

# Study Guide

For the  
**International Press Corps**



Chairs:

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## 1. Welcome Letter

Distinguished delegates,

Welcome to KAMUN 2022!

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the International Press Corps. The IPC has the profound ability to bring journalists together and influence the whole atmosphere of an MUN conference. As your chairs, we are glad to present you with this study guide with the hope it will serve as a vital tool for you as delegates and newspaper representatives.

During the conference days, you will have the ability to not only influence your fellow journalists, but entire committees and the conference as a whole. As such, for this committee to have the power and relevance it deserves we need bold, passionate, creative, and persistent delegates.

As members of the press corps, you are encouraged to question the status quo, and reflect upon political statements, also bringing attention to topics that might be forgotten and/or neglected in the discussions - but remember to always stay in character!

As your chair, we have been part of different IPC committees throughout the years, and we will do our best to advise you on how to bring in meaningful news while having lots of fun at this Conference!

We would also like to make ourselves available for any questions, doubts, and/or comments that you may have in the research process.

We will see you all very soon!

Diplomatic Regards,

Manuela Ramos Barroso  
Jonas Simorangkir

## 2. Introduction to the International Press Corps

### a) Importance of Journalism and Historical Background

To investigate, tell stories, and truthfully report: those are all crucial aspects of journalism that have been shaping our communities since their foundation. For centuries, journalism has been responsible for the examination of events and happenings worldwide, broadcasting not only “news” but also different opinions and data collected to the most different countries, cultures, and regions.

Known as “the fourth pillar of democracy”, its history goes back to the Roman Empire, with Julius Caesar, and the creation of the *Roman Acta* - the first known newspaper produced in Western Civilizations. Further in history, the press has extended its importance through all the most remarkable events and human achievements, finding itself, now, renewed and transformed by a globalized age, led by the internet, social media, and “fake news”.

The importance of journalism, and its power, can be easily demonstrated by an analysis of how newspapers and online platforms have been shaping mentalities throughout centuries. As known, those vehicles, by presenting different perspectives and approaches to reality, can make entire populations question themselves by using shocking headlines, and strong opinion pieces.

To live in a world without journalism means to deny one of your main characteristics as human beings, communication. To have freedom of press and expression means to promote universal human rights, together with one of the biggest foundations of global democracies. It is a way to give power to the people, and, most importantly, to give a voice to those who have something to say.

The fear of political exposure and opposition, nonetheless, has instigated many prosecutive and undemocratic actions by different governments and powerful figures. The prosecution and murder of journalists have always been a huge problem faced internationally, questioning the human ability to deal with criticism and data questioning. According to the NGO Reporters Without Borders, in 2021, a total of 46 journalists were killed, and 488 are imprisoned. The numbers have never been this high since RWB began publishing its annual round-up in 1995, having never previously registered so many female journalists in prison. Those numbers make us question again the true meaning of journalism, together with its power to destabilize societies and our traditional aspects and values. As stated by Christophe Deloire, RWB's Secretary General, “It is a reflection of the reinforcement of dictatorial power worldwide, an accumulation of crises, and the lack of any scruples on the part of these regimes. It may also be the result of new geopolitical power relationships in which authoritarian regimes are not being subjected to enough pressure to curb their crackdowns.”

### b) Role as Journalist - Form vs Format

A journalist always to keep in mind the two main pillars of reporting. The first one, the form, relates to how the writer is going to approach the topic in question, using data and its knowledge to either support or criticize the happening. The form must be in accordance with the newspaper beliefs and ideology, and it must present the topic in the clearest way possible, avoiding ambiguity and misinformation.

The second pillar, the format, must also be in accordance with the newspaper, but differently from the form, it is not about the content but instead, about the visual presentation of the text

(if it is visually clean, printable, etc). In the IPC, the format of the texts may vary in different newspapers but all of them should follow the base given in this Study Guide.

### 3. Functioning of the Committee

#### a) IPC Director

The committee directors are responsible for leading and coordinating the press team. Their role involves moderating the debates made within the committee, deciding which delegates cover which committee during the sessions, and reviewing received press articles before publishing them.

