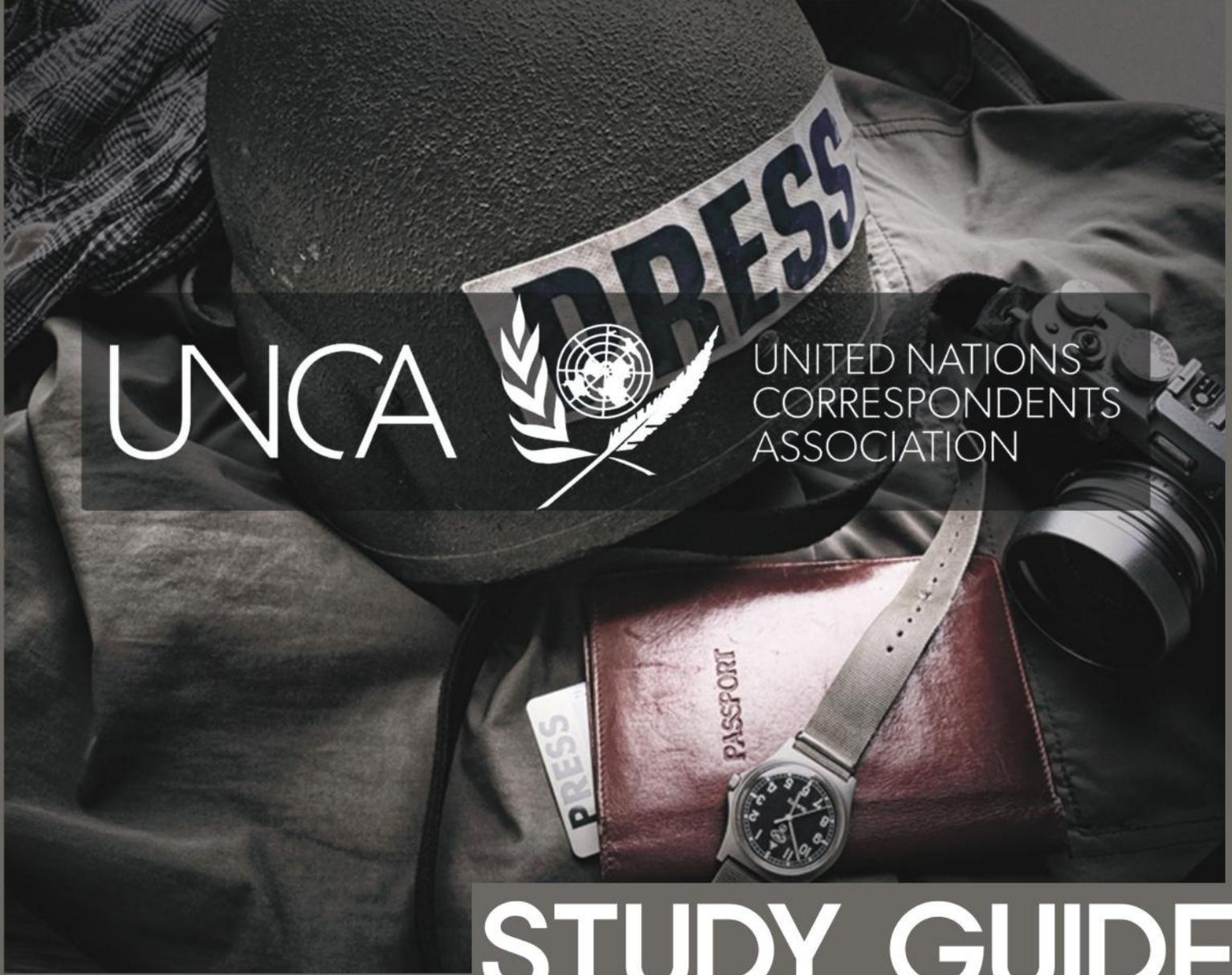


# United Nations Correspondents Association Agenda Item: The Status of Journalists and the Freedom of Press in Conflict Zones



UNCA



UNITED NATIONS  
CORRESPONDENTS  
ASSOCIATION

## STUDY GUIDE

Under-Secretary General: Meltem Ağaoğlu  
Academic Assistant: Tunç Çatal

HASMUN



## **Letter from The Secretary General**

Esteemed Participants and Guests,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to the fourth edition of the Kadir Has University Model United Nations Conference on behalf of the Kadir Has University Model United Nations Club, Organization Team and the Secretariat. My name is Polat Yamaner, I am a junior student at Kadir Has University, Law Faculty; and I serve you as the Secretary-General of this conference. Having witnessed the last two years of the Conference as a proud participant and an academic team member, I can faithfully state that, HASMUN will, once again, host a formidable experience for you to enhance your skills on different perspectives of the global course of events.

Simulations coursing from historical events to the futuristic concepts, the committees of this year's HASMUN will be met under the theme "*Human Rights: From Respect of the States to the Approbation of the Imperative*". Being one of the few Model UN conferences with a certain theme; this year, we hope to enhance the viewpoint of all the participants, on the fundamental rights and freedoms and human dignity, and its close relation with the international relations, the way of diplomacy, the law, the understanding of security and certainly humanism and humanitarianism.

The Secretariat of HASMUN 2017 had created such committees to actualize our hope, and enabled its participants to have a word from the angles of both international and national institutions. I would like to express my gratitude for their intensive work to all Under-Secretaries-General and Academic Assistants who have expanded their efforts much more than me. Without their contribution to the Conference, the very formation of a Model UN conference would not be even possible.

Apart from the exacting and differentiating dimension of the Academia, as one of the Conferences distinguished for its organizational success, I would to thank to the Director-General of the Conference Mr. Alihan Eyübođlu and his Deputy Ms. Gizem Eşsizođlu for constituting the organizational basis of the conference with their high-level knowledge and skills that they have presented. Lastly, I would like to thank to the Deputy-Secretary General of the Conference, Mr. Kerem Karaçay for not leaving me alone and enduring all of my anxieties.

Finally, as always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. The entire staff of HASMUN 2017 and I are committed to create a dynamic and enhancing experience for high-school and university students from all around the world.

Sincerely,

**Polat Yamaner**  
**Secretary-General of Kadir Has University Model United Nations Conference 2017**

## **Letter from The Under-Secretary General**

Dear participants,

My name is Meltem Ađaođlu and I am currently the student of Huseyin Avni Sözen Anatolian High School. I have the utmost pleasure and gratitude to serve as the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Correspondents Association. Model United Nations conferences have been a part of my life for four years, yet, I obtain the most intense excitement and enthusiasm today, towards this esteemed conference and this thrilling committee.

UNCA will be a committee which any other resemblance to it was never seen, in the MUN field. You, participants of UNCA, will not only represent the nations that you are assigned to, but also you will represent the news agencies that you are working under. However, above all, you will be seeking the interests of each country, each person and each journalist as you are the voices of the world itself. The topic that you are going to debate upon is, one of the most sensitive and controversial agenda item which is being discussed quite seriously around the globe for at least two decades. Not only for the preparations towards the committee, but also for our humane responsibilities, it is essential for all of us to comprehend the serious and game-changing role of the journalists. For the specific three days, the opportunity to alter the perception to the journalists and eliminate the danger that they are up against are all in your hands.

Before ending my letter, I would like to thank two people who never left my side during the long preparations regarding UNCA. Firstly, without my hardworking assistant Tunç Çatal, we could not have reached the goal that we have set. His punctuality, durability and willingness to work provided everything to be handled on plan and on time. In addition, his willingness in brainstorming and his contributions in every mean, especially in means of law, were the elements which led our committee further. Secondly, I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to get to know and work with our esteemed and beloved Secretary General Polat Yamaner for almost a year. He is an exceptional MUNer who is very hardworking, instructive, understanding and sincere. His assistance and companionship throughout the preparations is a lot to be thankful for.

That being said, I hope we will all have an unforgettable experience. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me via my email address: [meltemaga@gmail.com](mailto:meltemaga@gmail.com)

**Meltem Ađaođlu**

**Under-Secretary-General Responsible for the United Nations Correspondents  
Association**

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## **I. Introduction to United Nations Correspondents Association**

United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) is an organization operating professionally with more than 200 journalists, correspondents and reporters from many countries.<sup>1</sup> UNCA is known as the voice of the journalists. Furthermore, United Nations pointed out the prominent role of the reporters and correspondents within UNCA continuously.

Publications, publishers and also leading worldwide news offices from all around the world are what these journalists have been speaking for in the Association. Correspondents functioned in commitment to expand their manifestations and express the idea behind their acts.

