

2 November 2014

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against
Journalists**

Today, we celebrate the first International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. Recognizing the contribution of press to democracy, peace and good governance, the General Assembly proclaimed this day in a landmark resolution adopted in 2013.

Every day around the world, journalists risk their lives to shed the spotlight on important issues, such as the plight of populations caught in violence and conflicts, on people who stand up for their fundamental rights, on the struggles of the poorest and most vulnerable. By giving a voice to those who do not have one, they contribute to building open and transparent societies, where citizens can make informed decisions.

But their essential work can be fraught with dangers: in the last decade, over 700 journalists lost their lives and many more have been victims of intimidation, imprisonment, harassment, kidnapping and torture. Whenever these crimes go unpunished, they foster a climate of fear and impunity and deprive journalists of their freedom.

On this inaugural International Day, I call on Member States to take all necessary measures to promote a safe working environment for journalists and to prosecute crimes against them. For a safer world for journalists is a better world for all of us.