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**Campaign
for Free
Expression**

**Press Statement
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Former President Zuma's prosecution of Karyn Maughan is an attack on media freedom

There should be no doubt that former President Jacob Zuma's private prosecution of journalist Karyn Maughan is an attempt to stop her doing her work as a reporter and to curb the freedom of the media to report on his many cases.

Zuma served papers today on Maughan and prosecutor Billy Downer for "unauthorised disclosure of information", alleging that the two broke the law when facilitating the publication of court papers, including Zuma's doctor's certificate.

Zuma has a pattern of taking legal action against his media critics in an attempt to stifle scrutiny and criticism and to divert attention from and delay his own prosecution. It should be seen for what it is: an attempt to make it risky for journalists to scrutinise him, and discourage critical journalism.

By all accounts Maughan was doing her job and doing it well. We must defend her rights and that of journalists to cover court cases fully and properly.

Anton Harber
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