

DOCTRINE OF PANAMA ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The Inter-American Press Association and the Inter-American Association of Broadcasters have as common purpose the defense of freedom of expression in the American Hemisphere and as a specific aim to strive to maintain the basic principles of a free democratic society which will permit the existence of individual freedom and of human dignity.

Faced with the fact that in some American States there have been increasing occurrences of suppression or coercion of the freedom of expression on the part of their governments which were injurious to the sovereign rights of their peoples, the two above-named associations express their profound concern over such occurrences and those that might occur in the future.

They therefore **DECLARE:** That any aggression to the freedom or the dignity of the individual, or any act which suppresses or curtails the freedom of expression of any person or entity, defending or practicing said freedom by means of the press or radio, shall constitute an act of aggression against all members of the Inter-American Press Association and the Inter-American Association of Broadcasters.

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Goar Mestre (IAB) - Luis Franzini (IAPA)