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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1541st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 November 2025

On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

Mr. Chairperson,

On 2 November, we marked the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. Behind the establishment of this commemorative date by a decision of the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 was the initial goal of reminding the international community of the importance of protecting media workers from criminal and terrorist attacks and drawing attention to the fundamental principle of no impunity with regard to atrocities committed against them.

Contrary to the hopes of the architects of this initiative, the situation in this area has steadily deteriorated over the more than ten years since the proclamation of this date. Although the need to ensure safe working conditions for journalists without distinction has been recognized by all States on paper, in practice, many countries of the collective West have normalized the segregation of media representatives into “ours” and “theirs”. They have embarked on a course of relentlessly suppressing any manifestations of dissent, and the global media landscape is becoming dangerously fragmented. The bans and blocks imposed by these countries, along with the other forms of oppression of undesirable, primarily Russian, media outlets have become an artificial barrier for their inhabitants, preventing them from exercising their right to free access to information. Other unscrupulous methods of suppressing alternative points of view have also become widespread in these countries, including segregation and the targeted harassment of ideological opponents, the freezing of their bank accounts, politically motivated criminal prosecution, and even threats of reprisals and physical violence. All these illegal actions are being carried out under the spurious pretext of protecting national security.

At the same time, Western countries not only fail to acknowledge their own gross violations of the fundamental rights of their own citizens, but also vigorously defend their protégés in the form of the Kyiv and Moldovan regimes, which have already moved towards totalitarian political censorship. By taking advantage of their positions in the relevant international structures, Western pseudo-democracies are effectively paralysing their work, thereby preventing them from responding effectively to the various repressive actions against media outlets and their staff. As a result of this policy, the international system for protecting the professional rights of the media community has become dysfunctional, even in cases involving the premeditated murder of, and terrorist attacks against, journalists and war correspondents.

Detailed information on all these atrocities can be found under the heading “Foreign reprisals against Russian journalists and media” on the main page of the Russian Foreign Ministry’s website.

Moreover, the West, which considers itself to be “the chosen one” and above the law, is giving its protégés in Kyiv increasingly free rein by encouraging them to engage in terrorist activities. The impunity for the murder of, and terrorist attacks against, journalists is pushing the Kyiv regime, with the backing of its foreign handlers, to commit more and more bloody crimes. Since the beginning of this year alone, at least six Russian media workers have been killed in targeted attacks by fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces: Alexander Martemyanov, Alexander Fedorchak, Andrey Panov, Anna Prokofieva, Nikita Goldin and Ivan Zuev.

Under international humanitarian law, journalists and media workers are civilians and must be protected at all times, and a deliberate attack on them is a war crime. We believe that the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media should strongly and unambiguously condemn such flagrant acts. These commitments have not been properly fulfilled for many years. This year, incidentally, was no exception either.

The extremist website Myrotvorets is still publicly accessible. It consists of a “hit list” of reporters, public figures, journalists and, in general, anyone whom the Zelenskyy regime has labelled as an ideological opponent. For how long will the local patrons of this regime ignore the very existence of this website while they talk about their commitment to ending impunity for crimes against journalists? These facts have also not received an adequate response from the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Thank you for your attention.