

UM 12

Urgent Motion on Press Freedom and Journalists' Safety in Kazakhstan

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Angers from 7 -10 June, 2016

Recalling the IFJ solidarity principles

Supporting IFJ intention to condemn all kinds of attacks on journalists and free media

Concerned about the very dangerous situation of journalists in Kazakhstan

Noting that in May 2016, the editor-in- chief of the independent web magazine, ***Nakanune.kz*** Guzel Baydalnova, got a one and a half year jail sentence for critical publications

Further Noting that in May 21 2015 more than 50 Kazakhstan and `International journalists were detained for their coverage of mass protests

Deeply Concerned that 7 Journalists are in jail, including the chairperson of Union of Kazakh Journalists, Seitkazy Mataev, who was arrested in 2016

Alarmed that 35 independent media outlets have been closed in recent months and the extreme growth of violence against journalism which is a real danger for the last independent journalists and last free media in Kazakhstan

Congress instructs the IFJ Executive Committee to:

Demand for the immediate and unconditional release of imprisoned Kazakhstani journalists, Guzel Baydalnova, Seyid-kazi Matayev, Aron Atabek, and others

Initiate International Solidarity campaign against impunity and censorship for the safety and support of independent journalism in Kazakhstan

Organize a special IFJ mission to Kazakhstan to investigate the current situation and to support independent journalism and press freedom in Kazakhstan