

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Media Advisory

Venue: Addis Ababa

Date: 28th October 2024

Global Commemoration and Day of Action on Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies

The media is an indispensable player for sustainable development and peace building. Yet, the levels of impunity and rising cases of violations against journalists and media workers erodes the rights to **freedom of expression and opinion, access to information**, assembly and association. In an era where journalists and media workers face unprecedented risks, the protection of media professionals is crucial for sustaining **peace and development**, through **access to timely and reliable information**. It is against this background that the **African Union** and **UNESCO**, have joined forces to convene global media stakeholders to commemorate and host a day of action, dedicated to promoting the safety of journalists and media workers in crises and emergencies. [REGISTRATION FORM \(office.com\)](#)

When: November 6th -7th, 2024

Where: African Union HQ

[IDEI Programme - Day 1 - 6 November 2024 | UNESCO](#)

[IDEI Programme - Day 2 - 7 November 2024 | UNESCO](#)

Key speakers

- The Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. **Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa**,
- Minister of Justice, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, **H.E. Hanna Arayaselassie**
- The APRM Secretariat, Chief Executive Officer, **Amb Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre**
- African Union Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to information in Africa - Commissioner **Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo**
- UN Special Rapporteurs for Freedom of Expression and Opinion, Ms. **Irene Khan**
- UNESCO Assistant Director General for Communication and Information -**Dr. Tawfik Jelassi**,
- AU Director of Information and Communication Directorate - **Ms. Leslie Richer**,
- Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; **Hon. Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei**
- AU Director, Governance and Conflict Prevention, Political Affairs Peace and Security Department, **Patience Zanelie Chiradza**

- Excellencies, Representatives of Diplomatic Missions
- Renown journalists and human rights defenders.
- International and regional organizations and other media stakeholders.

Background:

The 2024 **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI)** has been informed by among others, the **principle 20 of the 2019 [AU Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa](#)**, which emphasizes journalist safety.

This theme aligns with the **UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists**, calling for a coalition-based approach to ensure a free and secure environment for media workers.

This year, IDEI designates **November 7** as a day of action for stakeholders to unite efforts and resources to promote a safe, supportive environment for journalists to work independently and without interference. IDEI 2024 also marks the **20th anniversary** of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** and commemorates a decade since the first IDEI celebration in 2014.

For additional information please visit: [Press Release: African Union and UNESCO Convened a Strategic Partners Meeting Ahead of 2024 Safety of Journalists Global Conference -African Union - Peace and Security Department](#)

*Journalists and all participants wishing to take part in this Global event are advised to register through the following link [REGISTRATION FORM \(office.com\)](#) **Deadline October 30, 2024***

For information on the IDEI 2024 please contact:

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