

#JournoSaf AdvoSheet: The safety of journalists

All you need to know about states' obligations and commitments, to strengthen your advocacy

What is this #JournoSaf AdvoSheet about? This is a part of a series of advocacy sheets that explain the obligations states have and the commitments they have made at the United Nations regarding the safety of journalists under international human rights and humanitarian law. We are producing them to support your advocacy efforts. If you have a meeting with a public official or are writing a statement or press release, you can use this AdvoSheet — which includes key quotes we have taken from the relevant international standards — to support your arguments.

This #JournoSaf AdvoSheet is an overview of the key obligations of states regarding the safety of journalists. The series also includes [AdvoSheets](#) on a range of other specific issues, such as the safety of women journalists.

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1. First principles: The right to freedom of expression

The role of journalism in a democratic society and the work that journalists and the media do are protected under the right to freedom of expression. This right is recognised in Article 19 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR) and Article 19 of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (ICCPR). At the regional level, the right to freedom of expression is included in Article 10 of the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) (ECHR) and Article 13 of the [American Convention on Human Rights](#).

The right to freedom of expression is not absolute. The state may restrict it under certain exceptional and narrowly drawn conditions, which are defined under international human rights law (IHRL) and consist of three cumulative requirements:

- **Legality:** The restriction must be based on a precise law that is accessible to everyone.
- **Legitimacy:** The restriction must be in pursuit of a legitimate aim (Article 19.3 of the ICCPR).
- **Necessity and proportionality:** The restriction must be necessary and proportionate in a democratic society, and must be the least restrictive means of achieving a legitimate aim.



2. The big picture: States' obligations on freedom of expression, and how these pertain to the safety of journalists

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. However, the issue of the safety of journalists requires special attention because of their vital role in keeping the public informed, exposing the truth, and holding authorities to account within a society. The safety of journalists is an issue not only of protecting their human rights as individuals but also of the right of the public to receive information and to engage in the decision-making processes of society at large.

States have a duty to respect, protect, and fulfil the right to freedom of expression and to provide remedy where it is interfered with, and this applies to journalists. The obligation to respect means that states must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires states to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfil means that states must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights.

Under [General Comment No. 31](#) on the Nature of the General Legal Obligation Imposed on States Parties to the Covenant, states not only have the obligation to refrain from any interference with individuals' rights as enshrined in the ICCPR, including freedom of expression, but also have a positive obligation to take **'appropriate measures or to exercise due diligence to prevent, punish, investigate or redress the harm caused by such acts.'**

UN Human Rights Committee jurisprudence

Around the world, journalists are all too often attacked in a variety of ways aimed at silencing them, including physical attacks, online harassment and abuse, and legal harassment. This is why the issue of the safety of journalists has been addressed at the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC), the treaty body monitoring states' compliance with the ICCPR, including in its general comments, in which ICCPR provisions are interpreted.

Freedom of expression enjoyment

[HRC General Comment No. 34](#) on Article 19 of the ICCPR reiterates the binding obligation on every state party to respect freedom of opinion and expression. This includes all branches of the state and other public or governmental authorities. The General Comment also 'requires States parties to ensure that **persons are protected from any acts by private persons or entities that would impair the enjoyment of the freedoms of opinion and expression.**'

Who counts as a journalist?

General Comment 34 adopts a functional definition of 'journalist' that states should observe in order to protect freedom of expression: the UN Human Rights Committee states that **'journalism is a function shared by a wide range of actors**, including professional full-time reporters and analysts, as well as bloggers and others who engage in forms of self-publication in print, on the internet or elsewhere.' For this reason, the Committee has established that general licensing and registration schemes used to regulate and monitor journalists are incompatible with the ICCPR.

Protection of journalists

General Comment 34 highlights that states 'should **put in place effective measures to protect against attacks aimed at silencing those exercising their right to freedom of expression,**' including journalists, as they are 'frequently subjected to threats, intimidation and attacks because of their activities.'

