

立法會
Legislative Council

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Ref : CB(3)/M/MM
Tel : 2869 9205
Date : 8 October 2009
From : Clerk to the Legislative Council
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 21 October 2009

**Motion on
“Defending freedom of the press”**

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing has given notice to move the attached motion on “Defending freedom of the press” at the Council meeting of 21 October 2009. The President has directed that “it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in” on the Agenda of the Council.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Defending freedom of the press”
to be moved by Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 21 October 2009**

Wording of the Motion

That some Hong Kong journalists, while covering news in Xinjinag, were assaulted, handcuffed and detained by law enforcement officers, and even accused slanderously by the local information office of inciting disturbance and violating the rules on news coverage; also, some Hong Kong journalists covering news in Sichuan were alleged by law enforcement officers of suspected possession of drugs and prohibited from going out; the above incidents have seriously undermined the freedom of news coverage and the public’s right to know as well as damaged the core values of freedom of the press; this Council condemns such acts and urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) to solemnly reflect to the Mainland authorities that the law enforcement officers in the Mainland be requested to respect civic rights and freedom of the press, refrain from illegally detaining, arresting or assaulting journalists, and request the Mainland authorities to impose severe punishment on the offenders and ensure that similar incidents will not happen again;
- (b) in regard to the unjust investigation of the abovementioned incidents and the slanderous accusation against journalists by the Mainland authorities, to request the Mainland authorities to make clarifications and apologies, conduct a just investigation afresh and release the investigation results to the public; and
- (c) to enquire with media organizations about the problems and difficulties encountered by journalists when covering news on the Mainland, so as to provide as much assistance as possible;

this Council also urges media organizations to adopt the following measures to safeguard the security of journalists when covering news in the Mainland:

- (a) to provide training to journalists to enrich their knowledge about the laws of the Mainland and enhance their abilities to handle unexpected serious incidents;
- (b) to send more experienced journalists to take up news coverage of a more sensitive or dangerous nature; and

- (c) to review the remuneration, insurance coverage and working hours of journalists and safeguard their personal safety, so as to avoid journalists leaving the profession and attract talents to pursue a career in journalism.