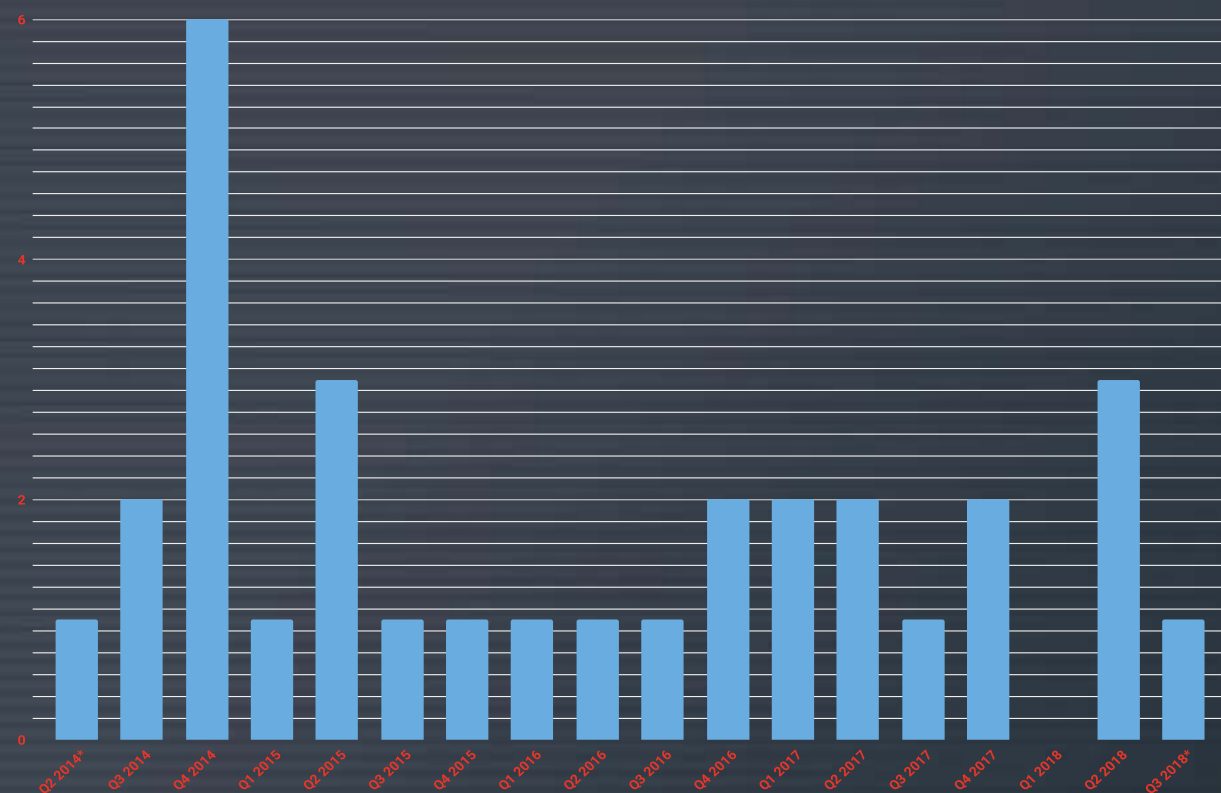
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

31
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Austria

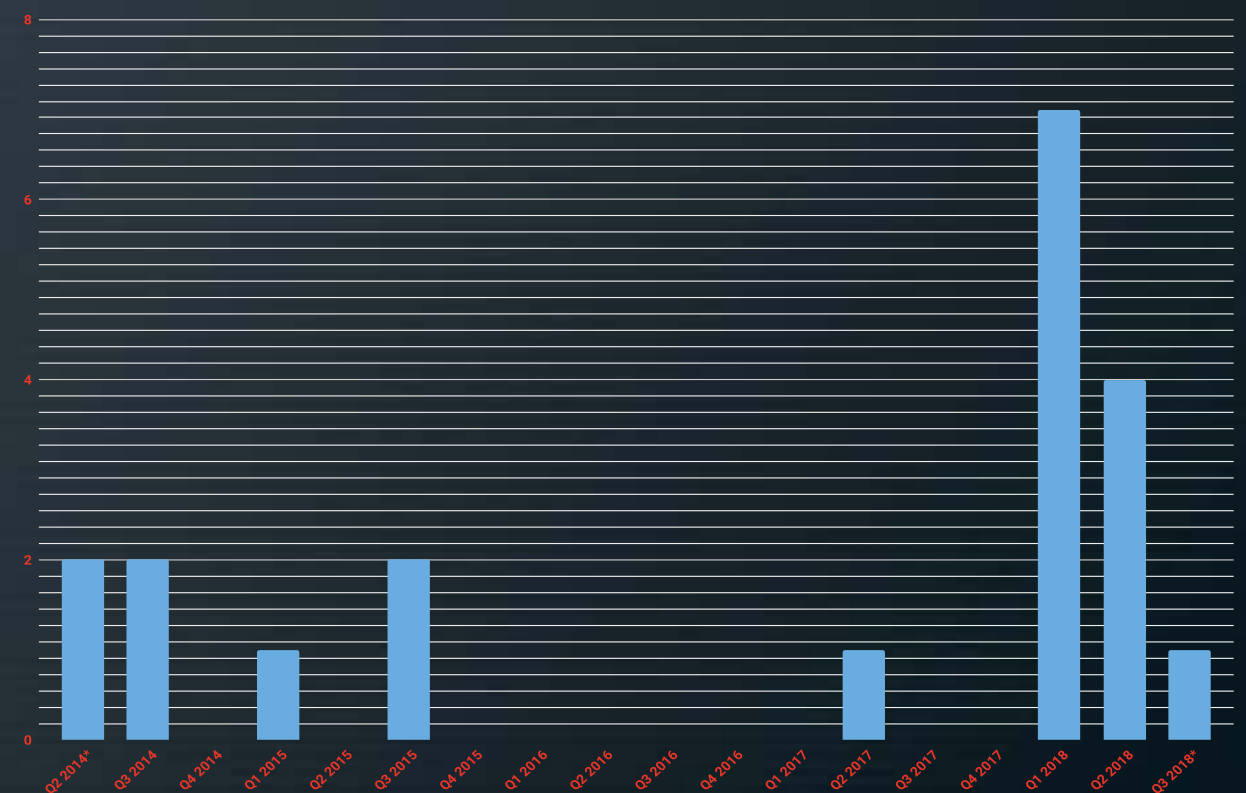
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

20
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Belgium

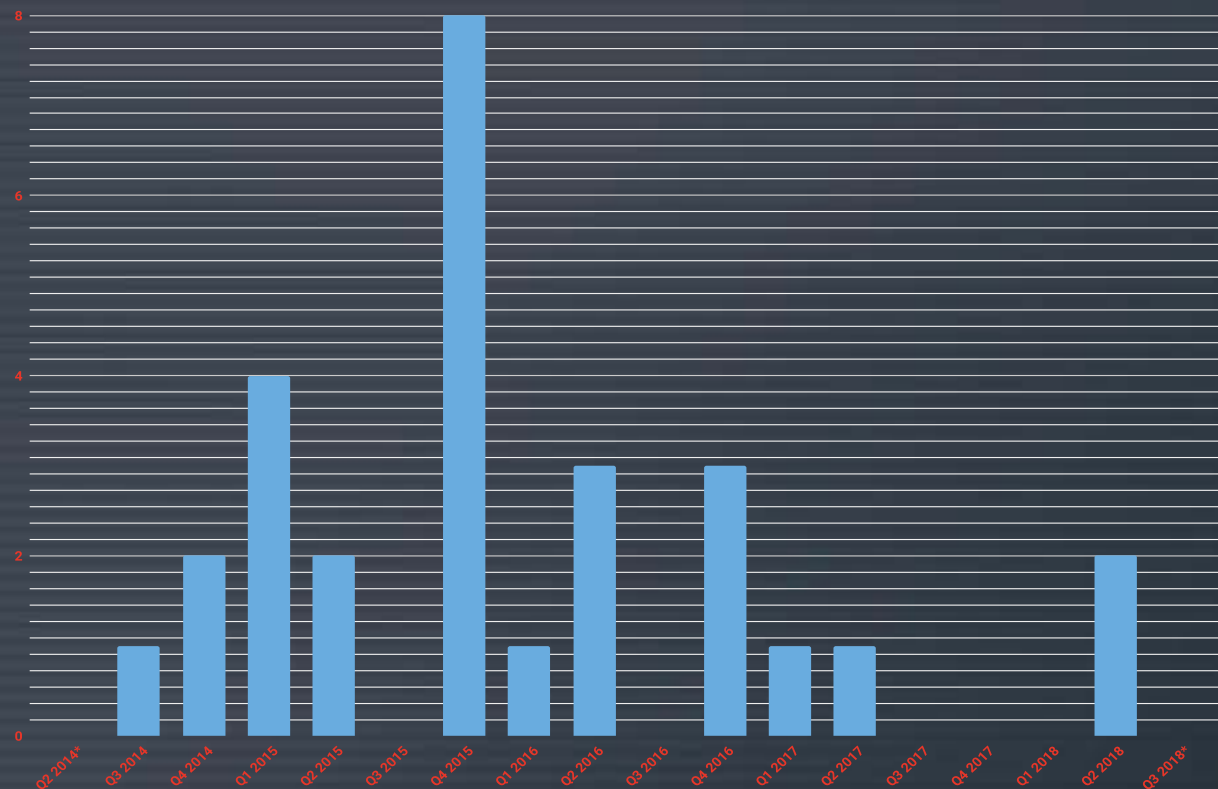
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

28
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Bosnia and Herzegovina

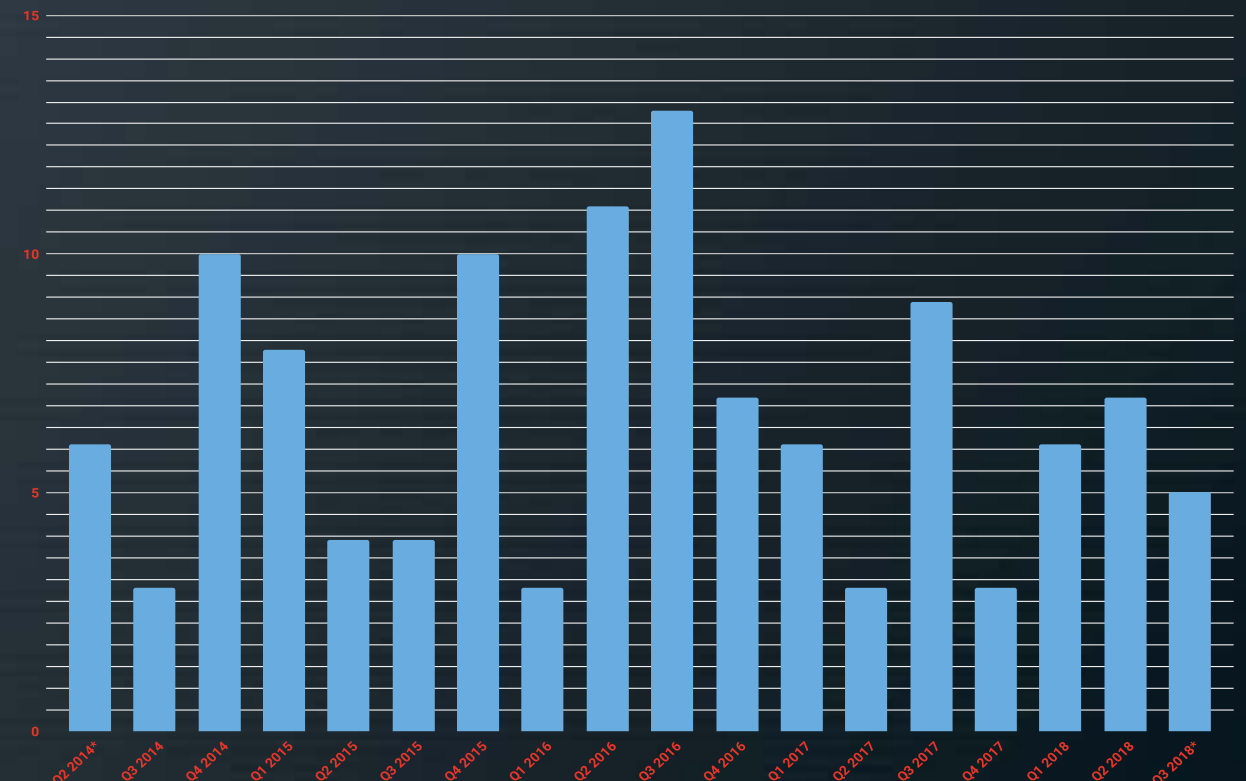
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