#### b) Delegates

The delegates are expected to represent a single news agency throughout the entire conference. As such, they must represent the policies, ideologies, and written/spoken style of their newspaper when debating during committee sessions, interacting with delegates within and outside of the press corps committee (i.e., during interviews), and when writing articles. They are expected to produce articles based on or commenting on the events taking place in their allocated committee and send their pieces to the press corps director.

#### c) Position Paper

In order to familiarize yourself with your role in advance, you are asked to submit a Position Paper before the conference starts. Your Position Paper should include:

1. The history of the newspaper (when was it born, what were the circumstances, etc.).
2. The ideology of the newspaper (what is its main focus, what kind of political ideology is involved, etc.).
3. Your general expectations for the conference (how do you plan to act during the conference, what is your strategy going to be to get assigned to a specific committee, etc.).

Remember to start your Position Paper with the followings:

**Committee:**

**News Agency:**

**Name of Delegate:**

Your Position Paper should be written in Times New Roman (12 pt.). Justify the text of your paragraphs so that both sides have straight edges.

Please do not exceed one page.

Only delegates who will have submitted their position paper on time will be considered eligible for awards.

#### d) Committee schedule

The first session of the conference will involve a Press workshop, where delegates can get to know each other and ask questions to the chairs. Later on, they will introduce their news agencies for the first time via the general speaker's list so that every member of the Press knows which is the ideology of the other Press agencies. After this brief introduction, the delegates will be directed to their own committee, which will remain during the entire conference.

### e) Press conferences

The IPC delegates have the ability to host Press conferences. Before a Press Conference, the chairs of the committee will have to rapidly brief the press delegates on what is going on in their debate, also having the opportunity to suggest some questions to be asked to shake up the debate. Next, the chairs of the Press corps will declare the Press conference open and will let the journalists intervene orderly, giving them the possibility to ask questions on the debate to whichever delegate they want to.

The Press conference shall last no more than 30 minutes. Afterwards, each journalist who has participated in it shall write a brief article of about 100 words on what he/she has discovered during the Press conference.

## 4. Content and guidelines

Each day, the delegate's articles will be published by the chair. These articles **must** be written under the criteria and ideology of the media outlet represented and provide relevant information to the committee.

Press delegates are expected to send in work throughout the day and adhere to the expected *minimum* of **one full article** (at least half-page long) and **two breaking news and/or press releases** each day.

### a) News reports

A straightforward, accurate, and seemingly unbiased relay of events or information. Its purpose is to notify the reader about the current events happening around the world. The structure of the News reports is called an *Inverted Pyramid*. Starts with a catchy headline, followed by the lead paragraph that answers the 5Ws rule, the body gives more accurate information about the event and the tail closes the overall report with some final statements.

### b) Opinion pieces

A brief article that mainly reflects the author's opinion about a subject supported by facts, figures, and statistics. Introduce the issue with a narrative body to make it catchy and interesting for the reader. The introduction is essential, explaining in detail the concepts in order to avoid confusion.

### c) Featured articles

An in-depth exploration of an issue. They can be opinionated, according to the policy of your news agency, and have a less formal tone. It's essential to be well prepared about the topic or subject of the article because the key role is in the detail of the information that the article offers.

### d) Interviews

Structured conversation is the result of a meeting between the journalist and the subject of the interviews. By following a sequence of questions to the interview, the journalist will collect information about the themes that have been decided previously to the interview. Face-to-face interviews help create a connection and avoid misunderstanding in the communication process.

### e) Press releases and breaking news

Press releases are brief yet compelling news statements that provide essential information about a specific event. This includes the 5 Ws (who? what? where? when? how? and why?), quotes, and sources.

The release *may* add extra crisis-like information by reporting human rights violations, discoveries about military movements, new alliances between countries, or other information relevant to a committee. However, this needs to be well researched and **approved by the chair of the committee** in question before being published to avoid malfunctioning of the committee itself. If the chair of the committee believes the information can be published to spice things up in the debate, the press delegate will be able to release it as **breaking news**.

