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IAB PRESS RELEASE ON A NEW HARASSMENT AGAINST GLOBOVISION IN VENEZUELA

The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB - deplores and rejects a new act of harassment and censorship against Globovision in Venezuela, through punitive administrative proceedings initiated by the National Telecommunications Commission - CONATEL - which banned the broadcast of micro news reports on articles of the Constitution related to the oath and taking office of the President-elect for a new term.

This action taken by the CONATEL is contrary to the full exercise of Freedom of Expression, which is not a concession by the States but a fundamental right, essential for the functioning of a democratic society.

The Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights states: "Prior censorship, direct or indirect interference in or pressure exerted upon any expression, opinion or information transmitted through any means of oral, written, artistic, visual or electronic communication must be prohibited by law. Restrictions to the free circulation of ideas and opinions, as well as the arbitrary imposition of information and the imposition of obstacles to the free flow of information violate the right to freedom of expression."

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