

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Media
With a Special Focus on Conflict Situations,
Including Protection of Journalists and Reporting During Armed Conflict

ENGLISH only

27-28 October 2016

Closing Statement, Armenia

Mr. Moderator,

At the outset we would like to thank the OSCE German Chairmanship and the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media for organizing the second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the topic of freedom of expression and freedom of media, focusing on conflict situations.

We agree with the distinguished rapporteur that the safety of journalists should be viewed in a broader context. It is not about one only physical security, but also ensuring human rights of journalists and environment conducive for them to exercise their activities free from harassment, reprisals, imprisonment on politically motivated charges and killing. Impunity of those, who have perpetrated crimes against journalists is a pressing issue.

We were pleased to note that our position on ensuring freedom of expression and of the media as the key condition for countering propaganda of war and hate crimes is widely shared. Our Delegation draw attention to violence against journalists, including their killing in peace times, far from conflict zones, because of their activities running contrary to the official position conflict narrative of the state.

We highlighted a number of restrictive measures by participating States with the aim to prohibit freedom of expression and freedom of media in the conflict areas, such as introducing of black lists, intimidation and criminal charges against journalists.

We took positive note of the initiatives to promote confidence building between journalists from participating States and peoples, engaged in conflicts.

Thank you.