

# PROTECTING SOURCES IS PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Judith Miller, a reporter for the New York Times, has been sent to jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury about a confidential source. For defenders of the First Amendment this is a crucial juncture in our nation's history.

It is essential to our country's democracy that journalists be able to report information without fear of intimidation or imprisonment. This sometimes requires the use of confidential sources. Many major news stories such as the Watergate revelations have depended on confidential sources. The public is the chief beneficiary. Sometimes individuals with critical information will only speak on the condition that their identities are not revealed.

For that reason, a majority of the states and the District of Columbia recognize the need for confidential sources and have enacted media shield laws to protect journalists from disclosing those sources. There is no federal shield law statute, however, to protect Judith Miller from having to disclose the identity of her source. She has been sent to jail, even though she never wrote an article, based on her confidential source.

As citizens—and as journalists—committed to a free press and the free flow of information, we support the passage of a Federal shield law. And we urge you to join with us in speaking out against the imprisonment of Judith Miller.

**Edward Albee**, playwright

**Andrew Alexander**, Washington bureau chief, Cox Newspapers

**A.L. Alford Jr.**, editor and publisher, Lewiston Tribune, ID

**George Althoff**, publisher, Portage Division, Capital Newspapers, WI

**Reed Anfinson**, publisher, Swift County Monitor-News, Benson, MN

**Paul Auster**, author

**Pete Banko**, managing editor, Altoona Mirror, PA

**Russell Banks**, author

**Sandra S. Baron**, executive director, Media Law Resource Center

**James Bettinger**, director, John S. Knight Fellowships, Stanford University

**Peter Bhatia**, executive editor, Oregonian, Portland

**Susan Bischoff**, associate editor, Houston Chronicle

**Brenda Blagg**, regional editor, Morning News, AR

**Richard Blumenthal**, Connecticut, attorney general

**Julian Bond**, board chairman, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

**Tom Brokaw**, correspondent-at-large, NBC News

**Jerry E. Brown**, dean, School of Journalism, University of Montana

**Jeff Bruce**, editor, Dayton Daily News

**Arne Carlson**, former governor, MN

**John Carroll**, former editor, Los Angeles Times

**Phil Casaus**, editor, Albuquerque Tribune

**Mae Cheng**, president, UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc.

**Ron Chernow**, biographer, historian

**Doug Clifton**, editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer

**Chris Cobler**, editor, Greeley Tribune, CO

**John Connolly**, president, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

**Brian Cooper**, executive editor, Telegraph Herald, Dubuque, IA

**Matthew Cooper**, White House correspondent, Time magazine

**John Costa**, editor, The Bulletin, Bend, OR

**Walter Cronkite**, journalist

**Lucy Dalglish**, executive director, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

**Tom Daschle**, former Senate Leader, SD

**Tony Dearing**, editor, Bay City Times, MI

**Ariel Dorfman**, playwright, novelist

**Drew Edmondson**, Oklahoma, attorney general

**Bob Edwards**, host, Bob Edwards Show, XM Satellite Radio

**Myron Farber**, former reporter, New York Times

**Geri Ferrara**, editor, Dominion Post, Morgantown, WV

**Luis A. Ferre Rangel**, editor, El Nuevo Dia, Puerto Rico

**Charles M. Firestone**, executive director, The Aspen Institute, Communications and Society Program

**Francis Fitzgerald**, author

**Ellen Foley**, editor, Wisconsin State Journal, WI

**Linda Foley**, president, The Newspaper Guild-CWA

**Philip Gailey**, editor of editorials, St. Petersburg Times, FL

**Bob Giles**, curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University

**Scott Gillespie**, managing editor, Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN

**Francisco Goldman**, novelist, journalist

**Barbara Goldsmith**, author

**Greg Gordon**, Washington correspondent, McClatchy Newspapers

**Fred Graham**, chief anchor and managing editor, Court TV

**Rex Granum**, former deputy press secretary to President Jimmy Carter

**Irwin Gratz**, president, Society of Professional Journalists

**Anders Gyllenhaal**, editor, Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN

**Charlotte H. Hall**, senior vice president/editor, Orlando Sentinel

**John Hall**, senior Washington correspondent, Media General

**Steve Haynes**, publisher, Goodland Star-News, KS

**Richard Hensley**, editor, Highlands Today, Sebring, FL

**Gary Hill**, chair, ethics committee, Society of Professional Journalists Ethics Committee

**Linwood Holton**, former governor, VA

**Rob Hotakainen**, Washington correspondent, Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN

**Brant Houston**, executive director, Investigative Reporters and Editors and National Institute of Computer Assisted Reporting

**Joe Howry**, editor/vice president, Ventura County Star, CA

**Clark Hoyt**, Washington editor, Knight Ridder

**Don Huebscher**, editor, Leader Telegram, Eau Claire, WI

**John Hughes**, syndicated columnist, Christian Science Monitor; editor and chief operating officer, Deseret Morning News, Salt Lake City, UT

