

COURT REPORTING

Guidelines for
Journalists



September 2023



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Mission in Kosovo

PREFACE

Journalists the world over bear a huge responsibility when it comes to ensuring that readers and viewers have access to accurate and timely reporting of important developments. Reporting of court proceedings of wider public interest is no exception.

We are therefore pleased to present the OSCE Mission's first guidelines for journalists on court reporting. This work is in line with the Mission's mandate to foster respect for freedom of expression and freedom of speech, both of which are so important for the proper functioning of democratic societies and for ensuring comprehensive security.

Good quality reporting should challenge as well as inform, holding public officials to account for their actions and decisions. These guidelines are designed to support journalists in their work, helping them to produce accurate, truthful and balanced reports of court proceedings, while adhering to the best standards of journalism and established codes of ethics.

We are all aware of the harm caused by false or misleading information being circulated. The proliferation of false information can both undermine respect for human rights and damage democratic processes. It also saps the credibility of the media.

At the same time we should never forget the role of responsible journalism in ensuring that the public have access to accurate information and a range of views, nor the risks which journalists often face in their work.

The public has the right to know how its institutions, including the courts, are functioning, how the government manages public resources and whether legislation is being implemented in practice. Journalists need support in making this possible.

These guidelines are the work of my dedicated OSCE Mission colleagues. However, the OSCE Mission could not have produced them without the strong support of our partners at the Kosovo Judicial Council, the Association of Journalists of Kosovo, the Press Council of Kosovo, the Independent Media Commission, the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) and media law experts, who kindly contributed their expertise in the preparation of the guidelines.

I am grateful to all those who have worked so hard to produce this document. It is my sincere hope that they will indeed help to steer journalists through the complexities of the Kosovo court system. I also hope that they will enhance journalists' understanding of their rights and responsibilities as they work to inform the public of proceedings in Kosovo courts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Davenport', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Davenport
Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo

INTRODUCTION

The intended target of these guidelines are journalists who report from and about Kosovo courts. The guidelines will serve as a basic guide, which outline the rules, the structure of the Justice institutions, applicable legislation and the behavioral standards that a professional journalist of any experience level needs to be equipped prior to reporting on public trials from within the courtroom, with an emphasis on criminal proceedings. It is the duty and responsibility of every journalist to understand and apply these good practices when reporting from and about court proceedings. If the journalist is unfamiliar with a term, process or the subject of a court case, he or she should seek the guidance of an experienced public information officer, lawyer or judge.

The guidelines have three parts:

- 1. Court reporting,**
- 2. Privacy and protection standards and**
- 3. Overview of the legal and normative frameworks that govern these standards.**

The guidelines begin with a quick reference of dos and do nots in court reporting, which are further explained in greater depth throughout the first and second sections. The third section provides a high-level overview of the structure of the courts, key technical terms journalists may encounter when reporting from and about courts, and key legal mechanisms governing court reporting.



QUICK REFERENCE

DOs ✓

- ✓ Uphold professional and ethical standards whilst reporting on court proceedings.
- ✓ Respect confidentiality and court orders.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the judicial system in Kosovo.
- ✓ Respect presumption of innocence prior to a final court decision and reflect this in your writing.
- ✓ Report in an impartial, balanced and accurate manner by presenting all sides in any court case.
- ✓ Seek guidance of an experienced public information officer, lawyer or judge if unfamiliar with an area of law.
- ✓ Make use of your sources if they have reliable and direct knowledge.
- ✓ Rely on identified sources of information.
- ✓ Strive to identify all sources but respect the protection of a source's identity when requested.
- ✓ Exercise your right to remain silent regarding your sources.
- ✓ Explain why the source requested anonymity.
- ✓ Reveal the identity of a source at the request of a competent court if it is necessary to prevent a serious threat.
- ✓ Treat stories involving personal tragedy sensitively and only when there is a public interest.
- ✓ Protect the identity of children and vulnerable adults involved in criminal proceedings – it is their right
- ✓ Employ care and sensitivity when deciding to publish information about the accused or suspect related to a criminal investigation.
- ✓ Correct published information found to be inaccurate.
- ✓ Draw a clear distinction between news and opinions while excluding defamation and insult.

