



## **Press corps/Australian Associated Press**

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### **Press Corps**

**Reporter:** Almaz Abdullin

**Topic:** HRC / The Safety of Journalists

As a reporter for the Australian Associated Press, I observed the committee meeting on the topic of Safety of Journalists in the Human Rights Council. The committee voted on whether to do formal or informal consultations, and did whatever the committee voted on. I found the informal consultations helpful because it allowed me to walk around freely and question and observe the delegates, rather than being seated on a chair.

During one of the informal consultations, a delegate brought an idea to the table: microchip tracking devices. I was intrigued, so I listened further into the conversation. The group had come up with the idea to implant microchips into journalists and track them. A lot of delegates were in favor of it, but I interviewed some delegates that weren't in favor of it. "Apart from not being cost-effective, it is also unrealistic and inhumane," says delegate representing Bhutan. The microchip idea got less and less popular the more people got to talk about it and understand its problems, and was eventually vetoed completely.

Montessori Model United Nations

NYC, February, 2020

As I ventured further into the groups of people bunched together discussing the problems (informal consultation was still active) I noticed a group that was attracting the attention of many people. I walked over to the group and asked a delegate (later I figured out she was representing El Salvador) what was going on and she told me the idea. This idea, unlike the microchip solution, seemed a lot more thought out. It was called Safety Indicators. "The journalists would be given kind of a debrief-or rundown- of the country they are reporting in, and, depending on stats like crime rates, death tolls for journalists, and other info, the journalist would be given necessary protection". This idea was very popular and did not get dropped, and soon the whole room joined in with the discussion. I think AAP would support this solution because it is cost effective, awareness raising, and ethically respectful. This concludes my article on Safety of Journalists Solutions.