

## **Recommendations of the International Media Conference Karachi, Pakistan, 2nd-3rd May 2015**

We, journalists, editors and representatives of media from Pakistan, and international and regional organisations of journalists, meeting at the International Media Conference in Karachi on 2nd-3rd May 2015, organised by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and the Karachi Union of Journalists (KUJ) to commemorate World Press Freedom Day,

***Recalling*** the high number of violations against journalists in Pakistan, in particular the killing of journalists which has reached over 100 in the last decade, making Pakistan one of the most dangerous places for journalists in the world;

***Demanding*** that the government of Pakistan respect and implement all international instruments on the protection of journalists they signed up to, including binding and non-binding resolutions, covenants and declarations of the United Nations;

***Further demanding*** that these instruments are translated into national laws and that the justice system is thoroughly overhauled to end impunity, and provide judicial and legislative assistance to prevent serious violations of international humanitarian laws that allow targeting of journalists;

***Calling on*** the authorities to establish the right of the families of killed journalists to compensation directly or through media institutions and the setting up of a solidarity fund for the victims;

***Believing*** that media organisations have a duty of care and moral responsibility for the safety of all their journalists, in particular news gatherers, staff or freelance and to provide hostile environment safety training and equipment, and to negotiate unequivocally with journalists' representatives the safety and protection of their members, including safety protocols, medical care and life insurance;

***Affirming*** that media editors have a responsibility to systematically publicise crimes against journalists, investigate them as thoroughly as possible and expose any failure of government and justice system to make the perpetrators account for their crimes;

***Acknowledging*** the primacy of quality training and education for journalists, as well as broader media and information literacy, as part of long-term efforts at media sustainability;

**DECLARE that, in view of journalists continuing to be killed every year while carrying out their jobs, most of these violence remains uninvestigated and unpunished, and that urgent action is required by authorities to put an end to impunity.**

This Conference therefore proposes that the PFUJ:

1. Place the issue of the safety and protection of journalists, at every opportunity, on the agenda of national, regional and international institutions.
2. Agree to transmit these recommendations to the Pakistan government and urge them to follow them up as a matter of urgency.
3. Work with the IFJ at international level, in particular through the relevant structures of UNESCO, the United Nations and the Human Rights monitoring mechanisms in the United Nations system.
4. Seek the help of the IFJ's experts to establish detailed database of all the killed journalists with the view to take legal action whenever possible.
5. Develop amongst its unions and members a culture of being responsible for their own safety and a duty of care towards each other.
6. Continue monitoring the safety of journalists and state of impunity, and submit reports about this on a regular basis.

Finally, participants express their appreciation and thanks to the Governor of Sindh, Dr Ishratul Ebad Khan, for his efforts to help organise the Karachi international media conference and trust he will continue his cooperation with the PFUJ to implement the adopted recommendations.