

# Building partnerships to address the safety and working conditions of journalists – exploring new linkages

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## 1. The safety of journalists and media workers

- There are still Journalists jailed for libel in Eritrea, Niger, and Gambia.
- Journalists and media houses are attacked in many countries of the continent: Senegal.
- Journalists and media houses are victims of wars and political violence: Somalia.
- Great number of journalists fleeing attacks, threats, violence, conflicts, wars for their safety and security: Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, and Zimbabwe.
- Journalists and media workers covering conflicts and violent events are attacked, kidnapped or killed: Somalia.

## Actions

- All journalists and media workers jailed should be free. The campaign for all African journalists out of jail should be emphasised in order to ascertain that journalists are not jailed for libel.
- Campaigns addressed to African countries and to the African Union in order for them to implement “*The declaration of principles of freedom of expression in Africa*” and to accept and enshrine the role of the media in society as a sector on its own, and to allow the media to perform its duties within the acceptable standards and necessary conditions in a modern democracy.
- Journalists fleeing for their safety and security need to be supported financially until they find a sense to their lives.

- Journalists and other media workers covering conflicts and violent events need to be protected, equipped and trained for their safety.

## **2. The working conditions of journalists**

- Building strong unions that can attend to journalists' working conditions, address workplace issues, ethical journalism, stand for journalists' rights in the workplace and in court when necessary.
- A great number of journalists and media workers recruited and exploited without contracts, salaries, insurance, and proper respect for labour laws. The poor working conditions for journalists and media workers have led to unethical journalism, and unnecessary killings of journalists.
- No other organisations more than the trade unions of journalists can address workplace issues and bargain for journalists. The journalists trade unions should cooperate with other media organisation engaged in the defence of press freedom and freedom of expression. However workplace matters and conditions of service are trade union issues.
- Investment in media development to strengthen media businesses is crucial; however this should altogether with building strong journalists' trade unions in the media industry to guarantee the sustainability of media development, and ethical journalism.

## **3. Building partnerships**

- The Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) as regional group of the IFJ has been formed; as a regional GUF for journalists and media workers in Africa FAJ shall be involved in trade union development and journalists' welfare and ethical journalism in the media industry in Africa.

- Networking with media support organisations to address legal support and safety issues: NAFEO, INSI, OSI, CPJ, RSF, MFWA, MISA, PANOS, etc,...
- Working with media development organisations, trade union movement; and public and States' organisations to address conditions of service for journalists and ethical journalism on the continent: AMI, AU, GFMD, ADB, ITUC, etc...