While the role of journalists is not the same as that of human rights defenders (HRDs), they are in many cases considered to be such — for example, when their activities involve investigating and reporting on human rights issues and abuses. By extension, the [Declaration on Human Rights Defenders](#) also applies to journalists in such cases. It establishes that states must take 'all necessary measures to ensure the protection of HRDs against any violence, threats, retaliation, *de facto* or *de jure* adverse discrimination, pressure or any arbitrary action.'

Prosecution and remedy

The HRC, referring to attacks against journalists such as arbitrary arrest, torture, threats, and killing, in General Comment 34, states that 'such **attacks should be vigorously investigated in a timely fashion**, and the perpetrators prosecuted, and the victims, or, in the case of killings, their representatives, be in receipt of appropriate forms of redress.'

Key international human rights treaty provisions relevant to journalists' safety

There are nine core [international human rights instruments](#). For each of these instruments, a committee of experts monitors implementation of the treaty provisions by state parties. Some of the treaties are supplemented by optional protocols dealing with specific concerns. Some include obligations that are relevant specifically to the protection of journalists.

Discrimination against women

States have a duty to prevent violence against women and to protect women from violence — including when this violence is the result of women's journalistic activities — by adopting and implementing diverse measures to tackle it, as stated in the binding [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#).

Enforced disappearance

Enforced disappearances of journalists in reprisal for, or as a result of, their work remain troublingly widespread globally. The [International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance \(CED\)](#) sets out specific obligations for states in relation to enforced disappearance, which is defined as the 'abduction, arrest, detention, or other form of deprivation of liberty of any individual by agents of the State, or persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State,' followed by the 'refusal to acknowledge either the deprivation of liberty, or the concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person,' so as to deny them the protection of law. States that have ratified the CED are obligated to effectively and impartially investigate cases of enforced disappearance, to bring those responsible to justice (Article 3), to ensure the relatives of those disappeared are provided with information about their fate (Article 18), and to provide access to remedies (Article 24).

Torture

Journalists may also be subjected to torture because of the work that they do. The [International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) specifies the obligation of the state to take **effective legislative, administrative, judicial, or other measures to prevent acts of torture**. Torture is defined in Article 1 as:

any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

Investigations of all of these gross violations should consider any aggravating circumstances relating to the right to freedom of expression, including journalistic activities.

The safety of journalists in times of war

[International humanitarian law \(IHL\)](#), which governs the law of armed conflict, prohibits parties to a conflict from intentionally attacking civilians and civilian targets. **Journalists, media professionals, and associated personnel are specifically protected by IHL as civilians**, provided they take no action adverse to this status. This means that any deliberate attack against a journalist by a party engaged in an armed conflict constitutes a war crime, and those responsible must be brought to account. Intentional attacks against media equipment and installations — where they are not designated military targets — are also prohibited. War correspondents — journalists who are formally accredited to accompany armed forces — have the right to prisoner of war status in the event of their capture.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) has reaffirmed and made more specific these obligations through its own resolutions on the protection of journalists in armed conflict. [UNSC Resolution 2222](#), for example, calls on states to ‘take appropriate steps to ensure accountability for crimes’ against journalists.



3. Specifics: States’ responsibilities to journalists under their human rights commitments

Promoting the safety of journalists requires, first, that states should be in compliance with IHRL. To this end, UN resolutions on the safety of journalists call on states to sign and ratify ‘the international and regional human rights instruments relevant to the safety of journalists.’

Since the approval of the [UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity](#) (UN Plan of Action) in 2012, states have expanded their commitments on the safety of journalists in several [UN resolutions](#) by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The text of these resolutions includes specific recommendations agreed to by member states to address specific issues, such as the safety of women journalists, digital protection, legal harassment, and impunity on crimes against journalists.

Other UN bodies, including [special rapporteurs](#) — independent human rights experts with a mandate to report to and advise the UN and its members on human rights — have also provided recommendations on the issue. The UN Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Rapporteur’s counterparts in regional human rights bodies have also issued annual [joint declarations](#) that provide recommendations to states and set international standards that may apply to the issue of journalists’ safety. While these recommendations are not endorsed by states themselves, they provide guidance on states’ obligations based on IHRL.

