Statement Calling for the Immediate Release of the Hokkaido Shimbun Journalist Detained by Russian Authorities

11 November 2026

The Japan National Press Club

The Japan National Press Club firmly calls for the immediate release of a Hokkaido Shimbun journalist detained by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB).

We urge the Government of Japan to continue making every possible diplomatic effort to ensure the safety of the detained journalist and to secure the journalist's immediate release.

As an organization dedicated to defending freedom of expression and contributing to the advancement of democracy, we believe that the freedoms of newsgathering, reporting, and expression, which constitute the very foundation of a democratic society, must never be unjustly infringed upon. Nor should journalistic activities be obstructed under any circumstances.

The Japan National Press Club expresses its deep solidarity with the detained journalist and with Hokkaido Shimbun, one of its member organizations, and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting efforts to secure the journalist's release.