

**United Nations
Correspondents Association**



Background Guide

Letter from the Secretary-General and Director-General

Hello delegates, advisors, parents, and teachers,

On behalf of us, your Secretary-General Isabella Balbi Masso and Director-General Alexandria Cerini, and all of our Secretariat, we would like to welcome you all to the 37th iteration of the Florida International Model United Nations Conference! This upcoming FIMUN will continue to be held at Florida International University's beautiful Modesto A. Maidique Campus from March 14th to 16th, 2025.

This year we have selected the theme of "Diplomacy in a Divided World," where delegates will be prompted to show diplomacy during challenging and engaging scenarios in a wide variety of General Assembly, Specialized, and Crisis Committees. Both of us originate from opposite sides of the ocean and have seen the division of the world, especially in our modern day. We are strong believers that every person, even young students, have the ability to show diplomacy and change the world. Being able to act with diplomacy in cases of adversity, disadvantage, and injustice is a skill that every person should learn and harness to make the world a better place, not just for themselves but for everyone.

We are working hard to provide every delegate with a committee that they will love, and an unforgettable experience where they will make new friends, learn new skills, and discover the amazing world of Model UN! This year we will be hosting 15 committees each one focusing on a different current, historical, or fantasy issue, with an amazing staff who are prepared to make this FIMUN the best one yet!

We are incredibly honored and excited to welcome you all to our amazing campus and conference this March, and cannot wait to see each and every one of you succeed!

See you soon,

Isabella Balbi Masso and Alexandria Cerini
Secretary-General and Director-General for FIMUN 37
ibalb007@fiu.edu and aceri008@fiu.edu

Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

My name is Carlos Ricaurte, and I have the privilege of being your Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Specialized Committees on this iteration of FIU Model UN's High School Conference, FIMUN 37. I am a Senior currently double majoring in Political Science and International Relations, with a certificate in Latin American Studies. Last year I had the opportunity of being your Committee Director for FIMUN 36's UNSC Committee focused on the 1961 Congo Crisis, through which I learned the deep value and importance that FIMUN represents for you all and our team here at FIU.

I was born and raised in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and I came here to the United States as an International Student in Spring 2022. Ever since I joined the FIU Model UN Team the year after that, in Spring 2023, I haven't regretted it one bit, knowing the immense value it has brought to me as a speaker, researcher, and person. A value that, with the amazing and creative work brought on to you by this year's Secretariat, CDs, Staffers, and many others, I know will see itself greatly reflected onto you all. Within our SPEC Committees, we once again ascertain FIMUN's commitment to having fun and learning about critical, real-world issues through constructive and entertaining debate. Everything from discussing matters of technology and development within our Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and UN Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA) to a stroll into the world of competitive Football with FIFA, this year's committees have it all. We take a deep dive into the historical struggles of Latin Americans through the Sao Paulo Forum, the similar struggles of native fauna within the Everglades via our Council of Critters, and how we report on all these things happening, through our intrepid UN Correspondents Association, or Press Corps.

As we move ever closer toward FIMUN 37, I am excited to see your creativity, leadership, and debate released onto these committees. We as the FIMUN Secretariat remain committed to this, ensuring you get to enjoy yourselves within a framework of mutual respect, diplomacy, and cultural awareness. In the end, you are representing real people with real, systemic struggles after all. Remember that through any challenges you might face, Secretariat and your CDs are here to help. Should you have any questions, doubts, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Committee Directors, Chairs, or me, your USG.

¡Buena suerte!

Carlos Ricaurte
crica017@fiu.edu
Under-Secretary-General for Specialized Committees
Florida International Model United Nations 37

Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

My name is Grace Martinez and I am thrilled to be your director for the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) at FIMUN 37. There are nearly fourteen intricate, complex, and fascinating committees to report on during this conference. Utilizing the personas of various party affiliated and party-run global news organizations to bring to light the ongoings of committees the UNCA committee will focus on making journalism more accessible, more accurate, and more engaging for people of all backgrounds, ages, and educational levels.

Outside of Model UN, I spend most of my time writing various stories and reading many novels that range from Harry Potter books to academic research papers on the American government. I also dedicate part of my free time to debating politics on both a national and international level with both friends and family. Most of my academic research relates to the perception of the political structure of the United States and how the role of modern media has exacerbated the massive change in the perception of the role of the United States government. This is my second time working with staff for a Model UN conference and I am thrilled to be a part of this community! This is my second year on FIMUN staff and the UNCA dais, and I am excited to learn and grow as a committee.

