

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2018**

**JOINT STATEMENT CONCERNING SHOOTING AT CAPITAL GAZETTE NEWSPAPER AND  
TARGETING OF JOURNALISTS**

The following statement has been endorsed by more than 240 individuals and organizations in response to the shooting at the Capital Gazette newspaper. The list of endorsers continues to expand and will be updated on the Student Press Law Center website ([www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org)).

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We condemn, in the strongest terms, the deadly targeting of journalists Thursday at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families, and to all those affected by Thursday's events.

In fact, we are all affected by these events. The recent anti-media rhetoric creates an enabling environment for violence against journalists and that, in turn, creates a new challenge to the key tenets of objectivity, independence and fairness which underpin the profession.

As this country debates the place of civility, truth and accountability in our public life, journalists are on the front line, working every day to tell the stories of our communities and to shore up our democracy by helping to create an informed and discerning citizenry. And yet, as they do their work with fewer and fewer resources, they are increasingly villainized (whether student journalists or veteran professionals.) This act may have been perpetrated by a lone gunman, but the social environment which has demonized journalists gave license to his actions.

On Thursday night, hours after their colleagues were killed and injured, reporters from the Capital Gazette were at a news conference discussing the events. They were not there as speakers - they were back at work, covering the story of which their fallen colleagues and their paper were the subject.

This is what journalists do. Journalists are not the enemy of the people. They should be raised up and protected. Their important role in defending and affirming the First Amendment, informing an engaged public, and protecting democracy should be honored instead of ridiculed. And at no point, should they be the subject of calls to violence or targeting.

We commit to living up to the legacy of the committed journalists who were gunned down, because a free, independent and safe media is essential to maintaining democracy.

**Organizations**

Student Press Law Center  
American Society of Journalists and Authors  
Association for Education in Journalism and  
Mass Communication

Boston magazine  
Broadband Legal  
California Scholastic Journalism Initiative  
Canadian Anti-Hate Network

Cape Cod Chronicle  
Center for Democracy & Technology  
Center for Scholastic Journalism  
Central Arizona National Lawyers Guild  
Collegian Media Group-Kansas State  
Connecticut Daily Newspapers Association  
Connecticut Society for Professional Journalists  
Democracy Fund  
Equal Justice Society  
Express Newspapers  
Free Speech Coalition  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
Global Witness  
Government Information Watch  
Harvard-Westlake Chronicle  
Henderson State University  
Hudson Litchfield News  
Indiana Collegiate Press Association  
Influence Consulting  
Journalism Education Association  
Kansas Press Association  
Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists  
Los Angeles Loyolan  
MDDC Press Foundation  
Milton Times  
Minnesota Newspaper Association

NAACP, Washington Bureau  
National Coalition Against Censorship  
National Press Club  
New York Press Association  
Palo Alto High Media Arts Center  
Peace Brigades International - USA  
PEN America  
Record-Journal & The Westerly Sun  
Rosenberg  
Seven Days  
Society of Professional Journalists  
South Carolina Press Association  
Stowe Reporter  
The Daily Free Press  
The Day (New London, Conn.)  
The Deerfield Valley News  
The Keene Sentinel  
The Newtown Bee  
The Torch - Ferris State University  
Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression  
Tiger Broadcast  
Vermont Independent Media/The Commons  
VHS Riptide  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
Youth Journalism International  
Zenger Consulting

### **Individuals**

Abena Hutchful  
Adam Schrag  
Adell Crowe  
Ana Avila  
Andrea Watson  
Andrew Kirkaldy  
Anita Teekah  
Annie Sherman  
Ashley Studley  
Bernadette Cranmer  
Bill Chaisson  
Brad Prendergast  
Briana Monahan

Bryant Carpenter  
Caitlin McBride  
Candace Page  
Caralie Ford  
Carol Brooks Ball  
Carolyn Blum  
Chante Lasco  
Charles St. Amand  
Christina Seanor  
Christina Sheetz  
Christine Peterson  
Christopher T. Assaf  
Cynthia Mitchell

Dahlia Lithwick  
David Nordman  
Deb Spilko  
Deborah Alejandra Popowski  
Deborah Dreyfuss-Tuchman  
Deborah Lowe-Murray  
Deserae Weitmann  
Diana Mitsu Klos  
Dina Haynes  
Dineen Wasyluk  
Don Dwight  
Donald Cloutier  
Donna Whitehead  
Doug Pils  
Dr. Edward T. Arke  
Edmund Sullivan  
Elisa fitzgerald  
Elizabeth Banker  
Emily Burnham  
Emily Minty  
Emma Llanso  
Ernest R. Sotomayor  
G. Stuart Smith  
Gail Spector  
Garrett Epps  
Gerri Berendzen  
Glenn Morehouse Olson  
Gloria Olman  
Greg Reibman  
Hadar Harris  
Hans Schulz  
Harry Katopodis  
Helen F. Smith  
Jack Lakowsky  
Jacqueline Mink  
James Franklin  
James Silk  
Jamil Dakwar  
Jane Eisner  
Janine Latus  
JB McDaniel  
Jeannette Ross  
Jennifer Green  
Jennifer Greer

Jennifer McGill  
Jessica Clary  
Jim Falzone  
Joanne Fanizza  
John Bowen  
John Crittenden  
John Kinney  
Judy Gibbs Robinson  
Julia Malakie  
Kate Collins  
Kate Plows  
Katherine McNamara  
Kathleen Flores  
Kathy Roberts Forde  
Katie Jickling  
Katina Paron  
Kelly Glasscock  
Ken Picard  
Keri Kemble  
Kevin Goldberg  
Kimberly Vasseur  
L Stee  
Lilah Rosenblum  
Lili Sajecki  
Linda S. Puntney  
Lindsay Tice  
Lisa Strattan  
Lori Keekley  
Louis Bubala  
Mari Nicholson  
Marina Hendricks  
Martin Finucane  
Matthew Cate  
Matthew Nadler  
Matthew Schafer  
Maureen Croteau  
Michael Ciolino  
Michael Hoffer  
Michelle Huss  
Michelle Peltier  
Mike Cote  
Mo Mehlsak  
Mona Rosenthal  
Monica Kast

Nabiha Syed  
Nancy Hastings  
Nora Pelizzari  
Nuala O'Connor  
Pat McDonald  
Patricia Gallagher Newberry  
Patricia Roy  
Patricia Thompson  
Patrick File  
Paul LaTour  
Peter Ellis Yankowski  
Peter Howard  
Peter Mancusi  
Phyllis Booth  
Rebecca Humphrey  
Richard K. Lodge  
Rod Satterthwaite  
Roy Vallatini  
Sabrina Sacks Mann  
Sacha Bellman  
Samantha Barry

Samantha Gerwe-Perkins  
Sarah Siff  
Scott Bradley  
Serge Danielson-Francois  
Shanna Devine  
Shawne Wickham  
Sheri Westerfeld Lewis  
Sian Gibby  
Stephanie Mallard  
Susan V Everett, MJE  
Taylor Dobbs  
Tim Kane  
Tom Gayda  
Tom Kearney  
Tracy Schmalzer  
Valentina Kuykendall  
Veronica Rexford  
Vicki McCash Brennan  
Victoria Woeste  
Wendy Watkins

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