



PROGRAMME

Monday, 5 October 2009

- 09:30 **Opening Statements**
- 10:30 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 **"September 11, Combating Terrorism, and the Erosion of Civil Liberties"**
How has the proliferation of anti-terrorism legislation since September 11 curtailed civil liberties and freedom of expression? Have attempts by Western governments to broaden their law enforcement powers and restrict public access to information in the name of security increased the threat to press freedom around the world by setting a negative example for autocratic regimes intent on repressing the media?
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 **"Tortured Logic – How Has the Media Reported on Terrorism and Torture?"**
Throughout the media's history, there have been debates over how to report on international news events. During the Vietnam War, the media argued over the term "collateral damage." Since 9/11, reporting on terrorism or torture allegedly committed by governments has created new risks and, some argue, new responsibilities. What are the legal and ethical implications of this debate? When is it permissible for the media to withhold information on "national security" grounds? Does the media fail the public if it seeks sanctuary in euphemisms, and what standards should it apply?
- 15:00 *Coffee Break*
- 15:30 **"The Watchdog Role of the Media in the Fight against Terrorism"**
Journalists play a crucial role not only in providing the public with the information they need to understand the complexities of the fight against terrorism, but also by questioning anti-terror measures that may threaten existing human rights standards. How do such measures affect the ability of the media to carry out its watchdog role? What are the pressures on journalists to take sides, suppress information, or reveal sources?
- 19:30 *Dinner*

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- 09:00 **"Shouting Fire in a Crowded Theatre: Incitement, Freedom of Expression and Religious Tolerance"**
This session will examine the effects on media freedom of government efforts to prevent instances of intolerance, discrimination, hatred and incitement arising from actions or statements that insult or offend a religion or belief. Panellists will also discuss the importance of quality and sensitivity in journalism. Is the media sufficiently aware of its responsibility to be fair, balanced and accurate?
- 10:30 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 **"The Vienna Declaration on Terrorism, Media and the Law"**
The final session will result in a joint statement on terrorism, media and the law, as well as discuss further steps to be taken.
- 13:00 *End of Conference*