

# Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/kenji-goto-s-execution-by-islamic-01-02-2015,47550.html>

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Journalist beheaded

## Kenji Goto's execution by Islamic State must not go unpunished

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Reporters Without Borders is appalled by Islamic State's latest barbaric act. Yesterday, the jihadi militant group released a video showing the beheading of Kenji Goto, a Japanese journalist who was captured in late October while trying to cover the fighting in Syria and locate Haruna Yukawa, a Japanese hostage executed a week ago.

Entitled "A Message to the Government of Japan," the one-minute video was posted on Twitter and on sites that support Islamic State. Staged like previous hostage beheadings, it showed an executioner who addressed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, saying the execution was in retaliation for Japan's involvement in the international coalition's war against Islamic State.

In coordination with Jordan, the Japanese government had been trying to negotiate with Islamic State, which demanded the release of Sajida al-Rishawi, an Al-Qaeda militant arrested by the Jordanian authorities in 2005 and sentenced to death for her role in a suicide bombing.

After IS extended its deadline for her release until 30 January, there was no news about Goto until the video announcing his execution.

*"We are deeply saddened by **Kenji Goto's** death and we offer our heartfelt condolences to his wife, family and friends,"* Reporters Without Borders programme director Lucie Morillon said.

*"We ask the international community to not let this crime or the previous ones go unpunished. Our thoughts also go out to the families of the other murdered hostages, especially James Foley and Steven Sotloff, who were targeted for trying to cover what is going on in Syria."*

Morillon added: *"The collective outrage that many governments have expressed since yesterday, and in recent months, must be followed up with concrete measures. All possible options must be explored within the framework of international justice in order to prevent these despicable acts from recurring."*

On 30 January, Reporters Without Borders [relayed a message by Goto's wife, Rinko Jojo](#), calling on the Jordanian and Japanese governments to do everything possible in their negotiations with Islamic State in order to ensure that Goto was released.

Syria is ranked 177th out of 180 countries in the [2014 Reporters Without Borders press freedom index](#).

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