

ORDINARY MOTIONS

1. Centenary Congress

Proposed by the IFJ Executive Committee

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022, **resolves** that the next congress of the IFJ – “the centenary congress” – takes place during 2026.

For: 158

Against: 79

Abstain: 19

Carried

DEFENDING JOURNALISTS UNDER ATTACK

2. IFJ convention against impunity

Proposed by the Syndicat national des journalistes (France)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Welcoming the support given by the international community to journalists by awarding the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to two of them: Maria Ressa of the Philippines, founder and managing director of "Rappler", and Dmitri Muratov of Russia, editor-in-chief of "Novaya Gazeta".

“We journalists are the antidote to tyranny,” said Muratov in his acceptance speech. He denounced the “authoritarian drift” of many countries and the “ideologues of death”. “Journalism in Russia is going through a dark period,” he added, with many journalists losing their jobs and others being forced to leave the country.

Touched by these simple words in that they represent what many of delegates experience on a daily basis and recalling that the IFJ's 2021 report lists 45 murders of journalists during 2021 in 20 countries and 365 colleagues in prison.

Noting the declaration by the IFJ that “These lists of imprisoned journalists and killed colleagues are clear evidence of deliberate acts to eradicate independent reporting. They also highlight the violation of people's fundamental right to access accurate, objective and fair information in order to be properly informed about public affairs, a prerequisite for an inclusive society and genuine government by consent”.

Congress acknowledge that journalists are on the frontline against fake news, lies and propaganda.

Recalling that the impunity of the killers of journalists and their sponsors is the reason why, over the last thirty years, more than 2700 journalists have paid with their lives their commitment to exercise their mission in the service of citizens, Congress calls on all IFJ affiliates to campaign for their governments to join the IFJ’s effort to ensure that its Convention for the Safety of Journalists and Media

Professionals is adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly.

Unanimously carried

3. National action plans to defend journalists

Proposed by the National Union of Journalists (UK and Ireland)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Welcoming the launch in December 2020 by the IFJ of the White Paper on Global Journalism to commemorate its 30 years of annual reports of killed journalists – a document which lifted the veil on the worrying global trend of declining media freedoms and global attacks on journalists and journalism at the very time when access to information and quality journalism are needed everywhere;

Noting with alarm that, throughout this period, as well as dealing with the killing and jailing of journalists, affiliates have, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, been confronting a global crackdown on journalists by governments implementing sweeping restrictions under the guise of combating misinformation and “fake news;”

Recalling how former US president Donald Trump was at the forefront of these attacks by lashing out at journalists who asked critical questions at the height of the pandemic and his

reported 2500 negative tweets which contributed to creating a toxic environment against media in the US.

Other attacks ranged from China's suppression of information and state censorship to the revocation of journalists' credential as it happened to *The Guardian* correspondent in Egypt or the enactment of new laws in South Africa that makes it a crime to publish "disinformation" about the pandemic, new fake news ordinance in Malaysia or the new legislation promulgated by Viktor Orbán in Hungary which threatens journalists with up to five years in prison;

Believing that this crackdown is no longer confined to authoritarian regimes, as we have seen elsewhere cases of mass detention of journalists only to be released without charges, as happened in the US where the US Press Freedom tracker reported at least 110 journalists arrested or criminally charged in 2020 in relation to their reporting. Furthermore, journalists covering protests against coronavirus restrictions have often been physically attacked by members or supporters of extremist and conspiracy-theory groups in Germany, Italy, the UK, and France where new legislation "the global security bill" is being introduced that would restrict the publication of photos and video footage of the police at demonstrations;

Noting the approach by some governments to set up coalitions advocating media freedom and protection of journalists while others, like the French government supports its media NGOs to compete in initiating their own initiative on "information and democracy", while it remains the historic task of the IFJ

and its affiliates worldwide to be at the forefront of these battles to protect journalists;

Congress therefore **instructs** the Executive Committee to:

(i) **reinvigorate** its campaign for the protection of journalists as set by the Tunis Congress and, now that UN agencies have re-opened for business, relaunch its efforts to promote its International Convention on the Safety and Independence of Journalists;

(ii) **use** the success of the unique effort by the NUJ UK and Ireland to force government to launch a national action plan to protect journalists including important measures that will go a long way to ensure that journalists can do their job free of harassment and intimidation online and offline. This plan should serve as a template by affiliates and IFJ regional structures to focus on governments and parliaments in a global effort to campaign to initiate positive legislation as well as removing specific repressive legislations from their statute book;

(iii) **put in place** intervention mechanisms to ensure that the IFJ voice is heard on behalf of journalists under attack at every level of UN and regional government structures.

Unanimously carried

4. Safety of journalists in Latin America

Proposed by the Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering that:

Mexico remains the country with the highest number of murdered journalists in the region, a figure that is indicative of the magnitude of such murders, which has continued during the pandemic;

Neither the Mechanism for the Protection of Journalists nor the specialised bodies in the fight against impunity in Mexico have produced real results that would allow us to perceive a change towards a climate of greater safety for our colleagues;

We are witnessing an increase in the misuse of force by the police in our countries, particularly against journalists and photojournalists covering social demonstrations, especially in Chile, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, among other countries, in the year 2021;

Judicial harassment of journalists continues to be one of the rising attacks in most of our countries, involving costly legal proceedings;

The pandemic has exacerbated the problems of access to public information in each of our countries, with governments

that, despite having regulations that require transparency, use the pandemic as an excuse to foment obfuscation;

The so-called old threats to freedom of expression (murders, threats, judicial persecution) have been joined by the so-called "new threats to freedom of expression", including cyber-stalking, the instrumentalisation of so-called data protection laws, surveillance and censorship on major digital platforms;

Conflicts with large digital platforms implementing non-transparent and arbitrary moderation rules are increasingly frequent;

Digital platforms still do not take up their responsibility as intermediaries in case of cyber-violence against journalists, and in particular women journalists;

Congress **resolves** to:

- 1. ask** the International Federation of Journalists to make the defence of the International Convention on the Safety and Independence of Journalists and other Media Professionals a priority for the next three years;
- 2. mandate** the Secretariat, in collaboration with the political leadership of FEPALC, to evaluate the possibility of bringing one of the unpunished cases of murders of journalists in the region to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as a strategic dispute;

- 3. urge** all national organisations in the region where cases of surveillance of journalists have been denounced to take a leading role in the conflict with the governments and/or companies that carried out these criminal actions, in order to punish those responsible, compensate journalists and promote public policies that guarantee that such practices do not happen again;
- 4. associate** the IFJ and its regional and national organisations with the work carried out by UNESCO in Latin America to promote protocols on the actions of law enforcement agencies in covering social demonstrations;
- 5. establish** specific working guidelines on the moderation of internet platforms and the threat it poses to journalistic activity in the region;
- 6. instruct** the IFJ Gender Council to work on advocacy protocols for women journalists who are victims of cyber-violence, self-help workshops with the region and to mediate with advisory boards of platforms such as Facebook to find a collective response to these complaints.

