



Attn: Ms. Shari Redstone
Chairwoman
Paramount Global

Dear Shari,

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to Protect Journalists, an organization whose cause I know is one you cherish. We remain immensely grateful to you for your chairing of the International Press Freedom Awards in 2022 and for your support for our work.

These are challenging times for the media in the United States. CPJ is experiencing record numbers of requests for assistance and advice from journalists across the country, from freelance journalists to large news organizations. Newsrooms are concerned about the physical safety of their staff and their safety online. They are concerned about digital security, and – more and more – they are reporting an increase in legal threats.

It is for this reason that we are greatly concerned about the implications of a potential settlement in the Paramount and CBS lawsuit filed by President Trump and Representative Ronny Jackson, and the implications such a settlement would have for freedom of the press in the United States and globally. We have seen the transcripts from the interview. We know, and legal experts agree, that this lawsuit is without merit. The journalists and editors at CBS did nothing unlawful. News organizations the world over edit interviews to meet word count lengths or broadcast timings: there is nothing inherently unethical nor duplicitous about this.

A settlement in this case would suggest otherwise, setting a deeply damaging precedent that would signal to the current administration – as well as any future administration – that it can interfere with or influence editorial decisions, even at outlets with the resources to fight back, such as CBS.

I would be happy to discuss our concerns in more detail and look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Jacob Weisberg
Chair

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