

We **Speak up** to end violence against journalists

On the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for violence against journalists (2 November 2017), we, as media and publishers, journalists and media professionals and other members of the media community feel it is time to raise our voice and start speaking up about the violence against our profession.

Across the globe, journalism has become a very dangerous profession, and it is time for us to use our audiences and platforms to get the world to listen and change the horrible statistics:

- Every five days a journalist is killed.
- Imprisonments of journalists are at a record high.
- Journalists around the world deal with harassment and intimidation on a regular basis.
- Local journalists are most at risk but the violence against them is seldom reported on.

And the list of violent acts against your colleagues because of their reporting continues. This is unacceptable!

Journalism makes a difference! Journalism is a pillar of democracy; it assists in social accountability and stimulates public debate. Journalism provides space for dissenting opinions and is a medicine against censorship. Safety of journalists is a precondition for good journalism that serves the societies and audiences. Without safety for journalists the public would be deprived of reliable information.

The public and the government should protect journalists and media workers. But, in spite of all the international declarations and resolutions about the obligation of states to protect journalists not much has changed in the last decade. The violence against the profession continues.

And on top of that we see a rise in attacks on the media by political leaders who do not respect the critical function of journalism, unless it serves their interests.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

It is time for us to take matters into our own hands. Now more than ever.

We believe solidarity within the media community can prove crucial in fighting the impunity that has prevailed for too long.

This is why we hereby pledge to engage our audiences and ask them to help put pressure on institutions, governments and others that demonize journalists and legitimize harm against them.

We do so by committing to:

- **Speak out on the importance of the protection of our profession;**
- **tell the stories of the violence experienced by our colleagues across the globe;**
- **point out how attacks against journalists affect society at large in our coverage;**
- **highlight governments' obligation to ensure journalists are able to work freely and without fear of repercussion;**
- **and continue to do so when the institutions fail to prosecute the perpetrators of the violence against our colleagues;**
- **cover the causal links between violence against journalists and the impunity behind the great majority of the attacks;**
- **hold governments and institutions accountable, when they fail to prosecute the perpetrators of the violence against our colleagues.**

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