



**DIGITAL MEDIA COMMITTEE**  
Federation of Nepali Journalists



**Online Journalists Association  
of Nepal**



November 11, 2011

### **Press Statement on Arbitrary Blocking of Websites in Sri Lanka**

The Digital Media Committee at the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), the Online Journalists Association of Nepal (OJAN) and the Internet Society, Nepal Chapter (ISOC) is deeply concerned by the recent development in Sri Lanka where the government has arbitrarily blocked several news websites and issued a communiqué requiring compulsory government registration of news websites.

We believe the real motives behind the actions taken were to control the new media and hinder the free flow of information by refusing to ensure the democratic and pluralistic media environment.

The arbitrary blocking of the websites, and therefore the free flow of information, deprives the Sri Lankan citizens of their fundamental human rights on access of information and express dissenting opinions. We believe that such action is only the state's effort to suppress the media freedom and thereby strongly condemn the action.

We also demand the Sri Lankan government to immediately end the arbitrary blockings of news websites; withdraw the compulsion registration requirement of news website and ensure the freedom of expression.

We also express our complete solidarity with the Sri Lanka's rights activists, civil society organizations and citizens in their fight against those actions.

**Ujjwal Acharya**

**Chair**, Digital Media Committee  
Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ)

**KP Dhungana**

**President**, Online Journalists Association of Nepal

**Baburam Aryal**

**President**, Internet Society of Nepal