

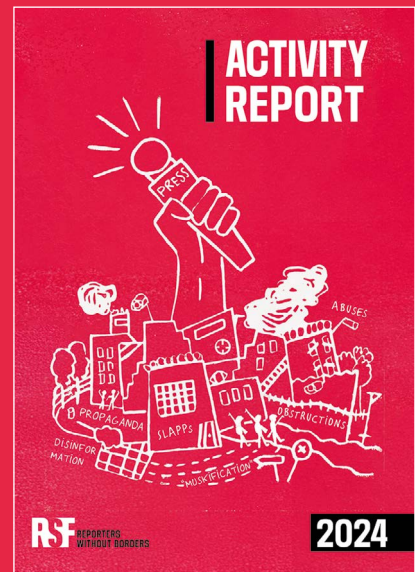
ACTIVITY REPORT



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COVER



cover illustration: © Sophie Bourlet

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FOREWARD

Pierre Haski
RSF President

Thibaut Bruttin
RSF Director General



Pierre Haski - © Alexander Klein / AFP



Thibaut Bruttin - © Manon Levet / RSF

A RETURN TO THE XIXTH CENTURY?

The year 2024 brought a dramatic regression in press freedom worldwide, shaking the very foundations of our democracies. It was the aggravation of an ongoing trend: over the past decade, the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) World Press Freedom Index has turned increasingly red.

Authoritarian leaders now openly display contempt for journalism, oligarch-driven media campaigns further suppress independent reporting, public distrust in the press is widespread and generative artificial intelligence (AI) has accelerated journalism's loss of control over its own sector. The hard-won press freedom gains of the 20th century are at greater risk than ever, raising fears of a return to a 19th-century world dominated by robber barons, populist autocrats and manipulated masses.

In early 2024, RSF observed that political forces were increasingly obstructing journalists' work. It seems we are now in a world where might makes right and that we are breaking away from the international order established after World War II.

Facing this chaos, how can we rebuild a strong, independent media landscape? The solution will require serious determination and resolve – two qualities ingrained in the DNA of RSF. Through legal action, the protection of journalists, the deployment of crisis response programmes, unblocking censored websites and directly engaging with world leaders (including authoritarian regimes), RSF made a lasting impact in 2024.

The NGO, which will soon turn 40, has learned to sustain long-term efforts as well as anticipate and deliver solutions to upcoming crises. This ability to identify and solve problems with great imagination may be Christophe Deloire's greatest legacy. The late RSF Secretary General, who tragically passed away on 8 June 2024, dedicated his life to press freedom.

In 2025, RSF will focus on new solutions and methods of mobilisation. These include raising public awareness – especially among young people – and creating specific tools that expose and combat propaganda, the antithesis of journalism. RSF remains steadfast in its fight for independent, pluralistic journalism, the protection of journalists and the right to reliable information.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supports our work, which has never been more vital.

| 2024: RSF IN PICTURES |

JANUARY

THANKS TO RSF, THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) RECOGNISES CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS IN ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE WAR IN PALESTINE

Following two complaints RSF filed with the ICC, the office of ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan confirms that crimes against journalists will now be included in its investigation into war crimes committed in Palestine. Since 2018, RSF advocacy has been instrumental in ensuring the ICC investigates crimes against journalists.



© Laurens Van Putten / ANP / AFP



© RSF

RSF

FEBRUARY

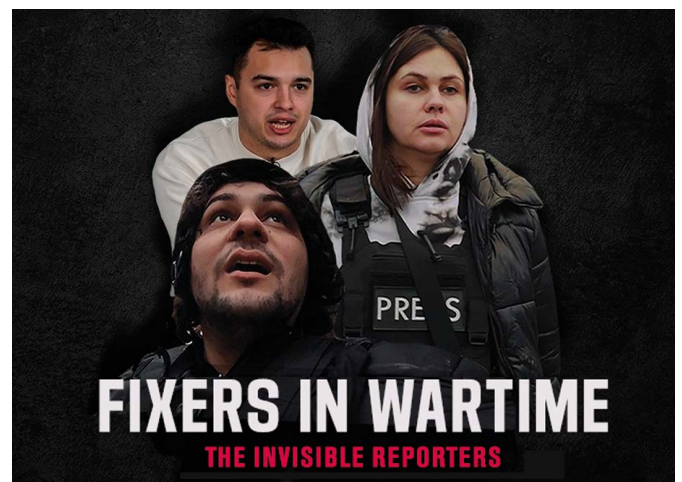
LANDMARK RULING BY THE FRENCH COUNCIL OF STATE IN “RSF VS. ARCOM/CNEWS”

The French Council of State, France's highest administrative court, overturns the decision made by the national broadcast regulator ARCOM to take no action against CNews, a television channel that breached requirements concerning the truthfulness, independence and pluralism of broadcast information under French law. The Council of State's ruling marks a major victory for media pluralism and independence.

MARCH

RELEASE OF THE RSF DOCUMENTARY “FIXERS IN WARTIME” AND LAUNCH OF THE SVOBODA SATELLITE PACKAGE

RSF screens its French-language documentary “Fixers in Wartime,” which follows three Ukrainian war fixers, unsung heroes who help journalists report from conflict zones. RSF also launches Svoboda, a satellite TV and radio package that broadcasts independent journalism into Russia, Belarus, occupied Ukraine, and the Baltic states – proof that democracies can export independent journalism as a bold countermeasure to authoritarian propaganda.



© RSF

APRIL

RSF AND 90 HAITIAN JOURNALISTS CALL ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO RELIABLE INFORMATION

RSF, alongside over 90 Haitian journalists, call on the international community and the country's recently-instated transitional presidential council to protect journalists and the media to prevent Haiti from becoming an information black hole.



© Jean Feguens Regala



MAY

RELEASE OF THE 2024 PRESS FREEDOM INDEX HIGHLIGHTING THE MOUNTING POLITICAL PRESSURE ON JOURNALISTS

The RSF 2024 World Press Freedom Index indicates an increase in threats from political authorities – the very people who should be protecting press freedom.

JUNE

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHE DELOIRE IN PARIS

On 8 June, RSF honors its late Secretary General Christophe Deloire, celebrating the major events in his career, and his tireless commitment to journalism and the right to reliable, independent information.

On 10 July, Thibaut Bruttin is appointed Director General, continuing Deloire's work.



