

6th Legal

*Novice
General
Assembly*



TOPICS: The Protection of Journalists

CHAIRS: Ella Interian, Anthony Padnos

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

LAIMUN XXVIII

Letter from the Secretariat

3

Introduction to the USG

4

Introduction to the Dais

5

Committee Description

7

Topic A: The Protection of Journalists

9

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates! My name is Tucker and I'm the Under-Secretary General of General Assembly committees. This is my fourth year in the Mira Costa Model UN program and I am ecstatic to welcome you all to LAIMUN XXVIII.

I'm so excited to see various diplomatic strategies in committee regarding the pressing issues we encounter on a global scale. Our chairs will hold the delegates to high standards of research, diplomacy, speeches, and solutions.

At LAIMUN, we have a strict no pre-written resolutions policy—resolutions can only be worked on at your chair's discretion. Please verify that your work is authentic to ensure all delegates experience a fair and accurate simulation of a United Nations conference.

The Mira Costa Model UN program has provided me with incredible opportunities and lasting memories; I hope that LAIMUN XXVIII will be a memorable experience for you as well! Mira Costa MUN provides a profound opportunity for delegates to gain knowledge, confidence, speaking skills, and most importantly, a new understanding of international relations and current events. All LAIMUN XXVIII staff have worked hard to provide the best experience for everyone in attendance and we wish you the best of luck throughout your preparation!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to GA@mchsmun.org or other members of the Secretariat. I can't wait to see you in December!

Regards,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General

Tucker Gauss
Under-Secretary General

Introduction to the Dias

Hi Delegates!

My name is Ella Claire Interian and I am super excited to be one of your chairs for LAIMUN's Novice 6th Legal committee. I am a junior at MCHS and this is my 3rd year as a part of the Mira Costa Model United Nations program it has been one of my favorite parts of high school. My favorite conference of the MUN program has been NHSMUN, as it was a great opportunity to improve my public speaking and expand my knowledge of current events.

Outside of MUN, I am a dancer at Legacy Dance Academy, on the Varsity Mira Costa Dance Team, Commissioner of Public Relations of the Associated Student Body (ASB), and Director of Publicity for a nonprofit organization, Sandpipers. I have been dancing since I was 6 and have competed in numerous regional and national competitions and performed at exciting events such as Clippers' games. One fun fact about me is I am a twin and to this day we still don't know who is older. In my free time, I love going to the beach, going to dinner with friends, taking yoga, dance, and pilates classes, and watching sunsets!

This year in LAIMUN's Novice 6th Legal, I look forward to seeing well-thought-out, creative solutions covering the several subtopics specific to your country's policy, but ones that can also be applicable on an international scale. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Yours truly,

Ella Claire Interian

Hello delegates,

My name is Anthony Padnos, and I will be serving as your co-chair for this year's Novice 6th Legal committee. I am very excited I am a sophomore here at Mira Costa and have been doing MUN for 5 years. I really enjoy Model United Nations because it has helped me grow my public speaking skills, improve my writing, learn how to debate, and help me grasp what is going on in the world on a geopolitical scale. I really enjoy giving speeches and making solutions in committee.

Outside of school, I like to volunteer at different community service projects such as teaching art classes at the transitional housing unit in Westwood or volunteering at the First Tee program. I am also on the varsity golf team at Mira Costa. Aside from extracurriculars, I like to play golf, do art, watch TV, play basketball, or spend time with friends. I am a huge Boston Celtics fan and enjoy watching or following the scores of games.

This year in LAIMUN's Novice 6th Legal, I look forward to seeing all of you work together and use creative solutions in debate! Make sure to stay on policy and make sure your solutions are applicable and scaleable. I can't wait to see you all in debate!

Sincerely,

Anthony Padnos

Committee Description

The Sixth Legal, otherwise known as Sixth Committee, is the primary committee that focuses on legal questions of the General Assembly. This committee focuses on the international law itself and one should expect debate to be centered on legislation towards a certain cause. In addition, the Sixth Legal is often used to allow bodies to report to the United Nations, including the International Law Commission, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations. The Sixth Committee is essential for international law to prosper and treaties and regulations to be negotiated.

