



IAB PRESS RELEASE ON NEW LAW IN EL SALVADOR THREATENING FREEDOM EXPRESSION AND FREE INDEPENDENT MEDIA

The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB - notes with concern the recent enactment of a "Anti – money laundering Law" in El Salvador which incorporates media, of any kind, as entities under permanent investigation.

Subjecting media to a surveillance by creating new procedures and control bodies, could allow their use, by the political power in office, as instruments to pressure and punish social communicators and media, because of the opinion and information they express, which is a severe threat that attacks freedom of expression.

As stated in the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: "Direct or indirect pressures exerted upon journalists or other social communicators to stifle the dissemination of information are incompatible with freedom of expression".

Free and independent media, acting without coercion, fulfill the transcendent mission to investigate, inform and report to the citizens on corruption and illegalities, strengthening the awareness of the public opinion on the national scene in all its orders and therefore the full operation of democratic institutions and the rule of law.

IAB stands in solidarity with the Salvadoran Association of Broadcasters - ASDER - in its call to the President, Salvador Sanchez Ceren, for the mentioned regulation to be revised, preventing potential restrictions on the media to be established in El Salvador.

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