Concept note

UNESCO-linked events on 2 November 2015

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

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In the past decade 700 journalists have been killed for reporting the news: one death every five days. In nine out of ten cases the killers go unpunished. Impunity leads to more killings and is often a symptom of worsening conflict and the breakdown of law and justice systems. UNESCO warns that impunity damages whole societies by covering up serious human rights abuses, corruption and crime. Governments, civil society, the media and everyone concerned to uphold the rule of law are being asked to join in the global efforts to end impunity. The End Impunity-Day meetings in Paris, London, New York, and elsewhere will be an opportunity for journalists, lawyers, policy-makers and others to consider how best to respond to that urgent challenge.

Summary:

UNESCO will convene or co-host events in Paris, London, New York and elsewhere, on Monday, 2 November 2015, to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI). The events will also serve as an occasion to launch, in various destinations, the forthcoming UNESCO report, *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015*, which contains the Organization's most recent information on the safety of journalists and impunity. The events can take forward the outcomes of the commemoration conference on the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, in partnership with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which will be held in Costa Rica from 9 to 10 October 2015. They can also feed into and prepare the envisaged UNESCO international conference 'News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals' scheduled for 5 February 2016.

Background:

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/68/163 at its 68th session in 2013, which proclaimed 2 November as the '*International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists'* (IDEI). The Resolution urged Member States to implement definite measures countering the present culture of impunity. UNESCO is requested in the Resolution to facilitate the implementation of the IDEI.

In 2014, the first year of the IDEI, UNESCO co-organized an inter-regional dialogue at the European Court of Human Rights, in partnership with the Council of Europe; Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM), University of Sheffield; and the European Lawyers' Union. In conjunction with several permanent delegations to the United Nations (Argentina, Austria, Costa Rica, France, Greece and Tunisia), UNESCO also organized a high-level panel titled 'Ending Impunity: Upholding the Rule of Law'. Further events initiated by the Organization took place in Abuja, Accra and Tunis.

A dedicated webpage for IDEI 2015 is available online at:
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/endimpunity

Format of events:

The events on 2 November 2015 will each include a range of speakers, including a UNESCO representative to present the *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015*, and particularly the safety and impunity information therein.

The events include:

Global launch of the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

Venue: UNESCO Headquarters at Place de Fontenoy

Time / date: 2 November 2015 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Participants:
- *Opening Ceremony* (20 minutes)
  o Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General
  o Ms Alice Bah Kuhnke, Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy
  o Ms Bathsheba Nell Crocker, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, United States of America

- *Panel*: (70 minutes)
  o Moderator: Ms Christiane Amanpour, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety; Chief International Correspondent, CNN
  o Ms Janine di Giovanni, Middle East Editor, Newsweek
  o Ms Chelsia Chan, Expert Staff, Press Council of Indonesia
  o Mr Frank La Rue, Executive Director, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Europe
  o Other speakers to be announced

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Stop the killing of journalists! Prevention and justice to end impunity
Palace of Westminster, London, United Kingdom

Journalists, international lawyers, human rights figures, and policymakers share their understanding of the acute situation regarding the issue of impunity for crimes against journalists, as well as potential responses from each of the actors involved. Two panel discussions will examine the safety of journalists from two different perspectives. The opening session will reflect on the causes of impunity in both conflict and non-conflict situations via first-hand accounts. The closing session will focus on representative cases of impunity and suggested courses of action to combat it. Participants include representatives from national governments, NGOs, academia, and the media. The event is co-organized by Centre for Freedom of the Media of Sheffield University, PEN International, Article 19, and UNESCO.

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Ending impunity for crimes against journalists: putting resolutions into practice
UN Headquarters, New York, USA

Focusing on the international normative front, a panel discussion will be held to serve as a resource for any Member State seeking to update past UNGA resolutions on the safety of journalists. UNESCO's *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015* and the recently adopted Security Council Resolution 2222 will feed the debate between participants, including delegates of UN Member States and representatives of the academia. Moreover, the event will elaborate the linkages with sustainable development Goal 16, which recognizes the need for access to information, fundamental freedoms, reducing violence, and combatting impunity.

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One Day National Consultation and Validation Workshop on the State of Journalists Safety in Pakistan based on UNESCO's National Level Journalists Safety Indicators (JSI)
Islamabad, Pakistan (29 October 2015)

The consultation workshop will present the findings of a comprehensive analysis of the national media safety landscape in Pakistan, implemented by IRADA and UNESCO in 2013-14 via the Journalists Safety Indicators (JSI). The findings will be presented to a variety of key stakeholders representing both the authorities and the media sector. An important goal of the event is to raise awareness on the topic of safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, and to discuss how to move forward on the key findings of the JSI report. Representatives of various stakeholders will have the opportunity to address their views on safety of journalists in Pakistan, and on the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in general. This workshop is co-organized by IRADA (Institute for Research, Advocacy and Development), the Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety (PCOMS), the Islamabad Office of UNESCO, and UNESCO HQ.

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Stop violence against journalists
De Nieuwe Liefde, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

A multi-stakeholder panel will delve deeper in the widespread issue of impunity for crimes against journalists. Media representatives and other relevant stakeholders will share personal stories about the issue to raise awareness of impunity and safety of journalists. In addition, Free Press Unlimited will honour journalists with the 'Newcomer of the Year' and the 'Most Courageous Media' awards.

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