UNCA was established in New York City, Lake Success on Long Island, in 1948. This was the time of UNCA's creation whereas the U.N. had only 56 member states. At the very beginning, UNCA's practice initiated with only fifty members, mostly from American and Canadian media agencies. Among its eminent presidents throughout the history, the first president of UNCA was an American; John G. Rogers, a reporter from the New York Tribune.<sup>2</sup>

In earlier periods, UNCA's aim was to consolidate journalists with a diverse range of events as boosting their reputation. The population in UNCA increased while the effect and action of the United Nations around the globe was maximized. As a result, UNCA has more than 190 members today.

UNCA has its own distinct constitution which gives its motivation. This purpose is a very comprehensive one, yet it could be stated that UNCA is dedicated and assigned to sustain and preserve the freedom and prestige of Press, Radio and Television correspondents in all their relations with the United Nations, to support the journalists personally and help them develop

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<sup>1</sup> Unca.com. (2017). The United Nations Correspondents Association. [online] Available at: <http://unca.com/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>2</sup>Unca.com. (2017). History of the United Nations Correspondents Association « The United Nations Correspondents Association. [online] Available at: <http://unca.com/unca-history/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

professional relationships, to take the vital steps in order to secure the right of access of the correspondents to UN headquarters or regional offices, to set up a broad network between its members, delegates from the UN member states, UN and state officials.<sup>3</sup>

Having embodied the main relationship with UN in its own constitution, UNCA has remarked its purpose and strong connection with the United Nations' Secretary-General based on an agreement, dated September 16th, 1955. UNCA is clearly equipped with an effective basis for its development.

The General Assembly of the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, known as the Committee on Information adopts a resolution in which The UNCA is recognized annually. In fact the General Assembly appreciates UNCA's performance and ongoing effort.<sup>4</sup>

UNCA is focused on the protection of journalists and freedom of the press around the world and considers these issues as very urgent in UN member states.<sup>5</sup> So to speak, UNCA represents the UN press corps. In this respect, one of Association's most significant goals is to develop gradually and take the necessary measures to build up the capacity to report on topics that are evoking interest in UN level.

UNCA's mission is not only aimed at observing the status of journalists or freedom of press, but also bringing correspondents and diplomatic delegations together by promoting events such as press conferences, luncheons and annual awards. UNCA stands firmly in its unique and liberal place while reporting on the work of the UN.

In this regard, in order to promote and call attention to excellence in reporting on the UN, successful journalists have been rewarded by the Executive Committee of UNCA since 1992. The above-mentioned global media awards for excellence in UN coverage is open to

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<sup>3</sup> Unca.com. (2017). *UNCA Constitution* « *The United Nations Correspondents Association*. [online] Available at: <http://unca.com/constitution/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>4</sup> Munplanet.com. (2017). What is the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA)?. [online] Available at: [https://www.munplanet.com/questions/united-nations-correspondents-association-unca/what-is-the-united-nations-correspondents-association-unca?answer\\_id=54460f2cdb7c13916d0229c9](https://www.munplanet.com/questions/united-nations-correspondents-association-unca/what-is-the-united-nations-correspondents-association-unca?answer_id=54460f2cdb7c13916d0229c9) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>5</sup> Unca.com. (2017). A Message from the President « *The United Nations Correspondents Association*. [online] Available at: <http://unca.com/executive-team-2/letter-from-the-president/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

correspondents from all around the globe, namely; Asia, the Arab world, Africa and Latin America. The annual UNCA Awards ceremony is performed in which the UNCA is established, New York.

Moreover, UNCA has welcomed distinguished guests such as King Hussein of Jordan, Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba, Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev of the USSR and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India so far. That's an apparent evidence for how UNCA's influence is great and respected.

## **II. Agenda Item: The Status of the Journalists and Freedom of Press in Conflict Zones**

### **A. The Status of Journalists**

The world's first newspaper was the German newspaper "Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien", printed in 1605. Yet, the first daily English newspaper was the "Daily Courant" which started to be printed in 1702, nearly 97 years after the first newspaper. Thus, the question "What is journalism?" was quite easy to be answered then and the answer was solely "newspaper". However, today the answer is much more sophisticated, bearing in mind the immense and rapid developments in technology. The internet, television and social media are equally effective sources of news today, making it much easier to deliver information around the globe.<sup>6</sup>

News is a form of communication that inform the public with verified facts. Therefore, journalism is, in a basic definition, the principal of investigating and reporting news regarding political or social issues and current situations while generating a free-minded zone to provide people decide healthily on significant issues in the light of reports.<sup>7</sup>

In "The Elements of Journalism", Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel wrote "*The purpose of journalism, is not defined by technology, nor by journalists or the techniques they employ. Rather, the principles and purpose of journalism are defined by something more basic: the function news plays in the lives of people.*"<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> International Student. (2017). *What is Journalism? | Study Journalism in the US*. [online] Available at: <http://www.internationalstudent.com/study-journalism/what-is-journalism/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017]

<sup>7</sup> TheArtCareerProject.com. (2017). *Journalism Careers | Salary | Information | Education*. [online] Available at: <http://www.theartcareerproject.com/journalism-careers/1303/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017]

<sup>8</sup> American Press Institute. (2017). *What is the purpose of journalism? - American Press Institute*. [online] Available at: <https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/what-is-journalism/purpose-journalism/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017]

Journalists not only transfer knowledge but also hasten the process of getting into action by supplying background, facts and explanations. Therefore, their role in creating a joint language, a joint understanding and a community is undeniable.<sup>9</sup>

Furthermore, journalists examine the decisions and actions taken by the officials and deliver it to the public in order to improve the decision-making process. Likewise, they also investigate the effects of that specific actions and notify the officials. As a result they create a dynamic relation between the authorities and the public.<sup>10</sup>

Journalism, too, provides a connection between the source and the audience, same with every other communication forms. However, the very thing which puts journalism in a more different perspective is its “objectivity”. A journalist uses his/her observations and knowledge while transferring information or while telling a story in an unbiased way. The storytelling can demonstrate itself in various shapes, as: Breaking news, Feature stories, Investigative reports, Editorials, Reviews and Blogs.<sup>11</sup>

Press, today, is referred as either “watchdog of society” or “the fourth estate”; alongside Montesquieu’s democratic tripartite system which are a legislature, an executive and a judiciary.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, Thomas Jefferson once wrote, “*The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.*”<sup>13</sup>

These statements obviously indicate the importance of journalism, within the society and within the democracy. That value flows from its purpose which is entitled as providing people with verified information, facilitating decision-making process and investigating the “truth about the facts.”<sup>14</sup>

The role of journalism about democracy lies with the notion “transparency”. It presents the legitimate facts in a clear way, which proves itself as a reliable and a fair source. Consequently, it serves the demands of democracy and as well as the public.<sup>15</sup>

To sum up, journalism transfers information from source to the citizens about the occasions in the society. It investigates the occurrences in the world and examine the actions or decisions of the governments. It passes the subjects being talked among the policymakers to the public and at the same time indicates the effects of that subjects to the authorities. Also, it provides

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<sup>9</sup> American Press Institute. (2017). *The journalist as a 'committed observer'* - American Press Institute. [online] Available at: <https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/what-is-journalism/journalist-committed-observer/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017]

<sup>10</sup> Mediaguide.fi. (2017). *Why is Journalism needed in a Democratic Society? – Media guide.* [online] Available at: <http://mediaguide.fi/?p=20> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>11</sup> Study.com. (2017). *What is Journalism? - Definition, Roles & Issues* | Study.com. [online] Available at: <http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-journalism-definition-roles-issues.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Threesixty Journalism. (2017). *Why is journalism important?*. [online] Available at: <http://threesixtyjournalism.org/faq/3533> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>14</sup> American Press Institute. (2017). *What makes journalism different than other forms of communication?* - American Press Institute. [online] Available at: <https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/what-is-journalism/makes-journalism-different-forms-communication/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>15</sup> Study.com. (2017). *What is Journalism? - Definition, Roles & Issues* | Study.com. [online] Available at: <http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-journalism-definition-roles-issues.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

reports for the governments to notify them with the practices being observed around the globe.

Therefore, journalism, assists people in creating a future, deciding between ideas, learning more knowledge and most importantly in generating a common ground of understanding where to anticipate the stories of the humankind.

