



National Chapter: Implementation steps in Ukraine

Safety of journalists and other media actors in Ukraine in the context of martial law

Date: 9 April 2024

Timing: 13:00 – 17:30 EET / 12:00 – 16:30 CET

Hybrid event (Kyiv & online)

YouTube (English): <https://youtube.com/live/r01CB4177Dw?feature=share>

Background

Ukrainian journalists and media actors find themselves navigating an environment fraught with increased risks, caused by the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine. According to the latest report of the Institute of Mass Information, 74 journalists have been killed in Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion, hundreds of media outlets disappeared forever, and thousands of journalists and media actors suffered from direct physical threats, shelling, digital attacks, and other types of pressure¹.

In addition, the imposition of martial law, while necessary for national security, has inadvertently placed additional burdens on the press, constraining their operational capacity and freedom to report. Journalists play a pivotal role in crisis situations, serving not only as the public's eyes and ears but also as a crucial link between the government and its citizens. They provide timely updates, disseminate vital information, and hold authorities accountable, thereby upholding the democratic principles of transparency and accountability. However, this indispensable role is

¹ Institute of Mass Information (2024), “Two years since the start of the invasion: Russia commits 597 crimes against journalists and the media in Ukraine”, available at: <https://imi.org.ua/en/monitorings/two-years-since-the-start-of-the-invasion-russia-commits-567-crimes-against-journalists-and-the-i59436>

accompanied by significant risks, especially in war zones, where a fine line between a civilian and a combatant can easily blur, leaving journalists in vulnerable positions.

Given the critical role of media in ensuring informed public discourse and the inherent rights of journalists to safety and safeguarding freedom of expression, there is an urgent need to address the multifaceted challenges they face. This entails not only enhancing physical and digital security measures but also fostering a supportive legal and societal framework that acknowledges and mitigates the risks associated with journalistic work. The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, which has been assigned by the Government of Ukraine as a national focal point for the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists “Journalists Matter”, launches the national consultations to catalyse a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue, bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders to collaboratively forge effective solutions and strategies for safeguarding journalists and upholding the freedom of the press in Ukraine.

Aims of the event:

- 📌 Present the Council of Europe “Journalists Matter” Campaign for the Safety of Journalists.
- 📌 Inform about the initiative to set up the Co-ordination Committee under the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine for the implementation of the Council of Europe “Journalists matter” Campaign and to carry out the first round of discussions on the issue of safety of journalists and priorities for the Campaign for 2024.
- 📌 Discuss the main challenges faced by the Ukrainian media and journalists in times of war.
- 📌 Spotlight the situation of the media in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.
- 📌 Assess the current state of play in the investigation of crimes against journalists
- 📌 Map the existing legal safeguards on the safety of journalists and other media actors in Ukraine and identify priorities for their further enhancement.

Expected outcomes:

- Present the initiative to establish the Co-ordination Committee under the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine for the implementation of the Council of Europe “Journalists matter” Campaign and set priorities for the Campaign for 2024.
- Enhanced understanding of the key safety challenges faced by journalists and other media actors in Ukraine.
- Strengthened networks and collaboration among the Government, media community, civil society and international partners.
- Increased awareness and commitment from policymakers, law enforcement and other duty-bearers to protect journalists.
- Development of actionable recommendations for improving the safety and protection of journalists and other media actors.

Journalists, media actors, policymakers, experts, and all stakeholders committed to the freedom of expression and the safety of journalists from Ukraine and other European states are

invited to join this important event. Joint work is key to creating a safer environment for journalists to perform their critical role in society.



