

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER PROGRAMME

New York, 14 December 2015

From the turmoil of worsening conflicts to the hope of new agreements, the United Nations led international responses to the major challenges of our times throughout 2015.

We continue to press for an end to the war in Syria, a comprehensive response to the rising threat of violent extremism, and assistance for the 60 million people caught up in the largest crisis of forced displacement since the Second World War. We are strengthening our peace operations, peacebuilding efforts, humanitarian action and capacity for prevention and mediation. And this year, the United Nations took landmark decisions on the long-term future of humanity, adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and finding new approaches to address the threat of climate change.

The engagement of the global public is central to the success of our ambitious plans to end poverty and enable all people to live with dignity on a healthy and peaceful planet. In this era of competition for limited attention, professional journalists remain the premier source of reliable, unbiased news that informs and educates.

The United Nations upholds press freedom and supports the work of all media professionals, whether covering the activities of our Organization, national politics or local events. Tragically, precisely because journalists can empower people to better understand their rights and demand change, they often risk their lives to practice their trade. State authorities, irregular groups and terrorists continue to target media workers, who are victims of harassment, violence and even murder. Those who try to silence journalists will never succeed in killing the impulse to seek truth and its power to stir progress.

As we close out 2015, my wife and I wish members of the United Nations Correspondents Association and journalists everywhere, as well as the public they serve, a happy holiday season and all the best for the New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki-moon Ban".

BAN Ki-moon

SG a message
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