



International Federation of Journalists From the President

Devulapalli Amar
Secretary-General
Indian Journalists Union
F29, Shankar Market
Connaught Circus
New Delhi

20^h November 2011

Dear Devulapalli Amar,

I am delighted to be able to congratulate you and the Indian Journalists' Union (IJU) on behalf of the IFJ and its unions worldwide, on your 7th Plenary Session, which you will be holding in Hyderabad in the next few days.

The IFJ and its unions are indeed very proud of the resilience and determination of the IJU and its members to confront many of the tough challenges you have been facing over many years. Most of the time, you and your executive council have shown great wisdom and resilience in navigating through choppy political waters and stand up for the interest of your members.

I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that, over the years, the IJU has acted as one of the most combative of our unions, always putting first the interests of journalists and journalism. This is not just a personal judgment but a view shared by many of our unions, who have always admired the way you fought for just causes and your confidence and belief in your strength and your solidarity.

We have given full support to your resistance against bullying tactics used by some of your media groups to put the break on the implementation of the wage award ordered by government and to the valiant fight of your members to stand up for their rights. We joined you to remind the Indian Newspaper Society, who has been egging newspaper proprietors to challenge the Wage Board's recommendations, that their arguments are bogus since the constitutional validity of the Board and its decisions was upheld by the Supreme Court back in 1958.

**International Federation of Journalists, International Press Centre,
Résidence Palace, Block C, 155 Rue De La Loi, B1040 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 235 2200 Fax: +32 2 235 2219 E-mail: Jim.Boumelha@ifj.org**

Your Plenary is taking place at a momentous time for journalism worldwide and I hope you will debate the current crisis that is engulfing journalism today. Employers are taking advantage of the inability of their current economic model to deliver rich returns to cut back on costs, and create precarious workplaces where the standards of journalism are in a down spiral, putting pressure on the attachment of media to ethical principles.

This is also unbelievably taking place in India although media markets there are expanding as globalisation and increasing literacy provide new audiences. It exposes the level of corporate greed and the impact of political influence that is undermining Indian journalism today.

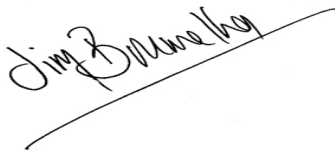
I can assure you that journalists everywhere are organising to defend their rights and to distance themselves from banal, superficial and cynical media. They are standing up for a journalism dedicated to the truth, alert to injustice, independent and above all a champion of public interest. I invite you to join them in their endeavours to keep our ethical flame alive.

The IFJ has no doubt about your enormous strength and capacity in developing the ability of Indian journalists to struggle to improve their conditions and professionalism. Our struggle would be so much stronger whenever we join forces in genuine international solidarity action in defence of workers' rights.

I trust will continue to grow from strength to strength and I can assure you that the IFJ and its affiliates worldwide will continue to count on you as one of our key unions always prepared to give leadership and support to sister unions in your region at every opportunity.

I am sorry I can't be with you today. Please pass on my warmest congratulations and good wishes to your delegates for a successful Plenary.

Yours in solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Boumelha", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

JIM BOUMELHA
President