



**THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF SOUTH ASIA
(Estd. 1958)**

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The Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia is concerned about the restrictions and repression faced by journalists in recent days. Photojournalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Sanna Irshad Mattoo has been barred from leaving India to visit France, where she was invited to exhibit her work at the prestigious international photojournalism festival of Arles.

Mohammed Zubair, the co-founder of Alt News, a fact-checking agency, has been arrested and jailed for "hurting religious sentiments" for tweeting an image four years ago.

We note that at the recent G7 meeting held in Germany, India's Prime Minister committed "to protect free speech, online and offline." While appreciating that commitment, the FCC South Asia hopes that such commitments are implemented, and any action against journalists is proportionate, transparent and backed by evidence.