



# International Press Summit (IPS)

**Chairs:**

*Adi Horesh and Roni Tarnovski*

**ATIDMUN 2019**

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## Chair Letters:

Dear Delegates,

I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity to chair such a special committee, and I'm more than happy to welcome you guys to it as well. I can't wait to see you, the delegates, debate, cooperate, and most importantly- have the best time you possibly can! :)

As for myself, my name is Roni Tarnovski, I live in Israel, I'm 17 years old but I will have the pleasure of celebrating my 18th birthday with all of you on the first day of the conference (November 20th).

I've been doing MUN for about four years now and believe it or not, this is my first official time chairing a committee (if any of you attended HolyLandMUN you might remember me as an unofficial chair of UNHRC).

Outside MUN I'm very passionate about my school majors which are Radio-media, and films. That basically means that I love politics, news, and good (but mostly cheesy) movies, I also love music, playing the ukulele/ guitar and singing (some will say I'm good and some will beg me to stop).

I honestly can't wait to meet all of you, and if you have any questions regarding the conference, the committee/ committee topics, or even myself feel free to email me:

Roni Tarnovski

([chair.roni4u@gmail.com](mailto:chair.roni4u@gmail.com))



Dear Delegates,

My name is Adi Horesh, and I graduated Atid High School for the Sciences a few years ago, and currently, I am a Medical School student at the Hebrew University. I lived in Singapore for three years and attended Overseas Family School. During those years, I came to know kids from all over the world and learned about different cultures and acceptance while expanding my global knowledge greatly. I won a gold medal in the annual UK Maths Challenge and a High Distinction award in the Science Competition of the University of New South Wales, Australia. In high school, I majored in Biology and Chemistry, and my average was 97. I also attended several science competitions at the Weizmann Institute for Chemistry and won two. I was a Student Council member both in Singapore and in Israel. Another project to mention is the Nir School of the Heart –I participated in this program for a year and a half, and it was really inspiring when 50 Israeli and Arab teenagers from around the Middle East came together to discuss the Israeli – Palestinian conflict as well as study Cardiology. The program was initiated as Harvard-MIT and Medinol partnership youth program. This program taught me mediation concept and skills.

I have been participating in various school, national and international debating programs and competitions - the Israel Debating Society Summer Debating Workshops and in the European Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.

I have been active in sports my whole life - playing basketball for eight years playing for my hometown's team. I won a lot of awards and medals for cross-country and soccer over the years, and the team spirit, endurance and perseverance are of great importance for me.

I also participated both as a delegate and a chair at ECOSOC TIMEMUN conference, and chaired UNESCO Committee at ATIDMUN 17. Another MUN experience was being one of the “founding members” of the TIMEMUN Crisis Committee and being appointed under-secretary general at TIMEMUN. I really feel that I can contribute to the Conference success as a Chair of the IPS Committee due to my experience and expertise in the project.

I believe that the IPS agenda issues are of great importance for securing the democratic principles of professional journalism in the age of global media, for freedom of speech, and

uniting the global press community on the proactive platform of ensuring security and justice for the journalists.

Looking forward to chairing this committee.

Sincerely yours,

Adi Horesh.



## **Introduction to the Committee:**

The International Press Summit, (IPS), is a congregation of journalists from news agencies worldwide. This summit was created by the brilliant minds of the ATIDMUN Academics Team™; there is no IPS anywhere in the world (we promise, we Googled it). This means that as delegates you are completely reliant on this introduction for any action you would like to take in this committee.

This committee, for almost all intents and purposes will act like a regular GA in the UN. This means all of the regular rules of procedure apply, and delegates will be writing resolutions in the accepted format. However, this is not in any way a UN committee, meaning all resolutions have to be within the power of the press agencies to carry out, not countries. Thereupon, it might seem that delegates don't have the power to take action; we assure you this is not the case. Due to the influence of the media in the modern world, the press have an unprecedented quantity of power. In order to properly unlock this power you have several weapons in your literary arsenal. You could combine the broadcasting capabilities of the press with the insidious rhetoric of its journalists. You might choose to use the news outlets of the world to expose injustice, advocate for human rights, and urge the development of mankind in the right direction (whichever direction you choose, that is). This can be used in a variety of ways to sculpt the face of modern society.

