

# PLATFORM TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISM AND THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS



**PROTECTION OF JOURNALISM  
SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS**

[www.coe.int/fom](http://www.coe.int/fom)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## ALARMING TRENDS

Recent years have seen a *decline in protection* for journalists in Europe, with media actors operating in increasingly difficult environments for their safety and for media freedom.

The last annual of report of the Secretary General shows that 28 member states of the Council of Europe do not sufficiently protect journalists from violence and attacks. Pressure on *journalistic sources* is a rising issue. Media *independence and pluralism* is constantly challenged, and *working conditions* of journalists are increasingly precarious, with parts of the media industry under significant financial pressure. There is evidence of this increasing the level of self-censorship and having a chilling effect on media freedom.

36 member states still consider some form of *defamation* a criminal offence and in 29 countries it can be sanctioned by imprisonment. Most member states are facing a decline in editorial independence, and several countries are experiencing *interference* with media regulators and the governing bodies of the public broadcasters. The majority of the member states lacks specific comprehensive laws regulating filtering of Internet content, which leads to *administrative or arbitrary blocking* and filtering of Internet websites.

In 2017, the Council of Europe published the study *Journalists Under Pressure – Unwarranted interference, fear and self-censorship in Europe*, based on a survey conducted anonymously among a sample of 940 journalists from the 47 member states and Belarus. Its findings are alarming. Among the journalists interviewed:

**69%** suffered *psychological violence*

**53%** reported *cyberbullying*

**31%** reported *physical assault*

**23%** experienced *arrest, investigation or prosecution*

**13%** suffered *sexual harassment*



**35%** does not believe they have mechanisms at their disposal for reporting such unwanted interference



## THE PLATFORM

■ The Platform is a mechanism for reporting serious concerns about media freedom and safety of journalists in Council of Europe member states.

CURRENTLY **128** journalists in detention **11** cases of impunity for murder

### FIGURES SINCE APRIL 2015

**330**

alerts in 36 countries

**138**

alerts where a member  
State replied

**20**

journalists killed

[YEARLY FIGURES](#)

[VIEW ALL CHARTS](#)

*Figures as of September 2017*

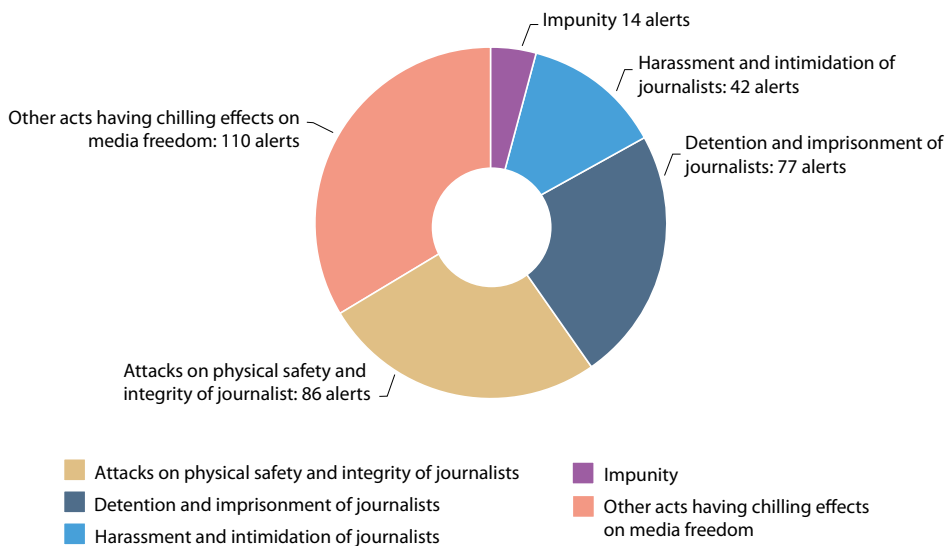
■ By collecting and disseminating information about ongoing threats to freedom of the press and the security of media workers, the Platform aims at improving the protection of journalists and fostering early warning mechanisms and response capacity within the Council of Europe.

■ Alerts are submitted to the Platform by partner organisations who provide verified factual information.

■ Alerts are classified according to the level of seriousness – level one or level two – and to the type of the threat: attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists, detention and imprisonment, harassment and intimidation, impunity, and other acts having chilling effects on media freedom.

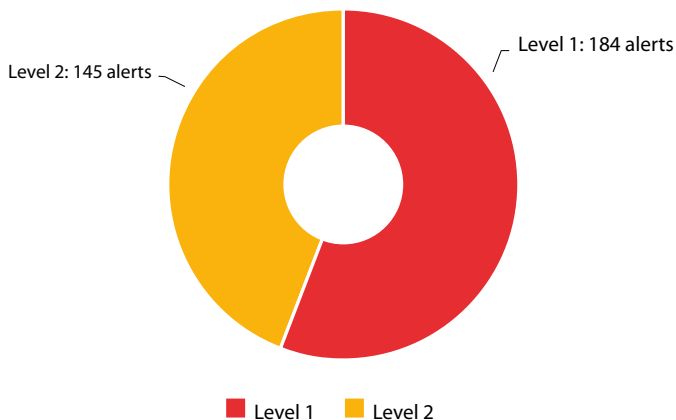
## Alerts distributed by category

(All charts are based on figures registered since April 2015)



## Alerts distributed by levels of alert

(All charts are based on figures registered since April 2015)



*Figures as of September 2017*

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO



## MORE INFORMATION

### Website

[www.coe.int/fom](http://www.coe.int/fom)

### Facebook

CoE Media Freedom

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[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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