© Emile Rivet

| 2024: RSF IN PICTURES |

JULY

UKRAINE JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON INFORMATION & DEMOCRACY, AN RSF INITIATIVE

Ukraine officially joins the international coalition – launched by RSF and the French government in 2019 to promote the democratic governance of the information space – becoming its 53rd signatory.



© RSF



© RSF

AUGUST

RSF LAUNCHES THE PROPAGANDA MONITOR, AN ONLINE RESOURCE FOR INVESTIGATING GEOPOLITICAL PROPAGANDA

RSF unveils The Propaganda Monitor, a multimedia project exposing propaganda's key actors and the multifaceted ways it is created and spread worldwide. The battle against propaganda and disinformation is central to the RSF mission to protect trustworthy journalism.

SEPTEMBER

RSF AND OVER 500 COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS DEFEND LOCAL JOURNALISM IN THE SAHEL REGION

At a press conference in Bamako, RSF and over 500 community radio stations call for stronger protection of local journalism in the Sahel.

The call is aired in six languages by RSF partner radio stations.



© RSF



OCTOBER

RSF RELEASES “JOURNALISM IN THE #METOO ERA,” A REPORT ON JOURNALISTS COVERING WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

RSF publishes its exclusive report, “Journalism in the #MeToo Era,” seven years after the first media investigation into the Weinstein affair in the US triggers public debates worldwide. The report includes recommendations to protect journalists reporting on women’s rights and gender-based violence.

NOVEMBER

RSF LAUNCHES FUNDRAISING DRIVE, “WITHOUT BORDERS, BUT NEVER WITHOUT YOU”

Because the right to reliable information is severely threatened, RSF launches a donation campaign urging the public to help defend journalists and journalism.



The laureates of the 2024 RSF Press Freedom Awards
© Samuel Corum/ AFP

DECEMBER

THE RSF PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS HONOUR JOURNALISTS DEFENDING PRESS FREEDOM WORLDWIDE ON 3 DECEMBER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

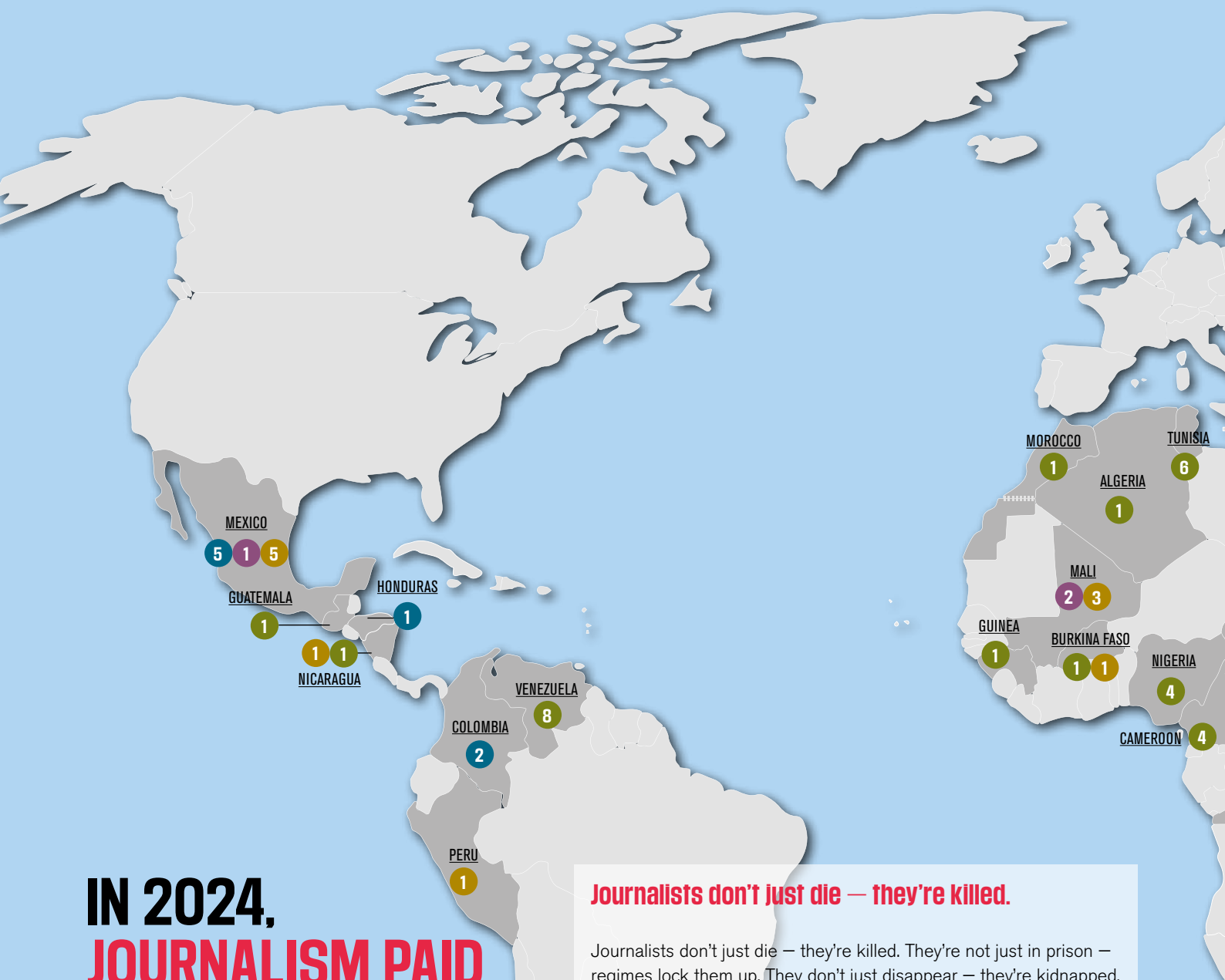
Eighteen journalists and journalist teams, two media outlets and five photojournalists were nominated for RSF Press Freedom Prizes. They competed in five categories, including the brand new **Mohamed Maïga Prize for African Investigative Journalism**, which honours the memory of the Malian investigative journalist and his fight to uphold social justice in Africa through his writing.



