



American Model United Nations
General Assembly Third Committee

GA Third/I/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Third Committee

The General Assembly Third Committee,

1 *Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recalling relevant international human rights
2 treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention for the
3 Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and
4 the Additional Protocols thereto,

5 *Understanding* that security training courses created in the 1990s focused on the militarization of journalists
6 through developing skillsets such as personal awareness, first aid emergency, and complex field strategies that have
7 been active in international journalist programs,

8 *Recalling* General Assembly Resolution 70/162 of 17 December 2015 on the safety of journalists and the
9 issue of impunity, as well as its resolution 69/185 of 18 December 2014 on the same issue,

10 *Deeply concerned* about actors of malicious intent attacking journalists,

11 *Expressing its appreciation* for the 1949 Geneva Convention giving uniformed journalists military distinction
12 and providing them Prisoner Of War (POW) status,

13 *Taking into consideration* that many journalists use pseudonyms to private contractors or units to protect
14 themselves against assault,

15 *Fully aware* that the cooperation of multilateral agencies such as International Federation of Journalists
16 (IFJ), Article 19, and Reporters Without Borders with unilateral government agencies like Inter American Press
17 Association (IAPA) and private parties have already set normative classification for journalism education programs,

18 *Acknowledging* that journalism is continuously evolving to include input from media institutions, private
19 individuals, and a range of organizations that seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, online as
20 well as offline, in the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with article 19 of the International
21 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby contributing to the shaping of public debate,

22 *Affirming* the definition of journalists as reporters, collectors, and distributors of information that can affect
23 society as outlined in General Assembly Resolution 20/17 of June 2012,

24 1. *Calls upon* Member States to implement more effectively the applicable legal framework for the protection
25 of journalists and media workers through enforcement mechanisms with the capacity to pay systematic attention to
26 their safety;

27 2. *Requests* Member States cooperate with relevant United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations
28 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as international and regional human rights
29 mechanisms, including the relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and to share information on a
30 voluntary basis on the status of investigations into attacks and violence against journalists;

31 3. *Invites* the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to
32 actively exchange information, including through previously identified focal points, about the implementation of the
33 United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, in cooperation with Member
34 States and under the overall coordination of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

35 4. Recommends the implementation of a standardized course entitled "De Parler Librement" incorporating:

36 (a) A partnership with the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), UNESCO, Reporters
37 Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontieres) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) to make journalists
38 aware of the dangers of reporting corruption, crime, and armed conflict;

- 39 (b) Implementation of an online course;
- 40 (c) A practical exam that implements the themes described in the UN Guiding Principles Reporting
- 41 Framework;
- 42 (d) The setting of precedence for certified journalists as follows;
- 43 (i) Certified journalists are to be decided by a national total view count in conjunction with the
- 44 discretion of the national government of a Member State. Member States may choose to set the
- 45 specifications for the status of certified journalists at their discretion;
- 46 (ii) These qualifications are at the discretion of each Member State as access to journalism, standards
- 47 of journalistic integrity and populations are different in each State;
- 48 (iii) These qualifications are subject to change as access to journalism, standards of journalistic
- 49 integrity, and populations shift in a Member State's domain;
- 50 5. *Urges* organizations like CPJ and Reporters Without Borders to work with relevant UN bodies to establish
- 51 an educational agenda about journalists, including:
- 52 (a) Information processing techniques within an international education system that regulates the
- 53 dissemination of information;
- 54 (b) An implementation of the CPJ's definitions around crime and corruption training in tandem
- 55 with the Reporters Without Borders training initiatives;
- 56 6. *Affirms* the rights of sovereign nations to continue to make laws regarding journalists that report on
- 57 classified information by allowing for each nation to qualify who is defined as a certified journalist;
- 58 7. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence, threats and attacks against journalists
- 59 and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy, thorough, independent and
- 60 effective investigations into all alleged violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers falling
- 61 within their jurisdiction - bringing perpetrators, including those who command, conspire to commit, aid and abet or
- 62 cover up such crimes to justice and ensuring that victims and their families have access to appropriate remedies.

Passed, Yes: 45 / No: 44 / Abstain: 15