118
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Bulgaria

Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

42
REPORTS

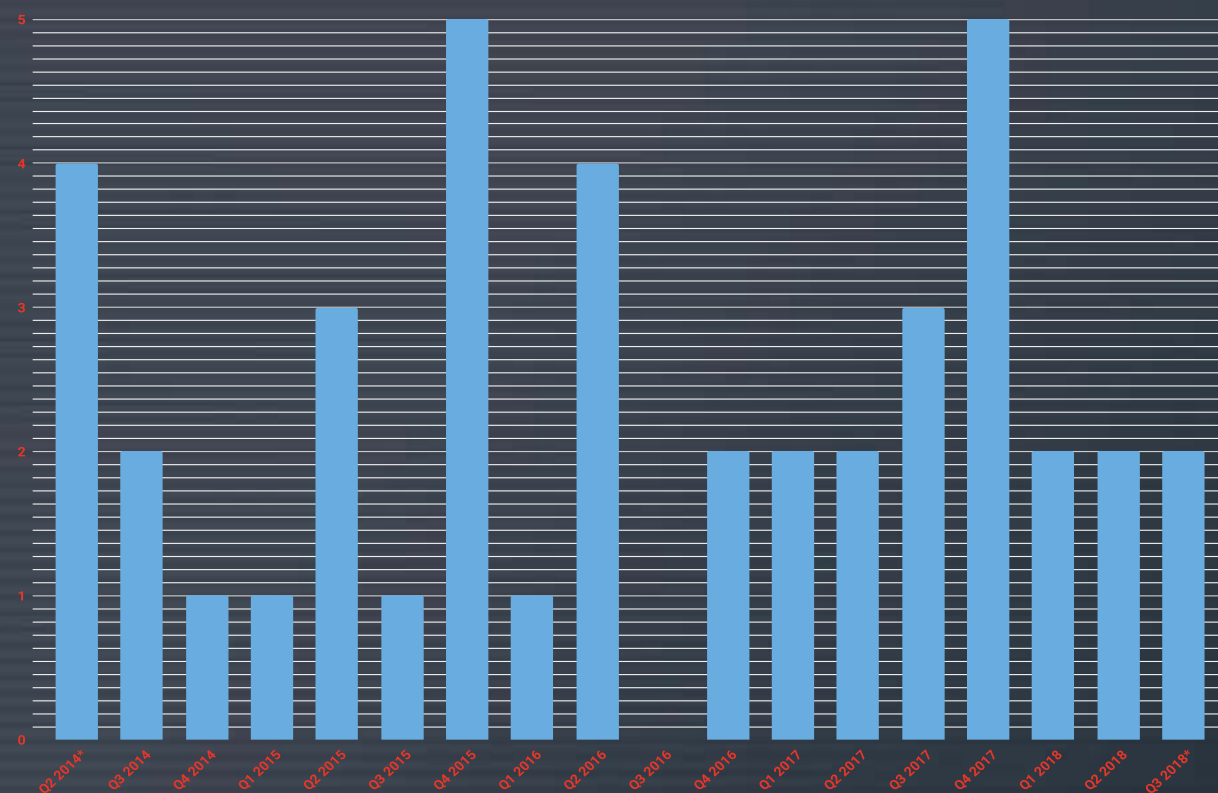
KEY CATEGORIES

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INCIDENTS OVER TIME

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COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Croatia

Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

132
REPORTS

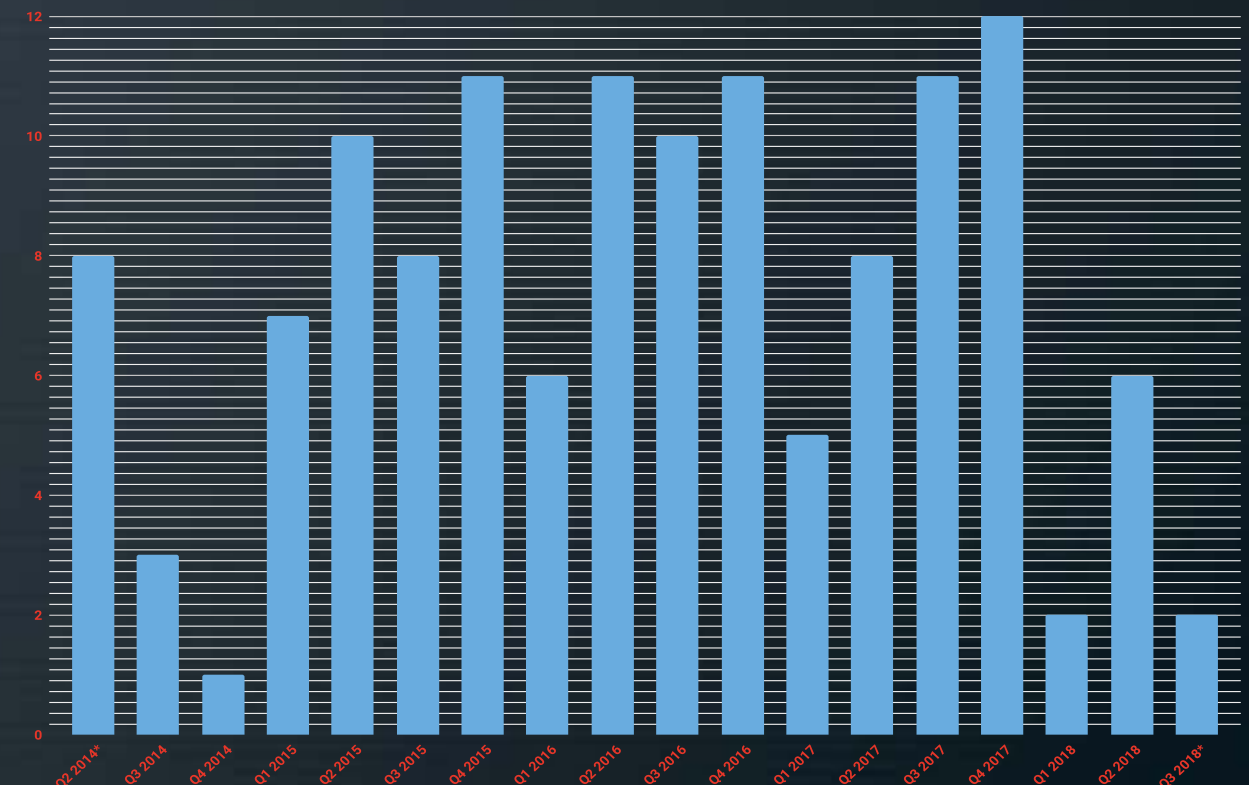
KEY CATEGORIES

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INCIDENTS OVER TIME

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COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Cyprus

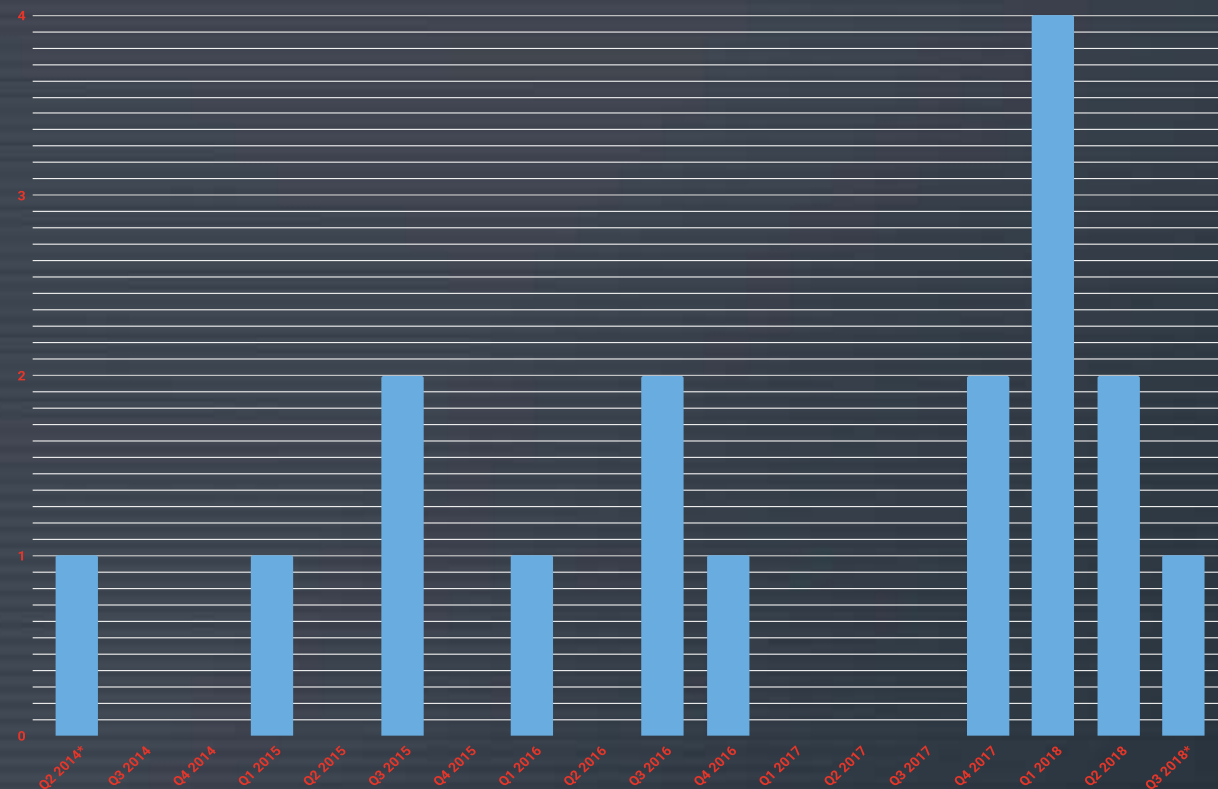
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17
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Czech Republic

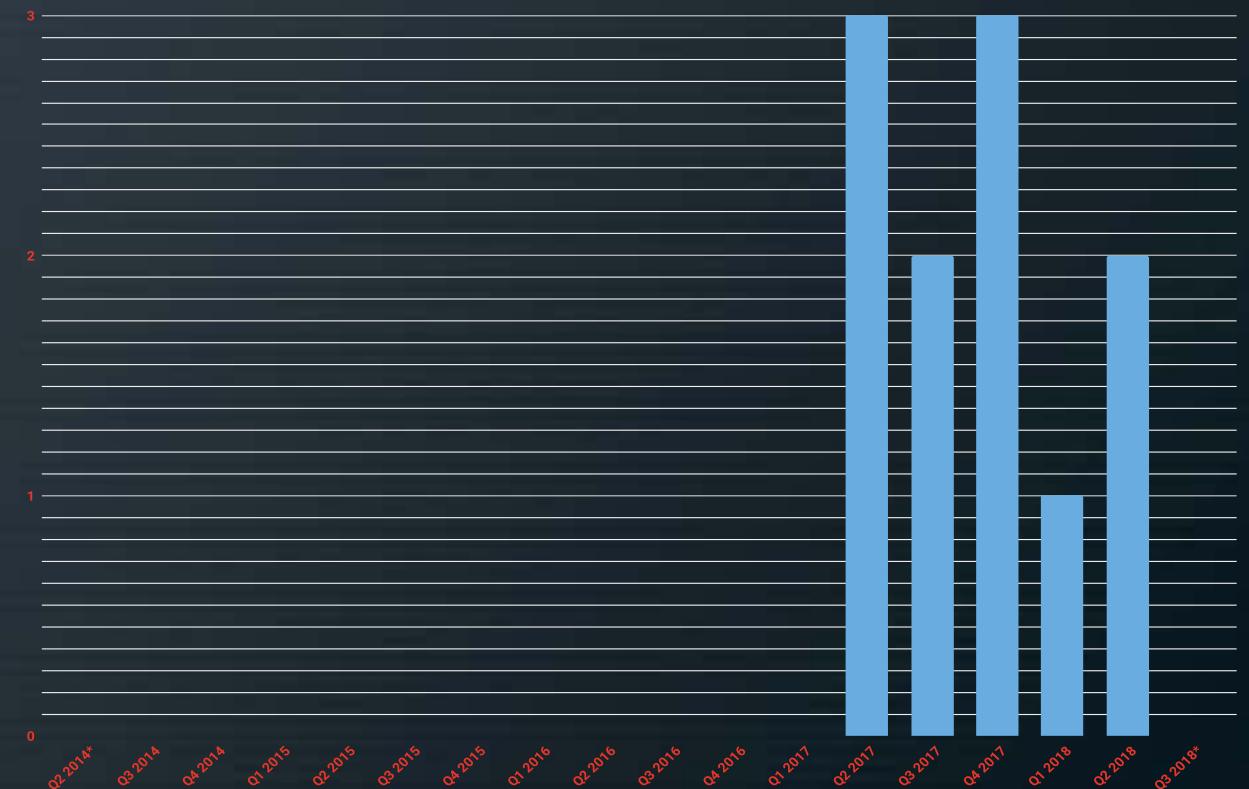
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11
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Denmark

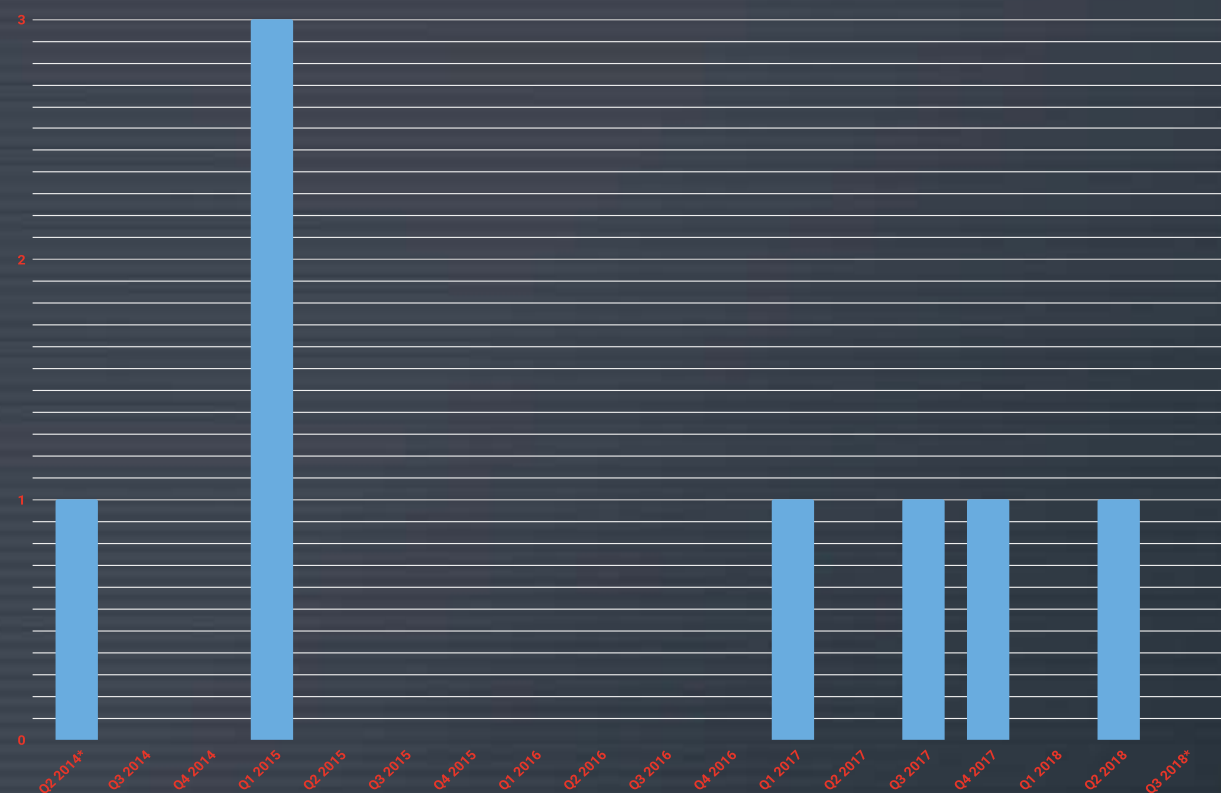
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

