

## **UM 15**

### **Urgent Motion from the National Union of Press Workers (SNTP) on the culture of impunity for violence and crimes against journalists in Venezuela**

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

Whereas on Thursday June 2, while covering a protest over food shortages in the city of Caracas, eighteen media workers were assaulted: Luis Morillo, Adolfo Costa, Pablo Pupo and Daivis Ramírez (El Universal); Andrea Cedeño, William Ríos, Felipe Martínez, Amanda Sánchez and Luis Díaz (Vivo Play); Oriana Vielma (El Pitazo), Raúl Romero and Daniel Mejías (El Nacional), Francisco Bruzco (2001), Felipe Romero and Irene Mejías (Caraota Digital); Mabel Sarmiento and Miguel González (Crónica Uno), Nicolle Kolster (NTN24);

Whereas these eighteen media workers were robbed, their equipment destroyed, and that they received death threats, including from people with firearms;

Whereas these crimes were committed in public and in front of officials from the Bolivarian National Police and the National Guard, without these security agencies making any efforts to ensure the safety of journalists and arrest the perpetrators;

Whereas so far in 2016 the National Union of Press Workers has documented and reported sixty cases of assault and 260 cases were reported in 2015, which shows an escalation of violence against journalists and workers press in Venezuela;

Whereas in 2015, of the total reported cases, 70% had identified the culprits as members of public forces officials;

Considering that not one of the reported cases has passed the preliminary investigation stage in the Venezuelan justice system, impunity remains 100%

Whereas the attacks on journalists and media workers in the exercise of their functions, are also violations of freedom of expression and information;

This Congress:

Express solidarity with the National Union of Press Workers (SNTP) of Venezuela as IFJ affiliate organization that stands on the ground and participates in

accompanying victims, as well as in the design of public policies for the protection of journalists, while sends an affectionate greeting to the Venezuelan workers victims of such attacks.

To urge the Executive Committee to:

Accompany, collaborate and strengthen the efforts of SNTP in the design of protective measures which may be adopted in Venezuela;

Urge the Venezuelan authorities, through official communication to investigate complaints that our affiliate, the SNTP, filed before the Public Ministry; to exercise exemplary action against those who commit such crimes and to overcoming impunity;

Insist the Venezuelan state's early action to protect journalists in the middle of a dialogue in which the journalists can exercise their right to participation.

Insist the Venezuelan state's accelerating measures to protect journalists in the middle of a dialogue process in which the journalists could exercise their right to participation.