

Protests on Bousquet Ban

The Union of Guyanese Journalists has written to Sir Paul Scoon, Governor General of Grenada recording its strong protests over the entry ban on St. Lucian journalist Earl Bousquet. Bousquet, who writes for Prensa Latina, Inter Press Service and the Lucian Times worked for some time in his profession in Grenada, mainly at Radio Free Grenada.

On March 12, Bousquet attempted to enter Grenada on a professional assignment. He also traveled to Grenada on personal family affairs, to see his son and the son's mother, both Grenadians. He was denied entry. Since then, Bousquet has sent a protest to the Chairman of the Interim Advisory Council of Grenada, Nicholas Brathwaite, copied to the Governor General, requesting information on why he was denied entry. He received only a formal acknowledgement on receipt of the letter, and even after subsequent attempts, has not been told the reason for the ban.

In an appeal to Caribbean journalists, Bousquet said: "In my continuing search for justice in this matter, I am therefore appealing to your organization to assess the situation and take a position on the matter".

The Union of Guyanese Journalists, in its protest letter to Sir Paul Scoon said: "We consider the refusal not only a violation of his rights as a journalist, but also as a grave infringement on his personal rights to visit his son and his son's mother. We are concerned over this violation of the rights of a Caribbean citizen, who, in the pursuit of his professional duties as an accredited journalist, was refused entry to Grenada". The UGJ requested that the restrictions on Bousquet be lifted immediately and that no further restrictions be placed on any journalist who wishes to visit Grenada.

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Janet Jagan
President, Union of Guyanese
Journalists