



"Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."

> -FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION RATIFIED IN 1791

A vibrant democracy

must have a free press, where facts are communicated, opinions expressed and information shared. It spurs healthy discussion among citizens and informs their decisions about how they wish to be governed and represented. It helps them effectively resolve serious issues in their society.

A free press is a safeguard against a totalitarian government that tells people what to think and how to act through a press that is not free—one that only represents the government view, excluding all others.

Freedom of expression is a core American value, established in the U.S. Constitution and affirmed repeatedly by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the words of Thomas Jefferson,

"Our liberty depends



on the freedom of the

press, and that cannot

be limited without

being lost."



American Spaces Bureau of International Information Programs | U.S. Department of State

ILLUSTRATION : SCOTT BAKAL