# Topic A: Drafting New Guidelines for the Age of Social Media Journalism

*Written by Ariel Bider, Tal Kasovsky and Hadar Abaron*

## Background of the Issue

### *The Observer*

The first model of a journalist that was developed was “The Observer.” This model saw the journalist just as the eyes of the reader. That is why many newspapers founded back in the end of the 18th century and the across of the 19th century are named with words that describe direct information. Famous examples that you might know are “The Observer” in 1791, “Washington Post” in 1879 and “The New York Times” in 1851. This model claims that the sole role of a journalist is to provide the information to the reader, without incorporating their own opinion into it. For example, the journalist should say "the soccer game ended 5-1 to Liverpool", instead of “the soccer game ended 5-1 to Liverpool after an exciting goal by one of the players”, in which the extra information is brought in order to stimulate emotions in the reader.

The model that we presented to you based all of the articles on information only. But a drastic change in the 19th Century transformed this model to the current model of journalism we have. This model is called “The Opinion Holder.”

### *The Opinion Holder*

This model claims that it is the role of a journalist is to give an explanation of the information they provide. As follows, their own opinion must be part of the article. This model evolved as a result of the personalisation process in American politics. In journalism, this becomes clear when looking at reader priorities: the readers started placing importance on the writers, not the information. In other words, the writers’ own personality and character mattered more to the reader than the content they write.

This model began to be implemented in the journalistic world throughout the 20th century. It happened primarily because it had to strongly compete with the upcoming innovative technologies of television and radio. Until the 1990s, most of the existing newspapers already took a stand on

political issues. Those who were founded at that time typically adopted a political stance from day one. This process led to biased and unobjective news information. This mainly harms the reader: reading biased articles frequently leads the reader not to conceive the broad picture of an event. They cannot compare the two sides to it and understand by themselves what exactly happens.

*“I want it all, and I want it now”*

Simultaneously, a modern type of journalism was born. The “instant” journalism on TV and Radio became the leading news source. TV and Radio companies provided news updates every hour. This increased the accessibility of news to the people, and almost everyone was exposed to the news at least once a day. The news content was much regulated by the news’ desks, and if you were exposed to some problematic publication, you would probably read, see or listen to the correction the following day. We will soon see how the implications of this on journalism today.

Back to the 1980s: because the news flash was broadcast every hour, you had to find new content every hour to air. And that’s hard. The instant journalism focuses on the use of headlines - meaningless, catchy phrases that lure the reader/listener in. These headlines are produced by politicians constantly, and the news desks use them to produce hourly news flashes.

The situation continued until 2004, when the first news website was posted online. People could access professional journalism online for free. This website had a 30% user growth rate per year, a remarkable number in 2004 standards. However, at the same time, Social Media websites started to appear, with the launch of Facebook in 2004 and Twitter in 2006. Just a few years later, the Social Media websites would be the breeding ground for fake news. The structure of social media platforms enables users to reach wide audiences with limitless information with minimal interference.

*Fake News are in Town, Baby*

Fake News have been here a lot before us. The first Fake News publication is dated to 1835, when an astrologist claimed he could see in the moon through a telescope, and described the surface ‘full of small man-like creatures and villages’. The use of Fake News by politicians is not new as well. In 1935, Stalin (Former General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union) ‘fed’ a New York Times reporter with information describing the USSR as a ‘Socialist Paradise’.