### f) social media

The use of social media to publish and promote your articles is authorized as long as the Chairs are informed. Social media usage can include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok. Please remember to stay in line with your news agency's outlet.

## 5. The news agencies

The Press Corps committee is a special committee that deals with news media agencies from all around the globe. With many political and ideological figures from all the width of the spectrum, it is important to define and hear each other's position on the matter. For each newspaper, there is a power to speak and write his own words and perhaps inform and influence the future of the conference.

### Newsagents & Initial Background

#### a) Stuart Keynes Jr.

- **Committee:** Economic and Financial Committee
- **Date of Birth:** 22nd of January 1947
- **Country of Origin:** Texas, U.S
- **Country of Residence:** Washington, DC, U.S
- **Newspaper:** Fox News Republican (Right-Wing) Approach – US News  
Created by Rupert Murdoch and addressed to a conservative audience, Fox News was launched in 1996, and became, in the 90s, the dominant subscription news network in the United States. In 2018, its outreach covered more than 87 million households and, in 2022 it was the most watched cable news network in the United States. Fox News political approach can be well summarized by their slogan "America's Needs. And Much More". The network is a powerful force in Republican politics and the role of the media and mainly Fox news is instrumental in US politics and the country's foreign affairs.
- **Bloc Position and Affiliation:**
  - U. S. Centralized
- **Agenda:**  
Defined by some as "unfavourable for the integrity of news overall", Fox News reports in favour of the Republican Party and its interests, while portraying in a bad light the Democratic Party. As described by the journalist, Philip Bump, from the Washington Post, „there are four elements that make Fox News a uniquely damaging part of the American news landscape: its strength on the political right, the demonstrated way in which it shapes its viewers' beliefs, its grip on Republican power and the views of its leadership". Fox News employees, however, argue the opposite, arguing in favour of their independence of opinion and commentary, and denying bias in their news reporting.

## b) Camille Antoinette

- **Committee:** Economic and Financial Committee
- **Date of Birth:** 06th of April 1996
- **Country of Origin:** Lille, France
- **Country of Residence:** New York, US
- **Newspaper:** The Intercept

The Intercept is a non-profit news organization founded in 2014 by Pierre Omidyar with the support of the left-wing journalists Jeremy Scahill and Glenn Greenwald, and the documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras. The news outlet supports independent creators and many of its articles are written by freelance journalists.

In the past decade, the Intercept's investigative style of journalism has stood out to the public, coming under scrutiny especially from the United States government. In 2014, the FBI launched an investigation into how many classified documents came into being in possession of the news outlet. Later in that same year, the newspaper published an article claiming a supposed ban by the US military, which was impeding their "employees from visiting The Intercept in an apparent effort to censor news reports that contain leaked government secrets".

- **Bloc Position and Affiliation**

The Intercept's content focuses on domestic U.S politics and policy from a far-left perspective. Its coverage of national security has a strong pro-Russian and anti-American view, and they are also very focused on scepticism towards the American overseas intervention and the governments' use of secret information in national operations.

- **Agenda**

As briefly mentioned, the Intercept's goal is to hold the big players accountable through adversarial and investigative journalism. Its in-depth analysis is mostly focused on politics, surveillance, anti-terrorism, war, corruption, technology, the environment, criminal justice, and the media.

The news agency also has a strong environmental socialism agenda, which becomes evident when analysing their claims "there is nothing essential about humans living under capitalism" and "capitalism is a tiny blip in the collective story of our species." They also give their journalists the editorial freedom and legal support they need to expose corruption and injustice wherever they find it.

