

■ Two Countries – One Profession

**Materials from meetings with representatives of
Russian and Ukrainian journalism organizations
under the auspices of the OSCE Representative
on Freedom of the Media**



The Representative on
Freedom of the Media



The views expressed by the authors in this publication are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Edited by Maria Kuchma

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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Wallnerstrasse 6

A-1010, Vienna, Austria

Telephone: +43-1-51436-6800

Fax: +43-1-51436-6802

E-mail: pm-fom@osce.org

<http://www.osce.org/fom>

Printing by: Goodfriends (Austria)

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Starting in May 2014, senior representatives from Ukrainian and Russian journalism organizations – the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, the National Union of the Journalists of Ukraine and the Russian Union of Journalists – have met in Vienna on a regular basis to discuss ways to improve professional standards and the safety of journalists in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine. A total of nine round tables, entitled “Two countries – one profession,” have been held under the auspices of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

The adoption of a Memorandum and an Action Plan⁸ during the initial meetings of the unions’ representatives in the spring and summer of 2014 laid the foundation for their dialogue and co-operation.

The participants committed themselves to work together to enhance the safety of members of the media, help maintain professional journalism standards, remind governments about their commitment to respect media freedom and freedom and expression and put an end to gross violations of the rights of journalists and members of the media by state and non-state actors.

In particular, the representatives of the unions stated in the Memorandum that they considered “unacceptable any acts of violence against journalists who carry out their professional duties, their detention by state services as well as by non-professional organizations, regardless of the position taken by the media they represent.”⁹ Participants

⁸See Documents.

⁹ Memorandum of representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian media organizations on the situation in and around Ukraine, 19 May 2014; see full text in Documents.

adopted a number of joint statements expressing solidarity with the captured journalists and calling for their immediate release.

Since the outbreak of violence in Ukraine in the winter of 2013 – 2014 and subsequently in the country's south-eastern regions, hundreds of journalists

“We are confident that our loyalty to the mission, professional and ethical standards, as well as our solidarity will help us on the basis of a wider dialogue maintain core values and the importance of journalism as common good.”
(Appeal, December 2014)

have been attacked, injured, illegally detained or held hostage by militia groups and members of law enforcement. Several journalists have been killed in the conflict that has manifested itself not only in armed fighting, but also in an aggressive information war and fierce propaganda campaigns.

Recognizing this as an issue to be addressed by state authorities and professional communities in the two countries, representatives of the journalism organizations stressed that “media plurality and free media is an antidote to propaganda” and called on the governments to stop manipulating the media and to “invest in media literacy for citizens to make informed choices.”¹⁰

¹⁰ See above.

In an Appeal issued in December 2014, the round-table participants warned their colleagues against participating in information wars and incitement to hatred and called on them to “resist all attempts to provoke journalists and set them against each other.”¹¹

They have also expressed their conviction that “common sense and professional solidarity will be able to overcome stereotypes and the politicians and propagandists’ desire to drive a wedge between journalists of our countries and turn them into a tool of manipulation.”¹²

Representatives of international professional organizations, including the International Federation of Journalists, the European Federation of Journalists, Reporters without Borders in Austria, the International Press Institute and the Ethical Journalism Network, took part in the meetings as observers. They contributed to the discussion by sharing their expertise and ideas regarding journalism ethics and professional standards in conflict reporting.

The dialogue entered into a new stage in the fall of 2015 when participants decided to broaden its outreach by bringing on board young people – journalism students and recent graduates – from the two countries to take part in the discussion on ethical issues and the challenges of their job in the current political environment. The young journalists came to Vienna twice to participate in workshops and joint reporting activities supported by the Representative’s Office to help establish trust and promote collaboration among the young generation of media professionals who will shape the future of journalism in Russia and Ukraine.

¹¹ Appeal, 11 December 2014; see full text in Documents.

¹² Declaration, 25 February 2015; see full text in Documents.

COMMENTS

Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Preserving Professionalism a Key Task for Russian and Ukrainian Journalists

For more than two years, the media freedom situation in Ukraine has been at the top of my agenda because of the ongoing conflict in and around the country and its devastating effects on the media freedom and the journalists covering it. In the spring of 2014, as the situation with safety of journalists and media ethics deteriorated, I decided to invite representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian journalism unions to meet regularly at my Office in Vienna to discuss pressing issues facing members of the media arising from the conflict and to try and find ways to improve their working conditions through dialogue, confidence-building and co-operation.

We have held nine such round-table meetings at my Office. The symbolic title suggested by their participants – “Two countries – one profession” – reflects core ideas of this dialogue: a shared understanding of the rights of journalists and their responsibilities, commitment to professional values and a readiness to address ethical dilemmas encountered by the media in Russia and Ukraine in the current climate of conflict.