The United Nations Correspondents Association provides a unique experience within Model UN: to encourage committee members to experience Model UN from every angle, every committee, at every stage. Even more, journalists will write multiple types of pieces, including news stories, editorials, and breaking news that will be published. I'm excited to see the diverse perspectives you'll bring to covering Model UN international issue committees from various journalistic lenses. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Welcome to the UNCA.

Sincerely,

Grace Martinez

gmart358@fiu.edu

United Nations Correspondents Association Director

Florida International Model United Nations 37

Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates!

My name is Cosette Lipscomb and I am very excited to be your chair for the United Nations Correspondents Association for FIMUN 37. I am currently a second year student majoring in Marine Biology here at FIU, and plan to become a scientific diver once I graduate. I was born in Baltimore Maryland, but have lived in 5 states across the US, and have lived in 3 countries overseas. I enjoy spending my time traveling and hanging out with friends. I am also part of the student newspaper here at FIU called PantherNOW. My interests in journalism have always been rooted in storytelling and research, so I am very excited to see how you all will go about finding the perfect balance of information and entertainment in your stories.

Journalism is an important part of today's society, and it can take part in many different forms. The rise in social media and echo chambers are becoming more apparent, and the rise in AI has also created controversies across multiple news platforms. However, even though AI has had a bad reputation in current times, it can be very useful in many ways. AI's impact on the world has been profound, and its influence cannot be ignored. Misinformation and echo chambers also have been on the rise, and news outlets now have to deal with a lot more issues than in the past. I am truly excited to be able to read all of the wonderful articles you all will write, and hope that you all will be able to navigate the many challenges journalism is facing.

My interests in traveling have allowed me to experience things that I am very grateful for. I really enjoy learning new things in different cultures, and enjoy getting to know people and their traditions. MUN has allowed me to get to explore even more cultures that I was never familiar with, and has made me more open minded about the world I live in. I hope that the delegates in this committee will be able to understand the viewpoints of the current world and shape them into something that can educate, inspire, and motivate people to be their best selves.

Good luck and see you in committee,

Cosette Lipscomb
Clips008@fiu.edu
United Nations Correspondents Association Chair
Florida International Model United Nations 37

Sensitivity Statement

FIMUN 36 has a zero tolerance policy on racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia. If delegates are found to be engaging in any such actions or rhetoric are open to disqualification from awards.

We ask all delegates to be conscious of the histories and context of their countries or characters for their committees. Many of our committees focus on the stories and topics relating to historically oppressed and marginalized communities and regions. While these committees are simulations, the histories behind them are real, and disrespect towards the histories and existences of people represented in our committees will not be tolerated.

On our website, we have an anonymous report form if delegates encounter such actions. While we hope to avoid the need for such, this form will be checked regularly by our Secretariat to ensure that all delegates at FIMUN 37 can enjoy their weekend comfortably.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our university is located on the ancestral homelands of sovereign Native nations, including the Tequesta, the Calusa, and today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians, the Elders past and present, by fully recognizing Indigenous sovereignty as well as the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. It is within our responsibility as an academic institution to uphold knowledge about the history of our institution with the original stewards of this land that we live, learn, and work on. We encourage our delegates to read and learn about ways to support our local Indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve Seminole and Miccosukee land and water rights, cultural practices, and the conservation of the environment.

Consistent with our University's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, FIU is working towards creating an academic environment that is inclusive of Indigenous students, faculty, and staff who have often been rendered invisible due to structural discriminatory practices. At FIU, we hold ourselves accountable to serving local, regional and worldwide Indigenous communities through academic policy-oriented research, education, partnerships, community service, as well as enrollment initiatives to overcome the effects of Indigenous exclusion and erasure in our own academic institution. It is our hope that acknowledging the land helps us to better understand that harm has been done and address the legacies of violence in our communities in order to create a pathway to true healing

Rules of Procedure

Motions

Motion to Open/Resume Debate

Opens the floor for debate. Delegates may now begin to provide further motions.

Motion to Open Speakers List

Opens the Speakers List, wherein delegates can deliver speeches without a set topic.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Opens a set speakers list for debate on a specified topic. Total time and speaking time must be specified within the motion.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Opens time for unregulated working time for delegates to work within their blocs on working papers/draft resolutions/directives.

