

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTORS

Declaration on Minimum Standards concerning the Security and Protection of Public Prosecutors and their families

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Oifig an



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1. States should take all necessary measures to ensure that public prosecutors, together with their families, are physically protected by the appropriate state authorities when their personal security is threatened as a result of the proper discharge of their functions.

2. In particular, states should provide any necessary security at the workplace, which includes the courthouse, the public prosecutor's office and other places where the public prosecutor exercises official functions, and if necessary should also provide protection for public prosecutors and their families at home or when travelling.

3. Where security measures are determined to be necessary, states should take all steps to provide that necessary protection including engaging the police or security guards. Where it is required, states should also provide the workplace and homes of prosecutors with appropriate security devices and systems and should provide prosecutors and their families with appropriate personal protection devices.

4. An appropriate state authority should be given the responsibility to assess the security risk both to prosecutors generally and to specific prosecutors as well as their families and to keep all assessments under review at reasonable intervals or when circumstances change.

5. An appropriate state authority should be given the responsibility to provide public prosecutors and their families with information, training and advice concerning personal safety.

6. Where the police, the prosecution authority, or any other state authority has information concerning specific threats or security risks to public prosecutors or their families they should advise the prosecutor and the prosecutor's family of that threat or risk. In such a case an appropriate state authority should carry out an assessment of that threat or risk and provide all necessary security for the prosecutor and the prosecutor's family and advise them concerning any steps they should take to take care of their own security.

7. Where public prosecutors become aware of specific threats or risks to themselves or their families they should inform the appropriate state authorities.

8. Where public prosecutors or their families are subjected to violence or threats of violence, or are harassed, stalked, intimidated or coerced in any manner, or subjected to any form of inappropriate surveillance, states shall ensure
- (i) that such incidents are fully investigated,
 - (ii) that the prosecutor is informed concerning the outcome of the investigations,
 - (iii) that steps are taken to prevent any recurrence of the incidents and, where appropriate, to bring criminal charges, and,
 - (iv) that the prosecutor and his or her family receive any necessary counselling or psychological support.

9. In the cases referred to in paragraph 8 the prosecution authority should consider whether there are any other measures of assistance which might be adopted, for example by deploying additional prosecutors to assist the public prosecutor concerned.

10. States should consider providing compensation for death or injury caused to public prosecutors or their families arising from an attack by a person whose motive for the attack is related to the proper exercise by the prosecutor of his or her functions. Where measures adopted to counter a threat or a risk cause serious disruption to the lives of prosecutors or their families compensation should also be considered.

11. States and state authorities should take such steps as are practicable to prevent personal information concerning public prosecutors or their families becoming known to third parties where this would be inappropriate.

12. States should take special care to assess any security risks and to take appropriate measures of protection where public prosecutors are likely to be particularly vulnerable owing to the nature of their work, for example where prosecutors work on cases concerning terrorism, organised crime, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the seizure of criminal assets or crimes committed by persons in authority within the state.

13. Measures for the protection of prosecutors and their families should also be applied for the benefit of other persons who work for prosecutors or prosecuting authorities and their families where this is reasonably necessary for their security and protection.

14. States should designate the particular authorities charged with performing the duties and functions referred to in this Declaration and should inform public prosecutors and their families which authorities have been designated for any particular purpose.

