

## Norwegian media organizations reject photo contracts

Norwegian media organizations encourage Norwegian event organizers to make it clear to foreign managers and event organizers that Norwegian media do not accept restrictions in media work during events in Norway. We encourage Norwegian editors not to sign contracts accepting such limitations.

The undersigned media organizations collectively released a statement regarding this in 2007, but now see the reason to underline this again, due to an increasing number of contracts impeding independent news coverage. With great concern, we note that restrictions are imposed on media coverage of cultural events and sports events. In particular, this applies to photographers' working conditions, and it applies both to the production of still photography and live images from events.

It is clearly against acknowledged principles for independent news reporting when artists and organizers impose conditions on the inclusion of text and images in the coverage and how the mentioned can later be used by the media outlet.

The ground rule must always be that media reporters, identified by valid press cards, can without conditions perform the tasks assigned to them by their editorial management, in the coverage of events open to the general public.

The media organizations recognize the practical need for regulations for the sake of order during large events, for reasons including artist and audience security. These, the event organizers ought to plan how to solve beforehand - and it may well be done in collaboration with the media organizations.

We also recognize that artists and others seek protection against disreputable commercial exploitation of their performances and photographic images of them. In our estimation, the risk of this kind of exploitation is near non-existent in Norway, in accordance with the ethics and traditions Norwegian media work by, and with legislation against commercial exploitation of photos of persons (for instance The Intellectual Property Rights Act § 45c).

In any case, the likelihood for such exploitation cannot defend constraints in acknowledged principles for independent news coverage, in the form of censorship-like conditions.

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The Norwegian Press Association  
The Norwegian Union of Journalists  
The Association of Norwegian Editors  
The Norwegian Press Photographers Association  
The Norwegian Media Business Association  
The Association of Local Newspapers  
The Norwegian Specialized Press Association