The safety of journalists is also recognised under the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), where Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 16.10 agrees to ‘ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.’ One of the indicators for assessing the progress against target 16.10 is the number of ‘verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months’ ([Indicator 16.10.1](#)).

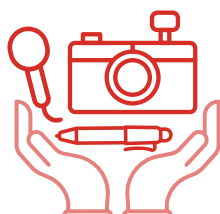
What counts as violence against journalists?

UN resolutions recognise a diverse range of acts of violence against journalists that need to be

addressed, including ‘physical, psychological, legal, political, technological and economic threats’ ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#), 2020). Concretely, this includes ‘killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention, arbitrary expulsion, physical and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as intimidation, threats and harassment of all kinds, including by the targeting of their family members or arbitrarily raiding and searching their residency’ and ‘incidents of the extraterritorial targeting of journalists and media workers, including killings, enforced disappearances, harassment or surveillance’ ([HRC Resolution 51/9](#), 2022). States are also committed to addressing ‘gender-based discrimination, including sexual and gender-based violence, threats, including threats of rape, intimidation, harassment, online gender-based harassment and abuse’ ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

States have also recognised that **journalists face intersecting forms of violence depending on various forms of discrimination**, including — but not limited to — ‘sex, race, religion, ethnicity, minority status, disability or political affiliation’ ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)). As such, states have agreed to take an ‘intersectional approach’ in any legislation and measure taken to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls ([HRC Resolution 44/17](#), 2020).

In this section on states’ responsibilities to journalists under their human rights commitments, you will find additional key quotes from UN resolutions on journalists’ safety and other relevant reports by UN bodies, categorised under three themes that are widely used within the UN system for addressing the issue of the safety of journalists: **prevent, protect, and prosecute and remedy**.



3.1 Preventing violence against journalists

Enabling a safe environment for journalists and civil society organisations defending them

Preventing attacks against journalists first requires states ‘to bring their laws, policies and practices fully into compliance with their obligations and commitments under international human rights law, and to review and where necessary repeal or amend them so that they do not limit the ability of journalists and media workers to perform their work independently and without undue interference’ ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

The first ever HRC Resolution on the safety of journalists, [HRC Resolution 21/12](#) (2012), acknowledged the particular role of journalists in matters of public interest, and the specificities of journalistic work that put journalists at greater risk. It called on states to:

promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference, including: (a) legislative measures; (b) awareness-raising in the judiciary, law enforcement officers and military personnel, as well as journalists and civil society, regarding international human rights and humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists; (c) the monitoring and reporting of attacks against journalists; (d) publicly condemning attacks; and (e) dedicating necessary resources to investigate and prosecute such attacks.

The role that civil society organisations play in enhancing the safety of journalists has been explicitly recognised and there have been calls too for their protection, including by providing 'for an enabling environment for civil society organizations to contribute to monitor and report cases of violence against the media and other infringements of freedom of expression, to provide assistance to journalists and media workers against wrongful prosecutions, and to advocate for crimes against them to be properly investigated' ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

Preventing not only attacks but also threats, including gender-based threats

Unlike [HRC Resolution 21/12](#), [HRC Resolution 27/5](#) (2014) specifically uses the word 'prevent' in calling on states 'to prevent attacks and violence against journalists and media workers.' Two years after this resolution was passed, [HRC Resolution 33/2](#) (2016) urged states to prevent not only attacks but also 'threats.'

States have also committed to putting in place **preventative measures specifically related to gender-based violence** 'to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including threats, threats of rape, intimidation and harassment against women journalists' and 'to eliminate gender inequality and to tackle gender-based stereotypes in society, and to prohibit incitement to hatred against women journalists, online and offline, and other forms of abuse and harassment through relevant policy and legal measures that comply with international human rights law' ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

Publicly condemning attacks and stopping the denigration of journalists

A first step to preventing attacks against journalists is to ensure that state actors are 'publicly and systematically condemning online and offline attacks, harassment and violence against journalists and media workers,' as agreed in [UNGA Resolution 76/173](#) (2021).