8
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Estonia

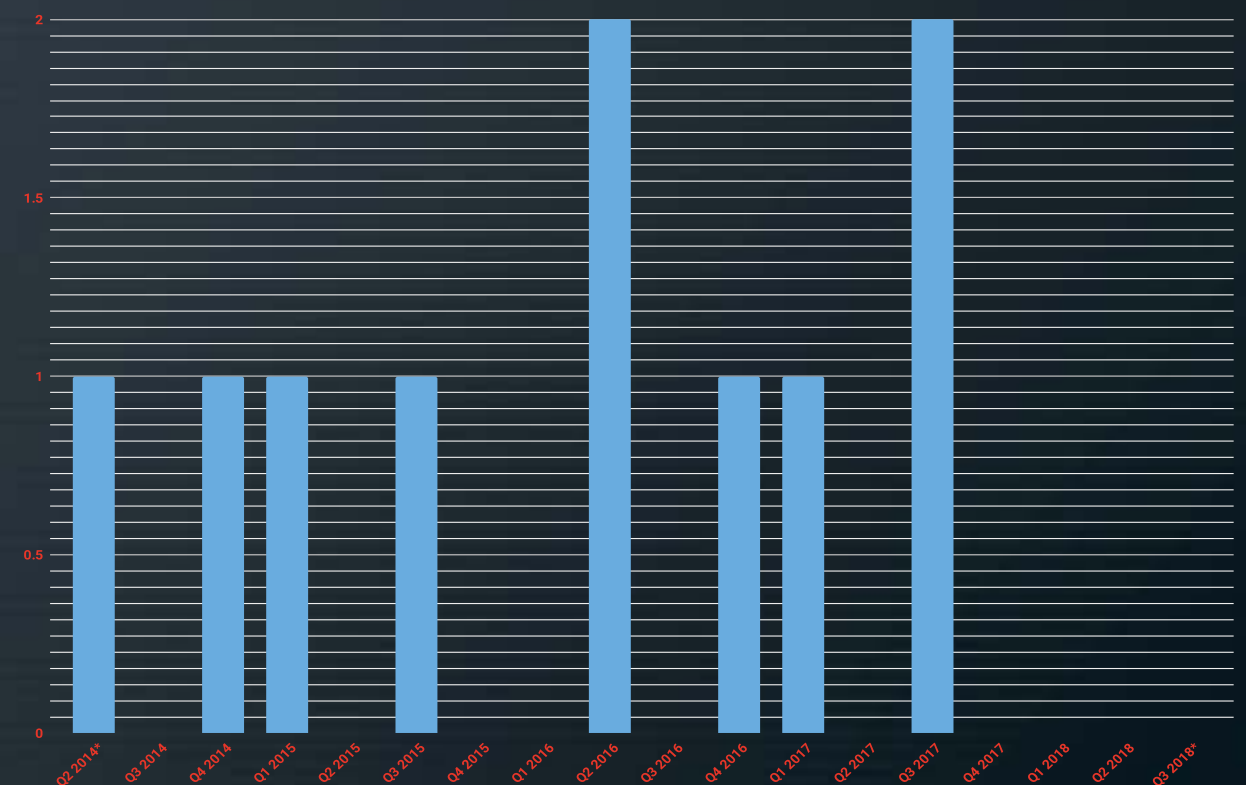
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

10
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Finland

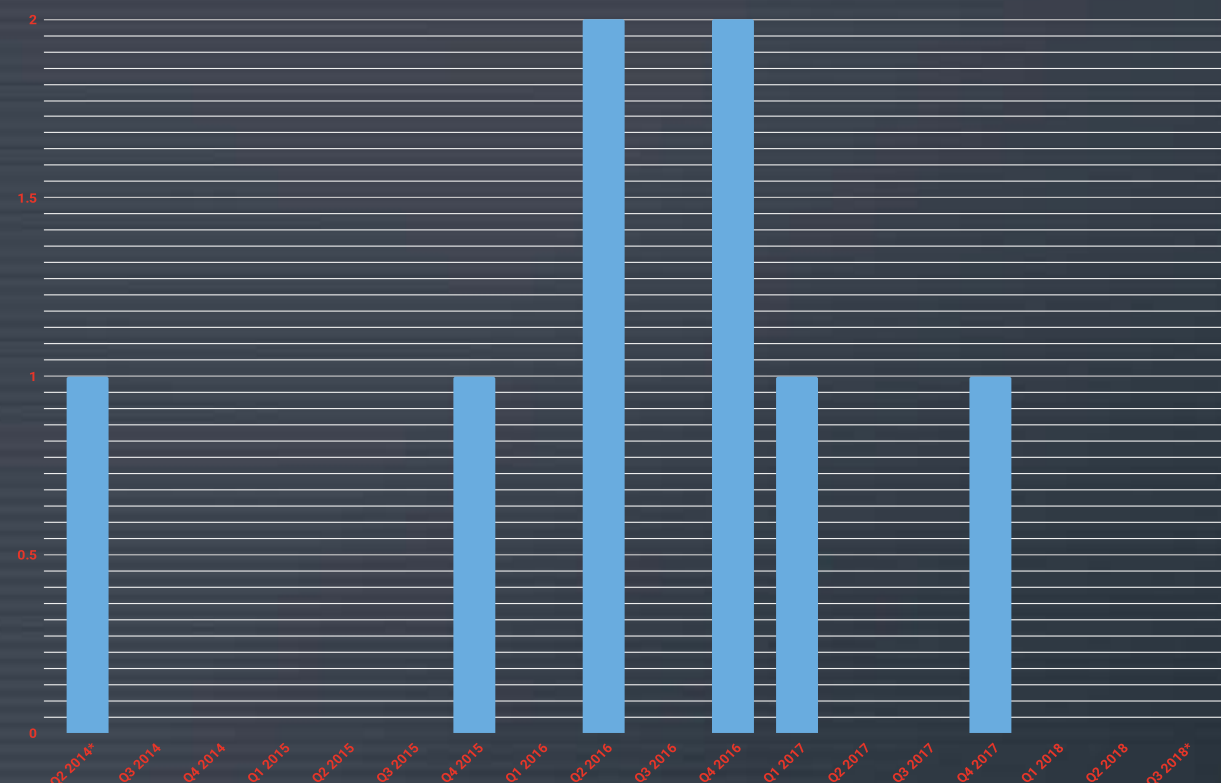
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

8
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

France

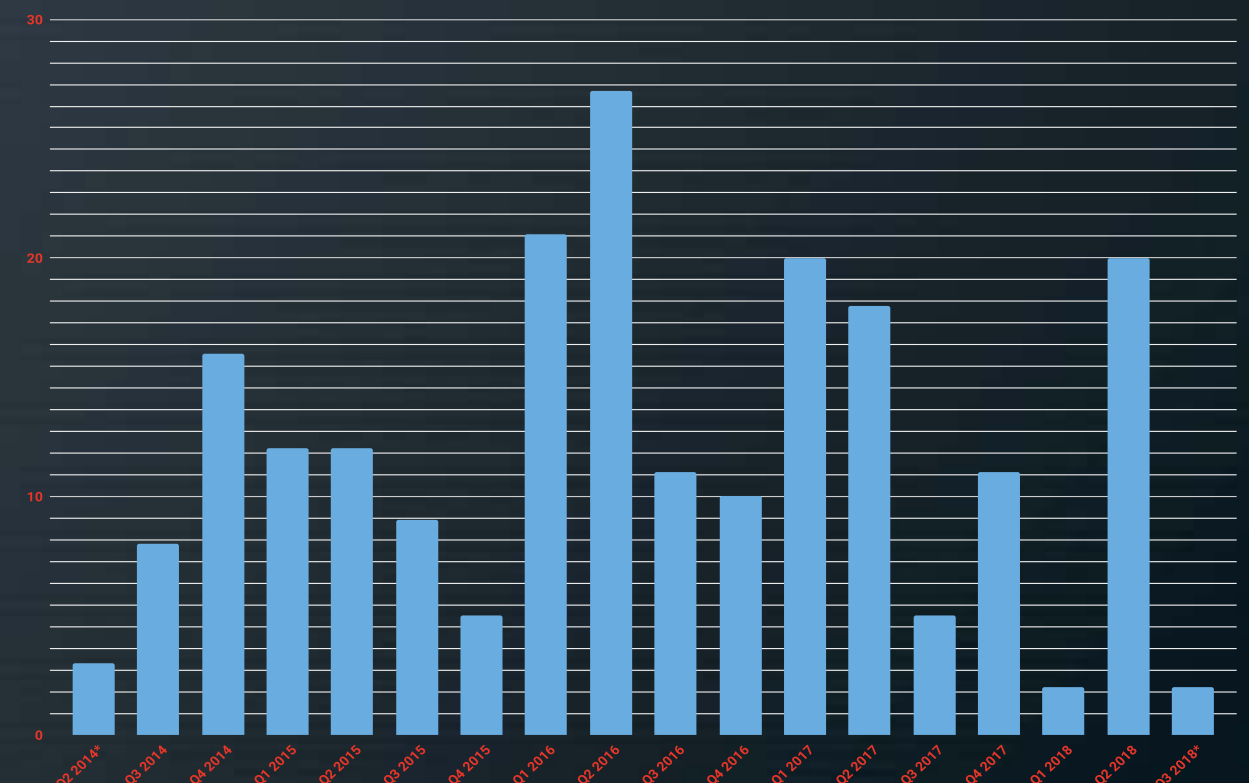
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

212
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Germany

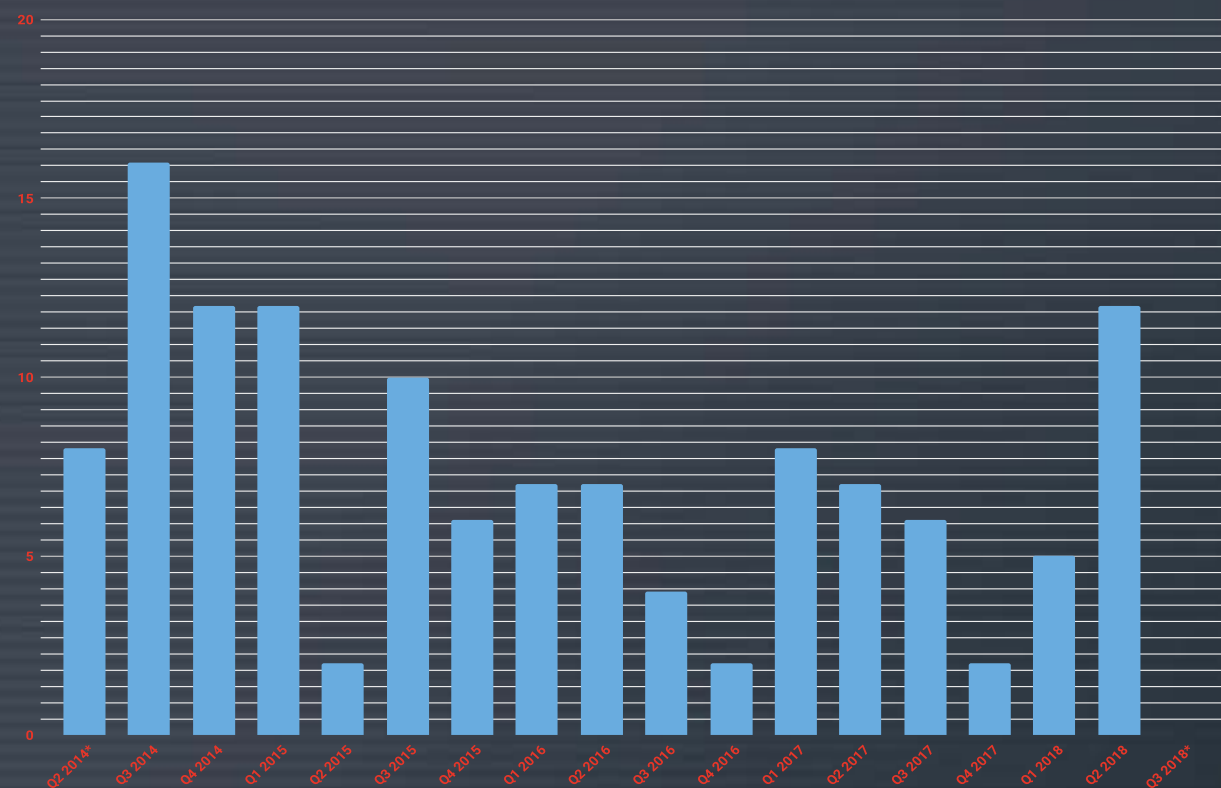
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

