



ALABAMA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE XII

Press Corps

PRESS COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE EVENTS

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Delegates,

My name is Carington Gaskin and I will be serving as your Under-Secretary-General of Press Corps. If this were a normal structure for a committee, you might understand me as your Chair. A little about me, I am a Sophomore from Montgomery, Alabama. Last year, I served as the Assistant-USG of Press Corps.

I am excited for Press Corps this year and allowing delegates the opportunity to experience Model United Nations from a different perspective. Delegates should be expecting a fun, new look at the conference and ready to help document the whole conference. Each delegate will be assigned a news agency in order to write articles and submit posts for social media. Otherwise, each delegate will also be able to help capture pictures and videos which will be used in a Closing Ceremonies video.

I am very proud of the opportunity I was given to organize this committee and am very excited to work with each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

Carington Gaskin

USG of Press Corps

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COMMITTEE HISTORY

ALMUN Press Corps is modeled after the United Nations Correspondents Association.

“The United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) was founded in 1948 at Lake Success on Long Island where the United Nations was temporarily located.

At the time, the United Nations had 56 member nations. UNCA started with fifty members, mostly representatives of American and Canadian media. The first president of UNCA was an American John G. Rogers, correspondent for the New York Tribune.

The relationship between the United Nations Correspondents Association, as the organization representing the United Nations press corps, and the Secretary-General is based on an agreement dated, September 16th, 1995 and embodied in the UNCA constitution.

As the role and the influence of the United Nations grew in the world, the number of correspondents also grew.

From its inception, UNCA worked to bring correspondents, members of diplomatic delegations and the Department of Public Information together by organizing press conferences, social functions, luncheons and an annual awards event.

Among the eminent guest of UNCA were King Hussein of Jordan, Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba, Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev of the USSR, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, Polish leader Edward Gierek, French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, the presidents of General Assemblies and the Secretaries-General.

After the death of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold in a plane crash in Ndola, Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) on 17 September 1961, UNCA established the Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Scholarship Fund, which annually awards several young journalists from developing countries a stipend to visit the United Nations to cover the General Assembly.

In 1992, the UNCA Executive Committee established the global media awards for excellence in UN coverage to journalists from around the world including Africa, Asia, the Arab world, and Latin America. The annual UNCA Awards is held annually in December in New York.

The United Nations Correspondents Association is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) in the State of New York.

The United Nations Correspondents Association is recognized annually in a resolution adopted by the General Assembly under the mandate of the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, known as The Committee on Information. In its 2013 resolution, the General Assembly commended the United Nations Correspondents Association for its ongoing activities.”

The purpose of including Press Corps in your MUN experience at ALMUN is to offer a new perspective to the entire delegate experience. Press Corps will be documenting the conference in the perspective of international news agencies in order to give the entire delegation a look into the debate happening in the other committee sessions. Also, Press Corps will be adding Press Releases to the experience this year. Press Corps will be working with General Assembly Chairs and Co-Chairs to

deliver updates on the topics to help steer debate into other directions and also add crisis elements to the General Assembly committees.

FORMS OF MEDIA

Written Content

At ALMUN, the majority of the work Press Corps does is written content. The articles written should be short yet informative and entertaining. The articles should include quotes from delegates and relevant information that other committees would be interested in seeing. The basic questions that should be addressed in almost any article include the following: What's happening? Who are the key players in the situation? What are the ramifications of the actions of the committee? Is there apparent or underlying agreement or dissent?

Photography

All Press Corps personnel are encouraged to take pictures to accompany their articles. These pictures should be submitted to your chair as soon as possible in order for them to be reviewed and placed in the paper.

Video

In addition to photography, ALMUN's Press Corps committee is in charge of providing a video for closing ceremonies on Sunday. Press Corps personnel are to use their smartphones or cameras to capture this footage. Any footage taken should be turned in to the chair as soon as possible!

