

*I am Lucia Todaro with komdat.com, an online advertising company based in Germany. I help my clients to produce, post, and host online advertising.*

*Social networking sites, online video sites, and blogs allow people to be creative and freely express themselves on any topic of their choice – and they can do so for free since ads are paying for these websites.*

*The Internet also plays an important role in information gathering, empowering people to form opinions and make informed decisions about topics that affect them.*

*I am troubled by increasing efforts by certain governments to suppress free expression and creativity. Last year, the Turkish government cut-off its citizens' access to YouTube until YouTube removed a single video that was embarrassing to a Turkish government official.*

*China has imprisoned people simply for expressing their opinions online. If these governments exerted greater control over the registration and resolution of domain names, they would dramatically increase their power to suppress free expression online. We should not allow this to happen, as the suppression of free expression online helps these regimes to further curtail the basic rights of the citizens (if we can even speak of "citizens" in this context).*

*I share the concerns expressed in the [comments](#) by NetChoice. I don't know exactly how to design a long-term structure that will protect ICANN from government takeover, but I do know that ICANN is not strong enough to stand alone among governments that covet its role.*

*The US Government should maintain its current oversight role until ICANN can guarantee that governments must defer to private sector management.*