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Course

Date

World Press Freedom Day

One of the most celebrated events in the history of journalism is the World Press Freedom Day that happens every year. Freedom of the Press is one of the most contentious issues in many countries today. Most of those countries celebrate the journalists who lose their lives in the line of duty in various ways. World Press Day is a day that all the deceased journalists are remembered. This year, the theme of the day was “Information as a public good” (U.S. Embassy in Kuwait). It explains the importance of appreciating information as a tool that can be used to achieve the public good in various ways. For instance, when absolute freedom of the press is granted, the media houses in Kuwait can explore steps in terms of what needs to be done to achieve success in production, distribution, and the received media content. It can, in turn, strengthen journalism and improve transparency among journalists. In this paper, a discussion of World Press Freedom day is done in the context of Kuwait.

In terms of the event, the World Press Freedom Day is the most important one that happened during the year addressing freedom of the press. The various media houses in Kuwait celebrated the event in various ways. During the event that happened on 3rd May this year, some of the media houses gave joint statements to commemorate the journalists who lost their lives in the line of duty while others used it to agitate for more freedom of the media. For example, the Kuwait Times used the day to pay tribute to all the journalists who have been killed. According to the UNESCO observatory, since the year 1993, 1,450 individuals who work in the media industry have lost their lives in the line of duty (Staff Members). A report by the same body also shows that fifteen people working in the media were killed just in the first three months of the year 2021 (Staff Members).

The government of Kuwait has been associated with suppression of the freedom of the press to an extent that what is broadcasted is censored and controlled by the political class. While it is said that the government controls the media as a way of ensuring issues such as the ones during the Arab springs do not happen again, its action is not supported by many people (U.S. Embassy in Kuwait). For instance, individuals who understand the importance of press freedom in the country used the event to castigate the government.

Conclusively, the information spread in Kuwait during World Press Freedom Day should be used to empower all the media houses without leaving anyone behind. The theme of the day was crucial since it shows the change in the communications system that impacts our democracies, health, sustainable development, and human rights. The celebration of the World Press Freedom Day in Kuwait was used to address the government on the need to respect the laws that provide for the rights of people and the freedom of the press.

Works Cited

Staff Members. "World Press Freedom Day". *Timeskuwait.Com*, 2021, https://www.timeskuwait.com/news/world-press-freedom-day-2021/.

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