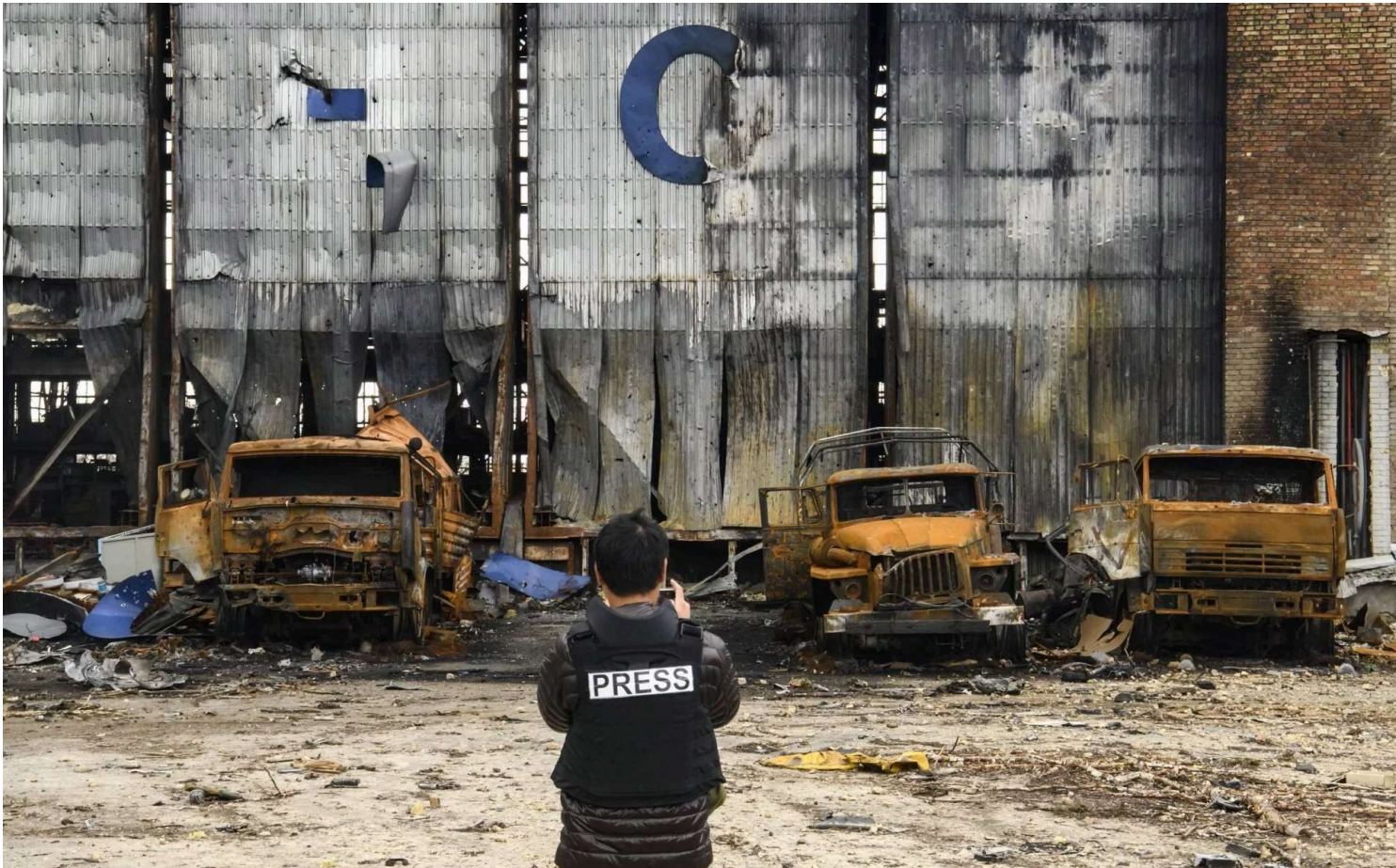


Russian war against Ukraine: there will be no impunity for abuses against journalists, Borrell says

October 23, 2024



“Journalists are considered civilians under international humanitarian law and should be actively protected in all conflict situations,” EU High Representative Josep Borrell said in connection with Russia’s aggressive actions against journalists covering the war in Ukraine. His speech was delivered yesterday at the European Parliament by European Commissioner for Climate Action, Wopke Hoekstra.

According to Reporters without Borders, more than 100 journalists have been victims of Russian crimes since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. This includes at least 35 wounded, 12 detained, as well as 233 media outlets closed in the territories temporarily occupied by Russia.

Borrell reminded about the recent death of Ukrainian freelance journalist

Victoria Roshchyna while in illegal arbitrary Russian detention that *“is yet another example of Russian disregard for media freedom and international commitments”*.

He also said that the Russian Federal Security Service lately decided to initiate criminal cases against journalists covering Ukraine’s counter-offensive operation in Kursk. Now, already 14 foreign journalists are subject to such *“utterly ridiculous”* charges. *“It is again, a clear attempt to intimidate journalists and discourage them from performing their professional duties. We cannot allow that,”* Wopke Hoekstra said on behalf of Borrell.

He also said journalists and media workers alike play *“an indispensable role in providing accurate and timely coverage from war zones, ensuring that information about the realities and impact of war can actually reach a global audience, including us”*.

He concluded the speech, saying that the European Union has, and will, condemn any form of Russia’s ongoing harassment, intimidation and violence against journalists and media workers covering war zones and frontlines. *“For them, safety and protection must be ensured at all times. There can be no impunity, and I say it again, there can and will be no impunity, for human rights violations and abuses against journalists,”* the High Representative said.

