

# Cyprus Journalists Stands Up for Journalism

The Union of Cyprus Journalists and the journalist family of Cyprus participated, with a variety of activities in the today Europe-wide Day of action under the slogan “Stand up for Journalism”, in solidarity with the journalists all over the world for better working relations and the guaranteeing of all the measures promoting the respect of press freedom, the right of the public to information and journalists’ right for safety in carrying out their mission. Today at noon hundreds of journalists in all Mass Media – newspapers, radios and TV stations – stand up for one minute in memory of hundreds of journalists killed while they were on working missions and also demanded security and safeguarding of their profession. The Executive Committee of the Union of Cyprus Journalists, visited today the President of the Parliament and candidate to the coming presidential elections mr Dimitris Christofias and after discussing the issues journalists are facing, they stand up for a minute in memory of the killed journalists.

The E.C. of the Union of Cyprus Journalists, visited also the other two candidates for the presidency, Yiannis Kassoulides and Kostas Themistocleous, the minister of Labour, the Interior as well the Labour Committies of the Parliament, the secretary generals of the Trade Unions, the spokesman of the S.G. of UNO mr Micle Moller, the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council in Cyprus and the representative of the European Commission in Cyprus mr Themis Themistokleous.

***The Executive Committee of the Union of Cyprus Journalism, issued today and presented to all the above mentioned personalities the following resolution***

The European Federation of Journalists called for a Europe-wide Day of Action to promote journalists’ rights, on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, under the slogan “Stand up for Journalism”.

Journalists across Europe will protest on this Day in many ways for the dramatic crisis that their profession faces.

The Day consists of protest actions, demonstrations and Union rallies at national and local level to highlight the key areas of concern and campaigns for EFJ affiliates including work-demands for decent salaries and employment rights; campaigns for quality, independent and ethical journalism; and international solidarity actions against impunity for killers of journalists.

The Union of Cyprus Journalists, responding to the spirit of the Europe-wide Day of action and showing solidarity with all those journalists and other news media professionals across the world who risk every day even their own life in order to keep the world society informed, urge you to take any necessary steps and support any measures that will promote the respect of press freedom, the right of the public to information and journalists' right for safety in carrying out their mission.

The respect of these rights became an obligation for all power centers under the UN Security Council resolution 1738, adopted on December 2006, and which condemns attacks on journalists and other news professionals and calls for prosecution of those responsible.

According to the latest report of the International News Safety Institute, more than one thousand news media personnel around the world have been killed trying to report the news over the past 10 years – that's almost two deaths every week. Nine out of ten murderers have never been prosecuted. The impunity was in the center of the discussions during the last Congress of the International Federation of Journalists that took place on May 2006 in Moscow.

We express our deepest concern about the increasing threats and attacks against journalists, having in mind that 2006 was the worst year with more than 150 dead journalists. This is a tremendous blow to press freedom and democracy and cannot be tolerated.

The Union of Cyprus Journalist is very sensitive on the issue of journalists' safety, as in our country journalists have to carry out their duties and mission under conditions of foreign military occupation and unacceptable restrictions for access to information sources through out the island. In many cases journalists were arrested by Turkish occupation troops while covering news in the northern part of Cyprus. At the same time, Turkish Cypriot journalists are being prosecuted or threatened because they blame Turkey and its policies as regards the Cyprus problem.

We expect that you will react to such a situation and that you will consistently do everything possible in supporting respect and protection of the mission, work freedoms and rights of journalists and the Media.

**The Executive Committee  
of the Union of Cyprus Journalists**

November, 2007