Creating comprehensive solutions regarding the treatment of prisoners must be a top priority for the international community. Around the world, prisoners are consistently denied their basic human rights both in developed and developing countries. Furthermore, women and persecuted groups often face worse punishment and treatment than majority groups in prison, and there are few effective pieces of legislation to protect prisoners around the world. In this committee delegates must be able to not only understand the issues on the surface, but be able to identify and account for their underlying reasons when drafting resolutions.

With phones, tablets, and other electronic devices seeing an exponential growth in the last few decades, the possible over-surveillance by governments has been a hotly debated topic. One side argues that they act as a defense mechanism against dangerous persons while others retort that they're an infringement upon our personal privacy. However, there have been cases of countries abusing their surveillance technologies and government authority, resulting in

accusations of human rights violations. Therefore, the existing international guidelines and potential updates/new legal frameworks are elements to be deliberated by the delegates of Sixth Legal.

Topic A: The Protection of Journalists

I. Background

Currently, there are thousands of journalists around the world being tortured and massacred for criticizing political figures, investigating governmental corruption, and reporting various kinds of information. The consequences of communicating the truth include threats, surveillance, detentions, death, and disappearances of news organizations and journalists. It is documented that only 13% of the international community's population is unrestrained from censorship and capable of enjoying a free press.¹ Globally, journalists are terrorized, incarcerated, and executed for solely informing the public.

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights expresses that “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 regardless of frontiers.” In the current situation in the Ukraine with Russia, Russian officials rerouted technological data through to Russian networks to illegally gain access to information. Russian soldiers also arrived in Kherson and demanded all offices of local internet and data services give up control of their operations. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and a number of other

¹“Wyden Releases New Bill To Protect Journalists’ First Amendment Rights Against Government Surveillance”
U.S. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, 28 June 2021,
<https://www.wyden.senate.gov/news/press-releases/wyden-releases-new-bill-to-protect-journalists-first-amendment-rights-against-government-surveillance#:~:text=The%20Protect%20Reporters%20from%20Excessive,seized%20by%20the%20government%20without>

Ukrainian news websites were shut off and many of Kherson's residents were then forced to use Russian internet service providers. Some Ukrainians only have access to Russian state radio and television due to the control Russia has over their cyberspace. Covid-19 has also affected and increased the amount of censorship in the world as governments are using the pandemic to suppress free expression and limit access to information. Governments have established new legislation to halt all independent reporting, creating a massive challenge for journalists.

The International Press Institute or IPI, consists of a global network of leading executives, reporters, and editors, pushing limitations against press freedom. The IPI calls on all governments, supranational, and international organizations to recognize the safety and brutal murders of journalists as a global challenge that must be dealt with. The International Press Institute's global network noted that from July 2021 to December 21, 45 journalists, 40 male, and 5 female, were killed due to field assignments or connections to their work. 28 of these reporters were killed in retaliation for their work, 3 were killed for covering armed conflicts, and 12 were killed on assignment. With a lack of legal protection and legislation, journalists are incapable of accurately informing the people of their nations. The PRESS Act, or The Protect Reporters from Excessive State Suppression Act, a United States Law, guarantees that journalists are safe from the government secretly capturing their data stored by phone and internet companies or any other third parties. ²This legislation protects the communication records of journalists, something that

²“1-7.000 - Confidentiality and Media Contacts Policy.” *The United States Department of Justice*, 15 Mar. 2021, <https://www.justice.gov/jm/jm-1-7000-media-relations#:~:text=During%20an%20investigation%20or%20before,a%20person's%20prior%20criminal%20record.>

organizations such as the Department of Justice Confidentiality and Media Contacts Policy have obtained from various news sources such as CNN, the New York Times, and The Washington Post. Federal agencies, such as the Department of Justice, are exempt from the state laws.

