



ANNIVERSARY



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NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS PENINSULAR MALAYSIA  
KESATUAN KEBANGSAAN WARTAWAN SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA  
馬來西亞半島新聞從業員職工會

May 7, 2019

His Excellency **António Guterres**  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
United Nations  
405 East 42nd Street,  
New York, NY10017 – USA  
Via email: [inquiries@un.org](mailto:inquiries@un.org)  
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cc. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO

[mediainquiries@who.int](mailto:mediainquiries@who.int)

Dear Secretary-General,

### **NUJ Malaysia calls on the UN to accredit Taiwanese journalists**

National Union of Journalists Peninsular Malaysia (NUJ) calls on the United Nations to authorize Taiwanese journalists to cover its events, including the General Assembly that opens on September 17 in New York and the World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 20, 2019.

NUJ urges the United Nations to let Taiwanese journalists cover its events, especially the 74th annual General Assembly that opens on September 17, in New York and the World Health Assembly in Geneva this May 20.

In recent years, the UN has been under Chinese pressure to turn down requests for press accreditation from Taiwanese nationals on the pretext that their passports are not recognized.

*“Accrediting Taiwanese journalists is not a political move, and it avoids unacceptable discrimination that contradicts all fundamental right to free information stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,”* said Christophe Deloire, secretary-general of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), who calls on the UN, *“to accredit all journalists of good faith, regardless of their nationality or the place of origin of their media.”*

The island of Taiwan, over which People’s Republic of China claims sovereignty, is the most populous state, with 23 million people that is not a UN member. Over the past years, China has been lobbying in every possible way to isolate Taiwan on the international stage, including preventing its journalists from doing their job.

In May, Taiwanese journalists were denied, for the second consecutive year, accreditation to cover the World Health Assembly hosted in Geneva by the World Health Organization. (<https://rsf.org/fr/actualites/un-and-who-deny-accreditation-taiwan-journalists>)

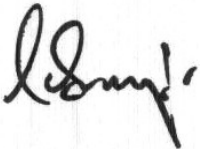
The same thing happened during the 2016 Triennial Assembly hosted by International Civil Aviation Organization, a specialized UN agency.

The NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS MALAYSIA calls on the UN to adhere to Article 19 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, return to its original policy of providing credentials to journalists irrespective of their nationality, and work to ensure that no journalists are denied access to major news events in the future.

The NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS MALAYSIA calls on the UN to set a high standard of press freedom and uphold basic journalistic rights by allowing our Taiwanese colleagues to attend and report on the World Health Assembly.

Therefore, we urge that the United Nations and the World Health Organisation accord equal treatment and issue press credentials to Taiwanese journalists for the World Health Assembly in the future, so as to ensure that news reporting can operate normally, free from political interference that would trample on the precious spirit of freedom and autonomy of the press.

Sincerely,



**CHIN SUNG CHEW**

General Secretary

**NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS MALAYSIA**