126
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Greece

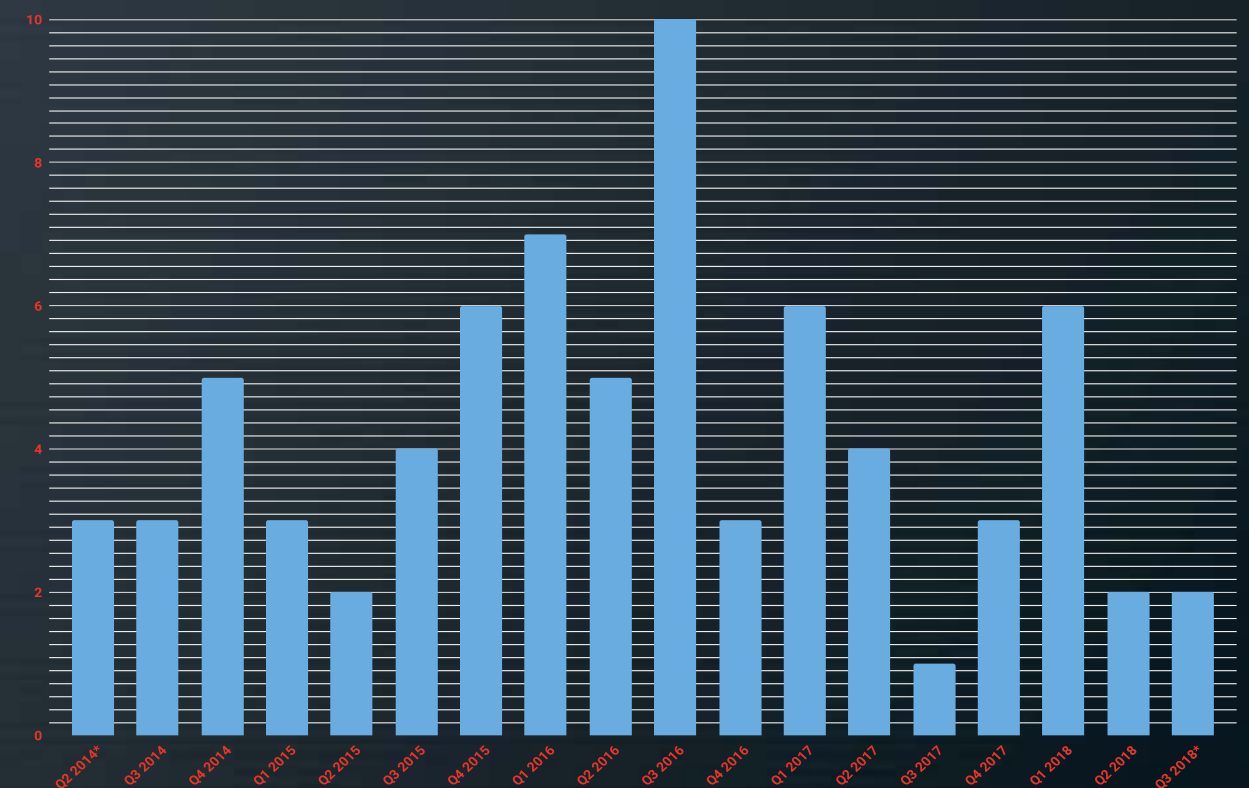
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

75
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Hungary

Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

218
REPORTS

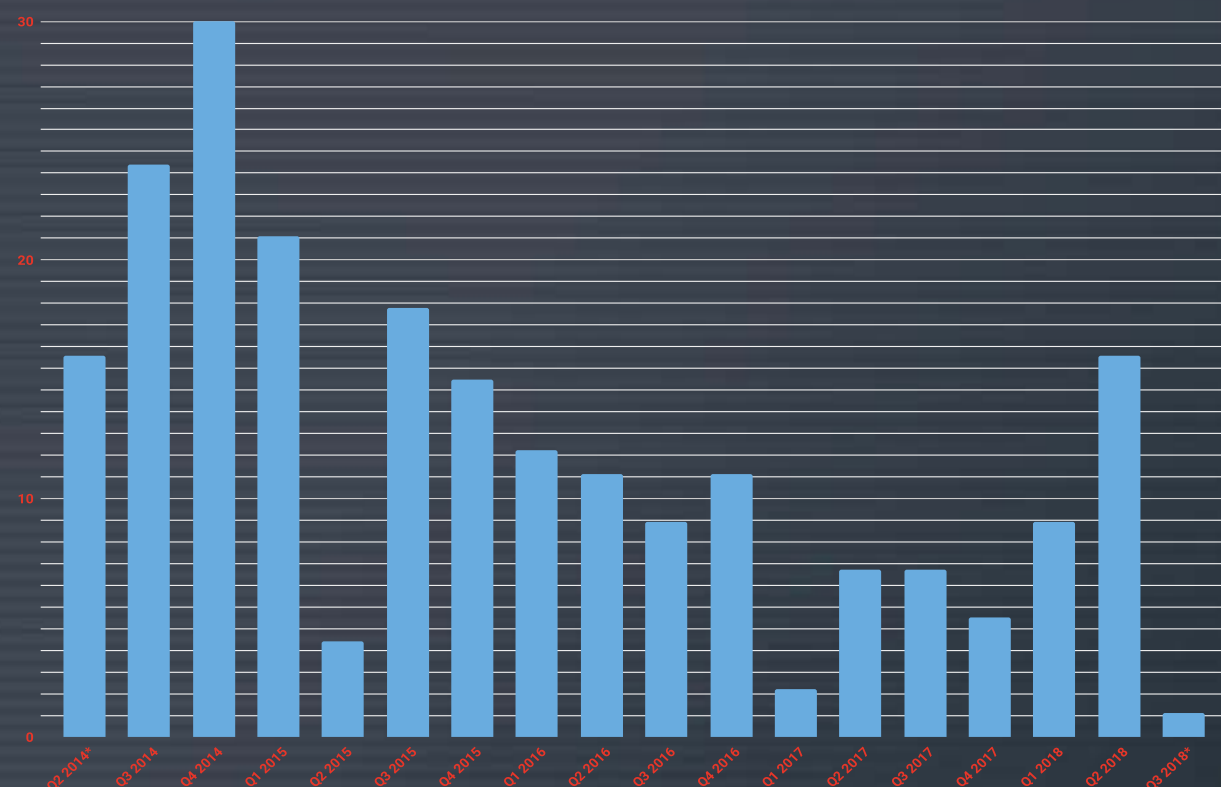
KEY CATEGORIES

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INCIDENTS OVER TIME

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COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Ireland

Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

10
REPORTS

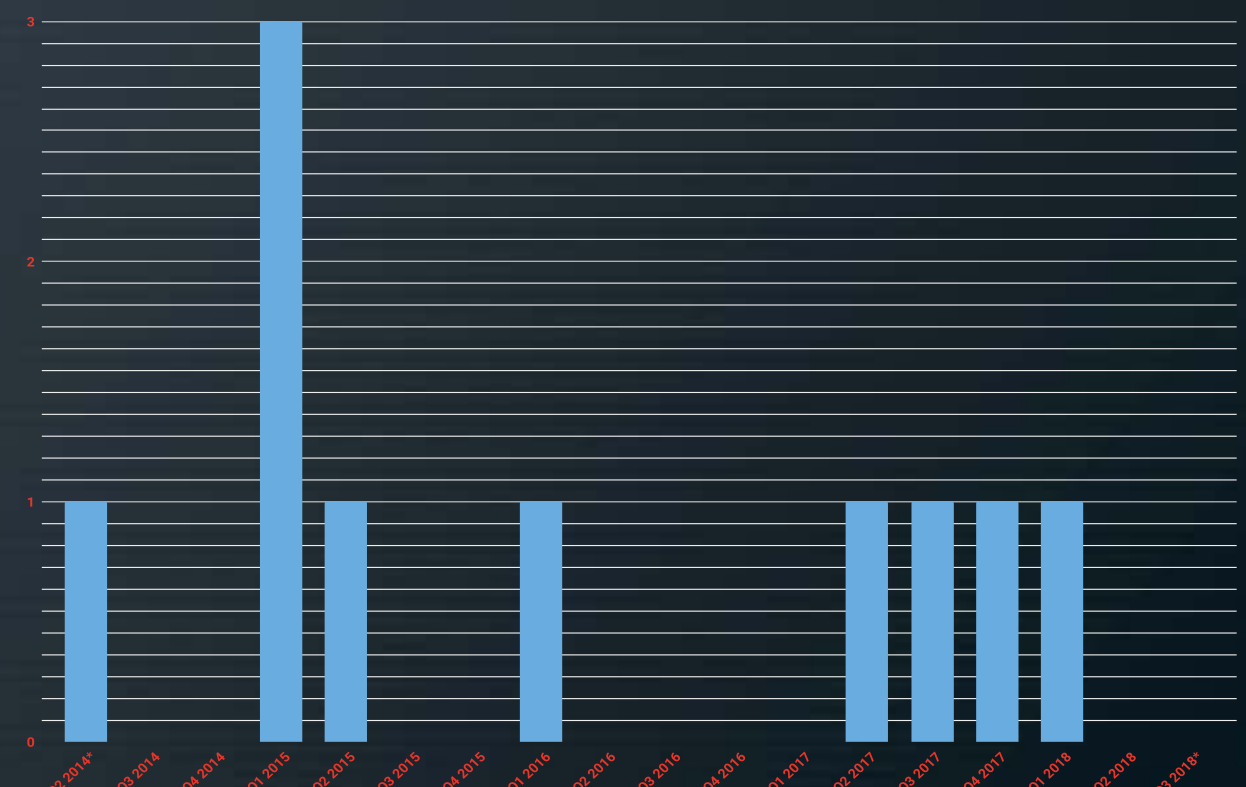
KEY CATEGORIES

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INCIDENTS OVER TIME

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COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Italy

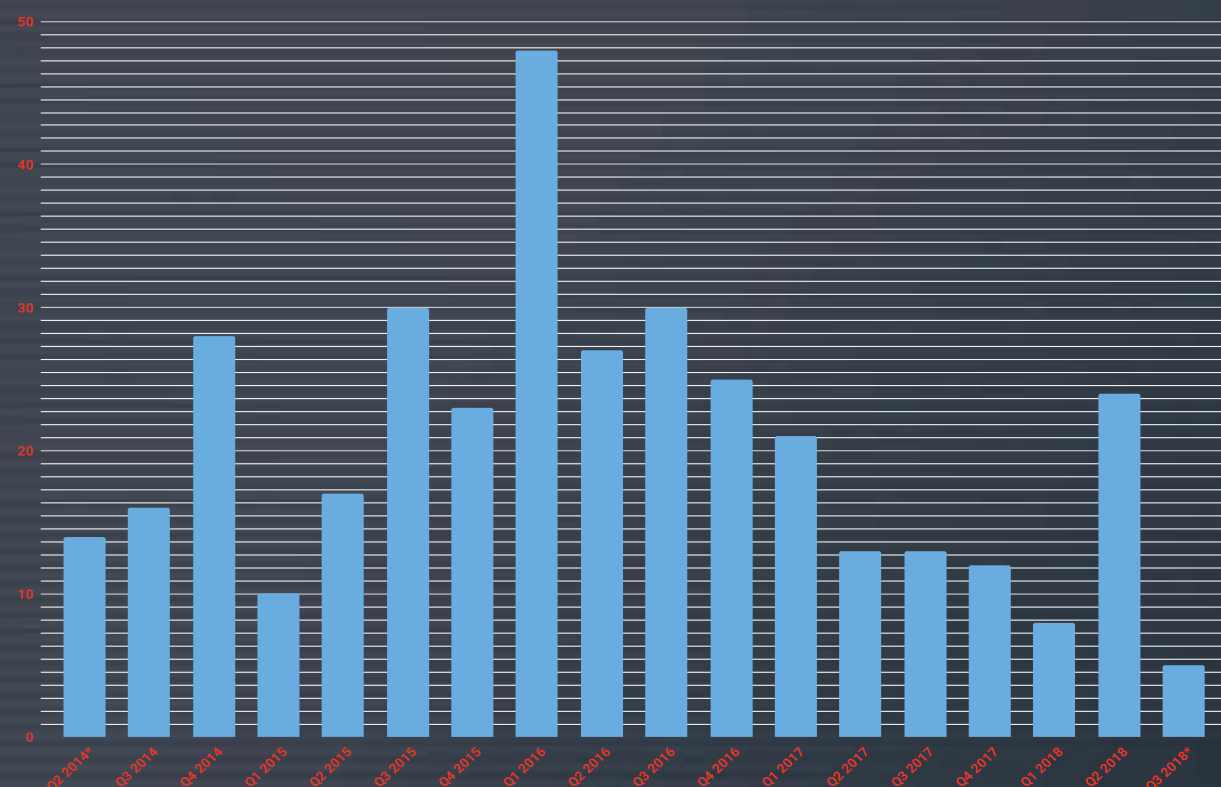
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

