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Caracas, Friday April 27, 2007

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## Daily News



### INTERNATIONAL BODIES VOICE SUPPORT FOR RCTV

**Monday 23rd**

#### **New demonstrations for RCTV and freedom of expression**

The Command for National Resistance (CNR) announced a number of demonstrations to advocate press freedom and freedom of expression, starting April 26 with a march to support Caracas-based private TV network RCTV -which faces the government threat not to renew its broadcasting license expiring next May 27.

CNR leader Oscar Pérez also said that next April 28 they are holding a rally in central Miranda state "to support the free and independent press."

On April 29, they are conducting a nationwide march, and on March 19 they will be participating in the so-called Hurricane for Freedom, to reject the closure of 53-year-old RCTV.

**Tuesday 24th**

#### **Telecoms Ministry turns the page on RCTV issue**

The non-renewal of the broadcasting license to private TV channel RCTV by the Venezuelan Government should not be reconsidered, said Minister of Telecommunications and IT Jesse Chacón.

In an interview with Unión Radio, Chacón claimed that RCTV board of directors sent a letter last January to his office and the communication was answered around one month ago. "We told that the relevant legal mechanism available has expired and will not be renewed. From the administrative point of view, this process is closed."

#### **RCTV CEO asks European Parliament to advocate freedom of expression in Venezuela**

Marcel Granier, CEO of RCTV, Monday asked for solidarity from the European Parliament vis-à-vis the violations of freedom of expression taking place in the country.

Granier, together with some leaders of opposition Primero Justicia party, met on April 23-24 with representatives of the conservative European Popular Party, Socialist Party and Green Party to the European Parliament.

#### **Euro-deputy endorses Venezuelan government decision on RCTV**

Spanish European Parliamentarian for political leftwing party Izquierda Unida (IU) asked Tuesday respect for a controversial decision made by the Venezuelan government not to renew a broadcasting license for private TV channel Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV).

"During the coup attempt undergone by President Hugo Chávez in 2002, that broadcaster cooperated with coupsters and hid information. In this way, it went on the fringes of the constitutional lawfulness," Meyer said in a press release.

#### **Claims of political reasons behind the government decision on RCTV**

The decision made by the Government of President Hugo Chávez regarding RCTV is due to a "predefined and political reason," claimed Tuesday the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

"A three-month investigation made by CPJ found that the government decision was made in advance and for political reasons," the agency explained in a press release.

**Wednesday 25th**

#### **Attorney General seeks legal action against Venezuelan media for failed coup**

While criminal accountability worldwide is personal and individual, Venezuelan Attorney General Isaías Rodríguez said he is seeking legal mechanisms to make private media stand trial for their actions during the events in Venezuela in 2002.

"We have been working very hard on the possibility to categorize a crime perpetrated by a corporation. We are in

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- IACHR sues Venezuela over attacks on RCTV

- Chávez says he is not accepting pressures on RCTV case