

*Permanent Mission of Brazil  
to the United Nations  
New York*

New York, <sup>31<sup>st</sup></sup> May 2012

No. 010

Mrs. Sandra Mims Rowe  
Committee to Protect Journalists  
330 7th Avenue, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mrs. Rowe,

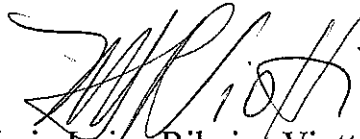
I would like to refer to the article titled “Brazil, Pakistan, India fail test on journalist murders”, published on the Committee to Protect Journalists’ website on April 17. The article by consultant Elisabeth Witchel suggests that Brazil, along with other countries, had acted to oppose the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity during the 28th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), at UNESCO, last March.

Although Ms. Witchel’s article reflects her awareness of statements that have already been made by Brazilian authorities on the issue, allow me to stress once again our support for measures for the protection of journalists. During the debate held at UNESCO, Brazil expressed its satisfaction at the Plan of Action initiative and congratulated the UNESCO Secretariat for its preparation. Moreover, Brazil’s participation in the session helped to ensure that the decision adopted at its conclusion welcomes the progress made in elaborating the Plan. It is important to stress that the Plan has not been rejected. On the contrary, the UN Chief Executives Board endorsed it, creating a new framework

for UN agencies to help foster a free and safe environment for journalists. I would also point out that Brazil supports current efforts by UNESCO to strengthen its work on the matter. We hope a decision in that direction will be reached by UNESCO's Governing Bodies in 2013.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Brazil's steadfast commitment to the protection of journalists. Attacks against journalists are deplorable not only on human rights grounds, but also because they constitute a violation of citizens' fundamental right to information. Brazil prides itself on its democratic credentials and on the freedom that the press enjoys in the country. This is a major concern for the Brazilian Government, which has endeavored to guarantee freedom of press and to ensure that perpetrators of attacks against journalists are held responsible.

Sincerely,



Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Brazil  
to the United Nations

