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**Медіа**  
Профспілка  
України

*October 25, 2022*

**To: IFJ Executive Committee**

**Dear colleagues,**

The National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU) and the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU) pay respect and thank for your constant support to Ukrainian journalists. Thanks to your understanding of the problems of war, we were able to launch a network of Journalists` Solidarity Centers, which provided assistance to hundreds of journalists.

We appreciate the support that the IFJ provides to Ukrainian journalists. Including those who are in danger in the occupied territories, who are subject to kidnapping, illegal arrests and other forms of pressure from the Russian military and the so-called "Russian occupation authorities". At the same time, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the IFJ member - the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ) has started creating its own branches in the occupied Ukrainian regions.

On October 24, 2022, the Russian Union of Journalists published news on its official website about the process of launching its branches in the Ukrainian occupied territories - Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. Such actions were a continuation of impunity on the part of the international community for opening a branch in illegally annexed Crimea.

Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions are Ukrainian territories. Branches of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine and the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine have long been established and functioning in these regions. The creation of RUJ`s branches on the territory of Ukraine is a serious violation of international law, an interference in the sphere of activity of the NUJU and IMTUU and should receive an immediate reaction from the IFJ.

It is worth noting that independent journalists cannot work in all these territories. All local journalists were forced to evacuate or hide. Russian soldiers are targeting media workers and forcing them to cooperate or leave the profession. There have even been cases of abduction of journalists and/or members of their families.

An important component of the Russian war against Ukraine is the information war. Russian propaganda has spread and continues to spread its narratives throughout the

world for decades. We see that one of the first actions during the occupation of Ukrainian territories was to disable access to independent media. At the same time, the Russian authorities are shutting down independent media organizations and canceling the accreditation of independent media, including world media.

In turn, the Russian Union of Journalists, as a member of the IFJ, does not see such actions as violations of fundamental rights and threats to freedom of speech. Moreover, this Union supports Russian propagandists and Russian pro-government figures.

Does a democratic country do that? - No. Can an independent, democratic journalistic organization support such actions of its government and military? - No. It is obvious that the actions of the Russian Union of Journalists in recent years violate the IFJ Constitution.

From the first days of the full-scale war, the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine and Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine informed the office of the IFJ about the improper actions of the Russian Union of Journalists. The majority of international organizations have already excluded Russian organizations from their membership, so as not to be influenced by the Russian lobby and not to damage the reputation of their organization.

The IFJ Global Congress in Oman made a number of important decisions. In an urgent statement 4 (***On current challenges of journalists in the world related to the war in Ukraine***), in particular it was «*The need for a serious discussion about what journalism is today and what a threat to the profession and to all mankind is the propaganda, disguised as journalism. In view of this, we focus the efforts of our executive bodies on the promotion of journalism standards, IFJ principles, the development of effective mechanisms for detecting propaganda, a clear separation of it and its disseminators from journalists and journalism*». (urg.4)

Then the Congress also expressed its support for the members of the Trade Union of Media Workers of Russia – «This congress expresses its support and solidarity with the Russian Journalists' and Media Workers' Union» (urg.5) Today we can also talk about the complete defeat of the trade union movement of the media in Russia, with the tacit consent of the RUJ, the Trade Union of Media Workers of Russia was liquidated.

In an urgent statement 5 (***RUSSIAN MISINFORMATION AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE***), in particular it was - «*Congress notes that allegations against constituent unions are investigated by the Executive Committee under the internal rules of the IFJ. Congress calls on the incoming executive to investigate all allegations lodged under these internal rules within two months of the receipt of competent complaints*».

We believe that the time for such a review is long overdue. The number of violations of the IFJ Constitution by the RUJ is becoming increasingly important, and members of the RUJ-propagandists went as far as calling for the killing of Ukrainian children on the air of Russian TV channels. Enough bullying Ukrainians! Enough mocking of journalism!

**The NUJU and the IMTUU urge you to start the process of expelled the Russian Union of Journalists from the IFJ membership because its actions do not longer meets the conditions of membership as set out in Article 4 of the IFJ Constitution (paragraph A, Article 15) and damage the interests of the Federation (paragraph B, Article 15).**

We are concerned that the presence of such a toxic member may have a negative effect on our global organization.

**Best regards,**

**NUJU President**



**Sergiy Tomilenko**

**IMTUU President**



**Serhii Shturhetsky**