

World's press support locked-out news agencies in cricket dispute

The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) and the World Editors Forum have joined the protest against Indian cricket authorities who have locked out reputable photographic news agencies from the high-profile India-England cricket series that began on Thursday, 15 November 2012.



"It is simply unacceptable for the Board of Cricket Control for India to take it upon themselves to refuse accreditation to legitimate news agencies, and to tear down the traditional role that independent news media plays in bringing sport news to the public," said Jacob Mathew, President of WAN-IFRA and Executive Editor and Publisher of the Malayala Manorama Group of Publications in Kerala, India. "Photos are an integral part of news coverage."

Photographic coverage disrupted

"Because of this unfortunate decision, photographic coverage will be disrupted and cricket fans are being deprived of their right to choose their news sources," he said. "These restrictions are a serious challenge to media freedom."

The Board of Cricket Control for India (BCCI) has locked out international photo agencies, including Getty Images, Action Images and two Indian photo agencies. The decision to refuse accreditation led to a decision by Thomson Reuters, Agence France-Presse and Associated Press to suspend reports about the tour as well as pictures. The Press Association, national agency in the United Kingdom, is also not supplying photographs. The Society of Editors in the United Kingdom has also protested against the move.

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