

The United Nations and the UK representation to the European Union present:

Under The Wire

The screening will be introduced by Ambassador Paul Johnston from the UK Representation to the EU and will be followed by a panel discussion with:

Chris Martin

Director of the Film



Chris is an award winning feature documentary and TV director. His extensive journalistic experience began with his work on investigations for ITV's World In Action and C4 Dispatches. Many of these films won critical acclaim, notably three major investigations into the international arms trade. He moved on to long form documentary, including Palestine Is Still The Issue, Stealing A Nation, and The War On Democracy, a ninety-minute feature documentary. He has worked for all the major British and American television networks and had directed primetime drama documentaries both in the UK and USA. His films have been nominated for, and won, over 20 international awards, including BAFTA, RTS and Amnesty International.

Zaina Erhaim

 @ZainaErhaim

Senior Media Specialist with the Institute of War and Peace Reporting



Zaina is a Syrian journalist, currently based in Turkey. Working with print, TV and film, she has reported on the Syrian civil war from within Syria. Zaina is the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)'s senior media specialist, and as such has trained hundreds of people whilst in Syria to be citizen reporters, notably a large proportion of them women. Zaina is the recipient of the Peter Mackler Award for Courageous and Ethical Journalism and Index on Censorship's Freedom of Expression Journalism Award. She has contributed to The Economist, The Guardian, Newsweek, Middle East Eye, Orient TV, Al-Hayat and Syria-News.

Saorla McCabe

Programme Specialist for the Division for Freedom of Expression, UNESCO



Saorla is a Programme Specialist in UNESCO's Division for Freedom of Expression and Media Development. Her work focuses on coordinating the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, a UN-wide effort to enhance collaboration in tackling these issues. She is in charge of the organization of World Press Freedom Day, a flagship awareness-raising celebration involving some 100 events worldwide each year. Since 2012, she has supported UNESCO's media development activities in Palestine.

Petra Hongell

Information Officer at UNRIC, the United Nations Regional Information Centre



Petra works as an Information Officer at the United Nations Regional Information Centre, responsible for communication and public outreach to the Nordic countries. She is the moderator of the debate as well as the Coordinator of UN Cinema (Ciné ONU) in Sweden and Finland. Previously, she has worked for the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Finnish Permanent Representation to the European Union within the sector for Energy, Research and Competitiveness. She holds a Master of Science in Political Sciences from the University of Åbo Akademi, Finland.

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Every four days, a journalist is murdered, often for simply doing their job of uncovering something that someone wants to stay hidden: the vast majority of these killings go unpunished.

To help raise awareness of this situation, UNESCO, the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, is launching a new campaign, Truth Never Dies, on 2 November, the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

The Organisation is calling for media partners to support the campaign by publishing stories on, or by, journalists who have been killed simply for doing their job, to coincide with the 2 November commemoration. UNESCO has produced a toolkit for media that want to take part. In a recent statement, UNESCO said that journalist killings affect the whole of society because they prevent the free circulation of information and all citizens' expression of opinions and ideas. The message of the campaign is that, by publishing stories of these journalists in the media and demanding that justice be done, truth will not die.



Each year, one journalist gets a Pulitzer and one hundred get shot.

The 2 November was chosen as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists following a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2013. The date was chosen to commemorate the assassination of two French journalists, Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon, who were killed on that date in Mali, whilst on assignment.

'Under the Wire' gives a powerful and thought-provoking look at the realities of war reporting and the sacrifices made by journalists to bring these atrocities to light. Reporters without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists assess Syria as the world's deadliest country for journalists. Syria's civil war has torn apart the country's social fabric, and seen its media and cultural space dominated by disinformation and constrained by self-censorship.

The UK is proud to support projects in countries where media freedom is under significant pressure, including the development of professional and independent media in Syria. The UK's commitment to addressing the challenges to media freedom is unwavering in recognition of the importance of a free media for creating vibrant, informed societies and for supporting a safer, more prosperous and progressive world.



Brussels Liaison Office
UNESCO Representation
to the European Institutions



UNRIC



**UK Representation
to the EU Brussels**