**Ukraine: National Police open hotline for journalists**

To mark the International Day against Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine held several events.

First of all, it should be noted about the [annual public hearings](http://nsju.org/novini/u-naczionalnij-policziyi-vidkryly-garyachu-liniyu-dlya-zvernen-zhurnalistiv-pro-pereshkodzhannya-profesijnij-diyalnosti/) on the safety of journalists, in which the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police of Ukraine took part. The union is organizing such hearings for the fourth year in a row. Last year, they were held in the format of special parliamentary hearings.

This year, due to quarantine restrictions, the hearings were broadcast online. The speakers were in the press center of the Union, as well as journalists of national TV channels. Everyone had the opportunity to watch the broadcast on the NUJU official Facebook page. Journalists had the opportunity to ask questions in advance in a special form or during the broadcast in the comments.

During this event, a public report of law enforcement officers on the current state of proceedings against journalists took place. The hearing was attended by Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Anton Gerashchenko. Last year, he was appointed responsible for dealing with violations of journalists' rights. Reports of 5 heads of different departments of the National Police were also heard. They reported on the current course of investigations into crimes against journalists, statistics, detection rates, etc.

The positive sign is that law enforcement officers are working with the NUJU special monitoring "Index of Physical Safety of Journalists in Ukraine". In the course of their reports, they repeatedly referred to his data. Also, they were reported about the current status of the investigation into the murders of Vadym Komarov and Pavel Sheremet.

The main news of the hearings was information about the launch of a specialized police hotline for journalists (e-mail: dzisd\_media@police.gov.ua ). From now on, journalists from all over Ukraine will be able to promptly report to the special Police Department about the offenses committed against them. This is especially actual for regional journalists. Also, in each region responsible for investigating crimes against journalists will be appointed.

We would also to inform you that on November 3, the name of the winner of the National Prize for the Protection of Freedom of Speech was announced. [This year - Stanislav Aseev](http://nsju.org/novini/stanislav-asyeyev-laureat-naczionalnoyi-premiyi-za-zahyst-svobody-slova-za-2020-rik/), a journalist and writer who was illegally detained by pro-Russian militants in a prison in Donetsk for more than two and a half years. The award ceremony took place at the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine. The [International and European Federations of Journalists](https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2019/10/22/ukraine-journalist-stanislav-aseev-sentenced-to-15-years-and-2-5-years-job-ban/) have repeatedly made statements demanding that Aseeev be released from prison.

**The President of the NUJU Sergiy Tomilenko** said: “*Every 4-5 days in Ukraine there is physical aggression against journalists. Despite the fast response of the National Police, which initiates proceedings for obstruction of journalistic activities, there are no precedents for serious punishment of attackers on journalists. The profession of a journalist in Ukraine is dangerous*”.

**IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger** commented: “*The level of impunity in Ukraine is so high. Democracy requires that those who have committed crimes and intimidation be properly prosecuted. Thanks to global solidarity, together we will be able to reach officials. The safety of journalists is the question number one*”.