PRESS INFORMATION
THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN
THE EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN AFGHANISTAN

The EU calls on the Afghan Government to end impunity to crimes against journalists

Kabul, 2 November 2016

On the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 2 November the European Union (EU) expressed its deep concerns over the unprecedented rise in the level of violence against Afghan journalists. Reports released by Afghan media support agencies indicate that 2016 has been the worst year for freedom of speech and freedom of the media in Afghanistan since 2001. The first six months report of ACJC indicates that a total of 54 incidents, which include murder, physical assault, detention, and intimidation of journalists recorded across the country, which was a 38 % increase compared to the first six months of 2015.

"The figures are extremely worrying and I strongly condemn all violence against journalist. Freedom of expression is a fundamental right of the Afghan people and must be respected by all parties. I call on the government of Afghanistan to follow up thoroughly on each case of violence against journalists and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. The Government must create a safe work environment for all those in the media," says the EU Special Representative and Head of Delegation in Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin.

The people of Afghanistan have enjoyed a high level of freedom of the press and expression in the past decade. These achievements need to be protected and respected. The EU reiterates its continued support for strengthening journalists and media workers security and freedom of expression in Afghanistan.

The EU also expects the Afghan government to deliver on its commitments to take concerted actions to ensure people's liberty of expression as well as freedom of the media including social media as agreed in the 2nd EU-Afghanistan Human Rights Dialogue held on 1st June 2016.

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