

## **Behavior of journalists in crisis/war situations**

### **Analysis of case studies from Ukraine:**

#### **Case IV:**

Stefan W. and Emil F. / Ochtyrka

To report on war damage to non-military infrastructure, the two journalists were in Ochtyrka together with local security forces. Due to an artillery attack, the two journalists decided to leave their research location as quickly as possible with the help of their vehicle. The vehicle was recognizable as a press vehicle. Outside the artillery range, they stopped their vehicle. Immediately behind them, another vehicle stopped. One person got out and immediately opened fire on the vehicle, hitting both journalists through the rear of the vehicle. The driver was slightly injured and the passenger was seriously injured with severe blood loss. The vehicle was damaged but was still temporarily drivable. Immediately, those shot drove out of the shooter's range with the maximum remaining power of the vehicle. With the suspension of fire, they stopped the vehicle again and performed temporary wound care. They were joined by two Ukrainian soldiers, who were temporarily stopped from providing care by four other fighters who had joined them, until concerns (mistrust) about the journalists were resolved. This was followed by transport to a local hospital.

<https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2022/03/15/stefan-weichert-journalist-shot-in-russian-attack-ukraine-nd-vpx.cnn>

#### **Assessment**

The decision to immediately evade when artillery fire started and to stop outside the danger zone in order to agree on a further course of action was correct. There, a surprising and targeted attack on the two journalists in the vehicle then took place. The rifle bullets penetrated the vehicle without any problems. The immediate escape from the new danger was made quickly and effectively. Sufficient distance was established from the attacker, and the attack ended. The quick liaison of local security forces shows good networking and acceptance of journalists on the ground. After only brief complications, there was a quick evacuation from the front area to a hospital.

#### **Conclusion**

You cannot protect yourself from such a surprise attack in the complex situation of an artillery attack. The only thing to do here is to minimize the consequences for your own life and that of your team members. That is what happened here. What is striking in this situation is that the attack took place without any recognizable conflict party assignment, i.e. out of the protection of the "civilian population". The motive of the attacker cannot be identified.

#### **Take Home Message**

1. artillery target areas should always be left as quickly as possible. Where one shell hits, others usually follow.

2. close connection and agreement with the forces responsible for the territory is important. This allows help to be provided more quickly and without problems.

3. bandaging material for immediate hemostasis must be within reach in order to minimize life-threatening blood loss. Suggestion: 1x Emergency Bandage™ T3, 1x Emergency Bandage, 1x Combat Application Tourniquet®, whereby the Tourniquet is worn on the outside of the vest ready to hand.

**General:**

Reliable sources on the tactical situation in Ukraine:

**Understandingwar.org** (English, daily update, \*text-heavy, very precise, \*inaccurate map)

**Militaryland.net** (English, daily update, rough overview in text, \*very accurate maps \*of each region)

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