

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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PHOTO CAPTION



Journalist and RSF correspondent in Algeria Khaled Drareni – who was unfairly imprisoned for covering the Hirak protests – was granted presidential pardon and released on February 19th 2021. Throughout his 10-month detention, RSF has been campaigning for his release.

Cover image: © Ryad Kramdi/AFP

THE PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Pierre Haski
RSF President



© Alexander Klein / AFP

JOURNALISM IS THE SHINING LIGHT WE ALL NEED

There is always a certain hope in a new decade, but 2021 ultimately brought a step backwards. In Burma, the *coup* led by the army plunged the country ten years back, before the dissolution of the previous military junta in February 2011, which had opened a space for the free press.

Long considered a bastion of press freedom, Hong Kong experienced unprecedented terror. China took over the island, suffocated Hong Kong's TV, radio, newspapers and news websites, and locked up journalists, putting an end to local democracy in the archipelago.

In Belarus, since the disputed presidential election of August 9th 2020, thousands of people have taken to the streets to peacefully demand an honest and transparent election. Journalists, especially those who have covered these unprecedented large demonstrations, have become a favorite target of the authorities, who do not hesitate to beat, torture and lock them up, and have even hijacked a plane to repress a journalist.

The consequences of the Taliban takeover on the media landscape in Afghanistan have been edifying: disappearance of media outlets, journalists escaping, and death threats, especially to women, by the regime in power.

Faced with this gloomy picture, Reporters Without Borders' teams have worked tirelessly to provide appropriate solutions. They have deployed considerable energy and have shown remarkable effectiveness, as this activity report demonstrates.

The systematic attacks against journalism in an attempt to subdue people are proof of its importance. Journalism is the shining light we all need when everything seems lost and this is the very reason why I am proud to chair an organization that defends this honorable profession with determination and strength every day.

2021 THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY



RSF PROPOSES SOLUTIONS TO REGULATE DIGITAL PLATFORMS

In January, Twitter suspended the US president's @realDonaldTrump account as well as 70,000 accounts linked to the pro-Trump movement. Facebook, Instagram and Twitch also suspended the presidential accounts. RSF is concerned about the consequences of these unilateral decisions on the right to information and is proposing concrete solutions to prevent GAFA from retaining the power to decide to close accounts at its own discretion.

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,
BECAUSE THERE IS NO FREE
COUNTRY WITHOUT
A FREE PRESS, SIGN THE
#PressFreedomPact.



RSF URGES THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT THE #PRESSFREEDOMPACT

As President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were about to be sworn in, RSF called on them to make an immediate commitment to press freedom by signing the Press Freedom Compact. Members of Congress were urged to do the same, to ensure respect for First Amendment principles.

FEBRUARY

KHALED DRARENI, THE SYMBOL OF PRESS FREEDOM IN ALGERIA, FINALLY FREE!

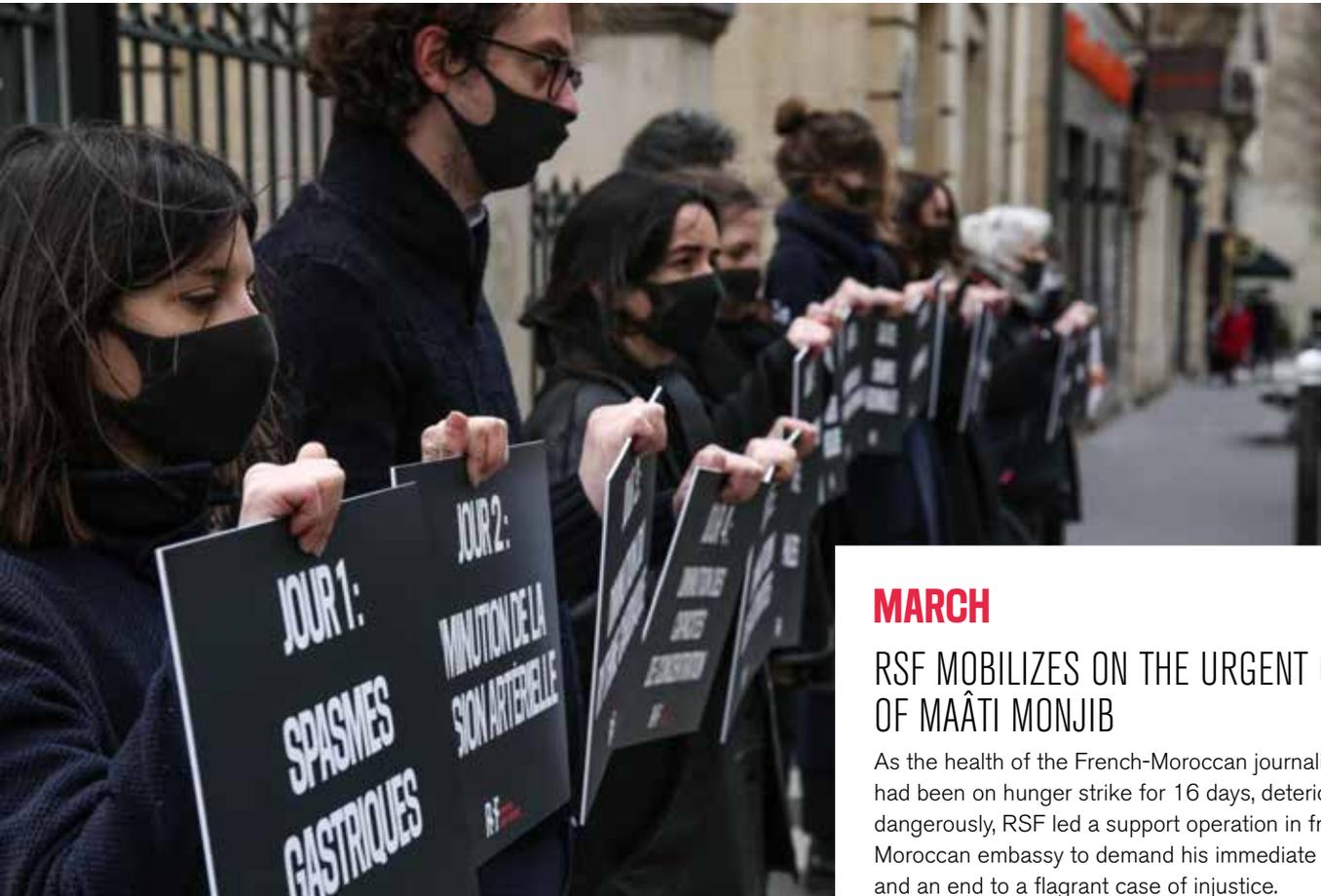
After 11 months in detention, RSF's correspondent in Algeria, Khaled Drareni, was released on February 19th, along with some 60 other political prisoners. Imprisoned for "inciting an unarmed gathering" and "endangering national unity" while covering a Hirak demonstration, he was widely supported by RSF. He is now free, thanks to pressure on the Algerian government and the #FreeKhaled campaign.



FEBRUARY

JOINT STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, WHO FACES 14 YEARS IN PRISON

On the eve of the opening of the trial of RSF's representative in Turkey, Erol Önderoğlu, 17 press freedom and human rights organizations issued a joint statement in support of this journalist and defender of the right to inform in Turkey, who faces 14 years in prison.



MARCH

RSF MOBILIZES ON THE URGENT CASE OF MAËTI MONJIB

As the health of the French-Moroccan journalist, who had been on hunger strike for 16 days, deteriorated dangerously, RSF led a support operation in front of the Moroccan embassy to demand his immediate release and an end to a flagrant case of injustice.

RSF FILES A COMPLAINT AGAINST FACEBOOK IN FRANCE

RSF filed a complaint with the Paris public prosecutor against Facebook regarding the massive proliferation of online hate and false information. The clear contradiction between the social network's commitments to consumers and the reality of its operations is at stake.



2021 THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS



MARCH

RSF FILES A COMPLAINT FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI

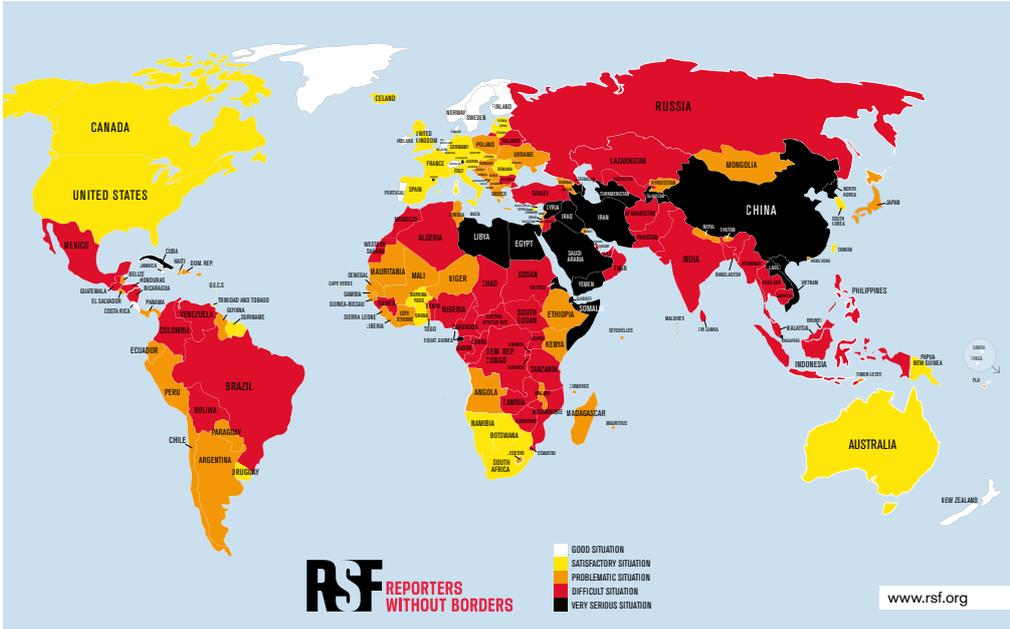
RSF filed a criminal complaint for crimes against humanity against Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other senior Saudi officials with the German Attorney General. The complaint relates to the widespread and systematic persecution of journalists in Saudi Arabia, and more specifically to the imprisonment of 34 journalists and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

APRIL

THE ANNUAL RANKING REVEALS THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON PRESS FREEDOM

In 2021, journalism, the true vaccine against disinformation, is blocked in over 130 countries. Journalists are confronted with the closure of access to the field as well as to sources of information.

