

Stockholm May 05 2024

Dear Legislator

We are writing to you on behalf of Scen & Film – the Swedish Union for Performing Arts and Film – which represents authors and performers as well as film and tv-workers in Sweden. We hereby want to express our alarm and concern that the government of the Argentine Republic has intervened in the management of the public media companies (Canal 7 and the educational channels Encuentro, Paka Paka and Depor TV), with the aim of privatising, emptying and/or destroying them.

Delegating public communication to the market will result in the emptying of spaces that guarantee the diversity of cultural expression and, fundamentally, the right to reliable information. Public media are fundamental to guarantee information pluralism, cultural diversity and the strengthening of democracy. Moreover, they represent a fundamental and indispensable tool in democratic societies. No developed country in the world lacks a public media system.

In Sweden, public service plays a significant role safeguarding a diverse selection of programs in a rapidly changing media landscape. Private broadcasters and global streaming services survive solely on commercial conditions and can never be expected to take the place of the public service companies when it comes to national interests. Public service is an essential part of an open democracy – owned and controlled by the people, in the service of the people. To lose them would severely diminish our freedom of expression and hurt our democracy.

The world is watching closely the evolution of this attack on public communication and the important role that the Congress of the Republic of Argentina is playing at this juncture. We stand in solidarity with, support, and accompany SATSAID and the workers of the Public Media of Argentina, and ask you to do everything in your power to prevent the government from moving forward with these policies that are so harmful to the Argentinean people.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Norrthon President

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