



Press Corps/Australian Associated Press

Press Corps

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Topic: HRC / Safety of Journalists

One of the things that make this world run is the press. They are what keeps us informed about current global events and the local news. Without journalists, the average person would not be as well informed as they are because of these journalists. However, some people and countries do not like the press, and will do anything to make sure the truth is not discovered. This makes being a journalist a dangerous job. Journalists who report on wars also have to go into war zones, which can be extra dangerous. Hopefully, countries can help put into place safety measures to help protect journalists, and allow them to continue reporting the truth. Today, March 5th, I had the pleasure of visiting a United Nations meeting of the Human Rights Council, based on the Safety of Journalists, and I will be reporting on what I have witnessed.

As I am a reporter for the Australian Associated Press (AAP), I have the right to free speech, and I am uncensored by the Australian government. However, I cannot say the same for every journalist. Journalists from countries such as Vietnam and Chile, for example, are heavily

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controlled by their government and against the freedom of press. The Delegation of Vietnam believes that “Journalists spread propaganda against the government, and “All governments should have restrictions on what a journalist can and can’t say.” Saudi Arabi is an excellent example of Vietnam’s belief. One journalist from Saudi Arabia, Jamal Khashoggi, was brutally murdered by Saudi Arabia’s government for reporting critically about Saudi Arabia’s government.

However, there are many countries who support the freedom of the press and are trying to improve upon the current protection that journalists get. Nepal, Romania, the United Kingdom, and many more all support the right of free speech. According to the Delegation of the United Kingdom, “The freedom of speech is right that everyone should have. However, consequences need to be kept in mind.” The Delegation of U.K also says that “Having little to no restriction on the press is helpful because it builds trust between the government and the common citizen.” According to the U.K, they are working to try to get other countries to reduce restrictions on the press.

The draft resolution was a solution that most countries agreed upon. The resolution presented the idea of journalists writing what they would like in their articles, but the government had to look it over before it was released to the public. In theory, this would allow the government to have control over the press, but the press still would have some freedom. However, this solution does have its flaws. I believe that the government has too much power in this proposition. While the press can write whatever they want, the government still have the power to control what actually gets out, which can prevent the people from knowing the truth.

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While solutions may not be perfect, they are a good start. As a journalist for the Australian Associated Press, free speech is very important to me, as well as letting people know the truth. So when I went to the United Nations conference, it was reassuring to know how many countries are backing free speech, and allowing journalists to keep the public informed. However, there is still much more to be done. Being a journalist is still a very dangerous job, even when not in dangerous areas such as war zones. I hope that the safety of journalists improves, so more journalists can report safely, and let the whole world know the truth.