DO NOT X

- ❑ Treat any individual as guilty of a crime prior to a final court decision to that effect.
- ❑ Reveal confidential information.
- ❑ Publish false or misleading information.
- ❑ Only present one side of the case.
- ❑ Disregard non-discrimination principles and the rights of non-majority communities and other associations, including based on language, community, religion, sexual orientation, politics or socio-economic status.
- ❑ Communicate everything known about a case, such as names of victims, witnesses, and juveniles and pictures from crime scenes.
- ❑ Rely on a single source for controversial and/or disputed material.
- ❑ Rely on anonymous sources that aren't reliable and don't have direct access to information.
- ❑ Enquire into an individual's private life, unless there is public interest.
- ❑ Interview or photograph children under the age of 18 without the consent of the adult responsible for the child.
- ❑ Distort or misuse- statements made in certain contexts.
- ❑ Publish the name of witnesses that would harm the trial or lead to threats against them.
- ❑ Disclose personal information that would violate the privacy or safety of victims, witnesses (especially protected witnesses) or the accused.

1. REPORTING FROM COURTS

1.1 Right to Access

Representatives of the media have the right to attend court proceedings to maintain the transparency of justice in many cases.

Most trials are open to public. Every person has the right to attend them in most cases.¹² Journalists must be able to report freely on court proceedings in order to provide the public with information about the activities of the judicial authorities.³ The public has a legitimate right and interest to be informed about crimes, and trials.⁴ It is the responsibility of the media to report on these issues. Court officials should admit journalists to public court hearings and public pronouncements of judgements without discrimination and without prior accreditation requirements.⁵ While the right to a public trial is important (and is the basis for media or citizens attending trials), it is not an absolute right and may be limited in certain cases (e.g., to protect the safety of witnesses, vulnerable victims, underage, etc.), as introduced below. Some information in cases is public and other is private (especially at the investigatory stage, and if related to privacy rights).⁶⁷⁸

1.2 How to Access Courts

To comply with European human rights standards, courts must make trial schedules available to members of the public, including journalists.⁹ Trial schedules in Kosovo are open to the public. Journalists may access them from the Kosovo Judicial Council website.¹⁰ Judicial authorities should regularly provide accurate information to the media about the on-going proceedings as long as this does not affect or delay court proceedings.¹¹ Additionally, courts should provide journalists access to and allowed to disseminate publicly pronounced court judgements.¹²

1.3 Presence of the Media in the Courtroom

Court officials may ask journalists to identify themselves. It is imperative for journalists and the media to comply with court rules to ensure their uninterrupted access to the courts.¹³ Attendees including journalists must stand up when the single trial judge or a collegium of judges (referred to as a trial panel) enters or leaves the courtroom. Journalists should, for example, install cameras and other equipment before a trial starts. Cameras should not use flash when taking pictures. Journalists should type on a laptop/phone carefully and limit any noise in order not to interrupt and/or obstruct the trial.

1.4 Conditions for Restrictions on Court Reporting

Freedom of expression is not an absolute right.

Trials in certain cases may be closed to the public, including cases that journalists may encounter when reporting from courts.^{14 15} These cases include when there are implications for the “respect for the rights and reputations of others” and “for the protection of national security or public order...”.¹⁶ The judge may only order closure of the proceedings when the interest supported by closure substantially outweighs the public interest on open proceedings.¹⁷

The presiding judge or the trial panel decide whether to allow recording of public hearings.^{18 19} The judge may order the trial not to be recorded or close the hearing to the public and media in whole or part of the main trial in certain cases.²⁰ Such cases include if it is necessary for maintaining the integrity of judicial decision-making processes, protecting national security, protecting the interests of children, maintaining law and order, or protecting the privacy of injured parties, and witnesses.^{21 22 23} The judge may charge journalists with contempt of court if they do not abide by an order not to record court proceedings. Contempt of a court order is punishable by a fine or imprisonment.²⁴

Journalists should also understand that judges and lawyers might not be able to comment on an actual case due to the above-mentioned reasons, although high level and legal explanations may be permissible. Similarly, in criminal cases, journalists may need to derive the position of the prosecution from written court documents when the prosecutor is unwilling or unable to speak to the reporter, as is regulated by legislation on prosecutor's communication with media.²⁵

1.5 Ungrounded Announcements by the Media

Media representatives are obliged to publish reactions or rebuttals to inaccurate information they published.

