
“Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

Thursday, 1 May 2014, 10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Conference Room 1 (CB), UN Headquarters New York

In 1993, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 3 May as World Press Freedom Day following a Recommendation adopted at the twenty-sixth session of UNESCO’s General Conference in 1991. It serves as an occasion to inform citizens of violations of press freedom - a reminder that in dozens of countries around the world, publications are censored, fined, suspended and closed down, while journalists, editors and publishers are harassed, attacked, detained and even murdered.

World Press Freedom Day is a date to encourage and develop initiatives in favour of press freedom, and to assess the state of press freedom worldwide. It serves as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom and is also a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics. Just as importantly, it is a day of support for media which are targets for the restraint, or abolition, of press freedom. It is also a day of remembrance for those journalists who lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

OPENING SESSION
Moderator
Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

Opening Remarks
Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General
H. E. Mr. John W. Ashe, President, United Nations General Assembly
H. E. Ms. Lyutha Al-Mughairy, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations and Chairperson of the General Assembly Committee on Information
Vibeke Jensen, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office in New York
Pamela Falk, President, United Nations Correspondents Association

PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderator
Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division, Department of Public Information

Panellists
Yehia Ghanem, International Journalist in Residence at CUNY, Graduate School of Journalism
Delphine Halgand, US Representative, Reporters without Borders
Agnes Callamard, Director, Freedom of Expression and Information Project
Wade Williams, Editor, FrontPage Africa Newspaper

RSVP

This Briefing will be webcast live at webtv.un.org. You can post questions and comments during the session on Facebook (UNDPINGO) or Twitter (#DPINGO @UNDPINGO #WPFD).