In the past 30 years, the use of Fake News has become a widespread phenomenon used by both leaders and terrorist groups. It can encompass everything from sarcastic or ironic humour to bot-generated, made-up stories. It can also include the pernicious transmission of selected, biased facts, the use of incomplete or misleadingly selective framing of stories, and photographs that editorially convey specific characteristics. If used by a foreign nation, it can be the best tool to promote interests. In this day and age it causes problems because who knows what to believe when even undeniably true facts are up for debate?

In 2017, Claire Wardle categorized Fake News into three main sub-categories:

1. "Mis-information: false information disseminated without harmful intent."
2. "Dis-information: created and shared by people with harmful intent."
3. "Mal-information: the sharing of "genuine" information with the intent to cause harm."

## Current Situation

### *“New Media Journalism”*

Since 2004 (the launch of the first website), traditional media has been losing users to the online world. For example, the percentage of people who paid for digital subscriptions of the New York Times has risen by 27% from 2017 to 2018.

### *Growth of Media Consumption*

According to Statista, in 2019, it is estimated that there will be around 2.77 billion social media users around the globe, up from 2.46 billion in 2017. In the U.S., research conducted in 2018 showed that 68% of all Americans used Social Media as a source for News. However, 57% said that they feel that most of the social media news is mostly inaccurate. This habit has accumulated followers, as in 2016, just 62% of Americans reported that they used Social Media to get News.

The quality of truth in journalism is under intense scrutiny in today's world, because of the availability of facts. Journalistic scandals such as “Speigelgate”, have eroded public confidence in mainstream media while news media pioneers compete to satisfy the public's appetite for information. Still worse is the spectre of "fake news" that looms over the media and political systems that underpin everything from social stability to global governance.

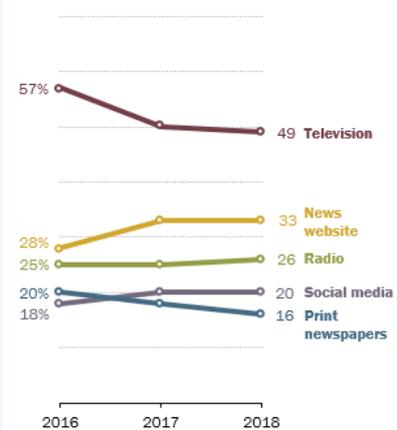
### *Fake News as a Weapon*

Nowadays, many politicians, such as the Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro use Fake News almost on a daily routine. Another example is the Russian President Vladimir Putin, who took things a step further; he's used Fake News on the global scale, with the Russian intervention in the American Elections in 2016.

Politicians and leaders use the term "Fake News" as a weapon against the media, as well as their political opponents. The most well-known example of this is President Donald Trump, especially

### More Americans get news often from social media than print newspapers

% of U.S. adults who get news *often* on each platform



Note: The difference between social media and print newspapers in 2017 was not statistically significant.  
Source: Survey conducted July 30-Aug. 12, 2018.

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during the 2016 presidential elections. It started by the accusation of a CNN reporter of being "fake news," and continued with the claim that all of CNN is "fake news."

As described earlier in this study guide, the model that the media follows in the present is "The Opinion Holder." Politicians tend to use the term "fake news" against journalists that express political opinions that are different from theirs. Troublingly, it seems Trump's use of the phrase was a turning point in the popularity and use of the phrase. It has also been reported that in the 2019 elections in Australia, leading politicians have accused their media and their political opponents of telling "fake news" as well.

According to "The Conversation," social media champion the idea that they allow anyone with an internet connection to become a content creator that can empower their users. The idea of "new media populism" encompasses how citizens can include entire populations, and allow the masses to have an engaged and active role in political discourse. New media, including social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, can enhance people's access to journalism. Famous politicians who can be described as part of the "New Media Populism" are Donald Trump, the President of the U.S, and Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister of the UK.

### *Populism in today's world*

Populism is a political theory that divides the people into two groups: the corrupt elite and the good people. These Leaders, like Orban, Trump and Johnson usually describe themselves as the voice of the people. They usually follow reforms that would benefit them in the short-term, either electorally speaking or publicly. Both Trump and Johnson use social media, mainly Twitter, to write ideas that are popular in general forums, though they might be unrealistic or impossible to approve on the political level.