Motion for a Round Robin

Opens a Round Robin, where every delegate in the room delivers a speech for a set time without a designated topic. Will start from the delegate that motioned and will either go clockwise or counterclockwise at delegate's discretion.

Motion for a Gentlemen's Unmoderated/Consultation of the Whole

Similar rules as to a normal Unmoderated Caucus, however all delegates must remain in their seats.

Motion to Introduce Working Papers/Draft Resolutions/Directives

Opens the floor to begin formal procedure on papers. Order of address if not specified will default to order in which each paper was introduced.

Authors Panel

Generally motioned for alongside the introduction of Working Papers/Draft Resolutions. Involves a Reading Period for Delegates to read papers, an Introduction where a panel of Delegates present the paper, and a Question and Answer portion, where sponsors of the paper are asked questions by fellow delegates about the paper.

Motions for For and Against Speeches

Opens a short speakers list where (generally speaking) 2 delegates are called to speak for and against a given working paper/draft resolution/directive.

Motions to Enter Voting Procedure and Voting Methods

Goes alongside a motion to end debate when in General Assembly and certain Specialized Agencies. Delegates will vote on papers on the floor. If no voting method is specified, committee will default to placard vote.

Placard vote operates the same way as votes for procedural matters. Delegates raise their placards to vote For, Against, or to Abstain if they stated they were Present.

Roll Call vote will have the chair call Roll Call once more, and when delegates are called they will state whether they vote For, Against, or if they Abstain.

Votes by Acclimation involves calling for general consensus, where the paper will pass unless anyone votes Against. Then placard vote is in order.

Points

Point of Inquiry

General question regarding committee or the conference

Point of Order

Question or correction regarding parliamentary procedures

Point of Personal Privilege

Personal request unrelated to committee. (e.g temperature in the room or seating issue)

Rules of Procedure

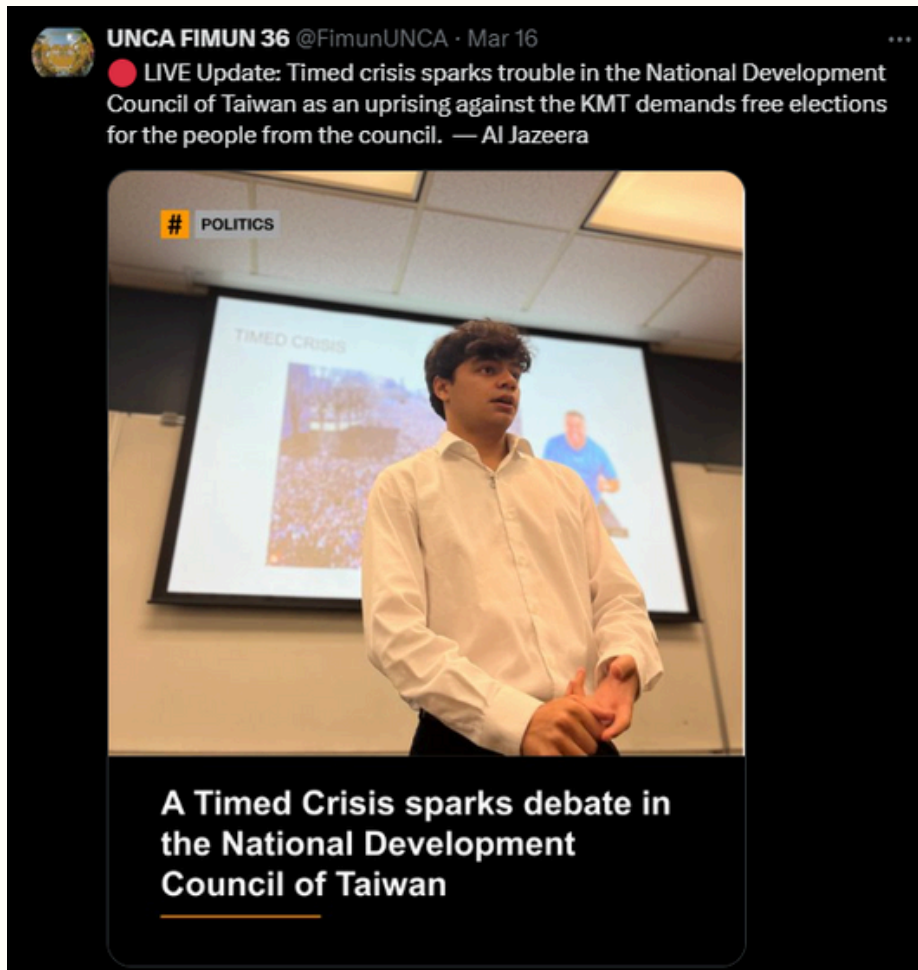
Throughout the conference delegates will be required to write at least one article per every two sessions at minimum with no more than two articles per committee session. This should result in a max of ten articles throughout the length of the conference. By the end of the conferences, delegates should have submitted three articles as the bare minimum. All articles will be submitted to the chair and director for submission and publication.

Delegates will also utilize Twitter (X) to post updates on the ongoings of committees throughout the conference. All posts that delegates wish to have posted on the Twitter (X) account will be submitted to a Google form that will be reviewed by the chair and director before being posted. Delegates will also create one to two multimedia pieces per committee session that will be posted on the FIMUN UNCA Instagram page.

If UNCA delegates wish to interview the delegates of the committees that they are reporting on they must do so in a way that does not disrupt the flow of the committee room. Please remain respectful of the rules of procedure of the other committees and confer with the staff of the committee if unsure of how to properly proceed with interacting with the delegates. Any delegates wishing to hold a press conference will reach out to the UNCA staff so that they may coordinate with the staff of the committee in which delegates wish to host the press conference.

Delegates will be moving from room to room so it is recommended to wear comfortable shoes and attire while still dressing in western business attire. UNCA staff will help delegates find their assigned committee rooms and the designated UNCA room where delegates will be able to work on their articles and media pieces in a designated quiet place. UNCA staff will be checking in on the committee rooms that delegates are expected to be in so it is imperative that delegates keep UNCA staff updated on their location via the Slack channel and also for UNCA staff to announce when press conferences will be held in committee rooms.

Examples of Articles/Media Pieces/Twitter (X) Posts



Twitter (X) post by Al Jazeera on a timed crisis within the National Development Council of Taiwan in 1950.



NotiMex

March 15th, 2024

Pacific Islands: Breaking News!

News | Agencia Mexicana de Noticias Notimex.

PATH TO EQUALITY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE



MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD!

Pacific islanders and delegations all across these micro islands are rapidly advocating for the development of their voices within global society. Nations like Fiji and Chile fear losing their autonomy—understandably so—allowing for tensions to rise between those with large global economic power, and those with less say.

For example, on one end of the spectrum is China, a country who openly advocates for diplomatic solidarity, as well as new policies and solutions in order to better understand other countries, Singapore, on the other hand, is adamant that other nations truly don't have the best interest at heart when it comes to the economic stability and prosperity of nations other than themselves.

ROAD TO A SUCCESSFUL PACIFIC REGION

Article written by NotiMex on the Pacific Island Forum discussing the ongoings of the room and the resolutions being discussed.



Instagram story by Agence Kampuchea Presse (AKP) depicting the ongoing debate within the DISEC committee room



Background

The fundamental idea behind the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) can be characterized in the first article of its constitution, which states that the UNCA aims to “...maintain and protect the freedom and prestige of Press, Radio and Television correspondents in all their relations with the United Nations...”. Regarded as one of society’s core civil liberties - the freedom of the press is often considered a critical cog in the machine of functioning democracy. As an international institution dedicated to the ideals of democracy and world peace, the United Nations operates the UNCA as its official press corps that serves to document UN events and actions.

In 1948, the United Nations Correspondents Association was founded with 50 initial members, largely representing North American media groups. Working alongside the Office on Public Information (OPI), UN Correspondents’ main job is to deliver information regarding the UN to the public, seen as a critical job in the success of the UN by Secretary-General Trygve Lie. Working alongside diplomats and international political figures, the UNCA has held up Lie’s wish to share UN information with the public, adding to its status as an organization dedicated to global stability.

Today, the UNCA hosts over 250 members and is well-known for its annual Excellence in Journalism awards, where the UNCA recognizes its members and their dedication to global reporting on UN happenings. While the UNCA is composed of individual members of news organizations, for this committee, delegates will represent various news organizations from across the globe.

Every news organization in this committee is party-affiliated, meaning they are either run by their respective political parties or receive funding from them. The extent to which this relationship with the state influences their reporting varies, and delegates are recommended to consider this as they visit various committees across FIMUN 37 and write their articles.