The white zone of the press freedom map (where the situation is best), had never shrink so much since 2013 and only 12 countries out of 180 offer an enabling environment for information.



FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE 2021

APRIL

SEVERAL RSF AWARDS ARE MOBILIZING IN SUPPORT OF IMPRISONED VIETNAMESE JOURNALIST PHAM DOAN TRANG

To mark the six-month anniversary of her arrest, RSF has asked several RSF award winners to speak out in support of Pham Doan Trang, herself a 2019 RSF Impact Award winner. All of them demand that the Vietnamese authorities release her immediately and unconditionally.



RSF CALLS ON 10 MULTINATIONALS OPERATING IN BURMA FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT

After two months of continued deterioration of press freedom in Burma, RSF has called on 10 foreign companies to implement their commitment to human rights by taking concrete steps to suspend their economic support to the military regime.



MAY

MEDIA DESTRUCTION IN GAZA

Following the bombing of some 20 media outlets in the Gaza Strip by Israeli forces, RSF is calling on the ICC prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, to include the bombing of the media in her investigation of the situation.



2021 THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

MAY

RSF LAUNCHES AN UNPRECEDENTED SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN FOR JOURNALIST MARIA RESSA



To mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3rd, RSF and the #HoldTheLine coalition launched a groundbreaking solidarity campaign for journalist Maria Ressa who faces the prospect of spending the rest of her life in prison in the Philippines. Hundreds of celebrities have submitted videos showing their support for the founder of the online news website Rappler whose courageous journalism and commitment to press freedom have won international awards.

jti Journalism Trust Initiative

PUBLIC LAUNCH OF THE JTI DIGITAL PLATFORM

Launched on May 18th the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) platform ushers in a new era for media reliability, transparency and sustainability.

JUNE

APPLE DAILY UNDER THREAT

RSF urgently appeals to the UN to take action against the alarming police raid on the premises of the Hong Kong daily *Apple Daily*, the arrest of its executives, and the freezing of its financial assets.





JUNE

"A NEW DEAL FOR JOURNALISM"

As the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the undermining of journalism, the Forum on Information and Democracy published its recommendations under the title "A New Deal for Journalism".



JULY

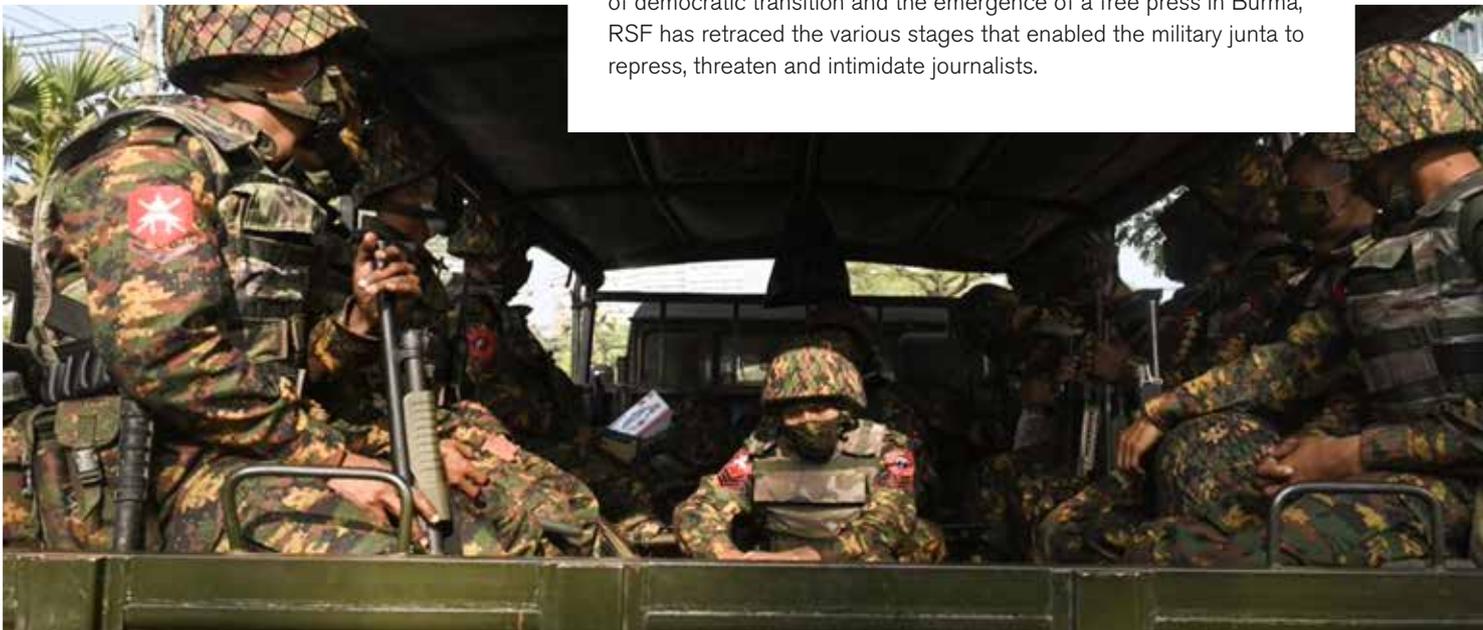
RSF UNVEILS ITS 2021 EDITION OF THE PREDATORS OF PRESS FREEDOM

The 2021 edition of the gallery of "press freedom predators" includes 37 heads of state and government, 17 of whom are listed for the first time. They impose massive repression of journalists by setting up censorship apparatuses, arbitrarily imprisoning journalists, inciting violence and aiding and abetting murder.



6 MONTHS OF MEDIA REPRESSION

Six months after the February 1st coup that put an end to ten years of democratic transition and the emergence of a free press in Burma, RSF has retraced the various stages that enabled the military junta to repress, threaten and intimidate journalists.



2021 THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST

THE LUKASHENKO SYSTEM: DECIPHERING A YEAR OF REPRESSION OF JOURNALISTS IN BELARUS

Censorship, fines, threats, arbitrary detentions, violence, torture... The work of journalists in Belarus has become a real struggle, while the repression to which they are subjected continues to grow. The Lukashenko report, drawn up by RSF, denounces the persecution suffered by journalists since the disputed presidential election of August 9th 2020.



"TAKEOVER?": AN UPDATED EDITION OF RSF'S REPORT ON INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN RUSSIA

In the run-up to the parliamentary elections in Russia, RSF has published an updated report revealing how the state, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, has drastically restricted press freedom and freedom of expression in the country.

SEPTEMBER

A HUNDRED AFGHAN JOURNALISTS ARE APPEALING TO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THROUGH REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

The appeal entitled "*We need international solidarity to prevent the extinction of Afghan journalism*", was signed by 103 Afghan journalists, including 20 women, from all media, political and ethnic backgrounds.



SEPTEMBER

LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY



An "equivalent of the IPCC" for democratic disruption, the Observatory provides states and democratic societies with a clear understanding of the phenomena of the information space, its functioning and its impact on democracy.



