

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA condemns attempted attack on <i>Newsroom405</i> journalist in Inanda: Calls for protection of media freedom</b>
<b>DATE</b>	10 April 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disturbed and outraged by the attempted attack on a *Newsroom405* journalist, who was reporting live from Inanda in KwaZulu-Natal, following the brutal murder of a police officer in the area.

The journalist, accompanied by a camera operator, was forced to abandon the live broadcast and flee the scene owing to threats to their safety. This brazen act is an attack on the journalist and a direct assault on the principles of media freedom and the right to information, which are cornerstones of constitutional democracy. The PSA strongly condemns any form of intimidation, harassment, or violence against members of the media who are fulfilling their professional duty to inform the public. Journalists play a vital role in shining light on the truth and holding those in power accountable. Attempts to silence or intimidate them, especially in communities grappling with violence and instability, undermine democratic institutions and erode public trust.

The PSA urges the South African Police Service and community leaders in Inanda and beyond to work collaboratively in ensuring that journalists can operate without fear of harm or interference. Protecting the safety and rights of media workers must be treated with the utmost urgency. The PSA further urges government authorities to provide immediate protection and support to journalists operating in high-risk environments, particularly those covering crime and corruption. The safety of the media is not negotiable.

The PSA stands in solidarity with *Newsroom405*, the affected journalist, and all members of the media who continue to report from the frontlines with courage.

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