



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Selection of quotes on the issue of impunity of crimes against journalists

Quotes:

“Impunity is poisonous – it leads to self-censorship for fear of reprisal, depriving society of even more sources of significant information.”

UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova

[Message on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2014](#) (Statement)

“I urge States to take all the necessary measures – through legislation, protection mechanisms, and new adequate resources – to ensure that investigations and trials relating to crimes against journalists are undertaken. I urge everyone to stand up on November 2 and demand that the rule of law is fully applied when journalists are attacked and killed in the line of duty.”

UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova

[Message on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2015](#) (Statement)

“When journalists get wounded, get imprisoned, get tortured, when journalists are shut down in a way or in another, we must make sure that either government or non-government actors that do this to journalists are held accountable.”

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression, Ms Christiane Amanpour

[Message on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2015](#) (Video)

“The shocking levels of impunity for attacks against journalists are unacceptable. Unfortunately, when States fail to protect journalists – and fail to investigate and prosecute attacks against them – that is usually the result of a choice. Impunity also flows from failures to maintain the rule of law, and general disrespect for human rights.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein

[Statement on 3rd Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity](#) (Video)

“Unless potential perpetrators know that their attacks will have legal consequences, these instances of violence against journalists will persist. And victims are not only the journalists themselves but also societies as a whole that end up being deprived of critical information.”

UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr David Kaye

[UN expert calls for accountability “in the midst of a very serious crisis” of attacks on journalists](#) (Statement)

“Nine out of ten cases go unpunished. As a result, criminals are emboldened. People are scared to speak out about corruption, political repression or other violations of human rights. [...] By ending impunity, we deepen freedom of expression and bolster dialogue.”

UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

[Statement on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2014](#) (Video)

The new Sustainable Development Goals include targets for the next 15 years in which governments commit to:

- *Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere*
- *Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all*
- *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements*

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice>