

# The Countries that Shame Africa

## Declaration Adopted at the African Journalists Congress: Building a Strong and United Voice for African Journalists

12-14 November 2007, Abuja, Nigeria

We, the leaders of the African Journalists trade unions and associations gathering at the African Journalists Congress in Abuja Nigeria, 12-14 November 2007,

In the name of the Federation of African Journalists condemn without reservation all violations of journalists' rights and the repression of the media that are carried out on the continent of Africa.

We protest over and repudiate the actions of governments and authorities that shame Africa and who make a mockery of commitments to pluralism and democracy when they

- prosecute and jail journalists for doing their normal work;
- intimidate and threaten journalists for carrying out legitimate investigations;
- fail to investigate properly physical and violent attacks on journalists and media;
- encourage a culture of impunity and lawlessness.

In particular, we call on the African Union and the United Nations Human Rights Commissioners to investigate, expose and take appropriate action against countries that are in violation of the fundamental rights of the people of Africa.

We call on the African Union Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in Africa to examine closely and to report on the actions of all governments including those of Somalia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Niger, Gambia, Tunisia, Egypt, and Swaziland where there have been credible reports of serious violations of journalists' rights.

The Federation of African Journalists should, in close collaboration with the IFJ and regional press freedom monitoring groups, prepare a comprehensive continental report on the actions of African governments that violate the rights of journalists.

*Done in Abuja, November 12, 2007*

### **The African Journalists Congress**

National unions and participants from: *Nigeria, Gambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Morocco, Congo (Brazzaville), Burkina Faso, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Chad, Niger, Togo, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa.*

Representatives of:

*International Federation of Journalists  
Western African Journalists Association  
Northern African Journalists' Network  
Eastern Africa Journalists Association  
Southern Africa Journalists Association*