



Press Corps/Australian Associated Press

Press Corps

Reporter: Kai von Fintel

Topic: HRC / Safety of Journalists

As a reporter for the Australian Associated Press (AAP), I value the safety that I get for the job that I do. I think the best idea for the delegates to reach accord is to work with all of the countries to meet their wants and needs as they recognize their own countries ideals and what is best for them. I am eager to report on the Safety of Journalist in the Human Rights Council (HRC) on March 5. I will ask questions to help the delegates strive towards making the world safer for journalists to give the news to the people. I am going to interview delegates on their views and ask them for the reasons that they have those views on journalist safety. Since this is a topic that is personal for me, I will do my best as a reporter for the Australian Associated Press to report on the conference at hand.

The Australian Associated Press does not have to worry much about the safety of their journalists in their home country of Australia, but as many outlets do, they report in many parts of the world. Some of the places that are dangerous for those reporters to report in include

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Saudi Arabia, China, and warzones. There have not been many deaths for the Australian Associated Press caused by other countries, but there have been several reporter deaths for the AAP in warzones. Even though the AAP is in a safe country, they still worry about the journalists safety, and do the best to make the world safe for their journalists. We, as a news outlet worry about the safety of other journalists doing their job in other countries, and we try to make the world as safe as possible for not just our journalists, but the journalists from all outlets of news.

Going into the conference, I, as well as the AAP, looked forward to interviewing several key countries such as Libya, China, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Italy, Brazil, Belgium, and France in the committee room. As I went into the conference, I did not see several of the countries that I was looking to interview, but I did get the chance to interview some other countries that I did not expect to be there. My first interview, Chile, said “We would like to be happy with our government...we want to give people what they want, but we don’t want false news. We don’t want free speech.” The delegate from said that Chile said that to an extent, it (press) is worth it to be censored.

While I was there, I heard some interesting ideas that would be useful in our environment. Those ideas included, but are not limited to, GPSs given to the journalist, hidden cameras (in pens, etc.), and the United Nations (UN) paying poorer countries to help. The United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) has several ideas to help journalists feel safer. They are willing to compromise with other countries to make the world safer for all reporters by working with their government. The UK wants a universal agreement, a hotline that reporters

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can use to send their location when they feel unsafe, and help build trust with reporters and countries. “The UK thinks that free speech is a mandatory right,” said the delegate from the UK.

When I walked into the room and started reporting, I was surprised to see that there were more countries against free speech than I thought. In the committee room, Eritrea, Chile, Vietnam, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Russia were all on the side that limits free speech. Though there were several oppositions, there were more delegations overall that supported the freedom of speech, led by Canada, the UK, Romania, and Nepal. The resolutions were focused towards the freedom of press and not the control of the government.

The conference was very friendly to discussion and informal consultations. There was a prolific amount of communication, and every delegate was discussing their ideas and what their country wants. When I left the committee room, the delegates were moving their resolutions to the chair, and were about to start the line-by-line review. I wish the delegates well, and hope that they can reach *daccorum* by the end of the line-by-line review.