



**Alan Johnston speaks at  
major NUJ conference**

# **NEW THREATS TO MEDIA FREEDOM - how we fight back**

**9.30am-4.30pm, Saturday 26 January 2008,  
National Union of Journalists, 308 Grays Inn Road,  
London WC1X 8DP. (Kings Cross Underground)**



**Sponsored by the National Union of Journalists, NUJ London Freelance  
Branch and the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom**

# New Threats to Media Freedom – how we fight back

## Programme

9.30am Registration **10.00am Welcome & opening remarks**

*Dave Rotchelle, Chair, London Freelance Branch, NUJ*

**10.05-10.30am New threats to media freedom**

Media freedom in jeopardy and the challenges media workers face.

*Jeremy Dear, general secretary, NUJ*

**10.30-11.45 Bias and censorship in war reporting**

Restrictions and dangers facing media workers covering conflict and the effect these have on coverage.

*Alan Johnston, former BBC correspondent in Gaza, recently held hostage; David Crouch, Media Workers Against the War; Chris Frost, NUJ ethics council; head of journalism, Liverpool John Moores University; Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Exile Journalists Network*

11.45-12 noon Refreshment break

**12 noon-1.15pm Political and legal pressures on journalists**

How the freedom to report is affected by anti-terror laws, the Human Rights Act; Freedom of Information Act; Official Secrets Act; libel laws; attempts to control the internet...

*Martin Bright, political editor, New Statesman; Jo Glanville, editor, Index on Censorship; Heather Brooke, freelance journalist and author; Mark Stephens, media partner, Finers, Stephens, Innocent*

1.15-1.45pm Lunch

**1.45-3pm Commercial pressures**

How the growing concentration of media ownership and general market pressures are narrowing the spectrum of the news and programming, limiting freedom of expression, including on the internet, and undermining cultural diversity.

*Peter Wilby, Media Guardian columnist & former editor of Independent on Sunday; Granville Williams, media commentator & CPBF national council; Victoria Brittain, freelance journalist and author; Joy Francis, managing director, the Creative Collective (Media).*

3pm-3.15pm Refreshment break

# New Threats to Media Freedom – how we fight back

## **3.15-4pm Countering the threats**

The crisis at the BBC. How the media unions, faced with deregulation of the public service media, media convergence and market pressures, are fighting back to protect jobs and the quality of output.

*Paul Mason, BBC Newsnight; Tony Lennon, president, BECTU*

## **4pm-4.30pm Defending media freedom and democracy**

What we can do as trade unionists and campaigners to defend media freedom and democracy in the UK and internationally.

*Aidan White, general secretary, International Federation of Journalists*

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## ***SIGN UP NOW!***

**To: CPBF 23 Orford Road, London E17 9NL.**

**I wish to sign up for the New Threats to Media Freedom conference on Saturday 26 January 2008.**

**I enclose a cheque for my registration fee which includes lunch (£10 or £7 claimants, students, retired ) payable to 'NUJ London Freelance Branch'.**

**Name (please print):**

**Organisation:**

**Address, tel. email:**

**Registration will be accepted at the conference but lunch can be guaranteed only for those who register in advance.**

# New Threats to Media Freedom – how we fight back

**Mounting political and commercial pressures are affecting the freedom to report as never before. Hear leading journalists, broadcasters and union campaigners on why an unfettered media is central to democracy. Discuss how we can all mobilise to defend freedom of information and expression.**

Speakers include:

**Alan Johnston**, former BBC correspondent in Gaza, recently held hostage, on covering conflict

**Martin Bright**, New Statesman political editor, on the anti-terror laws

**Peter Wilby**, former editor, Independent on Sunday, on the Murdoch empire

**Granville Williams**, media commentator & CPBF, on media ownership

**Victoria Brittain**, freelance journalist and author, on the narrowing news spectrum

**Jo Glanville**, editor, Index on Censorship, on secrecy and censorship

**Heather Brooke**, freelance journalist and author, on the Freedom of Information Act

**Joy Francis**, managing director, the Creative Collective, on reporting diversity

**David Crouch**, Media Workers Against the War, on bias in war reporting

**Ibrahim Seaga Shaw**, Exile Journalists Network, on the dangers of dissent

**Jeremy Dear**, NUJ general secretary, on defending quality journalism

**Chris Frost**, NUJ ethics council, on fair reporting

**Mark Stephens**, Finers, Stephens, Innocent, on the libel laws

**Tony Lennon**, BECTU president, on the crisis at the BBC and wider implications

**Paul Mason**, Newsnight correspondent, on how BBC journalists are organising

**Aidan White**, general secretary, International Federation of Journalists, on the fight for media freedom world-wide

