



IAB PRESS RELEASE ON SITUATION IN VENEZUELA

The International Association of Broadcasting – IAB – observes with deep concern the situation of the Venezuelan journalist Leocenis García, from the newspaper *6to Poder*, who is carrying out a hunger strike to protest for the actions of the National Commission of Telecommunications (CONATEL) against the channel “Americana de Televisión” (ATEL TV).

CONATEL threatened cable companies to force them to take ATEL TV signal from their programming schedule, at the time that the journalist Leocenis Garcia was making the formalities for the purchase of ATEL TV, which would become a 24- hours news channel to gather independent journalists, but it was closed before the sale became effective.

García, who is on hunger strike since Saturday, June 8 in front of the Organization of American States (OAS) headquarters in Caracas, warned about the strategy of the Venezuelan Government to establish a “communicational hegemony” and to control the exercise of Freedom of Expression in that country.

IAB once again denounces these practices in violation of the Venezuelan Constitution and the American Convention on Human Rights, among other international instruments affecting the rights of the present owners of ATEL TV and citizens to be properly informed.

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