

# PROTECTION OF JOURNALISM SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS



## ” In Brief

The Platform collects and disseminates alerts related to media freedom threats as well as the actions taken by the member States and the Council of Europe in response to these alerts.”

Platform for  
the Protection of  
Journalism and the  
Safety of Journalists

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

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## Context: Deteriorating media conditions in Council of Europe member States

Available data show that conditions for free media are worsening across the European continent. In his 2015 Annual Report on 'The State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law', Secretary General of the Council of Europe has identified protection of media freedom as one of the priority areas for the Organisation's work.

The safety of journalists from violence and threats is not satisfactorily guaranteed in almost half of CoE member States. Media pluralism and diversity of media content are not ensured in a satisfactory manner in the majority of member States. In light of the terror threats, protection of freedom of expression online has become an extremely important area of state activity. Governments interfere with online content and block media-related websites.

Lack of proper implementation of existing legal frameworks, increased surveillance on journalists and mounting pressure to reveal confidential sources as well as violence against journalists, lax or non-existent prosecution of perpetrators and widespread politically motivated imprisonments are recurring features.

Declining trends in respect of an enabling legal environment for freedom of expression relate to the application of criminal, anti-terror or defamation laws which is conducive to arbitrary action, discriminatory interpretation and unjustified restriction on the right to freedom of expression.

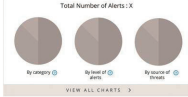
Finally, the report observes that media independence is also vulnerable due to problems such as lack of funding for public broadcasting, interference with editorial independence by media owners and politicians, the politicisation of broadcasting regulatory bodies and government-dominated public broadcasters.



OSCE Representative releases recommendations from June conference on journalists' safety, now endorsed by Russia and Ukraine media unions at Vienna roundtable  
VIENNA, 22 JULY 2015

**IN 2015**

- 26 alerts in 7 countries, 52 of which
- 17 alerts received a reply by member States
- 155 level 1 alerts
- 24 requests for visas against journalists
- 3 journalists killed



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**FOLLOW-UP TO ALERTS**

- 12 JULY 2015: Reply by Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur... [Read more]
- 12 JULY 2015: Reply by Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur... [Read more]
- 12 JULY 2015: Reply by Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur... [Read more]
- 12 JULY 2015: Reply by Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur... [Read more]

The latest alerts to media freedom

Alert search interface with filters for Date of entry, Country, Category, Source of threats, Submitted by, and Alert level.

DATE OF ENTRY	COUNTRY	CATEGORY	SOURCE OF THREATS	SUBMITTED BY	ALERT LEVEL
01 Jan 1970	Albania	1. Attacks on physical integrity of journalists	Non-state	IPJ/1, RSF	Level 1

Multiple identical alert entries are shown as a placeholder for the main content.

**TWEETS FEED**

Tweets section with a search filter and a list of tweets related to media freedom and journalist safety.

**RELATED**

- Article 10 of ECHR
- Committee of Ministers
- Parliamentary Assembly
- European Court of Human Rights Case-Law
- Commissioner for Human Rights
- Council of Europe Publications
- OSCE Freedom of Media Representative

SEE ALL RESOURCES

**PARTNERS**

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS, CPJ, European Pressphoto Agency, ICFJ, ECHR, OSCE, etc.

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# The Platform

The Platform is a public space facilitating collection and dissemination of information on serious concerns about media freedom and safety of journalists in Council of Europe member States, as guaranteed by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Its objective is to improve the protection of journalists, better address threats and violence against media professionals and foster early warning mechanisms and response capacity within the Council of Europe.

The Platform enables the Council of Europe bodies to be alerted on time, in a more systematic way and to take timely and coordinated action when necessary. It helps the Organisation to identify trends and propose adequate policy responses to media freedom threats.

## How does it work

■ The Platform is a tool for enhancing response capacity by the Council of Europe bodies and for improving co-ordination with other international Organisations in the area of freedom of expression.

■ The Platform allows the contributing partners to post alerts on media threats, subject to their own verification processes and standards. Each partner is responsible for information which it posts.

■ When submitting an alert to the Platform, the partner organisation decides whether, from its point of view, the information provided fulfils the following criteria:

- ▶ is it a serious concern with regard to media freedom?
- ▶ does the alleged threat or violation concern one of the 47 Council of Europe member States?
- ▶ is the information reliable and based on facts?

■ The Council of Europe and the member State which is referred to in an alert may also post reports on action taken by their respective organs and institutions in response to that alert.



## Partners

■ The Platform was set up in co-operation with prominent European associations of journalists and international NGOs active in the field of the freedom of expression. The partners are responsible for providing verified information on serious concerns with regard to the media freedom and safety of journalists.

## List of partners



### EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS

The European Federation of Journalists is the largest organisation of journalists in Europe, representing over 320.000 journalists across 39 countries. The EFJ was created in 1994 within the framework of the IFJ Constitution to represent the interests and defend social and professional rights of journalists working in all sectors of the media across Europe.

<http://europeanjournalists.org>



### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS

IFJ is the world's largest organisation of journalists, established in 1926 and which counts today around 600.000 members in more than 100 countries. The IFJ promotes international action to defend press freedom and social justice through strong, free and independent trade unions of journalists.

<http://www.ifj.org>



### ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS

The Association of European Journalists was set up in 1962 to promote critical journalism in the European integration process and to defend the freedom of information and freedom of the press in Europe. Through its activities, the AEJ contributes to advance the ethical and material status of journalist profession, to deepen the understanding of European affairs and to inform public opinion about the work of European institutions.

<http://www.aej.org>



### ARTICLE 19

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Article 19 is a human rights organisation founded in 1987, which defends and promotes freedom of expression and freedom of information worldwide. It monitors threats to free expression, lobbies governments to adopt laws in conformity with international standards of freedom of expression and drafts legal standards that strengthen media, public broadcasting, free expression and access to government-held information.

<http://www.article19.org>



### REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Reporters without borders (RSF) is an international non-governmental organisation established in 1985 to promote and defend freedom of information and freedom of the press. Through its world-wide network of around 150 correspondents, RSF gathers information and conducts investigations of press freedom violations and works with governments to fight against censorship. RSF also provides material, financial and psychological assistance to journalists assigned to dangerous areas or prosecuted.

<http://en.rsf.org>



### THE COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

The Committee to Protect Journalists was founded in 1981 by a group of U.S. correspondents driven by the idea that journalists around the world should come together to defend the rights of colleagues working in repressive and dangerous environments. CPJ promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. Its work provides a global snapshot of obstructions to a free press worldwide. The combination of daily reporting and statistical data forms the basis of CPJ's case-driven and long-term advocacy.

<https://cpj.org>



### INDEX ON CENSORSHIP

Index on Censorship was founded in 1972 to publish the untold stories of dissidents behind the Iron Curtain. It is an international organisation that promotes and defends the right to freedom of expression. To do so, Index uses a unique combination of journalism, campaigning and advocacy. It reports and monitors from around the world to expose and raise awareness of attacks on free speech, with the promotion of events and debate on complex and controversial issues, and direct advocacy and campaigning to drive real change in laws and policies.

<https://www.indexoncensorship.org>

Visit the Platform website:  
**[www.coe.int/fom](http://www.coe.int/fom)**

### **Contacts**

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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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