



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
ISLAMABAD**

**PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM  
DAY ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2010**

The World Press Freedom Day celebrated on May 3 each year marks the significance of freedom of expression in any democratic society. It also highlights the role of independent media in advancement of ideas which can bring about a positive change. It further facilitates the process of transparency and accountability essential for socio-economic and political stability in the country.

The freedom of expression encompasses the concept of freedom of information as duly recognized by the United Nations as early as 1946. Access to information has long been enshrined as part of basic human right of freedom expression in major international instruments like the Universal Declaration of Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the fundamental right of freedom of expression encompasses the freedom to “seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”. This reminds us to reaffirm our commitment to promote freedom of expression for which the civil society, the media and other stakeholders have to play their role in furthering it.

The freedom of expression and access to information serves as the basis for meaningful engagement in public debate and decision making processes which directly impact the lives of the people. The freedom of information therefore represents an important instrument for the public to hold the government and other institutions accountable. The media in Pakistan had played and continues to play its due role in this regard.

It is pertinent to mention that freedom in any form has limitations meaning thereby that it has to be discharged with responsibility. The Article 19 of our Constitution clearly guarantees the rights of freedom of expression to every citizen but also determines the parameters of responsibility. We all need to strive together and reiterate our resolve that every one of us would use our rights and fulfill our responsibilities for the greater benefit of our people and our country.