



# News Release



**Office of Public Affairs**

**U.S. Embassy**

## U.S. Embassy Marks World Press Freedom Day

*Islamabad, May 3, 2007* – The U.S. Embassy Islamabad marked the World Press Freedom Day on Thursday with an informal get together with senior journalists of the city where American diplomats highlighted the “U.S. commitment and support to a free media.”

“Freedom of the press is basic to American democracy, and the U.S. works to protect and promote press freedom at home and around the world,” Dr. Elizabeth O. Colton, the acting Public Affairs Officer and the Press Attaché of the U.S. Embassy said while talking to senior journalists.

She pointed out that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has stated that “there is no more important pillar of democracy than a free and active press.” As part of President George W. Bush’s Freedom Agenda, the United States views freedom of the press as a key component of democracy, she added.

“The United States works bilaterally and multilaterally in many ways to support press freedom worldwide,” Dr. Colton added. Dr. Colton emphasized that the State Department provides professional development and exchange programs for journalists, editors and media managers from around the world, such as the Edward R. Murrow Journalism Fellowships.

The United States is a founding member and is the fourth largest donor of UNESCO’s International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC) that promotes media independence in developing countries.

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