

The photo exhibition dedicated to the work of journalists in Ukraine during the war opened in Strasbourg

The photo exhibition **#OntheFrontlineOfTruth “The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: work of journalists”** was presented on 21 July in Strasbourg. It is available during the PACE summer session and is located at the second floor of the Council of Europe’s Palais de l’Europe.

The **aim** of this exhibition is to turn attention to the crimes committed by the Russian Federation against media and journalists, and to highlight the extremely dangerous conditions of their work.

The pictures of heroic journalists at work show the excessive brutality in wartime: military deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure, peaceful civilians, their torturing, killing. Russian troops constantly use heavy weapons and ammunition designed to kill civilians indiscriminately on a large scale.

During the opening ceremony, the solidarity with Ukrainian media professionals was expressed by **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, **Tiny Kox**, President of the PACE, **Maria Mezentseva**, Chairperson of the Ukrainian Delegation to the PACE, **Ambassador Borys Tarasiuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe, and **Yevhenia Kravchuk**, member of the Ukrainian Delegation to the PACE.

“Since the beginning of the Russian Federation’s brutal, illegal and ongoing aggression Ukrainian media outlets have been closed, TV towers shelled, and camera crews attacked. While an ever-increasing number of journalists have been wounded, tortured and killed, many have simply disappeared. This is not only tragic and appalling but directing attacks against journalists – people who are not taking part directly in the hostilities – constitutes a war crime. Where such crimes have been committed, everything must be done to investigate them and to hold those responsible to account. Certainly, our Organisation stands with Ukraine’s journalists”, said **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Full text of the [speech at the opening of the exhibition on the Work of Journalists During the War in Ukraine](#)

“Freedom of the press and the protection of journalists should be promoted and protected, at all times, even in exceptional situations like times of war. The Parliamentary Assembly condemns every action of violence and supports every act to ensure the freedom of information and expression in all the member States of the Council of Europe,” mentioned **Tiny Kox**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Full text of the [statement at the inauguration of the exhibition of the Ukrainian Delegation to the PACE The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: work of journalists](#)

“Journalists are brave and courageous people. Not only Ukrainian journalists are brave, but also journalists representing Member States of the Council of Europe which stands for the freedom of speech and freedom of journalism and the protection of truth. And here these pictures specifically

*show us how courageous these people are risking their lives every day. And maybe if not them we would never see the war crimes, never know who send these rockets to the specific areas and what kind of weapon was used”, said **Maria Mezentseva**, Chairperson of the Ukrainian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.*

*“Thanks to this exhibition you will see on your own eyes what is going on during this barbarian war. Today Ukraine is participating actively in the Council of Europe Platform on Safety of Journalists by receiving the information and replying to it. We have to do everything possible to protect journalists”, said **Borys Tarasiuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe.*

*“This exhibition is very important and personal for me as I am a journalist myself and I knew a lot of journalists who died because of war while reporting, and even those killed at their homes because of missile attacks. International journalists said that in this war the word “Press” written on the vest does not protect you but makes you a target. Russia is afraid of the freedom of speech and freedom of information”, said **Yevhenia Kravchuk**, member of the Ukrainian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.*

Russian troops have committed over 300 crimes against journalists and media in Ukraine during the first three months of the large-scale Russian invasion, by the data of the Ukrainian CSO “Institute of Mass Information” (IMI). **Eight** journalists were killed during fulfilling their professional activities. More than **fifteen** journalists were injured, **tens** got under shelling. IMI is aware of at least **ten** cases of Ukrainian journalists being taken hostage and ill-treated by Russian forces. The occupiers fired into **11** TV towers, which are civilian targets, causing the complete or temporary disappearance of television and radio broadcasting in eight regions of Ukraine. In addition, **113** regional media outlets were forced to shut down due to threats from the Russian occupiers, seizure of newsrooms, inability to work under temporary occupation, as well as due to the financial crisis caused by the war. **Hundreds** of very important media in regions have faced serious financial problems and lost ability to operate.

Photo exhibition #OntheFrontlineOfTruth “The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: work of journalists” is available during the PACE summer session’s week.

The exhibition is organised by Ukrainian Delegation to the PACE, Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the Council of Europe, PromoUkraine and CSO “Institute of Mass Information”.