Unanimously carried

5. Media freedom and safety of journalists in Africa

Proposed by the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Expressing profound concerns that the space for media freedom in Africa continues to shrink, with governments, armed groups and political forces using draconian laws as well as other repressive tactics, to harass, intimidate and censor critical journalists and independent media;

Noting that one of the biggest continuing threats to media freedom in Africa are the oppressive legislations such as criminal and media laws, which are being used to stifle media freedom and endanger the safety of journalists;

Seriously *disturbed* by the continued killings of journalists in Africa in clear retaliation for their work with total impunity and the lack of meaningful actions by African governments as duty bearers in protecting journalists' rights to life;

Condemning the acts of arresting and detaining African journalists who are incarcerated across the continent, many for their investigative work, opinion and reporting, and the inhuman conditions in which they are detained without due process or fair trials;

Voicing serious concerns about the lack of implementation of the resolutions of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) that particularly concern media freedom, safety of journalists and access to information;

Welcoming the establishment of the African Digital Platform for the Safety of Journalists by UNESCO, FAJ, IFJ and other media freedom organisations as an important tool in promoting and protecting the safety and security of journalists and other media workers;

Congress **resolves** to :

1. urge governments in Africa to:

- a) **take** robust action to ensure the protection of journalists in line with the national constitutions, the constitutive act of the African Union and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights as well as international human rights instruments;
- b) **release** all journalists imprisoned for exercising their right to freedom of expression and their chosen profession of journalism and drop all charges levelled against them;
- c) **end** the rampant culture of impunity for crimes committed against journalists by conducting credible and swift investigations into the killings of journalists;
- d) **promote** media freedom, independent journalism and respect for the rule of law in line with national, continental and international human rights obligations;

2. urge the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to:

e) **assist** by monitoring and applying whatever pressure necessary for these government to comply with their international obligations.

Unanimously carried

6. Seeking justice for Palestinian journalists at the ICC

Proposed by the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate (Palestine)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Deploring that since its last IFJ congress in Tunis the Israeli authorities, military and security forces never stopped attacking Palestinian journalists doing their work of gathering news in scores of violent and grave assaults ranging from physical attacks to firing metal bullets, gas and stun grenades at journalists;

Condemning in the strongest terms in particular the deliberate targeting of journalists, mainly photographers and videographers, by Israeli forces storming the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on May 7th last year. Over 100 journalists were shot by rubber bullets and stun grenades, some incurring serious injuries, while they covered events at Al Aqsa and at Sheikh Jarrah, Bab Al Amoud and Wad El Joz, and later other cities in the West Bank;

Outraged by the subsequent air strikes in Gaza, carried out by the Israeli Air Force, which killed 260 Palestinians, including

60 children and 40 women according to the UN. Three attacks in particular targeted media offices and studios – on May 11th the Al Jawhara tower which hosted the offices of 13 media organisations was flattened down, followed by the destruction on May 13th of Al Shorouk tower housing 15 media organisations, and on May 15th the Al Jalaa tower housing the offices of Al Jazeera and Associate Press was razed to the ground.

Congress **applauds** the IFJ's lobbying of the subsequent Security Council meeting, with the support of its unions from the UK, Ireland and France, to demand that the UN takes immediate action to protect journalists.

Recognising the importance of building solidarity with Palestinian journalists as expressed in several resolutions agreed by successive IFJ congresses, it has now become crucial for IFJ affiliates to help the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate step up its campaigns to advance the interest of Palestinian journalists regionally and internationally;

Congress **calls on** all affiliates to help the PJS

- i. **refine** its capacity to monitor attacks against its members and build on the work already started to publish credible statistics now regularly distributed to all international institutions. The PJS 2020 annual report documented over 600 violations against journalists – 490 violations by the Israeli army and security forces, 76 cases in the Gaza Strip by Hamas' security forces and 42

attacks in the West Bank perpetrated by Palestinian security forces.

ii. **expand** its reach to engage UN agencies such as UNESCO and the Human Rights Council, parliamentarians in Brussels and other capitals, through visits, public meetings and briefings. The campaign “Palestinian Journalists under Attacks: This has to Stop” has had a wide resonance and strengthened the PJS’s confidence to engage crucial decision-makers;

iii. **raise** the issue of these attacks against journalists by taking them up whenever possible with Israeli authorities, diplomats and journalists.

iv. **support** the efforts by the IFJ, in particular demands that its International Press Card is recognised by the Israeli authorities, and international campaigns, over many years, to defend the rights of Palestinian journalists to work freely without being subject to systematic suppression, censorship and travelling restrictions by the Israeli army and government on a daily basis.

Congress **supports** the joint effort of the IFJ and PJS in starting preparations, as expressed in motion 4 agreed unanimously by the Tunis congress, to seek legal remedies through the International Court of Justice, other national courts as well as independent human rights experts such as UN Special Rapporteurs.

Congress **thanks** lawyers at the London's Doughty Street Chambers in making submissions to the UNSR on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and to the UNSR on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression.

Congress further **welcomes** the work started by lawyers at London's Bindmans LLP to prepare legal action at the International Criminal Court to seek effective remedy against breaches of international legal frameworks and calls on all IFJ affiliates worldwide to support this action.

Unanimously carried

7. Solidarity with Afghan journalists

Proposed by the Indian Journalists Union (India)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Making a note of the developments in Afghanistan since the takeover of the Taliban regime, and strongly *condemning* the sustained attacks on journalists, and the media regulations imposed, including barring of women journalists from working, which are a death knell for an independent and sustainable media in the country;

Appreciating the IFJ Secretariat's prompt response to the crisis by setting in place an Afghanistan Emergency Desk to deal with hundreds of requests pouring in from journalists for

safe passage, asylum, visas and creating a special fund to help support them in the country;

Overwhelmed by both financial support offered by some affiliates and their members to the special fund and reaching out to their governments for providing visas on humanitarian grounds, among others;

Thanking all affiliates and their members who contributed to the fund;

Realising that it is going to be a long haul, that sadly a majority of our affiliates have not contributed to the special fund and that our affiliates AIJA and ANJU, who are tirelessly working to ensure safety, security and sustenance of journalists and their families, need a lot more support;

Congress **calls** on all affiliates to come forward and express solidarity with our colleagues in Afghanistan through action: reaching out to their respective governments to provide humanitarian visas and by at least donating to the fund, for every cent counts.