The safety of journalists reporting on the conflict has been at the centre of the discussions. The issue of safety has been a key priority of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media since it was established in 1997. On numerous occasions I raised issues such as the killing of

journalists, attacks, kidnappings, detentions, intimidation and other manifestations of violence against media employees, calling on those responsible to put an end to such unacceptable practices. The round-table participants issued several joint statements stressing the need to stop violations of journalists' rights, ensure their safety, free all journalists who had been captured and bring perpetrators of attacks on the media to justice.

The issue of propaganda, which I have raised and kept on my agenda over the past two years, also has been addressed in the course of the discussions. As I said many times, propaganda which dominates the public sphere poses a serious threat to media freedom and pluralism and the democratic environment as a whole. It is a positive sign that representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian journalism unions stressed in their joint statements the need to combat aggressive propaganda which corrupts the media and runs against the core values of their profession.

Taking the dialogue forward has not always been easy because of the persisting tensions related to the ongoing conflict. I am pleased and proud of its participants because despite criticism faced at home from proponents of continued confrontation and the information war, they were able to continue a meaningful dialogue about ways to help journalists in trouble and preserve the dignity of their profession. Their commitment to this dialogue sent a strong signal to all those who see journalists as soldiers in the information wars and who would prefer to continue exploiting tensions and manipulating the media to achieve political goals.

Provisional results of this co-operation were presented during an OSCE-wide media conference my Office held in

Vienna in June 2015.¹³ I am pleased that the initiative has attracted significant international attention and encouraged others to support the dialogue by inviting its participants to take part in joint activities.

The latest development in this dialogue is the engagement of young journalists from both countries in this initiative. Their voices and joint reporting projects help make the case for co-operation and show how a commitment to shared professional values can be instrumental in overcoming political divisions. They reassure us that peace and mutual respect are still possible and desirable and that journalists can and should contribute to the de-escalation of conflicts.

I would like to once again reiterate my support for this initiative and encourage all engaged to keep going ahead and help promote the dialogue. As the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media I can raise issues and help facilitate the resolution of certain problems, but I cannot do it alone. This is why our joint efforts here are so important. I trust that together we can help improve the state of media freedom and maintain the integrity of journalism in Russia, Ukraine and the broader OSCE region.

This publication aims to widen the scope of those familiar with the joint efforts of the journalists of the two countries and to rally support for these efforts.

Vienna, 11 February 2016

¹³ See Recommendations issued as a result of the conference in Documents.

Nadezhda Azhgikhina, Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), Vice-President of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

Emergency Reserve

On November 23, 2013 in Kiev, the international conference “Safety of Journalists and Overcoming the Culture of Impunity,” organized by the International Federation of Journalists, completed its work. Colleagues from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Serbia, Croatia, Poland, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and other countries took part in it. It was a very important meeting, summarizing the results of three years of work in monitoring the human rights of journalists and drafting effective mechanisms for ensuring the defense of media workers in Eastern and Central Europe. Those who attended adopted a document in which adherence to the values of the profession and solidarity actions in defense of honest and responsible journalism were expressed, and plans were made for the future.

The Russian and Ukrainian Unions were also involved – we had begun to discuss upcoming joint training for regional journalists and had hoped to organize a Russian-Ukrainian exchange of young correspondents at Artek, the youth camp. We all came out of the House of Journalists together on to Khreshchatyk, Kiev’s main street, and marched in friendly rows with banners in the native languages of all the marchers (it was Sunday, and the avenue is traditionally turned over to pedestrians), heading to the Post Office building to send a collective letter to President Viktor Yanukovich to demand the observance of journalists’ rights and to punish those guilty of violating them. We couldn’t know what was to happen very soon afterward. We believed

that together, we can win, and honest and brave journalism would prevail thanks to our joint efforts.

When I am asked when our dialogue with our Ukrainian colleagues began, I usually recall that day on Kreshchatyk. Although, likely that's not the case; we had exchanged ideas and plans before that and were happy that finally, after many years, we had begun to establish serious collaboration. And as soon as the first blood was spilled on the Maidan, we sent letters of support and issued statements in defense of the rights of journalists. Or perhaps the beginning should be considered the opening of a joint hot-line during the days the Crimean referendum was held – we published our contact information in Moscow and Kiev for those journalists who would need our help. And together, we obtained the release of a French colleague who had been detained by the self-defense forces, and the chair of the Union of Journalists of Russia lectured the head of the self-defense detachment over the phone about international agreements protecting journalists...

I don't remember whose idea it was to go together to the headquarters of the International Federation of Journalists in Brussels in March 2014. Alexey Boyko, executive assistant to the chair of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine; Yury Lukanov, chair of the Independent Media Trade Union; myself and Timur Shafir, director of the Moscow Center for International Journalists went to Brussels. And the leaders of the International Federation of Journalists and the European Federation of Journalists supported us in our effort to continue joint efforts in defense of the profession. The Ethics Commission of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine and the Public Collegium for Press Complaints in Russia, which had also managed to jointly speak out against the propaganda on the TV also expressed solidarity with us... It

seemed to us then that the conflict would end soon, that the “language of hostility” which filled the news space would cease to be part of our every day lives...

The OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media provided us with the opportunity to meet regularly. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this took place largely thanks to the personal decision of Dunja Mijatović and her faith in the meaning of personal choice by journalists and leaders of journalist organizations. Likely her own experience, to which she had sparingly referred during our meetings – the experience of a resident of Sarajevo under siege and the experience of work with journalists in the former Yugoslavia – played a role.

During her first trip to Moscow as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, she had told us and our colleagues that after the war in Yugoslavia, almost all her former friends of various nationalities, from various countries torn apart by the conflicts in the country, remained friends. This was long before the Ukrainian tragedy. I often recall those words. And I think that for many of us who took part in our Dialogue, this work is not just an important professional task but a certain personal project important for each of us individually. It is a reminder that in any situation in our profession, personal choice has a fundamental significance, that it is important to remain journalists and people. And the worth of the profession, just as the value of human relations, and the existence of ideals about which it would seem everyone has long since forgotten are the emergency reserve which will help to overcome these difficult trials.

A kind of declaration for the Dialogue – “Two Countries – One Profession” – passed about a year and a half ago said that journalists are not soldiers and must not be used as a

makeshift instrument for the achievement of political aims; that the demands for the safety of journalists established in international agreements must be observed unflinchingly by everyone everywhere; and that “hate speech” and propaganda must not become the practice of the media. All of these theses have not lost their relevance. And the participants of the dialogue – there are already several dozens, and the circle of those interested is widening – continue to build this fragile bridge to the future, despite everything.

The first results are a joint collection of materials on the safety of journalists working in the conflict zone; a cycle of documentary films on which young journalists of both countries are working; the start of joint monitoring of manifestations of “hate speech” in the media; and aggregation of experience in overcoming aggression in the media in regions of Russia and Ukraine. But there is an entirely unexpected effect – two Ukrainian journalists, Valery Makeyev and Roman Cheremsky, detained in the conflict zone, were freed thanks to the fact that their names were mentioned in our joint declarations. Roman described how this happened at a conference on journalists’ safety in Vienna in June 2015, and all those who attended remember his story to this day.

The dialogue evoked great interests by our colleagues around the world; UNESCO devoted a special meeting on Freedom of the Press Day in Riga and the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights invited our representatives to a seminar on overcoming “hate speech.” We are continuing the Dialogue, and we believe it will be successful.

Moscow, 20 January 2016

Yury Lukanov, Chairman of the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTU)

Conclusions Must Be Drawn from the Tragedy

After the annexation of the Crimea and during the undeclared war between two countries, it seemed somewhat strange for Ukrainians to enter into a dialogue with the Union of Journalists of Russia. The discussion was very difficult. But nonetheless, we found a point of contact. The unions made joint declarations on the inadmissibility of taking journalists captive.

Our colleagues later shared with us after they were freed that the militants had released them because such a hue and cry was raised. According to them, the militants themselves admitted this.

The Ukrainian Commission for Journalist Ethics appealed to the Russian Public Collegium for Press Complaints with a request to analyze the objectivity of several materials from the odious Russian television host Dmitry Kiselyov. The Russian Public Collegium assessed the program of Dmitry Kiselyov as forming a false image of Russian journalism, Russian culture and Russian society in the eyes of the Ukrainian audience.

These facts bore witness to the fact that in Russia there are people who fight against turning the journalist's profession into an instrument of propaganda.

No matter how much someone may wish to separate two neighboring countries with a high wall, objectively, they will never get away from each other. Whether you like it or not, you must get in contact. Even if relations are totally ruined.

Today the war, it seems, is moving toward its culmination. There are already suggestions being made to forget everything and live as before. But that won't work. We have to make sense of the tragedy that has occurred and relevant conclusions must be drawn from it. And that means that dialogue between representatives of the journalist profession in both countries must continue.

Kyiv, 20 January 2016

Sergiy Tomilenko, Acting Chairman of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Real Aid to Colleagues is Testimony to the Effectiveness of Dialogue Between Ukrainian and Russian Journalists

It is obvious that the Dialogue between journalists' organizations of Ukraine and Russia, which has continued for the second year, became possible thanks to the principled position and wish of the initiator, Dunja Mijatović. It was her Office that initiated the first meeting in May 2015 and has ever since regularly organized round tables at which critical topics have been raised and put before the review of participating organizations – the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine and the Russian Union of Journalists.

Otherwise, in my view, it would be difficult to maintain regular contacts, given the complicated relations between the two countries – the Crimea and military conflict in eastern Ukraine, for which Ukraine blames the Russian Federation.

We believe that to a significant extent, the propaganda that dominates primarily on the major federal channels of Russia and in mass Russian newspapers is sowing enmity toward Ukrainians. To a significant extent, it has influenced the sentiments of the population of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions and the Crimea. Therefore, it is obvious that under conditions of conflict between Ukraine and Russia, the calm conversation that took place two, three or four years ago cannot take place for now. In the meantime, we in the professional milieu are trying to find points of contact which can lay the basis for future communication and cooperation. The basic topics are issues of journalists' safety; solidarity with colleagues who are in trouble; condemnation of brutal influence on the media; condemnation of propaganda and hate speech in the media. It is precisely these topics that united us and became crucial for review at meetings held at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović.