By using social media, they can "skip" the traditional media and speak directly to the readers. In doing so, they cancel the need for traditional media and avoid the "troubles" they face in traditional media like fact-checking, and hard questions. For example, Johnson said as part of the 'Leave' campaign, that the UK transfers 350 million pounds to the EU. This was a piece of truly fake news, as the real numbers are much lower. This number was used to present the EU as an organization that steals money from British citizens, urging the population to be pro Brexit. This "fact" was brought up by Johnson in his social media accounts constantly.

Another great example is the previously mentioned Viktor Orban, the Prime Minister of Hungary. Orban is infamous for his right-wing policies against the borders of Hungary with the European Union. In his recent election campaign in 2018, he ran a campaign with the title “You also have the right to know what Brussels prepares for!”, referring to the EU Commission plan to redistribute refugees across Europe. The campaign immediately rebuked the plan as ‘Fake News’. However, because this was mainly a social media campaign, the EU response did not reach most of the citizens.

Social media platforms and the internet have facilitated the dissemination of political information that counters mainstream media tactics (often centralised and top-down, and include high barriers to enter).

An interesting fact about social media is that there will come a time where the revenue made from an advertisement from digital advertising (mainly social media) will exceed the revenue from non-digital advertising. In 2018, revenue from non-digital advertising was \$114,837,180,000 and from digital advertising was just a bit less, \$108,643,020,000. This trend is on the rise. It shows us that the people and businesses focus more of their attention on social media. As a result businesses will cater to the customers any way they can, making them more reliant on the social media they are currently leaning toward. This will expose the customers to Fake News more than ever before, as it runs rampant on social media platforms.

A recent survey ran in the US, led to the following findings:

1. Almost 70% of Americans believe that Fake News has a big impact on their ability to trust the government
2. More than half of Americans believe that Fake News has a big impact on their ability to trust each other
3. More than half of Americans believe that Fake News has a big impact on political leaders’ ability to get work done
4. Almost 40% of American adults believe that journalists create a lot of made-up news and information
5. More than half of Americans claim that the news media has the most responsibility in reducing the amount of made-up news and information

6. People who are highly politically aware take more active actions to fact-check what they read and change the way they consume information (as a response to fake news and misinformation), while those who are less politically aware are more likely to simply consume less information in general.
7. More than half of Americans claim that unchecked breaking information causes a lot of confusion
8. Shockingly, almost 70% of Americans claim that fake news and misinformation cause a lot of confusion
9. Almost 8 out of every 10 Americans believe that steps should be taken to restrict fake news
10. Almost 60% of the participants think that the problem of fake news will get worse over the next five years. Only one in ten believe that we will manage to reduce the spread of misinformation.

## **Fake News Case Studies - Can We Use Fake News? (Spoiler Alert: YES WE CAN)**

### *Case Study 1 - Pinocchio's back. Big time.*

In the current journalistic climate many ideas have been raised in order to stop the misinformation that the citizens are being fed. Many newspapers came up with different fact-check solutions, but the main tool that was created is the “Pinocchio Rate” created by the Washington Post and launched in 2007 during the presidential campaign of 2008. The “Pinocchio Rate” rates political statements that are being covered by the newspaper: statements are checked and deeply researched by a fact-checking desk, and eventually, statements are rated from 1 Pinocchio (“twisted truth”) to 4 Pinocchios (completely false). There are also other symbols that mean things like a complete truth, a pending verdict, and more. By that, the readers can get a sense of reliability without having to stop consuming information. Also, if a fake news statement is repeated more than 20 times, it is publicly counted. Since the launch of this project, around 350 famous politicians were checked on a weekly basis. Currently, Trump and his statement of ‘The Wall’ is rated with 191 reoccurrences.

