

United Nations Correspondents Association

~Journalism~

Committee Name: United Nations Correspondents Association- Journalism

Agenda:

1. Reporting on the Conference
2. Analysing the role of media in the Arab Spring with a special emphasis on the Tunisian revolution in light of the media blackout following the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi.

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ذا الشعب يوماً أراد الحياة
فلا بد أن يستجيب القدر

When the people will to live, Destiny must surely respond.

-Abul-Qacem Echebbi, Tunisian poet

The Arab Spring began, as most revolutions often do: with silence. In December 2010, when Mohamed Bouazizi set himself ablaze in Sidi Bouzid, the Tunisian state attempted to erase the radical act of self-immolation from public memory through an aggressive media blackout. What followed exposed a fundamental tension at the heart of modern political power: the desire of authoritarian regimes to control narratives, and the growing impossibility of doing so in a digitised world.

The blackout was no longer a barrier but a provocation. The Tunisian Revolution demonstrated that control over territory no longer guaranteed control over meaning. Power struggled to keep pace with a media ecology that was fragmented, transnational, and resistant to central authority. This dynamic reverberated across the region, inspiring movements in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and beyond. Tunisia became both a political and communicative blueprint for revolt. This agenda asks delegates to examine the media not as a neutral backdrop to revolution, but as a contested site of power. Bouazizi's act exposed not only economic precarity but a deeper democratic deficit, where grievance had no lawful channel.

Reporting:

The UNCA journalists' various committee sessions will be divided into writing sessions and crisis sessions. During writing sessions, the journalists will be expected to work on their allotted article pieces. Whereas, in crisis sessions, journalists will need to deliberate and debate upon the crisis at hand, and will need to come up with solutions for the same.

1. Agencies & Biases:

Every journalist is allotted a news agency, which becomes their portfolio for the rest of the conference. Journalists are obligated to adopt the bias of their news agency throughout reporting and committee sessions, which depends on several factors such as ownership, political affiliations, and the country in which their news agency is based. Admitting one's bias goes against the ethics of journalism; hence, no news agency can ever own up to being prejudiced, which provides news agencies a nuance most other portfolios lack.

2. Article Types:

Over the three days of the conference, journalists will be mandated to compose a myriad of articles of varied kinds. For example: Position Papers, Feature pieces, Analytical and Counter Analytical pieces, Opinion Editorials, Press Conference critiques, Beats, Case Studies,

3. Press conference:

UNCA's journalists also have the unique opportunity to conduct press conferences, where they interrogate the delegates of their allotted sub-committees. Here, they possess the power to hold the delegates accountable. By posing critically thought-out questions on pertinent issues. Journalists are expected to garner solidarity towards their bias through the press conference proceedings.

4. Newsletter and Blog:

The UNCA publishes three editions of the newsletter during each SMUN, each of which includes media chosen based on their proficiency. Furthermore, every submission received by the Executive Board is posted on the UNCA blog to ensure that all delegates can review one another's work.