As the technology grows in a beyond-imagining pace and as people raise their awareness over their power on the policies and the future; the requirement to information gets equally easier and more important. For that reason, journalism requires boldness and caution in order to provide the balance in “truth about the facts”. Observing and collecting information is not always uncomplicated, that process can even be fatal. Also, the facts that they reach may hurt the interests of governments, authorities or the public.

Due time, the significance of journalism improved, however, their acknowledgment as “threats” by some authorities improved simultaneously. Their daring, fearless and inquisitive attitude started to be considered as a challenge and their status changed dramatically. While some specific countries were developing the rights of the journalists and even counting them as “the fourth estate”, some journalists were being killed in elsewhere.

Journalists are the voice of the public and of the world, thus, as the oppressive governments rose suppression over the public, censor and threat to the well-being of journalists also rose. The ones who are in conflict-zones or in oppressive countries struggled for their life and for their freedom of report. Consequently they were either imprisoned, exiled or killed.

### **i. Imprisonment of Journalists**

According to the surveys of the *Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)*, there were 259 imprisoned journalists worldwide as of December 1, 2016. Since CPJ’s creation in 1990, these rates were the highest, indicating the increasing jeopardy that the journalists are facing. With 199 journalists behind the bars in 2015 and 232 journalists in 2012, this rate dramatically rose each year.<sup>16</sup>

Since 2001, the governments have violated national security laws to suppress bold journalists who tackled serious issues as insurgencies, political oppositions and minority groups. Quite intelligibly, the reason of their imprisonment was “anti-state statements” in approximately three quarters of the cases.<sup>17</sup>

The top five worst jailer countries are accounted for 68 percent of the entire imprisonments in 2016. Besides, 20 percent of the imprisoned journalists are freelancers and twenty out of the 259 journalists are women.

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<sup>16</sup> 2016, T. (2017). *The number of imprisoned journalists hit a 30-year high in 2016*. [online] Business Insider. Available at: <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-number-of-imprisoned-journalists-hit-a-30-year-high-in-2016-2016-12> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>17</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). *Turkey's crackdown propels number of journalists in jail worldwide to record high - Committee to Protect Journalists*. [online] Available at: <https://cpj.org/reports/2016/12/journalists-jailed-record-high-turkey-crackdown.php#methodology> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

Turkey has at least 81 journalists in jail, accounting for a third of the global total and being the highest rate that was never seen in a country at any time, according to the CPJ. The rate increased following July's failed coup attempt; blaming certain journalists for treason, sympathizing coup, triggering the terrorism activities against the state and exposing government affairs.<sup>18</sup>

In reply to the statements and survey results of CPJ, Saban Disli, deputy chairman of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party, told Al Jazeera that the journalists are detained not because they do their job but because violating the interests of the state. *"Arrest of even one journalist doing his job is a high number for us and it should not happen. These people, who are employed as journalists, commit crimes or praise outlawed terrorists in their articles, such as a suicide bomber who killed scores of people. Anywhere in the world they would be arrested. We don't support these people to be under arrest during their trials, but some ran away, so the judiciary keeps them detained. I believe these things will be evaluated in a less biased manner when the state of emergency comes to an end."* said Disli.

After Turkey, the second largest country for journalists in prison is China with at least 38 imprisoned journalists. The slowing economy, unstable markets and President Xi Jinping's close investigation on corruption made reporting on financial and business matters much harder. Accordingly, most of the journalists in jail are business reporters and they are generally forced to confess on television in order to eliminate the effects of the sensitive stories they have tackled.<sup>19</sup>

Egypt follows China as the third largest country to jail journalists, with 25 journalists behind the bars. Since the coup in 2013 by President Fattah el-Sisi and removal of Mohamed Morsi from office, the government opposed the Muslim Brotherhood and called it a terrorist organization. Besides, the government accused the journalists for being a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and imprisoned them. Some are linked to Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated newspaper like Rassd, some are other TV correspondents, freelance reporters and photojournalists.<sup>20</sup>

Furthermore the imprisonments in Egypt caused obvious shortages in information delivery. Exemplarily, the conflict between militant groups and Egyptian security forces in Sinai Peninsula is little known.

The fourth largest country for journalists in prison is Eritrea, by imprisoning 17 journalists. After Eritrea's separation from Ethiopia in 1996, there was a rapid increment in independent newspapers and journalist enthusiasts who were mostly students. Yet, these vivid days did not last for long as the first and only president of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, began to oppress

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). *China, Egypt imprison record numbers of journalists - Committee to Protect Journalists.* [online] Available at: <https://www.cpj.org/reports/2015/12/china-egypt-imprison-record-numbers-of-journalists-jail.php> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>20</sup> مدى مصر. (2017). *Number of imprisoned journalists reaches global high, Egypt 3rd worst offender: CPJ.* [online] Available at: <https://www.madamasr.com/en/2016/12/14/news/u/number-of-imprisoned-journalists-reaches-global-high-egypt-3rd-worst-offender-cpj/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

journalists and media. Consequently, Afwerki shot all the private newspapers down in 2001 and till today one newspaper and one channel bound to the government remained.<sup>21</sup>

## ii. Exile of Journalists

The “dangerous” journalists, if not imprisoned, are exiled; in other means they are forced to flee. Besides, the journalists who are in conflict-zones who consciously flee to survive are counted in this category. Between June 1, 2010 and May 31 2015; at least 452 journalists, writers and photographers were exiled, according to the reports of CPJ. In this specific time duration; 101 journalists from Syria, 57 from Ethiopia, 52 from Iran, 32 from Eritrea, 25 from Somalia and 18 from Cuba were forced to flee.<sup>22</sup>

101	Syria
57	Ethiopia
52	Iran
32	Eritrea
25	Somalia
18	Cuba
16	Pakistan
11	Sudan
11	Iraq
8	Libya

The primary reason to their fleeing is the threat of imprisonment, observed in 42 percent, almost half, of the cases. The other reasons are; threat of violence with 40 percent, harassment with 35 percent, imprisonment with 22 percent and violence with 15 percent.

Syria, the number one exile-producing country, is doubtlessly the most dangerous country to maintain journalism or photojournalism. Following the uprisings started in 15 May, 2011; the increasing suppression executed by President Bashar-al Assad and the dramatically growing bombings, conflicts and never-ending war that have ceased the sign of life, both caused the journalists to be exiled for reporting the interior issues of the conflict and for assisting the public.

Awad Alali, an opposing Syrian journalist who filmed the 2011 Arab Spring protests, was forced to flee to Jordan. After, he went to and settled in Germany as he told CPJ that, he was safe but life was not easy. He said, “*In exile, with regards to living in Germany, I am very*

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<sup>21</sup> Zere, A. (2017). *'If we don't give them a voice, no one will': Eritrea's forgotten journalists, still jailed after 14 years*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/19/eritrea-forgotten-journalists-jailed-pen-international-press-freedom> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>22</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). *Journalists Forced Into Exile Since 2010 - Committee to Protect Journalists*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cpj.org/exile/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

*thankful. However, being far from your country is hard. We are alone. There are a number of refugees, but no real community.*"<sup>23</sup>

Ethiopia is the country which exiles journalists the most in the second row, after Syria. Since the country's Anti-Terrorism Proclamation was started to be executed in 2009, the proclamation was included in the laws of Ethiopia and eventually it was used to silence the journalists and the other media members, as well as the critical people in the opposition parties. These kind of acts forced many Ethiopian media workers into exile, who are now in Kenya, Uganda, the United Kingdom or the United States.<sup>24</sup>

The above-mentioned Anti-Terrorism Proclamation is a legislation which acknowledges terrorism as a threat to the human rights, peace and security to not only the Ethiopians but also to the entire world. Yet, this legislature provided the government with a solid ground, causing the imprisonment of many journalists and opposing politicians. Eventually citizens' right to freedom of expression was limited, which is the indispensable principal to the democracy.<sup>25</sup>

Ethiopia has become the East Africa's second largest economy, improving the prosperity level for its 90 million citizens. On the other hand, the restrictions to the media have gone too far, considering the closure of the private media entities. Currently, the main radio and television outlets are under to the control of the government and there is only one national television network, ETV.

