



THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF SOUTH ASIA

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The Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia stands in solidarity with Journalists on World Press Freedom Day, May 3, 2024

New Delhi, May 1, 2024: As the world commemorates World Press Freedom Day on May 3, The Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the fundamental principles of press freedom and the protection of journalists worldwide.

On this significant day, the FCC emphasises the crucial role of a free and independent press in upholding democracy, promoting transparency, and holding power to account. Press freedom is not only a cornerstone of democracy, but also a fundamental human right essential for the functioning of any open society.

Amidst the global celebration of press freedom, the FCC stands in solidarity with journalists who face threats, harassment, and violence in the pursuit of truth. We condemn in the strongest terms the alarming trend of arrests and attacks on journalists globally, which undermine the very essence of democracy and freedom of expression.

The FCC mourns the tragic loss of journalists' lives, particularly in conflict zones such as Palestine and Ukraine, where journalists continue to risk their lives to report on the ground. The targeting of journalists, whether through arrests, intimidation, or violence, is an affront to the principles of democracy and must be unequivocally condemned.

As an organisation dedicated to promoting journalistic excellence and defending press freedom, the FCC calls on governments, international organisations, and civil society to take urgent action to protect journalists' rights and ensure their safety. Upholding press freedom is not only a moral imperative but also a collective responsibility that requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders.

On this World Press Freedom Day, let us recommit ourselves to defending press freedom, supporting journalists, and safeguarding democracy for the betterment of society.

S Venkat Narayan
President