

IAB press release on the closure of radio stations in Venezuela

The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB - deplores and condemns the closing of Caracas 92.9 FM and Mágica 99.1 stations set forth by the Government of Venezuela.

Last August 25 at 9:30 p.m., CONATEL officials showed up at Caracas 92.9 FM station to communicate the decision "not to renew the concession and the operating permits" and to order the immediate cessation of the broadcasts. This action was not preceded by any previous administrative procedure, and is carried out disregarding the applications for renewal of the license submitted by the station. They proceeded in the same way with station Magica 99.1, which was also removed from the air that same night.

Both stations, which maintained an independent editorial line, were replaced by pro-government groups, restricting once again the right of Venezuelans to access information sources of their choice and installing a single speech that comes from the state.

The station Caracas 92.9 FM is part of Radio Caracas Televisión -RCTV, whose over-the-air television channel was closed by the Venezuelan government 10 years ago.

RCTV raised the case to the Inter-American System of Human Rights of the OAS. In the year 2015, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ordered the State to return the signal to its legitimate owner, basing its resolution on the fact that the non-renewal of the concession responded to the authorities' intention to silence a critical voice.

The regime of Nicolás Maduro not only failed to comply with the ruling of the highest court in the field of human rights at the hemispheric level, but now once again engages in the same illegitimate practice.

IAB urges the International Community and the highest governmental bodies at the global and regional levels, such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States, to continue their efforts to restore Democracy in Venezuela and guarantee the effective enjoyment of the Fundamental Right to Freedom of Expression.

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.