**Annexure to Special Report from Fojo Media Institute, Sweden**

**Stockholm February 3, 2017**

**Questionnaire for the report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalist and the issue of impunity**

SVT is continuously discussing threats and violence towards reporters and we are actively seeking more knowledge in cooperation with the organization for Swedish publishers “Utgivarna”. Below we are focusing on threats towards female correspondents, but we would also like to stress that we face an increasing problem with online hatred targeted at women journalists.

1. Swedish Television welcomes the important initiative taken by United Nations to have a fact based approach in learning more about gender based threats and violence towards female correspondents in media. This is a growing concern within Swedish television since it coincides with our own observations; female reporters are beginning to face increased, gender based threats and harassment. Swedish television looks forward to further collaborating and developing strategies on how to handle this unacceptable development.
2. For many years it’s been held as a truth that female correspondents on the field are safer than their male colleagues. The presumption has been that there are many more cultural taboos surrounding threats and violence directed towards women. Female correspondents simply have felt safer thanks to their gender. This is quickly changing. With the explosion of online based hatred, trolls that target journalists, there is a new type of gender based hate. An internal study done by The Guardian showed that 80 percent of all the hate based comments directed towards the journalists at The Guardian are addressed to their women reporters. On the field there are also new threats, the contempt and distrust of the media is on the rise and women are more easily targeted.

A brief poll amongst female correspondents, also female foreign news editors at Swedish Television, reveals a similar pattern as The Guardian found. It is more often that female reporters complain about hate mails compared to male correspondents. A more thorough analysis is however recommended in order to be able to find some conclusive evidence.

**Swedish Television would like to share some witness reports from female correspondents on the field. Many experiences are about sexualized violence ;**

Women correspondents working in the field are more often subject to attacks; live transmissions are more often interrupted by disrespectful male bystanders. A live is a very vulnerable situation since both the cameraman and the correspondent is intensely focused on the live transmission. SVT often work in small, two person teams, and is then vulnerable to attack.

A female correspondent/camera team was working on the Maidan Square in Kiev at the time of the revolution. As they were transmitting live a mob of young men circled around them and starting screaming threats that the two (blonde) journalists were Russian whores and deserved a beating.

A female team working in Albania were threatened by male soldiers and told to leave ” or else we will rape you”.

One experiences female correspondent gives the following witness account” I used to feel safer due to my gender, for instance when being embedded with soldiers in conflict zones. Today I feel more vulnerable to attack due to my gender. The risk of sexual harassment and attack often is imminent. In Egypt I felt threatened by other women since I did not wear a niqab. My male colleague cameraman was not approached. I also feel that soldiers are more suspicious of women, pointing their weapons more often towards me than my male colleagues”.

This also happened to a female team working 2011 at the Tahrir Square in Kairo at the time of the Arabic Spring revolution. This happened at the same time that a female CBS-correspondent was gang raped at the square.

A female correspondent in India was physically attacked by a man while working and thanks to the fact that she had trained self defense she hit him so hard that he left her alone.

After Trump got elected in the US a hasher tone has evolved – when a female correspondent tried to interview Trump supporters outside Trumps election party in New York, she was told to

” fuck off” and that ” media are scum”. This episode is however not clearly a gender based attack but an example of the sanctioned contempt for journalists trying to their their job.

Our correspondents in Europe report that they still feel reasonable safe but that sexual harassment has become more frequent, starting out as ” friendly but unwelcomed approaches” but can quickly get nasty when the men are turned down. Female correspondents working in Europe also testify that the live situation is very vulnerable and bystanders respect surrounding a team going live is disappearing .

A female correspondent for the Norwegian broadcaster NRK was attacked when she was doing a live, alone, in a park in Brussels. This has caused worry and concern amongst Brussels based EU-correspondents.

Most African countries are still safe for female correspondents, women are treated respectfully in most cultures there, although war zones always are more unsafe.

1. No SVT do not do this at this point .
2. SVT plan to hold a security training seminar for female correspondents later in 2017.
3. No , this is not part of a gender sensitive approach but a result of a renewed sense of urgency looking at the increasingly violent tone against journalists and the reports from our staffed female reporters that face gender specific , verbal threats.
4. Not at Swedish Television.
5. Not that we are aware of, there are of course laws against harassing and threatening journalists but they are not gender specific.
6. We have a solid network of security trainings, routines to ensure our teams safety as they travel but so far it has not had a gender specific approach. Every year all correspondents and reporters at the foreign news desk undergo a two day training , reviewing first aid emergency routines, how to act in hostile environments, how to act if being kidnapped etc. A new training was added to our security training last year; self -defence for teams working around the world but this has not been gender specific.
7. It has up to now been same for both sexes but we realize we need to look at this with specific female gender perspective.