

MEDIA RELEASE
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CDP pays homage to journalists who died in 2011

“The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) pays homage to those journalists who lost their lives in 2011 or who suffered other forms of persecution during the year,” says CDP leader, Rev. Theunis Botha. (Latest figures released by Reporters Without Borders listed hereunder).

“This underlines the importance for South Africans to do all in their power to protect media freedom and the right to be properly informed. After all, an ill informed public makes a mockery of democracy. Unfortunately there were several incidents reported against journalists in our country as well. Most of these, during ANC-related events such as the stoning of journalists at Julius Malema’s first appearance at his disciplinary hearing, the recent assault of a journalist during the ANC’s Limpopo conference, and who can forget Malema’ disgusting verbal abuse of a BBC journalist at one of his press grandstanding events, causing the country to slide five positions on the freedom of the press index.

“South Africa will almost certainly drop even further back on the next release of the Press Freedom Index, where the country has not been listed as the most press free country on the continent for some years. The protection of State information bill will be the reason for this. Now the ANC decided to contract a firm to monitor certain media and journalists, clearly designed to intimidate journalists from reporting freely.”

CDP bring hulde aan joernaliste wat in 2011 gesterf het

“Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) bring hulde aan die joernaliste wat hul lewens vanjaar in die uitvoering van hul pligte verloor het, of op ander wyses aan vervolging blootgestel is,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP. (Die jongste syfers wat deur Verslaggewers Sonder grense bekend gemaak is, is hieronder geplak).

“Dit onderstreep eenvoudig dat Suid-Afrikaners alles redelik in hul vermoë moet doen om mediavryheid en hul reg om ingelig te wees, te beskerm. ‘n Swak ingeligte burgers maak immers ‘n klug van die demokrasie. Ongelukkig was daar ook verskeie voorvalle in ons land waar joernaliste die teikens was, meestal tydens ANC-verwante aangeleenthede. So is joernaliste tydens Julius Malema se eerste verskyning by sy dissiplinêre verhoor onder die klippe gestee, en is ‘n joernalis tydens die ANC se Limpopo-kongres aangerand. En wie kan vergeet hoe Malema ‘n BBC-joernalis op ‘n vulgêre wyse uitgeskel het – iets wat die land reeds vyf plekke op die persvryheidsindeks gekos het.

“Suid-Afrika gaan bykans seker verder terugsak wanneer die nuutste persvryheidsindeks bekend gemaak word – ‘n indeks waarop Suid-Afrika reeds nie die mees persvrye land in Afrika is nie. Die wetontwerp op die beskerming van staatsinligting sal hierin die leue-aandeel hê. En nou het die ANC boonop besluit om ‘n firma te kontrakteer om sekere media en joernaliste te moniteer – iets wat duidelik ten doel het om joernaliste te intimideer om vrylik te rapporteer.”

2011 in figures:

- 66 journalists killed (16% more than in 2010)
- 1,044 journalists arrested
- 1,959 journalists physically attacked or threatened
- 499 media censored
- 71 journalists kidnapped
- 73 journalists fled their country
- 5 netizens killed
- 199 bloggers and netizens arrested
- 62 bloggers and netizens physically attacked
- 68 countries subject to Internet censorship