

IAB CONDEMNS SEVERE ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND CENSORSHIP AGAINST JOURNALIST IN VENEZUELA

The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB rejects and condemns the acts of violence against journalist Elyangélica González, reporter of Radio Caracol, which took place today, March 31, in the city of Caracas, Venezuela.

González was in the surroundings of the Supreme Court of Justice giving live coverage to a demonstration by a group of students against the decision of the Court to assume the powers of the Legislative Authority, when she was approached by around ten armed agents of the Bolivarian National Guard who interrupted the transmission, assaulted the journalist and seized her work equipment.

As established by Principle 9 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, "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".

Considering the repeated acts of censorship in Venezuela, IAB strongly calls on the International Community to adopt all measures covered by the International Treaties and Conventions in force to restore Fundamental Rights and the full exercise of Freedom of Expression and Information in that country.

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.