*Case Study 2 - #HelpGaza or #HelpSyria: basically the same, right?*

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) ran a fundraising campaign for Syrian refugees in 2015 - as a part of it, a photo of a little girl was taken and then used for that campaign. So far, so good. The year was 2017, two years after the previous campaign for Syrian refugees: UNRWA ran a fundraising campaign for Gaza. However, they used the same photo from two years before - only this time, the little girl got a new name: “ ‘Aya from Gaza’ oppressed by Israel.” The fact that the photo was “recycled” was discovered and brought up to public discourse by the UN Watch. As soon as the UN Watch published the double use of that photo - UNRWA apologized and replaced it right away, claiming that it was a mistake. The photo, its caption, and the campaigns built around it have created a sense of unreliability amongst the public, because it is very wrong and odd to use the photo of an innocent little girl, to support a completely different narrative, one that’s even not slightly related to hers.

*Case Study 3 - Me and the boys playing protest outside (of the country)*

South Africa is currently facing many xenophobic attacks, with countless violent protests. In parallel, videos are being spread on social media as videos that are recent and relevant - but most of them are actually from the past wave of the protest movement. In South Africa there were few waves of this protests; the first one in 2008, the second one in 2015 and the last started just now in May 2019. An example of this is a video of the Deputy Minister of Police of South Africa, Bongani Mkongi, who is filmed delivering a speech about the presence of foreign nationals in South Africa. However, this footage is from 2017, and was given in a completely different context.

Moreover, some of these clips don’t even display events from the protests occurring in South Africa recently but actually from protests in other countries, like India. For instance, one video of a building set on fire became increasingly popular in September 2019. But actually, this video is footage from May 2019, of a building set on fire in the city of Surat in Western India, not even in South Africa. This ‘flood’ of video clips that aren’t from the protests misleads the public regarding the actual situation. As a result, it fuelled protests across the country, and more protesters came out on the streets - being even more violent than before.

This committee aims to illuminate the contentious media landscape to help people understand contemporary conditions and arm them to deal with a spectrum of new developments ranging from technology and politics to best practices.

Good Luck, and remember, history has its eyes on you.

## Questions to consider

1. Which challenges do professional journalists face in the age of social media?
2. How do social media platforms enhance/impede the way professional journalists work?
3. Which questions rise about journalism in the age of social media?
4. How does "fake news" reflect our society, and how can professional journalism and our society eradicate this phenomenon?
5. How can the use of social media by journalists enhance their performance and interaction with their readers?
6. How can our society preserve the press as a profitable format?
7. Which state/professional bodies have to regulate the new guidelines of journalism in the modern age of social media?
8. How does social media build the professional identity of journalists?

## Further Reading:

- <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2018/01/the-6-fakest-fake-news-stories-of-2017>
- <https://www.itv.com/news/2019-02-18/fake-news-examples-pope-trump-pizzagate-clinton/>
- <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/craigsilverman/facebook-fake-news-hits-2018>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-42724320>

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# Topic B: Taking Collective Action as the Global Press Community to Safeguard Journalistic Freedom Worldwide

## Introduction to the Topic

Journalistic Freedom; the meeting point of the basic right to freedom of expression with the right to access information. Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right as stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and **to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.**"

The right to access of information is an essential right to democratic society as stated in 1946 UNGA Resolution 59(1):

"Freedom of Information is a fundamental right and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated. Freedom of Information implies the **right to gather, transmit and publish news anywhere and everywhere without fetters**. As such it is an essential factor in any serious effort to promote the peace and progress of the world."

The issue is that today's media is broadcasted globally, through television and social media. Journalists are able to reach wider audiences faster than ever before, and this has a dangerous effect on the rule of certain leaders. Transparency is not equally accepted everywhere in the world, and this leads to all kinds of contradictions regarding the rights of journalists, specifically regarding international journalism, in which journalistic freedom must be agreed upon across the board, lest it lead to uncouth circumstances.

