

DECLARATION OF CADIZ

Cadiz, Spain, November ten, two thousand and ten.

The International Association of Broadcasting, meeting at its General Assembly during the commemorations of the Bicentenary of the 1812 Constitution, and on the exact date of the two hundred years of the IX Print Freedom Decree, that gave rise to the beginning of the State and modern Parliamentary system, the Division of Powers, the Principles of Legality and Equality under the Law and Freedom of Expression, Information and Opinion, declares:

1. We note with concern the trend of legislations and regulations upheld by some governments that, appealing to the need to "democratize the media", end in mechanisms aimed to control their editorial work and independence. Freedom of Expression and Democracy can only exist when the pluralism of ideas, opinions and information - exercised in a society with a diversity of free and independent media - is fully achieved.
2. We strongly condemn any attacks on journalists and the media and we pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives when fulfilling their mission to inform the public opinion, as well as we warn on the use of physical, oral and moral violence against the media and journalists, as an instrument impelled and abided by some governments to curb Free Expression, establishing a new form of intolerance and authoritarianism.
3. We reject censorship and all the ways to limit the news and editorial work, by invoking questions of national interest or of any other nature, which ends in restricting the right of the citizens to participate and decide on issues that are important for the development of a democratic society.
4. Private radio and television, of free and over-the-air reception, are a public interest activity, essential to Democracy, Freedom of Expression and the pluralism in the news.

The broadcasters meeting in CADIZ, land of freedoms and birthplace of the first democratic institutions in Hispano-America, renew our commitment with Democracy and its institutions, with the defense and promotion of Freedom of Expression and the fundamental rights and we call on the governments, international organizations and democratic entities to redouble their effort to report and reject the new ways of authoritarianism and institutional degradation that affect some Ibero-American countries.

Cádiz, Spain, November 9, 2010.