Numerous nonprofit organizations and committees have been created and worked towards the goal of protecting journalists. Most notably, the Committee to Protect Journalists is a nonprofit organization that independently promotes freedom of the press and fights against journalism worldwide. They also work towards implementing legislation throughout the international community so journalists can safely document the news and inform the public without apprehension or fear of authorities. In 2012, globally, there was a peak of journalist deaths with 147 being recorded, but statistics showed that 2021 experienced the lowest number of journalists killed since 2003. These numbers are dropping because nations are taking the vital steps, such as funding journalist protection organizations and implementing new legislation, to lower these numbers.

In the United States, 48 states and the District of Columbia have diverse forms of safety legislation, however, there is no federal shield law. A shield law is a piece of legislation that is used to protect reporters' privilege while on duty reporting. Countries that do not have shield laws often suffer the consequences of violence against journalists. Mexico, Afghanistan, India, and the DRC have the highest recorded numbers of journalist killings over the past decade, and Asia and the Pacific were recorded to be the most dangerous regions in 2021 for journalists. In states such as Syria, Somalia, and Yemen, violent disputes, insufficient infrastructure, and a lack

of news outlets create dangerous conditions for writers and reporters .³ Political instability and weak governments added onto the reasons as to why the nations were unable to enhance their abilities to correctly enforce international journalist protection.

Failure to follow through with investigations of the murders of journalists makes it difficult for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. In 2014, Mexico recorded that only one of the seven cases of suspects had been arrested. ⁴According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in Somalia, Syria, Mexico, and the Philippines, journalists are slain with impunity, and the assassins are rarely convicted or charged. The scarcity of punishment in these circumstances leads to more deaths of journalists. Records show that between 2004-2013, 370 journalists were murdered because of their writings, but only 41 of these perpetrators were penalized.

According to United Nations' 2016 statistics, Russia, Mexico, Egypt, China, Turkey, and Eritrea are ranked as the most dangerous countries for journalists. These nations' governments use the media outlets as "mouthpieces of the state" and journalists are very closely monitored. In Eritrea, the government eliminated all independent media sources in 2001 and established a law that the media must solely promote "national objectives." In North Korea's constitution, Article 67 states that the nation endorses freedom of the press, but nearly all content from newspapers

³"United States Added to List of Most Dangerous Countries for Journalists for First Time." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 19 Dec. 2018, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/united-states-added-list-most-dangerous-countries-journalists-first-time-n949676>.

⁴"Journalist Killings Ease from Record Highs as Murders down, Combat Deaths Up." *Committee to Protect Journalists*, 3 Jan. 2018, <https://cpj.org/reports/2016/12/journalists-killed-murdered-syria-most-deadly-war/>.

and broadcasters in the country is originally from the Korean Central News Agency, which focuses on highlighting political activities. More than 4 million North Koreans are subscribed to *Koryolink*, North Korea's main mobile network, which does not authorize any information from outside of North Korea.

Journalists in all regions around the world are persecuted for publishing work that the government does not condone or endorse. Some leaders believe censorship positively impacts their country, due to it keeping citizens hard working, focused, motivated, productive, and what they believe to be safer. In addition, some leaders believe that censorship helps keep the nation together rather than allow political polarization to drive it apart. Censorship can prevent the accountability of government officials and unfairly silence the various viewpoints of certain groups or individuals which can greatly damage long term intellectual conformity. When mass populations are forbidden from accessing information, many subjects never receive discussion that can benefit society by their awareness. In addition, it is a lot harder to make discoveries or benefit society when there is a limited amount of information to research from. Censorship is conducted by various controlling organizations such as governments and private institutions. Practically 50% of journalists' deaths were a consequence of their reports, 36% were captured in the crossfire, and 14% were massacred on a perilous mission.⁵

II. UN Involvement

⁵“Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders.” *OHCHR*, 24 Aug. 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-human-rights-defenders>.

The Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists (LPPDHP) holds the purpose of “operating preventative and emergency measures that guarantee the life, integrity, liberty, and security of persons in high-risk situations as a consequence of their defense or promotion of human rights, or the exercise of freedom of expression and journalism.” Lack of protection for journalists and an increasing number of countries initiating laws of censorship are problems that cannot be ignored. In 1948, the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “nations shall protect and promote the right to freedom of expression and shall strengthen all mechanisms that ensure freedom of information in accordance with the international standards in this area.” The United Nations and United Nations Human Rights Office work to ensure that “journalists and other media professionals bypass... subject to any unlawful or arbitrary limitations while seeking, imparting or receiving information and ideas.”

Additionally, the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity works to establish safe environments in violent and peaceful circumstances for journalists and media employees worldwide. It recommends working in collaboration with governments, privatized organizations, professional institutions, and NGOs to expand advocacy on the emerging threats and growing dangers posed to journalists and is achieving its 10-year anniversary in 2022. For the past decade, this UN Plan of Action has successfully created a framework for effective law enforcement and legislation to protect journalists. This was implemented in Strasbourg, one of the four main capitals of the European Union, in November 2014 and achieved new ways to strengthen the UN Plan in all continents of the world.

UN organizations that prioritize the safety of journalists and reporters include the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Department of Public Information, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Department of Public Affairs, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and more. The organization is concerned that justice systems are not thoroughly investigating all threats and acts of violence against journalists.

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is on November 2nd proclaimed in General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/163. This was a monumental resolution that condemns all acts of violence against the media and its reporters. This date was to monumentalize the assassination of two French journalists in Mali in 2013⁶. In 2021, a hybrid discussion on the topic of journalism protection was organized by UNESCO and the Ossigeno per l'informazione, a corporation dedicated to monitoring the threats and serious abuses against journalists in association with the Italian National Press Federation and the Order of the Journalists.⁷ The UN Security Council also helped the Arria Formula Meeting on May 24, 2022, to comprehend and improve the protection of journalists in conflict zones and discuss the importance and implementation of Resolution 2222 which was created in 2015.⁸ Resolution 2222

⁶“Protection of Journalists” *Casebook*, 17 October 2016, <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/protection-journalists>.

⁷Barron, Laignee. “U.S. Named among Deadliest Places for Journalists.” *Time*, Time, 19 Dec. 2018, <https://time.com/5483773/us-deadliest-countries-journalists-deaths-2018/>.

⁸Watson, Amy. “Number of Journalists Killed Worldwide 2021.” *Statista*, 18 Jan. 2022, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/266229/number-of-journalists-killed-since-1995/>.

placed emphasis on the necessity for countries to improve reporting on the violence against journalists, promoting accountability, and is often considered a milestone for the protection of journalists

A recent United Nations human rights report recognizes that governments worldwide that censor journalists are “treating words as weapons.” This approach has been called “abusive” and “unsustainable” by David Kaye, a UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression. More than a dozen network shutdowns have been recorded in the past 12 months and this has been referred to as the “Internet kill switch.” This is a form of digital censorship that is common in nations such as North Korea, China, Russia, and Kuwait. A constant topic in United Nations’ discussions and federal government councils is if censorship is fighting harm or silencing expression and opinions. Some leaders believe that censorship is justified in cases of nation security and public interest, however, others believe it is only harmful and prevents expression. To address it, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on “the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet,” led by 5 member states and co-sponsored by 70 more all from various regions internationally.⁹

III. Topics to Consider

A. Improved legislation on the protection of journalists

¹⁰All journalists are granted the right to protection from all human rights violations and abuses. Some of these violations include murder, torture, forced exile, public disappearance,

⁹Safety of journalists and human rights defenders Archives” *ARTICLE 19*, <https://www.article19.org/issue/safety-of-journalists-and-human-rights-defenders/>.

