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Ref. DC 144(2014)

Council of Europe launches new "rapid reaction" platform for journalists under threat

Paris, 04.12.2014 - The Council of Europe and four journalists' associations (the International Federation of Journalists and its European branch, the Association of European Journalists, Reporters without Borders and Article 19) today announced the launch of a "rapid reaction" alert system to provide a response to threats and violence against the media.

According to Reporters without Borders, 62 journalists and 19 netizens or citizen journalists were killed in 2014, while 176 journalists and 178 netizens were imprisoned.

"I am extremely concerned that certain member States of our Organisation are incapable of complying with their obligations to safeguard freedom of expression and respect journalists' physical integrity" stated Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

"Securing the safety of journalists and other media actors is a necessary condition for ensuring media freedom and for a healthy, functioning democracy," said the Council's Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland.

This platform is designed to facilitate the compilation, processing and dissemination of factual information – verified by the partner agencies – concerning serious physical threats to journalists and other media personnel, threats to the confidentiality of media sources and forms of political or judicial intimidation. It will also present action taken by the Council of Europe in this matter and publish regular reports and observations by the member States concerned.

[More information](#)

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