

# Geneva Declaration on Kidnapping and Killing of Journalists and Other Civilians in Iraq

We, the undersigned, participants at the meeting organised by members of the Press Emblem Campaign, meeting in Geneva from September 20-21st 2004,

*Express* our alarm at the increasing levels of killing of journalists and media personnel around the world,

*Vigorously* condemn the abduction and killing of journalists and others and the murderous threats to civilian life posed by some groups now active in the conflict in Iraq and elsewhere,

*Consider*, in particular, the latest horrifying acts, the beheading of Enzo Baldoni and Eugene Armstrong, as heinous, criminal and cowardly acts,

*Demand* the immediate release of the kidnapped journalists Christian Chesnot and George Malbrunot and their driver Mohammed al-Joundi,

*Welcome* statements by community leaders and others in Iraq condemning these actions and urging an end to the persecution of journalists.

Finally, we urge military, paramilitary and non state groups in Iraq and elsewhere to respect humanitarian international law and to renounce all acts of terrorism including the abduction of journalists and other civilians.

Signed by

International Federation of Journalists  
International News Safety Institute  
Press Emblem Campaign  
Reporters Without Borders  
Impressum, Swiss Federation of Journalists  
United Arab Emirates Syndicate of Journalists  
International Union of the French Press  
Word Council of Broadcasting  
United Nations Special Rapporteur  
Arab Human Rights Commission  
Foreign Press Association in Switzerland  
Iraqi Syndicate of Journalists  
European Broadcasting Union  
Suisse Romande PEN Centre

*Geneva, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2004*