

Memorandum of representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian media organizations on the situation in and around Ukraine

Having met on 19 May 2014 at the Office of the OSCE Representative in Vienna, the undersigned representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian media organizations have adopted the following Memorandum:

1. Russian and Ukrainian journalists agree to mutual co-operation and solidarity when it comes to the issues of the safety of journalists, access to information and adhering to professional standards. Their national organizations are members of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and they keep close contacts with other international professional and non-governmental organizations. We support the statement made after the meeting of the IFJ, the EFJ, and Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, the National Union of the Journalists of Ukraine, and the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ) on 17 March 2014 in Brussels.
2. We reiterate that the safety of journalists shall remain high on our agenda. We consider unacceptable any acts of violence against journalists who carry out their professional duties, their detention by state services as well as by non-professional organizations, regardless of the position taken by the media they represent.
3. We call on the border authorities to distinguish between journalists and other travelers, thus taking into account the existing commitments to ease procedures for arranging travel by foreign journalists in the country where they are exercising their profession.
4. We express readiness to distribute protective equipment and insignia among those reporting on the ground that make the journalists' work environment safer. In this sense they make no difference between our members, other journalists and other members of the media.
5. We call on the governments to stop manipulating the media, and stop information and psychological wars against each other. Journalists can and should contribute to a de-escalation of the current conflict; they should not fire up stereotypes and prejudices.
6. We believe that media plurality and free media is an antidote to propaganda. In this sense we see no need to introduce new restrictions; existing laws can deal with dangerous cases of propaganda, extremist and hate speech.
7. We will make efforts to put the unprofessional activities of our colleagues under the scrutiny of self-regulatory bodies. We also will continue to promote professional standards, the high values and traditional mission of the craft.
8. We call the authorities to invest in media literacy for citizens to make informed choices. We consider that journalism schools should make efforts to discuss with the students the current practices of journalists covering conflict situations.
9. We support an effective transformation of state media into public. We support the view that broadcasters funded by the citizens must serve the public and not the political leadership.

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Secretary of Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ)

Yosyp Burcho,
Chairman of the Audit/Control Committee of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU),
editor-in-chief of newspaper "Press-Kurier", Odessa

Diana Dutsyk,
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Pavel Gutiontov,
Secretary of RUJ, head of RUJ Committee on protection of freedom of speech

Yuri Lukyanov, Chairman of the Independent Media Union

Timur Shafir,
Secretary of RUJ, Director of the Moscow Center for Journalists Solidarity

Serhiy Shturkhetsky, Member of the Ukrainian Independent Media Union Committee, member of
the
Committee on journalistic ethics, professor of journalism

Irina Tsvetkova,
Secretary of RUJ, Head of Regional Development Department

Sergey Tomilenko, Acting Chairman of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine

Givi Tsatsua,
Head of RUJ legal services