

IFJ Call to protect Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and safeguard journalists' unity and independence

5/9/2023

HE Mr Rashad Al ALIMI
President of the Presidential Leadership Council of Yemen

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) that represents 180 journalists' unions in 150 countries around the world. Including the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS).

It has been almost two decades since the YJS joined the IFJ. During these years we have enjoyed excellent cooperation between our organisations; it has been a relationship that has strengthened YJS' relentless fight and commitment for journalists social and professional rights. During the past decades, the YJS has been the symbol of unity and solidarity among Yemeni journalists. By standing up for journalists' rights in the face of political and economic centres of power, the YJS has occupied a distinguished place among the journalists' trade union movement in the Arab World and around the world.

The current, tragic, conflict that continues to inflict immeasurable pain on the Yemeni people including the journalists and media workers. The IFJ, and its member unions around the world, have declared their full support and solidarity with the YJS, so that it can continue to stand for the journalists and against those who deliberately target them and violate their rights. It has done this regardless of the identity of the perpetrators or their political affiliation.

Mr. President

I am writing to you to express our extreme concern that you have not taken practical measures to put an end the outrageous acts of a group of journalists who, with the support of an armed group, evicted the YJS for its offices (which is the private property of the YJS). It has been almost six months since this group occupied the YJS offices, threatened the leadership of YJS in Aden, and forced them to suspend their trade union activities.

I am urging you to do all you can to put an end to this abominable act, that violates Yemen constitution and its laws as well as international agreements and conventions ratified by

Yemen. I ask you to ensure that our colleagues in Aden can safely return to their offices to perform their duties and provide much needed support to the journalists.

The flagrant attack on the YJS in Aden represents a serious threat to the YJS and its future. If this act is not repelled, it could open the door for other YJS offices to fall in the hands of politically motivated groups. This is not just an attack on the YJS and its property, it is an attempt to destroy what the YJS represents, as a national union that symbolises the solidarity among the Yemeni journalists and the acts as a protector of their independence.

I urge you to act immediately.

Kind regards,

Anthony BELLANGER

Anthony Bellanger
IFJ General Secretary



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS
International Press Centre
Résidence Palace - Block C, 2nd floor
Rue de la Loi 155
B-1040 Brussels
Telephone 32 2 235 22 00 - Fax 32 2 235 22 19