



RES/42/49

Staff Council

Freedom of Expression

WHEREAS, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers;

WHEREAS, the accredited media of the United Nations and other media worldwide perform an essential public service of transmitting information about the United Nations to the world public;

WHEREAS, the media also provide an important function of informing the general public of problems and areas for improvement within the Organization, and assist the Member States, the Officials and the general public to hold the United Nations accountable for the funds provided and the mandates entrusted to it;

WHEREAS, the actions taken by United Nations personnel in the UNMIN area of operations to limit the freedom of the media wishing to cover the recent tragic air accident in Nepal resulted in condemnation by the Nepal journalists federation;

THE STAFF COUNCIL SO RESOLVES:

That Officials of the United Nations, including those of the Funds, Programmes, and Specialized Agencies, should respect the freedom of the press and should not take steps to inhibit such freedom through censorship, harassment, intimidation, or punishment, or the threat or implication thereof.

Adopted	Yes
For	18
Against	0
Abstention	0