



**International  
Federation  
of Journalists**

**JIM BOUMELHA**  
President

**ANTHONY BELLANGER**  
General Secretary

**His Excellency Petro Poroshenko**  
**President of Ukraine**  
Presidential Administration of Ukraine  
11 Bankova Str.  
01220, Kyiv  
Ukraine

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

**16 November 2015**

Excellency,

We are writing on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world's largest organisation of journalists representing over 600.000 members in 134 countries, to urge your government to address the issue of impunity for violence against journalists in Ukraine.

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 has launched its annual campaign to 'End Impunity for violence against journalists', focusing on Mexico, the Philippines, Ukraine and Yemen. The IFJ is mobilising its 180 affiliates worldwide to highlight the impunity in these countries. You can view the campaign here: <http://www.ifj.org/en/pages/end-impunity>

Since the beginning of 2014, eight journalists have died in Ukraine, seven while covering the war from the frontline in the East of the country, and one shot on the streets of Kiev. Many more have been arrested, threatened and attacked.

One of the most shocking stories of impunity of crimes committed against journalists in Ukraine is the one of Georgy Gongadze. Gongadze published critical articles on corruption by the government in the news website *Ukrainska Pravda*. On 16 September 2000, Gongadze's body was left beheaded in the forest outside Kiev. We are very concerned that while the people who directly committed the crime are now behind bars, fifteen years after, those who ordered his murder remain free.

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**International Federation of Journalists, International Press Centre**

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While the murder of Georgy Gongadze has become emblematic of the culture of impunity in Ukraine, there are numerous other cases of crimes against journalists. The "Freedom of speech violations in Ukraine" report issued by the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU), the Institute of Mass Information (IMI), the Centre of United Actions and Telekritika records eight killings, 125 intimidations, 322 assaults, 162 attempts of censorship and 196 cases of impeding activities since the beginning of 2014. If 54 investigations were launched under article 115 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, only three cases went to court (data for the first half of 2015, Freedom of speech violations in Ukraine). These numbers are unacceptable.

Together with the IFJ and its affiliates in Ukraine, the NUJU and the IMTUU, we demand your government, judiciary and law enforcement agencies the complete and effective investigations of all brutal violations of journalists' rights that bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against journalists.

We urge your government to dispel the impression of indifference in the face of deadly assaults against journalists. 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,

Jim Boumelha

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Boumelha". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

IFJ President

Anthony Bellanger

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Bellanger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a rectangular box.

IFJ General Secretary

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