

Commission: **Human Rights**

Session : **7th Zonal MUN 2024**

Sponsors : **Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, France, Iraq, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Yemen**

QUESTION OF: CREATING A FREE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR JOURNALISTS IN CONFLICT-PRONE AREAS

The General Assembly,

Fully aware of the accusations of contempt, defamation, circulating false rumours and public insult employed by provincial authorities to suppress reporters and human rights advocates that are critical of the administration,

Fully deploring the detainment of journalists as hostages to spread propagandas, intimidation and for ransoms by politically motivated groups, and the lack of post-mortem privacy as disrespect to the families of the victims,

Noting with regret the lack of work permits, such as problems having visa that prevents international news reporters from accessing safe places in conflict-prone areas, thereby resulting in a dearth of transparency,

Reaffirming the UN Plan of Action as the indispensable blueprint for all stakeholders committed to safeguarding journalists, reinforced by the core tenets of Article 19 which ensures the liberty of freedom of opinion and speech,

Grieved that according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 1189 journalists have been killed since 1992 in conflict zones,

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Concerned that indiscriminate shelling and damaged infrastructure pose risks to journalists covering conflicts and obtaining essential personal protective equipment can be challenging on the ground or when crossing borders,

Deeply concerned by the surge in the number of women journalists becoming victims of sexual violence, mostly in the form rape, in war zones,

Cognizant of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2222 on the protection of journalists in conflict situations, which calls for measures to prevent violence and to hold perpetrators accountable,

1. Calls for the establishment of an International Committee for the Protection of Journalists in Conflict Zones (ICPJ), which will:
 - a) Monitor and report on the safety and working conditions of journalists in conflict-prone areas;
 - b) Provide emergency assistance and protection measures for journalists under threat;

2. Recommends the creation of a global fund to support the families of journalists who have been killed or injured in conflict zones;

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3 Encourages the introduction of a streamlined and secure accreditation system for journalists reporting from conflict-prone areas, granting them access to essential resources and ensuring their movements are monitored for safety purposes;

4 Urges Member States to raise awareness regarding the importance of journalists in covering conflicts so as to help people understand the need to respect and protect reporters during situations such as protests and civil unrest;

5 Calls upon the United Nations, under the leadership of the Secretary-General to mobilize a coordinated global response to ensure the safety, protection, and freedom of journalists in conflict-prone areas, and to mitigate the risks they face while covering war zones;

6 Urges Member States to provide training, including mandatory safety, self-defense and first-aid training for journalists in high-risk areas;

7 Requests the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution, including progress made and challenges encountered;

8 Affirms the need of the creation of safe zones, in collaboration with local authorities and international organizations, where journalists can operate without fear of violence or persecution, ensuring access to medical care, legal aid, and psychological support;

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9 Requests that Member States ensure accountability by:

(a) Investigating and prosecuting all acts of violence, threats, and harassment against journalists;

(b) Providing accurate figures and information of specific acts of violence and abuse against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel;

11. Stresses the need for better cooperation at the international level, including thorough technical assistance and capacity-building, to ensure the provision of a free and safe environment for journalists to perform their work freely and without excessive interference during conflicts.