## c) Munsee Abenakis

- **Committee:** Arctic Council
- **Date of Birth:** 20th November 1989
- **Country of Origin:** Canada
- **Country of Residence:** Alaska, U.S
- **Newspaper:** GwichIN Daily (Fictional)

Founded in 2007, the GwichIN Daily is a news outlet created in Yellowknife, Canada by two members of the Gwich'in Council International. The Gwich'in people are among the most northern Indigenous peoples in North America, living in the northwestern limits of the boreal forest. They are a resilient and self-sufficient nation in the Arctic, whose territory is bisected by the Canada-USA border. The Gwich'in community in the past few years have been using the news out as a way to advocate for their own rights, holding liable several actors that have been exploiting the Arctic region.

"Being Gwich'in means strength and resilience, a strength that is not only physical but spiritual and has been passed down from my ancestors before me (...); the Gwich'in culture comes from such a strong heritage, that we are capable of achieving anything"  
- Laura Wallis-John, a Gwich'in Athabascan nurse currently living in Fairbanks, Alaska



- **Bloc Position and Affiliation**

GwichIN Daily collaborates closely with the Arctic States, Working Groups and other Permanent Participants regarding circumpolar relations and the maintenance and celebration of the indigenous culture and resistance. The news outlet's main goal is "to enforce the cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic".

- **Agenda**

As aforementioned, the GwichIN Daily has a particular interest in the environment and sustainable development to support resilient indigenous communities. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is deeply important to the news outlet and community, who fight not only to protect their territory but also to preserve their culture and traditions.

#### d) Ivan Sergei Tomsk

- **Committee:** Arctic Council
- **Date of Birth:** 07 October 1969
- **Country of Origin:** Moscow, Russia
- **Country of Residence:** Moscow, Russia
- **Newspaper:** Sputnik

Sputnik News is a state-controlled news agency and radio broadcast service created by the Russian government in 2014. The agency defines itself as oriented towards global politics and economics and aims for an international audience, with headquarters from Washington to Beijing. Described by many as a "Russian propaganda outlet" the agency operates in 31 languages, with more than 800 hours of radio broadcasting content daily and 24/7 newswire service.

In February 2022, the news outlet was banned in the European Union after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Following that pattern, many technology companies and social media services have also responded to the invasion by removing Sputnik from their platforms, while many versions such as the German and the French ones have closed operations.

- **Bloc Position and Affiliation:**

The current situation at the Arctic Council has left the Russian government with no allies. All other nations part of the Arctic Council has announced they would resume work on previous projects without Russian involvement. In light of that situation, the Russian ambassador made clear that "decisions within the framework of the Arctic Council without the participation of Russia are illegitimate and violate the principle of consensus provided for by its governing documents" a statement that goes clearly in accordance with the news agency beliefs.

- **Agenda:**

Russia's interest in the Arctic region goes back all the way to the sixteenth century with the conquest of Siberia. The race driven by the never-ending quest for resources and secure trading routes remains among the Arctic states, with Russia as one of the biggest players. Even before Russia's war with Ukraine, Russia had been rapidly expanding and modernizing its military and the Arctic has been an area of particular focus, exploiting the melting of the ice to expand its territories that account for approximately 2400000km in length. The tensions in territory, however, have deeply escalated in the past few months after Russia's military actions in Ukraine.

