

FINAL REPORT

Second Meeting
of Media Professionals
From Colombia and Venezuela

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c) A similar phenomenon occurred with “topics” of coverage. Although the issues persisted, in general, the content changed somewhat as the situation changed. The issue of

they are also citizens, journalists are vulnerable to the “appeal” of rhetoric about “national interest.” In times marked by conflict, tense relations, economic difficulty or other crises, the national interest – or the perception of what could be considered the “national interest” – plays a decisive role. This left an important que



principles?” In Venezuela, one participant noted, polarization has led journalists to be more loyal to their political position than to the “representation of reality.” Another participant pointed to a possible way of dealing with the struggle. “We might not know a lot about truth,” he said. “What we can’t do is fall into lies, manipulation and distortion.” That is what truth is, he said – an initial truth. That participant alluded to the need for tools such as what he called “evaluative neutrality,” which enables journalists to report on events without trying to abandon all subjectivity.

Javier Darío closed the discussion from the standpoint of principles. The dilemmas under discussion indicate the need to analyze an internal willingness to address the truth, which he called “emotional independence from events.” Only that independence can ensure that “my Colombian feeling or my Venezuelan feeling” does not predominate when providing information, he said. If emotions are controlled, t

- Design and create an exchange system for journalists. One possibility would be to send Colombian journalists to Venezuelan media to cover Colombia for a certain time period (at least 15 days), and vice versa. The idea would be to “put oneself in the other’s shoes” to increase understanding of the issues being covered.
- Create a system that allows cross-publication of articles about Colombia and Venezuela. This would involve a commitment by which Venezuelan media would publish articles about binational relations that come from Colombia, and vice versa, as was done in Colombia with the Antonio Nariño project or the Manizales project partnership.

ANNEXES

Annex A Meeting agenda

**Second Meeting of Journalists
from Venezuela and Colombia
Bogotá, Colombia, February 15, 2011**

PROGRAM		
Morning session	9:00	Opening remarks Jennifer McCoy Director of the Americas Program, The Carter Center
	9:10	Summary of first meeting: Key agreements and conclusions Héctor Vanolli Coordinator of the Program to Strengthen Journalism, The Carter Center
	9:30	Introduction of participants
	9:40	Keynote address: Media coverage of Colombian-Venezuelan relations: Constants and change Germán Rey Director, ATICO Center, Javeriana University Comments: Maryclen Stelling Coordinator, Global Media Observatory, Venezuela Chapter Omar Rincón Director, Journalism Studies Center, University of the Andes, Colombia
	10:30	Discussion among participants Moderator: Omar Lugo Director, <i>El Mundo</i> , Venezuela
	12:40	Lunch
Afternoon session	14:00	Role of the media in Colombian-Venezuelan relations Positive points, problems and challenges Challenges for the future Recommendations for future coverage Observations and conclusions Discussion among participants Moderator: Javier Darío Restrepo Fundación Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano,
	17:30	Cocktail
Hotel los Héroes, Calle 74 No. 15-60, Barrio El Lago		

Anne O P r c p n ogr p e

P r c p n fro enez e

E e z r D z nge Former president of the Venezuelan Association of Journalists, director of the National Union of Media Workers (*Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Prensa*) and founding president of the Latin American Federation of Journalists (*Federación Latinoamericana de Periodistas*, FELAP). He has also served as director of the daily *Punto* and the magazine

from the government of the department of Arauca and the City of Arauca medal, awarded by the local government.

Cecilia Fernández. Currently assistant director of the daily *La Opinión* in Cúcuta. Formerly Cúcuta correspondent for the Bogotá daily, *El Tiempo* (1970-1980). Was also co-director of the radio magazine program, *Confrontación*, on Radio Guaimaral (1975-1982), and director of the news program, *Luces de la Ciudad*, on Radio San José (1985-1992). In 1970, he founded the magazine *Guía Internacional* in this border city, and served as director (1970-1975). He has taught journalism courses and seminars in the Cúcuta branches of the Libre and Antonio Nariño universities.

Corro Pérez Proffor. Her studies and degrees include a post-doctorate at the Institut des Hautes Etudes de L'Amérique Latine (HEAL) at the Sorbonne University, a diploma in Advanced Studies in International Relations (Sorbonne University) and a Master's degree in Analysis of Political-Economic and International Problems from the Institute for Advanced Development Studies (*Instituto de Altos Estudios para el Desarrollo*). She is currently coordinator of the Regional Integration Group and the Latin America Group of the Project on Insertion of Colombia into the International System. She is also a member of the Andean-U.S. Dialogue Forum, sponsored by International IDEA and the Carter Center.

Gerney Cedeño. Currently directs the journalism program at the Javeriana University and is director of the university's Atico Center, which promotes the use of information and communication technologies. Senior adviser to the Ibero-American New Journalism Foundation (*Fundación de Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano*, FNPI), and a member of the board of directors of the Freedom of the Press Foundation (*Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa*, FLIP) and the Advisory Council for the New Journalism Award (CEMEX-FNPI). He is author of various publications, including "Desde las dos orillas" (1997), "Balsas y Medusas: Visibilidad comunicativa y narrativas políticas" (1999), "Los ejercicios del Ver: Hegemonía audiovisual y ficción televisiva" (with Jesús Martín Barbero), "Las ciencias sociales en Colombia: discurso y

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TIME LINE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA