

PETITION

To the ROA National Assembly Deputies, fractions and parties, regarding amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes of the RoA and the RoA Law on Police

January 26, 2006

Yerevan

We,
signatory hereto,

Considering that the independence of media remained under threat in 2004, when journalists underwent violence;

Asserting, that investigations by the judicial system yielded few results, with lenient sentences imposed on those convicted of assaulting journalists;

Stating, that several crimes against journalists remained unsolved;

Emphasizing, that the Government has signed the Council of Europe Declaration on Freedom of Political Debate in the Media, but libel remains an offence punishable by a prison sentence;

Willing to raise the level of legal protection of journalists and ensure journalists' life and health security;

Have agreed to

approve the drafts of legislative alterations and amendments to the

RoA Criminal Code,

RoA Criminal Procedures Code,

RoA Law on Police

and, confirming their compliance to the current requirements,
express our hope, that the RoA National Assembly will consider and approve
them.

We appeal to the RoA NA deputies, fractions and parties to constructive approach
to this vitally significant initiative.