



Press Corps/The Korea Herald

Press Corps

Reporter: Gram Sellman and Taylor Bewley

Topic: HRC / Safety of Journalists

Over the years, the safety of journalists has decreased and more journalists have gotten hurt. This makes it hard to report on important issues, and journalists getting killed is rarely ever talked about on the news. However, the UN is trying to solve this issue. We attended the conference and these were some of the major ideas.

One of the main ideas was for armed escorts to accompany journalists in dangerous situations. France and Luxembourg agreed with this idea, though some delegates had doubts. Qatar believes that having armed guards could make the situation worse. Another question about armed guards was where the funding would come from, which seemed to be Belgium's main concern. Kenya wanted the bodyguards to be soldiers supplied by the journalists home governments while El Salvador advocated for a UN sponsored NGO to provide funding.

Another main idea was for reporters to carry trackers to alert someone if they were in danger. Tanzania said that having trackers was safer than armed guards, because if journalists had body guards, then they might be seen as a threat. Slovenia said that trackers and guards should accompany a journalist, but Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thought it should be one or the other.

Some of the other ideas were for journalists to carry weapons with them, for local police to be in the area, for journalists to remain anonymous, or for journalists to have certain credentials in order to enter dangerous situations. The Asia-Pacific group, especially China, had a much different viewpoint. Many countries in this group called for restrictions on journalists, with China saying that a country's privacy should be protected.

Some countries, such as Kenya, wanted Journalists to have government jobs, with government sponsored body guards, but Qatar argued that if journalism was a government job, then how would reporters be able to express opinions about their own country? Jordan felt that if government were involved, the problem could become worse, as they felt that government was a part of the problem.

The UN is trying to help with the Safety of Journalists. Over the years, journalists have been hurt by their jobs (whether that is reporting on a topic or interviewing people). If they keep getting hurt, then we cannot get the news. So then, making ideas to help with the safety of journalists is imperative.