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Europe/Ex-USSR - Kosovo

Knife attack

Reporter stabbed three times inside TV station

29 October 2014

A man armed with a knife entered the headquarters of Klan Kosova TV in Pristina on 27 October and repeatedly stabbed journalist Milot Hasimja, apparently in retaliation for a report about him by Hasimja.

Police spokesman Baki Kelani said the attacker, identified as Sovran Sylja, was immediately arrested.

Klan Kosova editor in chief Gazmend Sylja said Hasimja was at his desk when the attacker entered and stabbed him several times in the neck. According to local media reports, he was allowed into the TV station after asking to speak with Hasimja.

Hasimja was hospitalized with three knife wounds, which hospital staff said were not life-threatening.

Both Kosovar Prime Minister Hashim Thaci and the Kosovar journalists' association condemned the attack. Thaci's office said: "*Such acts are intolerable because they jeopardize freedom of expression and opinion (...) one of the most precious values of the state and society we are building.*"

The journalists' association said: "*attacks against journalist (...) must not be tolerated.*"

Kosovo is ranked 80th out of 180 countries in the 2014 [Reporters Without Borders press freedom index](#).