Moreover, states have urged political leaders and public officials and authorities to '**refrain from denigrating, intimidating or threatening the media, including individual journalists**,' and from '**using misogynist or any discriminatory language towards women journalists**,' to avoid thereby 'undermining trust in the credibility of journalists and respect for the importance of independent journalism' ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

Enhancing data and information for evidence-based action

To effectively address threats to the safety of journalists, it is fundamental to have data and information. In this regard, states have agreed to establish or enhance information-gathering and monitoring mechanisms, such as databases, to permit the collecting, analysis and reporting of concrete quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data on threats, attacks or violence against journalists' ([HRC Resolution 39/6](#), 2018).

[HRC Resolution 51/9](#) reinforces this commitment by recognising the important role that civil society plays in documenting and monitoring attacks against journalists. It specifically calls on states 'to draw on data collected by media and/or civil society organizations' and 'to make the data available to relevant entities in accordance with SDGs' target 16.10.1'

Building the capacity of state actors

States have committed to 'support capacity building, training and awareness-raising' among the judiciary, law enforcement officers and the military, and security personnel, as well as among

media organisations, journalists, and civil society, regarding 'States' international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists' ([HRC Resolution 39/6](#)), together with 'combating sexual and gender-based discrimination, and violence against women journalists, as well as the particularities of online threats and harassment of women journalists.'

Because states have recognised that journalists face intersecting forms of violence depending on various forms of discrimination, this includes the commitment 'to include an understanding of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in any training on combating gender bias for State officials' ([HRC Resolution 44/17](#)).

Protecting journalists from use, abuse, or misuse of the law to silence them

Journalists and media outlets increasingly face multiple lawsuits for exposing corruption, reporting on matters of public concern, or covering protests. Known as Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPS), these lawsuits are typically initiated by public officials, businesspeople, corporations, politicians, or police officers. They do so to evade public scrutiny, and to harass or subdue journalists who expose their wrongdoing. In [HRC Resolution 51/9](#), states committed **'to take measures to protect journalists and media workers from strategic lawsuits against public participation**, where appropriate, including by adopting laws and policies related to such cases that allow early dismissal, limit the damages claimed, permit public interest defense, and provide legal support to victims.'

Defamation law is among the primary laws of choice for harassing journalists. [HRC Resolution 51/9](#) calls on states **'to ensure that defamation and libel laws are not misused, in particular through criminal sanctions, to illegitimately or arbitrarily censor journalists** and interfere with their mission of informing the public, and where necessary to revise and repeal such laws, in compliance with States' obligations under international human rights law.'

Against the background of the growing trend of using criminal and civil laws to intimidate and silence journalists, it is worth noting that HRC General Comment 34, the Committee states that 'in circumstances of public debate concerning public figures in the political domain and public institutions,' the mere fact that 'forms of expression are considered to be insulting to a public figure is not sufficient to justify the imposition of penalties.'

Countering terrorism while protecting journalists

National security and counter-terrorism legislation has also been used and misused to interfere with journalists' activities and human rights. However, this goes against states' commitments, as they have agreed **'to ensure that measures to combat terrorism and preserve national security, public order or health are in compliance with their obligations under international law** and do not arbitrarily or unduly hinder the work and safety of journalists, including through arbitrary arrest or detention, or the threat thereof' ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

HRC General Comment 34 also emphasises that 'such offences as "encouragement of terrorism" and "extremist activity" as well as offences of "praising", "glorifying", or "justifying" terrorism, should be clearly defined to ensure that they do not lead to unnecessary or disproportionate interference with freedom of expression.'



3.2 Protecting journalists to minimise the impact of attacks

Protection mechanisms and other measures

[HRC Resolution 21/12](#) encourages states to put in place protection programmes for journalists, 'based on local needs and challenges, including protection measures that take into account the individual circumstances of the persons at risk, as well as, where applicable, the good practices in different countries.' In the report of the UNSR on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression [Reinforcing media freedom and the safety of journalists in the digital age](#), UNSR Irene Khan recommends that states put in place these programmes 'in consultation with civil society, media outlets and journalists' and ensure that they are 'adequately resourced, gender responsive and fully integrate online and offline spaces. They should be regularly assessed by an independent, dedicated multi-stakeholder body.'

