



Safety of Journalists and the issue of Impunity Prevent - Protect – Prosecute

Parallel Event to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly

Tuesday 24 October, 11am – 12:30pm
Committee Room 8, UN Headquarters, New York

At the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the UN Secretary General's will present a report on the safety of women journalists to the Third Committee ([A/72/290](#)). The Third Committee will also consider a follow-up resolution on the topic of safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, in follow-up to Resolution [70/162](#), adopted two years ago.

Since the UNGA last considered this issue, the situation for safety of journalists has not improved. UNESCO recorded 101 murders in 2016 alone, with 35 murders recorded in 2017. The impunity rate for the 827 journalists killed between 2007 and the end of 2015, remains at a staggering 90%.

On November 2, the world will observe the International Day to End Impunity for crimes against journalists.

International scrutiny on this issue remains high, with cross-regional and consensus-based support for ensuring the safety of journalists, and ending impunity for attacks. There have been various notable developments since the adoption of UNGA resolution 70/162, including the adoption of a ground-breaking resolution at the UN Human Rights Council, which [ARTICLE 19 recently launched a guide to](#). Goal 16 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, employs as an indicator the number of journalists killed. Demonstrating that commitment to this issue crosses all branches of the UN, intergovernmental "groups of friends" on the safety of journalists have been established in Paris, New York, and in Geneva. UNESCO and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for human rights have recently affirmed the UN Plan of Action on safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.

At the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2017, States will also consider a follow-up resolution on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, led by Greece, providing an opportunity for the international community to reflect on priority concerns, and urge action from States to address the safety of journalists.

Join ARTICLE 19 to take stock of recent developments, and ask why, notwithstanding the consensus underpinning international human rights standards, safety for journalists is not improving.

Panellists **David Kaye**, Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of religion or belief, **UN**
Bopha Phorn, former Editor-At-Large, Cambodia Daily, **Cambodia**
Antonio Martínez Velázquez, Executive Director of Grupo Cultural Horizontal, **Mexico**

followed by a moderated discussion

Moderator **Thomas Hughes**, Executive Director, **ARTICLE 19**