We are grateful to our Russian colleagues and first of all to Nadezhda Azhgikhina, the convener of the Dialogue from the Russian Union of Journalists, since through the difficult discussions by representatives of our journalists' organizations, we still managed to reach understanding regarding the need to adopt many important joint statements. These are statements about the need to release journalists held captive who were detained on the territory of the so-called "Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics"; these are calls to journalists not to misuse their profession and not conduct interrogations of POWs, and joint declarations on the topic of the struggle against hostile language and propaganda...

Of course, in Ukraine and Russia there are opponents of our Dialogue. But we believe that such a position only makes

more difficult the already tense situation between the journalists of Ukraine and Russia and recommend reading more attentively all the joint statements and declarations which we adopted as a result of our talks. They were grounded exclusively in international professional standards for the work of the media. Moreover, our documents had a real influence, and helped colleagues who had gotten in trouble. As an example I can cite the statement of one of our colleagues mentioned in a joint statement of solidarity – Valery Makeyev – who, in his biographical account “100 Days of Captivity” emphasized that his name was included in a list in a statement from our organizations, and this prompted those who were holding him captive to free him.

We believe that such real examples of help are the best testimony to the effectiveness of the work of the Dialogue.

Now it is obvious that Ukrainian journalists want peace, and want understanding between the peoples of Ukraine, Donbass and Russia. We see this Dialogue and contacts between our organizations as a platform for joint decisions, which is intended to lower the degree of tension. We must jointly defend the standards of journalism, to defend ourselves from manipulations and the intentions of politicians to use the media in their struggle, and continue to condemn propaganda and defend the right to honest, open and independent professional activity.

Kyiv, 20 January 2016

DOCUMENTS¹⁴

Memorandum of representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian media organizations on the situation in and around Ukraine

Having met on 19 May 2014 at the Office of the OSCE Representative in Vienna, the undersigned representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian media organizations have adopted the following Memorandum:

1. Russian and Ukrainian journalists agree to mutual co-operation and solidarity when it comes to the issues of the safety of journalists, access to information and adhering to professional standards. Their national organizations are members of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and they keep close contacts with other international professional and non-governmental organizations. We support the statement made after the meeting of the IFJ, the EFJ, and the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, the National Union of the Journalists of Ukraine, and the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ) on 17 March 2014 in Brussels.

¹⁴ The documents are available on the official website of the OSCE, see: <http://www.osce.org/fom/118692?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/120451?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/124537?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/131636?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/131646?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/142926?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/153111?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/173651?download=true>, <http://www.osce.org/fom/222171?download=true>.

2. We reiterate that the safety of journalists shall remain high on our agenda. We consider unacceptable any acts of violence against journalists who carry out their professional duties, their detention by state services as well as by non-professional organizations, regardless of the position taken by the media they represent.

3. We call on the border authorities to distinguish between journalists and other travelers, thus taking into account the existing commitments to ease procedures for arranging travel by foreign journalists in the country where they are exercising their profession.

4. We express readiness to distribute protective equipment and insignia among those reporting on the ground that make the journalists' work environment safer. In this sense they make no difference between our members, other journalists and other members of the media.

5. We call on the governments to stop manipulating the media, and stop information and psychological wars against each other. Journalists can and should contribute to a de-escalation of the current conflict; they should not fire up stereotypes and prejudices.

6. We believe that media plurality and free media is an antidote to propaganda. In this sense we see no need to introduce new restrictions; existing laws can deal with dangerous cases of propaganda, extremist and hate speech.

7. We will make efforts to put the unprofessional activities of our colleagues under the scrutiny of self-regulatory bodies. We also will continue to promote professional standards, the high values and traditional mission of the craft.

8. We call the authorities to invest in media literacy for citizens to make informed choices. We consider that journalism schools should make efforts to discuss with the students the current practices of journalists covering conflict situations.

9. We support an effective transformation of state media into public. We support the view that broadcasters funded by the citizens must serve the public and not the political leadership.

[signatures]

The Memorandum was signed in the presence of the International Press Institute, Reporters without Borders and the European Federation of Journalists.

“Two countries – one profession”

Action Plan of the Russian and Ukrainian media organizations in relation to the situation in and around Ukraine

Having met on 27 June 2014 at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in Vienna, the undersigned representatives of the media organizations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine have adopted this Action Plan.

Following signing of the Memorandum of representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian media organizations on the situation in and around Ukraine on 19 May 2014 we agree on the following:

1. We will increase co-operation and solidarity on the issues of the safety of journalists, access to information and adhering to professional standards. We will use the OSCE and any other appropriate platform to regularly and publicly promote professional standards, the high values and traditional mission of our craft.