364
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Kosovo

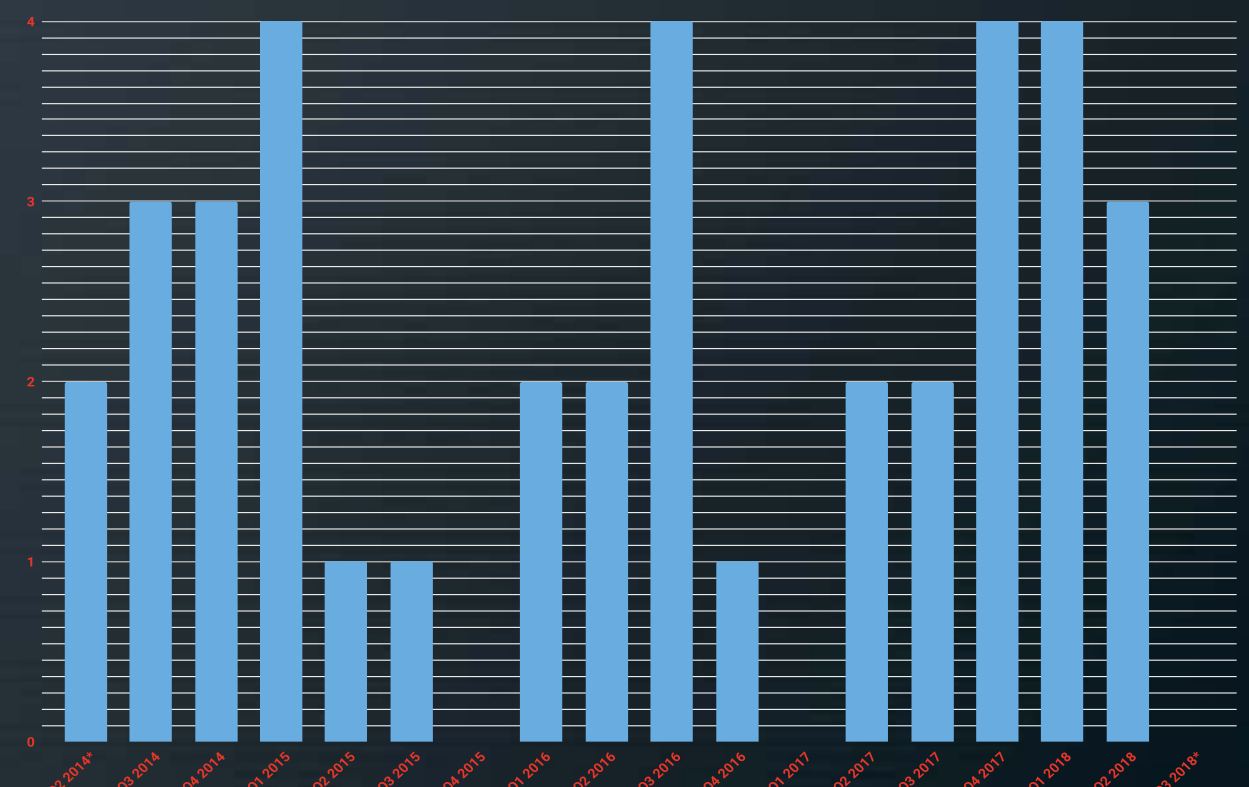
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

38
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Latvia

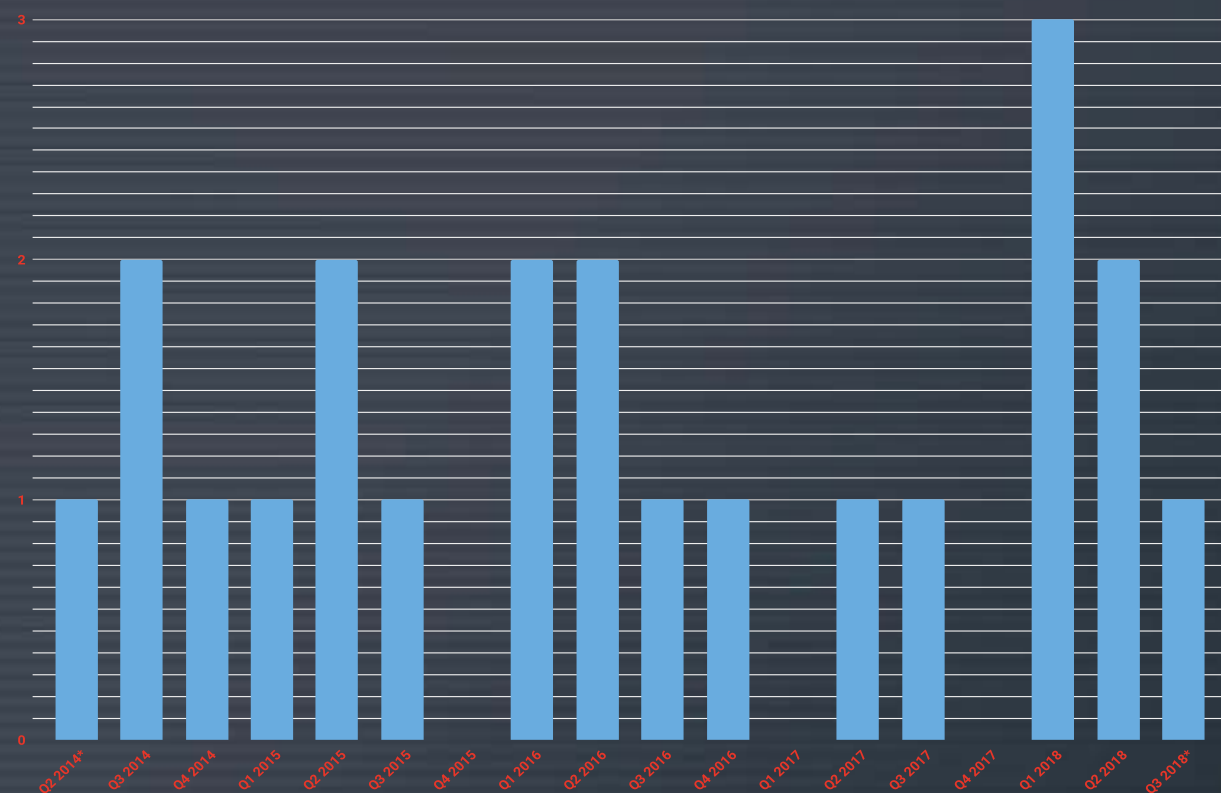
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

22
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Lithuania

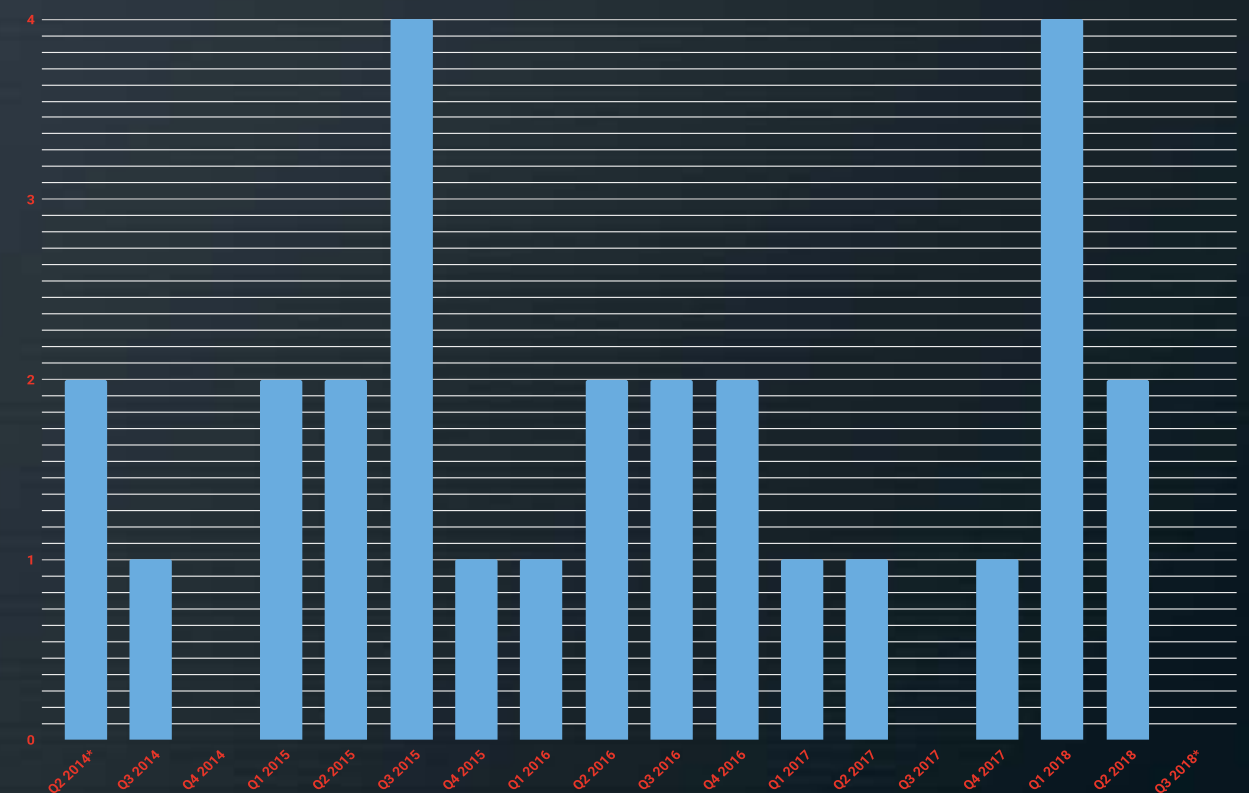
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

28
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Luxembourg

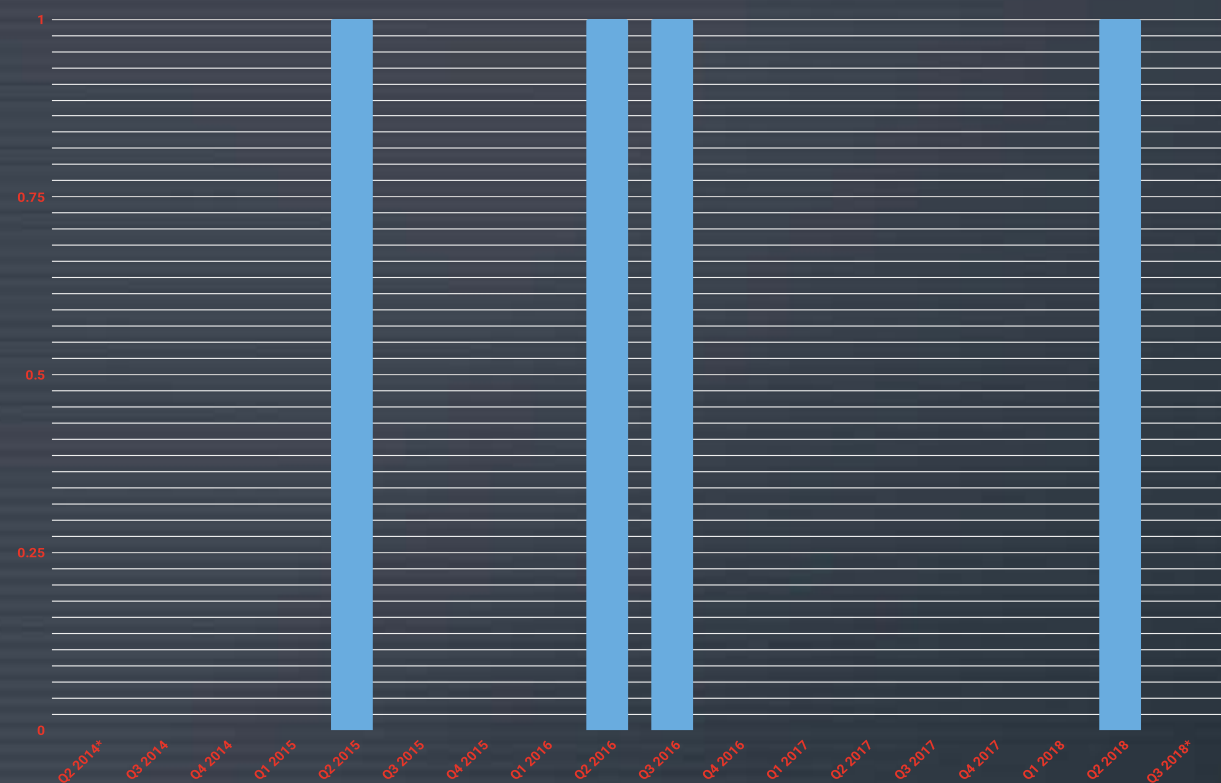
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

