For the statutory congress

**Resolution**

Every three years the International Federation of Translators (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs – FIT) invites its members and others from the wider community of translators, interpreters and terminologists across the world to the FIT World Congress. This year’s Congress, held in Berlin, Germany, brought together 1,600 participants from over 70 countries to discuss relevant topics and the future of the language industry.

With great concern the participants at the 2014 FIT Statutory Congress also considered the situation of those colleagues who undertake their work in conflict zones all over the world. With their dangerous, yet important jobs they guarantee at least a minimum of communication between the otherwise “speechless” parties in the conflict. As linguists committed to impartiality, they build bridges that overcome language and cultural barriers and thus help resolve situations where otherwise only weapons would speak. Yet the service of translators and interpreters lacks the recognition it deserves and time and again they are regarded as traitors or collaborators by all the parties involved.

Recognizing the danger and the urgency of their situation, the participants at the 2014 FIT Statutory Congress call upon national governments and the international community to

* protect the local translators and interpreters in conflict zones
* ensure a life in security during and after their work in the conflict zone is done
* respect the impartiality of the work of translators and interpreters
* work for a UN Convention and/or an international safety document for the protection of translators and interpreters in conflict zones during and after their service

Berlin, 3 August 2014

For the open congress

**Resolution**

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With great concern the Congress participants also considered the situation of those colleagues who undertake their work in conflict zones all over the world. With their dangerous, yet important jobs they guarantee at least a minimum of communication between the otherwise “speechless” parties in the conflict. As linguists committed to impartiality, they build bridges that overcome language and cultural barriers and thus help resolve situations where otherwise only weapons would speak. Yet the service of translators and interpreters lacks the recognition it deserves and time and again they are regarded as traitors or collaborators by all the parties involved.

Recognizing the danger and the urgency of their situation, the participants at the XXth FIT World Congress express their support for the resolution adopted by the members of FIT at their statutory congress on 2-3 August 2014 to call upon national governments and the international community to

* protect the local translators and interpreters in conflict zones
* ensure a life in security during and after their work in the conflict zone is done
* respect the impartiality of the work of translators and interpreters
* work for a UN Convention and/or an international safety document for the protection of translators and interpreters in conflict zones during and after their service

Berlin, 6 August 2014