

Follow up information to cases mentioned in several presentations at the conference:

Panel discussion - Threats to Journalists, George Claassen (News 24 – South Africa)

George spoke in his presentation about legal threats to journalists, pointing at the example of News24 journalist Karyn Maughan.

A week after the conference, on June 7, he wrote: “Just out now, our legal reporter has won her case to which I referred in my presentation at ONO's conference:

[https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/live-zumas-private-prosecution-of-maughan-downer-back-in-court-20230320.](https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/live-zumas-private-prosecution-of-maughan-downer-back-in-court-20230320)”

Panel discussion - Where editorial codes meet the law, Timo Huovinen (YLE – Finland)

Timo talked at the conference about “forum shopping”: he gave an example of a lawsuit filed by a Russian businessman against the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle) in Monaco.

Timo wrote on June 29: “The businessman was demanding fines for defamation and 100,000 euros in compensation from the company and the editor-in-chief responsible for news and current affairs. The lawsuit was related to Yle's story series (published in 2019, one example here: <https://yle.fi/aihe/artikkeli/2019/06/09/helsingin-telakka-paatyi-kremlin-luottomiehen-omistukseen-putin-kayttaa-valtaa>) which deals with the Helsinki shipyard being owned by Vladimir Kasyanenko.” The documents Yle used, show that there is a possibility that he is a confidant of the Kremlin.

Timo: “The Monaco district court judged the case. It’s verdict: it does not have jurisdiction to issue lawsuits brought against Yle. It states that the news stories were not written for the “Monaco audience”. The judgment is not yet legally binding because the businessman is taking it to a higher court. But still, the judgment is very encouraging when thinking about, for instance, future stories on Russian oligarchs.”