

ZONE

The Call of International Journalists on Unacceptable UNESCO's Report

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INTERNATIONAL - I, Wilson Lalengke, on behalf of all members of the Indonesian Citizen Journalists Association based in Jakarta, Indonesia, together with all its representatives in 25 countries in the world, call on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to revise its report regarding data and information on the conditions and circumstances of journalists on duty and victims of the Ukraine versus Russia war. As part of a world body, UNESCO is obliged to represent the entire world community, including journalists from any country without exception.

In the draft UNESCO report on the Safety of Journalists and the Issues of

Impunity presented at the 34th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication of UNESCO in Paris on 21-22 November 2024, that institution seemed discriminatory and inaccurate in presenting real data on obstacles, access restrictions, arrests, torture, and killings experienced by journalists, especially Russian journalists. Therefore, I once again urge the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs. Audrey Azoulay, to immediately revise and complete the draft report, before it is published on coming December 13, 2024, by including factual data on the conditions and situations experienced by Russian journalists while covering the Russian-Ukrainian war zone.

UNESCO should uphold its independency and neutrality in conveying facts on the ground and act as a fair referee for all people regardless of citizenship, nationality, race, religion, and social status, especially for parties in conflict such as Ukraine and Russia. UNESCO should also uphold its commitment to protect every journalist worker and defend freedom of speech for all human beings.

I hope this International Journalists' Call will be of concern to all parties, journalists everywhere, and especially to the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs. Audrey Asoulay. Thank you.

Jakarta, December 11, 2024

THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD OF

THE INDONESIAN CITIZENS JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

General Chairman,

Mr. Wilson Lalengke

- The Call of Internatio...

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