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PRESS RELEASE

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF PRESS COUNCILS CONDEMNS THREATS TO CLOSE NEWSPAPERS, NGO AND URGES TANZANIA GOVERNMENT TO UPHOLD PRESS FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

October 27, 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal

The World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) has expressed shock on Government threats to de-register *Mwananchi* and *MwanaHalisi* newspapers as well as the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA).

In a statement released today by the WAPC Secretary General, Chris Conybeare on behalf of the Executive Council of WAPC meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal urged the Government "to exercise restraint and to encourage rather than curtail press freedom and freedom of expression in Tanzania".

The WAPC Executive Council also expressed dismay on the stalled media law review process which has for four years sought to put into place the Right to Information Act and the Media Services Act.

WAPC has thus called upon the Tanzanian stakeholders and especially the Government to revive the process and enact the relevant legislation as soon as possible. Attached is the full press statement from WAPC for immediate release.

Pili Mtambalike
Acting Executive Secretary
October 27, 2010

*For a strong and ethical media that contributes
towards a more democratic and just society*

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TAARIFA KWA VYOMBO VYA HABARI

Umoja wa Mabaraza ya Habari Duniani (WAPC) Walaani Vitisho vya kufungia magazeti na kuhimiza serikali ya Tanzania kuimarisha uhuru wa vyombo vya habari na haki ya kutoa maoni.

Oktoba 27, 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal

Umoja wa Mabaraza ya Habari Duniani (WAPC) umesema umeshtushwa na vitisho vya serikali kuyafungia magazeti ya *Mwananchi* and *Mwanahalisi* na dhidi ya Chama cha Waandishi wa Habari Wanawake Tanzania (TAMWA) na kuhimiza serikali kuimarisha uhuru wa vyombo vya habari na haki ya kutoa maoni.

Kwenye taarifa iliyotolewa na Katibu Mkuu wa WAPC, Chris Conybeare, leo wakati wa mkutano wa Baraza Kuu la umoja huo unaofanyika Kathmandu, Nepal, WAPC imeitaka serikali isimamie kwa dhati uhuru wa vyombo vya habari na haki ya kutoa maoni badala ya kukandamiza.

Baraza Kuu la WAPC pia limeeleza kusikitishwa kwake kwa kudorara kwa juhudi za kubadilisha sheria mbaya zinazokandamiza uhuru wa vyombo vya habari na kusema ni vyema juhudi hizo ambazo zimechukua takriban miaka minne zikamilike kwa kupitishwa haraka iwezekanavyo kwa sheria ya Haki ya Kupata Habari na sheria ya Huduma za Vyombo vya Habari.

Tunaambatanisha taarifa kwa vyombo vya habari iliyotolewa na WAPC.

Pili Mtakabalike

Kaimu Katibu Mtendaji
Baraza la Habari Tanzania (MCT)
Oktoba 27, 2010

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October 27, 2010

WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF
PRESS COUNCILS
(WAPC)

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Chairman, Turkish Press
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Mr. CHRIS CONYBEARE
(Secretary General)

President, Media Council Hawaii

STATEMENT ON THE STALLED MEDIA LAW REVIEW
PROCESS ON THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE
MEDIA SERVICES ACTS IN TANZANIA

The Executive Council of the World Association of Press Councils (WAPC), meeting in Kathmandu and Pokhara in Nepal from October 23 to October 27, 2010 has noted with pride the gallant efforts of the Tanzania media to push forward the frontiers of democracy, human rights and press freedom.

The Executive Council is however dismayed by the fact that the media law review process which has for four years sought to put in place the Right to Information Act and the Media Services Act has stalled. The Executive Council calls upon the Tanzania stakeholders and especially the Government to revive the process and enact the relevant legislation as soon as possible.

The Executive Council is shocked by Government threats to de – register Mwananchi and MwanaHALISI newspapers as well as the Tanzania Media Women Associations (TAMWA). The WAPC urges the Government to exercise restraint and to encourage rather than curtail press freedom and freedom of expression in Tanzania.

Issued by :

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