

## Model Table assisting responses by Member States

### Section 1: Table

Current List of Journalists Killed (as condemned by the UNESCO Director-General) and Legal Investigations (as reported by UNESCO Member States)

Date: To be sent to UNESCO **before 30 May 2021**

Name of journalist	Gender	Date of alleged murder	Investigating Authority	Case No	Current Status	Verdict
Ján Kuciak	Male	21 February 2018	National Criminal Agency of the Slovak Republic		<p>On October 21, 2019, the Prosecutor has initiated criminal charges against four persons at the Specialized Criminal Court in Pezinok on suspicion of several criminal offenses, including ordering, abetting and committing an assassination of the deceased Mr. Ján Kuciak.</p> <p>One person, the direct perpetrator of the murder of Ján Kuciak (but also the perpetrator of a murder of another person committed before Mr. Kuciak) admitted to commit the criminal offence in the pre-indictment proceedings and he repeated his confession at the main hearing again.</p> <p>The main hearing at the Specialized Criminal Court in Pezinok against three other persons ended with a verdict on September 3, 2020, condemning another person who has participated in the murder of the journalist Ján Kuciak (but also in a different murder committed immediately before the murder of Ján Kuciak). This person was sentenced to 25 years in prison and he is still in custody, but the</p>	<p><b>On April 6, 2020, the Specialized Criminal Court in Pezinok sentenced the direct perpetrator to unconditional imprisonment for the duration of 23 years. The prosecutor filed an appeal against the verdict with regard to the length of the sentence. On December 2, 2020, the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic as the court of appeal changed the previous verdict and increased the sentence to 25 years in prison. The judgement is final and the sentence is already being executed.</b></p>

				<p>sentence is not final since an appeal was filed against it.</p> <p>However, in the said judgment, two persons were cleared of charges - the suspected person responsible for ordering the murder (although he is serving a sentence of imprisonment for 19 years - he was convicted in another proceeding for counterfeiting bonds) and the suspected intermediary (she is in custody for other relevant proceedings and she has been sentenced by the Specialized Criminal Court in Banska Bystrica for 21 years in prison for intermediation of another murder, although this judgement is not yet final). The judgement concerning the suspected person responsible for ordering the murder and intermediary is not valid yet, as the prosecutor has filed an appeal against it.</p> <p>The above-mentioned appeals have not yet been decided/announced by the Court of Appeal, which is the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic. The date for the appeal proceedings has been set for June 15, 2021, it will be a public hearing.</p>	<p>In addition to these four persons, another person was admitted to be involved in the assassination of Ján Kuciak, in the form of a mediation. This person concluded a plea agreement, and as part of this proceeding, <b>on 31 December 2019 he was sentenced to an unconditional sentence of imprisonment for 15 years. The person is currently serving this sentence.</b></p>
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**Section 2: Positive or Innovative Measuresthe Member State is taking to promote safety of journalists and combat impunity**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Actors</b>	<b>Outcome(s)</b>
Preparation of a new law on media services	Government, Parliament	The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Culture") constantly monitors the basic democratic principles relating to freedom of expression and speech. As regards the legislative activities (including currently adopted measures to eliminate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the sphere of culture), Ministry of Culture takes full account of the guarantee of media freedom and the smooth exercise of the right of access to information, as well as respect for editorial independence.

<p>Support for international activities defending free media and journalists</p>	<p>At the same time, to ensure the legal protection of journalists, we state that the <b>Ministry of Culture is currently preparing a legislative proposal, with the aim to improve the conditions for the performance of journalistic activities.</b> In accordance with the program statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the years 2020-2024 and in connection with the forthcoming legislative adjustments in the media field, the Ministry of Culture is again addressing the topic of protection of journalists, which today is not part of the regulation of the “press law” valid in the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>In addition to the preparation of a new law on media services, <b>the Ministry of Culture is currently preparing a constitutional law, which aims to ensure a free and safe exercise of the journalistic profession, plurality and transparency of media ownership, editorial independence and guarantee the protection of journalists' sources in a digital environment. The law will also aim to ensure that media actors have access to information without discriminatory and unjustified restrictions.</b> The existence of self-regulatory and co-regulatory mechanisms, which among other effective tools will guarantee respect for basic principles of journalism and ethical standards, should also make a significant contribution to achieving the set goal. The legislative process is expected to be finished in the second half of this year in parallel with the Media Services Act.</p> <p>The above-mentioned legislative measures can significantly contribute to the goal of increasing the safety of journalists, as well as measures aimed at simplifying the work of journalists by preventing impunity. It is in the interest of the Ministry of Culture to link the planned legislative steps with measures of other relevant ministries (ministries of interior, justice and investments, regional development and informatization) in order to strengthen the protection of journalists if they perform their activities.</p> <p>Slovak Republic, as a member of the Media Freedom Coalition, has signed the Global Pledge on Media Freedom, a commitment to improve media freedom home and abroad. We actively supported common statements of the Coalition and in other International organisations in defending free media and journalists. Slovakia is ready to contribute to the UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund.</p>
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**Section 3: Steps the Member State has taken to consider the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work**

**Section 4: Agreement to post the submitted information on UNESCO’s dedicated webpage**