Niloofer Hamedi and Elaheh Mohammadi - © Sahand Taki / SHARGH NEWS DAILY ONLINE

TEN KEY RELEASES IN 2024

- 14 JANUARY: Niloofer Hamedi & Elaheh Mohammadi in Iran
- 19 MARCH: Stanis Bujakera in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- 10 MAY: Aasif Sultan in India
- 24 JUNE: Julian Assange in the UK
- 29 JULY: Omar Radi, Soulaïmane Raïssouni & Taoufik Bouachrine in Morocco
- 1 AUGUST: Alsu Kurmasheva & Evan Gershkovich in Russia
- 16 AUGUST: Floriane Irangabiye in Burundi
- 18 OCTOBER: Jose Rubén Zamora in Guatemala
- 1 NOVEMBER: Ihsane El Kadi in Algeria
- 8 DECEMBER: Hanin Gebran & Tal al-Mallouhi in Syria



**IN 2024,
JOURNALISM PAID
AN EXORBITANT
HUMAN COST
DUE TO ARMED
CONFLICTS AND
REPRESSIVE
REGIMES**

Journalists don't just die — they're killed.

Journalists don't just die — they're killed. They're not just in prison — regimes lock them up. They don't just disappear — they're kidnapped.

The 2024 RSF Round-up revealed a disturbing escalation in attacks against journalists, particularly **in conflict zones**, where **half of all journalist murders recorded this year** took place.

Gaza was the deadliest region for journalists in 2024 and the most dangerous place to report from in the past five years. Since October 2023, the Israeli military has killed over 145 journalists, one-third of all journalists killed worldwide in 2024. At least 35 were deliberately targeted due to their work.

What's more, **550 journalists are currently imprisoned globally, marking a 7 per cent increase** from 2023. These violent crackdowns, often carried out by governments or armed groups, continue with total impunity.

We need to get things moving, to remind ourselves that journalists are dying for us — to keep us informed. We must keep counting, naming, exposing, investigating, and fighting for justice. Fatalism cannot prevail.

Protecting those who inform us means protecting the truth.



- Number of journalists killed (54)
- Number of journalists detained (550)
- Number of journalists taken hostage (55)
- Number of journalists missing (after 2015) (28)



| 2024: RSF IN CAMPAIGNS |

WHAT IS AN RSF CAMPAIGN?



MANY RSF ACTIONS ARE STRUCTURED IN THE FORM OF MOBILISATION CAMPAIGNS. THESE CAMPAIGNS HELP INCREASE THE NGO'S IMPACT ON KEY ISSUES AND CHANNEL ITS RESOURCES TOWARD TARGETED GOALS. EACH CAMPAIGN IS FOCUSED ON A SPECIFIC OUTCOME AND INVOLVES THE ENTIRE NGO.

FREE ALGERIAN JOURNALIST IHSANE EL KADI

ALGERIA



139th/180*



CONTEXT:

Press freedom in Algeria is severely restricted. Simply reporting on corruption or protests can result in threats and arrests. The 22-month-long detention of journalist Ihsane El Kadi – an emblematic figure of this repression – ended in November 2023 after he was granted a presidential pardon.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF led a major global campaign for Ihsane El Kadi's release. The NGO filed a petition with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and mobilised 16 prominent editors-in-chief from 14 countries – including Nobel laureate Dmitry Muratov – to publicly demand his freedom.



Ihsane El Kadi - ©RSF

FREE GUATEMALAN JOURNALIST JOSE RUBÉN ZAMORA

GUATEMALA



138th/180*

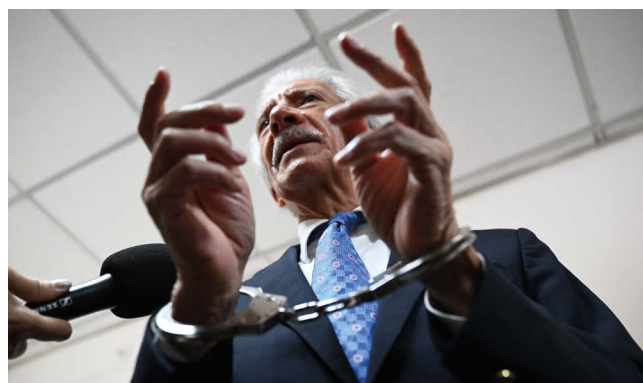


CONTEXT:

Press freedom is enshrined in the Guatemalan Constitution, yet journalists consistently face government harassment, legal persecution and imprisonment for investigating corruption and human rights violations or criticising the authorities. Jose Rubén Zamora, founder of *elPeriódico*, was arrested on such grounds in July 2022. He spent over 800 days in prison before being provisionally released and placed under house arrest in October 2024.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF campaigned for his release from the date of his arrest, conducting multiple fact-finding missions and prison visits in Guatemala. Following the inauguration of President Bernardo Arévalo in January 2024 who pledged his commitment to the freedom of the press, RSF lobbied his administration to prioritise Zamora's release, raising the issue in meetings in Guatemala (July) and New York (September).



Jose Rubén Zamora - © Johán Ordóñez / AFP

#FREETHETHE JOURNALISTS

FREE JULIAN ASSANGE

UK  23th/180*

US  55th/180*



CONTEXT:

Since 2020, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange had been facing extradition from the UK to the US, where he risked up to 175 years in prison on several counts, all relating to publishing information of public interest. After 1,901 days in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison, he was finally released and returned to Australia, where he is a citizen.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ **RSF was the only NGO to monitor the four years of extradition hearings** against Julian Assange in the British courts. RSF representatives visited Assange in prison and advocated on his behalf before the US, UK and Australian governments, actively seeking a political resolution to the case.



Julian Assange - © Dominic Lipinski / PA

#FREETHETHE JOURNALISTS

FREE THE WOMEN JOURNALISTS IMPRISONED IN IRAN

IRAN  176th/180*



CONTEXT:

Iran is one of the world's most repressive regimes for press freedom, especially since the protests following Mahsa Amini's death on 16 September 2022. Over 70 journalists – many of them women – have been arrested. They include Narges Mohammadi, Niloofar Hamedi, and Elaheh Mohammadi, emblematic symbols of the Iranian "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement that made waves worldwide. Though temporarily released, they risk re-arrest at any moment.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ **RSF has tirelessly called for the liberation** of the Iranian women journalists arbitrarily imprisoned since September 2022. The NGO notably led an international coalition calling for the immediate release of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi.



© RSF

PROTECTING JOURNALISTS AND JOURNALISM

PROTECTING JOURNALISTS IN PALESTINE AND LEBANON

PALESTINE  157^m/180*

LIBAN  140^m/180*



CONTEXT:

Palestine is now the world's most dangerous state for journalists, with over 150 reporters killed by the Israeli military since 7 October 2023. At least 41 journalists were deliberately targeted for their reporting.

