

NUJ Delegate Meeting 2021

Draft Order Paper 22

Late Notice Motions – International – John Lister

Saturday May 22

Speaking Times; 3 minutes for movers and first opposition speakers
2 minutes all other speakers

Composite NEC will move **LNM 18**, amended in the following form

D

**(covering
LNMs 18
and 19)**

After “DM instructs the NEC to” (line 35) insert

“voice its concern to the TUC and the UK Foreign Office, and press for the immediate release of the arrested journalists, and”

Composite D will be put

LNM 30

LNM 30

NEC will move, as amended by itself, Photographers’ Council, and parts of Dublin Broadcasting, Derry & North West, Glasgow , West of Ireland and Irish South East

DM condemns in the strongest terms the deliberate targeting of journalists and media organisation by the Israeli forces as they stormed the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem on May 7th, which, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent, resulted in over 250 worshippers being injured.

DM notes that the attacks continued in the following days and spread to other cities. By May 12th, Israel carried out hundreds of air strikes in Gaza, killing at least 35, while Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups fired multiple rockets killing five Israelis. At the beginning of DM week, nearly 200 people in Gaza and 10 in Israel have been killed

DM joins the International Federation of Journalists in deploring the targeting of journalists, mainly photographers and videographers, by the Israeli police despite the fact that they were wearing and carrying press emblems identifying them as newsgatherers.

According to the Palestine Journalists’ Syndicate, some 15 journalists were shot by rubber bullets and stun grenades, some incurring serious injuries, while they covered events at Al Aqsa and at Sheikh Jarah, Bab Al Amoud and Wad El Joz. Others were injured while reporting on unfolding events at Camp Salem, North Jenine and Aqraba, South of Nablus. They are:

Mahmoud Aliane; Rajai Al Khateb; Diala Jawaihane; Misaa Abu Ghazala; Lewaa Abu Armeela; Ahmed As Sharif; Mustapha Al Kharoof; Rami Al Khateeb; Fayeez Abu

Armeelah; Nadir Bayarsee; Wahbi Mekeyah; Zeena Al Halwani, Layali Eid; Faras Ed Debs; and Ithar Abu Gharbia. At the beginning of DM week, the number of injured journalists throughout the West Bank and Gaza has climbed to 110 documented by the PJS.

DM shares the outrage of the IFJ and the PJS at Israel's wanton destruction of media offices and studios in Gaza, described by the union as targeted and deliberate and join them in their call that the Israel government must compensate these medias for their losses – on May 11th the Al Jawhara tower which hosted the offices of 13 media organisations was flattened down, followed by the destruction on May 13th of Al Shorouk tower housing 15 media organisations, and on May 15th the Al Jalaa tower housing the offices of Al Jazeera and Associate Press was razed to the ground. Israel's PM Benyamin Netanyahu described the tower as a "legitimate" target.

DM also shares outrage over the attack and destruction by Israel on 15 May of the Al-Jalaa tower which hosted the offices of the Associated Press (AP) and Al-Jazeera. Although notice was given which allowed for evacuation, there was not enough time to save much media equipment. Not only have journalists lost the building they worked in, they have lost many of the tools to do their job.

DM applauds the IFJ's lobbying of the Security Council meeting, with the support of its unions from the UK, Ireland and France, to demand that the UN takes immediate action to protect journalists.

DM deplors the one-sided statement by the UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Dominic Raab, which condemned the firing of rockets and ignored the horrendous violence against Palestinians meted out by the Israeli authorities and in particular their treatment of journalists and media.

DM notes that this response contrasted with the response of the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney who, in condemning the unacceptable loss of life in Gaza, reminded the Israeli ambassador to Ireland of Israel's obligation to adhere to international humanitarian law.

DM notes that for years the IFJ has made representation to the Israeli authorities regarding their deliberate attacks against journalists which the PJS now reports quarterly and annually. An NUJ delegation met with Israel's ambassador to the UK in 2019 only to be told that these were not journalists but propagandists.

The PJS 2020 annual report documented over 600 violations against journalists – 490 violations by the Israeli army and security forces, 76 cases in the Gaza Strip by Hamas' security forces and 42 attacks in the West Bank perpetrated by Palestinian security forces.

DM supports these efforts by the IFJ, in particular demands that its International Press Card is recognised by the Israeli authorities, and its work within UN agencies to continuously raise these attacks taking place in contravention of international law.

DM believes that it is unacceptable that Palestinian journalists should continue to endure almost daily physical attacks and humiliation just for doing their job, and that it is time to give them the support needed to put a stop to this impunity.

DM further instructs the NEC to back AP's calls for an independent inquiry into the attack by Israel on the Al-Jalaa tower, including what justification was there for the attack, what evidence there is that Hamas were using the building and what other options could have been taken other than destroying the building.

This DM condemns the multiple attacks on Israeli journalists, mainly by right-wing Israelis, for simply trying to do their jobs and a death threat issued against the Israeli television journalist Dana Weiss. It calls on all sides in the conflict to allow journalists to do their jobs."

