

SOURCE: <https://www.svt.se/kultur/medier/flera-frilansars-arvoden-pa-socialbidragsnivaer>

Alarm: freelancers' remuneration at social welfare benefit levels



Per Wirtén, Annina Rabe and Dan Josefsson are among those taking part in the appeal.

Published 6 November 2015

20 freelance journalists in a joint protest against the industry's conditions.

Many are now working on remuneration rates below social welfare benefit levels, according to a new survey.

"Freelancer rates have fallen so much that much of quality freelance journalism is under threat and its practitioners with it."

So write 20 freelance journalists, including names like Dan Josefsson, Per Wirtén and Annina Rabe, in a joint appeal in Expressen.

The call comes in connection with a new Sifo survey from the Journalists' Union, which shows that four out of ten freelancers in the union now have extra jobs on the side to make a living.

Wages at subsistence level

The average income for a freelance journalist is SEK 15,000 after tax, according to the survey. But many members fall below the social security benefit level (SEK 3,880 + rent), when they declare what they are left with after taxes and contributions.

29% have less than SEK 10,000, and 12% less than SEK 5,000.

According to the survey, more and more journalists are changing professions, while many are considering it because of increased stress and tougher conditions. At the same time, the pressure to deliver quickly is affecting quality, according to the majority of respondents.

"It is difficult to argue that the meticulous, ethical and responsible freelance journalism is cut off from ordinary economic logic. We want media owners, financial managers and publishers who have power over freelance budgets to take responsibility," the freelancers write in their statement.

The survey is based on a Sifo poll commissioned by the Journalists' Union.

622 out of 1,832 registered freelance members responded to the survey.