In Lebanon, the intensification of Israeli bombings made journalism increasingly dangerous and rendered certain areas of the country inaccessible.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ **RSF filed a fourth complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC)** for crimes committed by Israel against journalists in Gaza. The case brought by RSF was supported by a wide range of information gathered by its sources on the ground despite the blockade on Gaza and severe communication obstacles within the territory. RSF also opened a regional Press Freedom Centre in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, to provide journalists and regional media outlets covering the war in Gaza with the equipment, assistance and resources necessary to continue their reporting.



© Omar Al-Qatta / AFP

SUPPORTING JOURNALISTS IN THE SAHEL

SAHEL 



CONTEXT:

The security crisis in the Sahel is worsening. Journalists face dangerous direct physical threats and their work is limited by arbitrary administrative restrictions by certain states in the region, notably the expansions of zones that are off-limits to journalists or difficult for them to access.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ In line with its French-language report “What it’s like to be a journalist in the Sahel,” RSF launched a regional appeal for the protection of the right to reliable information in Bamako, the Malian capital, that was joined by over 500 community radio stations in Sahel and neighbouring countries. Radio spots on the subject were produced in six languages and broadcast with partner stations, and a documentary is currently in the works.



Cover of the RSF report “What it’s like to be a journalist in the Sahel”



A radio host at a community radio in Gao, Mali.
© Harandane Dicko / UN

IMPLEMENTING AN ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT JOURNALISM IN MEXICO

MEXICO  121st / 180^{*}



CONTEXT:

Mexico remains one of the world’s deadliest countries for journalists, with 37 killed and five disappeared between 2018 and 2024.

RSF ACTIONS:

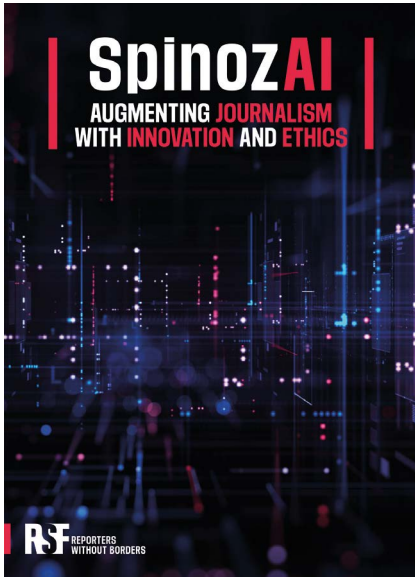
→ **RSF met with Mexican prosecutors;** the Under-Secretary of Human Rights, the Population and Migration of the Ministry of the Interior; the Office for the Mechanism for Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists; the Office of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico, to strengthen international cooperation and obtain technical and political support for initiatives to protect journalists and combat impunity.



The RSF mission in Mexico in November 2024
© RSF

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO RELIABLE INFORMATION

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND JOURNALISM



© RSF

CONTEXT:

Artificial intelligence (AI) offers unprecedented obstacles and opportunities for journalism. Deepfakes risk amplifying disinformation and eroding public trust in audiovisual content, and AI language models that boost productivity also compromise the integrity of online information. In 2024, RSF continued developing strategies to ensure AI serves journalism rather than undermining it.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ **RSF was involved in drafting key recommendations on the use of AI in journalism** for both European and international institutions. The NGO also developed its own AI tool, Spinoza, designed for and with newsrooms to enhance the capacity of large language models to analyse press reports and legal, technical, and scientific data, with a special focus on climate change reporting. This RSF project is a concrete way to leverage AI for the benefit of journalism.

EXPANDING THE JOURNALISM TRUST INITIATIVE (JTI)



CONTEXT:

Journalism is in direct competition with manipulative content that spreads unchecked online. This has caused the erosion of audiences, growing public distrust in media, and declining advertising revenue. The Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) – initiated and implemented by RSF – is the first and only ISO-style international standard for identifying trustworthy sources of information. The JTI provides a transparent framework that combats disinformation and promotes ethical, professional journalism.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ **Over 2,000 media outlets across 110 countries have committed to the JTI** process by evaluating their transparency and editorial practices. Six hundred of these outlets have reached the stage of the process where they have published transparency reports, and over 100 are officially JTI-certified. The JTI is officially recognised in the European Union (EU) European Media Freedom Act as a benchmark for identifying trustworthy news sources.

RESISTING PROPAGANDA

PREVENTING CHINA'S NEW WORLD ORDER FOR THE INFORMATION SPACE — ESPECIALLY IN HONG KONG

CONTEXT:

China is the world's largest jailer of journalists, and its government is conducting a global crackdown on journalism and the right to reliable information. Once a bastion of press freedom, the special administrative area of Hong Kong has faced an unprecedented decline since Beijing passed its National Security Law in 2020, silencing independent voices.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ Through this campaign, RSF seeks to counter China's attempt to control information and remedy its violations of press freedom, pushing for stronger democratic safeguards. This has included advocacy, high-impact communications campaigns, and supporting the creation of Circle 19, an independent civil society group that promotes the right to reliable information in China by centralising a large swath of intellectual resources on China-related issues. RSF is also actively working to secure the release of Jimmy Lai, the Hong Kong publisher and press freedom champion imprisoned on false charges relating to national security laws.



Jimmy Lai, en icon of press freedom in Hong Kong
© Anthony Wallace / AFP

COUNTERING RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA

CONTEXT:

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, almost all independent media in Russia have been banned, blocked, or declared "foreign agents" or "undesirable organisations." The outlets that survived this crackdown now operate under strict military censorship. What's more, Kremlin propaganda has expanded globally and is now deeply embedded across every region of the world.



© Sergei Ilyin / AFP

RSF ACTIONS:

→ To reveal how Russian propaganda is created, spread and evolving, and to raise public awareness on the subject, **RSF launched The Propaganda Monitor**, a multimedia platform that acts as a resource for raising awareness and combatting propaganda and disinformation, featuring contributions from international experts. RSF also launched Svoboda, a Russian-language satellite TV and radio package in partnership with satellite operator Eutelsat, broadcasting independent journalism to Russia, occupied Ukrainian territories and the Baltic states.