### e) Amar Delić

- **Committee:** Historical United Nations Security Council
- **Date of birth:** 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1954
- **Country of Origin:** Socialist Republic of Serbia, Yugoslavia
- **Country of Residence:** Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia
- **Newspaper:** Borba (Борба)  
Named after “struggle” or “combat”, Borba is the official gazette of the Yugoslav Communist Party, a banned and yet clandestinely active political organization in Yugoslavia since December of 1920. The paper played an important part in disseminating information among party members, activists, and sympathizers. After Stanislav Staša Marinković’s appointment as the editor-in-chief in July 1986, the paper was rebranded from an anachronistic Communist government newspaper into one of the most liberal daily newspapers in Yugoslavia.
- **Bloc Position and Affiliation:**  
In the beginning of the Yugoslav Wars, the paper maintained an anti-war stance and became a stronghold to those opposed to both the war and Slobodan Milošević’s policies. However, after the replacement of editor-in-chief Manojlo Vukotić in 1993, the government overtook the paper overnight in 1994, making changes to the existing editorial staff and placing the new roster under the new editor Dragutin Brčín. At the same time, 120 previous employees left the paper. Soon afterward, Borba became the proponent of Milošević’s regime.
- **Agenda** :  
Milošević did not only denounce the declaration of independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Yugoslavia in 1992, but he further was also quoted as saying: “Bosnia and Herzegovina was illegally proclaimed as an independent state and recognized. ... The Serbs there said, ‘We want to stay within Yugoslavia. We don’t want to be second-class citizens.’ And then the conflicts were started by Muslims, no doubt. And the Serbs, in defending themselves, were always better fighters, no doubt. And they achieved results, no doubt. But please, we were insisting on peace. The international community gave premature recognition first of Slovenia and then of Croatia and supported the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina on a totally irregular basis.” As a pro-Milosevic newspaper, Borba was in support of this narrative and contributed to the pro-government media of the time, which was, among others, known to espouse Serb nationalism and patriotism and promoting xenophobia toward the other ethnicities in Yugoslavia, e.g., going as far as characterizing ethnic Albanians as anti-Yugoslav counterrevolutionaries, rapists, and a threat to the Serb nation.

### f) Vedad Bajrić

- **Committee:** Historical United Nations Security Council
- **Date of birth:** 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1952
- **Country of Origin:** Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia
- **Country of Residence:** Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia
- **Newspaper:** Naša Borba (Наша Борба)  
With a name meaning “our struggle” or “our combat”, Naša Borba is a splinter of the older publication Borba, the official gazette of the Yugoslav Communist Party. Originally one of the most liberal daily newspapers in Yugoslavia, Borba became a proponent of Milošević’s regime after a government takeover in 1994, leading to the departure of 120 employees, among which were former core journalists who continued publishing anti-Milošević publications under the new paper.
- **Bloc Position and Affiliation:**  
Naša Borba took a stance against Slobodan Milošević’s regime and the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the journalists using the newspaper to maintain an anti-war stance

and provide a stronghold to those opposed to both the war and Slobodan Milošević's policies following the government overtake of their original employer in 1994. Milošević's government policies on civil and political rights when serving as Serbian President and later Yugoslav president were controversial and heavily criticized. Among others and especially important for the principles of Naša Borba journalists is his government's exercise of influence and censorship in the media.

- **Agenda** :  
Taking into consideration the rise of nationalism and political tensions after Slobodan Milošević came to power, as well as the outbreaks of the Yugoslav Wars, numerous anti-war movements developed in Yugoslavia. Protesters demanded the referendum on a declaration of war and disruption of military conscription, with even an estimate of 50,000 to 200,000 people deserting from the Milošević-controlled Yugoslav People's Army during wars, and a further estimate of 100,000 and 150,000 people emigrating from Serbia to refuse their participation in the war. With the heavy pressure on media outlets and censorship of the media, one that could be felt by many Naša Borba journalists as they lost their place under their former employer, there existed a wide lack of access to information outside of Milošević propaganda, and the outlet served as a platform for alternative news.

