

## **IAB EXPRESS CONCERN IN LIGHT OF THE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT FILED BY THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE**

The International Association of Broadcasting – IAB is concerned about the criminal complaint for slander and libel filed by the President of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet against the magazine "Que Pasa", its director, editor and two journalists.

The magazine published a public domain procedural document, where a defendant incriminates third parties and where the name of the President is mentioned. Subsequently, "Qué Pasa" made a public apology and removed the parts related to the President in its online version.

In the complaint, the accused journalists face the risk to serve a 3-year prison sentence and individual fines up to US \$ 10,000 (ten thousand United States dollars).

In a full Democracy like the one in Chile, there are several alternative mechanisms to criminal prosecution for public officials and persons affected by a publication to exercise the defense of their right to honor and privacy.

At the same time, the fact that the complaint is promoted by the President, even in her capacity as natural person, produces an inhibitory effect on the press as an instrument serving Freedom of Expression.

IAB expresses its support to the Public Declaration made by the Federation of Social Communication Media of Chile signed by our Institutional Members ANATEL and ARCHI.

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*The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB is an organization founded in 1946 that represents over 17.000 private radio and television stations and its goal is the defense of private and free broadcasting as well as the effectiveness of Freedom of Expression and Opinion.*