JOURNALISM, ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY

UPHOLDING THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS AND INFORMATION

CONTEXT:

2024 was a record-breaking election year, with over half the world's population heading to the polls. Press freedom violations are particularly blatant during elections, as demonstrated by the severe violations against the right to reliable information that took place in the past year in the five most populous countries marked in red in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ **RSF issued recommendations urging presidential candidates** to commit to press freedom in their countries. The NGO trained many journalists in covering elections, including 60 women journalists in India with the help of local RSF partner NWMI (Network of Women in Media, India). Several reports were published on the subject, including, an exposé of press repression during Venezuela's elections, and the launch of the report "Senegalese Journalism at a Crossroads."

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

CONTEXT:

In 2024, the United States ranked 55th in the World Press Freedom Index, an historic 10-place drop from the previous year. The erosion of press freedom in the US is due, in part, to declining trust in media, threats and violence against journalists and legal and regulatory stagnation.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ **RSF developed a 10-point press freedom action plan** for the US. It also highlighted more localised press freedom issues in its report "Press Freedom in the Swing States: The Climate for US Journalism Ahead of the 2024 Election," which underscored the economic, political, and security challenges facing journalists in swing states. In the weeks leading up to Donald Trump's inauguration for his second term as president, RSF urged US media outlets to defend press freedom against his revenge-driven attacks on journalism.



A “NEW DEAL” FOR JOURNALISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

CONTEXT:

In the EU, 2024 was marked by European Parliament elections and the finalisation of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) – the first-ever EU law dedicated to protecting media freedom.

RSF ACTIONS:

→ One hundred days before the EU elections, **RSF proposed 12 key measures for a New Deal for the Right to Reliable Information**, which the NGO provided to the candidates. Many of these proposals influenced the EMFA, which now guarantees citizens' right to reliable information across the EU.

MEDIA INDEPENDENCE AND PLURALISM IN FRANCE

CONTEXT:

Media concentration in the hands of a few owners and the increasingly polarised treatment of news is posing major threats to the French media landscape. In 2024, the Council of State, France's highest court, delivered a landmark ruling – prompted by a complaint brought forth by RSF – on media independence and pluralism. The year was also marked by a report by the French General Assembly on Information, and the renewal of broadcast licenses for French digital terrestrial television (DTT).

RSF ACTIONS:

→ The Council of State's historic ruling on 13 February 2024 to annul the decision made by ARCOM (France's audiovisual and digital regulatory authority) to refuse to take action against the television channel *CNews*, which had violated French regulations concerning media pluralism, resulted in a major precedent for pluralism and media independence in France – thanks to the complaint brought by RSF. Following the RSF legal victory, ARCOM was forced to consider the issues brought up in the complaint. RSF recommendations on media independence and pluralism were included in reports by the French National Assembly on DTT regulation and the French Senate on foreign influence on the media. RSF also advocated for journalist **Ariane Lavrilleux**, who faced threats to the confidentiality of her journalistic sources.



| 2024: RSF IN ACTION |

ASSISTANCE REPORT: PROTECTING EXILED JOURNALISTS IS CRUCIAL FOR PRESS FREEDOM

The 2024 RSF Assistance Report highlighted the scale of forced exile among journalists in a global context of increasing risks for media professionals, particularly in conflict zones. In response to this crisis, RSF allocated 70 per cent of its emergency funds to relocating persecuted journalists worldwide. Supporting exiled journalists has become a fundamental necessity for ensuring the right to reliable information.

KEY FIGURES – RSF ASSISTANCE FOR JOURNALISTS IN 2024

716 journalists

received emergency aid from RSF. Over half of these cases involved journalists from Afghanistan, Russia, Myanmar, Iran and Syria.

In 2024, 367 grants

enabled the resettlement of exiled or displaced journalists and media outlets.

RSF provided emergency assistance to **42** media outlets across **16** countries, **21** of which are currently operating in exile.

More than 400 journalists

received vital administrative support from RSF for their visa and asylum applications, primarily for relocation to Germany and France.

Over 70 per cent

of RSF emergency funds were allocated to temporary or permanent relocations of journalists facing imminent threats, including death threats, imprisonment, and newsroom shutdowns.



WHAT IS THE RSF ASSISTANCE OFFICE?

Based in RSF Paris headquarters with an active team in Berlin, the RSF Assistance Bureau implements a comprehensive support system for journalists and media in emergency situations worldwide. This support is primarily delivered in the form of financial and administrative assistance. Needs assessments and case verification are conducted with the support of RSF Bureaus in Dakar, Rio de Janeiro, Taipei and Tunis.

PROGRESS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

RSF LITIGATION STRATEGY HAS LED TO SIGNIFICANT LEGAL ADVANCEMENTS IN THE PROSECUTION OF CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS BY INVESTIGATIVE AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES.

PALESTINE: ICC INCLUDES CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS IN ITS INVESTIGATION THANKS TO RSF

Since the start of the conflict in Gaza on 7 October 2023, RSF has filed four complaints with the International Criminal Court (ICC) – building on prior cases submitted in 2018 and 2021. In January 2024, for the first time since the conflict began, the ICC prosecutor confirmed that crimes against journalists would officially be included in its Palestine investigation.

UKRAINE:

14 preliminary investigations opened for Russian war crimes against journalists.

Prompted by the eight complaints RSF filed between 2022 and 2024, the Ukrainian Prosecutor General launched 14 preliminary investigations into Russian war crimes targeting journalists.

OTHER LEGAL ACTION FILED BY RSF IN 2024

- Eritrea: RSF filed a crime against humanity complaint against the Eritrean president for the detention of **Dawit Isaak**, the journalist imprisoned without trial for the longest period on record.
- Disinformation on X: After uncovering a disinformation campaign targeting RSF that was circulating on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), RSF filed a lawsuit for defamation, identity theft and spreading false information. The NGO also lodged a complaint with the European Commission under the Digital Services Act (DSA).
- RSF also filed a criminal complaint with the Paris public prosecutor for identity theft and deceptive business practices following a widespread smear campaign against the NGO prompted by the Council of State's 13 February 2024 decision in favor of RSF.

FAKE NEWS

RSF IMPACT ON LEGISLATION

POLAND: RSF RECOMMENDATIONS SHAPE PUBLIC MEDIA REFORM

Following an RSF recommendation, the Polish Ministry of Culture partially depoliticised the appointment process for public media executives. The government also acknowledged the need to limit the influence of the National Broadcasting Council (KRRiT) – which is politically controlled – on the selection of board members and editor-in-chiefs in public media.

