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Statement from meeting in the presidium of NJF, Nordic Journalists Federation, January 11th 2022

NJF, the Nordic Journalists Federation, expresses great concern for the tendency we have seen in several Nordic countries: That the police are questioning journalists in cases regarding alleged leaks from intelligence services in the respective countries. In a few cases journalists have even been accused of assisting to these leaks.

This happens despite the fact, that journalists of course cannot and will not name sources or what they are discussing with sources, This fact should be well known to the police as well as to the intelligence services.

The internal work of intelligence agencies is a matter of public interest, and as such a legitimate issue to cover journalistically.

The NJF Presidium finds that this behavior from the police and intelligence services can be interpreted as attempts to put pressure on journalists and media to abstain from reporting about important issues concerning the intelligence services.

NJF is the cooperation organization of the Journalist Federations in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland.

The NJF Presidium consists of the presidents and vice presidents from each federation.

Tine Johansen, president of NJF, president of the Danish Union of Journalists (DJ)

Dag Idar Tryggestad, president of the Norwegian Union of Journalists (NJ)

Ulrika Hyllert, president of the Swedish Union of Journalists (SJF)

Hanne Aho, president of the Finnish Union of Journalists (UFJ)

Sigríður Dögg Auðunsdóttir, president of the Union of Icelandic Journalists (BI)