

ARAB MEDIA FORUM 2007 TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS

Event to Draw Key Media Representatives from 24-25 April

The Arab Media Forum 2007, to be held in Dubai in April, will focus on how properly trained media professionals can play a vital role in shaping global perceptions of the Arab world.



Held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, the Arab Media Forum 2007 will take place from 24-25 April.

Built around the theme - 'Developing People, Developing Organizations' - this year's Arab Media Forum (AMF 2007) will bring together key Arab and international media experts and prominent speakers to explore the status of the Arab media.

Mona Al Marri, Chairperson of Dubai Press Club, organizers of the event, said: "Developing the Arab media is one of our key priorities. This year's theme will study the various factors influencing its growth, especially the development of people as we believe that qualified and trained media play a vital role in shaping global perceptions of the region."

The Arab Media Forum has successfully established itself as one of the most important media events in the region. The high significance of the issues discussed has gained the forum extensive regional and international media visibility

Dubai Press Club in association with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) will also present a comprehensive report at AMF 2007, outlining the current status and future prospects of Arab media industry.

The 'Arab Media Outlook', report will provide an overview of the Arab media industry, its status and trends, and its implications for journalists and organizations in the Pan-Arab region.

"As well as promoting dialogue and the exchange of ideas and viewpoints, the Dubai Press Club is keen on leveraging the AMF as a vital platform for creating new benchmarks in the media industry within the Arab world," said Al Marri.

AMF 2007 will include highly interactive break-out sessions and workshops that will offer participants focused opportunities to discuss a wide range of topics tailored around the main theme of the forum.

Source: Dubai Press Club

PRESS UNDER SURVEILLANCE: WAN LAUNCHES ITS 3 MAY CAMPAIGN

Major terrorist attacks and threats against countries world-wide have led to the widespread tightening of security and surveillance measures which all too often are also used to stifle debate, individual liberties and freedom of the press, according to the World Association of Newspapers.

Media around the globe will highlight the dangers of these measures for their audiences on World Press Freedom Day, 3 May. The World Association of Newspapers is once again offering a package of interviews, articles, essays, infographics and advertisements to publish on 3 May to commemorate the importance of a free press and the necessity of protecting it against attacks, even in democracies.

The materials, on the theme "Press Under Surveillance," can be downloaded, free of charge, at :

<http://www.worldpressfreedomday.org>.

The package of materials examines anti-terrorism and official secrets laws, criminalization of speech judged to justify terrorism, criminal prosecution of journalists for disclosing classified information, surveillance of communications without judicial authorization, and restrictions on access to government data.

"All of these measures can severely erode the capacity of journalists to investigate and report accurately and critically, and thus the ability of the press to inform," said **Timothy Balding**, CEO of WAN, the global organization of the world's press.

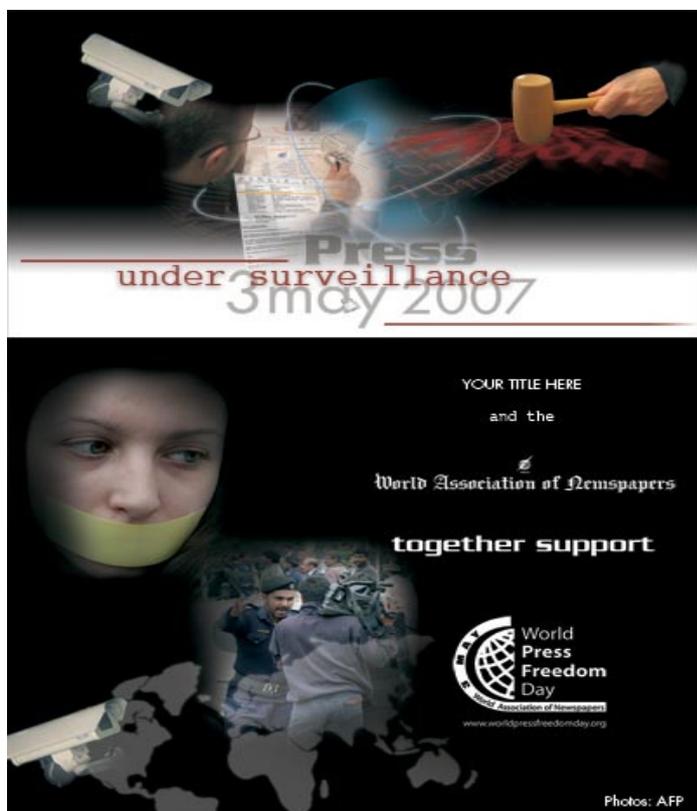
"Balancing the sometimes conflicting interests of security and freedom might indeed be difficult, but democracies have an absolute responsibility to use a rigorous set of standards to judge whether curbs on freedom can be justified by security concerns," he said. "This is the clear mes-

sage we need to impress on governments and their agencies on World Press Freedom Day."

Contributors to the articles, essays, interviews and editorials being offered for publication include **Bill Keller**, Executive Editor of *The New York Times*, **Dinah PoKempner**, General Counsel of Human Rights Watch, **Agnes Callamard**, Executive Director of Article 19, **David Banisar** of Privacy International, **Andrei Richter**, Director of the Moscow Media Law and Policy Institute, Chinese Journalist **Gao Yu**, **Seamus Dooley** of the London-based National Union of Journalists, and **Raymond Louw** of the South African National Editors Forum.

In addition, the package, which is available in English, French, Spanish, German and Russian, includes:

- Compelling public service advertisements, produced by major advertising agencies worldwide, on the theme, "press under surveillance."
- Materials for engaging younger readers, with information about Chinese journalist **Shi Tao**, the WAN Golden Pen of Freedom laureate who has been jailed since November 2004 for distributing information about Chinese press restrictions. The materials include a postcard to be sent to Chinese authorities protesting against the jailing.
- Infographics on the number of journalists killed and jailed, and editorial cartoons on press freedom themes.
- A video spot for broadcast or for web sites will be available shortly.



Full materials at: <http://www.worldpressfreedomday.org>

The Paris-based WAN, the global organization for the newspaper industry, defends and promotes press freedom world-wide. It represents 18,000 newspapers; its membership includes 76 national newspaper associations, newspaper companies and individual newspaper executives in 102 countries, 12 news agencies and 10 regional and world-wide press groups.

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