2. We will openly condemn, also jointly, murder, violence, and threats thereof against all journalists, who carry out their professional duties, regardless of nationality, and demand swift investigations into such crimes. We will strongly denounce, also jointly, cases of unjust detention of journalists by state services and non- regular combatants.

3. We will create a joint contact group to monitor violations of journalists' rights in the conflict zone and to provide information and psychological assistance to journalists who work there.

4. The professional organizations represented here will seek opportunities to distribute protective equipment and insignia among those reporting on the ground that make their work safer. In this sense they will make no difference between their members and other journalists. They will unhesitatingly call upon the editorial offices in their respective countries to provide reporters and other media members in the field with special safety training, as well as with protective equipment, insurance and, upon their return, with psychological support.

5. We will publicly and jointly condemn the practice of those media members who resort to stereotypes and stir up prejudices and promote hate speech and xenophobia, endorse terrorist activities, sponsor aggressive nationalism and chauvinism and thus inflame the current armed conflict.

6. We will request existing national self- regulatory bodies to review the unprofessional activities of media members in both countries who disregard principles of truthful and balanced reporting.

7. We will join the efforts of our professional organizations to help journalists who have been displaced from the conflict zone and lost their jobs.

8. We will encourage and contribute to discussions by civil society and in journalism schools of both countries on the journalism practices in covering the current conflict. We will facilitate an exchange of leading journalism faculty between Russia and Ukraine to moderate such discussions.

[signatures]

The Action Plan was signed in the presence of the International Federation of Journalists, the European Federation of Journalists, Reporters Without Borders, and the International Press Institute.

Statement by Ukrainian and Russian media organizations adopted following a meeting at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Representatives of media organizations of Ukraine (the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine and the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine) and the Russian Federation (the Russian Union of Journalists) condemned the incidents of killing, beating and detention of journalists in the zone of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine

during a meeting at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in Vienna on 26 September 2014.

Since May 2014, journalists Andrea Rocchelli, Andrey Mironov, Anton Voloshin, Igor Kornelyuk, Anatoliy Klyan and Andrey Stenin have been killed.

Dozens of journalists have been detained, among them Yury Lelyavsky, Roman Cheremsky, Valeriy Makeyev, Yegor Vorobyov, Alexander Bilokobylsky and Sergei Sakadynsky who are still being held captive.

Dozens of media workers face difficulties while performing their professional duties.

Representatives of media organizations of Ukraine and Russia consider unacceptable the obstruction of journalists carrying out their professional duties and call for an immediate investigation of the facts concerning the deaths of all journalists and for an immediate release of all detained media workers.

Participants in the meeting agreed to continue the joint meetings and cooperation and to undertake the necessary efforts regarding matters such as the safety of journalists, the development of professional media and de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine.

Appeal

We, the participants of the dialogue between Ukrainian and Russian media organizations (National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, and the Russian Union of Journalists) under the auspices of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the media, reaffirm our commitment to continue the dialogue and consider that open and honest discussion of professional challenges and of the place of journalism in society is the only way to overcome hate speech, aggression and hatred and believe that dialogue is the main condition for preserving the core values of our profession.

We again remind all parties that the right for safety and free access to information, as well as responsibility for acts of violence and violations of journalists' rights are enshrined in international documents of the last several decades and must be respected. We, in turn, will continue to work together in order to monitor violations of journalists' rights and will seek investigation of all cases of violence and violation of journalists' rights to make sure that those responsible are brought to justice.

We appeal to our colleagues not to participate in information wars and incitement to hatred and to resist all attempts to provoke journalists and set them against each other. We are confident that our loyalty to the mission, professional and ethical standards, as well as our solidarity will help us on the basis of a wider dialogue maintain core values and the importance of journalism as common good.

11 December 2014

Statement

The participants of the meeting of the representatives of Russian and Ukrainian media organizations held in Vienna, with the mediation of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media:

- Strongly condemn all acts of violence and violations of journalists' rights on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions;
- State that the number of captive journalists has recently decreased from eight (in September 2014) to two and positively assess this fact;
- Condemn the captivity of Ukrainian journalists Roman Cheremskiy and Sergey Sakadinskiy for more than 120 days on the territory of Luhansk region that is not controlled by official Ukrainian authorities.

Representatives of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine and the Russian Union of Journalists once again call on the authorities and armed groups to abandon the practice of detention of journalists and to take necessary measures to release those held in captivity.

