

RESOLUTION ON

ONGOING WAR CRIMES AGAINST MEDIA WORKERS AND

VIOLATIONS OF THEIR RIGHTS DURING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S WAR

OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

1. Taking into account the relevant international legal provisions on human rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, in which CSCE participating States committed to “Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience religion or belief”, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights,
2. Emphasizing that freedom of expression, access to information and media freedom are essential for democratic developments and the achievement of comprehensive security in OSCE participating States, particularly in wartime,
3. Highlighting the vital role of media workers, including journalists and citizen journalists, in informing the public about violations of national and international law, ensuring access to reliable information, and forming an objective understanding of events amid the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine,
4. Emphasizing that, in the context of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, journalists and media workers are in practice not protected as civilians but are increasingly being deliberately targeted and subjected to attacks, persecution and repression aimed at silencing independent reporting,
5. Noting with grave concern that visible identification as “PRESS” has increasingly failed to provide protection to journalists and media workers and has, in many documented cases, turned them into targets of deliberate attacks by the Russian Federation,
6. Recognizing that crimes committed by the Russian Federation against journalists, media workers and media infrastructure are diverse, systematic and interconnected in nature, encompassing killings, injuries, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances, intimidation, politically motivated prosecutions, cyberattacks, destruction and seizure of media infrastructure, suppression of independent broadcasting, forced displacement of media outlets and broader efforts aimed at dismantling the independent Ukrainian information space,

7. Noting that, according to the Institute of Mass Information, the Russian Federation has committed 937 crimes against journalists and the media in Ukraine since February 2022, with 131 journalists killed, 15 of whom died while performing their professional duties, and at least 26 Ukrainian journalists remaining in Russian captivity (as of April 2026),
8. Noting further that, according to UNESCO and the joint UNESCO–Lviv Media Forum study titled “Under the Pressure of War: Challenges and Needs of Media in Ukraine”, the Ukrainian media sector had suffered an estimated US\$560 million in revenue losses as of July 2024, while approximately US\$392 million is needed for the long-term recovery of the sector,
9. Noting the work of the Temporary Investigative Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine investigating crimes against journalists and media workers,
10. Noting with grave concern that the Russian Federation has repeatedly targeted Ukrainian media infrastructure, including editorial offices, television and printing facilities and transmission infrastructure, as part of broader efforts to suppress independent reporting and restrict access to information in and about the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine,
11. Recognizing the crucial role of journalists in ensuring future accountability by documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian Federation,
12. Condemning the continuing efforts of the Russian Federation, since the beginning of its armed aggression against Ukraine in 2014 and following its full-scale invasion in 2022, to suppress freedom of expression, undermine independent media and damage media infrastructure across Ukraine and beyond,
13. Strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine aimed at dismantling the independent Ukrainian information space, including through the dissemination of State-controlled propaganda intended to facilitate forced assimilation and undermine the cultural and historical identity of the local population, including through intimidation, persecution, politically motivated prosecutions and cyberattacks targeting journalists and media workers,
14. Expressing grave concern that as a result of the Russian Federation’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine, journalists and other media workers face heightened risks, including death, injury, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other forms of ill-treatment,

15. Expressing concern that the treatment of Ukrainian journalists and other media workers detained in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine or within the territory of the Russian Federation has consistently violated international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including protections afforded to civilians in situations of armed conflict,
16. Expressing concern over the use by the Russian Federation of transnational repression against Ukrainian journalists, including the opening of politically motivated criminal cases, harassment, threats and cyberattacks targeting media workers beyond occupied territories,
17. Particularly emphasizing the Russian Federation's continued refusal to grant international monitoring mechanisms, including relevant United Nations and OSCE bodies, as well as independent human rights organizations, unimpeded access to journalists and media workers illegally detained in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine or within the territory of the Russian Federation,
18. Expressing concern over the grave violations of the rights of journalists, media workers and citizen journalists illegally detained by the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine or within the Russian Federation whose continued detention poses a serious threat to their lives, health and safety,
19. Expressing deep concern over the death in Russian captivity of Ukrainian journalist Viktoria Roshchyna and over the continued lack of transparent and verifiable information regarding the circumstances surrounding her death, as well as the absence of accountability for those responsible,
20. Expressing concern over cyberattacks committed by the Russian Federation, its digital censorship and its destruction of media communication infrastructure, with the aim of suppressing independent reporting and access to information,
21. Considering United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/ES-11/6 (2023) "Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine" and A/RES/78/215 (2023) "The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity", Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Declaration of 3 May 1996 "On the Protection of Journalists in Situations of Conflict and Tension", Council of Europe Recommendation No. R(96)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of journalists in situations of conflict and tension adopted on 3 May 1996, Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe resolutions No. 1438 (2005) Freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalists in conflict zones, No. 2317 (2020) Threats to media freedom and journalists'

security in Europe, and No. 2618 (2025) “Journalists matter: the need to step up efforts to liberate Ukrainian journalists held in captivity by the Russian Federation”, and OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/18 (2018) “Safety of Journalists”,