Resolutions provide concrete examples of what these protections mechanisms can look like, from 'establishing an early warning and rapid response mechanism to give journalists and media workers, when threatened, immediate access to authorities competent and adequately resourced to provide effective protective measures' ([HRC Resolution 39/6](#)), to developing 'national action plans or similar measures to improve safety of journalists'; from considering 'designating a government focal point to coordinate policies and liaise with other relevant stakeholders on the issue of safety of journalists', to ensuring 'better internal coordination and sharing of information, in particular within and between relevant ministries, law enforcement and the judiciary at the local and national levels' ([HRC Resolution 51/9](#)).

When putting in place measures for the protection of journalists, the role of human rights institutions has been highlighted, in particular in initiatives related to 'monitoring, educating and awareness-raising activities, as well as through the examination of complaints' ([Resolution 39/6](#)).

Protecting journalists covering protests and elections

Journalists play a key role in reporting about protests. When covering protests, they are at a higher risk of attack, from both law enforcement actors and the public. [HRC Resolution 51/9](#) calls on states to take journalists' specific role, exposure, and vulnerability into account and '**protect their safety, even if a protest has been declared unlawful or is dispersed**', in line with [HRC General Comment No. 37](#) (2020) on the right of peaceful assembly.

Electoral periods are also key moments when the role of journalists is crucial. Electoral contexts put journalists at higher risk too, as recognised by UN resolutions on the safety of journalists. [UNGA Resolution 72/175](#) (2018) expresses concern that 'attacks against journalists and media workers increase during election periods' and [HRC Resolution 33/2](#) calls on states 'to pay particular attention to the safety of journalists during periods of elections.'

The confidentiality of journalists' sources

UN resolutions recognise the importance of keeping journalists' sources confidential and call for authorities **'to protect in law and in practice the confidentiality of journalists' sources, including whistle-blowers**, in acknowledgement of the essential role of journalists and those who provide them with information in fostering government accountability and an inclusive and peaceful society, subject only to limited and clearly defined exceptions provided for in national legal frameworks, including judicial authorization, in compliance with States' obligations under international human rights law' ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

The protection of journalists in the digital environment

While the emerging digital environment offers opportunities for journalists to strengthen their work, it also entails challenges regarding their privacy and safety. This concern has been stressed in several resolutions, including [HRC Resolution 39/6](#), where the HRC emphasised the particular risks of 'becoming targets of unlawful or arbitrary surveillance and/or interception of communications, hacking, including government-sponsored hacking, and denial of service attacks to force the shutdown of particular media websites or services, as violation of journalists' rights to privacy and freedom of expression.'

To address these challenges, states have committed **'to ensure that targeted surveillance technologies are only used in accordance with the human rights principles of lawfulness, legitimacy, necessity and proportionality**, and that legal mechanisms of redress and effective remedies are available for victims of surveillance-related violations and abuses' ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

States have also emphasised how vital encryption and anonymity tools have become for journalists and have committed 'not to interfere with the use of such technologies and to ensure that any restrictions thereon comply with States' obligations under international human rights law' ([UNGA Resolution 74/157](#), 2020). They have also recognised the importance of 'pseudonymisation' to allow journalists to do their job safely ([HRC Resolution 45/18](#)).

Additionally, in the UNSR's [report](#) mentioned earlier, Irene Khan also recommends that states protect journalists by refraining 'from compelling digital companies to restrict or remove journalistic content without judicial due process.'

In recent years, **states have also increasingly looked at preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts**, and have committed to 'ensuring that women and girls are able to exercise the right to freedom of opinion and expression online and offline without discrimination, and do not experience violence or threats of violence while exercising this right' ([HRC Resolution 38/5](#), 2018). States have also expressed their support for 'gender-sensitive responses that take into account the particular forms of online discrimination' ([HRC Resolution 38/7](#), 2018).



