

Important decision of the Inter American Court of Human Rights

The Inter American Court of Human Rights ordered to restore the granting of Channel 2 to RCTV

" Once again, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, asserts the rights long defended by IAB in its doctrine and in its tireless and uncompromising fight on behalf of freedom of expression in its various forms. "

"This is a very important precedent that must be respected by all those who directly or indirectly want to violate the rights enshrined in the American Convention on Human Rights and want to impose laws that violate human rights." Said the IAB President, Alexandre K. Jobim, on the occasion of this important decision.

Marcel Granier: "It is a great victory for Venezuela"

In public statements, the President of Radio Caracas Television, Marcel Granier, said:

"It is a great victory of Venezuela. An opportunity for Venezuelans to live with their right to be informed."

"It is a decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, everyone is obliged to comply. I hope the Government will take this wonderful opportunity presented to them to enforce the law. This will be highly praised by all the Venezuelan people, who received the news with enthusiasm. "

Decision of the Court

As stated in its press release, the Inter American Court, in a decision notified yesterday, declared the violation of the right to freedom of expression, since an indirect restriction on its exercise was set up, to the detriment of managers and some workers of RCTV.

In particular, the Court stated that the facts of this case involved misuse of power, since it was a permitted use of State authority, such as reserving the use of radio spectrum, aiming to editorially align the media with the government. The above statement comes from the two main conclusions reached by the Court in the Decision, namely, that the decision not to renew had been taken earlier by the government and was related to the discomfort generated by the editorial policy of RCTV.

The Court also stated that the misuse of powers declared in the Decision had an impact on the exercise of freedom of expression, not only of RCTV workers and managers, but also of the citizens who were deprived of access to the editorial policy that RCTV represented. Indeed, the decision not to renew the concession sought to silence voices critical to the government, which together with pluralism, tolerance and open-mindedness constitute the demands in a democratic debate which, precisely, the right to freedom of expression seeks to protect.

IAB and its tireless defense for RCTV

Since the announcement of former President Hugo Chavez to proceed to cease Radio Caracas Television was made public in early 2007, IAB devoted an intense activity in defense of freedom of expression and the full operation of RCTV.

A Board of Directors Meeting in Caracas on March 21, 2007, "in situ" missions in Venezuela, being present in the facilities of the station on the day of its closure, studies and statements with substantiation to support the legitimate right of RCTV to continue their broadcasts were part of an IAB tireless agenda that has remained to the present.

In this regard, IAB 44 General Assembly in October 2014, approved a resolution that stated:

- 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.