Unanimously carried

8. Stop the extreme suffering of Yemeni journalists

Proposed by the Yemen Journalists' Syndicate (Yemen)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Condemning the continued targeting of journalists in Yemen since the beginning of the civil war in 2014, under deadly pressure from multiple sides in the war – the Ansar Allah or Houthis and the Saudi-led Arab coalition as well as the southern transitional council and other groups;

Applauding the IFJ member union, the Yemen Journalists Syndicate, in maintaining its presence and activities under horrendous war conditions – representing journalists both those who are still at work as well as those who fled the country, campaigning for the protection of journalists and exposing cases of human rights abuses suffered by journalists ranging from kidnaps to attacks, arson, judicial cases, and killings, some of which may amount to international crimes.

According to YJS monitoring some 39 journalists have been killed since the beginning of the war – at least seven killed in Saudi-led coalition air strikes – and 20 journalists have been the victims of enforced disappearance and kidnappings by government and non-government forces. They include 10 journalists taken hostage by the Houthis in Sanaa in 2015, four of them have since been facing death sentences;

Welcoming the most authoritative report released in September 2017 by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights which highlighted the climate of fear and intimidation in areas under Yemeni government control as well as those under the Houthis which, it said, “have enjoyed a pervasive lack of accountability for violations of international

humanitarian and human rights law.” It urged states, such as the UK, to refrain from providing arms that could be used in the conflict;

Noting, in particular, claims by families of journalists alleging torture and mistreatment of journalists in Houthi detention, which included beatings, verbal abuse, and denial of medical care and also deploring reports that journalists, in some instances, have been turned into bargaining chips and offered for release during prisoner exchanges;

Equally *noting* other reports such as the one in September 2020 by the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts making the “Governments of Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the southern transitional council ... responsible for human rights violations including arbitrary deprivation of life, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,violations of fundamental freedoms, and economic, social and cultural rights.”

Expressing deep disappointment at the refusal of media NGOs, in particular those with a historic involvement in Yemen like International Media Support, to help implement the pledges they agreed as part of the International Partnership for Yemen organised by the IFJ in Brussels in October 2015. Since, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs designated Yemen as the world’s largest humanitarian crisis;

However, *noting* with thanks the support of the Swedish trade union movement agency Union to Union in helping to sustain the IFJ workplan in Yemen thanks to the involvement of affiliate Journalistförbundet, SJF;

Congress **gives** its full support to the renewed effort by the IFJ to reinvigorate its campaigns to help the YJS and its members, in particular:

- its call on the Houthis and all armed combatants to release all journalists in their custody (including the four journalists on death row since June 2021) and to stop detaining and intimidating journalists operating in areas under their control;

- its calls on the recognised government to meet its international commitments to uphold the rights of all journalists, regardless of their political affiliation and to commit to pay salaries and arrears to journalists working for state media;

- to take to the UN Committee against Torture cases of allegations of torture of journalists and make submissions to the Human Rights Council and UN Special Rapporteurs;

- to submit a complaint to the ILO with regard to the non-adherence by the de-facto authorities to International Labour Standards, including payment of salaries;

Congress **instructs** the Executive Committee to rally its affiliates worldwide, in particular in countries where significant numbers of Yemeni journalists fled into exile, and get them involved whenever possible in helping their Yemeni colleagues fight for their rights, justice and reparation.

Passed

9. Protection of journalists under threats

Proposed by the Federazione Nazionale Stampa Italiana (Italy)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Noting that, in the past twelve months, the number of journalists killed and imprisoned has grown as a spreading and worrying phenomenon also in the European Union;

Considering that the Italian situation, in which 23 journalists have obtained protection from the Italian State, with the assignment of an escort, due to death threats suffered at the hands of criminal and mafia groups and of members of Nazi and fascist-inspired organisations;

Congress **condemns** the continuing attack against journalists all over the world and **calls on** the Executive Committee to act on the concerns of the Italian National Press Federation (FNSI) and to support them in their efforts to protect journalists' work at every level.

Unanimously carried

10. Attacks by Qasd militia against journalists and imprisonment of Muhammad Al-Saghir

Proposed by the Syrian Journalists Union (Syria)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st - June 3rd 2022,

Noting the actions of US-backed separatist militia, Qasd, in intimidating journalists, assaulting and arresting them while doing their work, in particular:

1. They attacked the radio and television center's cameraman Tamer Hammad on 28/01/2021;
2. Fadel Hammad, correspondent of Al-Souria channel, was kidnapped for hours on 04/24/2021;
3. The Syrian News agency correspondent Khaled Al-Hassan, was arrested on 13/6/2019 and released on 28/8/2021;
4. Muhammad al-Saghir, correspondent of the Syrian News Agency, was arrested on 3/6/2019 while he was doing his job covering the fires of wheat fields in the Syrian al-Jazeera region... and this militia brought false and pre-prepared charges such as burning land. Discrediting the self-management. Spreading rumors of chaos, forming an armed militia, and preventing any lawyer from communicating with him to defend him;

5. It issued an invalid final judgement imprisoning him on 28/8/2021 for twenty years based on false and fabricated accusations of actions he did not commit and signed under torture.

He suffered several strokes as a result of being electrocuted, which led to a partial loss of memory, so he did not recognize his son, who visited him two years after his arrest and sentencing on 1/7/2021.

Congress therefore:

- (i) **condemns** the attack carried out by the separatist Qasd militia against journalists, especially the arrest of journalist Muhammad al-Saghir and calls on its leaders to release him immediately and holds them fully responsible for his life, as this is in violation of freedom of expression, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, especially Article 3 thereof;
- (ii) **calls** on international human rights and humanitarian organisations to pressure the SDF to release him immediately;
- (iii) **sends** a message of greeting and solidarity to Syrian journalists who face all forms of violence and terrorism because of their professional work.

Absentions – 35

Carried

JOURNALISTS IN PRISON

11. Free journalists behind bars

Proposed by the National Union of Journalists (UK and Ireland)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Welcoming the first publication by the IFJ of global statistics on journalists in prison in a special section of its White Paper on Global Journalism;

Believing that the spike in journalists put behind bars – the vast majority by their own government – demonstrates how more and more states now jail journalists to clamp down on critical voices;

Noting that while detention of journalists continues unabated in countries considered the worst jailers of journalists, such as China, Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, journalists are now increasingly imprisoned in states where progress has been achieved;

Further noting that in this crackdown many of these governments have been using the same charges such as:

- belonging to or aiding groups deemed by authorities as terrorist organisations;
- publishing false news;
- anti-state charges;
- membership of – or support for – groups which are behind events which journalists cover.

