



Press Corps/Canadian Press

Press Corps

Reporter: Lucy Penrose

Topic: HRC / Safety of Journalists

As a reporter from the Canadian Press (CP), I reported on the topic Safety of Journalist in the Human Rights Council (HRC) committee room. Safety of Journalists is a pressing issue because journalists share with us the important issues in countries and get peoples attention to bring change to those issues. Journalists cannot do that when they are getting killed, imprisoned or attacked. Over 250 journalists have been imprisoned since 2018 and 90% of crimes against journalists go unpunished. The delegates came up with some great and important ideas that can change these statistics for the better and provide more protection for the journalist.

How are you going to get countries to work together and compromise with the journalists so that there can be no more violence? This question was one of the main questions I wanted to ask the delegates when I got into the committee rooms. After getting in the committee rooms and walking around for a little bit, I quickly began to find answers to this question. The African group had come up with a good idea. They had the idea to create contracts between reporters

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and countries that would be unique between each reporter and country and if you did not follow the contract, reporters would be fined and countries would be sanctioned. This idea did not make it to the final resolution, but I still think that it was a very good idea. The Philippines and Britain also both had ideas for my main question. The Philippines had the idea for a universal agreement. I asked them how they were going to get all countries to agree on a universal agreement and they said, “through compromise and taking everyone’s opinions into account and finding a middle ground that everyone supports.” Britain had the idea of having national government organizations (NGO’s) where countries can come together and discuss the safety of journalists.

The countries Vietnam and South Sudan were both against journalist and freedom of speech. Chile also is against freedom of speech. Those countries partnered up with Canada who support freedom of speech, but only in a safe and controlled manner. The country Vietnam says, “Journalists provide propaganda towards the government.”

The Eastern-European and Asia-Pacific groups both had ideas to put GPS tracking devices on journalists. The Asia-Pacific group thought that the GPS trackers could be funded by the government or the United Nations. The Philippines says, “GPS devices could turn into an invasion of privacy,” and the United Kingdom responded back saying, “it [GPS devices] could be something that they wear only while working.” The Eastern European group also had the idea of having a security guard for journalists that would be funded by the news agency.

At the end of the time that I was in the committee rooms they had two resolutions going, the first resolution was the Africans groups, the idea of having a contract between countries and

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journalists. The second resolution was signed by all of the other groups. This resolution is about the promotion of freedom of speech in a controlled and safe manner; it calls upon countries to recognize the injustice and suggest more action to be taken with future incidents, it requests that governments of member states designate government officials to read and approve news stories, and encourages member states to create hotlines that offers support and safety to journalists that have been attacked or threatened. They also had the idea of having a non-censored press conference with government officials and UN members to discuss the danger, threats and attacks toward journalists.

As I was leaving the committee room the African-Group joined the resolution with all of the other groups and it became the final resolution. The delegates did a very good job coming and working together, they had very good ideas and put them together nicely in their final resolution. I give them the best of luck, and hope that their resolution will pass unanimously.