



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,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, ,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other relevant international human rights treaties, including, but not limited to, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention and the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols,

Noting the obligations under international law to respect the sovereignty of Member States in addressing the safety of journalists,

Having studied previous General Assembly resolutions on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, including resolution 68/163 of 18 December 2013, proclaiming 2 November the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, and its most recent resolution, 76/173 of 16 December 2021,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 21/12 of 27 September 2012, 27/5 of 25 September 2014, 33/2 of 29 September 2016, 39/6 of 27 September 2018, 45/18 of 6 October 2020 and 51/9 of 6 October 2022 on the safety of journalists,

Approving of Human Rights Council resolutions 32/13 of 1 July 2016 on the protection of human rights on the internet, 34/7 of 23 March 2017 and 48/4 of 7 October 2021 on the right to privacy in the digital age and 44/12 of 16 July 2020 on the freedom of opinion and expression, as well as Security Council resolutions 1738 (2006) of 23 December 2006 and 2222 (2015) of 27 May 2015,

Taking into consideration all relevant reports by the Secretary General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, special procedures for the Human Rights Council on the safety of journalists and a recent report of the Secretary General on combating violence against female journalists,

Recalling the United Nations Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity dated 12 April 2012,

Deeply disturbed by the increase in female journalists killed, rising from 6% of all journalists killed in 2020, to 11% in 2021, and noting the frequent sexualized nature of these crimes, as reported by the UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity as of 30 September 2022,

Alarmed by the fact that as highlighted in the United Nations News posting within Law and Crime Prevention on 17 January 2023, 86% of killings against journalists were not investigated in 2022,

Deploping the harassment of journalists while reporting during peaceful public demonstrations,

Expressing deep concern over the increase in the number of journalists and media workers who have been killed, tortured, harassed, arrested and intimidated as a result of their profession in recent years,

Expressing concern about the extraterritorial targeting of journalists, including harassment, surveillance and murder,

Noting with regret the risks specifically faced by female journalists in connection with their work, in conflict as well as non-conflict situations,

Deeply concerned by the risks faced by journalists in the digital age, including, but not limited to, becoming targets of unlawful surveillance or interference with communications, which violate their right to privacy, right to movement and freedom of expression,

37 *Declaring* that without proper legal and ethical safeguards consistent with human rights, the use of artificial
38 intelligence or cyber surveillance tools may place journalists and media workers at increased risk of online harassment
39 and violence,

40 *Affirming* that the spread of misinformation contributes to instability and jeopardize safety for journalists
41 and Member States, especially in regard to foreign correspondents,

42 1. *Encourages* amicable relations between Member States and journalists;

43 2. *Strongly encourages* community leaders to formally renounce gender-based violence against female jour-
44 nalists and support legislation that criminalizes these acts;

45 3. *Discourages* all harassment, attacks and violence against journalists including but not limited to:

46 (a) Torture;

47 (b) Extrajudicial killings;

48 (c) Enforced disappearances;

49 (d) Arbitrary detention and arrest;

50 (e) Intimidation;

51 (f) Threats;

52 (g) Harassment;

53 4. *Seeks to* improve the safety of journalists and media workers, with the following focuses:

54 (a) Online and offline communication;

55 (b) Women and minorities;

56 (c) Promoting the need for the safety of journalists in areas of conflict to be upheld and promoted
57 as noncombatants;

58 5. *Urges* Member States to implement national measures to protect journalists, namely female journalists,
59 from various forms of surveillance, specifically online surveillance, with the intent to threaten, harass, intimidate or
60 kill them;

61 6. *Suggests* seeking optional mutual partnerships between Member States and organizations such as INTER-
62 POL to combat violence against journalists, particularly international instances of the issue;

63 7. *Strongly suggests* that Member States utilize institutions to conduct research into the nature of their
64 media and journalism in order to create more specific and robust solutions, specifically in regard to gender-based
65 violence against journalists; such as the processes put into place by Norway to review and make more informed
66 decisions;

67 8. *Advises* Member States to address the impact of colonialism on Members' current ability to ensure the
68 safety of journalists by identifying themselves as being capable and willing to offer financial or resource-related
69 support to Member States that need it;

70 9. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the
71 Issue of Impunity by implementing swift, effective and impartial post-incident investigations;

72 10. *Invites* Member States to consider implementing programs that increase diversity of media to further
73 encourage the protection of all journalists;

74 11. *Confirms* that Member States be able to take reasonable legal action should sensitive information be
75 shared with the public according to their own sovereignty;

76 12. *Calls for* Member States to work with the journalists within their State to provide the most accurate
77 information available and combat the spread of misinformation especially when that misinformation could lead to
78 the incitement of violence against journalists;

79 13. *Recommends* the expansion of existing organizations for:

80 (a) Collecting data on the experiences of journalists;

- (b) Maintaining and ensuring diplomacy across international borders to promote safety;
- (c) Ensuring that journalists have access to proper legal consultation;
- (d) Sharing safety advice for traveling journalists;

14. *Supports* the continued usage of evidence-based approaches when devising solutions to decrease gender-based violence against female journalists within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) bodies such as:

- (a) Encouraging Member States to increase the training and capacity building of legal actors in prosecuting crimes against women in journalism;
- (b) Supporting the formation of advocacy groups and coalitions to unite women in the field against gendered threats;

15. *Suggests* to Member States that they develop increased relations with virtual media platforms to increase the viability of investigations of crimes against journalists, with the following focus:

- (a) Addressing the issue of anonymity on virtual media platforms when concerned with investigating perpetrators;
- (b) Advocating for reduced possibility of censorship and online silencing of journalists through these online media platforms;

16. *Requests* that Member States work with digital platforms and social media companies to develop and enforce policies and mechanisms for reporting and removing online content that incites violence against or threatens journalists;

17. *Expresses its hope* that each Member State explore the creation of new federal bodies or agencies, related to the regulation of law enforcement, dedicated specifically to the issue of the safety of journalists, including:

- (a) Recruiting the involvement of a third-party body when investigating impunity or potential complaints against these new bodies;
- (b) Training other law enforcement agencies on the subject of crimes against journalists and gender-specific issues within the issues;
- (c) Seeking to improve journalistic safety by asking like-minded Member States to pool resources and establish their own measures for protecting journalists;

18. *Emphasizes* the sovereignty of Member States to have discretion in how they conduct relations with journalists that fit the unique needs of individual Member States, while:

- (a) Still ensuring the protection of the human rights of journalists;
- (b) Limiting arbitrary governmental interference in journalistic activities;

19. *Appeals* for Member States to ensure that measures taken in the interest of national security, especially with regard to classified information, are consistent with their obligations under international law and do not needlessly impede the work and safety of journalists;

20. *Proclaims* the need for Member States' national security to be protected and Member States' rights to reserve classified information from the general public or other Member States in order to put limits on interactions between Member States and journalists:

- (a) In order to recognize the importance of this for Member States that are engaged in conflict where leaked information can lead to the endangerment of civilians or escalation of conflict;
- (b) While further emphasizing that Member States should ensure that information of the public interest and that does not strictly need to be classified for the protection of the public or other groups is made accessible.

Passed, Yes: 48 / No: 18 / Abstain: 15