



IAB PRESS RELEASE ON ALARMING SITUATION IN COSTA RICA

The International Association of Broadcasting – IAB - notes with deep concern an alarming situation being registered in Costa Rica that severely affects the operation of several media in the country.

On Monday, June 9, 2014 two agreements signed by the former President of the Republic, Laura Chinchilla Miranda and the former Minister, José Cruz Molina on February 2014, were published in the Oficial Journal La Gaceta, of Costa Rica. Such agreements revoke, by act of the former President, 1670 permissions granted to companies and individuals by the Government of Costa Rica, for the use of private radiocommunication frequencies that allow the operation of various activities related to productive and communication undertakings.

Fourteen radio stations are, so far, among those whose permission has been revoked, compromising their full operation and consequently the exercise of the Right to Free Expression.

The American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José de Costa Rica) states that the right of expression may not be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of government controls on radio broadcasting frequencies, or equipment used in the dissemination of information, or by any other means tending to impede the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions.

IAB reaffirms its invariable support to the National Chamber of Radio - CANARA - in its permanent defense for the free and independent broadcasting in Costa Rica and the full observance of democratic institutions, as well as in the legal actions that will allow this serious situation to be reverted.

June 12, 2014