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WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2011



[World Press Freedom Day](#) is celebrated every year on May 3rd worldwide. It is an opportunity to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom: to evaluate press freedom, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. "21st Century Media: New Frontiers, New Barriers" is the theme of World Press Freedom Day 2011.

This year the United States is hosting [UNESCO's](#) World Press Freedom Day event in 2011, from May 1 - May 3 in Washington, D.C. The conference examines the growing role of the Internet, the emergence of new media and the dramatic rise in social networking in recent years. Speakers at the conference include bloggers and Internet journalists from North Africa and the Middle East, as well as other media and freedom of expression professionals from all over the world.

SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2011



[Ambassador Kenney and World Press Freedom Day 2011](#) (May 3, 2011) - To celebrate World Press Freedom Day and to help raise awareness about the importance of press freedom, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Kristie Kenney asks Thai people to show their support for freedom of the press. [Watch the video.](#)

[Statement by Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) (May 3, 2011) - "Even as we celebrate innovations that make information easier to share, we are reminded that in many places around the world, journalists are still targeted for harassment and abuse, and are sometimes killed. Today, we remember that journalism is a calling of everyday heroes."



[Judith A. McHale, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs](#) (May 1, 2011) - "We are committed to preserving space for free and independent media online as well as in traditional forums. Jamming transmissions is an attack on press freedom. Denying people access to the Internet is an attack on press freedom. Imprisoning, intimidating, or isolating reporters and their families is an attack on press freedom. The United States will never abrogate or compromise our commitment to press freedom as a universal, fundamental human right."

[USAID Commemorates World Press Freedom Day](#) (May 3, 2011) - "We support independent media in nearly half of the countries in which we operate. This work remains critically important to all of our development goals and supports our values and belief in the fundamental, universal rights of freedom of speech and freedom of the press."

21ST CENTURY MEDIA: NEW FRONTIERS, NEW BARRIERS

[Joint Message by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova on the Occasion of World Press Freedom Day](#) - The United Nations is dedicated to ensuring that the Internet becomes a truly global public resource to which all have access and where all voices are heard. This statement underlines the importance of quality content. It calls for action to defend the integrity and safety of online reporters. All principles of freedom of expression must be brought to the on-line world.



[World Press Freedom Day 2011: 21st-Century Media](#) (April 29, 2011) - This video, produced and edited by U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs in April 2011, discusses what press freedom means. The speakers are Salim Amin, a video journalist from Kenya; Ihab Al Jariri, a TV and radio journalist from the West Bank; Dalia Ziada, a blogger from Egypt; Yoani Sanchez, a blogger from Cuba; Walaa Hawari, an online reporter from Saudi Arabia; Muhammad Umer, an editor from Pakistan; and Wandee

Suntivutimetee, a reporter from Thailand.

[Statement by Secretary of State Clinton on Press Freedom Prize Winner](#) (April 7, 2011) - "I send my deepest congratulations to jailed Iranian journalist Ahmad Zeidabadi for being named the 2011 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom prize winner. Mr. Zeidabadi, along with his fellow activists, have been banned for life from political or civic activities."

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY WEBCAST SERIES

Hosted for the first time by the United States, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs is bringing you live webchats and webcasts with experts, opinion-makers and activists in today's 21st century media environment. [Click here to join the World Press Freedom Day webcast and webchat series.](#)

[Follow the World Press Freedom Day Blog](#)

Read posts to this blog from various organizations that are working to advance free expression worldwide and are also helping to organize World Press Freedom Day 2011 events in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State and UNESCO.

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