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"Freedom of expression is one of our most precious rights. It underpins every other freedom and provides a foundation for human dignity. Free, pluralistic and independent media is essential for its exercise."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
and **UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova**

[World Press Freedom Day](#) was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.

For this year's observance, *Live Windows* were produced by students from [IED Barcelona](#). "Press is a free bird", on the left, produced by Amparo Cativiela & Matylda Zawadzka, tutored by Prof. Joan Guasch, particularly caught the eye and was featured on the www.un.org homepage.

The other submission was produced by Dana Venezia & Pamela Baez. They were screened in Barcelona and Milan.

The day is meant as an opportunity to:

- celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;
- assess the state of press freedom throughout the world;
- defend the media from attacks on their independence;

- pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

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