#### d) Dina Smith

- **Committee:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **Date of birth:** 17<sup>th</sup> of August 1970
- **Country of Origin:** England, United Kingdom
- **Country of Residence:** England, United Kingdom
- **Newspaper:** The Daily Mail  
The Daily Mail is a morning daily newspaper published in London. Long noted for its foreign reporting, it was one of the first papers in Great Britain to appeal to mass readership. A 2014 survey found the average age of readership to be 58, with the newspaper additionally appealing least to the younger demographic of 15- to 44-year-olds. Despite being criticized for its unreliability, especially due to its printing of sensationalist and inaccurate scare stories, leading to even the ban of its use as a source on English Wikipedia, the Daily Mail received the National Newspaper of the Year award from The Press Awards a total of eight times since 1995.
- **Bloc Position and Affiliation:**  
The Daily Mail is considered to be a right-wing tabloid and a traditional supporter of the Conservative Party in the UK, endorsing the latter in almost every UK general election since 1945 and urging voters to support the populist UK Independence Party ahead of the 2015 general election. These parties have leaned against refugees and immigration in the past, with a recent example being the Conservative Home Secretary Priti Patel announcing in 2019 that the government would scrap freedom of movement with the European Union following the completion of Brexit as a stricter immigration reform. The outlet is additionally critical of the BBC, alleging that the latter is biased towards the left. The outlet has also in the past shown criticism towards what it considers to be the unnecessary involvement of Britain in foreign affairs, an example being its criticism of the British government's involvement in the 2008 South Ossetia war.
- **Agenda** :  
According to its political affiliation (per a December 2004 survey, 53% of Daily Mail readers voted for the Conservative Party) and its readership (see above), the Daily Mail conservatively seeks to show the negative side of providing asylum to asylum seekers, not only with a focus on the United Kingdom but also generally on the European continent, which is often seen as the readiest destination for stateless refugees. Additionally, in this committee, the Daily Mail could potentially view the refugee or statelessness crisis as a foreign affair Britain should not be involved in that they could

potentially criticize. However, despite their right-wing leanings, the Daily Mail is also known to prioritize maximizing readership over any specific political affiliation, an example being their publication of the picture of a small child's body washed up on a Turkish shore with the headline "Tiny victim of a human catastrophe" as their headline in 2015 (which many criticized as hypocritical). According to main shareholder Viscount Rothermere, circulation is maintained, and that the newspaper's editor was free to decide editorial policy, including its political allegiance.

#### e) Fátima Khan

- **Committee:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **Date of birth:** 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1985
- **Country of Origin:** Qatar
- **Country of Residence:** Syria (on field duty)
- **Newspaper:** Al-Jazeera  
 Al Jazeera (Arabic: "The Peninsula") is a cable television news network founded by Sheik Ḥamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, emir of Qatar, in 1996. It provides a combination of news, talk shows, and educational programs. Additionally, it is known to be a rare forum in the Middle East for uncensored news and debate, as well as an editorial freedom that was just as unique in the region. Al Jazeera's popularity has been attributed to in-depth coverage of issues considered to be of great importance to the international Arab population, many of which received minimal attention from alternative outlets. However, the channel has been criticized in the past by organizations as well as nations such as Saudi Arabia for being "Qatari propaganda".
- **Bloc Position and Affiliation:**  
 As previously mentioned, Al Jazeera is seen as being very strongly affiliated with the Qatari government, despite its independent official status. Under Qatari law, Al Jazeera Media Network is a Private Foundation or Public Benefit, which receives funding from the government of Qatar, but maintains its editorial independence. Al Jazeera's editorial independence has been affirmed by journalism associations and organizations including Reporters Without Borders. In 2015, a report by the Week claimed Al Jazeera to be a non-biased network. Critics, however, have accused Al Jazeera of supporting the positions of the Qatari government. In 2010, as part of a diplomatic cables leak by WikiLeaks, showed that the United States Department of State internal communications said that the Qatari government manipulates Al Jazeera coverage to suit political interests.
- **Agenda** :  
 The station is analysed in a case study as controversial yet popular due to the use of contextual objectivity: a notion "to reflect all sides of any story while retaining the values, beliefs and sentiments of the target audience". This approach leads to Al-Jazeera providing "digestible" news in an objective and well-rounded manner. Despite this, the retainment of the sentiments of the target audience (mainly in Qatar and the Middle East), as well as the allegations of Qatari government involvement in their news releases, cannot be forgotten. According to the UNHCR, the State of Qatar itself is not party to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, nor the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Qatar additionally is reported to lack national legislation on asylum or a comprehensive strategy to deal with persons under UNHCR's mandate, with the status of all foreigners, including asylum-seekers and refugees, governed by residency and migration laws, and the Qatari nationality law failing to fully protect against the risk of statelessness (e.g., mothers cannot confer nationality to their children).