



**PERMANENT MISSION
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SECURITY COUNCIL – ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING – THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS

**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO MYRIAM OEHRI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
CHARGÉE D’AFFAIRES A.I.**

Madam Chair,

Thank you for convening this timely Arria-Formula meeting. Journalists and media workers are often at the frontlines of the fight to promote and protect human rights and defend democracy and the rule of law. Freedom of opinion and expression is a fundamental human right and the backbone of an open, free and informed society. In many situations the Security Council has focused on in recent months, an increase in restrictions on a free press have mirrored the rise in armed conflict, notably in Ethiopia and Myanmar. The war in Ukraine has placed many journalists in grave danger. We recognize their courage in providing facts and evidence under the most challenging of circumstances and remember those who have been killed in the course of the unprovoked aggression by Russia. Liechtenstein strongly condemns all threats, harassment, attacks, retaliation and reprisals against journalists, as well as their detention and imprisonment. In these situations as others on the Council’s agenda we hope to see the further implementation of Resolutions 1738 and 2222.

Madam Chair,

Liechtenstein is particularly concerned about the special restrictions and risks women journalists face. The recent developments in Afghanistan in this regard are highly alarming. The Taliban's new directive ordering female news anchors to cover their faces on air is yet another step in a campaign to remove women from public life. We have to impress on those exercising effective control in Afghanistan their obligations under international human rights law as an indispensable prerequisite for the recognition they seek. We also must insist on an "inclusive, negotiated political settlement, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women", in line with Security Council Resolution 2593.

Madam Chair,

Last year alone, 55 journalists and media professionals were killed, one third of them in countries affected by conflict. The killing of Shireen Abu Akleh in the Palestinian city of Jenin is but the latest example. Liechtenstein joins calls, including by the Security Council, for an immediate, thorough, transparent, and fair and impartial investigation. With the killings of nearly 90% of journalists since 2006 worldwide still unresolved, we remain concerned about the large impunity gap, and call for immediate, independent investigations of these crimes.

I thank you.