**Al Hunt**, managing editor, Washington, Bloomberg News

**Sandra Keyes**, editor, Honolulu Advertiser

**Larry King**, executive editor, Omaha World-Herald

**Craig Klugman**, editor, Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, IN

**Ted Koppel**, anchor and managing editor, Nightline, ABC News

**David Kraslow**, Washington bureau chief, Cox Newspapers

**John Lampinen**, editor, senior vice president, Daily Herald, suburban Chicago

**Donald R. Larrabee**, Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau

**Kathy Lawrence**, president, College Media Advisers

**Dale Leibach**, former assistant press secretary to President Jimmy Carter

**Carl Leubsdorf Sr.**, Washington bureau chief, Dallas Morning News

**Frances Lewine**, CNN assignment editor

**Simon K.C. Li**, assistant managing editor, Los Angeles Times

**Ron Magers**, anchor/reporter, ABC-7, Chicago

**John Mancini**, editor, Newsday, Long Island, NY

**Carol Marin**, political columnist, Chicago Sun-Times

**Mike McCurry**, former press secretary to President Bill Clinton

**Jack McElroy**, editor, Knoxville News Sentinel

**James M. McGarvey**, editor, Herald News, West Paterson, NJ

**George McGovern**, former Senator, SD

**Tim J. McGuire**, columnist and former president American Society of Newspaper Editors

**Rob McKenna**, Washington State, attorney general

**Walter Mears**, retired vice president, Associated Press

**Paul Merkoski**, editor, The Press of Atlantic City

**Wilson F. Minor**, syndicated columnist, Jackson, MS

**Bill Monroe**, former moderator, Meet the Press

**Larry Morgnanesi**, executive editor, The Intelligence, Doylestown, PA

**Jack Nelson**, retired Washington bureau chief, Los Angeles Times

**John A. Nelson**, managing editor, Advocate-Messenger, Danville, KY

**Lawrence M. O'Rourke**, national political correspondent, McClatchy Newspapers

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**Allen Parsons**, executive editor and associate publisher, Star-News, Wilmington, NC

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**Daniel Petrie Jr.**, president, Writers Guild of America, west

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**Ken Robertson**, executive editor, Tri-City Herald, Kennewick, WA

**Cindy Rodriguez**, general at-large officer, National Association of Hispanic Journalists

**Rick Rodriguez**, president, American Society of Newspaper Editors and executive editor, Sacramento Bee

**Salman Rushdie**, author

**Kathleen Rutledge**, editor, Lincoln Journal Star, NE

**William Safire**, columnist, New York Times

**Jonathan Safran Foer**, author

**Dena Sattler**, editor and publisher, Garden City Telegram, KS

**Michael Scammell**, author

**Bob Schieffer**, correspondent, CBS News

**Daniel Schorr**, senior news analyst, National Public Radio

**Patrick J. Sloyan**, director, Fund for Investigative Journalism

**Hendrick Smith**, former Washington bureau chief, New York Times

**Rex Smith**, editor and vice president, Times Union, Albany, NY

**Dennis Sodomka**, executive editor, Augusta Chronicle, GA

**Ellen Soeteber**, editor, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**Eliot Spitzer**, New York State, attorney general

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**David Starr**, senior editor, Newhouse Newspapers

**John W. Stevenson**, editor and publisher, Randolph Leader, Roanoke, AL

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**Joyce Terhaar**, managing editor, Sacramento Bee

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**Helen Thomas**, syndicated columnist, Hearst Newspapers

**Robyn Tomlin**, executive editor, Star Banner, Ocala, FL

**Douglas Turner**, Washington bureau chief, Buffalo News

**Troy Turner**, executive editor, Anniston Star, AL

**Christopher White Walker**, editor and publisher, Emporia Gazette, KS

**David Wise**, author/journalist

**Betty Wong**, managing editor, Americas Company, Reuters America LLC

**Judy Woodruff**, correspondent, CNN

**David Zeecik**, executive editor, News Tribune, Tacoma, WA

**Fred Zipp**, managing editor, Austin American-Statesman

**American Federation of Television & Radio Artists (AFTRA)**

**American Society of Business Publication Editors**

**American Society of Newspaper Editors**

**Asian American Journalists Association**

**Education Writers Association**

**Investigative Reporters and Editors and National Institute of Computer Assisted Reporting**

**Media Law Resource Center**

**National Association of Black Journalists**

**National Federation of Press Women**

**National Newspaper Association**

**Newspaper Association of America**

**PEN American Center**

**Radio-Television News Directors Association**

**Religion Newswriters Association**

**Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press**

**Society of American Business Editors & Writers**

**Society of Professional Journalists**

**The Newspaper Guild-CWA UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc.**

In the last 18 months, more than two dozen reporters were questioned or subpoenaed about their confidential sources. New York Times reporter Judith Miller sits in jail and other reporters could face imprisonment. Without the promise of confidentiality, sources—especially whistleblowers—will not come forward with evidence of wrongdoing in government or the private sector. Confidential sources help get information to the public so citizens can participate fully in our democracy.

For a complete list of signers, and more information about the Federal Shield Law, visit Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press at [www.rcfp.org](http://www.rcfp.org).