

**Skopje Conclusions**

**Campaigning for Journalists Rights in Eastern Europe:**

**Union Recruitment, Legal protection and Social Rights**

**6-7 October 2014 Skopje, MACEDONIA**

T**he meeting agreed the following Actions**

**Session One: Status of Journalism in Macedonia**

* endorsedthe call for the immediate release of Tomislav Kezarovski
* agreed to pursue the Kezarovski campaign in the run up to his appeal court appearance on 24 October
* gave further support to Zoran Bojinovski, the Macedonian investigative journalist residing in Serbia facing an attempt to extradite him to Macedonia to face espionage charges
* supported the demands drafted by the Trade Union of Macedonian Journalists and Media Workers (SSNM) and the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) for urgent reform of Macedonian media including,
  + the guaranteed independence of public broadcaster and audiovisual regulator;
  + the end to corruption of media through government advertising and public campaign funds;
  + respect of freedom of association, basic labour rights and an end to interference in the work of the association and the trade union;

**Session Two: Unions Organising the Fight Against Insecure Contracts, Poor Salaries and Exploitative Working Conditions**

* Condemned employers who target union members for dismissal
* Supported the efforts to develop new recruitment strategies particularly in the online media
* Congratulated in particular the success of the Journalists Union of Turkey (TGS) public communication and recruitment campaign that has seen three new collective agreements in the past six months
* Supported strengthening the union organizing training programme

**Session 3. Digital Tools for Organising, Recruitment and Safety**

* Agreed the development of digital membership databases for unions
* IFJ to develop the database structure to be rolled out to unions in 2015

**Session 4. National Campaigning Case Studies**

* Endorsed the efforts of all journalists unions to campaign for their members’ rights
* Congratulated NUJU and IMTUU for their response to the Ukraine crisis and their programme of support and safety, and trauma, for journalists reporting the conflict
* Supported the co-operation between the Russian and Ukraine journalist unions in protecting journalists reporting the conflict in Ukraine
* Agreed to campaign for the release of the journalists missing, believed detained in the East of Ukraine
* To increase support for national campaigns from IFJ/EFJ and regionally

**Session 5: Legal instruments to protect Journalists.**

* Condemned the employers who have targeted union leaders for dismissal including Tamara Chausidis, (SSNM), Mustafa Kuleli (TGS) and Marijana Camovic (MTUM)
* Called on IFJ / EFJ to support taking legal cases to the ILO for breach of right to association cases
* To develop best practice use of legal funds to defend journalists in labour cases and in training of journalists on their labour rights
* Agreed to conduct a survey into the extent of the targeting of union members by employers whether leaders or ordinary members, to use as a lobbying tool to raise awareness of the extent of the abuse at the EU.