



ANNIVERSARY



1962 - 2017

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

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

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
Tel: (+ 1) (212) 963-9999 Fax: 00 212-963-7055

cc. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO

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 18 in New York and the World Health Assembly in Geneva next spring.

NUJ urges the United Nations to let Taiwanese journalists cover its events, especially the 73rd annual General Assembly that opens on September 18, in New York and the World Health Assembly in Geneva next spring.

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, the equivalent of Australia, 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.

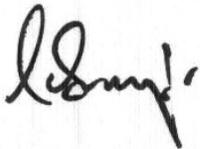
In May, Taiwanese journalists were denied, for the fourth consecutive year, accreditation to cover the World Health Assembly (<https://rsf.org/fr/actualites/un-and-who-deny-accreditation-taiwan-journalists>) hosted in Geneva by the World Health Organization. The same thing happened during the 2016 Triennial Assembly hosted by International Civil Aviation Organization (<https://rsf.org/en/news/rsf-denounces-icao-discrimination-against-taiwanese-journalists-denied-accreditation-cover-tri>), 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