¹⁰ Protection of Journalists” *Casebook*, 17 October 2016, <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/protection-journalists>.

unreasonable arrest, intimidation, harassment, or any threats and other forms of violence.¹¹

Although journalists are granted these rights internationally, they are often not properly enforced.

The silencing of journalists persists in many countries, often in an unjust fashion, due to some countries having no free speech laws—thus giving them the ability to inflict strict punishments on journalists.

Even in countries that have up-to-date free speech laws, journalists are often illegally silenced. This could be because they have uncovered information that the central government does not want to be publicly released or because of another reason. In any case, these journalists have rights granted to them by the UN which ensures their protection of not only their rights but of their safety as well.

B. The protection of journalists as civilians

¹²Under international humanitarian law, journalists are granted the protection given to civilians and civilian objects. The media cannot be considered a military objective except for some special cases. Humanitarian law creates two categories of journalists working in war or conflict zones. These two categories would be “specialized” journalists that are accredited to an armed force and “independent” journalists that are part of a news distribution enterprise.¹³ A

¹¹“Safety of journalists and human rights defenders Archives” *ARTICLE 19*, <https://www.article19.org/issue/safety-of-journalists-and-human-rights-defenders/>.

¹²“International Declaration on the Protection of Journalists” *International Press Institute*, 14 December 2021, <https://ipi.media/international-declaration-on-the-protection-of-journalists/#:~:text=right%20to%20life-,All%20journalists%2C%20media%20professionals%20and%20associated%20personnel%20have%20the%20right,forms%20of%20violence%2C%20de%20facto>.

¹³“UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” *UNESCO*, 08 September 2021, <https://en.unesco.org/un-plan-action-safety-journalists>.

journalist is defined according to a 1975 draft UN convention as any reporter, photographer, or assistant that is regularly engaged in these activities in order to spread information.

Although the two categories of journalists have similar jobs, they have different protections that are granted to them by the UN in times of war. Specialized journalists accompany armed forces, and are able to do this without actually being considered a member of the formal military, which is why they are in a separate category which is considered to be war correspondents. The protection of independent journalists is different. They are not part of a formal government so they are not treated as enemy military, but rather as civilians or travelers. Article 79 in the Geneva Convention states that journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in zones of armed conflict are considered civilians, and have all of the privileges that are granted to them under Article 50 of the Geneva Convention. They enjoy the full protection that citizens are given by international humanitarian law.

Although journalists are granted many privileges, they can lose protection through participation in propaganda or by committing other direct acts of hostilities or acts of war that can be seen as a threat to another party.

C. The prevention of governmental espionage on journalist communications

¹⁴Journalists legally conduct their research on land that does not belong to them, and regularly communicate with others inside and outside of the country where they are stationed in. This allows whatever country the journalist is situated in to illegally intercept private information

¹⁴Yaffa, Joshua. "What Russian Journalists Think of How American Reporters Cover Putin and Trump." *The New Yorker*, 6 July 2017, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/what-russian-journalists-think-of-how-american-reporters-cover-putin-and-trump>.

of the journalist. Along with the freedom that journalists are granted, they have the ability to communicate as they please.¹⁵ When government bodies are granted access to information a journalist plans to distribute on an international stage, they can more easily control the spread of information in accordance with their interests.

In addition, when governments gain access to journalists' personal information or information that they plan to distribute, they are more likely to wrongfully incriminate that journalist in order to prevent them from spreading sensitive information. If countries were to take away civil liberties from a citizen based on the risk of them spreading sensitive information, it would be a breach of human rights, harming the public image of the government.

D. Current legislation needs to be improved in order to ensure the protection of journalists.

¹⁶Although there has been a lot of international legislation on the subject of protecting journalists on an international scale, around ¹⁷80 journalists are still killed each year—with deaths most common in conflict areas. Therefore, better legislation must be enacted in order to ensure that active journalists stationed in foreign areas that are plagued with war or even corruption are safe.

