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NEWS STORIES

No impunity for crimes against journalists



On the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the EU speaks out for freedom of speech and calls for international obligations to protect journalists and investigate abuses to be upheld by State authorities, within and outside the EU.

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, on 2 November, remembers those who were silenced for exercising their freedom of expression, like Daphne Caruana Galizia, Maltese investigative journalist, and the Swedish free-lance journalist and former trainee at one of the EU Delegations, Kim Wall.

And the [list of journalists killed within and outside the EU in 2017](#) is much much longer. Over the past decade, more than 800 journalists around the world have been killed for bringing news and information to the public. But only one in ten cases committed against media workers has led to a conviction. Such impunity breeds impunity and feeds into a vicious cycle.

Video of International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

In a [declaration on behalf of the EU](#), High Representative Federica Mogherini said 'We condemn killings, acts of violence, intimidation and harassment against journalists and other media actors in the strongest possible terms. We expect State authorities to uphold their international obligations by protecting journalists against intimidation, threats and violence, irrespective of their source, whether governmental, judicial, religious, economic or criminal. Any alleged unlawful killing, ill-treatment, threat or attack against journalists, whether by State or non-State actors, should be promptly investigated in an effective and independent manner, with a view to prosecuting the perpetrators of such crimes and bringing them to justice. Any impunity for these crimes is a blow to democracy and to the fundamental rights such as freedom of expression.'

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 2 November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' in General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/68/163](#). This landmark resolution condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers. It also urges member countries to do their utmost to prevent such violence and to ensure accountability, bring to justice perpetrators of crimes against journalists and media workers, and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies. It further calls upon States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference.

The European Union supports the UN resolution and other international commitments in taking active steps to prevent and respond to violence against journalists and ensure that both state and non-state perpetrators and instigators of such violence are brought to justice.

Mogherini stated on behalf of the EU, that the Union will continue to use all appropriate external policy and financial instruments to enhance the quality of journalism, access to public information and freedom of expression, adding that the EU plays a key role in funding the [European Centre for Press and Media freedom \(ECPMF\)](#) and provides targeted protection through Human Rights Defenders programmes.

See also

Declaration by the HR/VP on behalf of the EU on International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

European Centre for Press and Media freedom (ECPMF)

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists - UN

International Federation of Journalists

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