FORUM: THE UNITED GENERAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION OF: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS AND THE FREEDOM OF MEDIA

MAIN SUBMITTER: Russian Federation

CO-SUBMITTERS: Switzerland, Syria, Bangladesh, PRC, Philippines, Argentina

The United General Assembly,

*Bearing in mind* that the UN plan of action on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, the first ever UN strategy to address the problem of journalist safety and the problem of impunity, has been developed by UNESCO,

*Recognizing* the fact that 2018 was a year that media freedom was at its lowest point for a decade,

*Acknowledging* that murdering journalists for their work is not only a serious crime, but also a human rights abuse and attack on the freedom of expression,

*Recognizing* that governments and other powerful actors are seeking to escape scrutiny, often responding to critical reporting or activism, in attempt to silence the journalists through methods such as killing, threatening, or surveillance,

*Fully aware* that according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)’s published details about 580 journalists, it showed that journalists were killed worldwide between January 1992 and August 2006 and that 71,4% of them were murdered, 18,4% died in crossfire or in combat-related circumstances and 10% during other dangerous assignments,

*Emphasizing* that based on CPJ’s analysis, 85 % of all journalists killed were not foreign reporters working in war zones, but local journalists who were simply doing their work, because differing from foreign reporters, the local journalists were often not able to protect themselves sufficiently,

*Alarmed* by the fact according to the human rights organization, the rise of authoritarian governments and the threat of internet censorship has multiplied pressures on reporters globally,

1. Asks United Nation Organizations (UNOs) and Non-Government Organization (NGOs) related to protecting rights of journalists and freedom of media including International Press Institute (IPI), Al Jazeera Media Network, International News Safety Institute (INSI) and the Africa Media Initiative (AMI), and other organizations cooperating with More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) to take cooperation on protecting the rights of journalists and the freedom of media and enable journalists to speak freely about the problems;
2. Requests all member states to work with organizations such as the UN Plan of Action, IPI (International Press Institute), INSI (International News Safety Institute), and IFEX by promoting public awareness of the causes, effects and possible solutions of the issue of protecting the rights of journalists and the freedom of media through such as but not limited to:
   1. utilizing mass media such as:
      1. different kinds of magazines and newspapers,
      2. sharing data within mass media indicating the statistics about injuries, deaths, situations regarding freedom of press,
      3. making educational documentaries and films about freedom of press;
   2. using social networks by:
      1. making blogs, or pages reporting about this issue for the public to access and acquire information frequently,
      2. creating and posting videos on YouTube or other possible media,
      3. making posters, at high traffic areas such as subway stations, airports, bus stops, markets, etc.;
3. Encourages relevant UN agencies, funds and programs to schedule meetings on a regular basis at international level in cooperation with the member states, NGOs and other stakeholders those similar to WPFC (World Press Freedom Conference);
4. Urges member states to develop legislation and mechanisms guaranteeing freedom of expression and information and take prompt action in response to attacks in cooperation with UNOs, IPI, ISNI, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and NGOs in ways such as but not limited to:
   1. supporting the World Press Freedom Day (May 3rd) and requesting member states to participate in WPFC,
   2. setting the issue in world leaders’ agendas, by inspiring and educating, and mobilizing people into action, and encouraging the following to contribute to positive change:
      1. governments, journalists and media
      2. the judiciary and legal sector, Internet businesses,
      3. society, academia and the youth,
   3. provide journalists with sufficient protections so that whenever they are in conflict zones, or having struggles, they can be less at risk, in such ways but not limited to:
      1. provide journalists the tools like weapons they can use to protect themselves in war zones and repressive societies,
      2. create programs to protect journalists in conflict zones, such as providing them with security and means of communications.
      3. strengthen provisions for the safety of journalists in conflict zones by creating ‘media bunker’;
5. Further Urges all stakeholders, and in particular the media industry and its professional associations, to establish general safety provisions for journalists including but not limited to:
   1. training lessons to journalists who will be heading to conflict zone, in order for them to know how to protect themselves effectively,
   2. health care and life insurance,
   3. access to social protection and adequate remuneration for freelance and full-time employees;
6. Requests the governments of the countries where the journalists are not fully promised with the privacy or secrecy of the journalism such as Russian Federation to create better methods to allow untraceable leakage of journalists’ personal information in ways such as not limited to:
   1. have a sophisticated document-submission system that make it difficult to anyone to identify the journalists who submitted the news in such ways such as but not limited to:
      1. make sure that personal information of the journalists is not shown in the web page such as their names or location of where it was written,
      2. have complicated codes in the website in order to prevent the leakage through hackings,
   2. pass a media shield law, in which the journalists are protected from being forced to identify confidential sources to law enforcement and protect the privacy of journalist’s communication through restricting the government’s ability to obtain the records from telecommunications providers;
7. Recommends the government officials to be more cautious about declaring information to be secret in the first place, fixing the over classification problem, which leads to excessive spread of private information from the government to citizens, often triggering misunderstandings in ways such as but not limited to:
   1. set private meetings or conferences with the government officials when talking about governmental issues that are still in the stage of decision and make sure to prevent the leakage of the conversation,
   2. set guards in front of the meeting room so that they can block the journalists from overhearing the conversation and posting information they are not fully aware of, giving disadvantages to government officials;
8. Requests member states whose PFI (Press Freedom Index) is higher than 50 to start acting towards encouraging freedom of press in their country.
9. Approves People’s Republic of China to be exempted from the requirements those are mentioned in this resolution and continue to proceed with their own laws as for the benefit of the economy and social structure that are currently developed in China.