

Declaration

The Association of Independent Press (API) firmly rejects the absurd and false allegations made against it in the article “Local Press, Despaired! Association of Independent Press Institutes Censorship and Protectionism!”, published by the website Timpul.md and taken over by other politically affiliated websites and blogs. To note that the article did not quote sources and, contrary to the journalistic professional norms, API’s opinion had not be requested, although the organization was directly concerned in a negative context. The fact that this text was published nearly simultaneously on a number of websites known as media tools of some political forces points out the orchestrated character of this attack against API.

API declares that all the claims made in this text are false. Thus, API did not call any meeting with the participation of print and broadcast media editors on 2 November 2018, as stated in this article. Not did API ever require or could require its members to favour a party or political leader editorially, as written by the article’s anonymous authors, while political partisanship contravenes API’s statutory principles and internal rules. The claims about ‘censorship’, ‘protectionism’ and ‘draconic measures’ API is alleged to have instituted in relation to its members are some calumnious inventions meant to discredit API. No directions have been given to promote certain political leaders or present them in a certain context in texts or in images, as insinuated in the article published by Timpul.md. At the same time, API members are required to observe the journalistic professional norms and to mark publicity clearly, including the political and electoral one, and API continuous monitors the observance of these commitments. API recommends other media outlets to assume and observe such commitments.

API decidedly rejects the deceitful allegations of political affiliation regularly launched by those who thus want to mark their own affiliation to political and interest groups, serving as tools for political propaganda.

API requests the newsroom of Timpul.md and other websites and blogs that have taken over the article containing false claims about API and to publish this statement as the right of reply.

API Board of Directors

7 November 2018