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Use of physical force against journalists: a challenge to democracy

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Volodymyr ARIEV and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

During last years' incidents of brutal physical violence against journalists in different countries are increasing at an alarming pace. In some cases police units are using physical force against media representatives themselves, in some other cases suspicious – allegedly hired – hooligans in sportswear and with short haircuts are being used as attackers whereas policemen are standing nearby and completely ignore the beating. Afterwards both police and prosecutors don't react to victims who apply for protection and judgment. Such cases were observed in Georgia, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and some other countries.

Such non-involvement of law enforcement servicemen when journalists are attacked and beaten and their later ignoring of those incidents is a vivid evidence that in some countries officials and servicemen do not abide to general principles of media freedom which is a direct breach of the law and democracy.

Using its credentials and with effective co-operation of NGOs which care for media freedom, the Parliamentary Assembly would be able to systematise all cases that have occurred for the last 3-5 years and should subsequently elaborate a relevant solution on how to stop the rise of incidents when journalists become victims of physical coercion both from State servicemen and hired hooligans.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group