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A FIGHTER HAS FALLEN- GPA'S STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF STABROEK NEWS CO-FOUNDER AND EDITOR-in-CHIEF, DAVID DE CAIRES

I think the Caribbean has lost a giant of a man through the passing of David de Caires. There are few more honourable and devoted people I have met. Both those who worked with him and those who met him along the way knew his gentle manner but firm and immovable views on a wide range of issues he considered important. For one, he was absolutely committed to the notion of a free press and the ability of people to express themselves freely.

In the cruel and often murderous climate of Guyanese politics and public affairs, Mr de Caires was able to carry the flag of principled dissent with a sense of dignity and pride his country and the region should have more gratuitously rewarded him for.

During the ordeal of the state advertising boycott of the Stabroek News, though his personal pain was evident, his was not the voice of anger and discord, but a voice of reason and principle.

In the exchange of email messages with the ACM leadership at the height of the standoff with the Guyana government, we were the ones being counseled, guided and, in some respects, comforted by his views on how we should proceed.

No doubt, there are nerves he grated and strong emotions his views on public and other matters generated, so there will be those who may not shed too many tears, but there are many, many more of us who knew and respected him and who will find this pill a bitter one to swallow.

At this time we also think about Doreen and the other home folks who led his long list of steadfast and committed supporters.

Wesley Gibbings
President - ACM