

World Press Freedom Day

May 3, 2007



World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1991 as a day "to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession." Press freedom is considered to be a cornerstone of human rights and a guarantee of other freedoms.

UNESCO promotes freedom of expression and freedom of the press as a basic human right, through lobbying and monitoring activities. It highlights media independence and pluralism as fundamental to the process of democracy by providing advisory services on media legislation and by making governments, parliamentarians and other decision-makers aware of the need to guarantee free expression.

Other major UNESCO activities in this field include the proclamation in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly of a World Press Freedom Day to be celebrated on May 3rd; the establishment of an advisory group on press freedom which includes media professionals from all parts of the world; the establishment in 1997 of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. UNESCO supports independent media in zones of conflict to enable them to play an active role in conflict prevention and resolution and the transition towards a culture of peace.

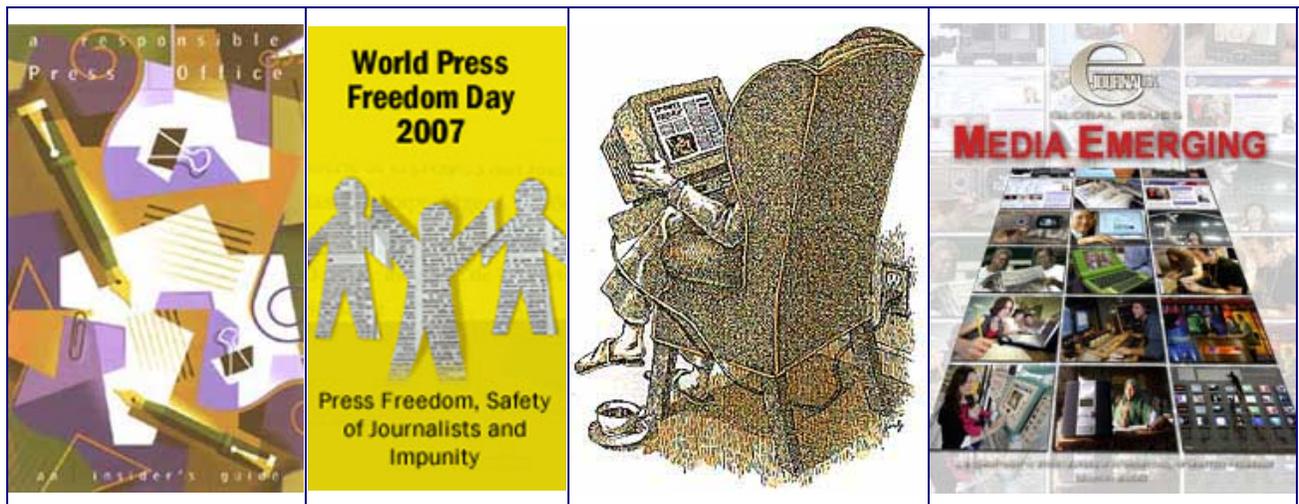


Press freedom, safety of journalists and impunity will be the topics of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2007. Due to the 10th anniversary of UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize, this year's World Press Freedom Day will be celebrated in the city of Medellin, Colombia.

Guillermo Cano Isaza was assassinated on December 17, 1986 in front of the newspaper's exit in Bogotá by two hired killers. Cano was a victim of drug trafficking mafias, which he fearlessly denounced and about whose harmful effects on Colombian society he cautioned.

http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1530&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
<http://www.hrea.org/feature-events/world-press-freedom-day.php>

World Press Freedom



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<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/wpfd/2007/>

Internet Freedom

http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet_freedom.html

Freedom of the Press

http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html

Freedom of Speech (Democracy Dialogues)

http://www.democracy.gov/dd/democracy_dialogues/freedom_speech.html

E-Journal: Media Emerging

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, March 2006

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0306/ijge/ijge0306.htm>

Handbook of Independent Journalism

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/journalism/index.htm>

IIP Publication: Principles of Democracy – A Free Press

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/principles/freepress.htm>

About America: Edward R. Murrow, Journalism At Its Best

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/murrow/index.htm>

Booklet: A Responsible Press Office

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/pressoffice/>

Booklet: An Unfettered Press

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/press/>