

**James H. Ottaway, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of the World Press Freedom Committee
Remarks at a Reception in Honor of Lydia Cacho Ribeiro
October 28, 2008**

I thank Ambassador Oliver for her strong support and diplomatic skills in protecting freedom of expression and press freedom in UNESCO debates, policy discussions, and programs.

It is a good thing for us all to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. But it is a sad thing for us to admit that the promises and guarantees of that Declaration are a long way from everyday reality in most nations.

So I congratulate Lydia Cacho Ribeiro for winning the 2008 UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize for her brave reporting of the violations of law and human rights by drug lords, gangsters, and some politicians in Mexico, always with threats against her life.

And I congratulate Geoffrey Nyarota for winning the UNESCO Prize in 2002 for his outspoken and courageous reporting of the collapse of the rule of law, human rights, and the economy in Zimbabwe.

It is a sad fact that journalists like Lydia Cacho and Geoffrey Nyarota must still risk their lives to defend the human rights promised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sixty years ago.