FRANCE: RSF RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEDIA PLURALISM AND INDEPENDENCE INCORPORATED INTO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

RSF was consulted by the National Assembly's Commission on Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) twice. The NGO presented its recommendations and proposed legal solutions to ensure media pluralism and independence in TNT licensing agreements.



EQUIPPING JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA OUTLETS IN ARMED CONFLICT ZONES

In 2024, **RSF provided equipment to over 640 journalists and 140 media outlets** in conflict zones, where journalism has suffered an exorbitant human cost. RSF also expanded its support programs for journalists, including Press Freedom Centres, to meet the growing demand for protection and resources in high-risk areas.



SUPPORTING NEARLY 130 UKRAINIAN MEDIA OUTLETS AMID WAR

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, Ukrainian media have faced unprecedented challenges and worked in extremely difficult conditions, including frequent power outages due to Russian airstrikes on energy infrastructure.

In 2024, RSF distributed energy equipment including generators, charging stations, and external batteries to **129 media outlets and 57 journalists in 16 regions of Ukraine**. These resources allowed Ukrainian journalists to continue reporting despite extremely hostile conditions and constant threats to press freedom.

TRAINING OVER 1,400 JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING 380 IN CONFLICT ZONES

In addition to providing equipment, **RSF trained over 1,400 journalists** in 2024, including **380 journalists working in conflict zones** who received lessons in physical, digital and legal security; election coverage; fact-checking; and disinformation and journalistic reliability.

RSF organised 85 training sessions in 2024. RSF identified that physical safety remained a priority need among these journalists and almost **50 per cent** of all RSF training was dedicated to protection on the ground. Other subjects included fighting disinformation, journalistic reliability and support for journalists in exile, which is now essential as manipulated content and attacks on the press soar.



SUPPORTING JOURNALISTS THROUGH PRESS FREEDOM CENTRES AND PROGRAMMES

COMMITMENT TO HELPING THE UKRAINIAN MEDIA: RSF SUPPORTED CLOSE TO 1,900 JOURNALISTS AND 270 MEDIA OUTLETS SINCE 2022

Since Russia's full-scale invasion, RSF has supported 1,900 journalists and 270 media outlets, most notably through its Press Freedom Centres in Lviv and Kyiv. After over 1,000 days of war, to better respond to demand on the ground, RSF centralised the Press Freedom Centres' operations in Kyiv, continuing to provide sustainable aid to media outlets and journalists so they, in turn, can keep providing the public with reliable, independent information.

KEY FIGURES:

In 2024,
nearly 130 Ukrainian media outlets

received energy equipment (generators, charging stations, external batteries) from RSF.

In 2024,
323 journalists

were equipped in Ukraine thanks to RSF.

In 2024,
RSF trained nearly
90 journalists
in physical security in **5** Ukrainian cities.



A delivery of press helmets and bullet-proof vests at the Press Freedom Centre in Lviv.
© Robin Grassi / RSF

GAZA WAR: RSF OPENS REGIONAL PRESS FREEDOM CENTRE IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

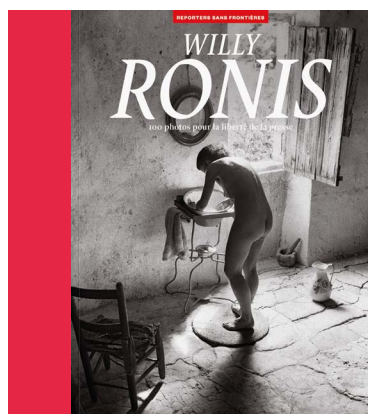
In March 2024, RSF opened a regional Press Freedom Centre in Beirut, the Lebanese capital, to provide journalists covering Gaza with essential equipment, assistance, and the resources necessary to continue working as safely as possible. The centre acts as a regional hub in Beirut for media outlets across the Middle East, and includes free workspace with internet access for displaced journalists. RSF provides physical and digital security training with local partners, as well as psychological support and legal assistance. It also offers protective gear for journalists covering conflict zones.

THAILAND: RSF LAUNCHES SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR BURMESE JOURNALISTS

In October 2024, to counter the Burmese military junta's brutal crackdown on journalists, RSF launched the Myanmar Press Freedom Project in Chiang Mai, the second-largest city in Thailand. The program supports exiled Burmese journalists as well as journalists still operating inside Myanmar, and provides professional and energy equipment; physical, digital, and psychological safety training; and training in "mobile journalism," the practice of producing journalism with mobile phones.

| RSF PHOTO ALBUMS |

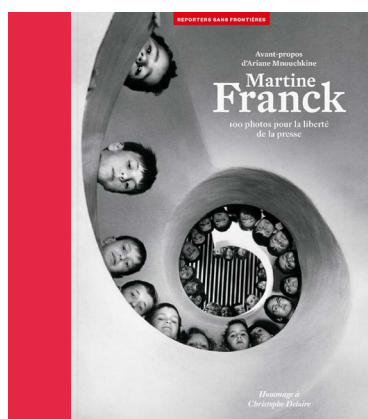
THE UNUSUAL, AMBITIOUS 2024 EDITIONS OF THE RSF PHOTO ALBUM SERIES **100 PHOTOS FOR PRESS FREEDOM**



The year's first issue of the iconic RSF photo albums "100 Photos for Press Freedom," featured the work of Willy Ronis, where a small boy runs down the street, baguette in hand; a naked silhouette peers over a sink; and a worker rallies her co-workers during a factory strike. A master of poetic realism and a committed humanist in his photography, Willy Ronis died in 2009, at almost 100 years old, leaving us a collection of major works steeped in fraternity.



Later in the year, our readers were transported to Japan via an original, extraordinary collection of the oeuvres of fourteen major Japanese and Gaijin photographers. The album features historically famous and contemporary artists alike: Werner Bischof, Nicolas Bouvier, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Ken Domon, Charles Fréger, Masahisa Fukase, Julie Glassberg, Françoise Huguier, Ishiuchi Miyako, Daidō Moriyama, Pierre-Elie de Pibrac, Gueorgui Pinkhassov, Toshio Shibata and Hitomi Watanabe.



The year ended with a touching issue filled with hope. For the first time, "100 Photos for Press Freedom" featured Martine Franck, a cosmopolitan Belgian photographer. The spouse and equal of Henri Cartier-Bresson, friend to Ariane Mnouchkine, member of the Magnum Photos collective and photographer of the French Women's Liberation Movement (MLF), she knew how to wield her gaze, her gentleness and her talent, which stand out in this luminous issue.