OCTOBER

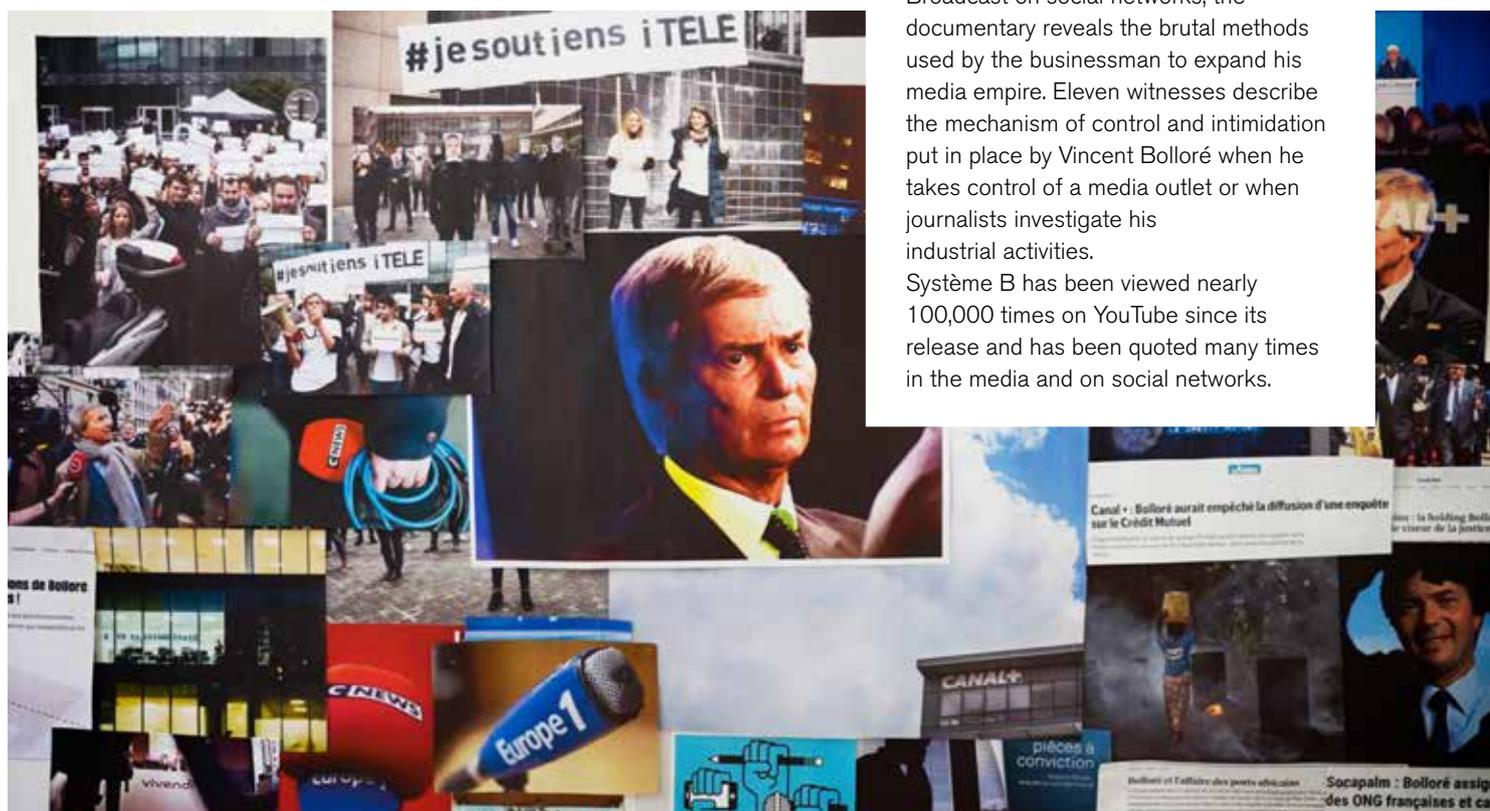
#UNHAPPYBIRTHDAYMRPUTIN

October 7th, the Russian president's birthday, is also the day the famous investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya was murdered. RSF marked this symbolic date by releasing black balloons to challenge President Vladimir Putin on the climate of impunity prevailing in the country.

THE B SYSTEM: A DOCUMENTARY ON THE BOLLORÉ SYSTEM

Broadcast on social networks, the documentary reveals the brutal methods used by the businessman to expand his media empire. Eleven witnesses describe the mechanism of control and intimidation put in place by Vincent Bolloré when he takes control of a media outlet or when journalists investigate his industrial activities.

Système B has been viewed nearly 100,000 times on YouTube since its release and has been quoted many times in the media and on social networks.



2021 THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS



NOVEMBER

RSF PRIZE 2021: CHINESE JOURNALIST ZHANG ZHAN, PALESTINIAN MAJDOLEEN HASSONA AND THE PEGASUS PROJECT AWARDED

Each year, the RSF Press Freedom Prize recognizes the work of a journalist or media organization that has made a significant contribution to the defense or promotion of press freedom worldwide. The 29th edition of the prize is awarded to Chinese journalist Zhang Zhan, Palestinian Majdoleen Hassona and the Pegasus Project.

STAGING A TRIBUNAL IN THE HAGUE TO BRING JUSTICE TO MURDERED JOURNALISTS

The People's Tribunal launched by RSF, Free Press Unlimited (FPU) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) aims to bring symbolic justice to journalists murdered and forgotten by the courts.





DECEMBER

RSF 2021 ANNUAL ROUND-UP: A RECORD NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS IN DETENTION

In 2021, the annual toll of abuses against journalists set a record number of journalists in detention. 488 journalists and media workers are behind bars because of their profession, 20% more than in 2020. Another striking fact is that the number of women journalists detained worldwide has never been so high, with RSF pointing to a 33% increase compared to 2020.

MISSION TO MEXICO: RSF MOBILIZES AGAINST IMPUNITY AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS

RSF's Latin America office, along with representatives from RSF Colombia and Germany, went to Mexico City on an international mission to strengthen the fight against impunity for crimes committed against journalists. The mission also aimed to identify the various, often interrelated, factors behind the disastrous working conditions of journalists in the country.



RSF HAS URGED THE INTRODUCTION OF EU SANCTIONS AGAINST PEGASUS MANUFACTURER NSO GROUP

Pegasus Project: Civil society calls for EU sanctions against NSO Group with more than 80 non-profit organisations and independent experts.

| EDITORIAL |

Christophe Deloire
RSF secretary-general



© Joel Saget / AFP

For several years, we have been used to describing the scope of RSF's work as follows: *"from the mud of the Afghan mountains to the United Nations General Assembly"*. 2021 will have been the literal embodiment of the formula. After the Taliban took power, RSF mobilized urgently to provide support and assistance to journalists, especially women, threatened with death by the new regime. A few days later, during the Summit on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the Forum on Information and Democracy announced the creation of the International Observatory on Information and Democracy, the equivalent for democratic disruption of what the IPCC is for climate change.

From Algeria, where our mobilization led to the release of our correspondent Khaled Drareni, to the border between Lithuania and Belarus, where we went a few days after the arrest of Raman Pratashevich by means of a hijacking; from the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe, where we filed a complaint for crimes against humanity for a series of crimes committed against journalists in Saudi Arabia, to the many cities in France where we set up banners in support of journalist Olivier Dubois, held hostage in Mali: RSF was deployed wherever necessary.

In 2021, in the face of current events, RSF has been able to react quickly, always mobilize, and sometimes reinvent itself, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of its teams, whose remarkable commitment I congratulate.

2021 IN NUMBERS

In the face of constantly changing challenges and threats to press freedom around the world, RSF is proactive in adapting its strategy to maintain the mobilization of as many people as possible and to obtain lasting changes and results in the defense of the right to information.

THE LOGIC OF ITS INTERVENTION IS BASED ON FIVE MAIN AREAS OF ACTION:

- research and publication;
- communication campaigns;
- advocacy;
- assistance;
- training and support.



RSF INVESTIGATES
AND REPORTS



RSF MOBILIZES
AND ALERTS



RSF PLEADS
AND DEFENDS



RSF PROTECTS
AND SUPPORTS



RSF TRAINS AND
SUPPORTS



Training for journalists on cybersecurity organized by RSF and Forum Marocain des Jeunes Journalistes © FMJJ

RSF TRAINS AND SUPPORTS



Through its long experience, RSF has been able to forge solid and lasting bonds with partner organizations with whom it works closely. Local organizations are also supported in their work in defense of press freedom, and training courses are provided to strengthen press freedom actors in 17 different countries.

In 2021,

- **37 training courses provided to 875 journalists** and media professionals worldwide, 49,6% of whom are women journalists or media professionals. The courses cover topics such as physical and digital safety, fact-checking, and psychological health and safety. Thanks to its network of local partner organizations and its knowledge of the field, RSF is able to support the setting up of tailor-made training courses that meet the needs of local contexts and are free of charge for participants.
- **12 partner organizations** with which RSF has worked jointly to defend press freedom.
- **10 local organizations** were supported by RSF to set up training and awareness-raising activities on the right to information.



Reporters Without Borders press conference at the end of a mission in Guinea, October 26th 2021.

RSF PROTECTS AND SUPPORTS



As a result of the increasing threats to freedom, particularly through the crises that have occurred in recent years, RSF has acquired considerable experience in supporting journalists in danger. This support can be in the form of financial grants to cover evacuation costs, medical care, equipment or installation in a new context. It can also be administrative support when threatened journalists have to flee their country.

In 2021,

- The RSF assistance office handled a total of **655 cases** from all countries, plus **1,752 requests** from Afghan journalists wanting to flee their country.
- **112 individual grants** were awarded to support **127 journalists** at risk in **21 different countries** during 2021: RSF was particularly active during the crises in Burma, Afghanistan, Syria and the RDC.
- **105 instances of administrative support** were also provided, particularly in the cases of Syrian and Afghan journalists.
- **15 media supported** in 12 different countries. In Asia in particular, the presence of an RSF office in Taipei has allowed us to intensify our assistance in this region.
- **27 sites** were made accessible through *Operation Collateral Freedom*.

RSF PLEADS AND DEFEND



The defense of journalists under threat also involves the use of protection mechanisms. RSF intends to defend, but also to obtain justice for journalists murdered in the exercise of their profession, or whose rights have been violated. The fight against impunity for crimes against journalists is one of the levers for protecting access to information.

In 2021,

- **63 appeal letters** were sent to political authorities, institutions or multinational companies.
- **48 litigation actions** were undertaken or supported at local, national and international or regional protection mechanisms.
- **3 complaints** were submitted to the International Criminal Court.

RSF INVESTIGATES AND REPORTS



Without information, no mobilization is possible to protect their rights. This is why RSF is committed to documenting but also informing and disseminating the products of its investigations. Its publications alert and highlight the information obtained by RSF on the state of press freedom. The Press Freedom Index, in particular, has become an essential tool for analyzing access to information around the world.

In 2021,

- **1,506** publications in 6 languages.
- **3 published reports**.
- **2,386 press coverage** of the World Press Freedom Index and **20 official reactions** from 17 different countries were recorded.

RSF MOBILIZES AND ALERTS

Through mobilization campaigns and the dissemination of information obtained. Without information, there is no mobilization. RSF is also the citizens who mobilize and support press freedom. Through its social networks, its campaigns and punch operations, RSF highlights, alerts and raises awareness of press freedom violations around the world.

