



The White House News Photographers Association
7119 Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044-7119

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITE HOUSE DENIES INDEPENDENT PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS REQUEST TO PHOTOGRAPH PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND THE DALAI LAMA

White House Issues Visual Press Release After Meeting

(WASHINGTON, D.C. - Feb. 21, 2014) - The White House News Photographers Association (WHNPA) takes issue with the White House again releasing an official photograph of President Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama today. Despite repeated requests from various news organizations, the White House did not open this meeting, which was deemed "closed press." A government photographer is no substitute for an independent, experienced photojournalist. We are disappointed the White House has reverted to their old strategy of announcing a closed press event and then later releasing their own photo. The WHNPA also urges news organizations to refrain from publishing and circulating this handout photo, which is a visual press release of a news worthy event.

The statement can be found online at the White House News Photographers Association website at: www.whnpa.org/?p=3700.

The White House News Photographers Association is a 93-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the efforts of Washington's professional photojournalists. The WHNPA aims to provide professional and educational outreach to its members and the community through scholarships, programming, an annual competition and a celebration of the industry at the annual "Eyes of History™" gala.

For more information please contact Ron Sachs at president@whnpa.org (301-526-1597) or executive director Heidi Elswick at heidi@whnpa.org (301-606-8251). For further information about the WHNPA, visit the WHNPA website at www.whnpa.org.

The WHNPA and "The Eyes of History™" are sponsored in part by Nikon, Tiffen/Domke and United Airlines.