4
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Macedonia

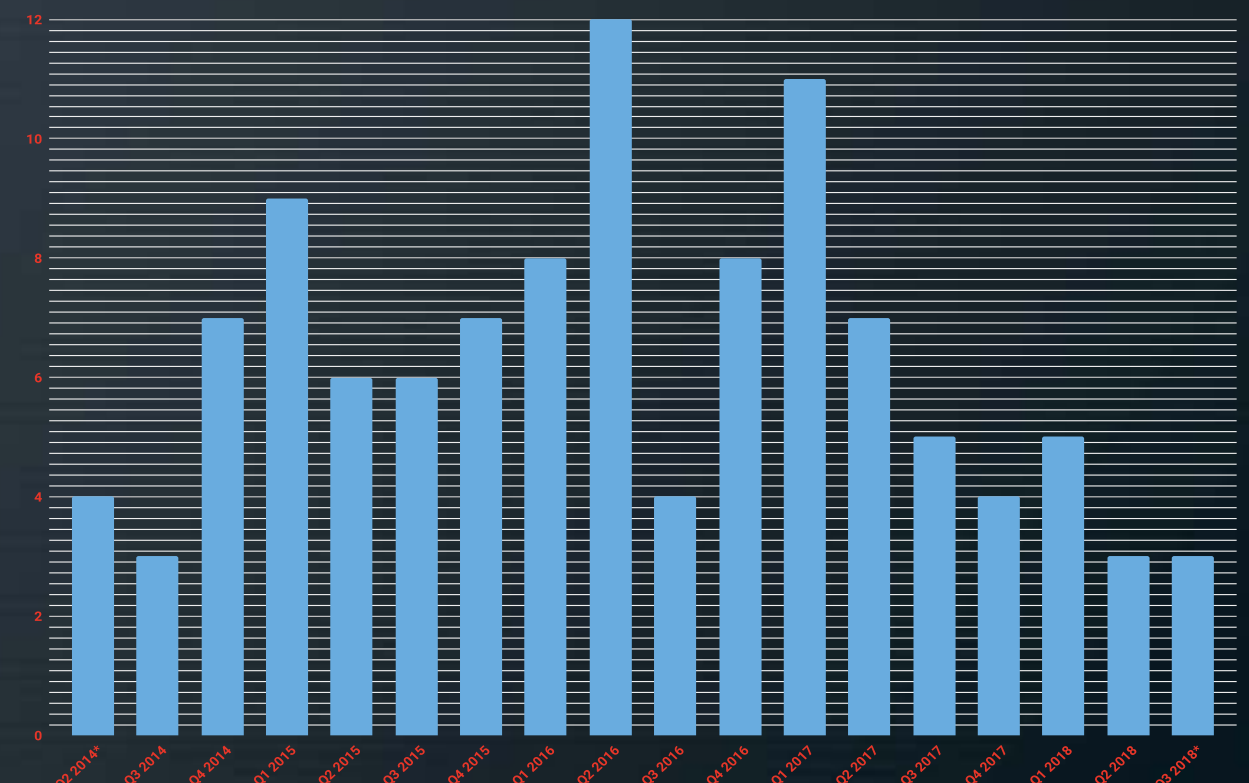
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

112
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Malta

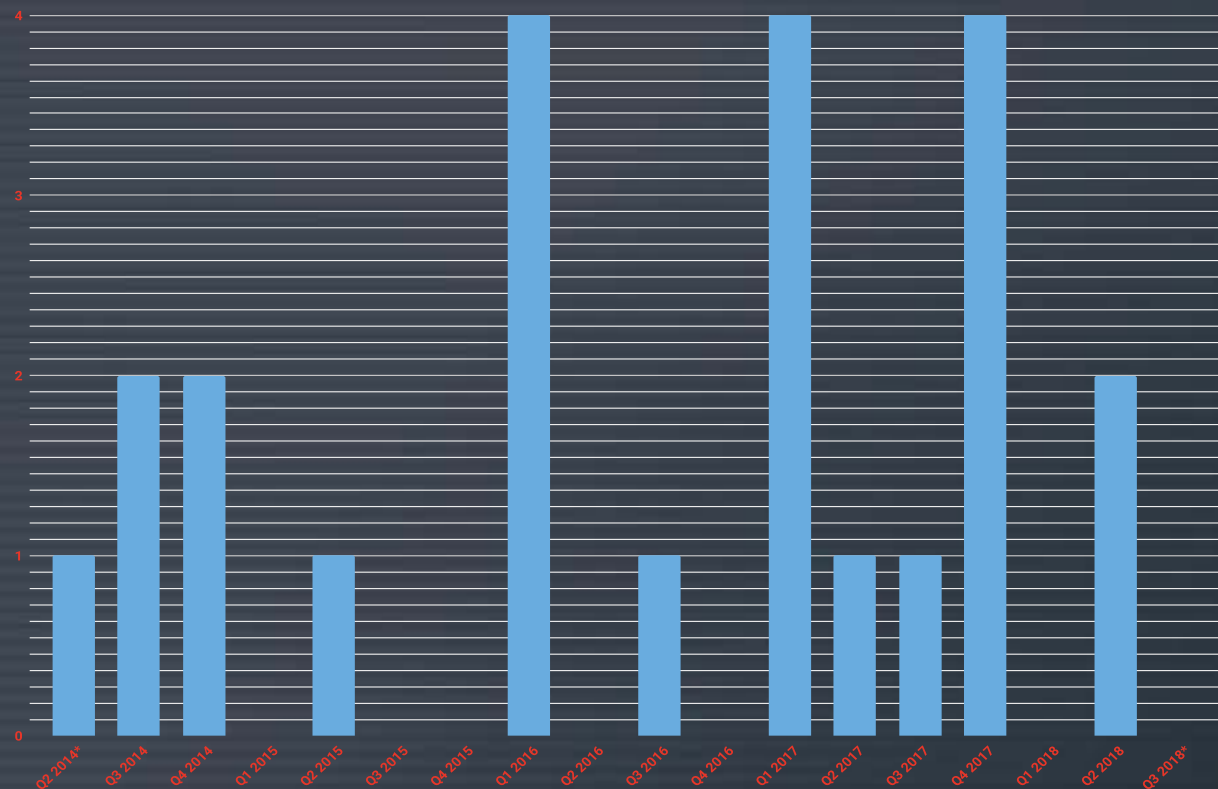
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

23
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Montenegro

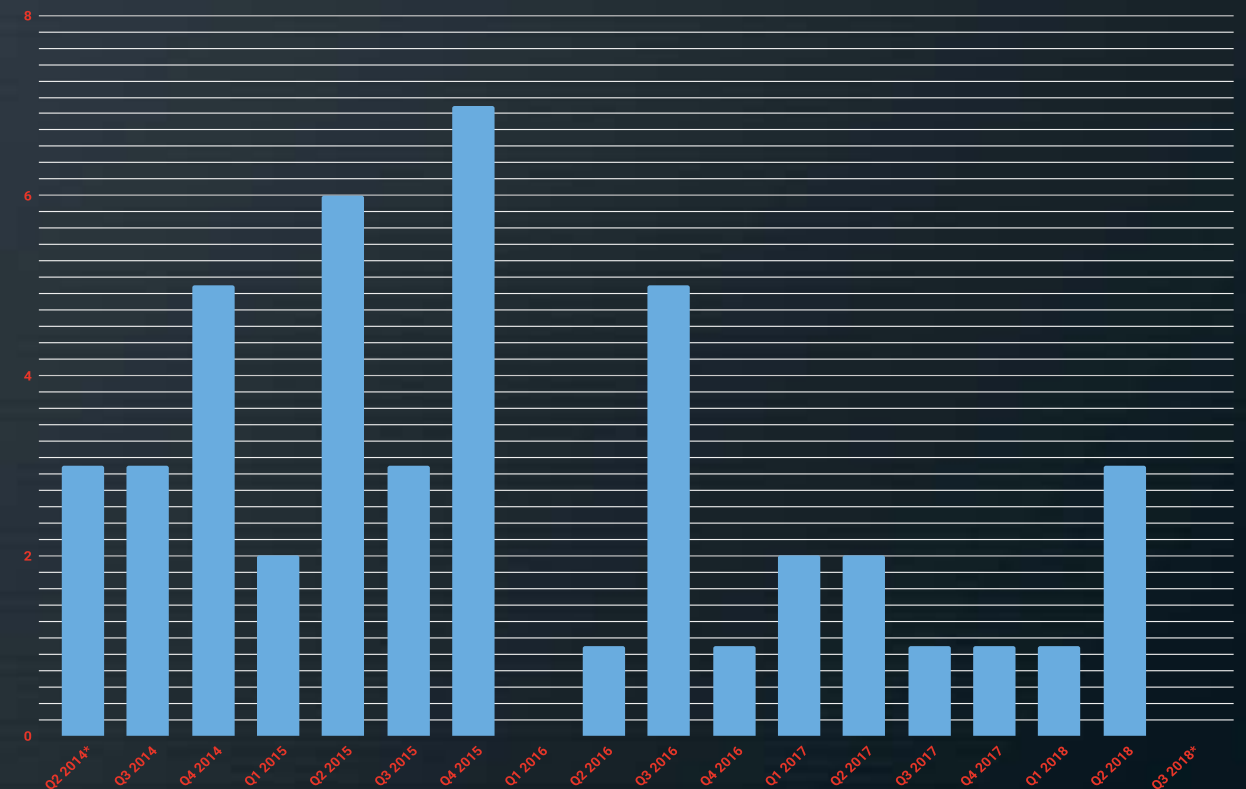
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46
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Netherlands

Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

66
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



DEATHS
1 report



PHYSICAL ASSAULTS
11 reports



ARRESTS & DETENTIONS
7 reports



LEGAL MEASURES
6 reports



INTIMIDATION
18 reports

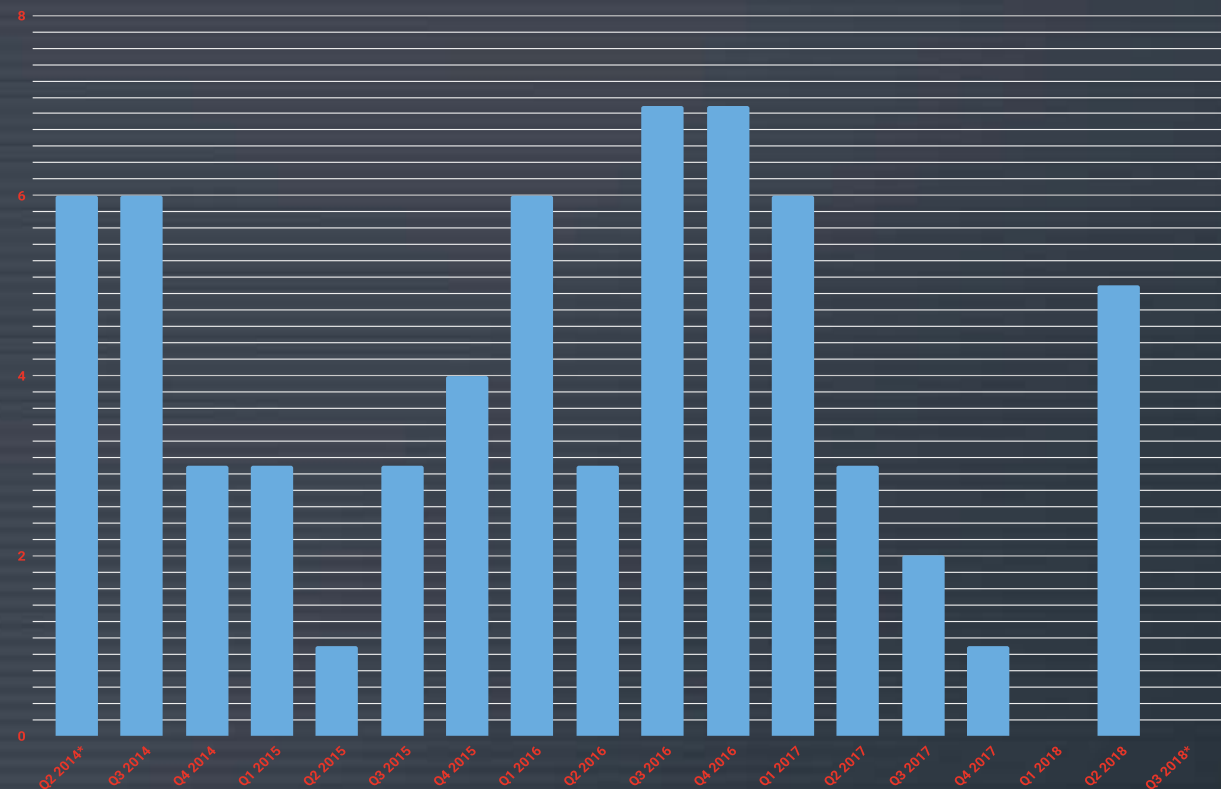


CRIMINAL CHARGES
4 reports



BLOCKED ACCESS
29 reports

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Poland

Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

145
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



DEATHS
1 report



PHYSICAL ASSAULTS
11 reports



ARRESTS & DETENTIONS
3 reports



LEGAL MEASURES
17 reports



INTIMIDATION
17 reports

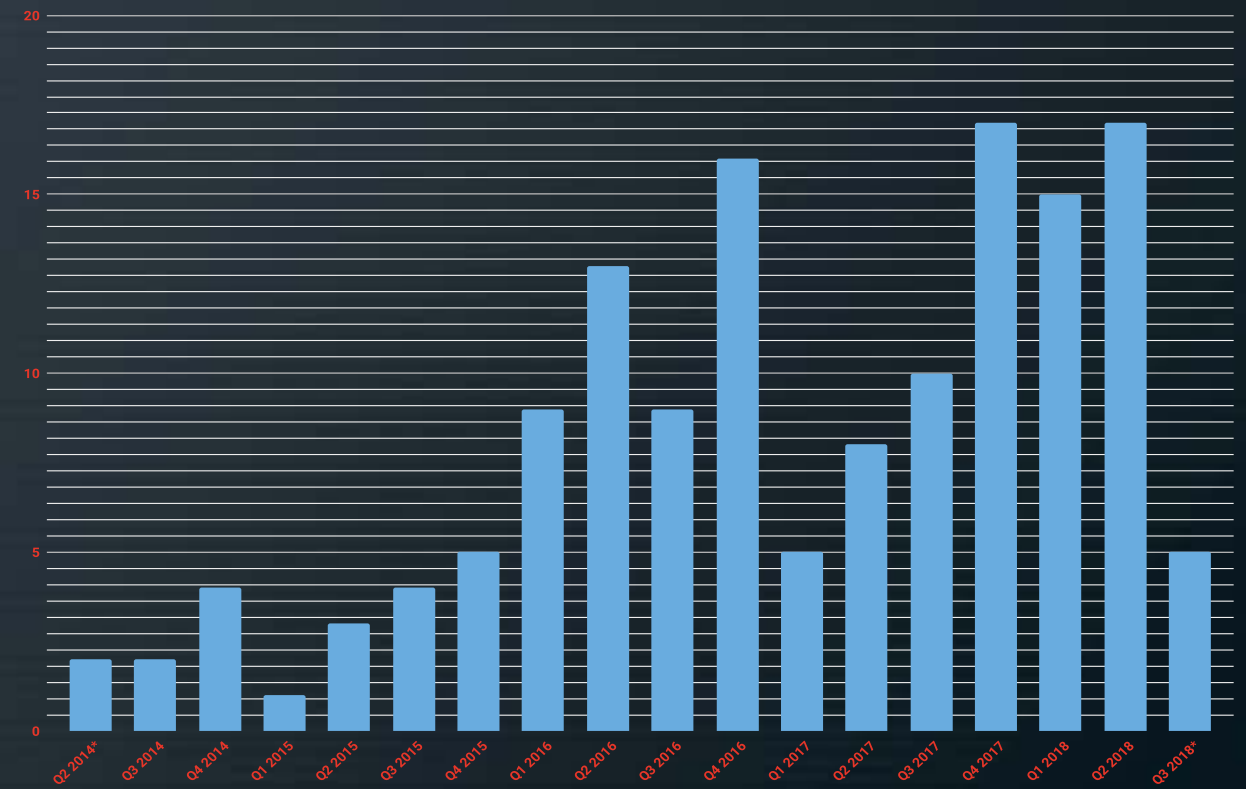


CRIMINAL CHARGES
14 reports



BLOCKED ACCESS
37 reports

INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Portugal

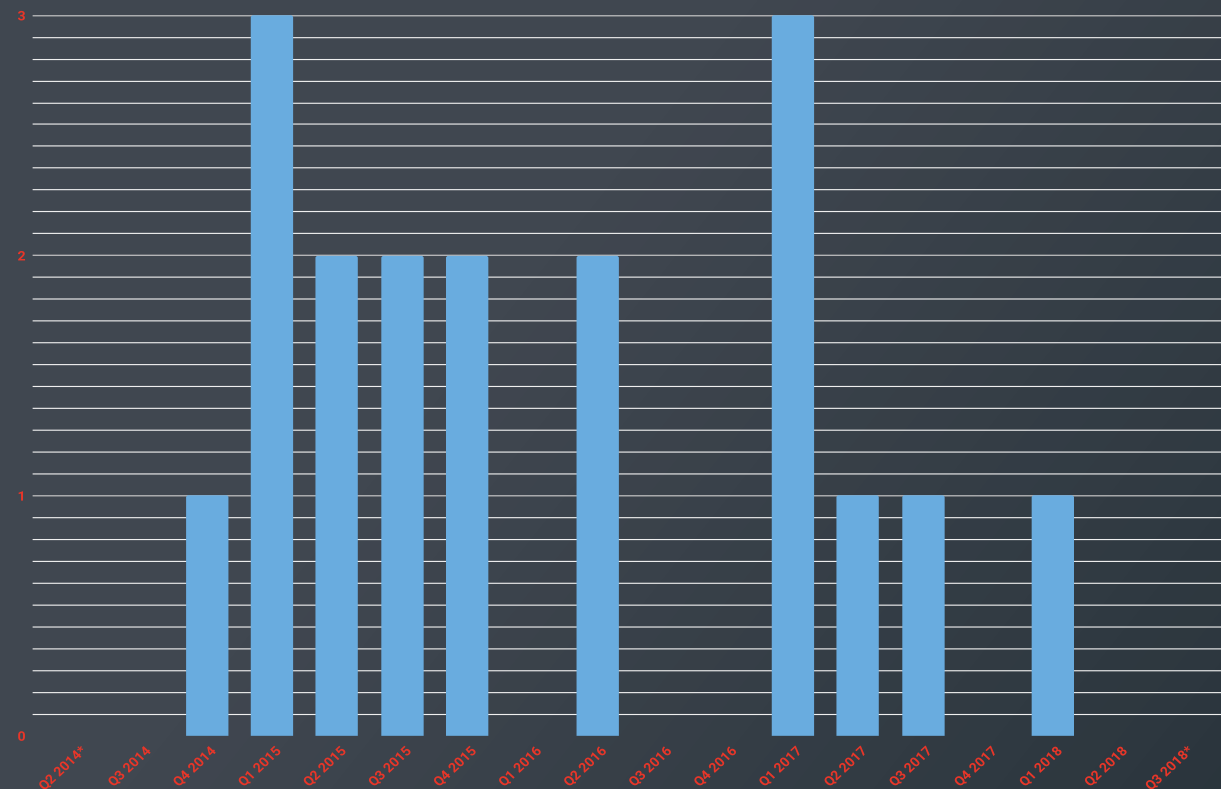
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

18
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Romania

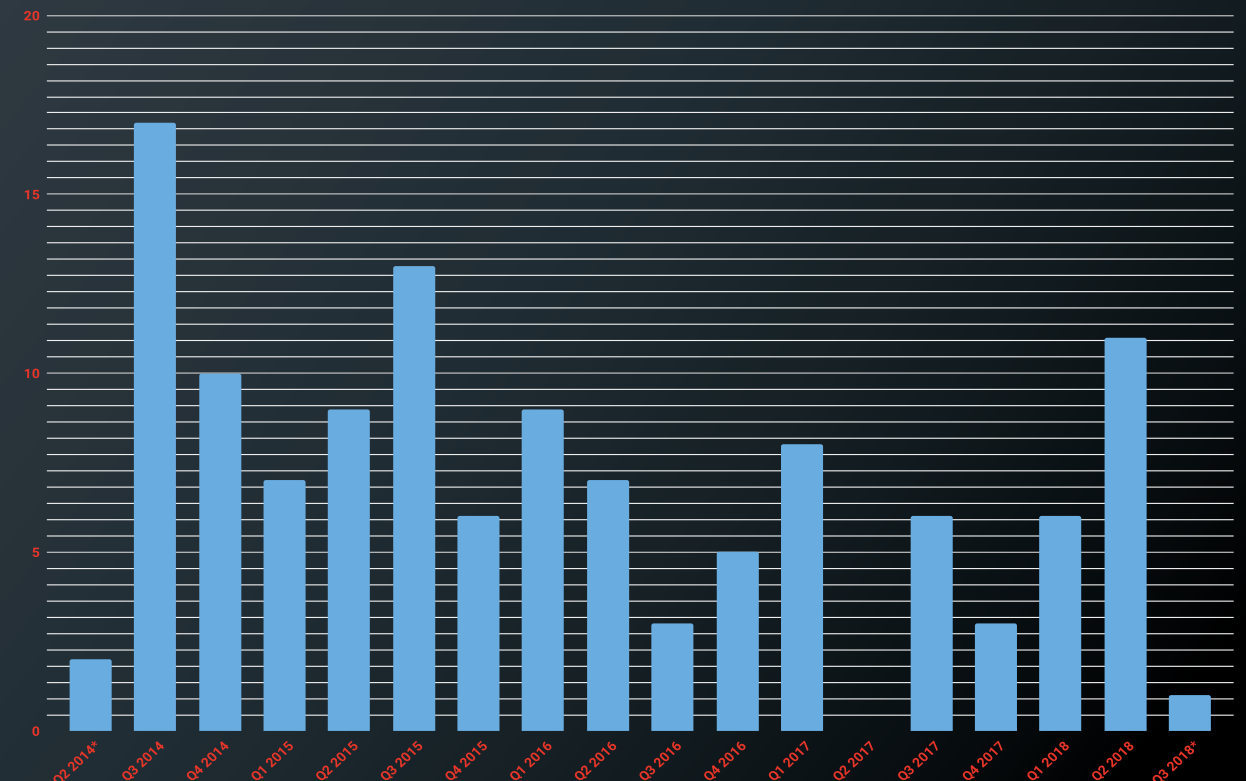
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123
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Serbia

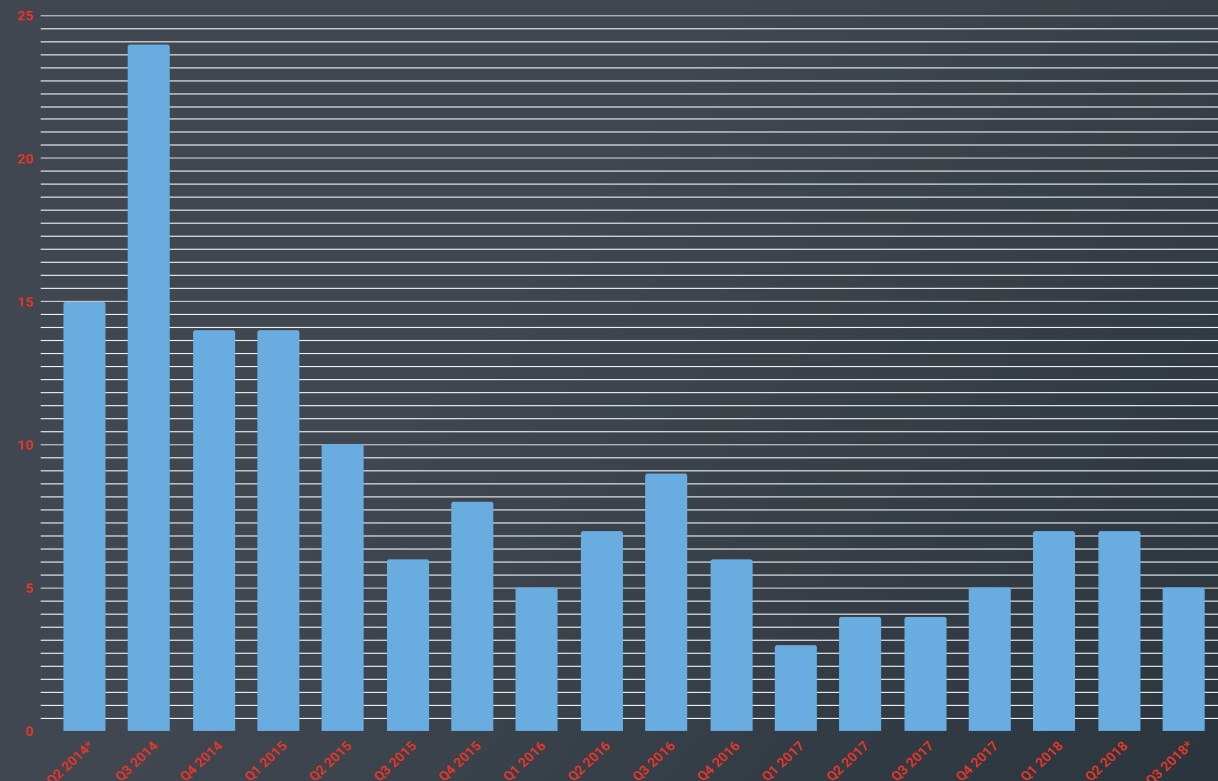
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153
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Slovakia

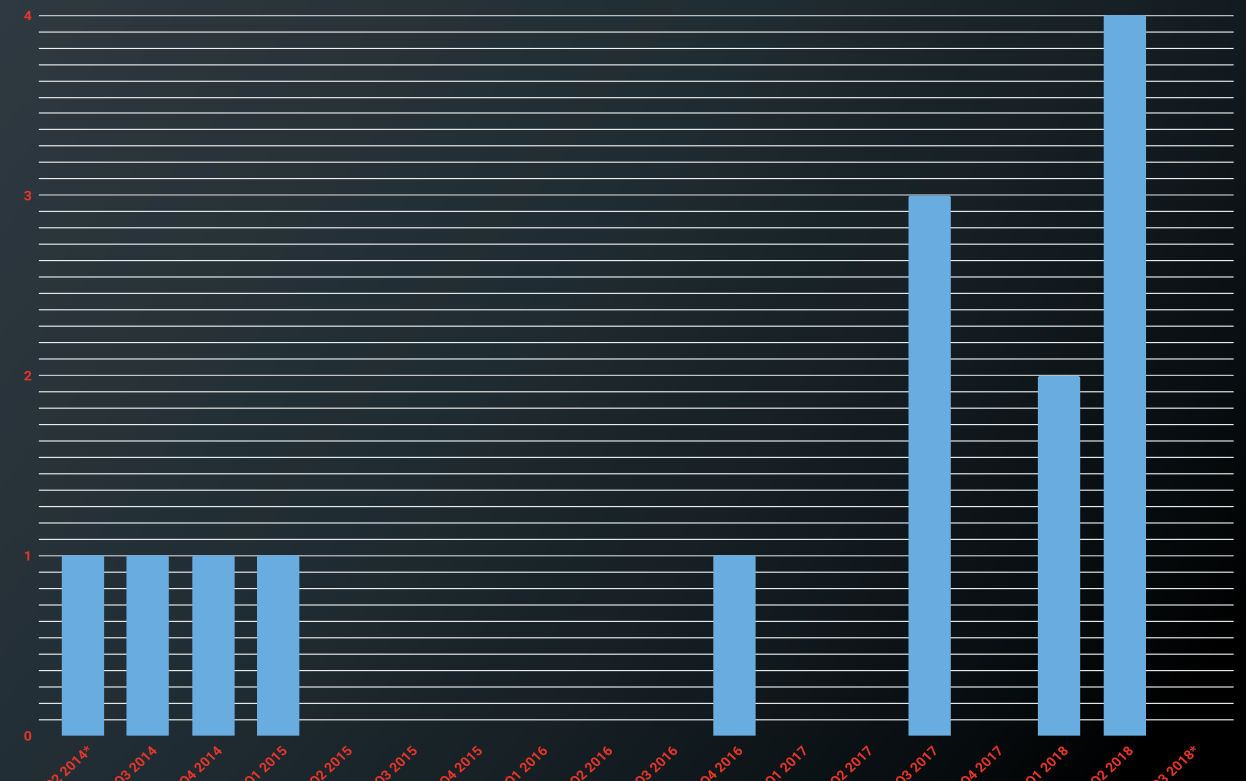
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14
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Slovenia