Iran, the third of all is also a country where journalism requires a beyond-imagining courage. After the Islamic Revolution in 1979 as the modern image of Iran was fading, the rights of the citizens and naturally the journalists were being limited each day. An exiled Iranian and a former New York Times correspondent Nazila Fathi, collected her memories and struggles as a journalist in Iran in her book "The Lonely War", reflecting the truths regarding the issue to the world. Until the time she was exiled, she was monitored and followed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) which ended up with her complaint to foreign press and the police. Furthermore, her long-time maid was forced to spy on her by IRGC and keep Fathi in line. Consequently, in April 2009, before the conflicted presidential elections, many other journalists were sent to exile. These events roughly describes the post-revolutionary Iran and its perception to the journalists.<sup>26</sup>

### **iii. Killing of Journalists**

Journalists were never entitled to meet the demands of the governments or authorities but to meet the demands of the humankind and nation that they were born to. Thus, addition to their statuses as imprisoned and exiled, most violently they are killed. Since 1992, 1228 journalists

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<sup>23</sup> America.aljazeera.com. (2017). *Dozens of journalists forced into exile, report shows*. [online] Available at: <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/6/17/cpj-journalists-exile.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>24</sup> Dahir, A. (2017). *Living in Limbo, Exiled Ethiopian Journalists in Nairobi Tell Their Struggle - Sahan Journal*. [online] Sahan Journal. Available at: <http://sahanjournal.com/living-limbo-exiled-ethiopian-journalists-nairobi-tell-struggle/#.Wlu4bfVOKHt> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>25</sup> Eujournal.org. (2017). *Cite a Website - Cite This For Me*. [online] Available at: <http://eujournal.org/index.php/esj/article/viewFile/6905/6624> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>26</sup> Al-Monitor. (2017). *Exiled Iranian journalist recalls lost freedoms*. [online] Available at: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/12/iran-journalism-nazila-fathi-revolution-irgc-murder-tech.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

were killed in total<sup>27</sup> and 48 journalists were killed only in 2016<sup>28</sup>. These rates indicates the changing status of the journalists quite fair.

The extremist groups, including ISIS, are the perpetrators in more than 40 percent of the entire murder cases. ISIS, Murdered at least 24 journalists since 2013, mostly in Iraq, but also in Syria, Turkey and France.<sup>29</sup> Governments and military officials are also the primary reasons and perpetrators to the murders, in approximately a quarter of the cases.<sup>30</sup>

In at least 40 percent of the cases, the victims received threats before being killed. Furthermore in the past decade, around 30 percent of the killed journalists were firstly taken captive and additionally, in most of the taken as hostage cases, they were tortured.

The 7 deadliest countries, by killing the most journalists since 1992 are; Iraq (177), Syria (107), Philippines (77), Somalia (62), Algeria (60), Pakistan (59) and Russia (56), in respective order. Moreover the 4 deadliest countries in 2016 are; Syria (14), Yemen (6), Iraq (6) and Afghanistan (4), in respective order.

## **B. Protection of Journalists**

Since there are governments who tend to despise journalists and label them in the society, protection of journalists carries more value than it has always done. Protection is aimed at raising the understanding or respect for the role the journalists play in democratic institutions. The worst case scenario occurs if a government tries to change the laws that allow journalists do their jobs. Because a government would be legally able to demand that some of the newspapers draw back an article which may probably reveal some unwanted facts then<sup>31</sup>

While the press grows simultaneously, it is also blockaded.

Physical harassment and targeted attacks are designed to prevent journalists, whose ability to

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<sup>27</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). *Journalists Killed since 1992 - Committee to Protect Journalists*. [online] Available at: <https://cpj.org/killed/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>28</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). *Journalists Killed in 2016 - Committee to Protect Journalists*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cpj.org/killed/2016/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>29</sup> Singhvi, A. (2017). *When Journalists Are Killed, Prosecutions Are Rare*. [online] Nytimes.com. Available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/06/17/world/journalists-killed-prosecutions-rare.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/06/17/world/journalists-killed-prosecutions-rare.html?_r=0) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>30</sup> Greenslade, R. (2017). *13 countries where journalists have been killed with impunity*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2016/oct/27/13-countries-where-journalists-have-been-killed-with-impunity> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>31</sup> Sullivan, M. and Sullivan, M. (2017). How the Committee to Protect Journalists broke with tradition to protest Trump. [online] Washington Post. Available at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/how-the-committee-to-protect-journalists-broke-its-own-rule-to-protest-trump/2016/10/16/ec49e2c4-9252-11e6-a6a3-d50061aa9fae\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.9cb54cf42fb2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/how-the-committee-to-protect-journalists-broke-its-own-rule-to-protest-trump/2016/10/16/ec49e2c4-9252-11e6-a6a3-d50061aa9fae_story.html?utm_term=.9cb54cf42fb2) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

cover breaking news is threatened, from documenting the important stories reported on protest movements in a number of countries.

Several dozens of journalists covering the protests were attacked in Ukraine. Numerous cases were reported in Turkey and Egypt, and in Brazil, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Jordan, and Uganda.<sup>32</sup>

Authoritarian states threaten to withhold visas for prominent foreign media reporters and correspondents, causing expulsion of journalists who are critical of the politicians.<sup>33</sup>

Also, the news channel Al-Jazeera was targeted by Egyptian government and number of journalists were harassed and detained.

Disagreeable issues for public discussion are raised by the journalists who disregard the existing rules or public opinion. As a matter of fact, those correspondents who challenge the power of the government and its security services have been jailed, threatened, intimidated and even killed.

Governments prevented publications haphazardly for decades. Journalists were jailed or harassed, control of intimidation upon the press and media were used to this end.<sup>34</sup>

### **i. War Correspondents**

War correspondent is a journalist employed to report news and cover stories concerning the conduct of a war and especially of events at the scene of a war zone. They make news firsthand from a battlefield.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> The Huffington Post. (2017). How To Protect Journalists In The World's Most Dangerous Places. [online] Available at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/07/protecting-journalists\\_n\\_7225534.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/07/protecting-journalists_n_7225534.html) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>33</sup> Marie-Louise Gumuchian and Matt Smith, C. (2017). American journalist David Satter kicked out of Russia - CNN.com. [online] CNN. Available at: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/13/world/europe/russia-journalist-expelled/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>34</sup> Niemanreports.org. (2017). The Courage of Journalists in the Middle East. [online] Available at: <http://niemanreports.org/articles/the-courage-of-journalists-in-the-middle-east/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>35</sup> Merriam-webster.com. (2017). Definition of WAR CORRESPONDENT. [online] Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/war%20correspondent> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

From ancient cave drawings or Herodotus to the Internet, war correspondents have been reporting the wars of mankind. Their existence is almost as old as journalism itself.<sup>36</sup>

There have been famous war correspondents throughout the history, namely; John Steinbeck<sup>37</sup>, Winston Churchill<sup>38</sup>, and Ernest Hemingway<sup>39</sup>.

War correspondents go to the most conflicted parts in the world. They endeavor to get close to the action zones in order to have documents, images or videos. Their success is directly proportional to the level of their work's danger. For example, World War II, Kosovo War or Persian Gulf War have all created very dangerous warfare for civilians or war correspondents as the journalists obtained great film footages.

Some of those journalists tell what they witnessed while serving as a war correspondent in conflict zones with shocking expressions. As a good example, in Libya, war correspondents reported that the planes were dropping bombs pretty close to where they work and in Gaza the missiles soared past out windows of their hotels.<sup>40</sup>

Bomb attacks have killed or injured qualified journalists in Lebanon.<sup>41</sup>

A war correspondent, in the Middle East, will most probably confront dangers from terrorists or in battlefields. He/she will also suffer from the political threats by authoritarian or autocratic governments with anger and heroism. In this regard, especially the public tension can be escalated hazardously. Journalists should survive while challenging the power of the

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<sup>36</sup> Warfarehistorynetwork.com. (2017). The Pen & the Sword: A Brief History of War Correspondents. [online] Available at: <http://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/military-history/the-pen-the-sword-a-brief-history-of-war-correspondents/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>37</sup> Biography.com. (2017). John Steinbeck. [online] Available at: <http://www.biography.com/people/john-steinbeck-9493358#synopsis> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>38</sup> Wyzant.com. (2017). Winston Churchill Biography | Wyzant Resources. [online] Available at: <https://www.wyzant.com/resources/lessons/history/hpol/churchill> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>39</sup> National Archives. (2017). Hemingway on War and Its Aftermath. [online] Available at: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/spring/hemingway.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>40</sup> 9Now Help. (2017). I'm outside of Australia. Why can't I watch 9Now?. [online] Available at: <http://www.9jumpin.com.au/show/today/today-takeaway/2016/august/life-as-a-war-correspondent/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>41</sup> Niemanreports.org. (2017). The Courage of Journalists in the Middle East. [online] Available at: <http://niemanreports.org/articles/the-courage-of-journalists-in-the-middle-east/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

government and its security services.<sup>42</sup>

## **ii. Journalists Engaged in Dangerous Professional Missions**

Firstly, the term "journalist" includes "all representatives of the media, namely all those engaged in the collection, processing and dissemination of news and information including cameramen and photographers, as well as support staff as drivers and interpreters".<sup>43</sup>

A large number of journalists are killed or injured every year. More specifically, six journalists were killed on a battlefield or in a military warfare in Afghanistan only this year.<sup>44</sup>

Journalists that are engaged in dangerous professional missions are at risk because of several different reasons. Initially, they want to be as close as possible to the event, and secondly, the parties of an armed conflict or a severe crisis situation are reluctant to face the unwanted or unpleasant truth that the journalists might expose. Henceforth, journalists who perform a dangerous mission are seen as a threat by the governments or any other violent groups.

