



IMPUNITY FOR MURDERS OF JOURNALISTS: A CHALLENGE TO FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

*Event organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,
in cooperation with the Media Governance and Industries Research Lab
at the Department of Communication of the University of Vienna*

11 December 2017 – Vienna Hofburg Congress Center, Neuer Saal (2nd floor)

ANNOTATED AGENDA

In 1994, in Budapest, the OSCE participating States condemned all attacks on and harassment of journalists and decided to endeavour to hold those directly responsible for such attacks accountable. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) Harlem Désir considers his first priority the safety and protection of journalists, and the fight to end impunity for crimes committed against them. This year several journalists have lost their lives because of their work, most recently, Daphne Caruana Galizia in Malta who was killed because she was an independent and free journalist.

Human rights NGOs have been sounding the alarm for years and in 2016 the number of threats against individual journalists and media outlets, reached a record high. The OSCE RFoM has seen a sharp increase in cases of intimidation and harassment of female journalists. Clearly, there is a lack of progress in the fight against impunity. In over 90% of cases of violence against journalists in the OSCE region, the perpetrators and masterminds have yet to be brought to justice.

The safety of journalists worldwide has increasingly attracted the attention of policy-makers, professional and academic communities in recent years. A number of major international and national organisations dedicate considerable amount of time and effort to observe the state of journalists' safety around the world, in particular, through monitoring the murders of journalists. Empirical evidence of the current environment and working conditions for journalists who provide information to the public and ultimately support democratic processes is as important for policy-makers as for advocacy groups for the protection of journalists. A recent study by the University of Vienna ([Killings of Journalists Worldwide: The Full Costs of a Free Press](#)) compared and analysed available databases on killings of journalists and concluded that, although monitoring by multiple actors is important in terms of crosschecking, and plurality of sources, as well as in terms of providing visibility to the issue of safety, methodological discrepancies and difficulties emerge when attempting to gain a full picture of the situation.

The round table portion of this meeting will bring together experts from the Council of Europe, UNESCO, Reporters without Borders, the International Federation of Journalists, the European Federation of Journalists, the Association of European Journalists, Article 19, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Index on Censorship and other organizations. They will discuss practical, methodological and ethical dilemmas in the process of collecting information and monitoring the deaths of journalists. The issue of developing robust methodologies and global collaborative synergies to compile the most accurate and comprehensive data is the core theme of this round table, which will explore the ways in which improvements and amendments to current practices might benefit the ability of the OSCE and international community at large to enhance journalists' safety.

9:30 – 10:00

REGISTRATION

10:00 – 10:15

OPENING REMARKS

- Ambassador Florian Raunig, Head of the Task Force for the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship 2017
- Harlem Désir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)
- Katharine Sarikakis, Professor of Media Industries, Media Organisation and Media Governance, University of Vienna

10:15 – 10:30

KEYNOTE SPEECH

- Paul Caruana Galizia, son of assassinated Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia

10:30 – 12:00

PANEL DISCUSSION: Freedom of the media and impunity for murders of journalists

Moderator: Andrey Rikhter, Senior Advisor, Office of the RFoM

- Guy Berger, Director, Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO
 - William Horsley, Media Freedom Representative, Association of European Journalists
 - Sergey Tomilenko, Chairman, National Union of Journalists of Ukraine
 - Thomas Hughes, Executive Director, Article 19
 - Anthony Mills, Vienna correspondent of France24, and Member of the Media Governance and Industries Research Lab, University of Vienna
- The Delegations of the OSCE participating States and other participants are invited to make remarks on issues related to the topic of the meeting.*

12:00 – 13:00

LUNCH (Vorsaal, 2nd floor)

13:00 – 15:45

ROUND TABLE: Practical and methodological issues of monitoring killings of journalists

Moderator: Katharine Sarikakis, Professor of Media Industries, Media Organisation and Media Governance, University of Vienna

15:45 – 16:00

CLOSING REMARKS

- Frane Maroevic, Director, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media