

World Press Freedom Day 2023: EJ Strongly Support with all Democratic Means Press Freedom as a Basic Precondition for Democracy and Human Dignity and urge all Public Institutions to Protect It.

Once again, we need to take note of an increasing worldwide threat to expression of opinion and experiencing the 2023 World Press Freedom Day - May 3 with growing concern about successive global crises, about the state of the media environment and about the increasing attacks on those media and journalists who want to report the world objectively and to be a platform for discussion and different opinions, showing the world as it is.

Press freedom must be the identity card of all nations.

The Russian aggression in Ukraine keeps bringing the world to the brink of a new world war, which, with the presence of weapons of mass destruction, we have hitherto considered unthinkable.

As we underlined last year on the occasion of the 2022 Media Freedom Day, this military conflict is also a test for the media and journalists. We can vividly watch how the media are being used as weapons of blatant propaganda and disinformation. We have realized that those worrying trends that we have seen in recent years were not accidental, but inevitably lead to this dire situation in which we find ourselves.

We are more and more experiencing a misused of Internet.

A bush of malign "services" in the web allows manipulation of information misleading citizens.

More and more "prolific" sources are spreading fake-news all over the world and, more worrying, they target precise "niches" of people accept them as truths, as reality.

A lot of neologisms refer to very dangerous information "services" threatening freedom and democracy. Post-truth, filter bubbles, sharp power are some of them.

Therefore, freedom of the media goes hand in hand with the enormous responsibility of journalists to be objective and to help resolve such crises in the most favorable and just way possible.

On this day, we cannot help but recall that, despite its indispensable role in upholding democratic principles and values in society, the journalistic profession is universally subjected to restrictions, obstruction, political and financial pressure and intimidation from overt and behind-the-scenes powerful political and business circles for whom freedom of speech and information is an obstacle. And these within the European Union too.

We have a number of declarations, charters at any level proclaiming freedom of press but in too many cases they are just paper.

Unfortunately, we see letting to fade away the difference between living in a liberal democracy and living in an authoritarian system.

The authorities only court or indulge those media and their representatives who follow the "right line", who do not criticize them or who do not "meddle" dangerously deeply in their corruption investigations.

Journalism has a great responsibility to defend democracy in our societies, but they must be put by the relevant authorities must put them in conditions to perform freely their work.

EJ feels close to all colleagues suffering working condition for lack of press freedom in their countries; and especially close to the families and friends of those journalist who "guilty" of writing or telling the truth are in prison.

Let's hope that the implementation of the recent European Union's "European Media Freedom Act" will contribute to better guarantee media freedom.