

Administration of Barack Obama, 2014

Statement on International Day To End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

November 2, 2014

History shows that a free press remains a critical foundation for prosperous, open, and secure societies, allowing citizens to access information and hold their governments accountable. Indeed, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reiterates the fundamental principle that every person has the right "to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." Each and every day, brave journalists make extraordinary risks to bring us stories we otherwise would not hear: exposing corruption, asking tough questions, or bearing witness to the dignity of innocent men, women, and children suffering the horrors of war. In this service to humanity, hundreds of journalists have been killed in the past decade alone, while countless more have been harassed, threatened, imprisoned, and tortured. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, the perpetrators of these crimes against journalists go unpunished.

All governments must protect the ability of journalists to write and speak freely. On this first-ever International Day To End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, the United States commends the priceless contributions by journalists to the freedom and security of us all, shining light into the darkness and giving voice to the voiceless. We honor the sacrifices so many journalists have made in their quest for the truth and demand accountability for those who have committed crimes against journalists.

Categories: Statements by the President : Crimes Against Journalists, International Day To End Impunity for.

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