Yet, those above-mentioned dangerous professional missions for journalists are not only the armed conflicts or wars. Journalists have also risked their lives in missions regarding the investigation of corruption, organized crimes, and links between religious groups or official authorities.<sup>45</sup>

## **iii. Embedded journalists**

Embedded journalist is a news reporter who is attached to a specific military unit involved in

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Anon, (2017). [online] Available at: <http://Reporters Without Border, Handbook for Journalists, Chapter 10, p. 94> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>44</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). Press Freedom Online - Committee to Protect Journalists. [online] Available at: <https://www.cpj.org/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>45</sup> Guide-humanitarian-law.org. (2017). Doctors without borders | The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law. [online] Available at: <http://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/journalists/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

an armed conflict.<sup>46</sup>

An embedded journalist is placed within and under the control of one side's military during an armed conflict. They are permitted to accompany troops into combat zones. They travel with the military to cover wars.<sup>47</sup> The embedded journalists are informed of the realities of military life and broadcast the gunfire, the explosions in the chaos of a gun battle.<sup>48</sup>

Embedded journalism was first introduced by the U.S. Department of Defense in the media coverage of the 2003 Iraq War. The United States military defined the term as a strategic response to pressuring criticisms about the low level of media access granted during 1991 Gulf War and the 2001 Afghanistan War.<sup>49</sup> The reason is that the journalism raised a bad reputation in Iraq and Afghanistan.<sup>50</sup>

While the war journalism dates back to ancient times as it is mentioned above, embedded journalism is much of a new branch.

Embedded journalism serves correspondents to find out what the troops are doing while the correspondents are accompanying armies in the field. This means that embedding is the primary method of gathering information.<sup>51</sup>

However, the practice of embedded journalism is criticized because it is considered as a propaganda tool. Truly, Charles Lynch as a former Canadian newsman<sup>52</sup> told about his

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<sup>46</sup> Dictionary.com. (2017). the definition of embedded journalist. [online] Available at: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/embedded-journalist> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>47</sup> Washingtonpost.com. (2017). The dangers of embedded journalism, in war and politics. [online] Available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/30/AR2010043001100.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>48</sup> Verdi, D. (2017). The benefits of embedding reporters. [online] msnbc.com. Available at: [http://www.nbcnews.com/id/4441056/ns/world\\_news-mideast\\_n\\_africa/t/benefits-embedding-reporters/#.WIuwN\\_mLTIV](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/4441056/ns/world_news-mideast_n_africa/t/benefits-embedding-reporters/#.WIuwN_mLTIV) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>49</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica. (2017). embedded journalism. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/embedded-journalism> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>50</sup> Cockburn, P. (2017). The Dangers of Embedded Journalism. [online] www.counterpunch.org. Available at: <http://www.counterpunch.org/2010/11/23/the-dangers-of-embedded-journalism/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>51</sup> The Independent. (2017). Embedded journalism: A distorted view of war. [online] Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/opinion/embedded-journalism-a-distorted-view-of-war-2141072.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>52</sup> Journals.sagepub.com. (2017). Wars and their journalisms - Dec 08, 2011. [online] Available at: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1742766511427490> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

experience in World War II as an embedded journalist as: “We were a propaganda arm of our governments. At the start the censors enforced that, but by the end we were our own censors. We were cheerleaders.”<sup>53</sup> So the price of embedding correspondents to the military troops is that viewers are observing the wars from just one perspective.<sup>54</sup>

However, there is an advantageous side of embedded journalism and that is the fact that “embedded journalism” increased the measure of protection for journalists. Reporters and journalists often find themselves as a target of violence in a conflict zone. More concretely, many of the media professionals in Iraq War were killed. This demonstrates that journalists who choose to work independently in a war zone are in more danger than the embedded ones.<sup>55</sup>

#### **iv. Fleeing journalists**

Fleeing is in fact the last resort that might be left for a journalist. Generally, journalists in conflict zones or under anti-democratic governments’ ruling choose fleeing when it comes to such a point that death is the other sole option.<sup>56</sup>

300 journalists have fled Afghanistan for Europe in the past year because of growing security concerns. Press members in Afghanistan are becoming more and more weakened as many of them have to flee the country in order to live on a safer ground, Europe. Print reporters, TV anchors and cameramen are largely leaving the country as a consequence of declining security during the start of Taliban attacks. Threats from both Taliban Commanders and Afghan authorities are the main problems that made the correspondents in the industry leave the country. They include some prominent local journalists.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Mail, F. (2017). Pregnant chads first casualty of war. [online] The Globe and Mail. Available at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/pregnant-chads-first-casualty-of-war/article763920/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>54</sup> Washingtonpost.com. (2017). The dangers of embedded journalism, in war and politics. [online] Available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/30/AR2010043001100.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> VOA. (2017). Journalists Fleeing Afghanistan Over Insecurity. [online] Available at: <http://www.voanews.com/a/journalists-fleeing-afghanistan-over-insecurity/3318859.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>57</sup> Washington Post. (2017). Afghanistan is losing its local press corps as journalists flee the country. [online] Available at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/05/07/afghanistan-is-losing-its-local-press-corps-as-journalists-flee-the-country/?utm\\_term=.11c02b4e007f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/05/07/afghanistan-is-losing-its-local-press-corps-as-journalists-flee-the-country/?utm_term=.11c02b4e007f) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

Moreover, Journalists who are fleeing the lands where Islamic State dominates have been crossing the border in Southern Turkey to survive for the past two years.<sup>58</sup>

Persecution by ISIS is also the reason for Iraqi journalists to flee from the hardship at home. Apart from ISIS, harassment by authorities in Southern or Northern Iraq is another reason. But the fundamental common point is that in both situations, journalists confront fatal threats or even practices, executions.<sup>59</sup>

In Ethiopia, journalists are fleeing from prosecution because Ethiopia is the second leading jailer of journalists on the African continent. More than 30 of the Ethiopia's journalists simply chose to flee in 2014.<sup>60</sup>

### **C. Freedom of Press**

Freedom of press mainly refers to the right to publish newspapers, magazines and other printed matter without governmental restriction.<sup>61</sup> In other words, it enables individuals to express and spread their ideas by all means.

The freedom of the press is a vital element for a democracy that is capable of holding a government responsible for its acts against the people. Saying that, free media serves as an observer for the governments' wrongdoings while investigating and reporting on them in consequence of a well-functioning democracy. Further, ordinary citizens can enjoy the ability

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<sup>58</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). For journalists fleeing Islamic State, Turkey 'is as dangerous as Syria' - Committee to Protect Journalists. [online] Available at: <https://cpj.org/blog/2016/01/for-journalists-fleeing-islamic-state-turkey-is-as.php> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>59</sup> The Arab Weekly. (2017). Iraqi journalists fleeing hardship at home. [online] Available at: <http://www.thearabweekly.com/Opinion/6736/Iraqi-journalists-fleeing-hardship-at-home> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>60</sup> Mortensen, A. (2017). Voices in Danger: Ethiopian journalists are fleeing from prosecution. [online] The Independent. Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/voices-in-danger-ethiopian-journalists-are-fleeing-from-prosecution-while-others-languish-in-prison-10243890.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>61</sup> Dictionary.com. (2017). *the definition of freedom of the press*. [online] Available at: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/freedom-of-the-press> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

to express their own opinions and reach information and variable attitudes about a specific issue.

In the light of above-mentioned, it is obvious that it would seem impossible to hold a government accountable for its mistakes when freedom of press is blocked.

A guiding sentence about the matter in question was stated by the U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black: “The press was to serve the governed, not the governors.”<sup>62</sup>

However, every country has its own way of limiting the freedom of press.