Press Releases

This year, ALMUN will be working with General Assembly committees to add Press Releases to the GA experience. At the conference, you will work the USG-Press Corps to create a Press Release

RULES AND PROCEDURES

- Press Corps personnel are allowed electronics. Electronics must stay in the pressroom at all times unless permission has been granted to carry a phone around for photos or video. You are not allowed to have your laptop in the committee rooms. Remember to bring a notebook and pen/pencil for all notes taken during a committee session.
- Press members should adhere to all other rules of the conference.
- Press members should also follow the following rules:
 - Press members MUST listen to the direction of all chairs!
 - Press members MUST leave the committee room before ALL voting procedures commence.
 - Press members are not to wander the halls of the conference venue.

PREPARATION

Press Corps members should be familiar with each committee's topics as well as their news outlet's views. While I understand that is more preparing than expected, just reading each background guide should prove to be sufficient! You just need to be familiar enough with the topics to understand what is being discussed in a committee session. Also, you are expected to do more extensive research on the topic of your Press Release in order to write a sufficient Press Release for your General Assembly committee. You will be given your specific assignment during the first day of the conference. Included in this Background Guide is a little bit of information about all of the news agencies. Even though I have included just a bit of information, you are expected to research more about the agency and the country's press laws.

Each delegate is allowed to bring a laptop. We will have a computer lab plenty of computers to use, however, so do not feel forced to bring a laptop. If you have a camera that you would like to bring to take pictures, you are more than welcome to do so. You will be responsible for your own belongings however. I will try to have at least one camera and one video camera for the conference that can be used by delegates. Please email me if you know you will be able to bring a camera!

Please also remember to bring the following things:

- Notebook and writing utensil
- Any research done on committee topics or news agencies.
- A positive attitude!

AWARDS

For Press Corps, we will have two awards. The awards will be based on performance throughout all committee sessions and the quality of the works produced. The first award will be Best Reporter. It will be determined by the delegate's writing ability and their ability to synthesize logical arguments. The second award will be the Best News Group. This award will be determined by the delegate's ability to represent their news outlet most accurately.

AGENCY BACKGROUNDS

When discussing the different new agencies around the world, it is important to consider the laws in place in those countries that result in the amount of freedom of the press as well as the political bias of the agency. Below, I have included those two pieces of information as well as anything I found that should be highly considered when you are writing your articles. Once you have received your assignment, I expect that you also do research on your agency to learn more about the laws of the country regarding press and what these political biases mean.

POTENTIAL NEWS AGENCIES:

The New York Times: US

Free press
Political bias: liberal

Le Monde: France

Free Press
Political bias: liberal

Daily Mail: UK

Free Press
Political bias: conservative

Pravda: Russia

Not Free Press
Political bias: leftist

People's Daily: China

Not Free Press
Communist Party affiliation

Die Welt: Germany

Free Press
Political Bias: conservative

El Pais: Spain

Free Press
Political Bias: liberal

Times of India: India

Partly Free Press
Political Bias: conservative

Corriere della Sera: Italy

Partly Free Press
Political Bias: centrist, liberalism

Aftonbladet: Sweden

Free Press
Political Bias: left-wing
Keep in mind: Aftonbladet is categorized as a tabloid!

The Sunday Times: South Africa

Partly Free Press
Political Bias: conservative

Dawn: Pakistan

Not Free Press
Political Bias: Centrist

Financial Tribune: Iran

Not Free Press
Political Bias: center right

Herald Sun: Australia

Free Press
Political Bias: conservative
Keep in mind: Herald Sun is categorized as a tabloid!

Korea Times: South Korea

Partly Free Press
Political Bias: independent

Japan Times: Japan

Free Press
Political Bias: independent
centrist

El Sol de Mexico: Mexico

Not Free Press
Political Bias: conservative

Calgary Herald: Canada

Free Press
Political Bias: conservative

Al-Raya: Qatar

Not Free Press
Pro-government stance