

The United Nations and One World present

Tickling Giants

A collaboration with the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

Shaimaa Abu-I-Kheir

Shaimaa has 16 years of experience in journalism, communication and human rights advocacy, covering Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Sudan. She also served as the MENA representative for Committee to protect Journalists (CPJ), where she was tasked with monitoring media environment and press laws in the Middle East, drafting urgent appeals, advocacy letters and news items, organizing advocacy missions in the MENA, and participating in trail observation missions.



As a human rights advocate, she played a key role in investigating, documenting and publishing stories about threats to journalists. She also worked as a country consultant for Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) on the Kalima Project, which aimed to provide legal advices to journalists.

As a communication and press freedom expert, Shaimaa developed and led communication strategies for international organizations such as ASF, CPJ and Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network before Egyptian and MENA authorities, the European Commission, local NGO, MPs and media. She was the media spokesperson of Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network EMHRN for 5 years.

She is a member of the Egyptian journalist syndicate and The National Union of Journalists in London.

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Caroline Petit



Caroline Petit is the Deputy Director of the UN Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) and chairs the UN Communication Group of 26 UN agencies. She has over 25 years of international experience in communications, strategic partnerships and public information campaigns; for 12 years she was Head of the Strategic Partnerships Unit at UN Headquarters, and has also worked within the European Commission (EU Media Programme), and film institutions in London and Copenhagen.

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World Press Freedom Day 2017

Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies

Every year, 3 May is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres' message for WPF2017

“Journalists go to the most dangerous places to give voice to the voiceless. Media workers suffer character assassination, sexual assault, detention, injuries and even death. We need leaders to defend a free media. This is crucial to counter prevailing misinformation. And we need everyone to stand for our right to truth. On World Press Freedom Day, I call for an end to all crackdowns against journalists – because a free press advances peace and justice for all. When we protect journalists, their words and pictures can change our world.”



UNESCO Director-General Ms. Irina Bokova's message for WPF2017

“We need original, critical and well-researched journalism, guided by high professional, ethical standards and a quality media education -- combined with audiences that have the right media and information literacy skills. UNESCO is leading this work across the world, starting by standing up for the safety of journalists. Far too often, murder remains the most tragic form of censorship -- 102 journalists paid the ultimate price in 2016. This is unacceptable and weakens societies as a whole. This is why UNESCO is spearheading the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity with partners around the globe. Critical times call for critical minds. Today, I call on everyone to sharpen their minds to defend the freedoms that are essential for justice and peace “



One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

Over the past 19 years One World has grown into the largest human rights documentary film festival in the world. Organised by People in Need, the festival works with a broad definition of human rights, and therefore in addition to films about political causes and development themes, the programme also includes films about social issues, the environment and lifestyles.

The One World film festival takes place in Brussels from 24th April to the 4th of May. For more information go to: oneworld.cz



UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit www.unric.org for more information.