Belarusian Telegraph Agency (BelTA)

The Belarusian Telegraph Agency or BelTA is the state-owned national news agency of the Republic of Belarus that was founded on December 23, 1918. It transmits over a hundred daily reports, and provides information to other news agencies of Commonwealth of Independent States members about the activities of Belarusian officials and organizations in and out of the country. Some observers called BelTA a propaganda outlet with it being banned from the European Union between 2011 and 2016 as part of the EU's sanctions against Belarus following what the EU describes a crackdown of opposition protests after the 2010 presidential election.

El Telegrafo

El Telegrafo is the national news agency of the Republic of Ecuador. Based in Guayaquil, Ecuador, El Telegrafo has all the basic functions of most publications looking at National and International news as well as common opinion and media pieces. In their international news, they typically look towards reporting on fellow Latin American or Caribbean country's news to provide greater reporting of the region.

Ethiopian News Agency

The Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) is the official news agency of the government of Ethiopia and was founded in 1942. As the oldest and experienced newscaster in the country, ENA has been disseminating news and related stories, documentary and TV programs through its 38 branch offices across the country. Moreover, the Agency publishes a bi-monthly magazine called Negari which features topical local and international issues and agenda of paramount importance. ENA was restructured and made accountable to the House of Peoples' Representatives in 2019 with the aim of expanding its service delivery through strong institutional frameworks. The ENA mission is to prepare national and foreign news programs at the highest level of quality to vividly depict the national interest, consolidate national consensus and image building of the country.

Fox News

Fox News is an American basic cable and satellite news channel founded in 1996 by Rupert Murdoch. The Fox Entertainment Group, a subsidiary of 21st Century Fox, owns Fox News. Fox News typically looks at the issues from a conservative perspective. Also, it has several on-air personalities that are strong supporters of former President Trump, such as Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson, Laura Ingraham, and Dan Bongino; thus, during the Trump Presidency, FNC typically skewed conservative as there was less criticism of Trump. Fox News also features fact-based news reporting by beat reporters and some daytime TV hosts. However, this credible news reporting is buried between TV programming promoting Right Leaning propaganda and false claims. The website is similar, with credible news stories between hyper-partisan questionable content from their nighttime TV hosts.

Ghana Broadcasting Corporation

The Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) was established by law in 1968 with a triple mandate as a State Broadcaster, Public Service Broadcaster, and a Commercial Broadcaster in Ghana. Established under an act by the British colonial government in 1935, the Gold Coast first operated a Broadcasting outlet called radio ZOY. It later became the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation after Dr Kwame Nkrumah changed the name Gold Coast to Ghana, upon political independence in 1957. The mandate of GBC requires that it provides services for all segments of the multicultural society, with the cardinal roles being timely information, education and entertainment. It quickly set up the GTV Learning channel to broadcast to school pupils and students forced to stay home as the academic calendar was suspended at the onset of the novel Coronavirus pandemic from March 2020.

Le Monde

Launched in 1944, at the order of Charles de Gaulle, Le Monde is a daily newspaper based in Paris, France. The paper covers French current events, world news, economy, sports politics, and lifestyle. Le Monde's editorial stance is considered Centre-Left. For example, they publish articles from a liberal perspective, such as "George Clooney's lesson in inclusiveness in Los Angeles" and "Women in struggle, a world struggle". In general, they report factually and use a wide variety of credible sources, however editorially, they promote liberal positions on most issues and lean left.

New Zealand Herald

The New Zealand Herald is a daily newspaper published in Auckland, New Zealand, owned by New Zealand Media and Entertainment that was founded on November 13, 1863. The Herald is traditionally a center-right newspaper and was given the nickname "Granny Herald" into the 1990s.

NotiMex

Notimex was the official Mexican news agency, created on August 20, 1968, to handle coverage of the 1968 Summer Olympics. It was originally called Agencia Mexicana de Noticias Notimex. Its goals, according to law, were to contribute to the realization of the people's right to information through the provision of professional news services, to the Mexican state and any other person, entity or public body or private, domestic or foreign, with genuine editorial independence. In June 2006, following reform of its charter, its official name became Agencia de Noticias del Estado Mexicano. The principal reform was independence from the Secretary of the Interior and administration by a governing board composed of representatives of the state. Before its dissolution in December 2023, the agency had been on strike since February 21, 2020, and halted its news operations in June of that same year.

