June 2, 2020

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee Statement

The Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan (FCCJ) expresses its firm solidarity with journalists in the USA who according to a report on June 1 by Nieman Journalism Lab have been attacked by police "more than 100 times" in the past four days.

"It's becoming clear that attacks by police on journalists are becoming a widespread pattern, not one-off incidents," the report stated. "While violence against press-credentialed reporters covering the protests may still be dwarfed by violence against the American citizens who are protesting, incidents are piling up and are getting more attention in part because the journalists being attacked include those from large mainstream news organizations."

The Chartered Institute of Journalists (CIoJ) in London has meanwhile condemned what it describes as "the outrageous arrest" of a CNN news crew covering the protests in Minneapolis, USA following the death of George Floyd.”

CIoJ President Professor Tim Crook (a longstanding expert and author of books on international media law) said in a May 29 statement that: “The public humiliation of a professional news team is one of the most blatant and outrageous attacks on freedom of the media that we have seen in a long time.”

The CIoJ, he added "stands in solidarity with those CNN journalists so improperly arrested and completely agree with CNN when they complain such behaviour means that "free and fair gathering of the news is arrested too."

The FCCJ likewise stands in solidarity with journalists in the US and elsewhere against attacks on legitimate and essential press freedoms.

Freedom of the Press Committee
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