

## **IAB IS CONCERNED AT THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA IN THE REGION**

The International Association of Broadcasting – IAB - expresses its consternation at the series of crimes and attacks against journalists and media affecting the hemisphere.

During the months of May and June 2016 five journalists and communicators were killed: Manuel Torres, Elpidio Ramos Zarate and Zamira Esther Bautista in Mexico, Jacinto Torres Hernandez in the United States and Victor Hugo Valdés Cardona in Guatemala. At the same time, in Brazil there were several attacks against media and their workers.

In this regrettable context, IAB recalls the Resolution Doc. 15/2016 adopted by its Board of Directors during its meeting in Lima, Peru, on May 12, which established:

*“To reiterate the deepest rejection to any form of coercion, intimidation and attacks against journalists and media and to require the States to adopt the necessary measures to eradicate this kind of criminal behavior.*

*To fight against impunity of these severe cases, requiring proper investigation of the facts and punishment of those responsible.*

*To urge parliamentarians from throughout the Americas to legislate in this area, establishing special penalties and punishments for such crimes”.*

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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.*