Monitoring organisations continuously document how some governments go to ridiculous lengths to keep critical journalists behind bars such as in the case of photographer Mahmoud Shawkan in Egypt; or Turkey where state prosecutors have been working around the clock seeking arrest warrants and applying new charges.

Congress believes that journalists should not be imprisoned for doing their job and **instructs** the Executive Committee to build on this first survey by publishing each year statistics of journalists in jail. This publication should be used to mobilise affiliates to help their sister unions in relevant countries build their own campaigns to release jailed journalists by raising their cases, including through individual adoption schemes, using international platforms, such as the CoE's or the African Online platform, or taking up cases and making formal complaints to UN institutions, and seeking solidarity support from the international labour movement.

Unanimously carried

12. Palestinians journalists under arrest

Proposed by the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate (Palestine)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Deploring the increase of Palestinian journalists put behind bars by Israeli authorities which has now reached 14 reporters, correspondents, producers, photographers and cameramen in addition to five writers, according to a recent tally by monitoring organisations;

Condemning the arrests in May last year of more than a dozen journalists by Israeli authorities during the standoff in Jerusalem where they were gathering news under extremely dangerous and stressful conditions;

Noting that many arrested journalists are held in so-called 'administrative detention' – a euphemism used by Israeli authorities when they hold Palestinians for extended periods with no charges against them, but defined by B'Tselem, the Israeli Human Rights organisation, as "incarceration without trial or charge, alleging that a person plans to commit a future offense. It has no time limit, and the evidence on which it is based is not disclosed".

Further *noting* that the Israeli occupation authorities are currently holding in prison about 4,400 Palestinian prisoners. They include 40 women and 170 children, and about 380 administrative detainees, according to official Palestinian data.

Congress **instructs** the Executive Committee to work with the Palestine Journalists Syndicate to:

1. **launch** a campaign to inform IFJ affiliates about the ordeal of these colleagues behind bars;

2. **take up and expose** within international institutions such as the UN Human Rights Council the use of this Order regarding Security Provisions, ostensibly meant to protect administrative detainees, routinely over the years to put ~~thousands of~~ Palestinian journalists behind bars for periods ranging from several months to several years, without charging them, without telling them what they are accused of, and without disclosing the alleged evidence to them or to their lawyers.

Congress **calls on** the Executive Committee to seek the help, in this campaign, of organisations such as the International Commission of Jurists or the International Bar Association and on the PJS board to involve Palestine Civil Society organisations.

Abstentions – 2

Carried

SURVEILLANCE OF JOURNALISTS

13. The spyware threat to journalists

Proposed by the National Union of Journalists (UK and Ireland)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the IFJ's Working Group on The Surveillance of Journalists to bring attention to the issue of the covert spying on journalists and coordinating the work of journalists worldwide in opposing such intrusions;

Believing that protecting our sources is a journalist's most solemn obligation and that new techniques for spying on reporters, such telephone interception, automatic facial recognition, and computer hacking, profoundly challenge this responsibility;

Noting that in 2021 it was revealed that the Pegasus software, licensed by the Israel-based NSO group, had been used by countries such as: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Hungary, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to target the phones of at least 189 journalists;

Also *noting* that these revelations caused international public outrage after which, the US Commerce Department 'blacklisted NSO, India's Supreme Court has ordered an inquiry into the use of the software, French prosecutors are investigating spying on French journalists, and NSO announced that its software would no longer work on UK registered phones.

The scale of this reaction shows both the general concern about spying on personal devices, and the limitations of piecemeal action. Nationally-based solutions will always have more exceptions than protections, and be easily outflanked by technological advance;

Further *noting* that NSO/Pegasus is but one of many software packages that enable the covert surveillance of mobile phones. While inhibitions on that company's operations are welcome, they represent only a fraction of the phone surveillance industry. Global regulation and oversight, as well as meticulous tradecraft on the part of journalists, are the only way that this threat will be resisted.

Congress **calls for** the IFJ to continue supporting campaigns to inform journalists of the risk they face and for the establishment of transparent international regulation of surveillance techniques with explicit protections for journalists.

Unanimously carried

14. Pegasus spyware used against journalists

Proposed by the Syndicat national des journalistes (France)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Condemning the use by some countries of the Pegasus software, designed by the Israeli company NSO Group, to allow governments to spy on those they consider to be enemies. Whether they are political opponents, freedom fighters or journalists, this software has been used against them.

Noting that, as far as journalists are concerned, complaints have already been lodged, notably in France, where the SNJ and the SNJ-CGT stand alongside their colleagues.

Congress **calls** on all governments that have not used spywares to address, if they have not already done so, these serious violations of fundamental freedoms and put into effect the necessary national measures.

Congress **thanks** the consortium of 17 international media for having revealed on 18 July 2021 that at least 600 politicians, some 180 journalists and nearly a hundred human rights activists had been subject to this daily surveillance for several years. Thanks to the analytical work of Amnesty and Forbidden Stories, the acquiring countries and their targets have been identified and listed.

Congress equally **calls for** the sale and use of spyware such as Pegasus to be strictly regulated and for countries acquiring such software to declare it publicly and explain its purpose and scope of use.

Congress **instructs** the Executive Committee and the General Secretary to take all necessary measures and to continue their negotiations with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, to put an end to these acts of a secret war against journalists.

Unanimously carried

15. Digital freedom and data protection

Proposed by the Indian Journalists Union (India)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Noting that nearly every aspect of our lives has become digitalised with the emergence of digital platforms and new media and that in the absence of appropriate laws, policies and corporate practices, the data that we share through digital channels can be twisted to undermine democratic processes;

Realising that laws and policies are based on basic fundamental rights and these must enable us, particularly the journalists, to flourish while offering protection against the abuse of power; that countries across the globe are creating digital identity systems that connect to our biometric information, building a bridge from our digital activities to our lives and identity offline. This digital identity may then become the target of exploitation, either for commercial or political ends;

Equally *noting* that random shutdown of internet services by governments in the name of maintaining law and order has impacted media freedom. In many countries, such as India, the authorities are regulating internet services to crackdown democratic agitations and rights; the government extensively used internet blackout, circulated misinformation through corporate and government-dominated media outlets to repress democratic expression; and that governments across borders continue to cite COVID-19 pandemic to justify suppression of critical speech and the censorship of unfavourable news.

