



Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland
ohchr-InfoDesk@un.org

United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Volker Türk

OPEN LETTER

British reporter Barry James said: “Every journalist killed or neutralized by terror is an observer less of the human condition. Every attack distorts reality by creating a climate of fear and self-censorship.” Unfortunately, for almost 9 years now, the situation described by Barry has been happening in Ukraine and Donbass.

Since 2014, the Ukrainian site Myrotvorets publishes the personal data of journalists from all over the world who cover the armed conflict in Ukraine or express a point of view that differs from the official position of Kyiv. Due to the activities of the Myrotvorets website hundreds of journalists are exposed to the danger of physical violence every day. Media workers on the list repeatedly reported threats against them, and some of them were killed. **Twelve journalists from the Myrotvorets list died.** After their death, the inscription “Liquidated” appeared on their pages on the site. The same thing happened to the page on Myrotvorets of the Russian journalist Daria Dugina, who died in a terrorist attack in Moscow.

The existence and operation of the Myrotvorets website violates numerous UN resolutions on human rights and the safety of journalists. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Security Council resolutions S/RES/2222 and S/RES/1738, General Assembly resolutions A/RES/74/157, A/RES/72/175, A/RES/70/162, A/RES/69/185, A/RES/68/163 and Human Rights Council resolutions A/HRC/RES/45/18, A/HRC/RES/39/6, A/HRC/RES/33/2, A /HRC/RES/27/5, A/HRC/RES/21/12, all these documents are designed to protect journalists from harassment, intimidation and violence. Nevertheless, the administrators of Myrotvorets website are deliberately violating all these resolutions and endanger the lives of hundreds of journalists and freedom of expression.

The blocking of the Myrotvorets website is a matter not only of saving human lives, but also of upholding values and fundamental principles of the civilized

society. The publication of personal data of Russian, Ukrainian, American, British, Canadian, and Polish journalists and journalists from other countries on the Myrotvorets website should be immediately stopped, and the site should be blocked. This will save hundreds of people from violent attacks and threats and will promote the freedom of speech. Only the UN has the authority to close this site. We hope you will hear the voices of people whose safety you have so fiercely defended over the years by adopting multiple resolutions and who are now in real danger because of the actions of the Myrotvorets website.

We, the journalists who have become victims of the atrocities of the Myrotvorets website, and the journalists who want to stop this flagrant violation of human rights, call on you to adopt a resolution that condemns the activities of the Myrotvorets website, and which will become the start of an international investigation on activities of this website.