

Appendix 1. Journalism advocacy organizations and laws and committees on freedom of speech and press

Regional committees on Human Rights and articles that refer to freedom of speech and press.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) was established along with the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, proclaimed in Bogotá, Colombia on April, 1948 (IACHR, 2008).

It is a permanent body that meets several times a year in ordinary and special sessions. Its headquarters are located in Washington, D.C. (IACHR, 2008).

Article IV of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Persons:

“Every person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever” (IACHR, 1948, Art. IV).

European Court of Human Rights

Headquartered in Strasbourg, France, the ECHR acts under the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and drawn up within the Council of Europe (ECHR, 2008). The Convention was opened for signature in Rome on November 1950 and entered into force in September 1953 (ECHR, 2008).

“The Convention is an international treaty under which the member States of the Council of Europe promise to secure fundamental civil and political rights, not only to their own citizens” (ECHR, 2008, p. 3).

Article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.

2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or the rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary (ECHR, 1950, Art. 10).

African Commission of Human and People's Rights

The African Commission of Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) was founded in 1968 to protect human rights in Africa based on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, adopted by the Organization of African Unity in 1981. The Commission meets twice a year usually in its secretariat located in Banjul, Gambia (ACHPR, 2008).

Article 9 of the African Charter of Human and People's Rights

1. Every individual shall have the right to receive information.
2. Every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law (ACHPR, 1981, Art. 9).

Asian Human Rights Commission

The AHRC is a non-governmental body established in 1986 by Asian jurists and activists. AHRC's mission is to promote civil and human rights in Asian countries and address human rights violations. This organ is based on the Asian Charter of Human Rights and its headquarters are located in Hong Kong. (AHRC, 2008)

Asian Charter of Human Rights: The Right to Democracy

Article 5.2 The state, which claims to have the primary responsibility for the development and well-being of the people, should be humane, open and accountable. The corollary of the respect for human rights is a tolerant and pluralistic

system, in which people are free to express their views and to seek to persuade others and in which the rights of minorities are respected. People must participate in public affairs, through the electoral and other decision-making and implementing processes, free from racial, religious or gender discriminations (AHRC, 1986, Art. 5.2).

Article 13.1 Students in Asia struggled against colonialism and fought for democratization and social justice. As a result of their fearless commitment to social transformation they have often suffered from state violence and repression and remain as one of the key targets for counter-insurgency operations and internal security laws and operations. Students are frequently denied the right to academic freedom and to the freedoms of expression and association (AHRC, 1986, Art. 13.1).

Enforcement of Rights

Article 15. Many Asian states have guarantees of human rights in their constitutions, and many of them have ratified international instruments on human rights. However, there continues to be a wide gap between rights enshrined in these documents and the abject reality that denies people their rights. Asian states must take urgent action to implement the human rights of their citizens and residents (AHRC, 1986, Art. 13.1).

5. International non-governmental, non-profit organizations that defend freedom of press

Reporters Without Borders: Reporters Without Borders is a nonprofit organization based in France with commissions across Europe, Asia, America and Asia and has a consultant status in the U.N. (RSF, 2008d).

Established in 1985 in Montpellier, Reporters Without Borders gathers information of press freedom violations worldwide and puts “pressure on governments which do not respect the right to

inform and to be informed” through protest letters and petitions (RSF, 2008d, par. 3).

Reporters Without Borders also conducts publicity campaigns aimed “to inform people and try to give countries which do not respect [freedom of press] a bad name in the eyes of international institutions, the media and governments that have ties with them” (RSF, 2008d, par. 5).

Committee to Protect Journalists: The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), headquartered in New York, was founded in 1981 by a group of U.S. foreign in “response to the often brutal treatment of their foreign colleagues by authoritarian governments and other enemies of independent journalism” (CPJ, 2008, par. 2).

CPJ “promote[s] press freedom worldwide by defending the rights of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal” (CPJ, 2008, par. 1).

CPJ shares information of press freedom violations worldwide to other organizations through the International Freedom of Expression Exchange, which will be presented later in this chapter (CPJ, 2008).

It also gives legal and journalism advice to reporters who cover dangerous situations. It has created a list of specific definitions of crimes against journalists in order to assure accuracy: “lists compiled by other organizations may include journalists whose killings [were] not connected to their work with reasonable certainty” (CPJ, 2008b, par. 27).

CPJ also differentiates journalists from media support workers for which it maintains a separate list (CPJ, 2008b).

