

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2023

The Honorable Chris Coons
Chair
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Coons and Ranking Member Graham,

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs legislation, we write to request robust funding for programs that support press freedom and the safety of journalists and media workers.

Every day, courageous journalists around the world put themselves in harm's way in pursuit of truth and accountability. They help inform and educate citizens and shine a light on abuses of power. It is in our national interest and consistent with American values to stand up for press freedom and the safety of journalists.

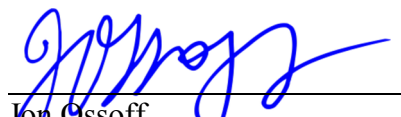
Unfortunately, journalists continue to face threats to their safety with an average of more than 80 journalists killed every year since 2003.¹ Attacks on journalists and press freedom deny the public access to information needed to make informed decisions and hold their leaders accountable.

The State Department and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) play a crucial role in supporting journalist safety and access to information. U.S. government assistance helps protect journalists in some of the most dangerous and repressive places.

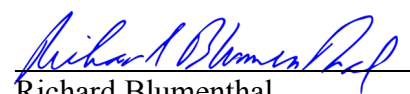
We therefore ask that you include specific funding in State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and USAID's Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance accounts for journalist safety. This includes robust funding for direct emergency grants to aid journalists when they are at risk such as covering their medical expenses and legal representation, trial monitoring, temporary relocation, equipment replacement, and other emergency expenses.

The United States should lead global efforts to protect journalists from violence and intimidation and to promote the freedom of the press. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

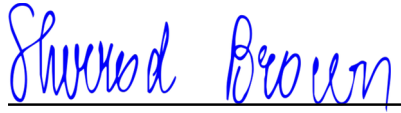


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

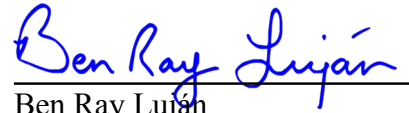
¹ <https://rsf.org/en/1668-journalists-killed-past-20-years-2003-2022-average-80-year>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



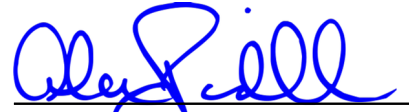
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



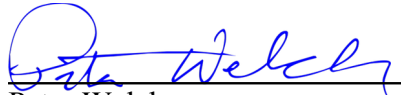
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



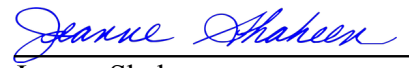
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



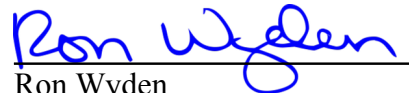
Peter Welch
United States Senator



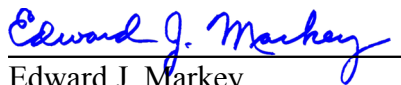
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510