

A Safer World For The Truth

Opening Hearing

2 November 2021

The
People's
Tribunal

on the Murder of Journalists.

Event Programme

Nieuwe Kerk, The Hague

FREE
PRESS
UNLIMITED

RSF REPORTERS
SANS FRONTIERES

CPJ
COMMITTEE
TO PROTECT
JOURNALISTS

A Safer World For The Truth

Investigation. Documentation. Justice.

About A Safer World For The Truth

A Safer World For The Truth is a joint initiative that works towards the pursuit of justice for crimes committed against journalists.

Every week a journalist is killed. Killing the truth is the world's safest crime – in eight out of ten cases the killers go free. More often than not, states fail to honor their duties in ensuring the safety of journalists. Fuelled by a lack of political will and poor institutional capacity, this deadly trend has held steady for the past ten years. With the Tribunal, we demand justice for murdered journalists and set a concrete example for states, who have an international obligation to protect and investigate. The Tribunal consists of five hearings, which will convene from 2 November 2021 - 3 May 2022. The People's Tribunal on the Murder of Journalists is convened in collaboration with the Permanent People's Tribunal.

A Safer World For the Truth was established by press freedom organisations Free Press Unlimited, the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters without Borders, and is funded by the Dutch Postcode Lottery (Nationale Postcode Loterij).

More information about A Safer World For The Truth can be found on:
www.saferworldforthetruth.com

Programme

Time	Programme
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony <i>Leon Willems, Director of Free Press Unlimited</i>
	Opening Statement Permanent Peoples' Tribunal <i>Gianni Tognoni, Secretary-General of the Permanent People's Tribunal</i>
	Keynote Address <i>Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws QC, member of the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Opening Statement Prosecutor <i>Almudena Bernabeu, Lead Prosecutor of the People's Tribunal on the Murder of Journalists</i>

Time	Programme
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Witness Testimony: <i>Threats to journalists and the impact of impunity on freedom of expression</i></p> <p>Journalist Maria Ressa testifies on the threats she faces in reprisal for her work, and the climate for independent journalism in the Philippines. Matthew Caruana Galizia will deliver testimony on his family's pursuit of justice for his mother, the Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was murdered in 2017. Journalist Pavla Holcová will deliver testimony on the obstacles she has encountered in the pursuit of justice for her colleague Ján Kuciak.</p> <p>Witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maria Ressa, CEO and President of Rappler ● Matthew Caruana Galizia, journalist and director of the Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation ● Pavla Holcová, investigative journalist and regional editor for Central Europe at OCCRP
11:30 – 12:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Witness Testimony: <i>Obstacles to justice and the persistence of impunity</i></p> <p>Human rights lawyer Karinna Moskalenko will testify on her experiences litigating the case of the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya at the ECtHR, in which Russia was held accountable for failing to investigate the murder. Journalist Jeroen Akkermans will testify on his pursuit for justice for his colleague Stan Storimans, who was killed in Georgia in 2008. Hatice Cengiz, the fiancée of Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi, delivers testimony on the obstacles to accountability for the murder of Jamal in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.</p> <p>Witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Karinna Moskalenko, human rights lawyer ● Jeroen Akkermans, Dutch television journalist for RTL ● Hatice Cengiz, academic and researcher

Time	Programme
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Expert Witness Testimony: <i>Global trends, causes and consequences of impunity for murders of journalists</i></p> <p>Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression for the United Nations, will deliver expert witness testimony on her findings concerning impunity for murders of journalists. Christophe Deloire's testimony covers the analysis of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) concerning press freedom and the impact of impunity for press freedom worldwide. Joel Simon delivers testimony on behalf of the Committee to Protect Journalists, which has tracked impunity for attacks on the press since 1992. Fatou Jagne Senghore will deliver expert testimony on the safety of journalists and obstacles to justice with a specific focus on West-Africa.</p> <p>Expert witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irene Khan, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression ● Christophe Deloire, Secretary-General of Reporters Without Borders ● Fatou Jagne Senghore, Regional director for Senegal and West Africa at ARTICLE 19 ● Joel Simon, Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break

