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RESOLUTION OF THE IAB 44 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VENEZUELA

WHEREAS:

On May 27, 2014 was the seventh anniversary of the arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional closure of Radio Caracas Television – RCTV – decided by the Government of Venezuela.

CONSIDERING:

That the cessation of RCTV's over-the-air signal represented an attack against Freedom of Expression that has been deplored worldwide.

That RCTV's case set an act of abuse of power and subjugation of the rule of law, violating constitutional guarantees and International Human Rights Treaties, especially the American Convention on Human Rights, to the detriment of Freedom and Democracy in Venezuela.

That the closure of RCTV not only infringed the right to free expression of their communicators, workers and managers. Venezuelans were deprived from 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 exercise of democracy.

THE 44 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTING - IAB - MEETING IN PANAMA CITY, RESOLVES:

- 1- To emphatically reiterate its strongest condemnation and rejection to the decision imposing the cessation 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.
- 2- To vigorously demand the return of over-the-air television signal to RCTV, and the immediate return of their equipment and facilities that were illegally and unconstitutionally confiscated.
- 3- To report on the contents of this Resolution to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS, the European Commission of Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the OAS.

Panama City, October 11,2014