

10 June 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary of State

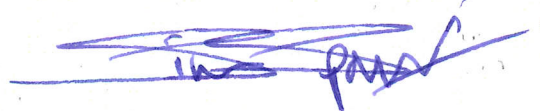
This Association and its Members, who include the US Agency for Global Media, have today expressed their deep concern over the detention of and attacks on journalists and news crews perpetrated by members of US law enforcement agencies during the recent protests in a number of US states.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a letter that has today been sent to the US Attorney General seeking assurances that there are investigations into the disparate number of incidents that have affected members of this Association, and those on other media organizations covering events in the US.

You will appreciate that the United States is viewed as a bastion of democracy around the world, and that many politicians around the world follow examples that are set in the US. Beyond the questions surrounding likely unlawfulness, the situation that has unfolded in recent weeks on US soil has the potential to increase the targeting of US correspondents and news crews working in territories overseas. It could also provide cover for authoritarian regimes that seek to silence broadcasters that work to bring news and information to citizens in those countries that do not enjoy freedom of expression and free press.

On behalf of this Association and its Members, I should like to request you to publicly reiterate and reinforce US commitment to media freedom and ensure that those perpetrating unlawful attacks against, and detention of, journalists and their colleagues in the US are brought to justice.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Spanswick
Chief Executive