



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



## **Press Statement on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

Today the world marks the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. The commemoration comes with global statistics indicating that more than 800 journalists have lost their lives while on duty ever since 2006 and UNESCO has repeatedly condemned it. Less than 7% of these crimes committed have been solved. This figure is way too high simply because this has got to do with human life and no one should be denied the chance to live simply because of trying to do their job right.

Impunity is a crime against the freedom of expression and human rights. It threatens the rule of law and leads to fear and self-censorship. All society suffers.

Today, we need a new commitment by all to create a free and safe environment for journalists. We need new mobilization to implement UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity spearheaded by UNESCO.

More than ever, we must do everything to protect journalists and fight against impunity. This is vital for implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16.10, to ensure public access to information and to protect fundamental freedoms.

UNESCO in collaboration with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition with other media stakeholders have formed a task force committee for the safety of journalists in the country. The task force was formed last year before the general elections. As we commemorate this day, THRDC has already come up with an action plan as well as a roadmap on security and safety of journalists.

The detailed report has identified areas with gaps and came up with recommendations over areas in need of improvement and stakeholders who can

advocate for positive changes. At the end of this session, stakeholders will endorse an action plan for the task force.

Irina Bokova encourages everyone to stand with UNESCO in condemning every fatal attack against a journalist by calling for full investigation of such crimes, in demanding appropriate punishment for those committing these violations.

We must all redouble efforts awareness about the importance of freedom of expression which includes the right to expression without fear of violent retaliation.

This is UNESCO's message on this International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

**Zulmira Rodrigues,**  
**Head of Office and Representative to the United Republic of Tanzania**  
**UNESCO Dar es Salaam**