In 2021,



- 14** implemented **campaigns**
- 1,2 million visitors** on the website
- 5,2 million page views**
- 45%** of visitors are English-speaking



268,000 followers on Facebook



194,796 followers on Twitter (RSF international)



19,000 followers on Instagram



5,000 new subscribers to the newsletter

BACKGROUND

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2021: AN EXTRAORDINARY TRIBUTE TO JOURNALISM



THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2021 HAS BEEN AWARDED TO MARIA RESSA AND DMITRI MURATOV, TWO PROMINENT AND COURAGEOUS JOURNALISTS. BEYOND THE WINNERS, THIS AWARD IS AN EXTRAORDINARY TRIBUTE TO JOURNALISM AND A CALL TO MOBILIZE FOR INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

In association with the #HoldTheLine coalition, RSF launched an unprecedented solidarity campaign for Maria Ressa. A dedicated website (<https://holdthelineformariaressa.com>) has gathered hundreds of videos recorded by influential personalities, combined with a public appeal for contributions. Maria Ressa is one of the 25 members of the Commission on Information and Democracy created in 2018 by RSF, to establish democratic guarantees in the digital space. The Declaration issued by this commission resulted in a partnership signed by 43 states. Within the Information and Democracy Forum, the implementation body of the partnership, Maria Ressa co-chaired the working group on “infodemics” which published 250 recommendations in November 2020.

In 2021, RSF also mobilized to defend one of Russia’s last independent media outlets, the Russian tri-weekly Novaya Gazeta, which is constantly under pressure. Its editor-in-chief, Dmitri Muratov, dedicated his Nobel Prize to the six staff members who have been murdered at this martyred newspaper since its creation in 1993. Among them was investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya, killed 15 years ago for her uncompromising coverage of the second Chechen war. On the eve of the award, to mark the date of this murder, which also corresponds to Vladimir Putin’s birthday, RSF organized an operation in Paris, London and Berlin to call on the Russian president about the climate of impunity for crimes committed against journalists in his country.

BACKGROUND

MOBILIZING AGAINST THE EXTINCTION OF AFGHAN JOURNALISM

103 journalistes afghans lancent un appel à l'aide par l'intermédiaire de RSF

“

**NOUS AVONS BESOIN DE LA SOLIDARITÉ INTERNATIONALE
POUR ÉVITER L'EXTINCTION DU JOURNALISME AFGHAN”**

THE TALIBAN'S RISE TO POWER IN AUGUST 2021 HAS HAD SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR PRESS FREEDOM AND THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN.

In the space of 3 months,
43%
of the Afghan media disappeared.

761 journalists
were supported by RSF
in their evacuation to France,
Germany or Spain.

The media landscape has been radically altered: in the space of three months, 43% of the Afghan media disappeared. Almost all women journalists have lost their jobs.

Faced with this situation, a hundred Afghan journalists have launched a vibrant appeal to international institutions through RSF. Entitled “We need international solidarity to prevent the extinction of Afghan journalism”, the appeal was signed by 103 Afghan journalists (including 20 women) from all media, who say they are “of different political opinions and ethnicity”. All the signatories, including journalists in exile, preferred to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation against themselves or their families. Many media professionals have been questioned, arrested and assaulted by the Afghan police and the *Istihbarat* (the Taliban's national intelligence services).

Since the Taliban took power, RSF has constantly campaigned for guarantees of protection, especially for women journalists who wish to continue to exercise their profession and for resources to encourage the maintenance or reopening of Afghan media. RSF also supports journalists in exile, so that they can continue to carry out their work and be sheltered.

BACKGROUND

JOURNALISM BLOCKED IN 73% OF THE WORLD'S COUNTRIES



FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE 2021

The 2021 edition of the World Press Freedom Index showed that the main vaccine against the virus of misinformation, namely journalism, was totally or partially blocked in 73% of the countries assessed by RSF. These figures correspond to the number of countries classified as red or black on the world press freedom map, i.e. those in which journalism is in a "difficult situation" or even "very serious" and those classified in the orange zone where the exercise of the profession is considered "problematic."

The blocking of journalism is revealed by the Index data which measures restrictions on access and impediments to news coverage. RSF recorded a clear deterioration of the indicator on this issue. Journalists are facing a closure of access to the field as well as to sources of information, due to or under the pretext of the health crisis. The study shows a growing difficulty for journalists to investigate and report on sensitive issues, particularly in Asia and the Middle East, as well as in Europe.

| 2021 IN PERSONAL ACCOUNTS |



By Jeanne Cavalier,
head of the Eastern Europe
and Central Asia desk

In 2021,

- Belarus is ranked **158th** out of 180 countries in RSF's 2021 World Press Freedom Index.
- In 2021, **32 journalists** were arbitrarily detained in Belarus, including **17 women**.

“On a mission to the Belarusian border”

“

It was around 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 23rd, when we learned that the Ryanair plane from Athens to Vilnius had been diverted by a Belarusian fighter plane towards Minsk airport. On board was journalist Raman Pratashevich, who was arrested and forced to leave the plane.

Stunned by this unprecedented act, we reacted immediately.

On Tuesday morning, we filed a felony complaint for "hijacking for terrorist purposes" as enshrined in Articles 251 and 252-1 of the Lithuanian Criminal Code against Alexander Lukashenko. The complaint formally challenges the "bomb threat" theory put forward by Minsk to justify the hijacking and denounces the Belarusian regime's attempt to force the plane to land in order to arrest the journalist.

We also decided to organize a protest operation on the ground, at the border between Lithuania and Belarus. We felt the need to show our solidarity to all journalists arbitrarily detained in Belarus but also to those in exile, especially in Lithuania, who are in shock and living in fear for their own safety and that of their families.

Together with RSF's Secretary General Christophe Deloire, we joined our correspondent in Lithuania, Dionizas Litvaitis. With the support of the Lithuanian Journalists Association, we went to the border with Belarus where we held up the portraits of 20 journalists locked up in Lukashenko's jails.

Behind the border fence is Belarus, a country whose regime locks up journalists, represses, censors and sometimes tortures them for simply doing their job. Through this act of protest we have paid tribute to them. And through our complaint, we hope to bring them justice."

2021 IN PERSONAL ACCOUNTS



By Laëtitia Chesseron,
local Partnerships
and Task Building Officer

- **25%** of Turkish citizens have Kurdish as their mother tongue.

In 2021,

- Only **1 public television channel** (TRT Kurdi)
- Turkey is **153rd** out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index

"The Botan project"

“

We started working with Botan International in 2020. Based in the South East Anatolia region in Diyarbakır, the 2-people organization was then the only one offering safety and journalism training in the Kurdish language, which is banned in Turkey. Journalists are heavily persecuted in the region and Turkey is one of our priority countries. When our representative in Istanbul, Erol Önderoğlu, told us about this structure, we immediately saw a great opportunity.

Our regular exchanges quickly bore fruit, since in just one year, thanks to the financial support and guidance offered by RSF, Botan International has developed tremendously: the organization can now host workshops (podcasts, etc.), training sessions and seminars on its premises. The NGO also provides journalists with free e-books, a sound recording studio and office space.

RSF has played a sort of “incubator” role. When certain areas are not directly covered by some of our activities, we look for partners who are, in a way, our extension on the ground. Of course, these local organizations must have the same mandate as RSF. We then work hand in hand to strengthen their capacities, i.e. to structure them to develop their potential and activities. The objective is that, in the long run, our partners will be able to raise funds themselves to continue their development. This is the case for Botan, which now receives funding other than that of RSF and continues to grow. A video studio for Kurdish journalists should arrive in 2022!”

| 2021 IN PERSONAL ACCOUNTS |



By Cédric Alviani,
director of the East Asia RSF office

“We could not predict such a rapid growth!”



In 2021,

- **66 East Asia dispatches** published on the RSF website.
- Almost **1,000 media reports**, mostly in local languages.
- **84 meetings** with journalists, humanitarians, officials and diplomats.
- **211 chinese journalists** trained in physical and digital safety.
- **10 journalists** and **4 chinese media outlet** supported under an emergency assistance program.

“When RSF decided to open a bureau to cover East Asia at the end of 2016, it was already out of the question to set it up in Beijing due to the hardening of the Chinese regime, and even Hong Kong seemed too risky. That is why we chose Taiwan, where Mandarin Chinese is also spoken, as our regional base. After the office opened in April 2017, I was working alone at home in Taipei and it was only with the recruitment of my colleague Hsiang-yi in 2018 that we opened a proper workspace.

An RSF office abroad is almost like an embassy. You have to be a one-man band and know how to play with all the jobs NGOs do: research and advocacy, of course, but also fundraising, accounting, human resources management, etc. One of the specificities of our office is its ability to communicate in local languages – Mandarin Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Mongolian. This has greatly enhanced the impact of our actions, as English is not at all a language of mass communication in the region.

We could not predict such a rapid growth! The office developed in a hurry, in a context of a very sharp deterioration of press freedom in China. The pandemic period was a catalyst. Recently, I had to completely reorganize the work to accommodate the fact that we are now seven full-time staff people, including several former interns. Recruiting them has been very good for the dynamism of the office but of course I have had to spend a lot of time training them and passing on my experience.

I have also had to learn to delegate work, better anticipate the demands of headquarters and donors and above all put in place rigorous and efficient processes. The office is now financially self-sufficient, our capacity to intervene and our productivity have increased significantly and I can now focus on system consolidation, strategy development and quality control, so that our work can have maximum impact.”