Persons and organizations have the right to reply to and right to correction of incorrect public criticism published inaccurately about them.^{26 27 28 29 30 31} Additionally, a court may sanction media if they report inaccurate information about unjustified convictions or a groundless arrest of a person and the reporting harmed the reputation of that person.³² In such cases, the court upon request of that person or their family, can request from the media to report on the decision and clarify that the conviction was unjustified or the arrest was groundless. The relevant person or their family may file a similar request if a court legally overturns a judgement if the previous and later overturned judgement seriously harmed the reputation of the previously convicted person. They shall file such a request within six (6) months with the court that adjudicated the criminal proceedings in the first instance.³³

2. PRIVACY AND PROTECTION STANDARDS IN COURT REPORTING

2.1 Anonymous Sources

Journalists should strive to identify all news sources. A best practice is for journalists to use anonymous sources only if they are reliable and, in a position, to have direct knowledge of the information. The information must be important and not opinion or speculation.³⁴ Professional media organizations require more than a single source for controversial, disputed material, and should explain why the source requested anonymity and if appropriate, the source's motive for disclosing the information.

Journalists and other media professionals have the right to not disclose their sources of information in most cases.^{35 36} They have an obligation to protect the identity of those who provide information in confidence.³⁷ However, journalists and other media professionals are obliged to reveal the identity of an anonymous source only at the request of a court in charge of the relevant lawsuit. This should happen only if the court determines the legitimate interest in the disclosure clearly outweighs the public interest in the non-disclosure.^{38 39}

2.2 Presumption of Innocence

Media must uphold the right of all accused and defendants to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The media should take the rights of defendants into account by when reporting on criminal proceedings, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.^{40 41 42} Journalists should protect the right to privacy of suspects and accused persons.⁴³ Whether the person is an accused or a suspect, journalists should

employ care and sensitivity in deciding whether to publish the person's name, and the amount of information and personal background about them.^{44 45} Journalists should respect any court order not to publish information about the accused.⁴⁶

2.3 Balanced Reporting

Similar to the presumption of innocence and the requirement of fairness, journalists covering the courts have an ethical obligation to report stories in an impartial and balanced manner.⁴⁷ To achieve this goal, journalists must present the point of view of the two opposing sides in any criminal or civil lawsuit. Journalists should be careful not to distort or misuse statements made in one particular context.⁴⁸ Journalists reporting on court proceedings must respect and reflect facts and the right of the public to know the truth. Journalists shall adhere to international standards of conduct and ethnic, national, racial, gender, sexual, cultural and religious diversity.⁴⁹

2.4 Privacy and Protection of Victims

Journalists should report on personal tragedy only when there is a public interest.⁵⁰ They should avoid intrusions and enquiries into an individual's private life, respect the dignity of victims and their families and allow people to mourn privately, such as in cases of violent crime.^{51 52 53 54} They should not publish photos or videos from the crime scene without covering the identity or body of the victims. They should neither publish news with photos or videos of the victims or missing persons nor identify them in the report by name. Journalists should strictly avoid disclosing any information that could potentially reveal the identity of a victim of sexual assault.

2.5 Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults

If the public interest is high, journalists should approach children affected by the tragedy with an understanding, protection of privacy, and with discretion.^{55 56 57} Journalists should not interview or photograph children under the age of 18 without the consent of the parent or adult responsible for the child. The media should never publish the name and surname, photographs, videos or other images of children involved in accidents, violence, criminal offenses, natural disasters or other traumatic incidents. In cases where the media publishes photos, videos or other images of children or other persons with children appearing, they are obliged to cover the faces and distinctive mark of the child.⁵⁸ ⁵⁹Journalists should consider the harmful effect of the disclosure of information enabling their identification might have on the minors or other vulnerable persons.^{60 61 62}

2.6 Witness Protection

It is important to exercise caution when reporting on witnesses involved in criminal proceedings. Journalists should never publish the identity of protected witnesses without their approval.⁶³ Such disclosure risks putting their lives and/or security at risk and may interfere with court proceedings.^{64 65 66} Judges may charge journalists with contempt of court if they do not abide by the order not to publish the names of protected witnesses. Contempt of a court order is punishable by a fine or imprisonment.⁶⁷

3. NORMATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS GOVERNING COURT REPORTING

3.1. Applicability of International Agreements and Instruments

Human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the following international agreements and their instruments are applicable in Kosovo and, in the case of conflict, have priority over provisions of laws and other acts of public institutions. These documents are widely accepted as serving as the foundation for international human rights law. Key referenced components, though there are others, in these guidelines for court reporting are:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶⁸

- **Article 10** – Right to a fair and public trial

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁶⁹

- **Article 14** – Rights of presumption of innocence and to a free and fair trial
- **Article 17** – Right to privacy
- **Article 19** – Rights to freedom of expression and information

European Convention on Human Rights⁷⁰

- **Article 6** – Right to a fair trial
- **Article 8** – Right to respect for private and family life
- **Article 10** – Right to freedom of expression

Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec (2003)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the provision of information through the media in relation to criminal proceedings⁷¹

- **Principle 1** – Information of the public via the media
- **Principle 2** – Presumption of innocence

- **Principle 3** – Accuracy of information
- **Principle 4** – Access to information
- **Principle 5** – Ways of providing information during criminal proceedings
- **Principle 6** – Regular information during criminal proceedings
- **Principle 8** – Protection of privacy in the context of on-going criminal proceedings
- **Principle 9** – Right of correction or right of reply
- **Principle 12** – Admission of journalists
- **Principle 15** – Support for media reporting
- **Principle 16** – Protection of witnesses

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the Field of Media and Information Society, No. R (2000) 7⁷²

- **Principles 1** – Right of non-disclosure of journalists
- **Principle 2** – Right of non-disclosure of other persons
- **Principle 3** – Limits to the right of non-disclosure

UN Convention on the International Right of Correction⁷³

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child⁷⁴

3.2 Kosovo Court Structure Overview

The Kosovo judicial structure is composed of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Commercial Court and seven Basic Courts in seven regions covering the whole Kosovo territory. Each region also includes multiple local Branch Courts to cover the territory of the municipality. For the protection of freedom of expression, after exhausting all legal means, the parties can turn to the Constitutional Court, which protects fundamental rights.⁷⁵

Kosovo Judicial Council

The Kosovo Judicial Council's powers are foreseen by the Constitution and the Law on Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC)⁷⁶, under which the Council has its fundamental role for ensuring the

independence and impartiality of the judicial system. The Secretariat assists the Council in implementing the rules and its policies with regard to the management, budget and courts administration.

Kosovo Supreme Court

The Kosovo Supreme Court is the highest judicial instance in Kosovo and has jurisdiction over the entire Kosovo territory. It includes the Appeals College of the Kosovo Property Agency as well as the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court. It examines and adjudicates cases in the college with three (3) professional judges, except when the law requires a greater number of judges.

The Supreme Court is competent for:

- requests for extraordinary legal remedies against the final court decisions;
- appeals against the decisions of the second instance courts on contentious matters;
- appeals in the third instance as allowed by the law;
- principled positions, legal opinions and guidelines for the unique application of laws by the courts in the Kosovo territory;
- cases of the Kosovo Property Agency;
- decisions in the Special Chamber, the cases of the Kosovo Privatization Agency or the Kosovo Trust Agency;
- and any other issues provided by law.

The Supreme Court may convene a General Session of all its judges to issue principled positions, legal opinions and guidelines that promote the unique application of laws.

Kosovo Court of Appeals

The Kosovo Court of Appeals is a court of second instance that adjudicates cases appealed after proceedings in any of the seven basic courts. It consists of the General Department, Serious Crimes Department, Special Department for cases under the jurisdiction of the Kosovo Special Prosecution; Commercial Matters Department, Administrative Matters Department and Juvenile Department.⁷⁷

Kosovo Basic Courts

The Kosovo Basic Courts⁷⁸ serve as initial adjudicating authority (referred to as the first instance) in all cases. The seven Basic Courts have jurisdiction over the regions of Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peč, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Prizren and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. They have various departments, including the General Department (Criminal and Civil Division), the Serious Crimes Department and the Juvenile Department.