Journalistic Freedom is generally recognized as a necessity in democratic societies; non-democratic societies, however, have constantly overlooked the right. Over a third of the population of the world live in countries that do not have free press. In China, for example, there is only one governmentally approved and supervised news network: Chinese media is made for the Chinese

people alone, and this news is not spread globally, just like no foreign news networks are allowed in China.

However, when news is expected to be spread and collected internationally, certain problems come to light. What journalists can and can't share is made clear in all countries by use of censorship and suspensions. In some countries, journalists are silenced in a more violent manner, usually because those countries haven't prioritised transparency or freedom of expression.

We shall examine these silencing methods in the next section.

## Current Situation

### *Villainization*

Recently, in influential countries such as the US and UK, in recent years, anti-media opinions are on the rise. Thanks to the spread of the term "fake news", leaders around the globe can discredit journalists and the press, and bring down the legitimacy of the press as a whole. The delegitimization of the news brings with it the distrust of the citizens. These situations could lead to a major loss of power to the media; in fact, so much so that leaders of non-democratic countries have used the term ('fake news') as well, to the *same* effect, indicating how far along and dangerous a situation the press are facing. These verbal attacks against the media are followed by physical attacks to silence the press, and by a loss of understanding the importance of freedom of expression in the minds of the people, meaning little is done about it. This loss of understanding could potentially bring about the end of journalistic freedom, or freedom of expression in general.

### *State Media*

There are two different types of ownership of media platforms: Private ownership or State ownership. A state owned media outlet is funded primarily or exclusively by the state; a privately owned media outlet is funded primarily or exclusively by non-state actors (corporations). It is important to understand this distinction as the entity that owns the media outlet usually has an immense amount of control over the information that is published.

There are varying degrees of state ownership of media platforms. In countries with absolute state control, the only available media networks are controlled exclusively by the state. In these countries, like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, journalists are members of the ruling party and can only publish what the state allows them to publish. This has caused many to consider

these media platforms as mouthpieces for the government, spreading state-sponsored propaganda that aims to show its actions in a positive way, as the media cannot investigate or even criticize the state at all.

In other countries there is hardly any state interference with the media. These countries include most Western Liberal Democracies, and are characterized by a large number of independently-run platforms holding a wide range of opinions. While generally considered a much preferable situation, it too comes with its fair share of problems, the most notable being the spread of non-fact-based news (such as fake news or honest mistakes), which is aided by the low levels of regulation and censorship.

Some countries have both state owned platforms and privately owned ones. These countries attempt to weather the negative effects of both. However, this approach has the possibility of achieving the opposite and creating both state sponsored propaganda and misinformation.

### *Censorship*

There are also two kinds of censorship. The first kind is state censorship. State censorship is present in almost every country, but at varying levels. Each country has the same reason for censoring the media - the safety of their citizens - but they do so very differently. For instance, in the U.S., which is infamous for being the land of the free, there are cases where the government is allowed, encouraged, and even required to censor information.

According to the American Freedom of Information Act, there nine exemptions that authorize government agencies to withhold information from public knowledge:

1. Classified information for national defense or foreign policy;
2. Internal personnel rules and practices;
3. Information that is exempt under other laws;
4. Trade secrets and confidential business information;
5. Inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters that are protected by legal privileges
6. Personnel and medical files;
7. Law enforcement records or information;
8. Information concerning bank supervision;
9. Geological and geophysical information.

As we can see, these exemptions are put in place in order to protect the country and its citizens. These are in place in almost every country, meaning censorship plays a bigger part in our lives than most people think. However, because of the importance of freedom of expression and the right

to access information, for the most part, the government isn't involved in what the media publish at all.