¹⁵Currier, Cora. "Government Can Spy on Journalists in the U.S. Using Invasive Foreign Intelligence Process." *The Intercept*, The Intercept, 17 Sept. 2018, <https://theintercept.com/2018/09/17/journalists-fisa-court-spying/>.

¹⁶Morrison, Patt. "The History of Journalists Murdered in the U.S." *Chicago Tribune*, 31 May 2019, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-newsroom-journalists-murder-fake-news-trump-charlie-hebdo-0702-story.html>.

¹⁷"US Named Among Deadliest Places for Journalists" *Time*, 19 December 2018, <https://time.com/5483773/us-deadliest-countries-journalists-deaths-2018/>.

In the past, the ¹⁸UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists has aimed to create a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, both in conflict and non-conflict situations. Through this program, they propose laws that will bring greater safety to journalists and establish a coordinated inter-agency mechanism to handle issues related to journalists' safety. This program also helps provide for the freedom of journalists by not only creating a legislature that gives them freedom itself, but also the right to express their opinion or distribute information on what is currently going on in the world.

IV. Case Study

A. The death of many journalists caught in the line of fire during the Israel-Palestine Conflict

¹⁹For the last fifty-five years, Israel and Palestine have been at war over the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank. This has raised international concern due to the constant fighting between the two parties and the amount of chaos and casualties of the conflict. Due to the large international concern of this conflict, there is a lot of media attention that provides constant updates to the public about the latest on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The cost of these updates is placing journalists in the line of fire so that they can get first-hand information. Since 1992, there have been nineteen journalists killed in the Israel-Palestine territories. Some of those deaths were a result of journalists being caught in the crossfire, but some deaths also occurred due to sinister plots to get rid of specific members of the press.

¹⁸ “UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” *UNESCO*, 08 September 2021, <https://en.unesco.org/un-plan-action-safety-journalists>.

¹⁹Berger, Miriam. “Stories of 5 Journalists Killed Covering Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 15 May 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/12/israel-palestine-journalists-killed/>.

Recently, Palestinian-American reporter Abu Akleh was shot dead during an Israeli raid in the West Bank city of Jenin. This recent event has highlighted the dangers that reporters are faced with when covering stories in warzones. Abu Akleh was a reporter for the Al Jazeera news network. Part of the procedure of journalists that are covering stories in war-torn areas is to wear protective gear such as bulletproof vests, helmets, and clothing that clearly displays that they are a part of the press. Akleh was wearing the correct gear and was doing everything correctly to suggest that she should not be targeted. Unfortunately, she was struck down by an Israeli sniper on May 11, 2022, according to eyewitness accounts.

Akleh was a fifty-one-year-old veteran reporter who was a household name in Israel for her groundbreaking discoveries and incredible stories on the Israel-Palestine debate. There were a lot of eyewitnesses to the murder, and both sides of the Israel-Palestine conflict have different stories. The Palestinian reports suggest that Israeli snipers were the culprit, but the Israeli military suggests that Palestinian militants were responsible for her death. After further investigation, it was confirmed that the blood was on Israel's hands.

Akleh reported for more than two decades in the West Bank and East Gaza Jerusalem for Al Jazeera's Arabic-language news channel. Recently, human rights groups have demanded independent inquiry along with other parties demanding consequences for Akleh's death. Al Haq, a group in Palestine that champions human rights and specializes in the protection of journalists has called upon the International Criminal Court to include the recent murder of Akleh in the charges against Israel for war crimes.

Al Haq represents other media members who have lost their lives for one reason or another during the Israel-Palestine conflict. Al Haq is pressing the importance of investigating Akleh's death in order to discover whether or not there was a motive for her death.

Unfortunately, Akleh was not the only media member that had their life taken recently. In April of 2018, an Israeli sniper shot and killed Yasser Murtaja, a reporter and protester of the war.

A very suspicious part of all of the journalists' deaths is that all of them wear clothing that clearly demonstrates that they are a part of the media, and carry no weapons. There must be more accountability on the part of the Israeli and Palestinian governments to ensure that there was not a sinister motive behind the deaths and that these mistakes can be learned from in the future so that journalists can be better protected.

