



COMMUNITY
OF DEMOCRACIES
Intergovernmental
Organization

YOUNG LEADERS FORUM

RESOLUTION

on freedom of expression and censorship
Democracy Days, 22-25 June 2010, Vilnius
High Level Democracy Meeting, Krakow, 2-4 July 2010

1. *Whereas* political prisoners remain a challenge in China, Burma, North Korea, Venezuela, Belarus, and many other countries;
2. *Whereas* it is urgent to end impunity and restore the rule of law in the states such as Kenya, where historical injustice has been common;
3. *Because* of occupation and military threats posed by dictatorships to young democracies;
4. *Because* of the absence of free elections in Belarus, and the recent cancellation of local elections in Ukraine;
5. *Because* of an increased tendency to control web space, in particular in Belarus;
6. *Whereas* the bloggers and youth activists Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade were arrested in Azerbaijan for exercising their right to freedom of speech in the Internet;
7. *Because* of increasing pressures on civil society organizations;

The Young Leaders Forum of the Community of Democracies:

1. *Recognizing* that freedom of expression and censorship is a problem in democracies in general and in dictatorships in particular;
2. *Urges* the leaders of the Community of Democracies to pay more attention to these issues and to take concrete steps to improve it.