STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on recent deaths of journalists and a civic activist in eastern Ukraine

"We are deeply concerned by the continuing violence affecting eastern Ukraine as a result of the activities of illegal armed groups, as well as the impact of the escalation of this violence on the freedom of media and freedom of expression. The recent deaths of Russian journalists Igor Kornelyuk and Anton Voloshin is one example of the deteriorating situation. Another example is the death of civic activist Oleksandr Reshetnyak, who died from the consequences of torture after having been kidnapped. We express our sincere condolences to their families. We call on the authorities to conduct an independent investigation into these cases as well as into all other recently reported cases of violations of journalists' rights."

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