

IAB CONDEMNS THE MURDER OF JOURNALISTS IN GUATEMALA

The International Association of Broadcasting – IAB - condemns and strongly rejects the attack where the Guatemalan journalists Danilo Lopez, from Prensa Libre newspaper and Federico Salazar, from Radio New World, were killed and Martin Túnches, a reporter for Channel 30, was seriously injured. The attack took place last March 10, in the city of Mazatenango, department of Suchitepequez, 167 kilometers from the national capital.

The murdered journalists had done investigative reports related to acts of corruption and anomalies in the municipal administration.

The Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS states:

“The murder, kidnapping, intimidation of and/or threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of communications media violate the fundamental rights of individuals and strongly restrict freedom of expression. It is the duty of the state to prevent and investigate such occurrences, to punish their perpetrators and to ensure that victims receive due compensation”.

IAB urges the Public Authorities of Guatemala to provide maximum guarantees so that communicators are not defenseless and can exercise the important task of informing the public without fear of reprisal.

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