3.3 Ending impunity and providing remedy

Setting measures to address impunity

[HRC Resolution 27/5](#) was focused on addressing impunity for attacks and violence against journalists as one of the main challenges in strengthening the protection of journalists. It called on states to '**develop and implement strategies for combating impunity**,' including through practices such as:

- (a) The creation of special investigative units or independent commissions;
- (b) The appointment of a specialized prosecutor;
- (c) The adoption of specific protocols and methods of investigation and prosecution;
- (d) The training of prosecutors and the judiciary regarding the safety of journalists;
- (e) The establishment of information-gathering mechanisms, such as databases, to permit the gathering of verified information about threats and attacks against journalists;
- (f) The establishment of an early warning and rapid response mechanism to give journalists, when threatened, immediate access to the authorities and protective measures.

Expanding the scope of point (c), [HRC Resolution 45/18](#) called for protocols to be 'gender-responsive' and [HRC Resolution 51/9](#) for states to 'take into account relevant international human rights standards, such as the [Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death](#),' which sets a common standard of performance in investigating potentially unlawful death or suspected enforced disappearance, and a shared set of principles and guidelines for states, institutions, and individuals who play a role in the investigation.

In 2019, the UNSR on the situation of human rights defenders dedicated a [report](#) to the issue of impunity. It contains a large number of comprehensive recommendations including the need for states to ensure the independence of judicial bodies, eliminate barriers to accessing justice, and establish effective mechanisms for access to comprehensive reparations.

Effective investigation

Since 2014, states have made additional key commitments to address impunity. [HRC Resolution 45/18](#) calls on states to 'ensure accountability through the conduct of **impartial, prompt, thorough, independent and effective investigations** into all alleged violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers... to bring perpetrators, including those who command, conspire to commit, aid and abet or cover up such crimes to justice, and to ensure that victims and their families have access to appropriate restitution, compensation and assistance.' It also calls on states to 'provide assistance to journalists and media workers against wrongful prosecutions.'

Exhausting the lines of inquiry that link the crime to journalistic activities

Importantly, in 2022 [HRC Resolution 51/9](#) called for states to ensure accountability 'by following and **exhausting lines of enquiry that determine whether violence, threats and attacks result from the journalistic activities of the victims**.'

Remedy

[HRC Resolution 45/18](#) calls on states to ensure 'that victims and their families have access to appropriate restitution, compensation and assistance' and adds a call 'to provide adequate support, remedy, reparations and compensation for victims, including psychological support as part of broader efforts to promote and protect the human rights of women.'

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

In 2013, the UNGA proclaimed 2 November the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists ([UNGA Resolution 68/163](#), 2014). Since then, UN resolutions have called on states to take advantage of this day to raise awareness about the issues and to announce initiatives to address violence against journalists and impunity in the case of crimes committed against them.

Monitoring impunity

The UN has an instrument that monitors the level of impunity in the killing of journalists. This is the [UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity](#) (2020), which requests information from states on judicial inquiries into the killing of journalists since 2006.



4. Learn more: Resources to support your advocacy on behalf of journalists

You can find the full texts of states' obligations and commitments in the links mentioned throughout this AdvoSheet, as well as in the following guides and resources:

- ARTICLE 19, #JournoSafe [Resource Hub](#) (website with a collection of key international standards on the safety of journalists)
- ARTICLE 19, #JournoSafe AdvoSheets (collection of AdvoSheets on the safety of journalists)
- ARTICLE 19, [Freedom of expression and women's equality: Ensuring comprehensive rights protection](#), 2020
- ARTICLE 19, [Investigating online harassment and abuse of women journalists](#), 2020
- Chocarro et al, [Closing the normative gap: What ten years of Human Rights Council Resolutions tell us about its approach to the safety of journalists](#), 2022 (academic working paper on the evolution of HRC resolutions on the safety of journalists)
- Columbia University, [Columbia global freedom of expression: Case law](#), 2021 (searchable database of international case law related to freedom of expression)
- IFEX, [Advocacy explainers](#), 2021 (resources on international standards on freedom of expression and safety of journalists)
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Universal human rights index](#), 2021 (searchable database of over 170,000 observations and recommendations made by the UN human rights protection system).