PROGRAMME

<p>12:30 – 13:00</p> <p>11:30 – 12:00 CET</p>	<p>Registration & Welcome coffee</p>
<p>13:00 – 13:30</p> <p>12:00 – 12:30 CET</p>	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p><i>Panel chair: Yaroslav Yurchyshyn</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, Head of the Freedom of Expression Committee, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine ● Matjaz Gruden, Director of the Directorate for Democracy, the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, the Council of Europe ● Taras Shevchenko, Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy for European Integration, the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine ● Ilarion Pavliuk, Head of Press and Information Department, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine
<p>13:30 – 14:00</p> <p>12:30 – 13:00 CET</p>	<p>Presentation of the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists “Journalists Matter” and good practices of its member States</p> <p><i>Council of Europe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rodica Ciochina, Manager of the Campaign for the Safety of Journalists, Freedom of Expression and Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) Division, Council of Europe <p><i>International experts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carly Nimmo, Head of Press Policy, Department for Culture, Media and Sport of United Kingdom, the focal point of UK for the Campaign for the Safety of Journalists ● Andrin Eichin, Senior Policy Advisor International Relations at Swiss Federal Office of Communications, the focal point of Switzerland for the Campaign for the Safety of Journalists <p>Presentation of plans on the national roll-out of the Campaign for the Safety of Journalists in Ukraine</p> <p><i>Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ganna Krasnostup, National Focal Point of the Campaign for the Safety of Journalists / Head of Information Policy and Information Security Department <p>Q&A session</p>
<p>14:00 – 15:30 13:00 – 14:30 CET</p>	<p>Panel 1: Safeguarding journalism in times of Russia’s war against Ukraine</p> <p>Spotlighting the grave risks media and journalists bear in Ukraine, a diverse group of experts will discuss incidents of war crimes against journalists and media, underlining the imperative for the protection of free speech and international support.</p> <p><i>Panel moderator: Oksana Romaniuk, Council of Europe consultant</i></p> <p>War crimes against media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kateryna Diachuk, Head of the Freedom of Expression Monitoring Department, Institute of Mass Information ● Yuri Bilousov, Head of the War Crimes Prosecution, the Prosecutor’s General Office of Ukraine ● Oleksandra Dvoretzka, Head of the Department of Information Policy and Communications of the Ombudsman’s Secretariat <p>Work of journalists at the frontlines</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roman Vintoniv, journalist, serviceperson of the 112th Brigade of the Territorial Defense Forces, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine ● Anna Kaliuzhna, war correspondent, “Bigus.info” media <p>Journalists - hostages of Russia. Situation at the occupied territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tetiana Pechonchyk, Board Chair of the Human Rights Center “Zmina” ● Svitlana Zalizetska, a journalist who fled from the occupied territories, Zaporizhzhia ● Olga Skrypnyk, Board Chair of the Crimean Human Rights Group ● Mr Serhii Tomilenko, President of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU) <p>Impact of the Russian propaganda on the media landscape: current perils and solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Natalya Vygovska, Professor of the Zaporizhzhia National University, media expert ● Yevhen Fedchenko, Co-founder and Editor-in-chief of the “Stop Fake” ● Vadym Miskyi, programme director, NGO Detector media ● Ihor Solovey, Head of the Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security under the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine <p>Q&A session</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p> <p>14:30 – 15:00 CET</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>

<p>16:00 – 17:20 15:00 – 16:20 CET</p>	<p>Panel 2: Advancing protection of journalists in Ukraine. Reforms, challenges and solutions</p> <p>The session will navigate through the Ukrainian landscape of legal frameworks and provide a comprehensive overview of the implementation challenges, and the relentless pursuit of justice by media professionals facing threats and violence.</p> <p><i>Panel moderator: Oksana Romaniuk, Council of Europe consultant</i></p> <p>Overview of the Judgements of the European Court of Human Rights against Ukraine which are pending execution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pavlo Pushkar, Head of Division, the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights of the Directorate General of Human Rights, and the Rule of Law of the Council of Europe. <p>Effective investigation of crimes against journalists and other media actors - national cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oleksii Boniuk, Head of the Department of Criminal Law Policy and Investment Protection, the Prosecutor’s General Office of Ukraine ● Maryna Gontar, Chief specialist, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine ● Oksana Maksymeniuk, media lawyer, Institute of Regional Press Development ● Maria Muzychka, media lawyer, lawyer of the “Bigus.info” team ● Svitlana Ostapa, Head of the Supervisory Council of the Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine “Suspilne” ● Anastasia Matsko, journalist, Poltavaska Khvylya ● Dmytro Tishchenko, Head of “TSUKR” media (Sumy) ● Lina Kushch, First Secretary of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine ● Liza Kuzmenko, Board Chair of “Women in Media” ● Nastya Stanko, Editor-in-chief of “Slidstvo.info” <p>Q&A session</p>
<p>17:20 – 17:30 16:20 – 16:30 CET</p>	<p>Wrap-up and main takeaways</p>
<p>17:30 16:30 CET</p>	<p>Closing coffee</p>