



THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF SOUTH ASIA

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Member: International Association of Press Clubs IAPC
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Celebrating Our 67th Year

12 August 2024

H E Dr Muhammad Yunus
Head of Interim Government of Bangladesh
Dhaka
Bangladesh.

Your Excellency,

The New Delhi-based Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCCSA), Press Club of India (PCI), Indian Women's Press Club (IWPC), Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA, India), Press Association, and the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents (IAFAC) are seriously worried over reports of attacks on journalists, print, online and television media outlets, and Press Clubs in Dhaka, Chattogram and elsewhere in Bangladesh over the last few days.

Some journalists have reportedly been killed, too. And many journalists have reportedly gone into hiding. There have been relentless threats and intimidation not only by anti-social elements but also by some responsible officials.

As Nobel Peace Laureate, we are sure that you share with us the beliefs that crimes against journalists and media houses have an enormous adverse impact on society as a whole. A free press helps people take informed decisions. It is fundamental to recognise the importance of free, independent, plural and diverse media and access to information, online as well as offline, in building inclusive democracies.

We, therefore, urge you to take effective measures to protect journalists and media workers and prevent violence, threats, and attacks against them. It is highly imperative for your government to conduct impartial, speedy, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all violence and punish the guilty.

We also request you to ensure that political leaders, public officials, and government authorities refrain from denigrating, intimidating or threatening the media, including individual journalists and media workers, or from using communal or any discriminatory language that undermine trust in the credibility of journalists as well as respect for the importance of independent journalism.

Yours faithfully,

S. Venkat Narayan

S Venkat Narayan
President, The Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCCSA)
The Press Club of India (PCI)
Commonwealth Journalists' Association (CJA-India)
Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC)
Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents (IAFAC)
Press Association (Govt of India-Accredited Correspondents)