3.3 Kosovo Prosecution Structure

Kosovo prosecutorial structure is composed of the Office of the Chief Prosecutor⁷⁹ as the highest instance with jurisdiction throughout the Kosovo territory. The Appellate Prosecution Office serves as a second instance in the case of an appeal with jurisdiction throughout Kosovo and consists of the General Department, the Serious Crimes Department and Juvenile Department. The Special Prosecution Office is a specialized prosecutorial body, with jurisdiction throughout Kosovo. There are seven Basic Prosecution Offices consisting of the General Departments, the Juvenile Departments and the Serious Crimes Prosecution Departments.⁸⁰

Kosovo Prosecutorial Council

As an independent institution, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council oversees and ensures that the State Prosecutor is independent, professional and impartial.⁸¹

Kosovo Chief Prosecutor

The Kosovo Chief Prosecutor is an independent institution with authority and responsibility for the prosecution of persons charged with any criminal offense or any other offense as provided by law.^{82,83}

Appellate Prosecution Office

The Appellate Prosecution Office is established to act before the Court of Appeal and consists of the General Department, Serious Crimes Department, and Juvenile Department.⁸⁴ Prosecutors appointed to the Appellate Prosecution Office are specialized in representing criminal prosecution before the Court of Appeal. The competence of the Appellate Prosecution Office is to make proposals on appeals, rule on conflicts of jurisdiction between the basic prosecution offices, and consider other matters provided by law.⁸⁵

Kosovo Special Prosecution

The Kosovo Special Prosecution has jurisdiction over the entire Kosovo territory and consists of four departments: War Crimes, Organized Crime, Terrorism, and Corruption and Financial Crime.⁸⁶

3.4 Kosovo Key Legal Instruments/Framework

Key Kosovo laws referenced in these guidelines for court reporting, though there are others, are:

The Kosovo Constitution:⁸⁷

- **Article 31** – Right to fair and impartial trial
- **Article 40** – Freedom of expression
- **Article 41** – Right of access to public documents
- **Article 42** – Freedom of media
- **Article 109** – State prosecutor
- **Article 110** – Kosovo Prosecutorial Council

The Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code:⁸⁸

- **Article 293** – Publicity of the main trial
- **Article 294** – Public may be excluded
- **Article 296** – Law enforcement and media in court
- **Article 289** – Closed sessions during the judicial review
- **Article 530** – Ungrounded media announcements

Kosovo Law on the Protection of Journalism Sources:⁸⁹

- **Article 4** – Right to remain silent about sources

Kosovo Criminal Code:⁹⁰

- **Article 392** – Violating secrecy of proceedings
- **Article 401** – Court contempt

3.5 Key Terms

This section introduces journalists to key terms journalists need to understand when reporting from or about courts. The following terms and associated definitions come from the Basic Legal Handbook for Journalists, developed by the Association of Journalists of Kosovo with support from the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.⁹¹

ACCUSED – A person against whom an indictment has been submitted and the main trial is scheduled.

ACQUITTAL – A decision by a court that a defendant is found not guilty of a crime. An acquittal is not a finding of innocence but it is simply a conclusion that the prosecution has not proved its charge.

APPEAL – Request to a higher court to review and change the judgment in a case decided by an inferior or lower court.

CONTEMPT OF COURT – The acts of the parties in the proceedings by which is shown disobedience or disrespect towards a court or/and a judge.

CONVICTED PERSON – a person who is found guilty of the commission of a criminal offence by a final judgment of a court.

DEFENDANT – A person against whom criminal proceedings are conducted. The term also is used as a general term for “accused” and “convicted person.”

DECISION – A judicial decree or decision based on the legal and factual analysis of a case that has been reviewed or litigated.

GUILTY – A decision by a judge or a jury in relation to the person who has been charged with a criminal offence, which legally establishes his or her guilt.

IMMUNITY – Protection against arrest and prosecution.

INDICTMENT – The formal charge issued by a prosecutor stating that there is sufficient evidence that the defendant committed the crime to justify holding a trial.

INJURED PARTY OR VICTIM – a person who has suffered harm or loss caused by a criminal offense.

JUDGMENT – The final official legal decision by a court in a

lawsuit, criminal prosecution or appeal from a lower court's judgment.

LAWSUIT – Common term for a legal action in civil, administrative, and commercial law cases initiated by one person or entity against another person or entity in order to be decided in the court of law.

MEDIA BIAS – Occurs when the media (individually or collectively) reports something that is inaccurate or one-sided because of ideology, political favoritism, or other factors.

