



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Burchett meets with Middle Eastern, North African journalists

Knoxville, Tenn. — Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett met with more than a dozen journalists from the Middle East and North African today. The journalists are being hosted in Knoxville by the University of Tennessee School of Journalism and Electronic Media as part of the U.S. Department of State's Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists. Many of the visiting journalists are from countries that are currently experiencing or have recently experienced significant political unrest.

“It was an honor to meet these journalists, and it was a great opportunity to have a conversation about the relationship between government and the media in a free and open society,” Mayor Burchett said. “We talked a lot about the importance of a free press and transparency in government in the United States.”

The journalists, 16 in all, are from 11 different countries or territories: Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

Last year, Mayor Burchett met with a group of journalists from former Soviet republics who were also in Knoxville as part of the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists.

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