

The Research Group MEKK's
10th International
Conference

On The Safety Of Journalists

31.10-01.11.2024 // Athene, Pilestredet 46 // OsloMet University

On The Safety of Journalists

The 10th annual conference on the Safety of journalists will address two main themes: journalists' role in elections and their coverage of war and conflict.

Theme one:

Safety of journalists covering elections: 2024 is being called the biggest election year in world history as 2.6 billion people go to the polls in over 50 countries worldwide. Journalists play a crucial role in ensuring that the public has access to relevant information as they prepare to cast their votes. Reporters Without Borders stresses how political pressure is a crucial challenge for journalists worldwide in their 2024 report launched May 3, 2024. In several countries, voters may end up giving power to candidates who aim to tighten democratic rights, and the journalists who cover the election campaign and elections will face many challenges.

Theme two:

Safety of journalists covering war and conflict: The conflict in Gaza presents an unprecedented danger to journalists, as highlighted by the Committee to Protect Journalists. Nasser Abu Naker, leader of the Palestine Union of Journalists, attests to the immense suffering endured by media personnel in Gaza, surpassing any previous experiences. Despite these challenges, journalists persist in their reporting duties, demonstrating remarkable resilience. Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine continues, claiming the lives of media workers, while journalists face threats and violence in numerous other global conflicts and wars. When we lose a journalist, we lose our eyes and ears to the outside world. We lose a voice for the voiceless. Volker Turk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 2024

On The Safety of Journalists

Program

08:30-09:00

Registration and coffee Athene, Pilestredet 46 OsloMet

09:00-09:30

Conference opening

Welcome by Kristin Orgeret & Roy Krøvel, The Research Group MEKK

Opening by Carl Thodesen, Vice Rector for Social Impact and Innovation, OsloMet

Music - Svein Amund Skara plays Frédéric Chopin: Revolutionary Etude) in minor, opus 10 no 12 & Harald Sæverud: Kjempeviseslått/Ballad of Revolt, opus 22 nr 5.

Introduction of Shahidul Alam by Ellen Lande Gossner.

09:30-10:00

Opening Key Note

Shahidul Alam: Elections amid conflict, experiences from Bangladesh.

10:00-10:15

Q&A

With Saumava Mitra, Dublin City University

10:15-11:00

Key Note

Neena Kapur, New York Times: Digital safety of journalists and the US Elections. Q&A with Elana Newman, University of Tulsa/Dart Center

11:00-11:20

Break

On The Safety of Journalists

Program

11:20 -12:25

Panel

Nechama Brodie, Chair

Safety of journalists covering Elections Worldwide Yennué Zarate, Mexico: Samba Badji, Senegal; Dessalew Getnet Ayalew, Ethiopia; Baris Coban, Turkey.

12:25

Music Svein Amund Skara plays Scott Joplin: Maple Leaf Rag

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-16:30

Paper sessions

16:30-17:30

Voices of Defiance

Cross-border connections in the fight for press freedom. Preethi Nallu; Report for the World, India; Alina Poliakova, Ukrainska Pravda; Ari Gautier, author, Pondicherry/Norway; Cristi Hegranes, Global Press Journal, USA

19:30

Dinner Thon Hotel Europa
St. Olavs Gate 31, 0166 Oslo

On The Safety of Journalists

Program

09:00 - 09:30

Committee to Protect Journalists.

Attila Mong

09:30 - 10:30

Intro by Yama Wolasmal, NRK / Tamer Almisshal, Al Jazeera

Panel: Journalism in and on the war in Gaza/ the Middle East

Elisabeth Eide, Chair

Abeer Saady, Egypt; Amund Bakke Foss, VG; Katrin Glatz
Brubakk, MSF/NTNU.

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-12:30

Journalism in war and conflict

Bruce Mutschvairo, Chair

Jesus Arroyave Cabrera, Colombia; Mulatu Alemayehu Moges,
Ethiopia; Sofia Hultqvist, FOJO; Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova, UK;
Khalid Qadery, Afghanistan.

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-15:30

Paper sessions

15:30

Closing of conference

Closing remarks by William Bird.

19:30

Dinner Thon Hotel Europa
St. Olavs Gate 31, 0166 Oslo