


The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

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The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

[Commentator] Also working to ensure a more democratic Europe is the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. He serves as media watchdog, monitoring any violations against the freedom of the press and calling these to the attention of governments.

[Freimut Duve] Whenever I am informed of cases of pressure on media professionals, I try to immediately intervene with the government concerned.

The first step is I hear of some arrestment or imprisonment of a journalist. Then the Foreign Minister, who is my partner, gets a letter. I don't accuse him or his country at all, I just ask his comments. Sometimes I wait one and a half months; then we get into a crucial expectation time. And this could mean that I'll send somebody to that city, to that capital, doing his own or her own research. At the end of this, I present that particular case of that particular State to the Permanent Council. And then it is very crucial how do the governments react to my criticism. The 54 States are not all radically friends among themselves. So, sometimes I use this.