

Without journalism, no democracy.

And without democracy, freedom disappears. If journalism dies, it is the end of an **open society**, of **freedom of expression**, of the right to **choose between competing arguments**. **Freedom of the press** was a battle cry of the **liberal revolution** – and it is the first victim of every dictatorship. Journalism was born out of **the Enlightenment**. Its purpose is to **criticize the powers** that be. That is why journalism is more than just a business to be run by corporate executives. Journalism is **responsible only to the public** – for in a democracy it is the same as in all of life: making **sound decisions** depends on getting **sound information**. Good journalism sends out teams to **explore reality**. The mission of journalists is to bring back the **facts and context** that citizens in a democracy need – and to report them as they are, **independently**, conscientiously and **fearing no one** but boredom. Journalism seeks **clarity**, waging a constant battle **against the primordial fear of the new**. Good journalism needs **passion**, skill and commitment. And it needs a thoughtful, curious and **fearless public**. **You!**

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