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**Concern: Call to End Impunity for Killers of Journalists in Kosovo**

ADD DATE

We are writing as members of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world’s largest organisation of journalists representing over 600.000 members in more than 140 countries, to urge your government to address the issue of impunity for killings, kidnappings and violence against journalists in Kosovo.

The IFJ’s principal mandate is to promote and defend the rights of journalists, including the right to life and physical safety. In this regard, it constantly monitors violations of our members’ rights around the world and it publishes an annual report on journalists and media staff who are killed for no other reason than the legitimate practice of their profession.

On the UN’s International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the IFJ and its 187 affiliates are calling for justice as part of the on-going global campaign to ‘End Impunity for violence against journalists’. You can view the campaign here.

Kosovo is one of the countries we are focusing on this year for lack of investigation into attacks on journalists.

Twenty journalists were killed or disappeared in Kosovo between 1998 and 2005. In 19 of these cases, no one was held accountable. Together with our European group, the European Federation of Journalists, we demand an [international commission of experts to investigate the killings and disappearances of journalists](https://europeanjournalists.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Resolutions-and-statements-Zagreb-2021-1.pdf)

In addition to the killings, Kosovo media workers regularly suffer targeted attacks, intimidations, injuries and threats. Many of these violations take place when journalists report in the field. Just recently, on 13 October 2021, several journalists covering riots for different media organisations were attacked by protesters. These types of Intimidations are affecting press freedom and impacting the public's right to know. They must be duly investigated.

The deterioration of press freedom in Kosovo today is a major cause for concern and we wish to press on you the need to promptly act to ensure the safety and security of our colleagues reporting on the ground.

None of the crimes against journalists must go unpunished.

Today, we demand justice and urge your authorities to dispel the impression of indifference in the face of deadly assaults against journalists and unsolved cases of disappearances and murders. There is so much more that can be done with a genuine commitment to fighting impunity. It needs to start with justice, for the victims of violence.

 Yours sincerely,

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