



Alliance *for*
Shared Values

May 3, 2021

Statement Marking the United Nations World Press Freedom Day

Today, on the United Nations' World Press Freedom Day, the Alliance for Shared Values joins the international community in recognizing the importance of having an independent press for a free and open society. We also advocate for the journalists and media outlets who are suppressed and imprisoned for their efforts to provide one of the most important public goods—verified and reliable information.

One of the worst countries for independent journalists remains Turkey, a leading jailer of journalists in the world, where more than 200 have been imprisoned over the last five years. We denounce the Turkish government's continued suppression of journalists and dissidents as well as the government's decision to exclude them from the roughly one-third of prisoners released during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The unsafe and inadequate prison conditions amount to constant torture and, for some, a death sentence.

As participants of the Hizmet Movement, we strive to be staunch advocates of political freedom, human dignity, and universal human rights, and we take this opportunity to reflect on the obstacles faced by independent journalists around the world.

About Alliance for Shared Values

The Alliance for Shared Values (AFSV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as a voice for cultural organizations affiliated with Hizmet, a civil society movement inspired by prominent preacher and peace advocate Fethullah Gülen. The Alliance strives to promote peace and social harmony by helping reduce misinformation and false stereotypes about any or all ethnic, cultural and religious communities. To learn more about the Alliance, please visit www.afsv.org.

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