



PRESS RELEASE

Statement of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) related to the murder of Ján Kuciak and Martina Kušnírová

05/03/2018

The CCBE is troubled by the deaths of Slovakian journalist, Ján Kuciak, and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová.

The CCBE is gravely troubled by the deaths of journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová.

As an organisation, the CCBE has always placed great emphasis on the respect for human rights and the Rule of Law and we wish to express our sincere respect to the families, friends, and colleagues of the deceased.

The CCBE would like to express its support to all professional journalists as, similarly to the legal profession, their work supports the Rule of Law and human rights. Indeed, the expository work of investigative journalism, which respects professional boundaries, is crucial in ensuring transparency in our societies and promoting the Rule of Law.

It is with regret that the CCBE has noted the rising trend of attacks and threats against lawyers in recent years and it is gravely concerned that the deaths of Ján Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová, also appear to be directly linked to his activities as an investigative journalist.

The CCBE believes that every state must take the necessary measures to guarantee the safety of its citizens. Especially if they come under attack for carrying out their professional activities. The independence of the media and

freedom of expression are crucial components of a just and fair society.

The CCBE is hopeful that Slovakian authorities will pursue a thorough and efficient investigation into these deaths and looks forwards to the subsequent revelations surrounding this brutal crime.

About the CCBE

The CCBE represents the bars and law societies of 45 countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers. Founded in 1960, the CCBE is recognised as the voice of the European legal profession by the EU institutions and acts as the liaison between the EU and Europe's national bars and law societies. The CCBE regularly writes [human rights letters](#) to highlight threats and attacks against lawyers.

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