Dublin Broadcasting will move remainder of **Dublin Broadcasting, Derry & North West, Glasgow , West of Ireland and Irish South East** amendment in the following form

Paragraph 10 delete from "DM notes" to "humanitarian law". Replace with:

DM agrees with the judgement of Al Jazeera Jerusalem Bureau Chief Walid al-Omari that "those who are waging this war do not only want to spread destruction and death in Gaza, but also to silence media that are witnessing, documenting and reporting the truth of what is happening in Gaza".

DM notes the recent finding by Human Rights Watch that the Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution.

In a report published last month Human Rights Watch concluded that Israel was fulfilling the legal definition of apartheid as set out in international laws.

It found that "the Israeli government has pursued an intent to maintain the domination of Jewish Israelis over Palestinians throughout the territory it controls. In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, that intent has been coupled with systematic oppression of Palestinians and inhumane acts committed against them".

It concluded that "when these three elements occur together, they amount to the crime of apartheid."

After paragraph 12 add:

DM believes that the role of the media is vital in ensuring that the truth of what is happening in the region is known. While journalists 'on the ground' are risking their lives, journalists closer to home must be supported in adhering to ethical reporting principals in the face of pressure from the Israeli government and lobby groups.

DM instructs the NEC to call on members to refuse paid junkets to Israel organised by the Israeli government or Israeli lobby groups and to support all members who resist pressure from Israel and its lobby groups.

It instructs the NEC to encourage journalists to do the following, and support journalists who do so:

- challenge biased and dehumanising editorial lines, and avoid the unprofessional and unethical repetition of propaganda terminology;
- use language that is grounded in international humanitarian and human rights law as used by the UN and authoritative human rights organisations in describing the context of the current conflict;
- ensure that the voices of those most affected by the aggression are at the centre of reporting.

Amendment will be put

LONDON CENTRAL will move its amendment

Amendment will be put

Motion as amended will be put

LNM 34 **LONDON FREELANCE** will move

Motion will be put

96 **LONDON FREELANCE** will move as amended by itself and NEC in the following form:

This Delegate Meeting welcomes LFB's letter of solidarity to Afghan journalists' unions in relation to the killing of 10 Afghan journalists in a single day on 30 April 2018 in Kabul by Taliban, and its efforts to draw the union's attention to the plights of journalists in Afghanistan. In view of the union's past campaign in support of journalists in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, the union has the capacity to render a supporting hand to beleaguered Afghan journalists.

This DM notes that decades of war and destruction in Afghanistan have brought that country to its knees. However, after the international intervention in the country post 9/11, vibrant, unbiased and professional media outlets have emerged from the rubbles of wars – the emergence of which is critical in the promotion of education, democracy, rule of law, human rights and a permanent peace in the country. Therefore, this DM believes that as a union of journalists we are morally and professionally obliged to help the fledgling Afghan media grow and thus engage with Afghan journalists to together look out for ways to protect Afghan media from attacks and help them mature.

This DM therefore instructs the NEC to explore the many ways it can work towards establishing a strategy that will enable the union to actively engage, while liaising with London Freelance Branch for the purpose stated above.

DM welcomes the effort made to bring together the organisations **that** represent journalists through building the Afghanistan Independent Journalist Association and the launching of a bold programme of work. This includes:

- (i) the setting up of a Coordination Committee tasked with coordinating mechanisms to enhance the security of journalists and the media;
- (ii) reviewing the 700 cases of attacks against journalists and sending completed cases to the prosecutor's office;
- (iii) creating guidelines for coverage of terrorist incidents and warfare;
- (iv) developing several Laws – Mass Media Law, Code of Ethics, Access to Information Act and presidential decrees – to tackle impunity, violence and threats against journalists;
- (v) establishing a Financial Fund for Journalists.

DM believes that Afghan journalists have fought very hard to defend their rights and set up structures to confront terror attacks against them and enhance their security and their medias. DM notes the massive engagement by many donors (the Afghan Journalist Safety Committee, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Afghanistan, Internews) and the work of women media groups. DM therefore instructs the NEC to monitor the needs of our sister unions and further developments to regroup organisations of journalists and raise awareness, whenever needed, for support and solidarity.

Motion as amended will be put

148 **SOC apologises that due to a clerical error in the production of Order Paper 18, delegates were wrongly informed that BMC had accepted the London Magazine amendment, and the motion was passed under SO3. SOC therefore recommends that this motion be reopened and the amendment debated**

BMC will move
LONDON MAGAZINE will move amendment
Amendment will be put
Motion as amended will be put

LNM 11 **SOC apologises for the omission from Order Paper 21 of the amendment from BMC, which was properly received and included in the list of LNM amendments. SOC recommends that the resulting vote was without a full discussion, and the motion should be reopened with the amendment properly moved and put.**

SOUTH YORKSHIRE will move as amended by Continental European Council
BMC will move its amendment
Amendment will be put

Motion as amended will be put

DM report and appendix will be put