



THE MANILA DECLARATION

**REPORTING ON VIOLENCE AND EMERGENCIES:
Regional Media Conference For Southeast and East Asia**

October 14, 2011
Manila, Philippines

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Introduction

We are a group of journalists from the Asia-Pacific region brought together in Manila on the 14th of October 2011 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

We come from a wide range of backgrounds within the media community in 9 countries but we share common concerns about Reporting on Violence and Emergencies.

Reporting on violence and emergencies

We agree to continue our discussion on the challenges and opportunities presented by contemporary conflicts and the complex and fast-changing information environment such as what constitute responsible journalism, neutrality vs. transparency, accuracy vs time constraints, and being a responsive and responsible journalist.

We agree to do this by setting up an online forum to share information among the signatories below, as The Manila Club.

The Manila Club aims to promote the principles of international humanitarian law in reporting violence and emergencies.

The Manila Club aims to encourage the growth of a community of media practitioners who share our concerns.

The role of media in protecting vulnerable people

We encourage collaboration between media and humanitarian and other organisations for better access and understanding of conflict and violence, complex emergencies, and disaster situations to give voice to the most vulnerable through excellent journalism and the responsible use of social media.

The safety of journalists reporting in conflicts and emergencies

To that end,

- Journalists should recognise the importance of ethical reporting, independence and transparency in ensuring their own safety.
- They should work towards a media industry-supported safety code similar to that suggested by the International News Safety Institute (INSI).
- That the ICRC be supported in distributing a small laminated card summarising the rights of journalists under international law.
- That journalist organisations initiate education programs on training and sharing knowledge and experience on operating in traumatic and dangerous situations and set up formal peer support programs.

- That journalists work together with the ICRC and NGOs to persuade governments and parties involved in conflict to meet their legal and moral obligations.

SIGNED ON 14 OCTOBER 2011 IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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