In 2020, a total of 155 internet shutdowns were imposed globally by 29 countries, of which India had 109 shutdowns. In 2019 too, India had led the highest number of internet shutdowns with 121 shutdowns, followed by 12 in Venezuela, 11 in Yemen, 8 in Iraq, 6 in Algeria and 4 in Ethiopia, as per report by Access Now.

The Indian government has formulated ‘The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021’ which may undermine the principles of open and accessible Internet and violate the right to privacy and free speech of users, particularly in absence of robust data protection law. It leads to a “chilling effect” on ‘free speech’ and media freedom.

Expressing concern over these developments which drastically impact press freedom, Congress **urges** all affiliates to reach out and stand up to their governments to respect Internet freedom and protect personal data of the citizens. Any

regulation on digital platform and media should be in conformity with international human rights' conventions. Transparency and accountability in dealing with Internet access and digital platforms must be maintained by governments, and nations must ensure digital accessibility and unhindered Internet uses by journalists across the world.

Unanimously carried

IN DEFENSE OF MEDIA FREEDOMS AND QUALITY JOURNALISM

16. Fight against the 'misuse of laws' to silence media

Proposed by the Indian Journalists Union (India)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Believing that press freedom, the right to free speech and expression and citizens' right to information is critical to any democratic society;

Affirming that dissent and criticism of governments and its various authorities is not an offence and is indispensable to democracy, particularly in these unprecedented times of Covid-19 and its various variants, when the media has played

a vital role in the dissemination of information and saved lives;

Observing the rising instances of right-wing/nationalist governments in countries such as Turkey, Poland, Hungary etc blatantly misusing laws/legislations to intimidate, harass and imprison journalists to stop them from carrying out their rightful duties and crushing independent media;

Noting in particular, this dangerous trend in the world's largest democracy, India, wherein the recent past has witnessed the ruling party in States deliberately misusing laws such as defamation and worse the draconian 'sedition' law, falling under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, a non-bailable offence, against journalists for their critical appraisal of the governments' handling of Covid-19 situation and the over year-long farmers peaceful agitation;

Deploring the sustained operation to harass journalists in Kashmir in the form of either summoning them to police stations or the Crime Investigation Department (CID), filing false cases and even detaining them, or having their houses raided, their gadgets seized, or laying down of a skewed 'media policy' under the garb of checking 'fake news' to instil a nagging sense of fear, or obstructing them from reporting events, among other tricks;

Expressing serious concern, Congress **joins** in solidarity these journalists under siege and **calls** upon these governments, to desist from such sinister practices, which

have a chilling effect on journalists, indirectly invoke self-censorship and impact free press;

Congress **urges** the Executive Committee to come to their aid and encourage journalists through their affiliates to put global spotlight by raising attacks against them in international foras, vociferously support campaigns, provide legal aid to victims, wherever possible, and consider joining hands with legal professionals and organisations to aid pro bono cases.

Unanimously carried

17. Press councils

Proposed by SNJ (France)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Noting that public distrust of the media and journalists is growing, **calls on** its affiliates to create, where they do not yet exist, self-regulatory structures for the ethics of journalism. These structures should be joint (journalists-publishers) or tripartite bodies (journalists-publishers-civil society), totally independent.

Congress **recalls** that the IFJ “Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists”, unanimously adopted at the IFJ Congress 2019 in Tunis, stipulates in its article 16: “Within the general law of

each country the journalist shall recognize in matters of professional honour, the jurisdiction of independent self-regulatory bodies open to the public, to the exclusion of every kind of interference by governments or others.”

Noting that more than forty such institutions already exist, Congress **calls** on all its affiliates to help with any effort by the IFJ secretariat to assess situations where such joint institutions exist.

Abstentions – 14

Carried

18. Against polarisation

Proposed by the Federación de Asociaciones de Periodistas Españoles (FAPE), the Agrupación de Periodistas de la UGT and the Federación de Sindicatos de Periodistas (FESP) (Spain)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering that, in many countries, the polarisation of political life has contaminated the activity of journalists, exerting a very negative influence on their information activity;

Considering that this polarisation has repercussions on the right of citizens to receive truthful, pluralistic and quality information;

Noting that some of the media, in particular broadcast media, encourage this polarisation, paving the way for confrontation and division between journalists, who end up being more publicly exposed for their ideological position than for their work;

Noting that this division is often fostered by certain media owners, who have their own objectives and interests or who – quite simply – seek above all to increase their audience at any cost; and, finally *noting* that these circumstances contribute in many countries to the promotion of hate speech;

Congress calls on:

1. public authorities to establish, where it is still lacking, a legal framework that protects and guarantees the right to plurality and quality of information for citizens, as recognised in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the legislation of many democratic countries;
2. media companies, especially television companies, to take up, promote and defend the work of their journalists on the basis of strictly professional criteria, rejecting political, economic or other pressures that alter the quality of information products;
3. journalists to carry out their work with honesty and independence, banishing the practice of journalism polarised

by ideological interests that disregards the interest of citizens in information;

4. all IFJ unions and associations to denounce any pressure on its members and associates in the exercise of their work from any source -- corporate, governmental or any other source; and to

5. affiliates to campaign to commit their members to practice decent journalism, guided exclusively by the objective of plural and quality information, which is a necessary and indispensable element of a democratic society;

6. the IFJ and all its member organisations to become more involved in the global debate against polarisation, in order to better resist misinformation and hate speech, which undermine the living together of all and weaken democracy.

Unanimously carried

19. The rise of the far right in Latin America and the threat of fascism

Proposed by Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering that in the last decade, Latin America, especially the Southern Cone but also the Caribbean, has experienced a

kind of ideological changeover between the rise of left-wing governments and the resurgence of extreme right-wing movements, clearly with a fascist or neo-fascist approach. Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Chile and Bolivia, Honduras and Paraguay, to be more explicit, have seen progressive governments replaced by conservative movements within a few years and all following a scenario that needs to be explained.

Latin America and the Caribbean, which had managed to emerge from decades of bloody military dictatorships supported mainly by the United States and to make the transition, with some effectiveness, to democratic regimes with a nationalist and developmentalist drive, are beginning to be affected by 'libertarian' movements based on the principles of non-politics and 'renewal' at all costs, relying on digital technologies and nascent identity politics. First Honduras, then Paraguay and then Brazil, with different economic and social situations, suffer the same types of assaults from groups of young people, convened via the Internet under diffuse banners that show some similarities with debates both on gender and ethnicity, but which also claim freedom as an absolute principle and mainly challenge progressive governments. These movements, now classified by some as part of a hybrid or low-impact warfare, have sought to dismantle conventional politics and replace it, in part, with behavioural politics with messianic content.

