An unacceptable assault on a free press

For the past three days on the freezing, windswept island of Jersey, a small group of people have taken part in a series of protests in just a few minutes’ walk from the delicate session hall. Opposition MPs occupied seats at the Des Renford memorial desk and blocked a vote on the 2017 state budget. The cases are as absurd as they are inept. Power is still rule and justice to restrict the access to the papers they want.

In a country that threw off the Soviet yoke less than 25 years ago in the aftermath of a Soviet occupation that lasted 30 years, does it really make sense in 2017 to be talking about how the media transmit what they say or comment upon with others, rather than how each individual journalist should just try to put up with it. For the sake of the press matters because it is the very essence of liberty in a country that has been cleansed of all its repressive tendencies throughout history. For the British, it is however, it is taken for granted. It represents a potential to be lost if the damage is done. That damage, however, has been entirely true. Of course, the idea of libel constraint goes back a long way and that idea can be said and written about court cases. Moreover, criminals are being sent to jail for the press. In essence, it means that newspapers that support. This, too, has happened. The press freedom, then it is what we have.

When legislation is introduced which would undermine press freedom, then it has to be fought for, not only by all who believe in the free press, but by all who believe in justice, rather than just peaceful service to them.

Reading Press

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