Strict control of access to information

Journalists that are pushing the limits of their states’ regulations about the freedom of press will probably encounter actions including intimidation by the state. Their professional careers might be threatened, they can be fired or find themselves in a blacklist. Moreover, kidnapping, torture and even assassinations might possibly occur. All of these risks are the results of the strict control of access to information.

As a universal acceptance, freedom of report has a broad but focused application at the same time causing a global impact.<sup>63</sup>

#### **i. Journalism principles**

Journalism as a profession has vital principles and some other values that are to be paid attention to while operating. A correspondent has to take these elements into consideration in order to achieve its goals. Because, they are the preconditions of ethics and good practice.<sup>64</sup>

Journalists are firstly and most importantly bound with the truth and nothing but the truth. However, the scope of the obligation to the truth is as far as possible. It is called as “journalistic truth” which holds the responsibility of verifying the facts before publishing

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<sup>62</sup> American Civil Liberties Union. (2017). *Freedom of the Press*. [online] Available at: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech/freedom-press> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>63</sup> Freethoughtreport.com. (2017). *Freedom of Thought Report | Documenting discrimination against the non-religious around the world*. [online] Available at: <http://freethoughtreport.com/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>64</sup> Asne.org. (2017). ASNE Statement of Principles. [online] Available at: <http://asne.org/content.asp?pl=24&sl=171&contentid=171> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

them. As practical as it is, transparency does also matter regarding the sources and the methodology of collecting data. This process serves the ability of the audiences to make their own assessment upon what is published by the journalists.

Having mentioned the audiences' position towards the facts, journalists first loyalty is to citizens, indeed. Rather than their self-interest, correspondents should commit to the public interest at first.<sup>65</sup> They should do no harm to the humanity, since their words and images can hurt the individuals' personal lives in an unexpected manner.<sup>66</sup>

Moreover, correspondents' aim to reach the truth is provided if only they follow the discipline for verifying information.

Even if it might seem unfeasible for journalists to be objective or impartial solely, their methods ought to be objective.

Instead of the objectivity, they are supposed to act independently. Knowing that they can and should make decisions while focusing on the issues, they need an untouchable independence. "Journalists must be independent voices.", they have to be free of political, financial or personal affiliations.

"It is apparent that these principles are actually connected to each other. As an example, correspondents also should hold themselves accountable as a proof of professionalism and responsible journalism.

Technically, journalists' news should be comprehensive and proportional.<sup>67</sup>

## **ii. International ratio of press freedom**

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<sup>65</sup> American Press Institute. (2017). *The elements of journalism - American Press Institute*. [online] Available at: <https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/what-is-journalism/elements-journalism/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>66</sup> Ethical Journalism Network. (2017). *Five Principles of Journalism - Media Ethics - Ethical Journalism Network*. [online] Available at: <http://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/who-we-are/5-principles-of-journalism> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>67</sup> American Press Association. (2017). *Principles of Journalism - American Press Association*. [online] Available at: <http://americanpressassociation.com/principles-of-journalism/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

According to Freedom House, Ratio of press freedom decreased to a minimum level of more than a decade. Free press has become a facility that only 13 percent of the world's population enjoys. Besides, 41 percent of the world's population enjoys a partly free press. Consequently, almost half of the world's population is deprived of a free media. In other words, 46 percent of the world's population lives in countries with a not free media.

There is more to these percentages. Bangladesh, Turkey, Burundi, France, Serbia, Yemen, Egypt, Macedonia, and Zimbabwe are the countries with the most dramatic decreases in press freedom in 2015.<sup>68</sup>

Reporters Without Borders reported that Finland, Netherlands, Norway and Denmark are the countries that have the best ratings of press freedom as 2016. This fact shows that Northern Europe is a region in which the journalists can operate freely. Moving to the Eastern part of the world, the rate is declining. As mentioned before, the ratio of press freedom is related to the democracy and the well-being of a state. Unfortunately, Africa and Asia includes countries with low-level democracy and press freedom.

Threats against journalists' lives and careers mostly take place on those countries of Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and of course; Middle-East.<sup>69</sup>

### **iii. Dangerous Topics for Journalists**

The crucial role of journalists not only have the ability to change the world but also have the ability to change the perception to the very occupation. In specific countries where society dominate the democracy and the policies, journalists-or in more general- press are indispensable and welcomed in an esteemed way. However their fearless, investigative and realistic nature can damage the interests of specific weak democracies, other regime directors or coup governments. Furthermore, the mentioned threat acknowledgment of journalists are caused by several reasons. Yet, the most effective one is the bold topics they tackle.

Organized Crime:

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<sup>68</sup> Freedomhouse.org. (2017). / *Freedom House*. [online] Available at: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2016?gclid=Clzyo8Pbx9ICFUOdGwodNSkNhQ> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>69</sup> RSF. (2017). *World press freedom index*. [online] Available at: <https://rsf.org/en/ranking/2016> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

The weak rule of law and the active society dynamics causes untraceable organized crimes especially in Central America and South Asia. The journalists jeopardize their lives by following the perpetrators or the event itself and mostly get killed during the report processes or after it. Exemplarily, in Mexico, a journalist called José Moisés Sánchez Cerezo- famous for condemning the organized crimes and inadequate executions of the authorities- was found decapitated in Veracruz State in January 2015.<sup>70</sup>

#### Corruption:

Reporting on corruption of corporations, business people, and politicians in general and governments is perhaps one of the most daring yet, the most balance changing work. Exposing the secret economic affairs of various institutions and informing the public of the illicit events occurring, business journalists face many problems not just in some countries but in almost every country around the globe. China, Brazil, Angola or Azerbaijan are countries where harsh allegations and further implementations- imprisonment or killing- are seen the most. Exemplarily; in August 2015, a Brazilian radio host Gleydson Caryalho who criticizes the corrupt local officials, was shot dead while on air.<sup>71</sup>

#### Religion:

In countries where people with various religions live or in countries where sectarian issues are the main reasons to the conflicts, reporting on religion can equally be lethal. As religion is the most subjective notion, the report over it can either be looking to the occasions in a biased way or it can be very open to be misunderstood and adopted as infidelity. Exemplarily; in January 2015, Saudi authorities started to carry out a sentence of 1,000 lashes against Raif Badawi, a blogger and activist who is charged with insulting and impeaching Islam.<sup>72</sup>

#### Disputed Sovereignty:

The best source who can give the best insight from the events to the foreign media are that very nation's own journalists. However that colleague solidarity can be more than a solidarity if that specific nation's journalist talk about the internal affairs of his/her own country or use inconvenient choice of words. Exemplarily; in November 2015, when a German newspaper quoted a Moroccan journalist Ali Anouzla, stating the Western Sahara as "occupied", Moroccan authorities charged him for "undermining national territorial integrity" which can cause five years behind the bars.<sup>73</sup>

#### Lèse-majesté and beyond:

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<sup>70</sup> Admin, H. (2017). *The Dangerous Six: Dangerous Topics for Journalists*. [online] Hrnjuganda.org. Available at: <https://hrnjuganda.org/?p=3184> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

Journalists who maintain their job in restrictive countries where criticism and idea sharing requires risk, are easily censored, imprisoned or charged with treachery with the provided laws. The critical voices that are against the governments, specific important personalities or some agenda items are silenced, simultaneously, democracy is silenced. Exemplarily; in 2015, Turkish authorities went too far when a doctor, who shared a post which compares “Gollum” from the film series “The Lord of the Rings” and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was prosecuted.<sup>74</sup>



#### iv. Suppression and Censorship

The notion “censorship” originates from the official duties of the Roman censor, who was responsible of conducting census, examining public morality and administrating certain aspects of Roman Republic’s finance, beginning in 443 B.C. However, due time, the usage of the term altered, differentiating from a word which only refers to a position in historical background.<sup>75</sup>

Censorship, as a means of controlling communication, has existed since ancient times. Yet, the notion took more emphasis on itself in the early modern period, the period when printing was invented. Printing created the excessive ability to publish texts in ultimate pace and large quantities. Thus, it initially contradicted the interests of the church, which later imposed censorship, dragging along the institutions of the state to be involved. The first campaign

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> TheFreeDictionary.com. (2017). *Press censorship*. [online] Available at: <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Press+censorship> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

against censorship and for freedom of press began in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which gained substantial victory as early as 1695. The other European countries followed the same path with England after the ignition of the first movement for press freedom.<sup>76</sup>

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, modern totalitarian regimes generated massive suppression to the freedom of expression in media, which reached a wide range of communicating types with the developments in technology. The space to tell stories, news and opinions enlarged, yet, the space to be attacked and suppressed was enlarged simultaneously. Not only the newspapers, but now films, radios, television and social media are the subjects for censorship.<sup>77</sup>

Censorship is the activity for editing, removing or changing any kind of text, speech or expression which only involves opinions of free individuals or groups. In most of the cases the censorship is conducted by the governing bodies, though it can also be carried out by the mass media.<sup>78</sup>

The main reason for implementing censorship and suppression is to stabilize, improve or persuade a group that the censoring organization would have control over. Censorship, or in other means “omitting information” get its roots from the specific interest of news and entertainment companies, their owners and their political connections. Censorship and suppression can be put into practice by criminalizing or regulating the way that the expressions are presented or the content they possess.<sup>79</sup>

When the exercise of the right to free expression clashes with the rights of others or threatens the safety of the nation, legislators face a difficult exercise of drawing lines; is a restriction necessary and how far should it go?<sup>80</sup> However, that kind of a self-criticism is rarely seen among policymakers. Therefore, no matter what, democracy is violated by restricting freedom of speech and avoiding the demonstration of truths and facts in the eyes of the public.