In addition to this ostensibly libertarian movement, groups articulated around far-right radicals are re-emerging, with an increasingly explicit struggle against the already atomised groups of gays, feminists, blacks and indigenous people. This new fascism makes no claim to nationalism or ethnic purity,

except in sporadic cases, their declared enemy being the nation state.

The new technologies and the crisis of the bourgeois-democratic public sphere have been decisive for the rise of this new fascism, religious fundamentalist, denying science and explicitly advocating violence, at the heart of the systemic crises produced by global capitalism, regardless of the local nature of governments.

The crisis of the bourgeois public sphere has as its main fuel the crisis of media, with journalism spontaneously positioning itself in the suicidal condition of uncritical apologist for the new technologies and accomplice to the right-wing governments that have emerged from the political crisis, the clearest and most striking results of which are Bolsonaro in Brazil, Macri in Argentina and Piñera in Chile.

The political tilt, driven by economic crises and the speed provided by the same technologies that pushed the far right to reappear in the region, is repositioning itself in the opposite direction - Fernández replaces Macri, Lula is freed in the wake of the biggest legal scandal in the West, Boric replaces Piñera, and in Bolivia the coup is overturned in a year - but behind these disturbances, there are ambiguous media that rely on authoritarian solutions on the one hand, while contributing to journalism that serves the public interest on the other, as in the case of the Brazilian group *Rede Globo* - contradictory - both defending a legal sanction against Lula and creating a consortium of newspapers that help Brazilian society confront Bolsonaro's criminal health policy.

Congress **resolves**

to demand from their International Federation, on behalf of journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean and in order to confront the wave of far-right ideologies sweeping the region,

the defence of quality journalism that enables society to build strong and vigorous democracies;

the support for ethnic and gender movements that defend freedom and life;

the defence of nation states that have established their autonomy;

the fight against *fake news*' and the promotion of the dissemination of the truth.

Abstentions – 40

Carried

IMPACT OF COVID ON JOURNALISTS

20. Global platform for quality journalism

Proposed by the National Union of Journalists (UK and Ireland)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Applauding all those journalists who, throughout the pandemic, have worked around the clock to ensure the public

has had access to timely, reliable and accurate information at a time of unprecedented crisis and huge need. Thanks to their commitment, journalism played an invaluable role in our communities, providing essential news and information to the public and holding power to account;

Noting with pride the massive success of IFJ affiliates in many countries that fought hard to secure key worker status for news gatherers, putting journalists on the frontline of essential public services, ensuring that their work could continue unimpeded in the face of coronavirus restrictions;

Regretting that some media companies exploited the crisis by making opportunistic cuts and seeking to cut terms and conditions of staff without full and proper consultation while others furloughed staff and failed to top up wages and cast adrift long-serving freelance and casual workers;

Observing that while media owners all over the globe responded to the crisis with closures, layoffs, furloughs and salary cuts on a scale never seen, the IFJ and its affiliates sought intervention through a range of short and medium term by campaigning for imaginative solutions to not only survive this crisis, but to revitalise medias and secure employment in the industry;

Inspired by the global stimulus plan called for by the IFJ in its Global Platform for Quality Journalism published in April 2020 with the support of the ITUC's Global Union Federations representing 200 million workers, affiliates

promoted similar aid packages ranging from targeted tax credits to supporting measures for new entrants; from sustainable new investment in local public interest journalism to reform of media ownership rules and media literacy programs;

Congress **renews** calls already made for action to tackle the dominance of the tech giants, including a windfall tax levy to be used to support as a matter of priority public service media, private, independent media and national and local media not owned by multinational, co-operative and non-profit media enterprises; revitalise adequately staffed newsrooms and give help to precarious journalists (including freelancers) by creating a social protection fund.

Congress **welcomes** these measures and urges all affiliates to adopt similar short- and long-term action plans that promote quality journalism and advance press freedom. It further instructs the Executive Committee to continue developing the Global Platform, to consolidate the endorsement of the international labour movement and to roll it out through its regional structures.

Unanimously carried

21. Journalism in times of pandemic

Proposed by the Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering that:

Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the highest number of journalists killed by Covid-19;

Journalists have not only been killed by the virus, but also by the inadequate health response of our States and the high level of precariousness in which the activity of information is carried out in our countries, especially when it is carried out by local and regional journalists;

Media companies in our countries have in many cases used the pandemic as an excuse to carry out their plans for downsizing and restructuring the media, among other measures, to the detriment of the living and working conditions of journalists and other media workers;

Teleworking has become a form of eternal duty for journalists, affecting their rest, emotional stability and finances as most companies do not fund basic equipment and service fees;

The pandemic has highlighted that freelance journalists are the most deprived, as they have no company to provide them with personal protective equipment for frontline reporting, no access to social protection, among others;

The end of the pandemic seems to remain a distant horizon and economic recovery in regions like ours will have to wait a decade before returning to pre-pandemic levels, according to data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC);

Congress **calls** on the Executive Committee to:

- 1. entrust** IFJ affiliates with the task of advocating for the implementation of public policies that guarantee the social protection of precarious journalists, especially freelance journalists;
- 2. promote** training programmes for Latin American leaders with experts in the formulation of legislative initiatives and other legal formulas that will enable member organisations to promote regulatory frameworks that guarantee social protection;
- 3. strengthen** mechanisms such as collective bargaining for journalists who are not self-employed to make progress on telework, telecommuting and the right to disconnect;
- 4. urge** the International Labour Organisation to be more proactive in the role of States and employers in ensuring the welfare of media workers who must be considered "essential" in this time of pandemic;

5. call on the Regional Offices to include mental health as a priority area of work when addressing safety issues for journalists.

Unanimously carried

EQUALITY

22. Gender parity

Proposed by the Syndicat national des journalistes (France)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Recalling that gender parity in the Federation's governing bodies is an imperative;

Noting that this objective is still far from being achieved;

Stressing that limited statutory measures have already been adopted at previous Congresses;

Congress **instructs** the Gender Council to prepare with the involvement of interested affiliates the constitutional changes necessary to advance the goal of gender parity within the IFJ. Such proposals should be finalised with the help of the IFJ secretariat and presented to the next IFJ Congress.”

