



International Federation of Journalists Syndicat National de la Presse Marocaine

BEYOND THE ARAB SPRING: NEW ROAD MAP FOR JOURNALISTS

**IFJ regional meeting in the Arab World and the Middle East
Casablanca, 28-30 October 2014**

Programme

Monday 27th

Arrival of Delegates- Some delegates will arrive on 26th for the meetings on 27th, we will send separate programmes for these events.

20:00: Reception for the delegates and guests.

The accommodation and the meetings will be at: Hotel Idou Anfa, 85- boulevard d'Anfa Casablanca

Are-Jostein Norheim

Tuesday 28th

09:30-10:15 Official Opening of the Meeting

Abdullah al Bakali, President, Syndicat National de la Presse Marocaine (SNPM).

Are-Jostein Norheim, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Rabat.

Cécile Abadie, Political Counsellor, EU Delegation in Morocco

Merin Abbass, Director of the Regional Project, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

Moaid al Lami, Senior Vice President, Federation of Arab Journalists (FAJ).

Jim Boumelha, President, International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

Moderator of the opening session: **Monir Zaarour**, Coordinator-IFJ Arab World and Middle East (AWME).





10:15-11:30 Beyond the Arab Spring: New Road map for Journalists.

This session will review the developments in the region since the IFJ regional meeting in 2011 (attached the conclusion of the 2011 meeting) and how it influenced the profession, independence of the media and journalists social and professional rights. It will also try to illustrate future opportunities and challenges facing the unions.

Speakers:

Jim Boumelha, IFJ President

Abdulwahab Zghailat, President of FAJ Press Freedom Committee

Abdulnasser Najjar, President of Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS).

Younes Mjahed, IFJ Senior Vice-president and General Secretary of the SNPM

Discussion

Moderator: **Marwan Dammaj**, General Secretary of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS).

11:30 – 12:00 Break

12:00-13:30: National Reports from Unions

We urge all unions to send their written reports in advance, focusing on new initiatives and developments in the media sector since 2011 and a summary of their union's working programme. All the reports we receive in advance will be included in the working documents of the meeting. Due to time constraints, we expect that participants will highlight the important issues in their reports within the 5 minutes allocated. It is not necessary to read the full report.

Moderator: **Jim Boumelha**





13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30- 16:00: Safety of Journalists and the Crisis of Impunity.

Presentation of the current safety programme in the region and ideas for its future development.

Presentation: **Monir Zaarour**, IFJ AWME Coordinator.

Muntaser Hamdan, representative of the safety trainers in the region.

Speakers: **Moaid Al Lami**, President of Iraqi Journalists Syndicate (IJS).

Azad Shikhyounes, President of Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate (KJS).

Kholoud Assaf, PJS board member.

Marwan Dammaj, General Secretary of Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate.

Omar Farouk Osman, General Secretary of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ).

Discussions

Moderator: **Zeid Dabbar**, Board member, Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens (SNJT) and a safety trainer.

16:00 – 17:00: The Role of National and Regional Human Rights Commissions in Fighting Impunity.

Athmar al Shatari, Independent High Commission for Human Rights in Iraq.

Karmanj Othman, Independent Commission for Human Rights in Kurdistan Region.

Majid Sawalha, National Human Rights commission- Palestine.

Discussion

Moderation: **Tariq Almomani**, Member of the Board Trustees, the National Centre for Human Rights in Jordan and President of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA).

End of the day





Wednesday 29th

Toward a Special Rapporteur for Media Freedom in the Arab World

09:00 -10:15: Opening session – Building Institutional Support for Press Freedom, Why is it a Priority.

Jim Boumelha, IFJ President

Pansy Tlakula, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information - African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

Faleh alMutairi, Director of Media Department - Arab League.

Abdullah Jahlan, Vice President, FAJ.

Yousef Waslati, Board member, SNJT.

Discussion

Moderation: **Mohammed Yousef**, President, Journalists' Association-UAE

10:15-11:30 Presentation from Unions Focusing on the State of Press Freedom in their Countries (Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Bahrain and Jordan) 2011-2014.

Nardjes Kermiche, Syndicat National des Journalistes (SNJ).

Abdullah al Bakali, President, SNPM

Mohammed Hassan, Vice President, Sudanese Journalists Union.

Mohammed Ismail, Head of press freedom committee, Bahraini Journalists Association.

Waleed al Hababbeh, Board member, Jordanian Press Association.

Discussion

Moderation: **Cheikh Ahmed Toulba**, Board member, Syndicate of Mauritanian Journalists.

11:30-12:00 break





12:00-13:00: Media Freedom Rapporteurs Making a Difference; Regional and International Perspectives

Pansy Tlakula, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) **Representative of Arab**

Asem Rababa, Rapporteur of Arab Human Rights Commission - Arab League

Lamine Klai, Director, Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Tunisia.

Discussion

Moderation: **Karem Mahmud**, General Secretary of the Egyptian Syndicate and Assistant General Secretary of Federation of Arab Journalists.

13:00-14:00 lunch

14:00-17:00 Road Map; Special Rapporteur for Press Freedom in the Arab World

14:00-15:15 Presentations and Interventions

Presentations:

Toby Mendel, Executive Director, Centre of Law and Democracy

Monir Zaarour, IFJ AWME Coordinator.

Interventions:

Representative of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights.

Athmar al Shatari, Independent High Commission for Human Rights in Iraq.

Faleh alMutairi, Director of Media Department - Arab League

Asem Rababa, Rapporteur of Arab Human Rights Commission - Arab League.

15:15-15:45 Break

15:45 - 17:00 **Discussion and Conclusions of the Day**





Moderation: **Younes Mjahed**

Thursday 30th

09:00 – 11:00: Reporting from the Gender Equality meetings and Collective Agreement Working Group.

Discussions on launching a campaign focusing on union rights for journalists working in pan Arab media networks (Aljazeera, Alarabiya, MBC,,?).

Mounia Belafia, Co-Chair of the IFJ Gender Council: Report from the Gender Equality Conference.

Intervention: Sana al Naqash, Board member, Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate.

Fatima Mutahar, Board member, Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate.

Shaima Hannawi, Journalists' Association, UAE.

Omar Nazzal, Board member, Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate: Report from the Collective Agreements Working Group.

Intervention: Moussa Behli, General Secretary, Association Journalists Mauritania.

Jim Boumelha: Presentation of a regional campaign on union rights for journalists working in pan Arab media.

Moderation: **Abdullah al Bakali**, President, SNPM

11:00-11:30 break

11:30-13:00 Closing Session and Adopting the Recommendations

Moderation: **Jim Boumelha**

End of the Meeting

Lunch

