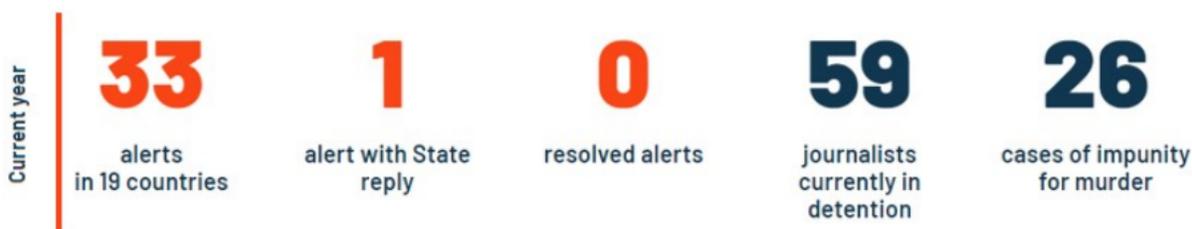


Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 2:36 AM



Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists

Safety of Journalists Weekly 14-21 February 2022



Alerts

- **Ukraine:** [Ukrainian Cameraman Yaroslav Bondarenko Threatened by Bodyguards, Footage Deleted](#). On the afternoon of 13 February 2022, a group of five men approached Yaroslav Bondarenko, a camera operator for the *Ukrainska Pravda*, forced him at knifepoint to unlock his phone, and deleted photos and videos from his device.
- **North Macedonia:** [Journalists Nevri Ademi and Zbulim Maksuti Intimidated and Assaulted](#). On 16 February 2022, the journalist Nevri Ademi and the cameraman Zbulim Maksuti, who work for the regional television in Polog were verbally and physically attacked by a man while filming a report in an elementary school close to Gostivar.
- **Azerbaijan:** [Azerbaijani Journalists Fatima Mövlamli, Sevinj Sadygova and Teymur Karimov Detained and Beaten over Protest Coverage](#). On the morning of 15 February 2022, police in Baku detained Fatima Mövlamli, a reporter for the news website *Azadliq*, Sevinj Sadygova, a reporter at the news website *Azel.tv*, and Teymur Karimov, the editor-in-chief of the YouTube channel *Kanal1*.
- **Russian Federation:** [New Immigration Requirements Submit Foreign Media](#)

[Workers to Regular Medical Tests and to Fingerprinting](#). On 29 December 2021, amendments to the laws “On the legal status of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation” and “On state fingerprint registration in the Russian Federation” went into effect.

- **Finland:** [Threats against Media Workers During Convoy Protest in Helsinki](#). On 4 February 2022, at least five Finnish journalists and media workers from Yle, Iltalehti and MTV3 were attacked during a “convoy” protest against restrictions to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in energy prices.
- **Turkey:** [Turkish Journalist Rojhat Doğru Sentenced to Life Imprisonment](#). On 6 January 2022, the Eighth Diyarbakır Court of Serious Crimes convicted in absentia Rojhat Doğru, a camera operator who covered conflict in Iraq and Syria, of “attempt to disrupt the unity and integrity of the state”, and sentenced him to life imprisonment.
- **Poland:** [Children of Polish Journalists Wojciech Czuchnowski and Tomasz Lis Receive Death Threats, Spoofing](#). On 20 January 2022, several police stations throughout Poland called the son of the Gazeta Wyborcza reporter Wojciech Czuchnowski, Mateusz, saying they had received bomb threats from his phone number.
- **United Kingdom:** [US-based Forensic News Faces SLAPP in London](#). Between June 2019 and June 2020, Forensic News, which is based in the United States, published six articles and a podcast about the business of the British-Israeli security consultant Walter Soriano. The businessman filed a lawsuit in London against Forensic News, its founder, the investigative journalist Scott Stedman, and three of his colleagues with claims in relation to data protection, libel, misuse of private information, harassment, and malicious falsehoods. Trial on the merits of the case is expected before the end of 2022.
- **Turkey:** [Euronews, Deutsche Welle and Voice of America Face Website Blocks over RTÜK Licensing Decision](#). On 9 February 2022, the members of the Radio and Television Supreme Council İlhan Taşçı and Okan Konuralp announced that the France-based outlet Euronews, the United States broadcaster Voice of America, and the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle must apply for broadcasting licenses or else have their websites blocked.

