

26th Session of the Human Rights Council
Panel discussion on the safety of journalists, 11 June 2014
Intervention by the Czech Republic

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

The Czech Republic welcomes the opportunity to examine more in depth the important and highly topical issue of safety of journalists during today's panel discussion. Strongly disquieted we receive almost daily information from different sources about attacks on journalists, not speaking of the regular alerts from UNESCO condemning murders and killings of journalists worldwide.

Human rights council resolution 21/12 understands by "safety" not only physical protection against violence against journalists and other media professionals but also undue interference by any means, including legal or administrative. Its ultimate goal is creating an enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently. Reporters without borders observe in their press freedom index 2014 that in an unstable environment, media may become strategic targets for those who attempt to control news and information.

It is our strong conviction that an important component contributing to enabling and stable environment is media pluralism, in terms of existence of numerous media providers as well as representation of different political, economic, religious and other views in the media. The Czech Republic therefore provides yearly financial support to a number of projects with the aim to raise the quality of journalism and the overall media landscape. The projects are implemented within the Transition Policy Programme and carried out by Czech NGOs.

Mr. Chair, we hope to hear about further best practices and we are looking forward to the summary outcomes from this panel discussion.

Thank you.