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▲ Lvl. 1

State replied

**Ukraine**

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## Ongoing Impunity in the Case of Killed Journalists Andrea Rocchelli, Andrei Mironov and Wounded Photographer William Roguelon

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ **Unknown**

CATEGORY  ▶ **Impunity for murder**

**PARTNER: RSF, AEJ, EFJ/IFJ**

On 24 May 2014, on the Sloviansk southern front, Italian reporter Andrea Rocchelli, accompanied by Russian journalist and human rights activist Andrei Mironov and French photographer William Roguelon, were the victims of mortar fire that killed Rocchelli and Mironov on the spot and inflicted serious leg injuries on Roguelon, who eventually managed to return to France.

These three experienced reporters were in civilian dress and were travelling in a civilian taxi. They had press accreditation and had crossed ten checkpoints prior to the attack. Their presence was known and they could not be mistaken for military personnel or parties to the conflict.

An investigation was launched in Ukraine, which concluded that no evidence exist to find those responsible for this attack. However many evidences and testimonies were not taken into account : William Roguelon, as well as other key witnesses, were never heard, the ballistic test did not manage to draw any useful conclusion. A complaint has been filed also by William Roguelon in France, and by the Rocchelli family in Italy, where there has been considerable progress in the investigation.

Three years have passed since the date journalists were killed and the Ukrainian, French and Italian authorities cannot let this case go unpunished. They must collaborate and take all appropriate action so as the authors of this attack against journalists do not remain unpunished.

### UPDATES

**18 Jul 2019:** On 12 July 2019, an Italian court sentenced Vitaliy Markiv, a volunteer fighter within the Ukrainian forces, to 24 years in detention, over his role in the killing of the Italian

photographer. Mr Markiv denied he charges and vowed to appeal the sentence.

➔ **Reuters News Report: "Ukrainian fighter found guilty over killing of Italian photographer"**

**17 Jul 2017:** On 30 June 2017, Vitaliy Markiv, a 28-year-old Italian-Ukrainian citizen was arrested in Bologna in the framework of the investigation into the death of Andrea Rocchelli.

➔ **CPJ report: "Italian police arrest Ukrainian man accused of killing photojournalist "**

**STATE REPLIES**



**13 Jul 2017** | Reply from the Government of Ukraine

➔ **Official position of Ukraine**