**CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXILE OF JOURNALISTS IN THE AMERICAS AND ITS IMPACT ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) will prepare a report on the growing exile of journalists in the Americas, highlighting its impact on the right to freedom of expression and press, access to public information and democracy.

The objective of this report is to identify and make visible the underlying causes that drive journalists and communicators into exile, mainly related to violence and impunity and to the weakening of democratic institutions and the closure of civic spaces. It also aims to evaluate the impact of this trend on freedom of expression and other fundamental rights. In particular, the impact on diversity and pluralism of information and the right of access to information of public interest, due to the expansion of "zones of media silence". Finally, the report will formulate recommendations to the States to address these challenges.

In this context, the Office of the Special Rapporteur invites States, civil society organizations, journalists and the media, human rights defenders, researchers and academic institutions, and other interested persons to submit information they consider relevant on the subject.

In particular, the Rapporteurship would like to receive information on the following aspects:

In relation to the ***regional context of exile of journalists in the Americas***,

* Updated figures and statistics on the number of journalists displaced in the last 5 years, detailing the country and year.
* What are the observed trends in reasons for exile, and how have these trends varied over time.
* Particular impacts identified on women journalists, community and indigenous journalists, Afro-descendant journalists and other journalists who identify with other vulnerable groups.
* How do the numbers of exiled journalists in the Americas compare with other regions of the world, and what factors might explain these differences?

In relation to ***migration challenges***,

* What specific obstacles do journalists face when seeking legal documents such as passports and emergency visas?
* What support or barriers have journalists encountered at the embassies and consulates of both sending and receiving states when making asylum claims or seeking some form of complementary protection?
* What are the main ways in which home states are preventing or hindering the departure of journalists seeking exile?

In relation to ***international protection challenges***,

* Can you provide cases where international asylum law has not been adequately applied to journalists seeking protection?
* What administrative problems have journalists encountered when applying for asylum in host countries?
* Examples of restrictions and repression against journalists, including alerts to Interpol, blocking of communications, surveillance, funding restrictions, harassment, arbitrary detentions.

In relation to ***economic, sustainability and labor challenges*,**

* How have exiled journalists adapted to continue their journalistic work in a new economic and social environment?
* What specific resources and tools have been useful for exiled journalists to continue their investigative and reporting work?
* What is the emotional impact of exile on journalists and how are these issues being addressed?

In relation to ***best practices*,**

* Positive measures or good practices adopted by States to promote the safety of journalists in exile.
* Policies or programs that have proven to be effective in supporting journalists in exile.
* Examples of collaboration between States to facilitate the insertion of exiled journalists into local labor markets.
* Examples of effective strategies to maintain and foster networks of journalists and independent media in exile.

Regarding the ***impact of the exile of journalists on freedom of expression and the strengthening of democracy*,**

* What are the main impacts on the right to freedom of expression of the exodus of journalists from a country due to repression?
* How does the absence of journalists affect public debate and the quality of information available in your home country?
* What strategies have journalists in exile employed to continue reporting on their home country?

In connection with ***recommendations***,

* What concrete actions should States take to improve the protection of exiled journalists?
* What support mechanisms should the media and civil society establish to assist exiled journalists in defending their rights?
* What specific measures should the media take to address or mitigate negative impacts on the human rights of journalists in exile?
* What concrete actions could the international community be mandated to take to increase support for journalists in exile?

The questionnaire may be answered partially or completely, depending on the information available; research, reports, guides and other documents relevant to the topic may be submitted. The information should be concise, objective, with verifiable sources and up-to-date, and may include figures and statistics related to the topic.

The IACHR will receive from today until **May 10, 2024** the information sent to the e-mail CIDHexpresion@oas.org.

The information may be submitted in Spanish, English, French and/or Portuguese. The information must be concise, objective, with verifiable sources, and refer to events that have occurred in the last 5 years.

The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression is an office created by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to encourage the hemispheric defense of the right to freedom of thought and expression, considering its fundamental role in the consolidation and development of the democratic system.