

Commission: **Social**

Session : **7th Zonal MUN 2024**

Sponsors : **Algeria, Canada, China, Ecuador, People's Republic of Korea (N), France, Iran, Israel, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sudan, United States of America**

QUESTION OF: **ENSURING MEDIA FREEDOM IN REPRESSIVE REGIMES**

The General Assembly,

Fully aware of the critical importance of media freedom and the right of expression as a basic human right, which promotes a free exchange of views which can help reduce international and internal tensions and prevent conflicts, in corroboration with *Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which states: "*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression*",

Alarmed by the troubling findings of reputable organisations, which report hundreds of media personnel facing threats, harassment and violence in repressive regimes, underscoring the critical imperative for immediate action to safeguard media freedom in these contexts,

Affirming that each Member State is to superintend its own media with respect to its own policies and national decrees,

Emphasising the principle of non-intervention of the *United Nations Charter*, enforcing the prohibition of threats or forces of involvement in a sovereign state's internal affairs,

Noting with approval the efforts of international organisations such as *Reporters Without Borders* and the *Committee to Protect Journalists* in promoting the freedom of press,

Aware of the government pressure, concerns about self-censorship surfaced in the media industry as journalists may fear backlash or economic repercussions,

Bearing in mind the constant exponential advancement in digital technology and its substantial, double-edged impact on the media landscape worldwide,

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1. Calls upon Member States of the United Nations and the global community to consider and respect the political and cultural contexts of each country in discussions on media freedom and regulation;
2. Reaffirms commitment to international obligations under the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* to respect, protect and fulfil the right of freedom of the press;
3. Encourages all member states to adopt laws and proclaims a zero tolerance policy against attacks on the media personnel, in accordance with *United Nations' Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (2012)*;
4. Requests for technical assistance and capacity building plans from other countries to improve the efficiency of journalists by providing training on their ethics, standards, advocacy skills, in order to educate and empower future generations on the significance of media freedom;
5. Promoting the use of secure communication technologies to help journalists safely share their information and protect their sources by ensuring widespread availability of communication tools or software;
6. Demands that repressive regimes respect international human rights standards and commitments regarding freedom of the press, ensuring that journalists can perform their duties without fear of retribution and that any violations are met with appropriate international response and accountability measures;
7. Condemns pernicious media, including but not limited to:
 - a) Media that infringes on privacy and basic human rights;
 - b) Media seeking to spread misinformation and promote public unrest;
 - c) Media threatening national security, cultural conservatism or legislative authority;

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d) Media broadcasting verboten or felonious topics, in correlation to the sovereign country's legislative decrees;

8. Supports the gist of media freedom underlying in independent media through:
 - a) Media pluralism to allow multiple viewpoints from independent media outlets and deter monopolies;
 - b) The creation of a United Nations enquiry commission on media freedom, tasked with investigating and reporting on violations of press freedom, ensuring impartiality and accuracy;
 - c) Endorsing the public's right to access information, through independent media, which is crucial for informed democratic participation;
9. Condemns uncalled censorship and intimidation against journalists and media organisations, publicly denouncing entities that infringe on media freedom;
10. Renews appeals to member states to bolster regulations on respective media against misleading, untrue or unsubstantial claims made in relation with any Member State;
11. Requests the United Nations to organize an annual Global Conference on Media Freedom, grouping governments, major journalism entities and media outlets operating in repressive regimes;
12. Recommends the establishment of an international fund overseen by *UNESCO* to provide financial and legal support to journalists and media outlets operating in repressive regimes, after filtering by local legislative authority.