2021 IN PERSONAL ACCOUNTS



By Emmanuel Colombié,
director of the Latin America section
of Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

"Concrete and constructive proposals for Mexico"

“

In 2021,

- **7 mexican journalists** murdered in the line of duty in 2021.
- Between **95% and 99% of crimes** against journalists remain unpunished in Mexico.
- Mexico, Brazil, Honduras and Colombia: **the 4 Latin American countries** with a protection mechanism for journalists that were the subject of RWB's analysis and detailed report.
- **143th**: Mexico's position in the World Press Freedom Index in 2021, out of a total of 180 countries.

Mexico has been a priority country for Reporters Without Borders (RSF) for too many years. From our regional office, with our representative Balbina Flores and our local partner Propuesta Cívica, we are working on two fundamental axes: strengthening protection mechanisms for the profession and fighting against impunity for crimes and forced disappearances of journalists which is over 95%.

Paradoxically, while Mexico has become the most dangerous country in the world for the press in the last decade, Reporters Without Borders is in constant exchange with the government and is able, thanks to its experience, to influence and legitimate, to dialogue and make concrete proposals to the authorities – both federal and local – in order to improve the situation.

The objective of RSF's international mission in December 2021 was to move away from the logic of denunciation and make concrete recommendations to these authorities, most of whom are aware of the magnitude of the problem.

During this visit, RSF was able to present the preliminary results of a groundbreaking report on the protection mechanisms in Honduras, Colombia, Brazil and Mexico. The diagnosis and main recommendations of the Mexican section of this survey were presented and discussed with officials of the Federal Mechanism which is attached to the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB). During this meeting, RSF was given guarantees of improvement for the year 2022.

Together with Propuesta Cívica, we also presented the first version of a detailed analysis of Mexican laws restricting press freedom, hindering or criminalizing the work of journalists at the federal and state levels to the Senate Human Rights Commission and at a press conference.

Finally, as part of the People's *Tribunal against the Murder of Journalists*, an international project coordinated with Free Press Unlimited (FPU) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), RSF was able to coordinate and organize the hearing – held in April 2022 – of the case of Milo Vela, a journalist from the state of Veracruz who was murdered in 2011 with his wife and daughter. This case has remained totally unpunished. RSF went to the port of Veracruz to obtain the agreement of Milo Vela's family and to investigate the reasons for this impunity, one of the most striking and intense moments of this mission.

In addition to these three activities, the RSF delegation met with the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Violations of Freedom of Expression (FEADLE), representatives of the European Union, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNESCO and the National Human Rights Commission. Our team also visited the state of Michoacán to talk to the families of Mauricio Estrada Zamora and Ramón Ángeles Zalpa, two disappeared journalists and priority cases defended by RSF and Propuesta Cívica.

For the first time - and this was a real logistical and multicultural challenge - RSF representatives from Germany, Colombia, Mexico, the regional office in Rio de Janeiro and partners from the Netherlands joined forces to make this mission a success. I am particularly proud to have coordinated these efforts, the main results of which were observed in the first quarter of 2022. With these various projects and recommendations, RSF is a source of proposals and actively collaborates with the Mexican authorities to reverse this spiral of violence and impunity.

PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS: STRENGTHEN THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS



RSF visual as part of the campaign for justice for Jamal Khashoggi.

2021 SAW THE BIRTH AT REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS OF THE NOTION OF PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS.

While geographical logic is still at the heart of RSF's work, the annual action plan is now broken down into priority campaigns that allow the organization to mobilize across the board with a precise and shared goal to reinforce the impact of the actions carried out.

A priority campaign is a set of activities carried out over the course of a year with a specific objective in mind. A campaign involves all of Reporters Without Borders' services: advocacy, publications, assistance, partnerships, projects and communication.

A campaign can focus on a theme, a person or a country. These are the annual priorities of the organization.

This innovation in RSF's modus operandi should make it possible to achieve the major changes expected by RSF and to become a different organization, a benchmark, capable of being proactive and innovative in the long-term solutions it provides and of being able to react quickly to crises by pooling the skills, expertise and resources that surround it.

When the campaign focuses on a theme, it allows actions to be duplicated from one country to another, adapted of course according to the context. When it focuses on a country, it involves the whole organization and not just the country expert. In this way, the campaign logic reconciles international commitment with local impact.

Priority campaigns are thus a vector of adaptability (cross-cutting mobilization of teams to respond to priorities and emergencies), flexibility (shifting concentration on different campaigns according to changing contexts) and agility (permanent questioning of the relevance of continuing a campaign or not).

Thus, the aim of this global priority is to strengthen the impact of Reporters Without Borders by designing the objectives as the basis for the work plan.

#PROTECTJOURNALISTS

WHY?

Over the past decade, 937 journalists have been killed in the course of their work around the world. A worrying figure. Despite the fluctuation of specific trends from year to year, another alarming fact has remained constant: the overwhelming majority of cases of journalists' killings have taken place with full or partial impunity. In addition, a considerable number of journalists are still imprisoned around the world - 387 at the end of 2020.

These trends demonstrate the need to change RSF's approach to effectively combat these threats and better protect journalists. The **#ProtectJournalists** campaign aims to challenge this status quo. To do this effectively, RSF must be creative, resourceful and, above all, persistent.



Portrait of Khaled Drareni installed by RSF on a building along the Paris ring road in October 2020.

HOW?

#ProtectJournalists is a global campaign that encompasses a number of mini-campaigns. These include RSF's campaigns for justice for **Jamal Khashoggi**, **Daphne Caruana Galizia** and **Christopher Allen**; the campaign for the **release of imprisoned journalists in Saudi Arabia**; the campaign for a **moratorium on the imprisonment of journalists in East Africa**; the **#HoldTheLine** campaign in support of **Maria Ressa** and the independent media in the Philippines; the campaign to "defend our own" in the cases of **Khaled Drareni**, **Erol Önderoğlu**, and others who are part of the RSF family; and the campaign for the **creation of a UN special representative for the safety of journalists**.

- **By mobilizing with NGO coalitions** for justice, as in the case of Daphne Caruana Galizia.
- **By filing a complaint and attending the various stages of the trial**, as in the case of Jamal Khashoggi.
- **By creating specific projects and campaigns**, such as the support for Maria Ressa.
- **Conducting advocacy and communication campaigns** during the court proceedings against Khaled Drareni and Erol Önderoğlu.

I PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS I

CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF **MARIA RESSA**

Philippines  **138th/180***



WHY?

Journalist Maria Ressa, co-founder and director of the independent news website *Rappler*, was awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize and the 2021 World Press Freedom Prize (UNESCO/Guillermo Cano). However, she is still under a lot of judicial pressure. Despite two dismissals of two defamation suits, RSF continues to call for the immediate withdrawal of all other charges and cases against her and *Rappler*.

Reporters Without Borders, as one of the three members of the steering committee of the #HoldTheLine coalition, continued this year to support Maria Ressa and, more broadly, to defend independent journalism in the Philippines.

HOW?

→ On May 3rd 2021, World Press Freedom Day, RSF and the #HoldTheLine coalition launched a video campaign to be streamed on a website until all charges against Maria Ressa and the *Rappler* news website are dropped. The video brings together hundreds of images recorded by journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers, artists and politicians from around the world. Supporters can still use the “upload your video” function to add their voice to the appeal.



Maria Ressa, co-winner of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, in Taguig (Philippines), October 9th, 2021.
©Eloisa Lopez / Reuters

CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF **EROL ÖNDEROĞLU**

Turkey  **153rd/180***



WHY?

Over the past five years, more than 200 journalists and media workers have been imprisoned in Turkey. Thirteen of them are still behind bars. Turkey remains one of the world's largest prisons for media professionals.



Visual from RSF in support of Erol Önderoğlu

Erol Önderoğlu, an RSF representative, faces 14 years in prison. He is being called to trial for participating in the “Editors-in-chief on Alert” campaign organized in solidarity with the daily *Özgür Gündem*, which was closed in 2016. Erol Önderoğlu and his two co-accused, physicist and human rights activist Şebnem Korur Fincancı, and writer and journalist Ahmet Nesin, were, initially, acquitted after a three-year court case. But on November 3rd 2020, the Third Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Court of Appeal overturned the acquittal decision issued on July 17th 2019.

They are again on trial for “propaganda for a terrorist organization,” “public incitement to commit crimes” and “apology for crimes and criminals.” These charges are brought against them solely for hosting the daily's editorial staff, a victim of the media crackdown following the 2016 coup attempt.

HOW?

- By issuing a joint statement of support, together with 16 other NGOs, denouncing the arbitrary prosecution of journalists in the country.
- By conducting institutional advocacy with the European Union, the United States and ambassadors.
- By making referrals to the UN special procedures.

| PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS |

SUPPORT FOR MOROCCAN JOURNALISTS

MOROCCO  136th/180*



WHY?

In Morocco, new lawsuits against journalists have been added to the long-running cases against several media professionals, implicating them in cases of morality. The conduct of the trials, the over-mediatization and the defamation that accompany these trials are all elements that deprive the victim and the alleged aggressor of their rights. Several journalists remain in prison.

HOW?

It is a question of getting them released by denunciation but also by establishing a sincere and frank dialogue with the authorities if they are finally ready to do so:

- In June 2021, RSF visited Morocco to monitor the trials of journalists Souleiman Raissouni and Omar Radi, and on this occasion **appealed to King Mohammed VI** for their release.
- In March 2021, RSF joined 14 other NGOs in publishing **a letter to the European Union** calling on its high representative and the EU Special Representative for Human Rights to condemn Maâti Monjib's sentence and imprisonment and to do everything in their power to secure his immediate release.
- 30 journalists were **trained in digital safety** in partnership with the **Moroccan Forum of Young Journalists (FMJJ)**.

SUPPORT FOR BURMESE JOURNALISTS

Burma  140th/180*



WHY?

Since the coup that took place on February 1st 2021, Burma has become one of the worst regimes in terms of press freedom, with a situation similar to that in Iran or North Korea. With some 60 media professionals held in detention, it is the second largest prison for journalists in the world after China. Following a certain normalization of military power, journalists who try to work independently and ethically are completely helpless. Many of them have resigned themselves to going underground in order to escape the police and continue to work.

HOW?

RSF supports journalists and denounces the repression carried out against them by the military authorities while targeting the multinational companies that finance the military junta:

- At least **28 Burmese journalists** directly supported by grants.
- **15 multinational companies** were challenged by RSF in 2021, asking them to take concrete action to stop supporting and funding the ruling junta directly or indirectly. These challenges contributed to the withdrawal of several multinationals from the country, such as the giant TotalEnergie in January 2022.



Photo of Ma Thuzar taken when she was covering live video of the anti-military junta protests. She was arrested in September 2021. [Twitter/RSF](#)

I PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS I

MOBILIZATION FOR OLIVIER DUBOIS

Mali  99th/180*



WHY?

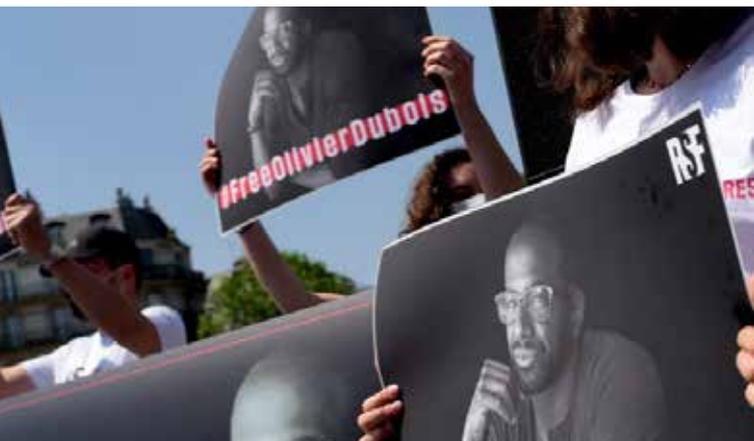
In a video released on May 5th, French journalist Olivier Dubois claims to have been kidnapped on April 8th in Gao in north-eastern Mali by the “Groupe de soutien à l’islam et aux musulmans (GSIM).” A correspondent for *Libération* and *Le Point Afrique*, a seasoned journalist and expert on Mali, he was reporting on the situation at the time of his kidnapping.



Visual from RSF in support of Olivier Dubois, French journalist held hostage in Mali

HOW?

- **Launching of a body to coordinate support for the French journalist:** with representatives of the editorial offices for which Olivier Dubois usually works, representatives of the support committee created by his family in Bamako, the great reporters Florence Aubenas and Didier François, the association SOS Hostages, as well as several journalists, media and associations of the French-speaking press. The main tasks of this body are to coordinate strategic thinking and civil society actions in favor of the release of the French journalist and to carry out, as much as necessary, awareness-raising, communication and advocacy actions in order to achieve this objective.
- **Organization of rallies to call for mobilization** and to launch a message of hope alongside relatives, the media to which the French journalist contributes, and several ex-hostage journalists who have come to offer their support.
- **Deployment of banners on town halls in different cities:** Avignon, Bayeux, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Fort-de-France, La Rochelle, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Nantes, Nice, Paris, Pau, Rennes or Reims.



SUPPORT FOR BELARUSIAN JOURNALISTS

Belarus  158th/180*



WHY?

Following the re-election of Alexander Lukashenko in August 2020, the press freedom situation in Belarus continued to deteriorate significantly in 2021. Repression and persecution of journalists have increased: searches, prosecutions, imprisonment, threats, etc. RSF campaigned for the release of all imprisoned journalists and supported the media in Belarus more widely.

HOW?

- On January 20th 2021, RSF and its local partner, the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ), lodged a special complaint to the United Nations about freedom of speech and expression regarding some fifteen serious cases of arbitrary arrest.
- **RSF and ten other human rights NGOs** have called on the European Commission, the European Council, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament to adopt new recommendations for Belarus due to the increase in imprisonment, criminal prosecution and other persecutions against journalists.
- **On May 7th 2021**, RSF and the Lithuanian Embassy in France organized an online press conference during which five journalists who had fled Belarus gave testimony.
- **On May 25th**, RSF filed a complaint in Lithuania against Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko for “hijacking with terrorist intentions” following the hijacking of a plane on May 23rd 2021 by Belarusian authorities to arrest journalist Raman Pratasevich.



Illustration of the report “Persecution of journalists and media outlets in Belarus”. RSF, OMCT

- RSF organized a mobilization on the Lithuanian-Belarusian border in support of more than 20 journalists in arbitrary detention in the country.
- **In August 2021**, the report “Persecution of journalists and mass media in Belarus” was published by RSF in collaboration with the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT).
- RSF filed an *amicus curiae* brief with the Belarusian Supreme Court to challenge the Ministry of Justice’s request to liquidate the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ).
- **On September 17th 2021**, Belarusian opposition leader in exile Sviatlana Tsikhanuskaia visited RSF’s international headquarters in Paris to discuss the press freedom situation in Belarus.

AGAINST CHINA'S NEW WORLD MEDIA ORDER

China  177th/180⁺



RSF is mobilising to stop the international spread of the Chinese authoritarian regime's model of information and improve freedom of information in China.

WHY?

In 2021 China remains the world's largest prison for press freedom activists with more than 115 of them behind bars, often in life-threatening conditions, as illustrated by the death in February of a leading media source of information on Tibet as a result of ill-treatment in detention. The Chinese regime relies on the massive use of new technologies to set up a system based on the control of information and the surveillance of public or private media outlets and citizens: new restrictions and a large number of human censors allow the regime to close down sites, block access to IP addresses, by infiltrating web pages and by locking keywords on networks. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, this control of information has tightened further, with seven journalists still detained for covering the pandemic. The Chinese authorities are also seeking to promote this repressive model and establish a "new world media order" under its influence.



Report's cover "The great leap backwards in journalism in China", a groundbreaking investigation by RSF published on December 7th 2021.

HOW?

- Through investigation and reporting, RSF published a damning 82-page report in December 2021 that demonstrates the acceleration of Beijing's violations of its international commitments to freedom of opinion and expression. "The great leap backwards for journalism in China" reveals the Chinese regime's unprecedented campaign of repression against journalism and the right to information worldwide in recent years. The report has been translated into **12 languages** to make the findings of this investigation more accessible and widely available.
- Through training: **10 digital safety training courses** were delivered to **198 journalists** based in Hong Kong or China.
- At the RSF 2021 awards, the prize for courage was awarded to journalist and former lawyer Zhang Zhan.

JOURNALISM HEROINES

WHY?

If journalists are sometimes exposed to dangers because of their profession, being a woman journalist exposes them to a double threat: that of the profession and those to which women are exposed. These threats of gender-based violence can be particularly visible in the field of reporting but also in the virtual field, on the Internet and social networks: 73% of respondents to the RSF survey said that the Web has become the most dangerous place for journalists today, as illustrated by the case of Rana Ayyub, an Indian journalist who is the victim of daily rape and death threats on social networks. Ordinary sexism, which is still prevalent in many newsrooms, continues to impact on the place of women in the media and their representativeness.

HOW?

- By supporting partners with a particular focus on gender: the **Center for Protection of Afghan Women Journalists (CPAWJ)**, the first Afghan organization created by women journalists for women journalists, and the **Network of Women in Media (NWMI)** in India, a network supporting women in the media.
- By investigating: on the occasion of March 8th Day 2021, RSF published the results of its survey "**Journalism and sexism**" which reveals the extent of the reality of violence faced by women journalists.
- By publishing studies: RSF carried out a study in Tunisia on the needs in terms of physical, legal and digital safety of Tunisian women journalists, and as a result, a practical guide and recommendations were published.
- By supporting women: 28% of the journalists supported by scholarships in 2021 are women, and 49,6% of the people who have benefited from RSF training are women.



Cover of the report published by RSF on the occasion of March 8th Day in 2021.

MOBILIZING EUROPE FOR JOURNALISM

WHY?

The deterioration of press freedom is increasingly present on the European continent as evidenced by a series of murders of journalists and attacks on the independence of the media within the European Union itself. The promotion of free, pluralistic and independent journalism by RSF and the solutions it proposes are important assets to push Europe towards an intensified mobilization in favor of journalism.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) is a legislative text that aims to regulate digital platforms. The Digital Markets Act (DMA) specifically targets large digital companies, imposing new obligations and preventing them from abusing their market power. These legislative initiatives were presented by the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament at the end of December 2020.

HOW?