YOU CAN FIND OUR PHOTO ALBUMS AT OUR ONLINE STORE: [HTTPS://BOUTIQUE.RSF.ORG](https://boutique.rsf.org)

100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

RSF: AN ACTIVIST NGO DEFENDING CITIZENS' RIGHT TO RELIABLE INFORMATION

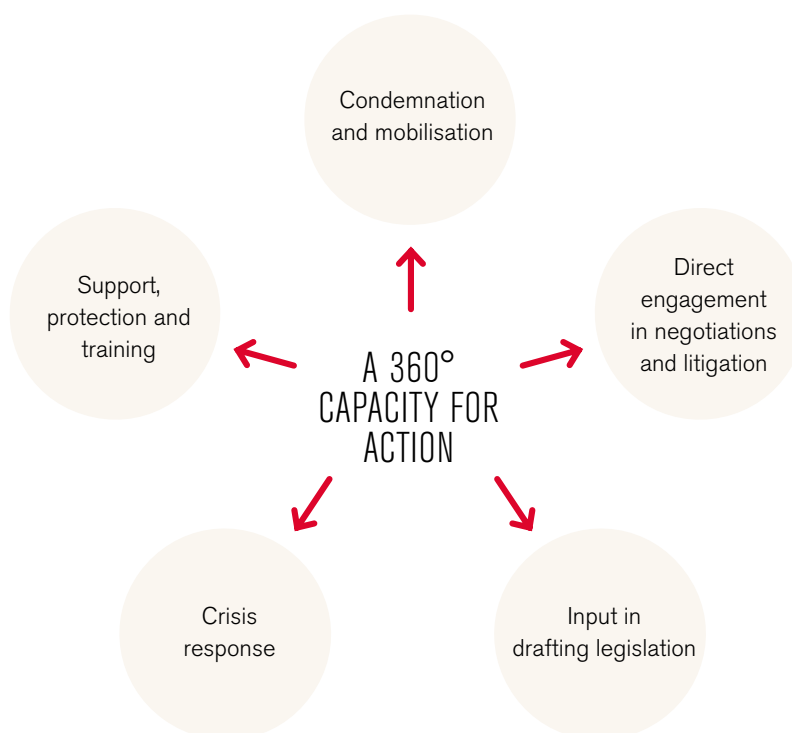
As part of the change in executive management that took place in July 2024, the board of directors asked Thibaut Bruttin, the new RSF director general, and the RSF executive committee to design a new strategy together with all RSF teams, from the employees in the Paris headquarters to the staff of all RSF bureaus and sections. This document was approved in December 2024 and provides a framework for the NGO's development over the next five years.

RSF aims to have an active role in both public debate and on the ground, defending and promoting fact-based journalism and the notion that the right to reliable information is an extension of press freedom. The NGO fights for citizens' ability to access reliable information, which allows them to freely form their own opinions about the world around them. This approach is grounded in the following strategic plan:

COORDINATING CAMPAIGNS THROUGH FOUR LEVELS OF INTERVENTION:

- 1 PRESS FREEDOM
- 2 RELATIONS BETWEEN JOURNALISTS AND THE PUBLIC
- 3 THE INFORMATION MARKET
- 4 THE INFORMATION SPACE

RSF USES A "360° STRATEGY" THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ACTIONS:



RSF PRIORITIES FOR 2025: ENVIRONMENT, EXILE AND PRESS FREEDOM IN INDIA

BUILDING ON ITS PAST COMMITMENTS, RSF WILL CONTINUE FOCUSING ON KEY ISSUES AND PRIORITY CASES IN 2025:

- **Support** journalists in the Sahel
- **Protect** journalists in Palestine
- **Defend** press freedom and media independence in Ukraine
- **Safeguard** journalism and reliable information during Trump's second presidency
- **Expand** the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI)
- **Advance** AI-driven journalism tools
- **Counter** China's efforts to impose a new global information order
- **Combat** Russian propaganda
- **Advocate** for a New Deal for Journalism in the European Union
- **Strengthen** media independence and pluralism in France

AMONG TOP RSF PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR ARE MAJOR NEW CAMPAIGNS:

FREE IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS

- Specifically **Sevinj Vagifgizi** (Azerbaijan), **Sandra Muhoza** (Burundi), **Frenchie Mae Cumpio** (Philippines) and **Pham Doan Trang** (Vietnam)

PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

- **RSF aims to strengthen the protection and capabilities of journalists** covering environmental issues by advocating for environmental journalism and the fight against disinformation to be included in the COP30 Declaration, and promoting environmental investigative reporting.

SUPPORT DISPLACED AND EXILED JOURNALISTS

- The number of aid requests from exiled journalists has increased dramatically in recent years. This reflects a new reality: repression and safety issues are now so intense that hundreds of media professionals are forced to leave their country to ensure their survival and continue reporting. **RSF will focus on raising awareness about journalism in exile** beyond the specialised circles already attuned to the issue, making pathways to exile in Europe safer and more accessible for journalists, and strengthening support for media professionals, particularly through the "Voices in Exile" project.

DEFEND PRESS FREEDOM IN INDIA

- Over the past year, **RSF gained coverage in the Indian media landscape** due to its strong advocacy efforts. In 2025, RSF will focus on fighting the online harassment against journalists — particularly women and journalists from marginalised communities — that plagues the country.

RSF: 40 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR PRESS FREEDOM

Since 1985, RSF has been at the forefront of defending the right to reliable information and press freedom. In 2025, RSF will celebrate **40 years of battles**, victories, and innovation in the service of independent, and reliable journalism. To mark this milestone, RSF will host public events worldwide throughout the year.

IN 2025, RSF WILL HAVE AN
AMBITIOUS ANNIVERSARY
PROGRAM STRUCTURED
AROUND TWO MAJOR
OBJECTIVES:

SHOWCASING 40 YEARS OF RSF WORK — AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE WORK TO COME — WITH THE TRAVELLING PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION “INFORMING THE WORLD OF TOMORROW”

For its 40th anniversary, **RSF will celebrate the viewpoints of 40 international photojournalists on current and future challenges.** The issues explored illustrate the increasing risks inherent to their work and their resilience against unprecedented pressures. Three themes — environment, exile and crises — will illustrate the urgent need to support journalism, a pillar of freedom and democracy. As privileged witnesses on the ground, journalists remind us that the freedom to inform is what allows us to verify that all other freedoms are being upheld.

