

公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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FoP Statement on Dismissal of Selina Cheng

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan expresses deep concern about the sacking of reporter Selina Cheng by the Wall Street Journal soon after she became chair of the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA).

Cheng says she was asked by her managers to avoid taking the HKJA position because it would be "incompatible" with her employment and she should not be advocating for press freedom.

The WSJ has previously said Cheng's dismissal was due to "restructuring". Cheng had been at the journal for after over two years.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/article/2024/jul/17/wall-street-journal-fires-new-chair-of-hong-kong-journalists-association>

Cheng's alma mater, the Columbia Journalism School notes that the WSJ has asked the global community to take a stand on press freedom in campaigning for the release of its Moscow correspondent, Evan Gershkovich, who is imprisoned in a Russian jail.

"This is why I am deeply shocked that senior editors at the paper would actively violate their employees' human rights, by preventing them from advocating for freedoms the Journal's reporters rely on to work, in a place where journalists and their rights are under threat,' Cheng wrote."

With press freedom under threat across the world, the global news media should be firm and consistent in their support of journalists and journalism organizations, says a statement from the school.

<https://journalism.columbia.edu/news/cjs-statement-selina-cheng-wsj>

Press freedoms in Hong Kong have fallen to 135th in the world, according to Reporters Without Borders. The FCCJ's sister organization, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, has been forced to suspend its annual Human Rights Press Awards due to concerns it might violate the security law.

The FCCJ calls on the WSJ to unambiguously fly the flag for press freedom, wherever it is under threat. As we have previously done, we also demand the release of Gershkovich, who was outrageously sentenced this month to 16 years in a penal colony following a secret trial.

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee