

06

Dec 2018

▲ Lvl. 1

Denmark

Alert created on: 25 Aug 2017

Journalist Kim Wall Killed on a Civilian Submarine

Resolved

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Non-state

CATEGORY  ▶ Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, CPJ, Index, RSF

Freelance journalist Kim Wall (30) was reported missing on 10 August 2017 after she failed to return from a trip aboard a Danish civilian midjet submarine, the US3 Nautilus, with its inventor Peter Langkjær Madsen. The journalist was interviewing the Danish submarine builder for a feature at a time of her disappearance.

Mr Madsen was arrested on 12 August under the suspicion of causing Wall's death in connection with her disappearance. After initially claiming he had dropped her safely near Copenhagen, later reportedly told investigators that she had died in accident and he had buried her at sea.

On 23 August, 2017 the Danish police identified a headless torso found off the waters of Copenhagen as Kim Wall confirming the death of the journalist. Kim Wall, a graduate from Columbia University's school of journalism, had worked for many news organisations including the Guardian, the New York Times and the South China Morning Post.

RESOLVED

06 Dec 2018: In September 2018, the High Court of Eastern Denmark upheld the life sentence given to Peter Madsen for murdering the Swedish journalist Kim Wall in August 2017. On 6 December 2018, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATES

27 Sep 2018: On 26 September 2018, Peter Madsen lost his appeal against his life sentence. Appeals courts judges sided with the earlier decision, saying the case was

one of "unusual brutality".

- ➔ [BBC news article : 'Kim Wall murder: Peter Madsen loses appeal against life term'](#)

25 Apr 2018: On 25 April 2018, Peter Madsen was sentenced to life for murdering journalist Kim Wall.

- ➔ [NBC news report : "Journalist Kim Wall's killer jailed for life by court in Denmark"](#)

24 Jan 2018: On 16 January 2018 Peter Madsen was formally charged by the Danish prosecution with premeditated killing, sexual assault and improper handling of a body. The trial is scheduled to start in Copenhagen on 8 March.

- ➔ [Article published by Reuters: "Danish submarine-owner charged with abusing journalist before killing her"](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ [BBC report: "Kim Wall: Headless body identified as missing journalist"](#)
- ➔ [Aftonbladet report \(in Danish\)](#)
- ➔ [MyNewsDesk report: "Search Continues in Submarine Case"](#)
- ➔ [Report published on Mapping Media Freedom Platform : "Denmark: Swedish journalist goes missing after trip on submarine "](#)
- ➔ [CPJ report : "Kim Wall's death in Denmark calls attention to risks reporters take daily"](#)
- ➔ [EFJ-IFJ statement: "EFJ-IFJ deeply saddened by death of Swedish Journalist Kim Wall"](#)

FOLLOW-UPS

 [25 Aug 2017](#) | Killing of Swedish journalist Kim Wall points at threats faced by journalists, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media says.

- ➔ [Statement by Harlem Désir](#)

