**COMMITEE: SOCHUM**

**TOPIC: Accomplishing Freedom of Press and Protection of Journalists Within Conflict Zones**

**COUNTRY: Argentina**

**SCHOOL: TED Ankara Collage High School**

Freedom of press and protection of journalists are significant needs of our modern world. Press freedom within conflict zones is the voice of the people in danger, it anables people to be aware of the situation in the region. Additionally, press within conflict zones inform other nations about the situation in the area and expose human right abuses, war crimes and violence. Moreover, freedom of press essential for transparency, accountability, and the protection of all other rights. According to UNESCO, 162 journalists were killed, nearly half of them were working within the conflict zones and while trying to do what their job requires, between 2022 and 2023. This situation is stated as ‘alarming’. In order to maintain press security and freedom to expose truth, the issue of the journalists and press not being free and independent should be discussed and solved immediately.

"In 2022 and 2023, a journalist was killed every four days simply for doing their vital job to pursue truth," UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay stated. This shows the level of importance given to speaking in order to stop violation and human right abuses within the conflict zones. There is a remaining ‘UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity’ addressing the need for a peaceful and democratical environment for development worldwide, aiming to create this needed environment for journalists and press. This plan also includes raising awareness; standard setting and policy making; monitoring and reporting; capacity building; research and coalition building. According to the UN Plan of Action, there are cooperatation with governments, media houses, professional associations, NGOs and other stakeholders to end imputy. UNESCO, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) are among the leading NGOs working on this issue. They put a lot of effort in order to inform others about the situation within the conflict zones, despite their efforts, many crimes against journalists are unpunished.

Argentina supports freedom of expression and press, and the protection of journalists. Argentine journalists’ rights and press freedom is guaranteed by its democratic the constitution. Even though Argentina isn’t a conflict zone, it recognizes the need to maintain the freedom of expression and press within the conflict zones and wants this issue to be solved with cooperation with the every Member State. Argentina also calls on Member States to implement stronger domestic laws aligned with international standards, including legal penalties for violence against journalists. The freedom of press is the freedom of expression of the nation, and it should not be forgotten.

**REFERENCES:**

* <https://rsf.org/en/country/argentina>
* <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2024/11/02/unesco-reports-surge-in-journalist-killings_6731322_4.html>
* <https://www.unesco.org/en/safety-journalists/un-plan-action?hub=687>
* <https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/freedom-of-expression-in-times-of-conflict>