Against – 19

For – 120

Abstentions – 24

Carried

23. Gender Council

Proposed by the Federación de Asociaciones de Periodistas Españoles (FAPE)), the Agrupación de Periodistas de la UGT and the Federación de Sindicatos de Periodistas (FeSP) (Spain) and the Sindicato de Periodistas de Portugal

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering that the IFJ is clearly committed to advancing equality between men and women journalists and taking into account that the Gender Council is an essential and specialised body for achieving this objective and taking up the concern of the members of the Gender Council, who are seeing how in recent months situations such as the Covid pandemic or conflicts such as the one in Afghanistan have meant clear setbacks, together with the rise in some countries of far-right political parties that jeopardise legislative and social advances in the field of equality;

Congress **resolves:**

1. To **value** and **ratify** the importance of the IFJ Gender Council which should be given greater capacity for action to influence equality policies within and outside the organisation and to the extent that the statutes make it possible;

2. To **redouble** efforts to facilitate the participation of all unions and organisations in the work of the Gender Council and, in particular, that there can be more representation from all regions;

3. That the Executive Committee should insist on its recommendation that IFJ Congresses should be attended by women delegates and encourage unions to make the issue of gender equality central to their organisations and to have protocols in place to prevent and prosecute harassment of women;

4. To **ensure** a balanced participation of men and women when the IFJ organises events, round tables, etc. and avoid collaborating with organisations that do not respect this balance.

5. To **recommend** that the IFJ, through its Gender Council, participates in organisations, forums and meetings where work is done in favour of equality.

Unanimously carried

24. IFJ sexual harassment policy

Proposed by the Indian Journalists' Union (India)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Welcoming the prompt response by the IFJ Executive Committee and the Gender Council to draw up a comprehensive sexual harassment policy soon after the Tunis Congress, and adopting the practice of the policy to be circulated and drawn attention of all participants at the outset of each event;

Noting that having a policy in place is not enough and that all affiliates need to take concrete and meaningful steps to ensure that their governments enact legislations to adequately provide for specific protection of women from sexual harassment; and ratify ILO 190 Convention on violence which includes sexual harassment;

Ensuring there is zero tolerance to sexual harassment at workplace, it is expedient for employers and establishments as well as other responsible persons or institutions to observe certain guidelines to ensure the prevention of sexual harassment;

Congress **urges** affiliates to undertake specific steps in this direction and the IFJ Gender Council to proactively promote the policy, undertake a survey with all affiliates to get a global picture of erring countries and offer aid to such member unions.

Unanimously carried

TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANISATION

25. Strengthening IFJ's continental organisations

Proposed by the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) and Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Noting the work by continental structures of the IFJ such as the FAJ and FEPALC to amplify the visibility and representation of IFJ affiliated unions and associations and the multiple campaigns to advance the interests of journalists and promote their rights;

Recognising that the effective implementation of the IFJ programmes relies heavily upon effective and properly resourced continental and regional coordination with the full involvement of their elected leaderships;

Acknowledging the extensive work undertaken in Africa and Latin America by FAJ and FEPALC over the past several years aimed at re-energising and restructuring continental capabilities to implement IFJ policies and programmes and deliver tangible results for journalists;

Admitting that the IFJ has responsibility to develop and implement strategic, policy and resourcing framework for developing its continental and regional organisations through organisational capacity-building and sharpening their campaigning actions for the rights of journalists;

Applying the cardinal trade union principle of equality and non-discrimination based on shared solidarity rooted in professional solidarity and uniformity within the IFJ. including resources-sharing;

Reaffirming the importance of continental federations in the effective co-ordination of campaigns and actions complementing IFJ's global policies and programmes in the media industry and within the wider trade union movement;

Congress **instructs**:

1. The IFJ General Secretary as well as the Administrative and Executive Committees to **ensure** that resources including annual allocations to continental/regional offices or organisations are equitably distributed;
2. The IFJ General Secretary as well as the Administrative and Executive Committees to **provide** the necessary support to strengthen the institutional capacity of both FAJ and FEPALC in order to make them vibrant organisations and financially sustainable structures that effectively service member journalists.

For – 137

Against – 6

Abstentions – 55

Carried

26. Collective bargaining rights at national and regional level

Proposed by the Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering the importance of secure, stable and dignified employment for journalists and communication workers;

Considering that neoliberal and labour flexibility policies implemented in all countries of the Latin-America region aim at restricting the space for trade union action and labour rights;

Considering that many of the countries represented in FEPALC have very unstable and complex political and social contexts that require trade unions to strengthen their actions as well as the training of new leaders in order to develop strategies that lead to the strengthening of their organisations and the construction of fairer and more equitable societies;

Noting that the difficult situation of job insecurity faced by media workers throughout the region and, in the most extreme cases, the large number of murders, threats, assaults and direct sanctions that result in the imprisonment of workers, requires a sustained struggle on the part of the trade unions so that the legislative, executive and judicial powers take concrete measures to put an end to the sanctions that limit the exercise of the profession and the right to communication in the broadest sense;

Noting the asymmetries between the different national press organisations that make up FEPALC, in terms of creating, supporting or reinforcing the regulatory standards that concern them;

Congress **instructs** the IFJ Executive Committee to:

- ensure that the IFJ makes progress in consolidating a trade union model of the organisation to achieve in the medium term the necessary collective bargaining, to establish rights and duties, using collective agreements or contracts with national and multinational companies;
- pursue the objective of systematically guaranteeing high standards at regional level to enable FEPALC and its affiliated unions to have the right to monitor the national and regional behaviour of these companies in this and other areas, and to report any violations of existing collective agreements in these companies.

Unanimously carried

27. Decent working condition for all journalists

Proposed by the Federazione Nazionale Stampa Italiana (Italy)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering that information is going through a transformational phase all over the world. The transition from traditional to digital media increases a demand and supply of information. This process is accompanied by the progressive and growing weakening of regular work and an increase in precarious work;

Observing that the decrease in employment protections and guarantees produces a worrying reduction in wages;

Reiterating that quality information is an essential pillar of liberal democracy. Without information there is no democracy. Quality of information requires quality of work, with the recognition of rights, protections and guarantees and decent wages;

Congress **calls** on all IFJ affiliates to promote actions and campaigns at all levels to demand decent working conditions and wages for all journalists around the world.

Unanimously carried

28. Strengthening trade unionism

Proposed by the Indian Journalists Union (India)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Given that

□ the IFJ is “a confederation of journalists' trade unions. It has been created to deal with matters related to trade unionism and the practice of the profession of journalism;”

□ the Constitution through Section 4 and 7 clearly defines admission criteria of membership, either full or associate, respectively;

□ it specifically seeks to encourage associate members to become full members as per Section 8, laying emphasis on: “With the assistance of the Federation, associate members shall do all in their power to attain and conform with the conditions of full membership and shall, when appropriate, seek full membership. Any associate member that has not sought within 3 years of the date of the adoption of this amendment, or their acceptance (whichever is the later) to upgrade their membership into full membership shall be reported to the IFJ Executive Committee for the consideration of whether they should continue in membership.”