Updates

- **Poland:** [Poland Bans Media Coverage in Poland/Belarus Border Area & ARTE TV Crew Detained and Prosecuted after Entering Poland/Belarus Border Area](#). On 18

January 2022, the Supreme Court quashed a sanction passed by the Sokółka District Court on three journalists from ARTE and AFP, who were detained after entering the Poland-Belarus border area. It found that the blanket ban on access by media to the border area was unconstitutional. It held in particular that the Polish authorities had failed to identify the specific places and times which journalists were forbidden to access, as required by the state of emergency legislation, and had provided for a blanket access ban instead.

- **Sweden:** [Two Journalists Prosecuted for Investigative Documentary on 'MS Estonia'](#). On 15 February 2022, the Court of Appeal for Western Sweden ruled that the prosecuted act can be tried under Swedish law and that the so-called Estonia Act, which bans any exploration of the wreck of the MS Estonia, can be applied in the case. The Court sent the case back to the Gothenburg District Court for retrial.
- **Ukraine:** [RFE/RL Contributor Vladislav Yesypenko Arrested, Charged with Espionage in Crimea](#). On 16 February 2022, after a closed-door trial, the Simferopol City Court convicted Yesypenko of possession and transport of explosives, and sentenced him to six years in prison.
- **Denmark:** [Intelligence Services Warn Media against Publishing Classified Information](#). On 4 January 2022, the Danish Police Special Crime Unit summoned at least seven reporters as witnesses in a leak investigation, according to news reports. The summoned journalists include the Politiken reporters Stryhn Kjeldtoft and Hans Davidsen-Nielsen; the Ekstra Bladet reporter Thomas Foght; the Berlingske reporter Lars Nørgaard Pedersen; the Weekendavisen reporter Hans Mortensen; and one reporter each from the public radio broadcasters DR and Radio Loud, whose names were not disclosed.
- **Turkey:** [Turkish Journalist Sedef Kabaş Arrested and Charged with Insult to the President](#). On 8 February 2022, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan filed a separate lawsuit against Kabaş and Fırat Sakar, the chairman of the TELE1 board of directors, claiming 250,000 Turkish liras in compensation for non-pecuniary damages. On 11 February 2022, the public prosecutor has requested 7 years of imprisonment on the charge of "insult to the President" and 4 years and 8 months on the charge of "insult to a public official" over remarks relating to the Ministers Soylu and Adil Karaismailoğlu. According to the indictment, Kabaş's comments relating to the President overstepped the boundaries of criticism and were not in the public interest.
- **Greece :** [Journalists Ioanna Papadakou and Kostas Vaxevanis Face Criminal Conspiracy Charges](#). On 12 January 2022, the publisher of Documento, Kostas Vaxevanis, was summoned on charges of membership in a criminal organisation and conspiracy to expose an innocent person to prosecution or punishment; to extort a written or oral testimony of an accused or witness; to commit a breach of duty.

[See all alerts ›](#)



State Replies

- The Romanian authorities [replied](#) to the alert [Italian TV Crew Locked In by Romanian Senator and Detained by Police](#).
- The Ukrainian authorities [replied](#) to the alert [Kyiv Post Journalists Fired Collectively](#).
- The Slovak authorities [replied](#) to the alert [Denník N Journalists Monika Tódová and Konštantín Čikovský Face Criminal Charges](#).
- The Spanish authorities [replied](#) to the alert [Four Spanish Journalists Face Possible Criminal Prosecution over Alleged Perjury](#) ; [replied](#) to the alert [RTVE Broadcasting Equipment Destroyed on Day of Catalonia Election](#) ; [replied](#) to the alert [Photojournalist Joan Gálvez Shot with Detonating Ammunition by Catalan Riot Police](#) ; [replied](#) to the alert [Photojournalist José Mari Martínez Punched While Covering Bilbao Protest](#).

[See all replies ›](#)



Follow-ups

- **Ukraine:** The criminal conviction of independent journalist Vladislav Yesipenko, subject of the Platform alert [RFE/RL Contributor Vladislav Yesipenko Arrested, Charged with Espionage in Crimea](#), further undermines media freedom in Crimea, [states](#) the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.
- **Spain:** The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights [calls](#) on the Parliament of Spain to ensure that the review of the 2015 Law on Citizens' Safety, subject of the alert [Spanish Public Security Law Threatens Freedom of Press](#), is used as an opportunity to result in better protecting human rights.
- **Malta:** Following a visit to Malta, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights stated in her [country report](#) that "[t]he authorities must continue their investigations to identify everyone involved in the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia and ensure that those responsible are held accountable and that justice is done". See the related alert [Investigative Journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia Killed by Car Bomb](#).



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Council of Europe, Avenue de l'Europe F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 20 00

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