22. Considering, *inter alia*, the OSCE Moscow Mechanism reports of 25 April 2024 and 25 September 2025, and the Eighth Interim Report of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Ukraine Monitoring Initiative (February 2026), which confirm that journalists are among the thousands of Ukrainian civilians arbitrarily detained by the Russian Federation and subjected to systematic torture and ill-treatment,
23. Emphasizing that all hostages and unlawfully detained individuals must be released, immediately and unconditionally, including journalists and media workers abducted from Ukrainian territory and unlawfully held by the Russian Federation,
24. Recalling that the right to a fair trial and guarantees of due process must be respected at all times, and that the use of courts and fabricated criminal proceedings as instruments of political persecution is incompatible with international human rights law,
25. Recognizing that the Russian Federation has persistently failed to comply with previous OSCE PA resolutions concerning violations of OSCE principles and commitments, as well as with international humanitarian and human rights law, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

26. Calls on OSCE participating States to:
 - a. strengthen efforts to protect journalists and other media workers covering the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine, including through emergency assistance, protective equipment, trauma support, legal aid and relocation mechanisms;
 - b. strengthen efforts at the national and international levels aimed at securing the immediate and unconditional release, safe return and rehabilitation of all journalists, media workers and citizen journalists illegally detained by the Russian Federation;
 - c. support international accountability mechanisms aimed at identifying and holding responsible those who order, facilitate or perpetrate killings, torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, intimidation of journalists and attacks against media infrastructure in Ukraine;

- d. strengthen joint international efforts to ensure accountability for all those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine, including crimes committed against journalists, media workers and citizen journalists;
 - e. increase international support for Ukrainian independent media, journalist associations and initiatives aimed at restoring pluralistic media environments, particularly in frontline and de-occupied communities;
 - f. increase targeted support for independent Ukrainian media, particularly media outlets relocated from temporarily occupied territories and those operating in frontline areas, including through sustainable funding, security assistance, institutional support and protection against cyberattacks and other forms of intimidation;
 - g. address gender-specific risks faced by women journalists and media workers, including conflict-related sexual violence, harassment and abuse in detention;
 - h. establish targeted sanction mechanisms against individuals responsible for grave violations against journalists and media workers, including in the case of Viktoria Roshchyna, and encourage consideration of a dedicated sanctions track ("Roshchyna List");
 - i. co-operate with Ukrainian and international media watchdogs and human rights organizations in developing common methodological approaches for documenting and classifying crimes committed against journalists and media infrastructure for future accountability mechanisms;
27. Calls on OSCE participating States and relevant international organizations to continue documenting crimes committed against journalists and media workers in the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, where independent reporting remains severely restricted or impossible;
28. Calls on the Russian Federation to:
- a. immediately cease the persecution, arbitrary detention, imprisonment, torture, ill-treatment, enforced disappearance and other forms of intimidation or harassment of journalists, media workers, human rights defenders, political opponents, members of ethnic and religious minorities and other representatives of civil society, including those peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, religion or belief, association and peaceful assembly;

- b. fully comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including as an occupying power in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;
- c. grant safe, sustained and unimpeded access to the territory of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, as well as to places where Ukrainian journalists and other civilians are held, to international organizations, institutions, special procedures, and independent experts of the OSCE, the United Nations and the Council of Europe, as well as independent humanitarian actors;
- d. provide full and verifiable information regarding the circumstances of the death in captivity of Ukrainian journalist Viktoria Roshchyna and ensure accountability for all those responsible;
- e. strictly adhere to the norms and principles of international law, OSCE principles, and immediately and unconditionally release all Ukrainian journalists, media workers and other civilians, including the three detained OSCE officials, Dmytro Shabanov, Vadym Golda and Maksym Petrov, unlawfully detained by the Russian Federation, disclose information about their whereabouts and condition, and ensure their safe return to Ukraine.