11 December 2014

Declaration

We, participants in a meeting of representatives of Russian and Ukrainian professional journalistic organizations (the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, the Russian Union of Journalists), held in Vienna with the mediation of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media:

reaffirm our commitment to continue the dialogue and our aspiration to develop joint strategies for professional co-operation and protection of the rights of journalists in our countries, and we are confident that co-operation and open dialogue between journalists and professional organizations is an essential condition for overcoming misunderstanding, aggression and "hate speech" in the media, society and in the minds of citizens of our countries so as to develop means of peaceful communication and contribute to the establishment of long-awaited peace;

express alarm over new facts of violence against journalists and the use of journalists for propaganda purposes and will continue to draw attention to these facts;

express outrage over the participation of journalists in the interrogation of prisoners and hostages, which discredits the profession, turning journalists into participants in information warfare;

reiterate that journalists are not soldiers and should not be used as "motion picture extras" or conductors of influence, the most important guidelines for journalists are our professional objectives, professional standards and ethical principles of the profession;

remind all that acts of violence and obstruction of professional activities of journalists who perform their professional tasks and adhere to ethical principles of the profession are unacceptable; we will continue to draw attention to all facts of violence and demand that those responsible be held to account;

welcome the fact that there are no captured journalists as of now and hope it will remain so;

believe that common sense and professional solidarity will be able to overcome stereotypes and the politicians and propagandist's desire to drive a wedge between journalists of our countries and turn them into a tool of manipulation. We will promote co-operation between journalists, publishers and media experts.

25 February 2015

Statement

We, participants of permanent dialogue between professional journalists' organizations of Russia and Ukraine (the Russian Union of Journalists, the National Union of the Journalists of Ukraine and the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine):

- Deeply saddened by all journalists and media who died in 2014 – 2015, express condolences to their families and friends, and will demand full investigations of these crimes and other cases involving attacks, threats and the violation of journalists' rights;

- Consider inadmissible any attempt to use deaths and journalists' rights violation as a tool to propagandize and incite hatred;
- Will continue to advocate the principles of honest and responsible journalism and will confront aggression and propaganda emanating from the media of our countries;
- Reaffirm our adherence for a continuation of dialogue and facilitation of co-operation, considering professional solidarity a foremost weapon against attempts to divide journalists and to make them tools in a political and ideological rivalry;
- Are convinced that only a professional dialogue, open discussions and exchanges of experience including a dialogue among journalists of different generations will help to preserve the main values and dignity of our profession, and will therefore do our utmost to widen our dialogue and to overcome misunderstanding and prejudices; that is why we will continue to work on facilitating dialogue and creating new platforms for regular professional discussions and courses for increasing journalists' skills;
- Are ready to provide practical support to regional journalists in Russia and Ukraine for exchange visits;
- Believe that the journalism of the future depends on our efforts and on the efforts of our colleagues.

Vienna, 23 April 2015

Recommendations by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media following the conference Journalists' Safety, Media Freedom and Pluralism in Times of Conflict

Vienna, 15-16 June 2015

The conference “Journalists’ Safety, Media Freedom and Pluralism in Times of Conflict,” organized and hosted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on 15-16 June 2015, brought together some 400 journalists, media experts and government and civil society representatives from OSCE participating States.

The aim of the conference was to examine and review the current situation relating to the safety of journalists and discuss ethical journalism, propaganda and broadcast regulation in times of conflict. The participants shared problems and best practices contributing toward the formulation of recommendations.

The following are the key recommendations by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media derived from the discussions and endorsed by the representatives of Ukrainian and Russian media organisations (National Union of the Journalists of Ukraine, Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, and Russian Union of Journalists) that are part of the "Two Countries - One Profession" process.

Participating States should:

- Treat violence against journalists as a direct attack on freedom of expression and freedom of the media and publicly condemn all acts of killing, violence or intimidation against journalists.

- Give their full support and effectively use and apply the existing international legal framework, political commitments and recommendations, including those of the OSCE, related to protection of safety of journalists and other media actors, regardless of their means of communication.
- Encourage the adoption of legislation that fosters media freedom including the improvement of safe working conditions for journalists and guarantees unhindered access to information. Actively engage with international and regional mechanisms and fora to improve the safety of journalists.
- Respect the status of journalists in armed conflict according to the guarantees established by international law and acknowledge that the protection of journalists carrying out assignments in conflict zones is necessary at all stages of the conflict cycle.
- Make it their priority to carry out swift and effective investigations, sending a message to society that perpetrators and masterminds of violence against journalists will be efficiently brought to justice.
- Abandon practices of surveillance of journalists' activities and forced disclosure of confidential journalistic sources.
- Guarantee that in conflict situations – as during peaceful times – any restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of the media should be fully in line with well-established criteria of international law.
- Be reminded of their commitments agreed in the Helsinki Final Act that it is their duty to refrain from propaganda for wars of aggression.
- Condemn propaganda for war and hatred that leads to violence and discrimination and take practical steps to eliminate it in the OSCE region in line with the Helsinki Final Act.

- Be cognisant that propaganda for war and hatred imposed on the media by governments or proxies contributes to the escalation of violence and discredits journalism as a profession that serves the public interest.
- Promote media plurality and free, factual and investigative journalism as the best antidote for propaganda.
- Be reminded that the dissemination of propaganda for war and hatred does not justify introducing new restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of the media.
- Guarantee independence of media regulators, in particular when dealing with issues of hate speech, as well as licensing.
- Respect and support journalists and their self-regulatory bodies for prominently speaking out for integrity of their profession and against propaganda.
- Support media self-regulation instruments – including an efficient code of ethics and an independent media body – as the best option to promote responsibility and fair content.
- Promote ethical behaviour of the media professionals through an enabling environment beneficial to the high standards of the profession and its self-regulation.
- Provide social and job security to journalists who have been displaced or have lost their jobs as a result of a conflict.
- Stimulate and promote dialogue between journalists from the conflicting sides related to the safety of journalists and the standards of the profession.
- Promote media literacy across the OSCE region to help citizens make more informed choices about their sources of information.