OPENING STATEMENT – Usually the procedure of the courts hearing commences with the opening statement of the presiding judge thus ascertain the presence of all the parties and invited partakers, as well make certain that there are no obstacles to persist with the hearing.

PLAINTIFF – A person who files a civil lawsuit. Also called a Claimant or Complainant.

PRESIDING TRIAL JUDGE – a judge in the Serious Crimes Department of the basic court who receives the indictment, rules on all preliminary and evidentiary motions at the initial hearing, and presides over the trial panel that adjudicates the main trial.

PROSECUTOR – a public official who is responsible for prosecuting persons who infringe the law, within the jurisdiction of a particular court.

SUSPECT – A person against whom there is a reasonable suspicion that he/she has committed a crime.

SINGLE TRIAL JUDGE – A judge in the General Department of the basic court who receives the indictment, rules on all preliminary and evidentiary motions at the initial and second hearings, and presides over and adjudicates the main trial. Compare with the Presiding Trial Judge definition.

TRIAL – A judicial examination held in a court to examine facts in a particular case for the purpose of rendering a judgment for conviction or acquittal of the defendant.

TRIAL PANEL – A panel of presiding trial judge and two professional judges who hear the evidence and adjudicate during the Main Trial.

3.6 Codes of Conduct and Self-Regulatory Tools

Codes of conduct and self-regulatory bodies are crucial elements contributing to a balanced and ethical practice of journalism. In Kosovo, the Independent Media Commission Code and the Code of the Press Council of Kosovo play a significant role.^{92,93} Journalists are obliged to adhere to these codes in order to uphold professional standards and international best practices of journalism.

The Independent Media Commission's Code of Ethics for Media Service Providers introduces rules of ethics for Media Service Providers. Articles 1 and 2 introduce purpose and scope. The remaining articles address the following international accepted standards:⁹⁴

- **Article 3** – Harmful and offensive language
- **Article 4** – Vulgar and offensive language
- **Article 5** – Incitement to hatred
- **Article 6** – Impartiality and accuracy of news
- **Article 7** – Individual rights
- **Article 8** – Religious programs
- **Article 9** – Presentation and inclusion of children and minors in the programs of Media Service Providers
- **Article 10** – The right to reply
- **Article 11** – Sanctions



The Press Code of the Kosovo Press Council covers key ethical reporting principles related to:⁹⁵

- I. Duties and responsibilities of journalists and publishers
- II. Reporting the truth and fake news
- III. Incitement of hate speech
- IV. Right of reply
- V. Persons involved in incidents, accidents, arrested or charged with criminal offences
- VI. Reporting on personal tragedies, and protection of children and minors
- VII. Privacy and protection of sources