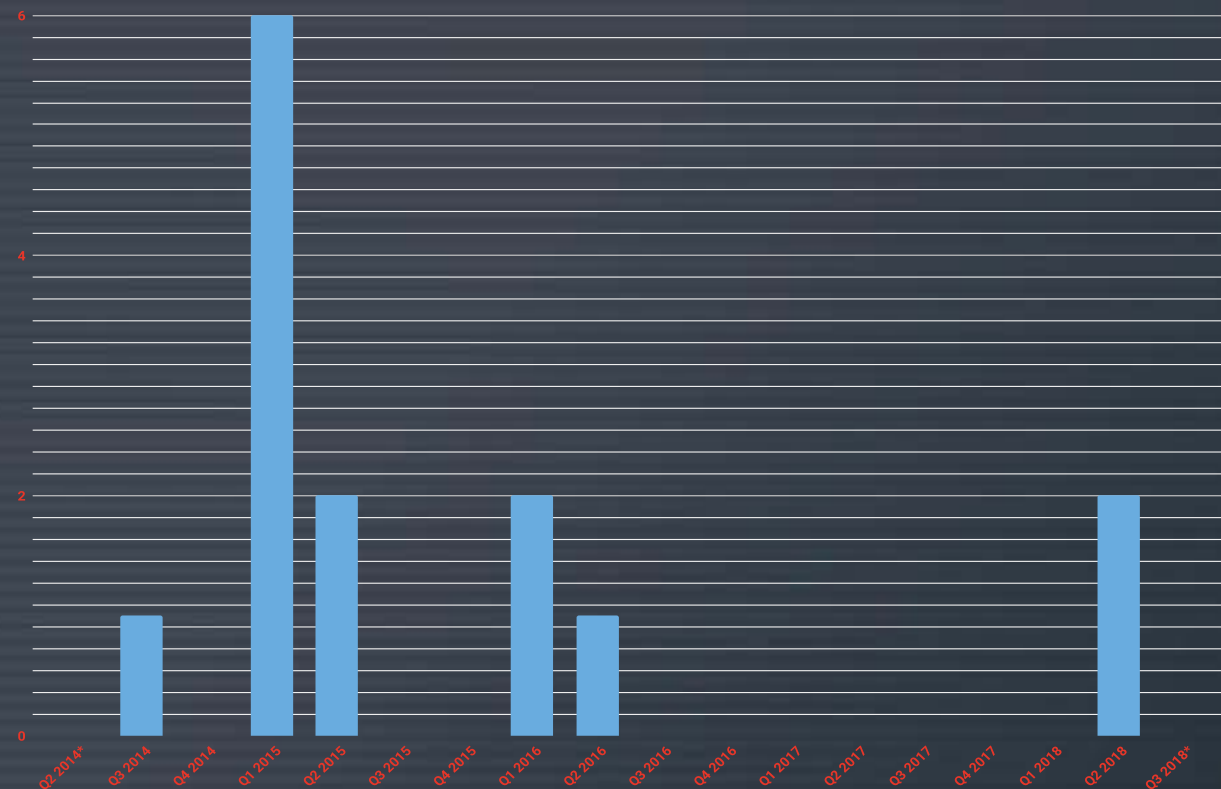
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14
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Spain

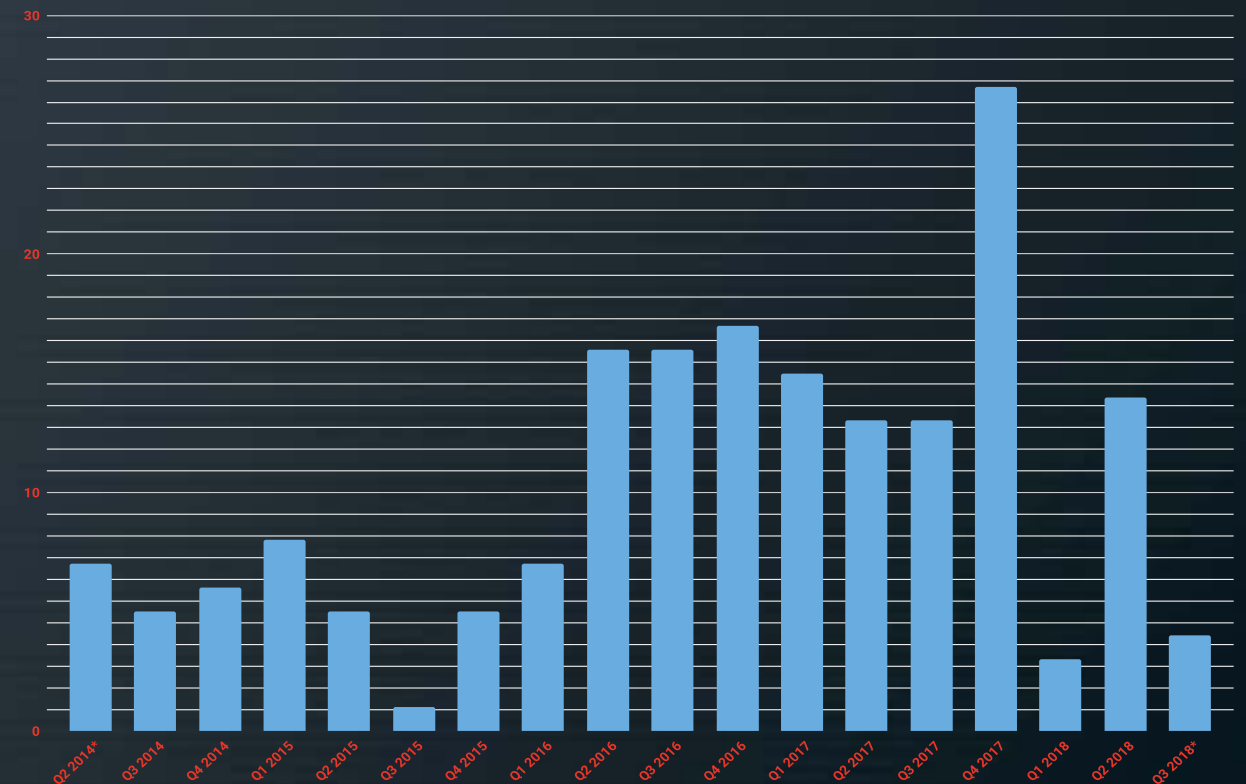
Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

182
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Sweden

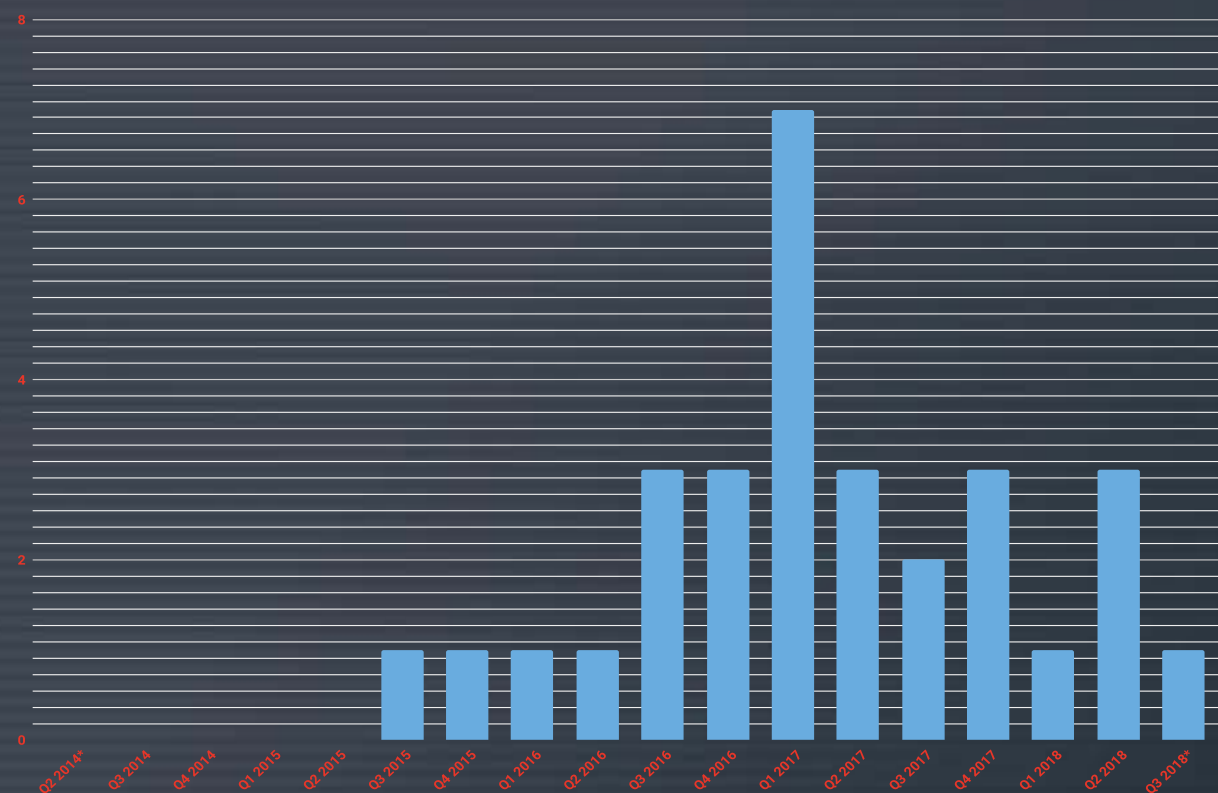
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30
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Turkey

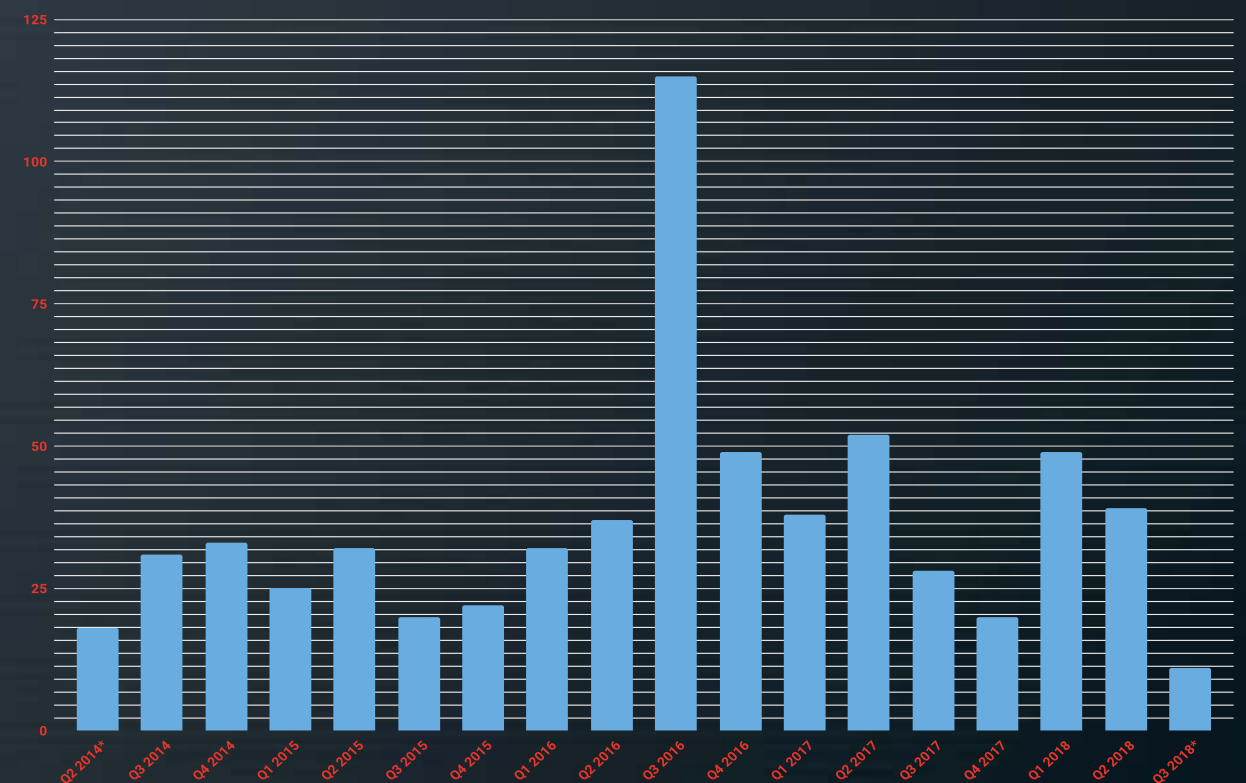
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651
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



INCIDENTS OVER TIME



COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

United Kingdom

Reports submitted to Mapping Media Freedom between 1 May 2014 and 31 July 2018

88
REPORTS

KEY CATEGORIES



DEATHS
0 reports



PHYSICAL ASSAULTS
2 reports



ARRESTS & DETENTIONS
4 reports



LEGAL MEASURES
8 reports



INTIMIDATION
17 reports



CRIMINAL CHARGES
1 report



BLOCKED ACCESS
21 reports

INCIDENTS OVER TIME

