

AL GREEN
9 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2347 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE
BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7508
FAX: (202) 225-2947

**HOUSTON DISTRICT
OFFICE:**
3003 S. LOOP WEST, SUITE 460
HOUSTON, TX 77054
(713) 383-9234
FAX: (713) 383-9202
algreen.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4309

October 30, 2023

**COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS

MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
MONETARY POLICY

MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DIGITAL ASSETS, FINANCIAL
TECHNOLOGY, AND INCLUSION

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

**Re: Urging the Granting of Access and Protection to War Correspondents during the
Current Armed Conflicts**

Dear President Biden:

Thank you for your courageous leadership of our country during these increasingly volatile times. You have handled the tragic and disturbing armed conflicts occurring around the world both boldly and prudently.

As I view and read the reporting from these conflicts, I am reminded of the indispensable role of war correspondents to inform and elucidate on events. In our nation and across the world, citizens rely upon these intrepid individuals to provide up to the minute on the ground updates. Therefore, **I respectfully request that you exercise your considerable power and influence as Commander-in-Chief to urge our allies as well as forces under your command to grant war correspondents safe passage and reasonable access to theaters of conflict as events unfold.**

The Department of Defense Law of War Manual, last updated July 2023, rightfully states that “[j]ournalists play a vital role in free societies and the rule of law in providing information about armed conflict.” The manual iterates the international legal protections of war correspondents, noted below, and states that “DoD practice has also been to embed journalists with units during military operations.” The manual proceeds to provide rules for journalists authorized to accompany the armed forces, primarily regarding risks from attacks and reporting on military operations.

Under international humanitarian law, specifically Article 79 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, war correspondents are considered civilians, are protected as such, and are permitted identification attesting to their status as journalists. Under Article 4, as persons accompanying the armed forces but not as members thereof, journalists who fall under enemy power shall be considered and receive the protections of prisoners of war, including regarding living conditions, judicial proceedings, and release upon cessation of hostilities.

The United States has a proud history of legendary war correspondents, including Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite during World War II, Dan Rather during the Vietnam War, Bernard Shaw during the Gulf War, and Martha Raddatz during the Iraq War. As a President who values the role of journalism in a free society as well as the fair treatment of combatants and non-combatants during armed conflict, I again urge you to grant access and extend every protection at your disposal to the courageous war correspondents in all combat zones.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Scott Bell, at 202-893-0438 or scott.bell@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Al Green
Member of Congress
*Scion of the Enslaved Africans –
Sacrificed to Make America Great*