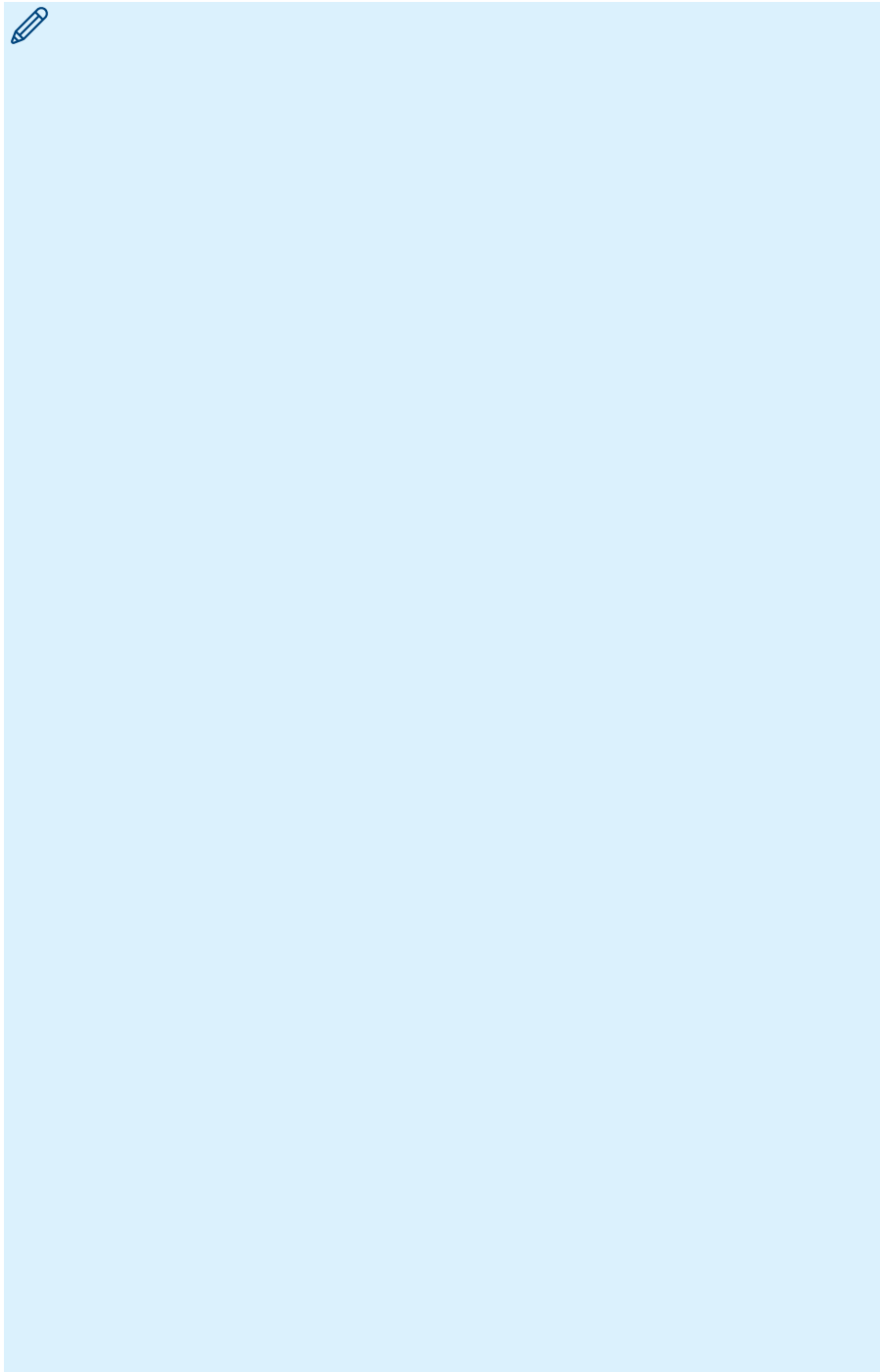


REFERENCES

1. See Article 293 - 296 of the Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
2. See Article 31(3) of the Kosovo Constitution.
3. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 1, Recommendations and Declarations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the Field of Media and Information Society, 2016.
4. Ibid.
5. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 12.
6. See Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).
7. See Article 14, ICCPR.
8. See Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
9. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 15.
10. Journalists may access trial schedules through the Kosovo Judicial Council's website: <https://www.gjyqesori-rks.org/>. Click which Court's schedule you wish to access from the top bar of the homepage. Next, click the Schedule button from the top bar of the respective Court's homepage. For example, the provided link directs users to the schedule of the Prishtinë/ Priština Basic Court trials: <https://pristine.gjyqesori-rks.org/>. The following link directs you to the schedules of the trials of the Appellate court/ Appeals Court: <https://apeli.gjyqesori-rks.org/?lang=en>.
11. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principles 3-6.
12. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 15.
13. See Article 296 and 301 – 302, Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
14. See Articles 40 and 41, Kosovo Constitution.
15. See Article 19, ICCPR.
16. Ibid.
17. See Article 296, Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
18. Ibid.
19. See Article 14, ICCPR.
20. See Article 294 and 296, Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
21. Ibid.
22. See Article 294 and 296, Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
23. See Article 14, ICCPR.
24. See Article 401 of the Kosovo Criminal Code.
25. See Regulation Nr. 03/2019, Article 5, of the Prosecutorial Council's Public Communication Service in Prosecutorial System, 2019.
26. See United Nations Convention on the International Right of Correction.
27. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 9.
28. See Article 4 of the Press Council of Kosovo's Press Code. For more information, see: <http://presscouncil-ks.org/about-us/document-list/?lang=en>.
29. See Article 42, Kosovo Constitution.
30. See Article 530, Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
31. See Articles 6 and 10, of the Independent Media Commission's (IMC) Code of Ethics for Media Service Providers. For more information, see: <https://rb.gy/9a0e4>.
32. See Article 530, Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
33. Ibid.

