



**Embassy of the United States of America
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@Sam's, a one stop product to help keep you informed about U.S. government policies on current interest issues, is a periodic selection of online reports, documents and websites on selected topics from both U.S. government and non-governmental organizations and institutions, categorized into six thematic areas: Regional Security, Economics and Trade, Democracy and Human Rights, Global Issues and Environment, Media and Information Technology, and Education and Culture. Full texts of the articles are available at your fingertips by clicking the embedded links.

@SAM'S MEDIA AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2013 May 3, 2013

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every May 3rd and this year marks its 20th anniversary. It represents an opportunity to commemorate the principles of press freedom and to pay solemn tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



The United States values freedom of the press as a key component of democratic governance. In the United States and in many places around the world, the press fosters active debate, provides investigative reporting, and serves as a forum to express different points of view, particularly on behalf of those who are marginalized in society. The United States commends journalists around the world for the important role they play, and for their commitment to the free exchange of ideas.

There is a growing awareness that ensuring freedom of expression must also necessarily extend to safety online. World Press Freedom Day 2013 focuses on the theme "Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media" and puts the spotlight on the issues of [safety of journalists](#), [combating impunity for crimes against freedom of expression](#), and securing a free and open Internet as the precondition for [online safety](#).

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U.S. COMMITMENTS ON MEDIA FREEDOM

[Secretary of State John Kerry's Message on World Press Freedom Day](#) (May 3, 2013) - Secretary of State John Kerry marks World Press Freedom Day and calls upon all governments to take the necessary steps to foster an environment where journalists can operate freely, independently and without fear.

[Statement by Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on World Press Freedom Day](#) (May 3, 2013) - "On World Press Freedom Day, we applaud the crucial work of journalists around the world and honor freedom of expression as a fundamental human value."

[Statement Commemorating World Press Freedom Day 2013 by Ambassador Ian Kelly](#) (May 2, 2013) - "In coordination with the Chair-in-Office and other concerned participating States, the United States will continue to advocate for an OSCE decision strengthening protections for journalists against acts of violence and intimidation related to their work."



[Free the Press: The Shrinking Space for Media Worldwide](#) (April 22, 2013) - The U.S. Department of State highlights emblematic threats to journalists while continuing to call on all governments to protect the universal human right to freedom of expression.

[Pressing for Freedom: The State of Digital and Media Repression Worldwide 2013 by Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine](#) (April 25, 2013) - "Online, print, blogs, text, tweets, information is the moral equivalent of oxygen. Information is how a free, healthy, vibrant and functioning society breathes. It is essential to building civil societies. And without it, aspirations are choked, economies suffocated, countries unable to grow."

[Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine on Media Freedom](#) (April 15, 2013) - "So it's important that we have a diverse and independent press, so the people can trust what they read, hear, and see in the media. When we have a free, fair, and vigorous media environment in a democratic society, we are informed about the truth. And that allows us to make the best decisions we can, based on the most reliable



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information we can find."

[Remarks on World Press Freedom Day by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights & Labor, Uzra Zeya](#) (April 26, 2013) - "Firstly, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor works actively to engage governments publically and privately on issues of major concern. This includes addressing specific cases of imprisoned journalists; new legislation that restricts certain types of expression; and existing legal frameworks that sanction the locking up of journalists in the name of security."

ONLINE READING



[Advice to Citizen Journalists: Tell the Truth, Be Yourself](#)

Charlene Porter. U.S. Department of State, May 2, 2013, 2 pages.

A question is circulating in journalistic circles on World Press Freedom Day 2013: Do citizen journalists report with integrity and standards that serve their audiences?

[Press Freedom a Human Right, Moral Necessity](#)

Jane Morse. U.S. Department of State, May

1, 2013, 2 pages.

The United States works to protect the rights of journalists worldwide and the people who depend on them for the truth.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

[Freedom of Expression at a Glance](#) (April 2013) - The U.S. Constitution protects even the most offensive speech from government suppression, and permits regulation only under certain limited and narrow circumstances. The U.S. system is built on the idea that an open exchange of ideas encourages understanding, advances truth-seeking and allows for the rebuttal of falsehoods.



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[Freedom of Expression in the United States \(April 2013\)](#)

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which the United States is a party, both state that individuals have a right to freedom of expression; this right includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds.

[Freedom of Expression Toolkit: A Guide for Students](#)

(2013) - The Freedom of Expression Toolkit is UNESCO's contribution to freedom of expression and it is written with upper high school students in mind. The Toolkit covers the major concepts and issues and it is written in an easy to understand, conversational manner.



[Global Survey on Internet Privacy and Freedom of Expression \(2012\)](#)

- This publication seeks to identify the relationship between freedom of expression and Internet privacy, assessing where they support or compete with each other in different circumstances. The book maps out the issues in the current regulatory landscape of Internet privacy from the viewpoint of freedom of expression. It provides an overview of legal protection, self-regulatory guidelines, normative challenges, and case studies relating to the topic.

WEB RESOURCES

[The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor](#) leads the U.S. efforts to promote democracy, protect human rights and international religious freedom, and advance labor rights globally.

[ARTICLE 19](#) is an international human rights organization which defends and promotes freedom of expression and freedom of information all over the world.

[The Committee to Protect Journalists](#) is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1981 to monitor abuses against the press and promotes press freedom around the world.

[The International Federation of Journalists \(IFJ\)](#) promotes international action to defend press freedom and social justice through strong, free and independent trade unions of journalists.



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[The International Freedom of Expression eXchange \(IFEX\)](#) is a global network of around 90 non-governmental organizations that promotes and defends the right to freedom of expression.

[UNESCO](#) promotes freedom of expression and freedom of the press and fosters media independence and pluralism by providing advisory services on media legislation and by making governments, parliamentarians and other decision-makers aware of the need to guarantee free expression.

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