

Rotary Model UN 2026

United Nations



General Assembly

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Eightieth Session

Agenda item 72

Resolution #2

Creating an International Framework to Ensure the Safety of Journalists

The General Assembly,

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

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

Recalling its previous resolutions on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, including resolution 68/163 of 18 December 2013, in which it proclaimed 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, and resolutions 69/185 of 18 December 2014, 70/162 of 17 December 2015, 72/175 of 19 December 2017, 74/157 of 18 December 2019 and 76/173 of 16 December 2021,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitments therein to, inter alia, build peaceful and inclusive societies, protect human rights and promote gender equality for sustainable development so that no one is left behind, including by ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements, and therefore recognizing the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in this regard,

Emphasizing that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is a human right guaranteed to all, in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that it constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the basic conditions for its progress and development,

Alarmed at instances in which political leaders, public officials and/or authorities denigrate, intimidate or threaten the media, including foreign and/or individual journalists, and media workers, which increases the risk of threats, reprisals and violence against journalists and undermines public trust in the credibility of journalism,

Expressing serious concern at attacks and violence against journalists and media workers in situations of armed conflict, including the specific risks faced by women journalists and media workers in this context, and recalling in this regard that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians,

Deploring at the increased number of journalists and media workers who have been killed, tortured, arrested, detained, harassed and intimidated in recent years as a direct result of their profession, specifically the 38% rise in the killing of journalists noted from 2022-2023,

Noting with dismay that the average time it takes to resolve the prosecution for killing of a journalist is currently four years,

Stressing the need for greater emphasis on prevention measures and the creation of enabling legal frameworks for freedom of expression to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* all attacks, reprisals and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest, arbitrary detention and expulsion, as well as intimidation, threats and harassment, online and offline, including through attacks on, or the forced closure of, their offices and media outlets, in both conflict and non-conflict situations;
2. *Abhors* the prevailing impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, and expresses concern that the vast majority of these crimes go unpunished, which in turn contributes to the recurrence of these crimes;
3. *Establishes* the Independent Commission for the Protection of Journalists (ICPJ) for the purposes of promoting the rule of law, providing a mechanism to report harassment and attacks, investigating human rights violations against journalists by state actors, and, where warranted, prosecuting individuals charged with crimes against journalists, under the following parameters:
 - a. The ICPJ shall be governed by the ICPJ General Assembly composed of one representative from each Member State,
 - b. The ICPJ General Assembly shall meet annually,
 - c. Actions of the ICPJ General Assembly shall be decided by majority vote of a quorum of the representatives,
 - i. Two-thirds of the representatives shall constitute a quorum, and
 - d. Decisions of the ICPJ General Assembly shall be binding on Member States;
4. *Further establishes* the ICPJ Executive Committee under the following parameters:
 - a. The General Assembly shall elect, by majority vote, a President, additional Officers and Committee Members as the General Assembly sees fit, to form an Executive Committee,
 - b. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for coordinating routine functions of the ICPJ, proposing supplemental committees, making monthly reports to the general assembly, and all other functions deemed appropriate by the ICPJ General Assembly, and

- c. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to call an additional meeting(s) of the ICPJ General Assembly;
5. *Creates* the ICPJ Committee on Budget and Finance whose members shall be determined by the ICPJ General Assembly and appointed to the committee on 3-year rotating terms;
6. *Designates* that the Committee on Budget and Finance shall make an annual report on the proposed budgetary needs for the ICPJ for the upcoming three years, with the first such report due on or before 31 October 2026 covering the period of 1 January 2027 through 31 December 2029,
 - a. Following release of the annual report, there will be a one-month period of public comment by official Member State representatives of the ICPJ General Assembly, and
 - b. At the close of the public comment period, the Committee on Budget and Finance will submit a revised budget proposal to the ICPJ General Assembly for approval by majority vote;
7. *Requires* each Member State, once the budget is approved by the ICPJ General Assembly, to make an annual individual financial contribution as to a proportion of the overall budget based on the size of the Member State's economy not to exceed 0.1% of the Member States' GDP, and in order to effectively assist the ICPJ with the beginning of its initial operations, *further decides* to apportion among all Member States the amount of \$100,000,000 US for the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 December 2026, in accordance with the levels updated in the applicable resolutions of this Assembly, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2026 ad 2027 as set forth in the applicable Annex of the Report of the Committee on Contributions, with all such assessed contributions required to be paid by each Member State no later than 1 May 2026, and these initial funds will be allocated and used as determined by the ICPJ Executive Committee;
8. *Also establishes* the Specialized Criminal Tribunal for the Protection of Journalists (SCTPJ) under the following parameters:
 - a. The Tribunal shall be comprised of a Presidency, Judges, and Office of the Prosecutor,
 - b. All Tribunal officers and personnel shall be elected by the ICPJ General Assembly by majority vote, and
 - c. The SCTPJ shall recommend sanctions, including both custodial and financial sanctions, to the ICPJ for approval and enforcement following a trial and conviction of a Member State or individual;
9. *Mandates* all Member States to fully cooperate with investigations commissioned by the Tribunal and to dedicate local law enforcement resources to assist with any Tribunal investigations and to enforce all Tribunal decisions and sanctions that have been approved by the ICPJ;

10. *Authorizes* the ICPJ General Assembly to impose sanctions on any Member State deemed to have either withheld assistance, not be in compliance, or non-responsive to approved Tribunal investigations or rulings, and recognizing the critical importance of such compliance, *further declares* that the continuance of other UN support and benefits received by a Member State will likely be seriously jeopardized and terminated if such Member State fails to fully comply with its obligations of this resolution;
11. *Determines* that the ICPJ shall maintain a database with reports of cases of violence against journalists with separate databases for cases involving violence against women journalists;
12. *Authorizes* the ICPJ General Assembly to review national laws of Member States, in line with international standards, and recommend more provisions which protect journalists, and requires Member States to respond as to when the recommendations will be incorporated or explain why the recommendations cannot be accepted;
13. *Recommends* the ICPJ organize and host annual trainings in various Member States aimed at Media Information Literacy (MIL) to better equip citizens with tools to counter disinformation;
14. *Also recommends* the ICPJ organize and host journalist training adapted to each country's unique context, on several topics such as physical safety, psychological well-being, digital safety and legal competency;
15. *Calls Upon* the ICPJ to organize capacity building opportunities specifically for women journalists to equip them with the knowledge and skills required for safety, managing stress and trauma, and good journalism, including investigative and conflict journalism;
16. *Resolves* to remain actively seized of the matter.