



AIB CONDEMNS AND REJECTS THE ATTACK ON RADIO AMAMBAY OF PARAGUAY

The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB - rejects and strongly condemns the criminal attack with explosives against Radio Amambay AM, which took place at night, on Friday September 9, in the city of Pedro Juan Caballero, Republic of Paraguay.

The attack was recorded by the radio's closed circuit cameras and the video shows unidentified people throwing an explosive device on the roof of the station from a gray van.

The operation of the specialized forces of the local police later confirmed that the explosion was caused by a hand grenade. Later, two more grenades without safety lever were found in the rubble, but fortunately they had failed to explode.

The appalling incident, which left Patricia Ayala, host of the radio and her interviewee, Raimundo Fariña wounded, is an attack on Freedom of Expression and Democracy.

In this regard, 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 expresses its solidarity with the workers and managers of Radio Amambay AM and at the same time urges local authorities to conduct a prompt and thorough investigation to find those responsible for this serious incident.

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.