34. See Article 2, Kosovo Press Code.
35. See Law No. 04/L-137, Article 4 on the Protection of Journalism Sources, 23 August 2013.
36. See CM/Rec (2000) 7, Principles 1-3, Recommendations and Declarations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the Field of Media and Information Society, 2016.
37. See Article 7, Kosovo Press Code.
38. See CM/Rec (2000) 7, Principles 1-3.
39. See Article 7, Kosovo Press Code.
40. See Article 14(2), ICCPR.
41. See Article 31(5), Kosovo Constitution.
42. See Article 6(2), ECHR.
43. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 8.
44. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 2.
45. Article 7, IMC Code of Ethics.
46. See Article 5(3), Kosovo Press Code.
47. Article 6, IMC Code of Ethics.
48. See Article 2(8), Kosovo Press Code.
49. See Articles 2(4) and 3(2), Kosovo Press Code.
50. See Article 6(5), Kosovo Press Code.
51. See Article 8, ECHR.
52. See Article 6(6), Kosovo Press Code.
53. See Article 7(1), Kosovo Press Code.
54. See Articles 6 and 7, IMC Code of Ethics.
55. See Article 6, Kosovo Press Code.
56. See Articles 3 and 16 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
57. See Article 9, IMC Code of Ethics.
58. See Article 6, Kosovo Press Code.
59. See Article 6(2), Kosovo Press Code.
60. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 8.
61. See Article 6, IMC Code of Ethics.
62. Vulnerable or marginalized persons according to international law may include persons with disabilities, non-majority community members, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrant workers and the poor. Refer to Section I, Paragraph 24 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for more information on States' obligations to create and maintain mechanisms for these groups' protection.
63. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 16.
64. See CM/Rec (2003) 13, Principle 16.
65. See Article 392(3), Kosovo Criminal Code.
66. See Article 296, Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
67. See Article 401, Kosovo Criminal Code.
68. UDHR.
69. ICCPR.
70. ECHR.
71. See CM/Rec (2003) 13.
72. See CM/Rec (2000) 7.
73. See UN Convention on the International Right of Correction.
74. See UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

75. See Law No. 22/18, Article 10 on the Law on Courts, 18 December 2018.
76. For more a more detailed discussion, see the Kosovo Judicial Council's website: <https://www.gjyqesori-rks.org/info-te-pergjithshme-fakte-kyce/?lang=en> .
77. See Law No. 06/L-054, Article 24 on Organization of the Court of Appeals, 18 December 2018.
78. See Law No. 06/L-054, Article 12(1) on Jurisdiction of the Basic Courts, 18 December 2018.
79. See Law No. 08/L-167 on State Prosecutor, 17 May 2023.
80. Law No.03/L –225 on State Prosecutor, 29 October 2010.
81. See Law No. 06/L-056 on Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, 03 April 2019.
82. For more a more detailed discussion, see the State Prosecutor's website: <https://prokuroria-rks.org/en/psh/per-psh/71/> .
83. See Articles 109(4) and 110(3), Kosovo Constitution.
84. See Article 16, Law No. 08/L-167 on State Prosecutor.
85. For more a more detailed discussion, see the State Prosecutor's website: <https://prokuroria-rks.org/en/psh/per-psh/71/>.
86. Ibid.
87. See Kosovo Constitution. Other key Articles in the context of the guidelines' references to international agreements and mechanisms include Articles 17: International agreements; Article 18: Ratification of international agreements; Article 19: Applicability of international law, Article 20: Delegation of sovereignty and Article 22: Direct applicability of international agreements and instruments.
88. See the Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.
89. See Code No. 04/L-137, Article 4.
90. See the Kosovo Criminal Code.
91. See Dragusha, Musa, Basic Legal Handbook (Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo Association of Journalists, 2014) p. 47-62.
92. See the Independent Media Commission's Code of Ethics for Media Service Providers for more information: <https://rb.gy/9a0e4>.
93. See the Press Council of Kosovo's Press Code for more information: <http://presscouncil-ks.org/about-us/document-list/?lang=en>.
94. See the Independent Media Commission's Code of Ethics for Media Service Providers.
95. See the Press Council of Kosovo's Press Code for more information.





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