

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Blinken,

As the UN General Assembly convenes this week, we write to urge you and the U.S. delegation to advocate for the establishment of the position of Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Safety of Journalists.

Every day, around the world, courageous journalists regularly put themselves in harm's way in pursuit of truth and accountability. They accept risks to their lives in service to the public. They are a check on the powerful and those that abuse their authority. Protecting the freedom and safety of the press to carry on this vital work is a fundamental American value and worthy of promotion on the international stage.

Unfortunately, journalists today face grave threats across the globe. Over the last decade, at least 910 journalists have been murdered around the world, and there were 488 arbitrarily detained journalists as of the end of 2021.¹

A UN Special Envoy focused on efforts to protect journalists would provide leadership and inject urgency into efforts to promote international press freedom and facilitate programming and resources to protect journalists around the world. This position could play an important role facilitating information about threats to journalists, investigating threats and acts of violence against media professionals, and coordinating actions among UN member states to protect journalists from violence and intimidation and to promote the freedom of the press.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jen Ossoff
United States Senator

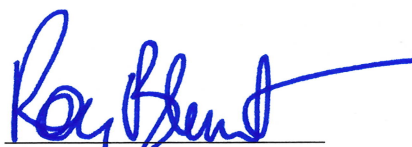


Thom Tillis
United States Senator

¹ Reporters Without Borders, June 2022



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator