

MSNBC's Gag Rule

In the September 8 *New York Times*, there is a story about the continuing conflict between NBC and MSNBC over news reporting and analysis. While several NBC employees spoke to *Times* reporters, all did so anonymously. That's because "the network does not permit it [sic] people to speak to the media without authorization."

Now if a bishop were to tell his priests that they are not authorized to speak to the media without prior clearance, he'd be accused of censorship. Indeed, he'd probably be called a fascist. But when the media silence their own, it's considered good journalism. Their hypocrisy reeks to high heaven.