



The High Level Panel of
Legal Experts on Media Freedom

BEYOND THE CRISIS: EMBEDDING SAFE REFUGE FOR JOURNALISTS AT RISK

Hosts: The Government of Estonia, the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom and The Committee to Protect Journalists

Date and time: 1 May 2023, 11:30 – 13:00, The Fourth Media Freedom Coalition Conference

Location: United Nations Headquarters, New York

Fleeing one's home country whilst a threat exists is all too often the only way in which a journalist can avoid politically motivated incarceration, violence, or sometimes even death. A total of 67 journalists were killed in 2022; the percentage of journalists killed in countries not experiencing armed conflict has been increasing since 2016. The number of journalists imprisoned for their work has reached an all-time high.

In November 2020, the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom published its advisory report to the Media Freedom Coalition of States, setting out a number of recommendations that States could take to address the shortcomings and gaps in the existing international framework. Some States have since given effect to those recommendations, including by establishing and then granting emergency visas for journalists at risk.

Two and a half years on from the publication of the Report, the need for safe refuge for independent journalists and human rights defenders has only increased.

On the occasion of the fourth Media Freedom Coalition Conference, taking place in the week of World Press Freedom Day, key actors in the Coalition and their guests will meet to discuss what action has been taken, and what further needs to be done by States to open their doors to those who are risking their lives to keep us informed.