Russian investigative journalist Yelena Milashina of the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta and her lawyer, Marina Dubrovina, were attacked in the Chechen capital Grozny. On Thursday, 6 February 2020, the pair, who were in Grozny to attend the trial of a local blogger, were assaulted by unknown assailants at the entrance of their hotel. The attackers continued to punch and kick them as they moved inside the hotel lobby. In a statement, Milashina stated she believes she was targeted because of her profession. In spring 2017, the award-winning journalist exposed the arrest, torture and murder of gay men in Chechnya. Milashina noted that she had been threatened by Chechen authorities because of her reporting in the past. Several Novaya Gazeta journalists have previously been targeted in the Russian Federation.

NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: IPI, CPJ, EFJ/IFJ

NO STATE REPLY YET

Russian Federation n° 16/2020

Novaya Gazeta Journalist Assaulted in Chechnya

SOURCE OF THREAT Unknown

CATEGORY Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- CPJ alert: "Russian journalist Elena Milashina attacked in Chechnya"
- IPI Statement: IPI urges investigation in attack on Russian journalist in Chechnya

FOLLOW-UPS

18 Feb 2020 | NEW PACE Rapporteur on media freedom and the safety of journalists calls on Russian authorities to urgently investigate attack on journalist and lawyer in Chechnya.
- Statement by Stefan Schennach

11 Feb 2020 | NEW CoE Human Rights Commissioner declared that the
Russian authorities must ensure the safety and security of Elena Milashina and Marina Dubrovina and carry out a prompt, independent and effective investigation and punish those responsible for organising and committing this offence.

- Statement by Dunja Mijatović published on Facebook

NEW 11 Feb 2020 | Attack against journalist and lawyer in Grozny, Russia, extremely concerning, OSCE Media Freedom Representative urges full and thorough investigation.

- Statement by Harlem Désir