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ARAB STATES BROADCASTING UNION
- Tunis, Tunisia

• **AUB**

AFRICAN UNION OF BROADCASTING
- Dakar, Senegal

• **CBU**

CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING UNION
- St. Michael, Barbados

• **EBU**

EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION
- Geneva, Switzerland

• **IAB**

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTING
- Montevideo, Uruguay

• **NABA**

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- Toronto, Canada

• **OTI**

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- Mexico City, Mexico

Freedom of Speech and the Freedom and Safety of those who Report and Comment on Events and Issues that are Fundamental to Freedom of Speech

A Statement by the Broadcasting Unions united in the association of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU)

Broadcasters around the world reach hundreds of millions of viewers and listeners every hour of every day. Their news and journalism informs and enlightens citizens to empower them to make informed choices about the community, country and indeed the world they live in.

This journalistic mandate applies both to the public and private broadcaster. With it comes the responsibility to ensure that the highest quality and standards are central to the editorial process. It is therefore essential that all the necessary support is given to journalists to enable them to work to the best of their abilities in sometimes critical, extreme and dangerous situations. By doing this the broadcasting community is contributing to the core values of a civil society, as expressed so well in the Universal Charter of Human Rights, Article 19:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

The responsibility of any news organization is to practise their journalism in a manner that is consistent with the laws, values, security and respect for the rights of others that are fundamental to any democratic society. This responsibility demands that the broadcasters speak out when the basic rights of Freedom of Speech are interfered with, either by direct actions, or through laws that restrict the free flow of information and ideas.

It is for these reasons that the WBU will take an active role in the defense of Freedom of Speech and the safety and protection of those who report stories, events and opinions to their listeners, readers and viewers. Furthermore, the WBU will join with other like-minded groups in the defense of Free Speech and the Safety of our Journalists in hostile environments. As the world becomes a global community, it nonetheless remains a world with differing cultural traditions and political structures. The WBU will work towards a better understanding of these differences under the framework of the Charter of Human Rights.

April 2015