

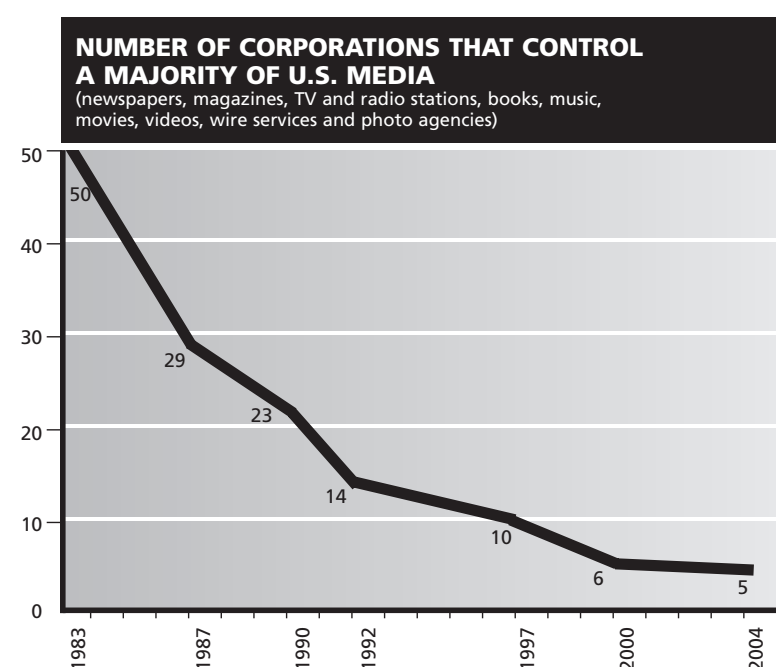
# What COUNTRY is fighting for the basic RIGHT to an INDEPENDENT PRESS?

## AMERICA AT RISK

Around the world, courageous people are standing up to the threat of jail or worse to establish independent media outlets that give voice to the people of their nation.

In America, a model of democracy for more than two centuries, we are in danger of losing our independent media voices.

Our news and information increasingly is being governed by a handful of huge conglomerates. The majority of commissioners on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), established to regulate and protect the public airwaves and other forms of communication, have been acting more in the interest of big business than America's citizens. The future of a free and independent press is being undermined by these FCC actions. The result: the disappearance of local, independent media and diversity of viewpoints. Not only are the media titans able to dictate what will appear across their vast networks, they are cutting the amount and quality of real news to drive their inherent need for larger profit margins and stock value.



Source: [www.corporations.org](http://www.corporations.org), based on information from *The New Media Monopoly* by Ben H. Bagdikian, Beacon Press 2004.

## TAKE ACTION

Many of our readers have already offered to join us in our fight to save The Seattle Times, one of the last independent metropolitan newspapers in the country, from takeover by the New York-based Hearst Corporation. And you have joined millions of others across the country in standing up for access to independent media for all citizens. To help those who want to get or stay involved, we recommend the following Web sites, which provide further information and, in some cases, "Action" links to help you contact key representatives in government:

**CONSUMERS UNION** <<http://www.consumersunion.org/issues/mediaowners.html>>  
**COMMON CAUSE** <<http://www.commoncause.org/action/action.cfm?topicid=11>>  
**JOURNALISM.ORG** <<http://www.journalism.org/resources/research/reports/ownership/deregulation2.asp>>  
**FREEPRESS.NET** <<http://www.mediareform.net/>>

Because people spoke out, there is now active bipartisan interest in Congress in protecting media independence, and the issue has become part of the presidential debate. Let your representatives in government know that regulation of media ownership continues to be of critical importance.

Ask your U.S. senators and representatives to:

- Keep FCC media ownership limit rules in place.
- Limit the number of newspapers one person or corporation can own.
- Prohibit cross ownership of newspapers, television, radio and other media in the same market.
- Re-regulate radio ownership.

To get more information or share your views, please e-mail us at [mycomments@seattletimes.com](mailto:mycomments@seattletimes.com) or write to My Comments, P.O. Box 70, Seattle, WA 98111. **THANK YOU.**

**Let your voice be heard, before it's too late.**