

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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World press freedom day – CDP

“The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) notes with concern that on average, this year, a news provider was killed in the line of duty every five days: says CDP leader, Rev. Theunis Botha. “We commend journalists for what they do in strengthening democracy by exposing corruption, and by educating the public to enable them to make informed decisions when casting their votes during election time.

“We, however, note with some concern that SANEF regards South Africa as the most press free country in Africa, albeit this is under threat. According to Reporters without Borders, however, South Africa last occupied this position as far back as 2003, and now shares the 7th position on the continent with Botswana, while Freedom House also classifies the media in South Africa as being only partially free.

“It is clear that the world perceives South Africa as being less press free than recognized by the media itself, and perhaps this day offers some opportunity to ponder why this is so. Does political correctness, subtle pressure by the government through advertising and the advancement of its own political agendas not perhaps influence the inclusion or omission of news, more than the media is prepared to acknowledge. This perception is however held by a large section of the public.

“The proposals by the commission lead by retired judge Pius Langa also suggest that much more needs to be done to better equip journalists for the complexities of their tasks.

“We have noted, and congratulate the media, for the recent reporting exposing wrongdoing, and sparing no one who is found to be involved in questionable activities.”

Wêreld-persvryheidsdag - CDP

“Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) merk met kommer op dat daar vanjaar gemiddeld een nuusvoorsiener elke 5 dae in die uitvoering van sy werk omgekom het,” aldus die leier van die CDP, ds. Theunis Botha.

“Ons loof joernaliste wat die demokrasie versterk, deur nie net korripsie aan die kaak te stel nie maar kiesers in te lig sodat hulle ingeligte besluite kan neem wanneer hulle hul kruisies gaan trek.

“Ons merk egter ook met kommer op dat SANEF Suid-Afrika as die voorste land met persvryheid op die kontinent beskou, hoewel dié posisie bedreig word, terwyl Verslaggewers Sonder Grense Suid-Afrika laas in 2003 in hierdie posisie geplaas het. SA bebeklee nou saam met Botswana die die sewende posisie op die kontinent, terwyl Freedom House SA ook slegs as gedeeltelik persvry verklaar het.

“Dit is duidelik dat die wêreld Suid-Afrika as minder persvry beskou as wat die media dit self doen, en vandag is miskien ‘n goeie geleentheid om hieroor te besin. Speel politieke korrektheid, subtiele druk deur die regering oor advertensieplasinge en die subjektiewe bevordering van eie politieke agendas nie dalk ‘n groter rol in die aanbod of weglating van nuus as wat die media glo, maar wel die persepsie van ‘n groot deel van die publiek is nie?

“Die voorstelle van die kommissie van oud-regter Pius Langa beveel ook stappe aan om joernaliste beter vir hul taak toe te rus.

“Ons merk egter, en wens die media gelukkig met die onlangse groot onthullings