International Press Institute: IPI was formed in 1950 by 34 editors from 15 countries in Columbia University in New York. IPI is “dedicated to the furtherance and safeguarding of press freedom, the protection of freedom of opinion and expression, the free flow of information and the improvement of the practices of journalism” (IPI, 2008b, par. 1).

IPI “undertakes monitoring of media activities”, send protest letters to censors and press freedom violators and provides and international “network of media contacts” to its members (IPI, 2008b, par. 1).

_____ **International Freedom of Expression Exchange:** The International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) was established in Canada in 1992 and it's formed by 81 freedoms of expression organizations worldwide. The Clearing House, located in Toronto, "is the nerve-center" of IFEX (IFEX, 2008).

"A key area of the Clearing House's work is the Outreach and Development Program...designed to support and strengthen fledgling freedom of expression organizations in the developing world, Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union" (IFEX, 2008, par. 11).

The *IFEX Communiqué* includes a wide range of material, including information from IFEX member organizations, international media sources and other human rights organizations (IFEX, 2008).

World Press Freedom Committee: The World Press Freedom Committee (WPFC) was established 30 years ago by a group of organizations worldwide (WPFC, 2008).

Headquartered in Reston, Virginia, U.S., WPFC was "originally created to wage an eventually successful global struggle in and around intergovernmental organizations to beat back authoritarian proposals for a restrictive "new world information and communication order" (WPFC, 2008, par. 1).

WPFC administers "the only global program for systematically monitoring press freedom issues at UNESCO [and] the U.N. on behalf of press freedom groups" (WPFC, 2008, par. 2).

This Committee has also produced "a unique model legal brief currently being used by lawyers around the world to assist journalists and media under legal attack for doing their jobs" (WPFC, 2008, par. 3).

International Federation of Journalist: The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is the "world's largest organization of journalists" (IFJ, 2008, par. 1). It was "first established in 1926, it was relaunched in 1946 and again, in its present form, in 1952" (IFJ, 2008, par. 1).

Among their main activities, IFJ "speaks for journalists within the U.N. system and within the international trade union movement" (IFJ, 2008, par. 6). This Federation established the International Safety Fund "to provide humanitarian aid for journalists in need." IFJ headquarters are located in Belgium (IFJ, 2008, par. 7).

International Center for Journalists: Established in 1984 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) is “a non-profit, corporate organization [that] promotes quality journalism worldwide in the belief that independent, vigorous media is crucial in improving the human condition” (ICFJ, 2008, par.1).

ICFJ “has worked directly with more than 40,000 journalists from 176 countries...to raise the standards of journalism, [by offering] hands-on training, workshops, seminars, fellowships and international exchanges to reporters and media managers around the globe” (ICFJ, 2008, par.2). ICFJ, believes “in the power of journalism to promote positive change” (ICFJ, 2008, par.3).

6. Organizations that defend student press

Student Press Law Center, U.S.: SPLC was founded in 1974. It is “the nation's only legal assistance agency devoted exclusively to educating high school and college student journalists about the rights and responsibilities embodied by the First Amendment and supporting the student news media to cover important issues free from censorship” (SPLC, 2008d, par. 1).

SPLC, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, provides “free legal advice as well as...educational materials for student journalists on a wide variety of legal topics.” The Center's board is formed mainly by “journalism educators, corporate journalists and attorneys” (SPLC, 2008d, par. 1).

Associated Collegiate Press, U.S.: The Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) is the college division of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), which is based in Minnesota as a non-profit educational association” (NSPA, 2008).

Although NSPA is mainly a media education center, “its divisions also endorse and advocate free expression rights for student media” (NSPA, 2008, par. 2).

Canadian University Press: CUP was formed in 1938 in Winnipeg by a group of editors from across Canada. It is a “non-profit, co-operative, owned and operated by more than 70 student newspapers from coast to coast” (CUP, 2008, par. 1). CUP has several functions that include media assisting to student news outlets, such as skill, management, legal and design advice and training (CUP, 2008).

CUP also serves as a press agency and an advocate of student journalists press freedom rights. CUP supported The Cadre in the Muhammad Cartoon censorship case (see Chapter 1) (CUP, 2008).

College Editors Guild of the Philippines: The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) was founded in 1931 as an “alliance of [over 750] tertiary campus publications nationwide” (CEGP, 2008, par. 2). CEGP's missions include “protecting the right of every student to seek, receive and impart to any medium without interference” (CEGP, 2008, par. 2).

Although there are several international organizations that advocate freedom of press and organizations that support student journalism in three countries, an international organization that supports student journalists and their rights has not been established or registered.