There are 5 types of Censorship:

*Corporate censorship* occurs when a corporation implements restrictions on what manufacturers can produce to reach the free market. They can also suppress the customers by deciding upon what they can purchase, watch or hear. *Military censorship* occurs when the military personnel avoids being transparent to the public over their power regarding intelligence and strategies, though it is utilized to provide national security. *Moral censorship* occurs when materials which public considers obscene or offensive are removed. *Political censorship* is when governments or political parties keep informations from the public or when misinform the public. *Religious censorship* occurs when the dominant religious group in a region executes restrictions or limitations on less prevalent ones.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> EGO | Europäische Geschichte Online. (2017). *Censorship and Freedom of the Press — EGO*. [online] Available at: <http://ieg-ego.eu/en/threads/european-media/censorship-and-freedom-of-the-press> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

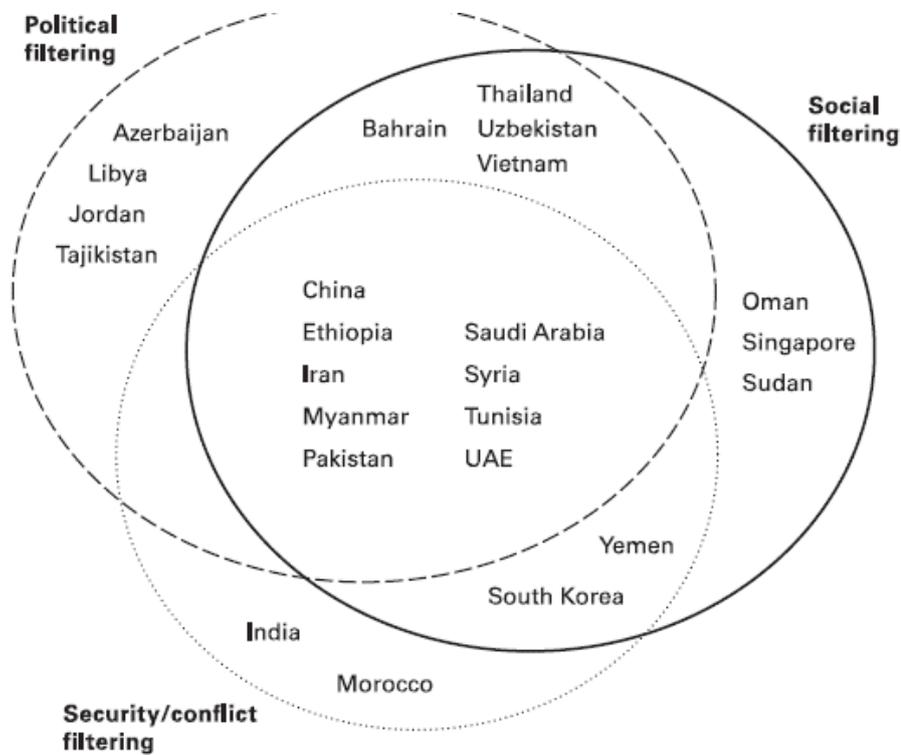
<sup>78</sup> Newworldencyclopedia.org. (2017). *Censorship - New World Encyclopedia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Censorship> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Article19.org. (2017). *Censorship, Violence & Press Freedom · What we do · Article 19*. [online] Available at: <https://www.article19.org/pages/en/censorship-violence-press-freedom-more.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>81</sup> Anon, (2017). [online] Available at:

<https://wikispaces.psu.edu/display/IST432TEAM19/Types+of+Censorship> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].



The 10 most censored countries are, in respected order: Eritrea, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Iran, China, Myanmar, Cuba.<sup>82</sup>

#### D. MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

Given that journalists' job is partly hazardous, the responsibility for protection of journalists is and should be held by governments and supranational organizations as the predominant powers in the world. Although it is unlikely to abolish the danger totally, the main goal is to keep it to a minimum.<sup>83</sup>

It is a widely known fact that even in the countries at peace, harassment and intimidation of journalists is the unfortunate reality related to human rights.<sup>84</sup> In contrast, a concrete protection for journalists must be actualized in peacetime, too.<sup>85</sup> What's more, democracy is well functioned provided that journalists are capable of examining the situations that take

<sup>82</sup> Cpj.org. (2017). *10 Most Censored Countries - Committee to Protect Journalists*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cpj.org/2015/04/10-most-censored-countries.php> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>83</sup> Aceproject.org. (2017). *Measures to Protect Journalists* —. [online] Available at: <http://aceproject.org/main/english/me/mec03g.htm> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>84</sup> VOA. (2017). *UN Adopts Resolution on Protection of Journalists in Conflicts*. [online] Available at: <http://www.voanews.com/a/un-adopts-resolution-on-protection-of-journalists-in-conflicts/2793005.html> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>85</sup> RSF. (2017). *New UN resolution on safety of journalists | Reporters without borders*. [online] Available at: <https://rsf.org/en/news/new-un-resolution-safety-journalists> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

place in specific occasions with a comprehensive and fair-minded point of view for the sake of the essentiality of freedom of expression.<sup>86</sup> Otherwise even an investigation upon corruption, flaws in governance and human rights violations might be sufficient reasons to target journalists. Particularly defamation offenses are the offenses that form the major sources of imprisonment of journalists.<sup>87</sup>

In this regard, authorities have put a collective effort to increase the safety for journalists all across the globe. Media organizations' contribution is unquestionable since they are factually committed on this issue. Besides, many others such as media professionals are still working on this topic, seeking to create a safe zone for correspondents.<sup>88</sup> It goes without saying that these endeavors serve the purpose when supported by written legal documents of international community.

#### **i. 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Among all of the documents and precautions that are published and taken regarding the protection of journalists, the main leading source is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, dated 1948. It established a wide theoretical basis for freedom of expression and enabled people to gather or share information without intervention. The related Article 19 follows as:

“ **Article 19**  
*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.* ”<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Anon, (2017). [online] Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/-/council-of-europe-adopts-guidelines-to-ensure-the-protection-of-journalism-and-the-safety-of-journalists> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>87</sup> Anon, (2017). [online] Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Defenders/CommentarytoDeclarationondefendersJuly2011.pdf> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>88</sup> Foundation, I. (2017). Challenges to the Safety and Protection of Journalists. [online] Global Investigative Journalism Network. Available at: <http://gijn.org/2016/02/12/challenges-to-the-safety-and-protection-of-journalists/> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>89</sup> Anon, (2017). [online] Available at:

Keeping in mind that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Article does not exclude media as well. The reason is that the most efficient way to share the information is media, itself. The legislator's intention here is to point out with no doubt that freedom of expression is provided if only surrounded by a protective measure such as a clear immunity from any sort of interference.

