

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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World freedom of the press day celebrated. CDP honours the journalists who have paid with their lives

“Whilst international Press Freedom Day is celebrated, the celebrations in South Africa are tempered. South Africa dropped 5 positions to the 38th position on the international press freedom index last year, and has not been the most press free country in Africa for some time. In fact, Freedom House downgraded South Africa to only a partially free press country last year,” says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

“Amongst the reasons for downgrading South Africa’s status, Reporters without Borders noted the ANC’s plans for a media tribunal, proposed legislation on limiting the flow of information and the banal way in which Julius Malema treated a BBC journalist. Media freedom plays a vital role in democracy and in combating corruption. This year 18 journalists died while doing their work, 151 have been imprisoned and 128 citizens are being held in captivity.”

“According to information released today by Reporters without Borders, 7 of the 38 media predators are on the African continent. This includes Robert Mugabe and King Mswati III who are right on our borders. South Africa’s relationship with these despots is however, not in line with their international standing.”

“We honour those journalists who have paid the ultimate price to ensure the flow of information and democracy for others.”

Wêreld-persvryheidsdag herdenk. CDP eer joernaliste wat met hul lewe geboet het

“Terwyl internasionale Persvryheidsdag vandag gevier word, is die vieringe in Suid-Afrika effens gedemp. Suid-Afrika het verlede jaar met 5 plekke op die internasionale persvryheidsindeks teruggesak na die 38ste posisie en is lank nie meer die mees persvrye land op die kontinent nie. Trouens, Freedom House het Suid-Afrika as slegs gedeelte persvry geherklassifiseer,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Onder die redes wat Verslaggewers Sonder Grense verskaf het oor hoekom Suid-Afrika so die kreeftegang gegaan het, is die ANC se planne vir ‘n mediatribunaal en wetgewing wat die vrye vloei van inligting verder sal beperk, en Julius Malema se walglike gedrag teenoor ‘n BBC-joernalis. Mediavryheid speel ‘n onontbeerlike rol in demokrasie, en in die stryd teen korrupsie. Vanjaar is reeds 18 joernaliste in die uitvoering van hul werk dood, en 151 is of was in aanhouding. Altesaam 128 internetjoernaliste is in aanhouding.”

“Volgens Verslaggewers sonder Grense se jongste lys van media-roofdiere, is 7 van die 38 bedreigings in Afrika. Hieronder tel Robert Mugabe en koning Mswati III op die Suid-Afrikaanse grense. Suid-Afrika se verhouding met dié twee despote is egter nie in ooreenstemming met hul internasionale aansien nie. “

“Ons eer die joernaliste wat met hul lewens geboet het om demokrasie aan ander te help verseker.”