



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 5 November 2015

Mr Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Switzerland and Norway.

Mr Chairman,

Monday 2 November was the second International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, as a follow up to the UN General Assembly resolution adopted in 2013.

The resolution by the Human Rights Council of September last year on Safety of Journalists also sends an unequivocal message to states that there is no excuse for allowing attacks and murders of journalists and media workers to go unpunished. It calls upon States to develop and implement strategies for combating impunity for attacks and violence against journalists and identifies good practices in this regard.

Mr Chairman,

Regrettably, we still see journalists killed, attacked, intimidated and harassed in the OSCE region. Globally, over the past decade, more than 700 journalists have been killed for bringing news and information to the public. Only one in ten cases of crimes committed against media workers has resulted in a conviction.

Mr Chairman,

Freedom of opinion and expression, and media freedom, including safety of journalists, is at the heart of OSCE's comprehensive security concept.

Journalists are the voices that keep us informed, the men and women who engage in investigative journalism to uncover the truth and often the ones who expose corruption and abuse of power.

Attacks on journalists are attacks on freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

The protection of journalists is therefore a cornerstone of any democracy.

Mr Chairman,

Participating States must take steps to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists and other media actors to perform their work independently and without undue interference, free from fear of violence and persecution.

We must all abide by our international obligations to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all alleged violence and to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice. We must further ensure that the victims and their families have access to appropriate remedies.

Mr Chairman,

We reiterate our support for the Chairmanship's intention to negotiate a decision for Belgrade on Enhancing the Safety of Journalists.

Thank you, Mr Chairman