

The Research Institute on Democracy and Rule of Law (IRDED) organized a seminary on the 'Legal Protection of the Medias in Guinea' from August 6 to 8, 2007, at the Hotel Mariador Palace. This seminary assembled representants from the Union, Guinean Bar Association, the Ministry of Justice, the Army, Political Parties, Journalists, NGOs and Representatives of Diplomatic Mission in Guinea. At the end of the seminary, the participants made the following declaration:

### DECLARATION

- *Considering that freedom of expression is a fundamental right approved by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 59 Resolution of the General Assembly of United Nations, The 104 Resolution adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO, the United Nation Charter on Political and Civil Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Fundamental Law as well as the Organic Law L/91/005/006 of December 23, 1991;*
- Recognizing that freedom of the press is essential for the realization of an effective exercise of freedom of expression and that it is an essential instrument for the consolidation of democracy and rule of law through which individuals exercise their rights to receive, publish and research information;
- Convinced that all obstruction to the free debate of ideas and opinions limit freedom of expression and the effective development of a democratic process;
- Conscientious that by guaranteeing the right to access to information hold by states will lead to more transparency and accountability of government officials and will reinforce the democratic institutions;
- Conscientious that the reinforcement and development of a democracy depend on the existence of freedom of expression;
- Considering that freedom of expression is not a concession by states, but a fundamental right;

We, participants of the seminary on the Legal Protection of the Media in Guinea organized from August 6 to 8, 2007 at the Hotel Mariador Palace representing the Media, the Bar Association, Political Parties, the Union, the Army, and the Ministry of Justice, recommend the following:

To the Government:

- The respect of freedom of expression in any form and manifestations;
- The effective application of conventions and treaties signed and ratified by the Republic of Guinea;
- The effective application of article 7 of the Fundamental Law;
- The amendment of some dispositions of the Law L/91/005/006 of December 23, 1991, which constitute an obstacle to freedom of expression;
- The ratification by Guinea shortly the *Treaty of Florence*;
- The establishment of an independent and mixed commission in charge of managing the subsidies given to the Media by the government using objective criteria;
- The establishment of conditions that will enable the creation of line of credits for media enterprises;
- To continue the reinforcement of Media capacities.

To the professional of the Media

- The scrupulous respect of the Media deontology and ethic;
- The reinforcement of journalists' capacities by continuous trainings and collaboration with foreign medias;

Finally, we thank and congratulate the Research Institute on the Democracy and Rule of Law (*IRDED*) and its partners for organizing this seminary.

Conakry August 8, 2007

**The participants**