

# World's press calls for protection of journalists in Russia

MOSCOW, RUSSIA: The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) and the World Editors Forum has called on Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to ensure that widespread attacks on journalists are aggressively prosecuted following the attempted murder of newspaper reporter Oleg Kashin.



"We are alarmed at the culture of impunity that surrounds attacks on journalists, which stifles criticism and can lead to self-censorship," the global organisations said in a letter to the president, which pointed to 19 unsolved murders of journalists in Russia. "We respectfully remind you that it is the duty of the state to provide an environment in which journalists are able to carry out their professional duties without fear of violence."

## Beaten

Kashin, a reporter for the business daily *Kommersant*, suffered a fractured jaw, broken legs and injuries to his fingers and skull after being beaten outside his Moscow apartment building on Saturday (6 November). *Kommersant* editor Mikhail Mikhailin said that the attack was retribution for articles written by Kashin, who had recently covered anti-Kremlin protests and extremist rallies.

WAN-IFRA welcomed President Medvedev's appointment of the Prosecutor General to oversee the case, and his remark that "the criminals must be found and punished", but said more needed to be done.

The full letter can be read at [www.wan-press.org/article18716.html](http://www.wan-press.org/article18716.html).

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