

**Citizens' Summit on the Information Society (CSIS)
Tunis, November 16-18, 2005**

CSIS Press release – November 10th, 2005

**Citizens' Summit on the Information Society launches website
and calls for support in the face of political pressure**

The Citizens' Summit on the Information Society (CSIS), to be held in Tunis, on November 16-18, 2005, launched its website today with a call for solidarity and support. The CSIS is planned as a civil society side event of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) but it is facing repeated obstructions in its efforts to secure a suitable venue in Tunisia.

The CSIS builds on a long tradition of civil society events linked to United Nations conferences. More than 80 international civil society organizations and coalitions have pledged their support and plan to take part in the three-day Citizens Summit, but a venue previously confirmed for the event was withdrawn at the last minute for reasons that CSIS organisers believe to be in response to political pressure from the Tunisian government.

While efforts continue to secure a venue for the main event, the CSIS organisers are inviting civil society organisations to hold their own complementary activities and events under the CSIS banner. These activities may be held elsewhere in Tunis, in other Tunisian cities, in other countries, or may even be virtually organized on the Internet. These activities may take various forms, such as panels, conferences and campaigns. They may be held inside or outside the official WSIS site and may therefore include already planned WSIS parallel events.

Registering an activity under the CSIS banner is a simple way to show solidarity with the CSIS and its objectives, even for people and organizations that cannot be present in Tunis during WSIS. Activities under the CSIS banner will be announced on the CSIS website where event organizers can find all the relevant information needed to register their event. The website will also carry further news on the location and venue for the main CSIS event.

Contact:

Expressions of support, registration of activities: support@citizens-summit.org

Press enquiries: press@citizens-summit.org

General contact, questions: contact@citizens-summit.org

Website: www.citizens-summit.org

Preliminary list of CSIS supporters :

1. ACS (Assemblea per la Comunicació Social)
2. AEL (Association des Ecrivains Libres)
3. AFTURD (Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Développement)
4. ALTT (Association de Lutte contre la Torture en Tunisie)
5. AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters)
6. ANAR (Amicale Nationale des Anciens Résistants)
7. ANND (Arab NGO Network for Development)
8. APC (Association for Progressive Communications)
9. ARTICLE 19 (Global Campaign for Free Expression)

10. ATFD (Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates)
11. Café 93.5 FM (Emisora Comunitaria Café 93.5 FM en Líbano-Tolima, Colombia)
12. CAFEC (Centre Africain d'Échange Culturel)
13. Canal Mont Sion et Television (Radio Communautaire en République Démocratique du Congo)
14. CEFEPROD (Centre Féminin pour la Promotion du Développement)
15. CEPRA (Centro de Educación y Producción Radiofónica)
16. CHRI (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative)
17. CJFE (Canadian Journalists for Free Expression)
18. CMIC (Carrefour Mondial de l'Internet Citoyen)
19. CMF MENA (Center for Media Freedom, MENA)
20. CMRTV (Conseil Mondial de Radio-Télévision)
21. CNLT (Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie)
22. Comunica-ch (WSIS Swiss Civil Society Coalition)
23. Conjugaison (Analyse des pratiques, audit, soutien aux TPE)
24. CPSR (Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility)
25. CRIS Campaign (Communication Rights in the Information Society)
26. DemocracyInAction
27. DOKHTARAK (Iranian Women Press)
28. EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center)
29. EUROMED NGO Platform
30. FIDH (International Federation of Human Rights Leagues)
31. FMA (Foundation for Media Alternatives)
32. FM Vida 87.9 (Radio FM Vida 87.9 San Justo, La Matanza, Pcia de BUenos Aires, Argentina)
33. FrontLine (International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders)
34. FURENDES (Networks & Development Foundation)
35. GreenNet
36. Heinrich Boell Foundation
37. HIVOS (Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking)
38. HR Caucus (WSIS Civil Society Human Rights Caucus)
39. HRW (Human Rights Watch)
40. ICHRDD (Rights and Democracy)
41. ID21
42. IMS (International Media Support)
43. Index on Censorship
44. IPA (International Publishers Association)
45. IP Justice
46. IRIS (Imaginons un Séseau Internet Solidaire)
47. ISOC-PS (Palestine Chapter of the Internet Society)
48. IteM (Instituto del Tercer Mundo)
49. IuRe (Iuridicum remedium)
50. KDUN (The NGO Committee for a democratic UN)
51. LTDH (Ligue Tunisienne pour la défense des droits de l'Homme)
52. MISA (Media Institute of Southern Africa)
53. NETHICS e.V. (Ethics in the Net)
54. Norwegian PEN
55. OCINC (Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ)
56. OLPEC (Observatoire pour la Liberté de Presse, d'Édition et de Création)
57. OMCT (World Organization against Torture)

58. People Who
59. Periódico Periferia (Periódico de Colombia)
60. PPP (Bread for All)
61. RAID-ATTAC (Rassemblement pour une Alternative de Développement)
62. RECORRA (Red Colombiana de Radio Comunitaria)
63. RITS (Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor)
64. RSF (Reporters without Borders)
65. SJT (Syndicat des Journalistes Tunisiens)
66. TEBTEBBA (Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education)
67. TERTULIA (Colectivo Tertulia de Medios y Apoyo a Telesur en Colombia)
68. TINKU (Medio de información alternativa)
69. TWM (Third World Majority)
70. TWMN (Third World Media Network)
71. UBUNTU (World Forum of Civil Society Network)
72. UEA (Universala Esperanto-Asocio)
73. UNA-DK (The Danish United Nations Association)
74. VECAM
75. Verité-Action
76. VOICE (Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment)
77. WAN (World Association of Newspapers)
78. WITNESS
79. WPFC (World Press Freedom Committee)