- Make wide use of the best practices for the safety of journalists analysed in the publications of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Journalists and media organizations should:

- Adhere to a common understanding of the mission of their profession through a continuous dialogue among journalists reporting from all sides of the conflict and their self-assessment.
- Refrain from any engagement in propaganda and information wars.
- Enjoy necessary legal and material protection in dangerous conflict zones, including proper contracts, insurance, vests and helmets to be provided by the employers.
- Promote self-regulation mechanisms that will properly and effectively address any use of hate speech in conflict reporting.
- Engage with journalism associations and NGOs protecting and promoting journalism locally and internationally.
- Not take arms or sides in a conflict but fairly serve the public, duly respect human dignity and equal rights of all, as well as advance peaceful settlement of disputes.

Statement

Representatives of Ukrainian and Russian journalism organizations who gathered at a roundtable at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media are once again expressing their concern in connection to the

continued captivity of Luhansk journalist Maria Varfolomeyeva. More than a year ago she was arrested by representatives of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic. The International Federation of Journalists, the European Federation of Journalists and participants in the dialogue previously spoke out in her defense in 2015.

The previous joint statement by Ukrainian and Russian journalism organizations, statements by the International Federation of Journalists and the European Federation of Journalists, as well as demands expressed by other international journalism organizations have yielded no success. We have to stress that taking a journalist prisoner is a violation of Geneva Conventions and entails criminal liability.

We express the hope that all interested parties will demonstrate enough common sense to abandon the thoughtless persistence in holding our colleague captive.

We are convinced that journalists should not become hostages of political and military conflicts and subject to imprisonment for professional activities.

Vienna, 11 February 2016

LIST OF ROUND-TABLE PARTICIPANTS

RUSSIA

Nadezhda Azhgikhina, Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), Vice-President of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

Galina Arapova, Director, Mass Media Defence Centre

Ashot Dzhazoyan, Executive Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ)

Pavel Gutiontov, Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), head of the RUJ Committee on Protection of Freedom of Speech

Yury Kazakov, Co-Chairman, Public Collegium on Press Complaints

Anna Lebedeva, Board Member, Rostov-on-Don Branch of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ)

Nedezda Mosina, Head of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ) Secretariat and Department for Strengthening RUJ Regional Branches

Lyubov Petrova, Chief Editor, Zhurnalist national magazine

Roman Serebryanny, Secretary, the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), Director of Youth Programmes

Timur Shafir, Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), Director of the Moscow Center for Journalists Solidarity

Oleg Shevtsov, expert and Editor, Belgorod Branch of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ)

Alexey Simonov, President, Glasnost Defense Foundation

Irina Tsvetkova, Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), Head of Regional Development Department

Boris Timoshenko, Head of Monitoring, Glasnost Defense Foundation; manager of the project *Conflicts in the media* (the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ))

Givi Tsatsua, Head of Legal Services, the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ)

UKRAINE

Ganna Andriievskva, Committee Member, Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU), and Member, Ukrainian Commission on Journalists' Ethics

Galina Beloglazova, Executive Secretary, Donetsk Branch of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Alexander Bryzh, Chairman, Donetsk Regional Organization of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), chief editor of the *Donbass* newspaper

Yosyp Burcho, Chairman of the Audit/Control Committee of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), editor-in-chief of the *Press-Kurier* newspaper, Odessa

Diana Dutsyk, Deputy Director of the Mohyla School of Journalism at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, editor-in-chief of the *MediaSapiens* website (Telekrytyka), leading expert of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Iuka Gavrylova, Chairman of the Kyiv Branch of the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU), Head of the IMTUU's Legal Department

Gleb Golovchenko, Director, Press & TV College (Nikolayev), and Secretary, the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Aleksandr Golub, Chairman, Kharkiv Regional Organization of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Oleksandr Kharchenko, Secretary, the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), and General Director, the national news agency *Ukrinform*

Dmytro Klimanov, Board Member, Lugansk Branch of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), and Publisher, *Telegazeta* newspaper

Tetiana Kotiuzhynska, Head lawyer, the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), member of Journalism Ethics Commission

Oleksandr Kulbaka, Chief Editor, *Vesti* newspaper (Slaviansk)

Natalia Ligacheva, Head, media watchdog *Telekritika*, and member of the Ukrainian Commission on Journalists' Ethics

Yury Lukanov, Chairman of the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU)

Alla Maliyenko, Executive secretary of NUJU's Kiev branch

Liudmyla Mekh, President, Journalist Initiative fund, and Member of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Volodymyr Mostovyy, Chairman, the Ukrainian Commission on Journalistic Ethics, and founder of the *Zerkalo Nedelii* newspaper

Anna Murlykina, Chief editor, the *0629.com.ua* news portal, and member of the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU) in Mariupol

Olga Musafirova, Correspondent, *Novaya Gazeta* newspaper, and Member of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Svitlana Ostapa, Editor, media watchdog *Telekritika*, and member of the Ukrainian Commission on Journalistic Ethics

Zoya Sharikova, Member of the Board, Kyiv Branch of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Taras Shevchenko, Director, Media Law Institute

Serhiy Shturkhetskyi, Committee Member, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU), member of the Ukrainian Committee on Journalistic Ethics, professor of journalism

Mykhailo Soroka, Chairman, Kyiv Branch of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Oleksandr Tarasov, Lawyer, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU)

Sergiy Tomilenko, Acting Chairman of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU)

Nataliya Ulko, Head of Psychological Services, United Support Center for members of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU) and the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU)

Oksana Vynnychuk, Executive Secretary, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU)

Andrey Yanitsky, Chairman, Kyiv Branch of the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU), Department Head, online edition *LB.ua*

Alexander Yankovskiy, expert of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), journalist of the TV company *Chernomorka*

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Anthony Bellanger, Deputy General Secretary, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Reinhard Bettzuege, Professor, former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård, President, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

Alison Bethel McKenzie, Executive Director, the International Press Institute (IPI)

Jim Boumelha, President, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Seamus Dooley, Irish Secretary, the National Union of Journalists (UK & Ireland)

Steven Ellis, Senior Press Freedom Adviser, the International Press Institute (IPI)

Ricardo Gutiérrez, General Secretary, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

Scott Griffen, Director of Press Freedom Programmes, the International Press Institute (IPI)

Miklós Haraszti, former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Boro Kontić, Director of Mediacentar in Sarajevo

Rubina Möhring, President, Reporters Without Borders
Austria

Oliver Money-Kyrle, Assistant General Secretary, the
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Oona Solberg, Coordinator, the Ethical Journalism Network
(EJN)

Maria Struthers, Senior Program Manager, Open Society
Foundations

Barbara Trionfi, Executive Director (*since Jan. 2015*), the
International Press Institute (IPI)

Aidan White, Director, the Ethical Journalism Network
(EJN)



Top: Sergiy Tomilenko of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (left) and Nadezhda Azhgikhina of the Russian Union of Journalists (right) at a round table hosted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, 27 June 2014. (OSCE)

Bottom: Round table participants, 19 May 2014 (OSCE)

Сверху: Сергей Томиленко, Национальный союз журналистов Украины (слева) и Надежда Ажгихина, Союз журналистов России (справа) во время круглого стола под эгидой Представителя ОБСЕ по вопросам свободы СМИ, 27 июня 2014 г. (ОБСЕ)

Снизу: Участники круглого стола 19 мая 2014 г. (ОБСЕ)



Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović with round-table participants, 27 November 2015 (OSCE) / Представитель ОБСЕ по вопросам свободы СМИ Дуња Миятович с участниками круглого стола 27 ноября 2015 г. (ОБСЕ)



Left to right: Round-table participants Givi Tsatsua of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ), Galina Beloglazova of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine and Ashot Dzhazoyan (RUJ), 26 September 2014 (OSCE) / Слева направо: Гиви Цацуа (Союз журналистов России (СЖР)), Галина Белоглазова (Национальный союз журналистов Украины) и Ашот Джазоян (СЖР) – участники круглого стола 26 сентября 2014 г. (ОБСЕ)



Representative Mijatović with leaders of the Russian and Ukrainian journalism organizations – participants in Vienna round tables (left to right): Yury Lukanov (IMTUU), Sergiy Tomilenko (NUJU), Nadezhda Azhgikhina (RUJ), 2014 (OSCE) / Представитель ОБСЕ Дуња Миятович с лидерами журналистских организаций России и Украины – участниками круглых столов в Вене (слева направо): Юрием Лукановым (НМПУ), Сергеем Томиленко (НСЖУ) и Надеждой Ажгихиной (СЖР), 2014 г. (ОБСЕ)



Participants in the media conference *Journalists' safety, media freedom and pluralism in times of conflict*, 15 – 16 June 2015, Vienna (OSCE/Jakub Rozsypal) / Участники медиа-конференции «Безопасность журналистов, свобода и плюрализм СМИ в условиях конфликта», 15 – 16 июня 2015 г., г. Вена (ОБСЕ/Якуб Розсыпал)



Participants in a workshop for young journalists from Russia and Ukraine, 19-20 October 2015 (Igor Iefimov) / Участники семинара для молодых журналистов из России и Украины, 19-20 октября 2015 г. (Игорь Ефимов)



Representative Mijatović with participants in a practical workshop for young journalists from Russia and Ukraine, 5 February 2016 (Yaroslavna Chernova) / Представитель ОБСЕ Дуня Миятович с участниками практического семинара для молодых журналистов из России и Украины, 5 февраля 2016 г. (Ярославна Чернова)