Time	Programme
<p>16:00 – 17:00</p>	<p>Expert Witness Testimony: <i>Legal obstacles to justice for journalists murdered in reprisal for their work</i></p> <p>Nadim Houry is a human rights lawyer and member of the High Level Panel of Legal Experts, and will testify on the findings of his Panel on the legal obstacles to justice for journalists who are murdered in reprisal of their work. Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers with expertise in safety of journalists and freedom of expression, and she acts for many journalists at risk and bereaved families of journalists killed as a result of their work. Raissa Carrillo is the legal director of FLIP, a Colombian organization dedicated to defending journalists at risk.</p> <p>Expert witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nadim Houry, member of the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom ● Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC, barrister at Doughty Street Chambers ● Raissa Carrillo, legal director of Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP)
<p>17:00 – 17:45</p>	<p>Closing Ceremony Permanent People's Tribunal</p> <p>Introduction by the panel of judges of the Permanent People's Tribunal</p>

Biographies



Leon Willems, *Director of Free Press Unlimited*

Leon Willems is the Director Policy & Programmes of Free Press Unlimited. With help from his international network, Free Press Unlimited has grown into a prominent international press freedom organization, which is active in more than 40 countries. In 2015, Free Press Unlimited received the Dutch Resistance Award for its important work on press freedom. According to Leon Willems, media are the crucial building blocks of a vital democracy and contribute in an important way to the development of a society in general. Maintaining independent media is paramount in all his activities.



Gianni Tognoni, *Secretary-General of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal*

A medical doctor by profession, Dr Gianni Tognoni is the Secretary General of the Rome-based Permanent Peoples' Tribunal since its establishment in 1979. Over the last 35 years Dr Tognoni has been deeply involved in the promotion of humans and people's rights, beginning with his participation in the Russell Tribunal 2 on Latin American Dictatorships (1973-76) and in the preparation of the Universal Declaration of Peoples Rights.



Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws QC, member of the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers and Director of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute. She is widely regarded as one of the leading criminal and public law practitioners in the U.K., representing defendants in many landmark cases in the English courts. Lady Kennedy sits on the House of Lords' EU Committee and chairs the EU Justice Sub-Committee.



Matthew Caruana Galizia, journalist and director of the Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation

Matthew is the director of the Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to achieving justice for his mother, the Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was murdered in reprisal for her work in 2017.



Maria Ressa, CEO and President of Rappler

Maria Ressa is a Filipino journalist and CEO and Executive Editor of Rappler. She has been a journalist in Asia for 35 years, and co-founded Rappler, the top digital only news site that is leading the fight for press freedom in the Philippines. As Rappler's CEO and president, Maria has endured constant political harassment and arrests by the Duterte government, forced to post bail ten times to stay free.



Jeroen Akkermans, Dutch television journalist for RTL

Jeroen Akkermans is a Dutch television journalist. He worked for Super Channel News, Reuters in London and EBT in Frankfurt before he started to work for RTL. Via Moscow and London, he arrived in Berlin in 2001 as a correspondent for RTL News. He was a colleague of photojournalist Stan Storimans, who was killed in Georgia whilst they were reporting together on the war between Russia and Georgia in August 2008.



Pavla Holcová, investigative journalist and regional editor for Central Europe at OCCRP

Pavla Holcová is an investigative journalist and media founder from the Czech Republic who works across borders to expose crime and corruption at the highest levels of government. Her investigation into the murder of her colleague Ján Kuciak unmasked the perpetrators and contributed to the downfall of the former Slovak government. Holcová is a 2021 Knight International Journalism Award winner, presented by the International Center for Journalists to honor outstanding journalism.



Karinna Moskalenko, human rights lawyer

Karinna Moskalenko is Russia's leading human rights lawyer, and member of Moscow Helsinki Group who defended, amongst others, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Garry Kasparov and Alexander Litvinenko. Karinna Moskalenko was also the lawyer of the family of murdered Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya. She won the first ever case against the Russian Federation heard in public hearings of the European Court of Human Rights.



Hatice Cengiz, academic and researcher

Hatice Cengiz is a Turkish academic and a researcher in Middle Eastern studies who has published academic articles and a book on Gulf Countries. She is the widow of slain Washington Post editorialist Jamal Khashoggi, who was murdered inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in 2018. Since that day, Hatice has campaigned for truth and justice in the killing of her fiancée, and for the international community to hold accountable those who ordered and planned the killing.



Christophe Deloire, Secretary-General of Reporters Without Borders

Christophe Deloire is a French journalist who has been secretary-general and executive director of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) since 2012. He ran one of the leading French journalism schools, the CFJ, from 2008 to 2012, and was an investigative reporter for the politics and society sections of the French news magazine *Le Point* from 1998 to 2007. He has also worked for the TV channels ARTE and TF1, made documentary films, edited several authors and wrote several bestsellers.



Joel Simon, Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists

Joel Simon is the executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists. His writing on media issues has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and he is a regular columnist for *Columbia Journalism Review*. Under his leadership, CPJ has been honored with the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights, a News & Documentary Emmy, and the 2018 Chatham House Prize.



Fatou Jagne Senghore, Regional director for ARTICLE 19 West-Africa

Fatou Jagne Senghore is a human rights and freedom of expression advocate with more than 18 years' experience working in Africa. She established ARTICLE 19 West Africa in Senegal in 2010. From 2002 to 2005, she worked with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for the adoption of the Declaration on Freedom of Expression in Africa and the mechanism of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in Africa.



Caoilfhionn Gallagher, barrister at Doughty Street Chambers

Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, London, specialising in human rights and media law. She has acted in many landmark human rights cases before the courts in the UK and internationally. Caoilfhionn is an international expert in journalists' safety and accountability for crimes against journalists. Her current work includes leading the international legal team for the bereaved family of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia; leading the BBC World Service team in BBC Persian v. Iran; and co-leading the international legal team for Maria Ressa. Caoilfhionn has given expert evidence on these issues to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, to Parliamentary inquiries in the UK, Australia and the Council of Europe, and to UNESCO.



Raissa Carrillo, legal director of *Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, Colombia*

Raissa Carrillo is the legal director of Colombian NGO Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP), which monitors violations of press freedom and protects journalists, the media, and citizens who exercise freedom of expression on matters of public interest. Having worked in the Constitutional Court and in projects for the defense and promotion of human rights, she has substantial experience in strategic and operational leadership to foster freedom of expression and safety of journalists.



Nadim Houry, member of the *High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom*

Nadim Houry is a member of the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom. An experienced human rights lawyer, he is currently the Executive Director of the Arab Reform Initiative, a leading think-tank working on democratic reforms in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA). Previously, he worked at Human Rights Watch, including as deputy director of the MENA division and as director of the Terrorism and Counter-terrorism Program.

Panel of Judges

The **panel of judges** has been independently appointed by the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal. The panel consists of internationally recognized jurists, journalists and human rights experts. The panel members are: Eduardo Bertoni, Marina Forti, Gill H. Boehringer, Mariarosaria Guglielmi, Helen Jarvis, Nello Rossi, Kalpana Sharma, Philippe Texier and Marcela Turati Muñoz.

Prosecution team

The **Prosecution team** has been formed in collaboration with Guernica 37 International Law Chambers. The Lead Prosecutor is renowned international human rights lawyer Almudena Bernabeu. The Prosecution team oversees the compilation of evidence for each hearing, hears witnesses and leads the proceedings during the hearings of the tribunal.



Almudena Bernabeu, *Lead Prosecutor of the People's Tribunal on the Murder of Journalists*

Almudena Bernabeu is an international attorney, writer and co-founder and director of Guernica37 International Justice Chambers. Almudena Bernabeu was the director of the Transitional Justice Program at the Center for Justice and Accountability until 2017.

Timeline of the People's Tribunal on the Murder of Journalists

The Tribunal consists of five hearings, starting with the opening hearing on 2 November 2021 in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Prosecution of the Tribunal has selected three cases concerning the murder of a journalist, which are discussed in the three subsequent hearings between January-March 2022. In May 2022, the panel of judges will present its preliminary judgment during the closing session.

More information about the Tribunal can be found on:
www.saferworldforthetruth.com/tribunal

Organising Coalition:

Free Press Unlimited (FPU): Free Press Unlimited is a non-profit organisation based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands that helps local journalists in conflict areas to provide their audience with independent news and reliable information. By supporting local media professionals, Free Press Unlimited seeks to support the enabling of a sustainable, professional and diverse media landscape.

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ): The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF): Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is an NGO based in Paris, France. Its' network of correspondents in 130 countries give RSF the ability to mobilize support, challenge governments and wield influence both on the ground and in the ministries and precincts where media and Internet standards and legislation are drafted. RSF wants all human beings to have access to news and information that allows them to know, understand and develop an opinion about what is at stake in the world and their environment.

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