

17
Sep 2019

▲ Lvl. 1

State replied

Ukraine

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Continuing Impunity in the Killing of the Ukrainian Investigative Journalist Georgiy Gongadze

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Unknown

CATEGORY  ▶ Impunity for murder

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ, CPJ, Index, RSF

Following the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the EFJ, IFJ, Index on Censorship, AEJ, RSF and CPJ submit an alert to the Council of Europe concerning the continuing impunity surrounding the kidnapping and killing in Ukraine of the investigative journalist Georgiy Gongadze.

On 16 September 2000, the journalist disappeared; his beheaded body was found six weeks later. Georgiy Gongadze had been investigating corruption within the Government and in the Presidency of the then President Kuchma. In the months leading to his death, Gongadze reported that he was under surveillance and had been receiving threats.

After years of investigations, four former officers of the Ukrainian Secret Service (SBU) were convicted, but no one was sentenced for ordering and instigating his killing. Over the last 16 years, the lack of an effective investigation into Georgiy Gongadze's kidnapping and murder has had a heavy impact on the Ukrainian society and on the journalistic community at large.

The partner organisations of the CoE Platform call on the Ukrainian authorities to confirm their commitment to the freedom of press, by bringing all those responsible for the death of Georgiy Gongadze to justice.

UPDATES

17 Sep 2019: Aleksei Pukach, the former head of the surveillance department in the Ministry of Interior, who was sentenced to life in prison after confessing to the killing of Georgiy Gongadze on 23 January 2013, has appealed his life sentence. The appeal hearings began in Ukraine's Supreme Court on 4 September 2019 and will resume on 9 October.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- ➔ Report by CPJ: "Journalists Killed - Ukraine : Georgy Gongadze"
- ➔ EFJ/IFJ statement: "IFJ and EFJ mark Gongadze's murder anniversary with call to end impunity in Ukraine"

STATE REPLIES



16 Feb 2017 | Reply from the Government of Ukraine

- ➔ Official position of Ukraine

FOLLOW-UPS



OSCE 15 Nov 2016 | Murder of Gongadze must be fully investigated, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media says, calls on authorities in Ukraine to end climate of impunity.

- ➔ Statement from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media