In less free countries things are a little different. In countries that aren't democracies, and even in some democracies (like Israel on certain occasions), the 'safety of the citizens' is used by the government to mean a lot more. Assuming that the press isn't state owned, the government controls the media much more violently. In Saudi Arabia for example, journalists risk suspension and job loss for publishing things the government doesn't fully condone (this is before they resort to actual violence). Governments threaten several methods of violence in order to achieve the media they want. Moreover, in other countries, such as China, there is a firewall that completely blocks western world media from the people. They can only view Chinese created content which passed governmental standards. But worst of all, according to the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, is Turkmenistan, who controls all media published in the country, harasses and tortures foreign journalists, censors the internet, and disconnects satellite dishes to prevent any access to any form of foreign media.

The second form of censorship is self censorship. Basically, this is a term that arose from journalists need to protect themselves from government or unwanted intervention. Journalists began censoring themselves in order for other sources to leave them alone. In Israel, the media does this quite often, choosing not to reveal facts in a publication that would draw the attention of people who would get it removed entirely. This term is much more relevant in countries with more journalistic freedom, because journalists in other kinds of countries can't bring up certain topics out of fear for their lives.

### *Imprisonment*

Countries use imprisonment as a form of silencing the journalistic community. The threat of prison is meant to serve as a deterrent and example to other journalists, specifically investigative journalists. Journalists who seek to expose things that the government does not wish to expose for whatever reason, journalists could find themselves facing prison sentences. This effectively silences journalists, even in democracies such as Israel. This form is most common in Turkey, who has jailed over 200 journalists just last year.

## *Violence and Killing*

In some cases however, journalists are silenced for eternity. What happens is that they are seen as too outspoken critics in the eyes of powerful people, people who have the power to hire assassins, people who have the power to keep the exact reasons and circumstances of journalists deaths away from the prying eyes of the media, and thus, out of the spheres of public information. This happens all over the world, and must be stopped as it takes lives.

To be fair, there are several instances of journalists being killed in the recent years, in an unsettling trend, and the world hasn't lifted a finger. Some of these killings were the results of dangerous assignments, and of getting caught in the crossfire. There are also instances of murder by terrorist groups, lone gunmen, and mysterious circumstances. However, the issue of utmost urgency is state sponsored murder. The urgency becomes apparent when one takes a look at how easy it is for these cases to remain unresolved; practically encouraging governments to commit such crimes, as the power is in their hands: there have been 65 unsolved deaths of journalists in 2018 alone, most of which are thought to be state-sponsored.

## **In Summation**

The modern world has seen this situation unravel before their very eyes, and yet very few serious actions have been taken to protect journalists. UNESCO convened in 2012 to form the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. This plan - despite the impressive title and the consultations of other UN bodies, inter-governmental organisations, multiple NGOs, and professional associations - doesn't include much action or things that could cause change. This plan served more as a band aid to the bleeding hearts and artists than it actually assisted anyone. The member states promised to reconvene every year to update the plan and strengthen in. The reconvention in 2017 led to a development of sorts, the new resolution vowed to yet again consult a number of authorities in order to "Define a Mechanism" to protect journalists. As is quite clear, no mechanisms have been built or implemented, no clear laws to protect journalists were past, and no active attempts to do these things took place.

This is the reason we have gathered here today – we must find a way to establish universal guidelines for journalistic freedom, and attempt to find ways to protect it. The silence of the world places the power in the hands of the press. Journalists must stand up for themselves, and for what is right. It is up to you to create change.

May luck forever be in your favor.

## Questions to Consider

1. Have any of my journalists been harmed in the past? How so? What was the response?
2. Do I operate in countries that are relatively free for the press or not?
3. What power does the press hold in the modern world? Does the press have enough power to create changes in the current situation? Do you require aid from other sources of power (governments, NGOs, the public)?
4. What kind of action could the international press community take to address the situation?
5. Should action be taken primarily towards solving the most extreme form of the problem (killings and imprisonment) or the more common less extreme issues (villanizing and censorship)?
6. With which media outlets could I cooperate with? How?
7. Who can I not cooperate with? WHY not? Are our differences unsolvable?

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