

### **SAMSN Resolution: Call for Twitter to respect users rights**

Journalists, leaders and representatives of journalist unions and media rights organizations of South Asian countries, under the umbrella of the South Asia Media Solidarity Network (SAMSN) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), convened in Kathmandu from September 8 to 10, 2017 condemned microblogging platform Twitter for acting on the Indian government's arbitrary request to withhold tweets and warn users of action for 'objectionable content'.

Expressing serious concern over the shrinking space for dissent across South Asia, the meeting considered the move of Twitter to act on a government notice without a court order as a violation of the people's right to freedom of opinion and expression, and shows Twitter's preference to profit-making over a commitment to freedom of expression.

The meeting also condemned India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's arbitrary decision regarding the content of 115 accounts and asking Twitter to block them without following the standard procedure to establish the content as illegal.

The meeting called upon all governments to follow standard judicial procedure to evaluate any opinion.

The meeting called on Twitter to respect fundamental human rights of the users and respond only to orders from the judicial bodies for any action, and to ensure that users are allowed their rights to clarify.