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Independent Myanmar Journalist Association

Enacted on July 29, 2023

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT MYANMAR JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this association shall be the Independent Myanmar Journalists Association (IMJA).

## **ARTICLE II: VISION**

The vision of the Independent Myanmar Journalists Association is creating a media landscape in Myanmar that is free and open, where journalists can report freely, safely, and independently, and citizens have access to accurate and reliable information.

## **ARTICLE III : MISSION**

The mission of the Independent Myanmar Journalists Association is to promote and protect press freedom in Myanmar by enforcing the media law and establishing a Press Council or Journalist Council that supports ethical and responsible journalism.

And to ensure the safety and protection of Myanmar journalists by advocating for measures to prevent and address threats, harassment, and attacks against them, and by providing training, support, and legal assistance to journalists who are at risk or have been targeted.

## **ARTICLE IV: GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

The goals/objectives of the Independent Journalist Association of Myanmar are:

1. To protect the safety and security of Myanmar journalists by advocating for and implementing measures to prevent and address threats, harassment, intimidation, violence, and other forms of attacks against journalists, including but not limited to physical, legal, or digital attacks.
2. To raise awareness among journalists and media organizations on safety and security measures, including risk assessments, self-protection, and emergency response protocols, and to provide training and support to journalists who are exposed to risks or attacks.
3. To monitor and document cases of attacks against journalists in Myanmar, and to provide legal and advocacy support to journalists who are victims of such attacks.
4. To collaborate with national and international organizations and networks that promote the safety and security of journalists, and to advocate for the implementation of relevant international standards and mechanisms to protect journalists in Myanmar.

5. To ensure that media organizations and journalists are aware of their rights and obligations under the media law, and to hold media organizations accountable for their actions.
6. To establish a Press Council or Journalist Council that represents the interests of journalists and media organizations and promotes ethical and responsible journalism.
7. To develop a code of conduct for journalists that promotes best practices and standards of professional conduct, and to ensure that journalists are trained on this code of conduct.
8. To provide a mechanism for resolving disputes and complaints related to media coverage, and to ensure that this mechanism is accessible to all Myanmar journalists and Myanmar media organizations.
9. To advocate for policies and laws that support press freedom and independent journalism in Myanmar, and to engage with the government and other stakeholders to promote a free and open media landscape.
10. To promote the importance of a free and independent press in Myanmar, and to educate the public on the role of journalists in promoting transparency, accountability, and democracy.

## ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Myanmar Independent Journalists Association shall be open to all journalists, media organizations, and individuals who support the mission and goals/objectives of the association.

Section I: Admission to membership shall be subject to approval by the committee who is assigned by the Executive Committee of the Association.

(a) Qualifications for Full Membership; Duties and Rights:

- (1) Must be recommended by 2 members.
- (2) Must have at least one (1) year of continuous service as a journalist and must be a representative of the news industry.
- (3) The determination of whether the candidate qualifies as a journalist representative will be based on the basic ethical standards of journalists published by IMJA.
- (4) Full Members shall have the responsibility to vote in the election of members of the Association's Policy and Executive Committees.
- (5) Members shall be entitled to enjoy fully all benefits provided by the Association from time to time.

(b) Eligibility Criteria for Intern Membership; Duties and Rights:

- (1) Must be recommended by 2 members.

- (2) The candidate must show a genuine interest in studying the news media industry and actively participating in related activities.
- (3) Intern Members shall be entitled to enjoy fully all benefits provided by the Association from time to time.
- (4) Intern members must be allowed to participate in media development and capacity building programs conducted by the organization, with priority given to them.
- (5) Intern member will become a full member after serving at least 1 year continuously as a journalist.

Section II: Termination of Membership: Membership in the Association may be terminated for any of the following reasons:

- a. Violation of the objectives and principles of the Association.
- b. Any conduct that is deemed to be harmful to the Association or its members.
- c. Membership in the association is not open to individuals directly affiliated with armed organizations
- d. Members who do not work at all in the news media industry within one year may face automatic termination of their membership.

## ARTICLE VI: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Association.

(a) Those who will serve on the executive committee must possess the following qualifications:

1. They must have a minimum of 3 years of experience in the media industry.
2. They must demonstrate a commitment to upholding media ethics.
3. They must not hold a position on the executive committee of any other organizations with a similar purpose.

(b) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice President 1
3. Vice President 2

4. Secretary 1
5. Secretary 2
6. Treasurer 1
7. Treasurer
8. Audit 1
9. Audit 2
10. Executive Committee Member
11. Executive Committee Member
12. Executive Committee Member
13. Executive Committee Member
14. Executive Committee Member
15. Executive Committee Member
16. Executive Committee Member
17. Executive Committee Member
18. Executive Committee Member
19. Executive Committee Member
20. Executive Committee Member
21. Executive Committee Member

(c) In the selection of executive committee members, it is required to include seven (7) women and seven (7) ethnic representatives among the total membership.

(d) The executive committee will consist of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 members, who will be elected through the process.

Section 2. Election of Officers: The officers of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the members of the Association at the annual general meeting. Officers shall serve a term of two years.

Section 3. General Meetings: A general meeting of the Association shall be held annually for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and transacting any other business that may arise.

## ARTICLE VII: FINANCE

Section 1. Funding: The Association shall be funded by membership dues, donations, and grants from foundations or other organizations that support the objectives of the Association.

Section 2. Financial Management: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the management of the Association's finances and shall report on the financial status of the Association at each general meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII: GOVERNANCE

The Independent Myanmar Journalists Association shall be governed by the Executive Committee, consisting of elected members who shall serve for a term of two years. The Executive committee shall have the power to establish committees, hire staff, and take other actions necessary to fulfill the mission and goals/objectives of the association.

## ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at a regularly scheduled meeting, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

## ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION

If the Independent Myanmar Journalists Association is dissolved, all assets shall be distributed to an organization or organizations that promote press freedom and independent journalism in Myanmar, as determined by a majority vote of the members in good standing.

This constitution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing of the Independent Myanmar Journalists Association.