

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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Freedom of the Press Statement

Nov 15, 2021

Release Journalist Danny Fenster

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan unequivocally condemns the imprisonment of US journalist Danny Fenster in Myanmar. We note that Fenster's sentence of 11 years was decided in a closed military court without the semblance of due process. The decision has been rightly condemned as a "travesty of justice" by Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch, Asia, one designed to "intimidate all remaining journalists inside Myanmar."

In February, the FCCJ issued a joint statement with the foreign correspondents' clubs of Thailand, Jakarta and Taiwan expressing deep concern about the intimidation and harassment of journalists by the Myanmar government. This call appears to have been ignored. The United Nations notes that over 120 journalists and media workers have been detained since the coup of February 1st in Myanmar.

We call on the government of Myanmar to release Fenster and all journalists arrested while working in the country, and to respect the rights of media workers to do their jobs. We again support the call by the Committee to Protect Journalists to the junta authorities to cease and desist harassing, detaining and threatening the media.

The Freedom of the Press Committee

joint statement

<https://www.fccj.or.jp/sites/default/files/2021-02/FOP%20Statement%20Joint%20Statement%20by%20FCCs%20and%20Associations%20on%20the%20situation%20in%20Myanmar%2020210224.pdf>