

公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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FCCJ Statement – BBC

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan condemns what appear to be attempts by the government in India to intimidate and silence the BBC in that country. We are concerned at the use of emergency powers to prevent a documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi from being aired, and subsequent raids on the BBC's offices in New Delhi and Mumbai.

While these raids have been defended by the government as 'tax surveys', we note the "deep concern" expressed by the Editor's Guild of India, which says that similar searches have been carried out on the offices of other English- and Hindi-language media organizations that provided critical coverage of the Modi government and its policies.

<https://twitter.com/IndEditorsGuild/status/1625430213286043648/photo/1>

The Guild warns that the raids are a "continuation of a trend of using government agencies to intimidate and harass press organisations that are critical of government policies or the ruling establishment," a tactic that can be seen in many other parts of the world, including recently in Cambodia. This trend "undermines constitutional democracy," said the Guild.

The FCCJ calls on the Indian government to respect press freedom and allow journalists to work without fear of intimidation.

Freedom of the Press Committee