V. Questions to Consider

1. How can the international community improve legislation to protect journalists and ensure that these lawbreakers are penalized?
2. What reforms has your member country established to improve the safety of journalists and how do they intend to strengthen them?
3. How can the international community and UN ensure the security of journalists without imposing on a country's sovereignty?
4. How can governments adapt universal freedom of expression to ensure that it is successful and sustainable long-term?

5. How can the resolutions created by the United Nations condemning censorship and pushing for new legislation on the protection of journalists be more effectively implemented on a global scale?
6. How has Covid-19 affected violence against journalists.

Works Cited

- “Wyden Releases New Bill To Protect Journalists’ First Amendment Rights Against Government Surveillance” *U.S. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon*, 28 June 2021, <https://www.wyden.senate.gov/news/press-releases/wyden-releases-new-bill-to-protect-journalists-first-amendment-rights-against-government-surveillance#:~:text=The%20Protect%20Reporters%20from%20Excessive,seized%20by%20the%20government%20without.>
- “International Declaration on the Protection of Journalists” *International Press Institute*, 14 December 2021, <https://ipi.media/international-declaration-on-the-protection-of-journalists/#:~:text=right%20to%20life.-,All%20journalists%2C%20media%20professionals%20and%20associated%20personnel%20have%20the%20right,forms%20of%20violence%2C%20de%20facto.>
- “Factors Influencing States’ Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR” 18 January 2020, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355782302_International_Protection_of_Journalists_as_Human_Rights_Defenders.
- “Safety of journalists and human rights defenders Archives” *ARTICLE 19*, [https://www.article19.org/issue/safety-of-journalists-and-human-rights-defenders/.](https://www.article19.org/issue/safety-of-journalists-and-human-rights-defenders/)
- “10 Most Censored Countries” *Committee to Protect Journalists*, 01 February 2022, [https://cpj.org/reports/2019/09/10-most-censored-eritrea-north-korea-turkmenistan-journalist/.](https://cpj.org/reports/2019/09/10-most-censored-eritrea-north-korea-turkmenistan-journalist/)
- “What We Do” *Committee To Protect Journalists*, 31 July 2021, <https://cpj.org/about/>

- “UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” *UNESCO*, 08 September 2021, <https://en.unesco.org/un-plan-action-safety-journalists>.
- ”US Named Among Deadliest Places for Journalists” *Time*, 19 December 2018, <https://time.com/5483773/us-deadliest-countries-journalists-deaths-2018/>.
- “UN: Human Rights Council adopts resolution on human rights on the Internet” *ARTICLE 19*, 11 August 2021, <https://www.article19.org/resources/un-human-rights-council-adopts-resolution-on-human-rights-on-the-internet/>.
- “Protection of Journalists” *Casebook*, 17 October 2016, casebook.icrc.org/case-study/protection-journalists.
- “Safety of Journalists” *UNESCO*, 17 November 2020, <https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists>.
- “Number of journalists killed worldwide 2021” *Statista*, 18 January 2021, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/266229/number-of-journalists-killed-since-1995/>.
- “What Russian Journalists Think of How American Reporters Cover Putin and Trump” *The New Yorker*, 06 July 2017, www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/what-russian-journalists-think-of-how-american-reporters-cover-putin-and-trump.
- Currier, Cora. “Government Can Spy on Journalists in the U.S. Using Invasive Foreign Intelligence Process.” *The Intercept*, The Intercept, 17 Sept. 2018, <https://theintercept.com/2018/09/17/journalists-fisa-court-spying/>.

Berger, Miriam. “Stories of 5 Journalists Killed Covering Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” *The*

Washington Post, WP Company, 15 May 2022,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/12/israel-palestine-journalists-killed/>.

“Safety of Journalists - UN Plan of Action”, *OHCHR*, November 2014,

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/safety-of-journalists/un-plan-action-safety-journalists-and-issue-impunity>.