*[Name of the recipient organisation]*

*[Recipient organisation address]*

*[Recipient email address]*

***Re: Underpayment of Burmese journalists and media workers***

***ADD DATE***

Dear [insert recipient name or organisation],

We, [insert name of your union or organisation], respectfully ask [insert name of recipient or organisation] to ensure the appropriate payment of wages to Burmese journalists and media workers, both inside Myanmar and in exile.

As you would be aware, in the 23 months since the Myanmar military junta took power and amid the ensuing torrid civil war, the state of press freedom in the country has continued to worsen to catastrophic levels, with journalists highly susceptible to arrest, life-threatening attacks, harassment, and intimidation. Under these immensely challenging circumstances, Myanmar’s independent journalists have continued to report inside the country, in conflict zones and in exile.

However, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), a global union federation representing more than 600,000 journalists in 140 countries, has documented the payment of professional journalists, some with decades of experience, at citizen journalist rates, with many international media outlets paying diminutive amounts and failing to give credit for footage, images and hard-to-source interviews with people inside Myanmar, including Internally Displaced People, People’s Defence Forces (PDFs) and Ethnic Armed Organisations.

Through its affiliate organisation, the Myanmar Journalists Network (MJN), the IFJ has noted that while funding from international non-government organisations and media funders has provided support to larger, established outlets, smaller media houses and independent journalists have reported underpayment and non-payment of agreed wages by outlet managers.

A young professional freelance reporter working from a borderline conflict area told the IFJ she is paid the wages of an intern or citizen journalist, approximately 5,000 kyat (USD 24) salary per month.

We write to ask [insert name of recipient or organisation] to do your utmost to provide fully paid work opportunities to Burmese journalists and media workers, with salaries commensurate with experience and the assignment. While forced into intermittent and freelance employment due to the nature of Myanmar’s military rule, Myanmar’s journalists require job security and fair wages more than ever.

We also urge you to ensure copyright is respected and appropriate credit is given when using news content, photographs and video footage gathered and produced by journalists working for your organisation or when using journalists from smaller media networks.

Together we must guarantee professional journalists are paid appropriately and given credit for their indispensable work under the military junta and in exile

Yours Sincerely,

*[Your signature]*