MEDIA RELEASE
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CDP oor mediavryheid

"Suid-Afrika moet kennis neem van die Amerikaanse dinkskrum, Freedom House, se herklassifikasie tot 'n land waar die media net gedeeltelik vry is. Boonop het dié herklassifikasie plaasgevind voor die jongste mediaverwikkelinge momentum gekry het," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie.

"Waar demokrasieë mediavryheid inperk, hou dit gewoonlik verband met veiligheidsoorwegings soos terreur, maar die ANC maak geen geheim daarvan nie, dat dit in dié geval spruit uit ongelukkigheid oor kritiek op die ANC en die regering nie. Of soos Julius Malema, die bekkige ANC-jeugleier dit gestel het, nie die saak van die revolusie dien nie."

"Juridiese akrobasie om die werklike doelwitte deur nuwe wetgewing te verdoesel, word ongedaan gemaak deur die voorgestelde mediatribunaal en die arrestasie van die joernalis, Mzilikazi Wa Afrika. Dit lyk veel meer of die jongste aksies gerig is daarop om die interne konflik in die ANC in die doofpot te hou, en om te verhinder dat korrupte kaders aan die kaak gestel word."

"Die vorige keer, in 2006, dat die regering met soortgelyke wetgewende voorstelle gekom het, het Suid-Afrika van die 21ste posisie op die persvryheidsindeks en mees persvrye land in Afrika tot die 44ste teruggesak. Daardie posisie is nog nie herwin nie. Persvryheid word dikwels as die vierde been van die demokrasie beskryf, en beïnvloed lande se posisie op die korrupsiepersepsie- en die beleggersvertroue-indekse. Die gaan 'n hoë prys betaal as dit onnodig sake in die doofpot gaan probeer hou."

CDP on media freedom

"South Africa needs to take note of the fact that the American lobby, Freedom House, has reclassified South African as a country where the media is only partially free. This reclassification also took place before the latest media developments," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance.

"When democracies curb media freedom, it almost always uses security considerations as an excuse, for instance a terrorist threat. The ANC, however, makes no secret about its reasons, which are as the result of criticism of the ANC and government. Or, as Julius Malema, the vocal leader of the ANC Youth League puts it, for not serving the aspirations of the ongoing revolution."

"Judicial acrobatics to conceal the real objectives through legislation, are unmasked by the proposed media tribunal and the arrest of jouranalist Mzilikazi Wa Afrika. It seems obvious that the latest onslaught aim to conceal the internal strife in the ANC, and to prevent comrades from being exposed for involvement with corruption."

"When, in 2006, government proposed similar legislation, South Africa dropped from the 21st positions as the most press free country in Africa, to the 44th position, a position not yet recovered from. Freedom of the press is often described as the fourth leg of democracy, and affects a country's position on the corruption perception index and the investment confidence index. The country will pay dearly if matters are unnecessarily kept secret.