Radio and Television of Montenegro (RTCG)

Radio and Television of Montenegro (RTCG) is the public service broadcaster of Montenegro. A state-owned company with its headquarters in Podgorica, it is made up of the Radio of Montenegro and the Television of Montenegro. The radio portion of the public service broadcaster was founded on November 27, 1949 and the television portion founded on May 4, 1964. RTCG is regulated by the Law on Public Radio-Diffusion Services, requiring it to serve the interests of all Montenegro citizens, regardless of their political, religious, culture, racial or gender affiliation. RTCG is widely seen as dependent on the Government, particularly after allegedly politically motivated dismissals of journalists in 2011.

Radio Bulgaria

Radio Bulgaria is the official international broadcasting station of Bulgaria that was launched on March 30, 1930. For almost seventy years the world service of the Bulgarian radio, formerly called Radio Sofia but now renamed Radio Bulgaria, has been presenting the country's cultural and national identity to the world. It is a principal source of information from and about Bulgaria for millions of listeners outside its borders.

Radio Havana Cuba

Radio Havana Cuba (Radio Habana Cuba/RHC) is the official government-run international broadcasting station of Cuba that aired officially on May 1, 1961. The station unofficially began broadcasting during the Bay of Pigs Invasion in order to spread news of the attack, and the Cuban defense against it, internationally. The station was officially launched a few days later on 1 May 1961, with its name proclaimed as Radio Havana Cuba, during a mass rally at Plaza de la Revolución in Havana held to celebrate Cuba's victory over the US-sponsored invasion attempt. Currently, RHC broadcasts in nine languages: Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Quechua, Guarani, Creole and Esperanto, 24 hours a day, with a varied programming that includes news, music and features. RHC's English-language broadcasts are heavily centered on the United States and feature news items that uniformly adversely reflect upon the U.S. government and the current administration, especially its foreign policies.

Slovenian Press Agency (STA)

The Slovenian Press Agency (STA) is a national news agency covering domestic and international events that is based in Slovenia that was established on June 20, 1991, just days before the Independence of Slovenia, that mainly targets state institutions, corporations and embassies. The STA exchanges news wires with press agencies from around the world and also taps into other foreign sources of news to provide a wider view.

South African Broadcasting Corporation News (SABC News)

Established in August 1936, The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) Limited (“The SABC”) is a public broadcaster, with a mandate to inform, educate and entertain the public of South Africa. Founded on the statute of The Broadcasting Act (The Act) the SABC’s obligations are captured in the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“ICASA”) Regulations and license conditions, providing five television channels and 18 Radio stations.

The Observer

Founded in 1791, The Observer is a British newspaper published on Sundays. In the same place on the political spectrum as its sister papers, The Guardian and The Guardian Weekly, whose parent company Guardian Media Group Limited acquired it in 1993, it claims to take a social liberal or social democratic line on most issues. It is the world’s oldest Sunday newspaper. The Observer denigrates the right such as this “The right cannot resist a culture war against the ‘liberal elite’, even now”. In general, The Observer is moderately left-biased.

Venezolana de Televisión (VTV)

Corporación Venezolana de Televisión (Spanish for: Venezuelan Television Corporation) or VTV is a state-run television station based in Caracas, Venezuela, which can be seen throughout the capital and surrounding areas on channel 8. During the Bolivarian government, VTV has been used by the government to campaign against Venezuela’s opposition and Venezuela’s privately owned media, with about 75% of its programming transmitted to Venezuelans consisted of Bolivarian propaganda. VTV’s slogan is “El Canal de todos los Venezolanos”, or “The channel of all Venezuelans”. They operate under government control and tend to report under the values of the more socialist political agenda.

Xinhua News Agency

Xinhua News Agency, or New China News Agency, is the official state news agency of the People’s Republic of China. A State Council’s ministry-level institution founded in 1931, Xinhua is the largest media organ in China. Xinhua tailors its pro-Chinese government message to the nuances of each international audience. The organization has faced criticism for spreading propaganda and disinformation and for criticizing people, groups, or movements critical of the Chinese government and its policies. In 2005, Reporters Without Borders called Xinhua “The World’s Biggest Propaganda Machine”, pointing out that Xinhua’s president held the rank of a minister in the government. The report stated that the news agency was “at the heart of censorship and disinformation put in place” by the government.