



Model United Nations Team University of Zurich

MUN Team UZH

Zurich
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United Nations Human Rights Council

Resolution 2 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 3 May 2023

Journalists can blow my whistle *baby*

Draft Resolution

Sponsors: UK, Argentina

Signatories: Georgia, Luxembourg, Costa Rica, Belgium, Finland, Pakistan, Norway, Honduras,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Underlining that the right to freedom of opinion and expression, includes the right to seek, receive and impart information held by public authorities, and stressing that journalists themselves play a critical role in the enjoyment of this right,

Recognizing the current range of threats to the safety of journalists, media freedom and media pluralism, which include physical, psychological, legal, political, technological and economic threats,

Stressing the necessity of carrying out fair, timely, autonomous, and efficient investigations into human rights violations and mistreatment of journalists and media personnel,

Affirming the importance of the differentiation between journalism and espionage which poses a threat to national security,

1. *Condemns* all attacks, reprisals, and violence against journalists and media workers including but not limited to:
 - a. Killings,
 - b. Torture,
 - c. Forced disappearances,
 - d. Arbitrary arrests and detentions,
 - e. Expulsions,
 - f. Intimidation,
 - g. Threats,
 - h. harassment, whether online or offline;
2. *Deplores* any attacks on or forced closure of media offices and outlets, in both conflict and non-conflict situations;
3. *Urges* Member States, and in particular the media industry and its professional associations, to establish general safety provisions for journalists, including but not limited to:
 - a. Safety training courses,
 - b. Health care and life insurance,
 - c. Access to social protection
 - d. Adequate remuneration for free-lance and full-time employees,
 - e. Strengthened provisions for the safety of journalists in conflict zones;
4. *Underlines* the importance of providing for an enabling environment for the work of civil society organisations, as they play a vital role in enhancing the safety and security of journalists and media workers;
5. *Suggests* companies to introduce a digital whistleblowing reporting system, in order to:
 - a. Establish a detailed whistleblowing policy, wherein whistleblowing reports would be documented and treated confidentially,
 - b. Ensure transparency and implementation of independent reporting channels with a centralised or separate report processing,
 - c. Support whistleblowers by allowing false reports to have no detrimental consequences for the whistleblower;
6. *Encourages* that when it comes to information relating to national security, whistleblowers should be leaking information to the press only as a last resort in case of severe improprieties on the part of their national government and instead Member States should establish independent or government bodies to which whistleblowers can report information, where the reports can be investigated while protecting national security;

7. *Suggests* the establishment of prevention mechanisms, such as an early warning and rapid response mechanism, in order to give journalists and media workers, when threatened, immediate access to authorities that are competent and adequately resourced to provide effective protective measures;
8. *Recommends* national legislation to specifically address online harassment in anti-harassment policies;
9. *Urges* Member States to ensure that defamation and libel laws are not misused, in particular through criminal sanctions, to illegitimately or arbitrarily censor journalists and interfere with their mission of informing the public;
10. *Calls* upon Member States to encourage journalists and media workers to report threats and attacks against them to the relevant authorities or agencies or through relevant platforms, at the national level, as well as at the regional and international levels, including to the relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council;
11. *Encourages* Member States to share information on a voluntary basis on the status of investigations into attacks and violence against journalists, including in response to requests by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization through the mechanism operated by its International Programme for the Development of Communication;
12. *Affirms* the handover of the smallest of the Falkland Islands, formerly known as the Islas Malvinas, to the Republic of Argentina from the ownership of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
13. Further recommends the funding of an international institution to provide funding for safety training courses and resources pertaining to the care of the mental wellbeing of female endangered journalists and protecting women journalists from violence and threats, the resources necessary being provided by NGOs and other entities focusing their main mission on the protection of female journalists.