

FORUM: Security Council

Topic: “Security of the Press: Ensuring Protection for Journalists in Latin America”

Main Submitter: Peru

Co-Submitters: South Africa, Dominican Republic,

The Security Council,

Deeply concerned about the increase of indirect censorship in press, especially in the Latin American region,

Alarmed by the lack of security for journalists and the fatal consequences that it has caused,

Aware of the fact that drug trafficking and political corruption play an important role as the main threats to freedom of press,

Emphasizing the importance of journalism for any democratic system, international cooperation and transparency,

Having examined passed resolutions on the topic, such as S/RES/2222(2015) and fully aware of their lack of effectiveness,

Fully alarmed by the 9 journalists that have been killed in this region only in 2019,

1. Encourages member states, especially those in the Latin American region, to establish press protection as one of the top priority issues in their respective countries, taking into account the fact that fighting political corruption and drug trafficking have to be a part of a long-term solution. Governments can implement measures such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Passing Constitutional reforms that fight political corruption, for example:
 - i. Banning electoral candidates convicted of serious crimes, such as embezzlement or fraud,
 - ii. Giving the Supreme Court the complete control of parliamentary immunity,
 - iii. Criminalizing illegal party funding,

- iv. Maintaining secrecy of the respective judges and jury that are involved in any trial against a journalist when the crime is related to the practice of their careers
 - b. Intensifying the persecution of drug cartels by:
 - i. Increasing collaboration with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
 - ii. Improving international cooperation, especially in border areas;
- 2. Approves the creation of the International Program for the Protection of Journalists (IPPJ) which will support the well-being of any journalist that is being threatened or bribed or that takes part in a high-risk investigation:
 - a. This program will be led by organizations such as INTERPOL and EUROPOL in collaboration to the ICJ and the NGOs involved in the safety matters such as Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ), ACOS alliance or the Fedroom House, therefore being completely independent from any governmental body;
 - b. The initiative would give journalists and their relatives complete and immediate protection; in case of high-risks threats, the victims will be able to apply for:
 - i. Temporal asylum and change of identity, appeal that could take permanent considerations if the applicant requests it and it is approved by the ICJ,
 - ii. All-day protection by private agencies or international body forces;
- 3. Endorses the transparency between member states and NGOs, such as Reporters Without Borders or the Committee to Protect Journalists, in order to facilitate an adequate evaluation on the issue every year, with characteristics such as, but not limited to:
 - a. This information will be expressed in a report,
 - b. The most relevant setbacks will be shared and evaluated in the General Assembly and, if needed, in the Security Council,
 - c. Any obstruction led by the respective government shall be notified and discussed if obstacles prevail, the respective nation will be sanctioned by the S.C;

4. Further invites the creation of the United Nations Office of Press (UNOP), which would be in charge of:
 - a. Monitoring the status of freedom of the press in all member states,
 - b. Suggesting measures to improve press security in every particular case,
 - c. Promoting and helping NGOs involved in the issue by providing them with:
 - i. Financial support,
 - ii. Human resources,
 - iii. Visibility to the international community,
 - iv. A platform to express their concerns and suggest solutions,
 - d. Overseeing the correct functioning and effectiveness of the IPPJ;

5. Considers the establishment of an international definition for “defamation” in order to give all member states a base to make possible changes to their individual’s defamation laws, so these are not wrongly use to imprison journalists that are being chased by important enterprises or politicians;

6. Calls for the creation of the International Treaty of Freedom of Press. This document would establish certain goals that member states should try to achieve before 2030: proposing objectives such as, but not limited to:
 - a. A sustained reduction in the number of journalists killed per year,
 - b. Solve at least half of the current investigations regarding the murder or disappearance of a press official,
 - c. An improvement of at least 10 points in the RSF press freedom index for countries currently at less than 45,
 - d. Increase at least 5% of the national budget dedicated to the protection of journalists in Latin America;

7. Supports the cooperation between each member state’s security bodies and media workers, in order to provide them with:

- a. Self-defense training and, if needed, weapon management as well. Supplying them with basic artifacts such as:
 - i. Tasers,
 - ii. Smoke bombs,
 - iii. Pocket knives,
 - iv. Protective ballistic clothing,
- b. First-aid knowledge so journalists could take care of themselves and injured colleagues,
- c. Survivance courses, especially for those working on investigations in jungle areas,
- d. Tactical training, so reporters can plan their operations carefully before putting themselves at risk,
- e. IT knowledge, in order to inform press workers about the threats of hacking and how to prevent it.