

What's *really* going on at Indy?

 By Leigh Andrews

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Passions often run high in newsrooms. But is that what's behind the recent spate of firings, departures and foul moods at Independent Newspapers... or is there more to it?

Just after 11pm on Thursday, 30 October 2014, Raymond Joseph, well-known local journalist, trainer and "fixer of news rooms", tweeted:

“ More blood on the floor at [@CapeTimesSA](#) as news editor quits amidst stories of fear & loathing in the subs & news rooms.- Raymond Joseph (@rayjoe) [October 30, 2014](#) ”

And since then, things have only escalated. Sources at Independent Newspapers or 'Indy' show at least four columnists have been let go in the space of a fortnight, with the latest allegedly not even being allowed a letter of farewell/thanks to readers before being told to pack his things and exit stage right.



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But trouble's been brewing for a while already. Before this we had [Tony Weaver leaving](#), based on disciplinary action for his allegedly problematic questioning of the paper's decision to crop a rather well-known logo out of a photo:

“ [@Toxinews #CapeTimes](#) wants to reserve the right to skew the news to suit their advertisers. <https://t.co/aehQkn827q> [pic.twitter.com/c0UA0fjdcf](https://t.co/c0UA0fjdcf) Marius Avenant (@avenant_m) [October 31, 2014](#) ”

Since then it's just been constant less-than-flattering comments online, with the [The Daily \(Soft\) Survé](#) tumblr proving particularly scathing. Of course, speculation's long been rife that it's Gasant Abader leading the reaming at Indy as he's believed by some to be too close to Survé, with opinion of their relationship being none-too-high...

“ If you've ever had doubts about exactly how far up Iqbal Surve's ass Gasant Abader is, read this: <http://t.co/KCAMGldVSM> via [@brankobrkic](#)- Ami Kapilevich (@biobot) [January 31, 2014](#) ”

And let's not forget [Grub Street's report](#) that "Fear, uncertainty and paranoia have pervaded the company this year as about 30 sub-editors of about 100 were retrenched," with our own overview of a [pocket of other resignations](#) at the start of the year.

We eagerly await the full story. Whoever's next on the chopping block, we wonder... They'll join an ever-growing list, fallout

from what *Business Day* termed '[the purge' at Independent Media](#) earlier this year.

ABOUT LEIGH ANDREWS

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