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**DECLARATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS - IAB**

**Ten years from RCTV closure**

May 27, 2007 is the date when one of the most painful acts for the history of private and free broadcasting and for Freedom of Expression of Thought was carried out.

At 24:00 hours on May 27, the arbitrary closure of Radio Caracas Television (RCTV) was perpetrated by decision of the Venezuelan government.

Ten years have passed since the cessation of RCTV's over-the-air signal, which was an attack on Freedom of Expression that was and still is deplored throughout the world.

RCTV, with a history spanning over half a century, thanks to its outstanding work, conquered and deserved the most important recognition born from the support of the Venezuelan people, whose preference placed it at the highest levels of audience throughout the country.

The closure of RCTV deprived the Venezuelans of a free and over-the-air media where they could access a source of information, ideas and opinions from all sectors of the country, which is indispensable for pluralism and the full validity of Democracy.

To subjugate Freedom of Expression is also to subjugate the Freedom of the individual.

RCTV case was an act of abuse of power which attacked the rule of law, violating constitutional guarantees and International Human Rights Treaties, to the detriment of Freedom and Democracy in Venezuela.

The International Association of Broadcasting emphatically reiterates its strongest condemnation and rejection to the decision imposing the closure of RCTV, in an act of retaliation and persecution against an independent media that until the last moment of transmission maintained its informative and editorial behavior attached to rule of law and above pressures and harassment.

IAB once again demands the restoration of the over-the-air television signal to RCTV, and the immediate restitution of their equipment and facilities that were illegally confiscated, as established by the ruling of the Inter American Court of Human Rights.

The international community of broadcasters represented by IAB once again proclaims its solidarity with Venezuelan colleagues and communicators along with the inalienable right of their fellow citizens to inform themselves freely.

Mexico City, May 25, 2017