



As the world marks the [International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists](#) on 2 November, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)) reported a notable rise in the number of journalists killed while exercising their profession, including in Western Europe and North America as well as worrying trends concerning women and online journalists. According to the 2016 [UNESCO Report](#) on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, Arab countries reported the highest number of journalists killed in the 2014-2015 period.

The same report noted that in the past decade, 827 journalists were killed but of those who died, only 8 percent of those who carried out the crimes were held accountable. In a statement, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on countries around the globe "to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists with concrete actions to ensure that all media personnel are guaranteed the space they need to operate free from any form of harassment or intimidation. In this way, we will strengthen public access to information, which is key to Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions."