## ii. Geneva Conventions

Apart from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, another protection is granted by Geneva Conventions. Article 79 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 draws a manifest frame for the protection of journalists. It states that;

“ *Article 79 -- Measures of protection for journalists*

*1. Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians within the meaning of Article 50, paragraph 1.*

*2. They shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this Protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians,*

... “

The article is establishing a shield for journalists especially in armed conflict zones while recognizing them as civilians. Journalists are not deprived of the status of a civilian when they take a professional mission in a conflict zone. The idea behind is that a journalist is a civilian above all. The term “journalist” here includes correspondents, reporters, and photographers and so on. Journalists on a dangerous professional mission in a battlefield are civilians, and in the case of hazardous conditions they enjoy the legal protection granted civilians by the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, namely Geneva Conventions, Protocol-I and customary law based on the protection to the individuals against any possible hostility. However, the protection is held unless they act in a way that harms their status as civilians.<sup>90</sup>

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[http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR\\_Translations/eng.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>90</sup> Ihl-databases.icrc.org. (2017). Treaties, States parties, and Commentaries - Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977 - 79 - Measures of protection for journalists - Commentary of 1987. [online]

Furthermore, Customary International Humanitarian Law, since international custom constitutes a main source of international law according to the Article 38 (1) (b) of the International Court of Justice Statute, also ensures that Journalists in an armed conflict enjoy the respect and protection unless they demonstrate hostilities<sup>91</sup>;

“ **Rule 34. Journalists**

*Rule 34. Civilian journalists engaged in professional missions in areas of armed conflict must be respected and protected as long as they are not taking a direct part in hostilities.* <sup>92</sup>

The principle that deprives journalists of the protection when they take a direct part in any kind of hostilities is recognized both in Article 79 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and 34<sup>th</sup> Rule of the Customary International Humanitarian Law.

In practice, the UN Commission on Human Rights *deplored the attacks, acts of reprisal, abductions and other acts of violence against representatives of the international media in Somalia, in 1995.*<sup>93</sup>

Moreover, *the UN General Assembly called on all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to “ensure the safety” of representatives of the media, in 1996.*<sup>94</sup> This was a result of the idea

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Available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Comment.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=CBD4507E8159EBE1C12563CD00436EC4> [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>91</sup> Anon, (2017). [online] Available at: [https://oup.silverchair-cdn.com/oup/backfile/Content\\_public/Journal/ejil/24/2/10.1093/ejil/cht023/2/cht023.pdf?Expires=1487841571&Signature=EROilLgoeD5-Xnlv~tahWGp3JRg58he2gW1vQnoRIEWa6oflQav158esWw2Lm7UGnRPVpkjQFgr~oqsWdPRffwHDDmcRaDRbmm2ENr3t9Nlk8X3m5YakR2Ny0VnGDpbPE0S02DobrKtJj05H96j~h1YBg5LIfvBlr8chjk00BeGqn-rXSt2JReo~Znj3RIeFXSq2ruiHTGGTId-1CAS2xBsl5SYoJ8i3AMED6mF-OjT4zJlQ5cED-x2oK2tHeg9Hnhmw8uXYejrZtajZHh5Zz6XtPNtXibZHPb0aSfvgJRpA9hKlJRr~3iImysyrWQfah5jpKQHg~WCxcthlJ4CJQ\\_\\_&Key-Pair-Id=APKAIUCZBIA4LVPVAVW3Q](https://oup.silverchair-cdn.com/oup/backfile/Content_public/Journal/ejil/24/2/10.1093/ejil/cht023/2/cht023.pdf?Expires=1487841571&Signature=EROilLgoeD5-Xnlv~tahWGp3JRg58he2gW1vQnoRIEWa6oflQav158esWw2Lm7UGnRPVpkjQFgr~oqsWdPRffwHDDmcRaDRbmm2ENr3t9Nlk8X3m5YakR2Ny0VnGDpbPE0S02DobrKtJj05H96j~h1YBg5LIfvBlr8chjk00BeGqn-rXSt2JReo~Znj3RIeFXSq2ruiHTGGTId-1CAS2xBsl5SYoJ8i3AMED6mF-OjT4zJlQ5cED-x2oK2tHeg9Hnhmw8uXYejrZtajZHh5Zz6XtPNtXibZHPb0aSfvgJRpA9hKlJRr~3iImysyrWQfah5jpKQHg~WCxcthlJ4CJQ__&Key-Pair-Id=APKAIUCZBIA4LVPVAVW3Q) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>92</sup> Ihl-databases.icrc.org. (2017). Customary IHL - Rule 34. Journalists. [online] Available at: [https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1\\_rul\\_rule34](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule34) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

that journalists must be protected specifically if their work is related to an armed conflict.

Another measure was taken by *the UN General Assembly by calling on parties to the conflict in Kosovo to refrain from any harassment and intimidation of journalists, in 1998*<sup>95</sup>, aiming to prevent actions that deter correspondents from working freely.

### **iii. UN Involvement (Mentioning the latest resolutions adopted by SC and etc.)**

Another vital role is played by United Nations by various Resolutions acted for the protection of journalists. In order to understand the scope of the concerns raised by UN, 59<sup>th</sup> Resolution of the General Assembly would be a good start:

“ *United Nations General Assembly 59th Resolution dated 14 December 1946 :  
Calling of an International Conference on Freedom of Information*

*The General Assembly,*

*Whereas*

*Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated;*

*Freedom of information implies the right to gather, transmit and publish news anywhere and everywhere without fetters. As such it is an essential factor in any serious effort to promote the peace and progress of the world;*

*Freedom of information requires as an indispensable element the willingness and capacity to employ its privileges without abuse. It requires as a basic discipline the moral obligation to seek the facts without prejudice and to spread knowledge without malicious intent*

... ”

Mainly, there is such a general acceptance signifying that freedom of information is recognized as a fundamental human right by the major institutions of international law.

UN GA 59th Resolution demonstrates an inclusive definition for freedom of information

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<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

knowing that freedom of information is considered as a crucial factor in order to raise the peaceful attitude of the globe.

As it is mentioned above, hostilities by journalists while carrying out their professional duties are disapproved in Geneva Conventions and customary law. Here, it can be seen that journalists are expected to avoid from having malicious intent during their mission in the 59<sup>th</sup> Resolution as well.

The latest resolution acted by the United Nations Security Council took attention to the protection of journalists and media personnel in case of a threat or violation against them by having a high opinion of world peace and security;

**S/RES/2222 (2015)**

**Security Council**

**Distr.: General**

**27 May 2015**

**Resolution 2222 (2015)**

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 7450th meeting, on 27 May 2015**

**The Security Council**

*Bearing in mind its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, and underlining the importance of taking measures aimed at conflict prevention and resolution,*

...

*Recognizing that the work of journalists, media professionals, and associated personnel often puts them at specific risk of intimidation, harassment and violence in situations of armed conflict,*

...

*Deeply concerned at the frequency of acts of violence in many parts of the world against journalists, media professionals, and associated personnel in armed conflict, in particular deliberate attacks in violation of international humanitarian law,*

...

*Affirms that the work of a free, independent and impartial media constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society, and thereby can contribute to the*

*protection of civilians;*

... <sup>96</sup>

The main attention of the Resolution is again, to the international peace. International peace requires a broad approach which maintains both security and freedom. That is why the risks that the journalists can face are defined in the Resolution, and a deep concern raises pointing out that the violence against correspondents are deemed as mere violations of international humanitarian law.

Finally, free media is given the importance, aiming at enabling the society enjoy democracy at the highest level.

### **III. Points That a Resolution Should Cover**

- What is journalism and what are the authorities, mandatories the journalists obtain?
- How journalism can be more efficient and how can it be turned to a more untouchable occupation?
- What are the status of journalists and what can be done to avoid their imprisonment, deportation and murder?
- What kind of an implementation or a demand can be applied to the countries where unstable policies against journalists are observed?
- What situations that journalists are up against in the war-zones and what kind of an regulation or international collaboration should be formed in order to provide their well-being?
- Are the journalism principals adequately universal and how can they become more universal?

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<sup>96</sup> Anon, (2017). [online] Available at: [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2222.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2222.pdf) [Accessed 25 Apr. 2017].

- How can the definition and usage of censor can be re-created?
- What should be done to change the perspectives of the policymakers in means of determining the dangerous topics?
- What are the lacking points of the measures taken to protect journalists and how can they be more efficient?
- What kind of conventions should occur?

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Everything that occurs, every idea that pops up, every solution that is thought, every policy that is accepted, everybody's story that should be heard and so on; they all go through the hands of the media. The journalists are the very people who hear, collect, classify, excite and serve the information. They generally search for the interests of their nations but they are also seeking for universal understandings. They advise, lead, show and call for humanity. However, the impartiality and honesty most of the journalists demonstrate are the very things which keep them on edge of the cliff. Eventually they face charges stating that they are traitors or incompetent. Most of the times they are killed by anonymous perpetrators without hearing their accusations or they are dead while pursuing their job in the conflicted zones.

In the light of the given information, UNCA is expected to discuss the situations which endanger both the well-being and the reputation of journalists and finalize them with efficient solutions.