

Inauguration of the Exhibition on Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists

**REMARKS BY DAVID SCHLESINGER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, REUTERS AT
UNESCO, 29 OCTOBER 2008**

Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to represent Reuters News, the Thomson Reuters Foundation and the Thomson Reuters Corporation at the opening of this exhibition of wonderful Reuters photos illustrating the importance of journalist safety.

Journalists shouldn't be the story.

The journalists' job is to cover the story
...to shine light on the story
...to provide understanding of the story
...to give insight on the story
...to be the agent of transparency and truth

Too often, however, the journalist is the story.

Too often, the journalist is arrested or tortured or wounded or killed.

Sometimes these tragedies happen accidentally.

Sometimes – too often – these tragedies happen with intent.

The intent is to silence.

The intent is to dampen the light.

The intent is to keep the insight from getting out.

The intent is to stop the transparency.

In this exhibit, journalists are the story.

Their story is not silenced, because their images are here, because you are paying attention.

Their story is the expression of the freedom we celebrate here today.

Thank you.