RSF advocates for better democratic guarantees in the digital space in these two texts and better guarantees for media freedom, by trying to mobilize the European institutions on legislation to defend and promote journalism, approaches to regulating the digital space and the use of European diplomacy to support press freedom:

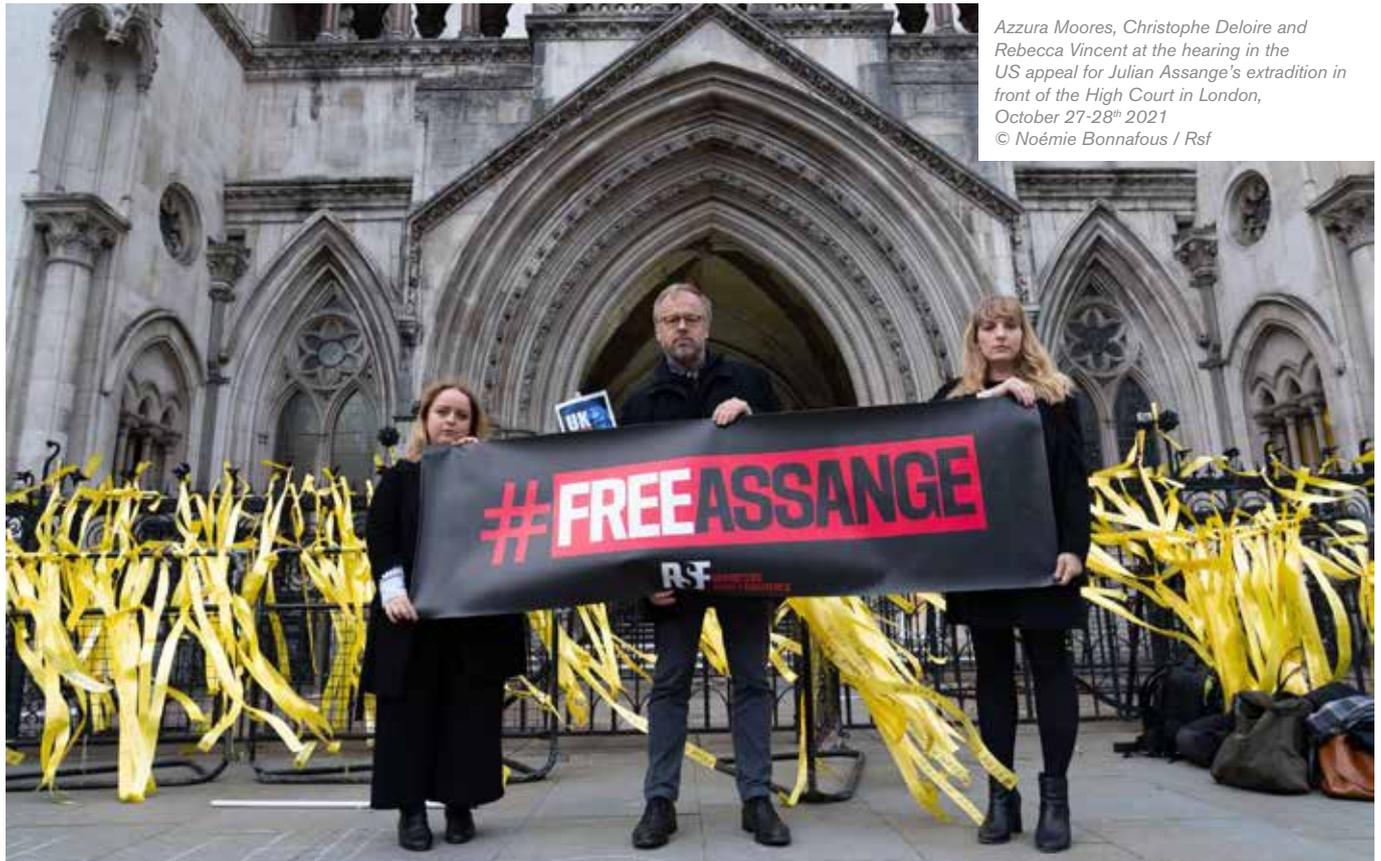
- RSF made recommendations at all stages of the DSA negotiations. As early as October 2020, ahead of the Commission's project. In May 2021, RSF shared **10 concrete recommendations** for strengthening the DSA on the basis of the Commission's draft. During the negotiations in the Parliament, recommendations to support or oppose certain proposed amendments were also shared.
- RSF met with decision-makers from the Commission, Parliament and Member States throughout the negotiations.
- In view of the Commission's draft European Media Freedom Act, RSF also made recommendations to strengthen the guarantees of press freedom and the right to information in Europe: system of protection of information spaces, media concentration etc.
- RSF joined a coalition of 46 other organizations against *Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)*, with which several interventions were made before the European Parliament on SLAPPs and before the European Commission.



Entrance of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.
© Oirat/iStock

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) are abusive lawsuits used by private individuals or politicians to intimidate or silence journalists. These SLAPPs force journalists or human rights defenders to spend money, time and energy defending themselves in these baseless lawsuits.

■ PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS ■



Azzura Moores, Christophe Deloire and Rebecca Vincent at the hearing in the US appeal for Julian Assange's extradition in front of the High Court in London, October 27-28th 2021
© Noémie Bonnafous / Rsf

ACHIEVING THE RELEASE OF **JULIAN ASSANGE**

CLASSEMENT

 **44th/180*** for United States

 **33rd/180*** for United Kingdom

WHY?

On January 4th 2021, the British Justice refused Julian Assange's extradition request to the United States but the US government appealed the decision. The appeal hearing took place on October 27-28th. On December 10th 2021, the UK courts decided to overturn the refusal to extradite Julian Assange to the US in the face of diplomatic assurances from the US.

The High Court decision allows the extradition of Julian Assange to the United States where he faces life imprisonment. However, extradition is not yet allowed and the defense will have the opportunity to appeal later in the proceedings. The decision is of great concern from the point of view of press freedom, as it leaves the door open for similar cases against journalists, publishers or information sources in the future.

HOW?

- In order to support Julian Assange, RSF has ensured a continuous presence at the hearings this year. RSF is the only NGO to have been able to attend all the hearings, despite the difficulties of accessing the court.
- RSF mobilized public opinion through numerous press releases and interviews. RSF's campaign team ensured the publication and monitoring of all the decisions and fed the support campaign on social networks.
- RSF also participated in events in partnership with Julian Assange's family, members of Wikileaks and activists involved in the case.
- The #FreeAssange petition launched by RSF and which has collected over 108,000 signatures has been delivered to the UK Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for Justice and the Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

INITIATIVES

LAUNCHED BY RSF

THE JOURNALISM TRUST INITIATIVE - JTI: AN ECOSYSTEM FOR MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY

The Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) is the first and only international ISO-type Standard for the trustworthiness of news and information. It was initiated and is operated by RSF, with support by various partners such as the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and Agence France Presse (AFP), to reward investments in ethical journalism with tangible incentives and thus, to combat disinformation online.



Based on the JTI Standard, the jti:app was launched in May 2021.

By means of this online platform, available in four languages, media outlets can work on the questionnaire and the 18 Standard clauses, covering the institutional and process level of journalistic production, including specifications on ownership transparency and editorial guidelines, covering topics like independence, accuracy and correction policies.

The process includes three stages: the internal self-assessment checking their compliance with the JTI Standard, then publishing the results finally and, if they wish to, submitting the information for an external audit and eventually receiving official certification. Over 100 media outlets are using the jti:app globally after ten months of its launch.

In November 2021, JTI was presented at a high-level panel discussion at the Paris Peace Forum. Participants, including European Commission Vice President Vera Jourova, emphasized the importance of the initiative in rewarding trustworthy journalism and supporting a healthier news ecosystem.

A pilot phase with some 40 media outlets worldwide - big and small, public and commercial, broadcast, print and digital - concluded in 2021 with a veritable proof of concept: All participating media were able to apply the JTI successfully and found it to be beneficial internally and externally.

← Tweet



Vera Jourova
@VeraJourova

We need tools such as the Journalism Trust Initiative to fight #disinformation.

We support this initiative and it is part of our approach at EU level. Great to see it is increasingly taken up by media and organisations across the world

#ParisPeaceForum2021
rsf.org/en/news/jti-re...



Tweet by Vera Jourova, Vice President of the European Commission

#NOTHING TO HIDE

FORUM ON INFORMATION & DEMOCRACY: DEMOCRATIC GUARANTEES IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

Founded in 2019 by RSF and 10 other civil society and research organizations, the Information and Democracy Forum is the implementing body of the Partnership for Information and Democracy, an intergovernmental agreement that brings together 45 countries to date.

The Forum provides the Partnership states with recommendations for implementing democratic safeguards in the information and communication space.



Ministerial Summit for Information and Democracy, September 24th 2021 in New York. From left to right: Ine Eriksen Soreide, Jean-Yves Le Drian, Christophe Deloire. FORUM I&D

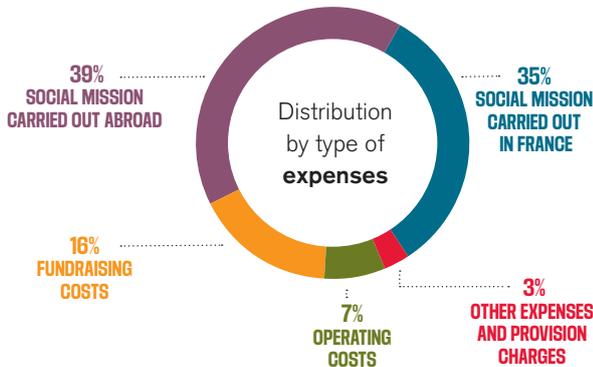
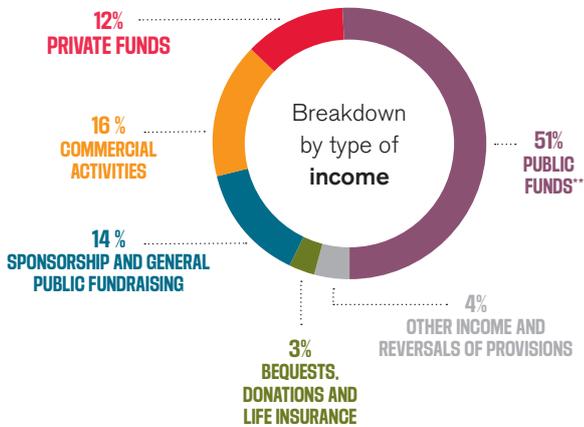
In 2021, and with the support of RSF, the Forum has developed its activities to strengthen the fight against information chaos:

- The journalism sustainability team published its report in June 2021. Entitled **“A New Deal for Journalism,”** the report sets out a plan to secure up to 0.1% of GDP per year to ensure the future of journalism’s social function.
- On September 24th 2021, the Partnership member states organized the first Summit for Information and Democracy Initiative in New York, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. On this occasion, three round tables were organized to discuss the Forum’s recommendations (combating infodemia, sustainability of journalism, accountability of social media accounts and their users).
- On the same occasion, the Forum announced the launch of the **International Information Observatory**. Its mandate will be to produce a periodic assessment of the global communication and information space and its impact on democracy. To define the objectives, methodology and means of the Observatory, a prefiguration group has been created. It is co-chaired by Shoshana Zuboff and Angel Gurría and includes among its members the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa.
- In order to strengthen the dialogue between civil society and governments, the Forum has launched a civil society coalition composed of 43 organizations from 24 countries. It will strengthen the engagement of experts from different regions in the development of the Forum’s recommendations and participate in advocacy efforts to implement them.

