

BRIEFING: Freedom of the Press in Latin America

From: The Honorable Sam Farr
Sent By: caitie.whelan@mail.house.gov

Freedom of the Press in Latin America

10am, Wed, Oct 3rd
Congressional Meeting Room South, Capitol Visitors Center

Dear Colleague:

Freedom of the press in Latin America has eroded significantly in the last decade. Reports indicate that the Americas is the only region in the world to experience a decline in press freedom in recent years. A spike in violence at the hands of criminal groups and fractious government-media relations in some countries has created a fragile, precarious landscape for media outlets and journalists alike. The Committee to Protect Journalists ranks Mexico as the 4th deadliest country in the world for journalists in 2011, up from 17th in 2001. Similarly, Brazil came in at 5th in 2011, while it did not make the top 20 in 2001. Clearly, this downward pattern has significant implications for democracy, human rights, and rule of law in the hemisphere.

I hope you will join me at **10am on Wednesday, October 3rd** to discuss these concerning trends and the future of press freedom in Latin America.

Panelists

Commissioner Dinah Shelton
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Joel Simon
Executive Director, Committee to Protect Journalists

Delphine Halgand
Washington DC Director, Reporters Without Borders

Moderator

Clare Ribando Seelke
Specialist in Latin American Affairs
Congressional Research Service

Freedom of the Press in Latin America is part of an on-going monthly briefing series I host called *Latin America on the Rise*, which brings in a diversity of speakers to address emerging

and emergent issues in the Western Hemisphere. If you have any questions, please contact Caitie Whelan (caitie.whelan@mail.house.gov) in my office.

Sincerely,
SAM FARR
Member of Congress