

TO: Qamar Zaman Kaira,  
*Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan*  
4th Floor, Cabinet Block, Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad

RE: Nation article about Wall Street Journal reporter

16 November 2009

Respected Minister Kaira,

We are writing to register our strong concern at a recent development that has caused alarm among international media organizations working in Pakistan.

On November 5, The Nation newspaper published a front page article accusing Matthew Rosenberg, a correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, of working for the C.I.A., Israeli intelligence and the U.S. military contractor Blackwater.

Mr. Rosenberg is a respected journalist of high standing. Not only was the article unsubstantiated, it critically compromised his security and raised questions about whether he can return to Pakistan to work safely in the future.


The article also has broader implications. These are difficult times for all journalists in Pakistan. Our employees already face an array of threats, including violence and kidnapping, as they strive to provide timely and accurate coverage. Now those risks have been needlessly increased.

We strongly support press freedoms across the world. But this irresponsible article endangered the life of one journalist and could imperil others. It is particularly upsetting that this threat has come from among our own colleagues.

We recognize that courageous Pakistani journalists routinely face greater dangers than their international counterparts. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, five Pakistani journalists have been killed in the past 12 months alone. And we are heartened that several Pakistani media organizations have denounced The Nation's story.

But we are also concerned that an incident of this kind – tarring a foreign reporter as a spy – could occur again. We ask the government of Pakistan to take note of this story and to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of all media personnel in future.

Yours Sincerely,



Chuck Lustig  
Foreign Editor



Philippe Massonnet  
Global News Director



Kathleen Carroll  
Senior Vice President and Executive Editor



Alan Rusbridger  
Editor in Chief



Jon Williams  
World News Editor



Roger Alton  
Editor



Nancy Lane  
Senior Vice President



Al Anstey  
Head of News



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**The New York Times**

Richard Stengel  
Managing Editor

**TIME**

Nisid Hajari  
Foreign Editor

**Newsweek**

James Harding  
Editor

**THE  TIMES**

Claude Cirille  
Editor in Chief



RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE

Robert Thomson  
Managing Editor

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

CC: Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, *Foreign Minister*  
Rehman Malik, *Interior Minister*  
Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Shami, *President, All Pakistan Newspapers Society*  
Khushnood Ali Khan, *Secretary General, Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors*  
Pervez Shaukat, *President, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists*  
Syed Sarfraz Hussain Shah, *Chairman, Pakistan Broadcasters Association*  
Imtiaz Alam, *Secretary General, South Asia Free Media Association*  
Joel Simon, *Executive Director, Committee to Protect Journalists*  
Jean-François Julliard, *Secretary General, Reporters Sans Frontières*