□ in the disturbing trend in various countries of governance seeking to weaken trade union movement and deny workers their rights, and the ILO recommending there's even need to revitalise unions and innovate tactics and innovations, which are strong and relevant to decent work and social justice, it becomes all the more urgent that IFJ and its affiliates meet this new challenge, wherever it exists;

Congress **calls upon** the IFJ Executive Committee and the IFJ Secretariat to provide every assistance possible and make a

comprehensive assessment of the list of its associate members, understand ground realities, difficulties in way of such members to become ‘trade unions’ and advice, aid and encourage them to recruit and organise in workplaces; fight to represent its members; mobilise to fight for better conditions and collective agreements; etc.

Further, it **urges** the General Secretary to instruct the Regional Offices to enlist membership status of all affiliates on the website; full members are given priority over projects and project activity given to associations or networks in the profession if these are not IFJ affiliates be best avoided, as the incentive to either become a trade union or change status or become members of the IFJ then gets defeated.

At the same time, while welcoming the aim of recruiting new members and trade unions fighting for journalists rights, the Federation must continue with its endeavour to encourage the spirit of solidarity within union leadership in a country, so that political rivalry, seen at times, doesn’t play a role in the denial of membership.

For – 114

Against – 37

Abstention – 12

Carried

29. Organising freelances and New Media journalists in Africa

Proposed by the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Recognising the necessity for all working journalists, including freelance journalists and those working in new media, to have decent jobs in order to live with dignity with their families;

Realising the increasing numbers of journalists in almost all countries in Africa who are working as freelance journalists and journalists in New Media which have now mushroomed throughout ~~Africa~~the world;

Fully aware how unscrupulous media employers hire and retain journalists under the conditions of freelance journalists but use them to replace permanent working journalists with full-time contracts, and this new way of employment is increasing throughout the media industry ~~in Africa~~globally;

Noting the efforts, and some notable successes, by affiliates in building mass membership of freelance journalists and journalists in New Media through recruitment campaigns of young journalists in the digital sector across the continent;

Noting that organising and unionising freelance journalists and those working in New Media will not only improve their working and living conditions but will also increase the membership density of journalist unions and association, and enhance professional solidarity;

Congress **instructs** the Executive Committee to :

1. **foster** a long-term working plan to support unions in organising freelance journalists and those working in New Media, building on the existing professional solidarity and extending protection to all journalists;
2. **encourage** and **provide** IFJ support for freelance journalists and those working in New Media so that they are fully included in policy developments and representation at a regional, continental and global levels;
3. **support** targeted efforts that strengthen freelance women journalists' opportunities for a more conducive working environment, increase their representation and leadership, and promote initiatives that address violence and harassment against women journalists in the media industry;
4. **develop** a continental charter for freelance journalists to address their specific needs and interests while providing synergies with other working journalists;
5. **reinforce** collaboration between and within unions representing freelance journalists and those in New Media, particularly those organising in the context of digitalisation.

Carried unanimously

30. Trade union education programmes on collective bargaining

Proposed by the Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering of the utmost importance for journalists and media workers to have a regulatory framework for their activities laid down in collective agreements or contracts;

Considering the reality of the different national media workers' organisations in each country of the region, many of which have never been able to bring a collective bargaining process to a successful conclusion due to loopholes in the labour legislation and exploitation by employers;

Recognising the need for a mutually supportive exchange of experiences in the process of drafting, adopting or enforcing laws that provide a framework for collective agreements or contracts;

Reaffirming the importance of the training of trade union leaders who conduct collective bargaining;

Recognising the plight of media workers across the continent due to job insecurity;

Congress **instructs** the Executive Committee to **promote** and **strengthen** at the national level of each FEPALC affiliated trade union the joint implementation with the IFJ regional office of trade union training programmes on collective bargaining, for a better defence of the rights, interests and

fundamental freedoms of journalists and communication workers on the continent.

For – 127

Against – 0

Abstention – 49

Carried

31. Mobilisation of young journalists

Proposed by the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Noting the importance of maintaining globally an inclusive journalists' movement whereby no journalist is left out from any action that fosters professional unity and nurtures development;

Recognising the massive contribution by young journalists to today's media and their increasing central role in shaping up the future of the media, and consequently they will need a union that can shield them from exploitation and recurrent rights abuses;

Congress **resolves** to:

1. **call** on the IFJ Secretariat and Executive Committee to develop an effective programme that would help affiliates gear up their structures towards organising

- young journalists, and allow the necessary resources to mobilise and attract young journalists;
2. **urge** affiliates to ensure greater involvement of young journalists in their activities and leadership structures and to promote the recruitment, participation and development of young journalists in their undertakings and leadership, as well as to ensure, wherever possible, the establishment of young journalists' committees within their individual unions;
 3. **strive** to eliminate discrimination and communication barriers that divide journalists, whilst promoting professional solidarity in the journalism profession.

Unanimously carried

32. Justice for Giulio Regeni

Proposed by the Federazione Nazionale Stampa Italiana (Italy)

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Muscat from May 31st – June 3rd 2022,

Considering that six years have passed since the killing of Giulio Regeni, the Italian researcher from the Oxford University who disappeared in Cairo on January 25, 2016. His body, has been found nine days later, and the autopsy established he has been tortured;

Noting that, from the beginning, the Egyptian government tried to sidetrack investigations into the death, by first talking

about a car accident, then claiming that five people who were killed during a firefight were the murderers of the Italian researcher. They turned out to be innocent;

Also *noting* that the Public Prosecutor's Office of Rome investigated five agents of the National Security, the Egyptian Civil Secret Service, over charges of having participated in the kidnapping;

Considering that the National Federation of the Italian Press has promoted numerous initiatives to raise awareness institutions and to put pressure on the Egyptian government, in order to bring to justice the principal and material perpetrators of the crime;

Also *considering* that the FNSI has always stood by Giulio Regeni's family in their quest for truth and justice;

Congress **expresses its** deepest disappointment that the Egyptian government did not cooperate in the search for justice and truth, and

confirms its commitment to support the FNSI in all its initiatives to obtain truth and justice for Giulio Regeni and to support the investigation of journalists committed to shedding light on those responsible for his death.

Unanimously carried