

The United States is committed to supporting freedom of expression and freedom of the press throughout the world, and to defending the freedom of the journalists who exercise it.

The staff of NRT and the people of Iraq, as well as advocates of press freedom and freedom of expression, should be proud of the significant contributions independent media outlets make to advancing democratic practices and ideals.

A free press is a fundamental principle of democracy; it is essential to an informed and empowered citizenry, government accountability, and responsible economic development. President Obama has said: “The more freely information flows, the stronger a society becomes...” Media outlets in a democratic society must be able to operate without censorship, fear of intimidation, harassment, or threats.

The U.S. Mission in Iraq commends NRT and its staff for their courage and efforts to provide unbiased, objective, and accurate reporting. Independent media outlets must have a secure environment in which journalists can do their job without intimidation or fear of reprisal.