

UM 10

Urgent Motion from Federación Colombiana de Periodistas Proposal – FECOLPER on violence and attacks against journalists in Colombia

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), meeting in Angers, from 7th to 10th June 2016,

Deploping the kidnapping of the Spanish journalist Salud Hernandez and RCN television journalists Diego D’Pablos and Carlos Melo by the ELN guerrillas in North of Santander (Colombia), on May 23, 2016.

Showing that there are difficult territories in Colombia for journalists to work freely, to the detriment of freedom of expression.

Acknowledging the progress of the peace process in Habana, in particular paragraph 2 which mentions guarantees for journalism and the media.

Stressing the recognition and inclusion of communicators in the collective peace process for damages to journalists in the context of armed conflict.

Recalling that 152 Colombian journalists have been killed since 1977 and that the level of impunity higher than 80%.

Regretting that in the first four months of 2016 there have already been 70 violations against journalists in Colombia, with 76 victims, making up 85% of the total number of violations of 2015.

The Congress:

1. Launches a call on the government of Colombia to carry out structural reforms to ensure press freedom, including regulatory changes to ensure the effectiveness of the protection program and the fight against the media concentration

2. Urges the Latin American Regional Office to provide technical support to the Colombian Federation of Journalists to improve their capacities for collective bargaining.

3. Approves to send a communication from the new Executive Committee to the Colombian Government, especially to the Attorney General’s Office, demanding an effective fight against impunity of perpetrators of crimes and threats against journalists.