Forum on
Information
& Democracy

A STRONG FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS WHO ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE ORGANIZATION'S OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT.



RSF ensures that it has a wide range of funding sources, which for the year 2021 will be broken down as follows*:

- **public funds**** (about 51%), such as the European Union, the French Development Agency (AFD) or the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida);
- **private funds** (about 12%), i.e. from foundations such as Adessium Foundation, Open Society Foundations or Wellspring Philanthropic Fund;
- **commercial activities** (16%), from photo albums sale of which 3 issues are published each year;
- **sponsorship and general public fundraising** (manual donations and memberships) (14%);
- **Bequests, donations and life insurance** (3%).

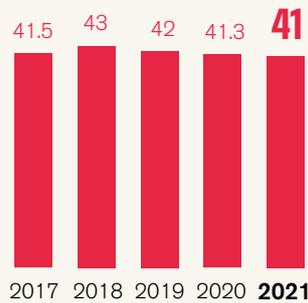
The annual accounts of RSF are audited by Deloitte. In addition to this annual statutory audit, specific audits are carried out on certain financing contracts.

* Breakdown of income by origin and destination presented in the auditor's report.
 ** Of which 26.5% were French subsidies and other public assistance, i.e. 13% of total financial sources.

MAIN PARTNERS

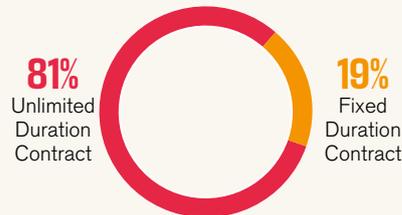


A COMMITTED TEAM



Average annual number of RSF employees in Paris

STABLE FIGURES



EXECUTIVE BOARD

RSF General Assembly for members elects the members of the Board for a two-year term. The Board then elects the members of the Executive Board among the members of the newly elected Board.

The Board meets four times per year and is responsible for the association's policy decisions.

EXECUTIVE BUREAU

President

PIERRE HASKI

Journalist and co-founder and former head of the news website Rue89

Vice-president

FRANÇOISE SIVIGNON

Humanitarian doctor, radiologist

Treasurer

GÉRARD TSCHOPP

Retired journalist, former director of Radio Suisse Normande and board member of RSF International

OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICE MEMBERS

ANTOINE KABURAHE

Journalist, Founder and Director of IWACU

PAOLA SANDOVAL

Journalist

ELAINE SCIOLINO

Journalist and former office chief for the New York Times in Paris.

DAN SHEFET

Lawyer and Founder of The Association for Accountability and Internet Democracy

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

MICHAEL BERGMEIJER

Former Director of Reuters Europe

EDITH CACHERA

Journalist, Vice-président of RSF Spain and member of RSF International Executive Committee

ANGELA CHARLTON

Journalist and bureau chief of Associated Press in Paris

PHIL CHETWYND

News Director at AFP

ELAINE COBBE

CBS correspondent in Paris and Dart Center representative

MICHEL CORMIER

Former news director at Radio Canada

LOUIS DREYFUS

Chairman of the Management Board of Le Monde group

FRÉDÉRIC FILLOUX

Editor of Monday Note newsletter

ANNETTE GERLACH

Journalist and presenter at ARTE

KADRI GÜRSEL

Turkish journalist and columnist - Cumhuriyet

JULIE JOLY

Journalists Training Center Director (CFJ)

CÉCILE MÉGIE

Radio France International (RFI) Director

PAUL MOREIRA

Founder and director of the agency Premières Lignes

EYOUUM NGANGUE

Founder of the association African Journalists in Exile (JAFE)

MARTINE OSTROVSKY

Lawyer and teacher of media law

MICHAEL REDISKE

Journalist and President of RSF International and RSF Germany

ANNE-CÉCILE ROBERT

Journalist at Le Monde Diplomatique

ABDOULAYE TRAORÉ

Journalist

A GLOBAL PRESENCE

RSF has a large network that allows it to have a strong global presence, with actors present in more than **80%** of the world's countries. In **144** of the 180 countries covered by RSF, the organisation can count on at least one actor present at the local level, be it a correspondent, a representative, a local partner or even an office or section. This global coverage remains balanced according to the different geographical areas..



RSF works with **12 partner organizations** in 12 countries around the world. In 2021, two new partnership agreements were signed:

- **National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ):** The union was established to serve the interests and needs of member journalists with regard to journalists' rights, press freedom and working conditions.
- **Lourival J. Santos - Lawyers:** This law firm works to defend freedom of expression and the press and takes legal action on behalf of journalists. The firm also has an institutional branch that carries out concrete actions such as legal training and conferences.



In September 2021, and despite the restrictions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic, RSF organized a partners' meeting. This meeting took place remotely. It provided an opportunity to introduce new partners, to mobilize partners around the issues of priority campaigns, to strengthen the capacities of partners and finally to create a dynamic of exchange between peers. The schedule was divided into five sessions of two over a week. The sessions allowed for the organization of training, brainstorming and a lot of experiences sharing.

RSF PHOTO ALBUMS FOR PRESS FREEDOM

FROM THE ICONIC BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS BY JACQUES HENRI LARTIGUE TO THE PANELS OF THE COMIC BOOK MONUMENT ASTERIX, NOT TO MENTION DAVID BAILEY'S PORTRAITS OF STARS, THE 2021 PROGRAM OF RSF ALBUMS WAS IN THE IMAGE OF THE COLLECTION: BOLD, ECLECTIC AND COMMITTED.



#66 – JACQUES HENRI LARTIGUE

For almost thirty years, Reporters Without Borders has been honoring the most outstanding photographers of the 20th century. It is quite natural that Jacques Henri Lartigue, author of so many iconic images, has found his place alongside Cartier-Bresson, Doisneau and all the others!



#67 – DAVID BAILEY

David Bailey revolutionized the art of portraits and fashion photography in the 1960s. As famous as those who posed for him, the star of Swinging London now shines among the great photographers in the Reporters Without Borders album collection.



#68 – ASTÉRIX

As “Asterix and the Griffin” was released, the 68th Reporters Without Borders album paid tribute to a major comic strip artist. It is the second in the collection devoted entirely to the Ninth Art.

With the support of *Editions Albert René* and the commitment of Anne Goscinny, Ada Uderzo and Sylvie Uderzo, Reporters Without Borders has chosen the most emblematic series of the Franco-Belgian comic strip to convey its values. For Asterix is in itself a genuine guidebook for resistance: for more than sixty years, the world's most famous Gauls have been urging us to say no to any form of oppression, without ever giving up our *joie de vivre*. A vision that Reporters Without Borders shares with Asterix, his gang and all his readers.

SUPPORT RSF ALL YEAR ROUND BY SUBSCRIBING TO ITS ALBUMS!

All those who want to combine business with pleasure now have the possibility of subscribing to RSF Albums. In 2021, RSF has put in place attractive offers so that you never miss a single issue of the collection!

REACHING NEW AUDIENCES



THE BIG RAFFLE IN AID OF RSF

On June 1st 2021, RSF launched a major online solidarity raffle. More than 20 famous photographers, cartoonists and contemporary artists have put up attractive prizes to raise funds and help journalists in need around the world.

RARE AND PRESTIGIOUS PRIZES TO BE WON

Over twenty celebrities including Nikos Aliagas, Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Laurent Ballesta, David Burnett, C215, Gilles Caron, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Combas, Michel Hazanavicius, Dominique Issermann, François Lochon, Vincent Munier, Martin Parr, Jean-Marie Périer, Reza, Marc Riboud, Marianne Rosenstiehl, Joël Saget, Riad Sattouf, Jean-Jacques Sempé, Hans Silvester, Véronique de Viguerie and Sabine Weiss have donated lots to RSF to raise funds.

A RAFFLE OPEN TO EVERYONE

In other words, you had only to buy raffle tickets on the www.karmadon.org platform. 1 ticket = 1 euro = 1 chance to win the prize of your choice and 100% of the ticket sales donated to RSF.





REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS (RSF) works for journalistic freedom, independence and pluralism all over the world. Headquartered in Paris, with 13 bureaux and sections and 150 correspondents around the world, it has consultative status with the United Nations and UNESCO.