

TrialWatching in May

On World Press Freedom Day, here are some of the trials we are watching this month:

May 4

- Next hearing in the case of Muhammad Asrul, a journalist in Indonesia who faces up to ten years in prison under the country's controversial Electronic Information and Transactions Law for articles reporting on alleged corruption by a local political figure.

May 6

- Verdict expected in the trial of Paul Chouta, a journalist in Cameroon who has already spent nearly two years in detention while his trial on speech-related charges has been inexplicably delayed.

May 10

- Next hearing in the case of Tam Tak-chi, a radio host and opposition leader in Hong Kong facing several charges, including under Hong Kong's colonial-era sedition law for shouting protest chants such as "Liberate Hong Kong" at booths he set up around Hong Kong between March and July 2020.

May 17

- Next hearing in the case of Hopewell Chin'ono, a journalist in Zimbabwe who faces up to ten years in prison for promoting a demonstration against corruption on social media, tweeting for instance that "Zimbabweans have been complaining about the LOOTING of their public funds...@jngarivhume and many others to come have put their hands up & said they will lead anti-looting demo on 31 July. Spread the word RETWEET."

May 18

- Next hearing in the case of Omar Radi, a journalist in Morocco known for his criticism of the authorities and who was previously convicted of insulting the judiciary following a flawed trial. He now faces charges of rape and espionage – charges that were brought against the backdrop of a "number of Moroccan journalists and human rights activists hav[ing] been prosecuted for criticizing the king or exposing corruption."