THROUGHOUT 2025, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE IN ALL 13 COUNTRIES WITH RSF OFFICES.

EDUCATING AND MOBILISING THE PUBLIC WITH THE RSF FESTIVAL

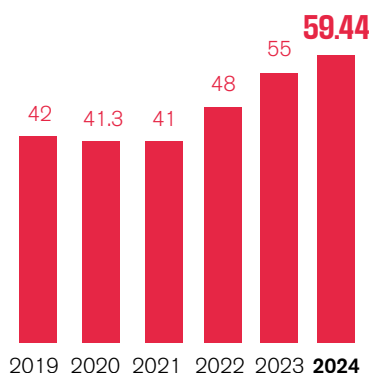
In November 2025, **RSF will invite the general public to join an immersive experience** featuring debates, screenings and discussions in Paris. International RSF teams will be present to engage with audience members and answer their questions.

MORE DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON RSF SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND THE RSF WEBSITE (RSF.ORG).



RSF HEADQUARTERS

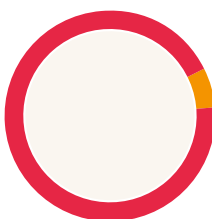
PARIS TEAM OVERVIEW



Average number of RSF employees (full-time equivalent)

A GROWING TEAM

94%
long-term contracts



6%
fixed-term contracts

69%
Women



31%
Men

RSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The RSF General Assembly elects its Board of Directors (BoD) every two years. The BoD elects the RSF executive committee.

The BoD meets four times a year and is responsible for setting RSF strategic plans.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

PIERRE HASKI

Journalist, France Inter

Vice Presidents

CÉCILE MÉGIE

Director of Editorial Strategy & Cooperation, France Médias Monde

MICHAEL REDISKE

President, RSF Germany

Treasurer

GÉRARD TSCHOPP

Former President, RSF Switzerland

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ANGELA CHARLTON

Paris Bureau Chief, Associated Press

PHIL CHETWYND

News Director, AFP

ELAINE COBBE

CBS Correspondent & Dart Center Representative

MICHEL CORMIER

Former News Director, Radio-Canada

LOUIS DREYFUS

Chairman, Le Monde Group

PIERRE-OLIVIER FRANÇOIS

Journalist & Filmmaker

ANTOINE KABURAHÉ

Founder, Iwacu

FACELY KONATE

Regional Director, Hadafo Médias

TARIQ KRIM

Entrepreneur, Founder of Netvibes, Jolicloud and the platform Polite

PATRICE LORTON

Producer, Deputy News Director, Capa TV

PAUL MOREIRA

Founder, Premières Lignes

MARTINE OSTROVSKY

Media Law Expert & Professor

EDITH RODRÍGUEZ CACHERA

Vice President, RSF Spain

PAOLA SANDOVAL

Journalist, Honorary President, Foreign Press Association

ELAINE SCIOLINO

Journalist, Former Paris Bureau Chief, NYT

DAN SHEFET

Human Rights Lawyer, Internet Law Expert

ABDOULAYE TRAORÉ

Journalist, Romainville Webradio

AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE



OUR SECTIONS

RSF has a reinforced presence in several European countries through its national sections, which work closely with information sources, media organisations, advocacy stakeholders and donors to foster collaboration and enhance its impact in Finland, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Spain.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

RSF has a vast global network that ensures its strong local engagement in **90 per cent of the world's countries**. RSF counts at least one local actor in 161 of the 180 countries it covers. These actors may be correspondents, representatives, local partners or an RSF bureau or section. This global coverage is balanced according to the different geographical zones.

PARTNERS

In 2024, RSF collaborated with **30 local organisations in 25 countries worldwide**. These partnerships allowed RSF to implement projects that promote the safety of women journalists in Niger, Senegal and India.



A TRIBUTE TO

CHRISTOPHE DELOIRE

Biography:

- 21 May 1971 | Born in Paray-le-Monial, a commune in the Saône-et-Loire department of France.
- 1995 | Graduated from ESSEC Business School; completed a civic service contract as a media officer at the Berlin bureau of the French television channel *TF1*, and later became a video journalist (JRI) for the Franco-German television channel *Arte*.
- 1998 | Joined *Le Point* magazine, first in the society section, then the politics section, specialising in investigative journalism.
- 2004 | Co-authored the investigative book “Les Islamistes sont déjà là” (“The Islamists are Already Here”) with Christophe Dubois, exposing radical Islamist networks in France using classified defense documents.
- 2006 | Became an editor at the publishing house Flammarion, and published several influential works, including *Sexus Politicus* (published with Albin Michel, co-authored with Christophe Dubois).
- 2008 | Appointed director of the journalism school Centre de Formation des Journalistes (CFJ).
- 2012 | Appointed executive director of RSF. Under his leadership, at least 1,655 imprisoned journalists were freed, including Mortaza Behboudi, Olivier Dubois, Marina Ovsianikova, Mathias Depardon and Can Dündar.
- 2018 | Appointed president of the Forum on Information and Democracy, an organisation that oversees the implementation of the International Partnership on Information and Democracy, signed by over 50 countries.
- 2022 | Published “La Matrice” (“The Matrix”), a culmination of ten years of advocacy for press freedom which examines the dangers of surveillance capitalism and its impact on democracy.
- 2023 | Appointed General Delegate of the General Assembly for Information, a national forum for media reform and press freedom in France.

“ What Christophe left me

To me, Christophe embodied journalism itself. His father once told me that, from a young age, he had two dreams: to be a UN peacekeeper or a journalist. With RSF, he became a bit of both. He had an unwavering love for this profession and its vital role as a trusted intermediary in society.

Christophe had a sharp instinct for ideas – the kind that drive a society, that spark public debate. He had an insatiable hunger for bringing these ideas to the forefront, setting them in motion and making them resonate.

He spoke to everyone and addressed all audiences. He was a master of dialogue, of public debate. He ventured into places where he was neither expected nor welcomed. He spoke in Saudi Arabia. He appeared on the set of *CNews*.

Christophe learned to challenge himself, to think against his own instincts, always seeking nuance. He tackled the dangers of radical Islamism, yet never became Islamophobic. He criticised the European elite, yet never turned Eurosceptic. Until the very end, he remained true to his deepest conviction: universalism.

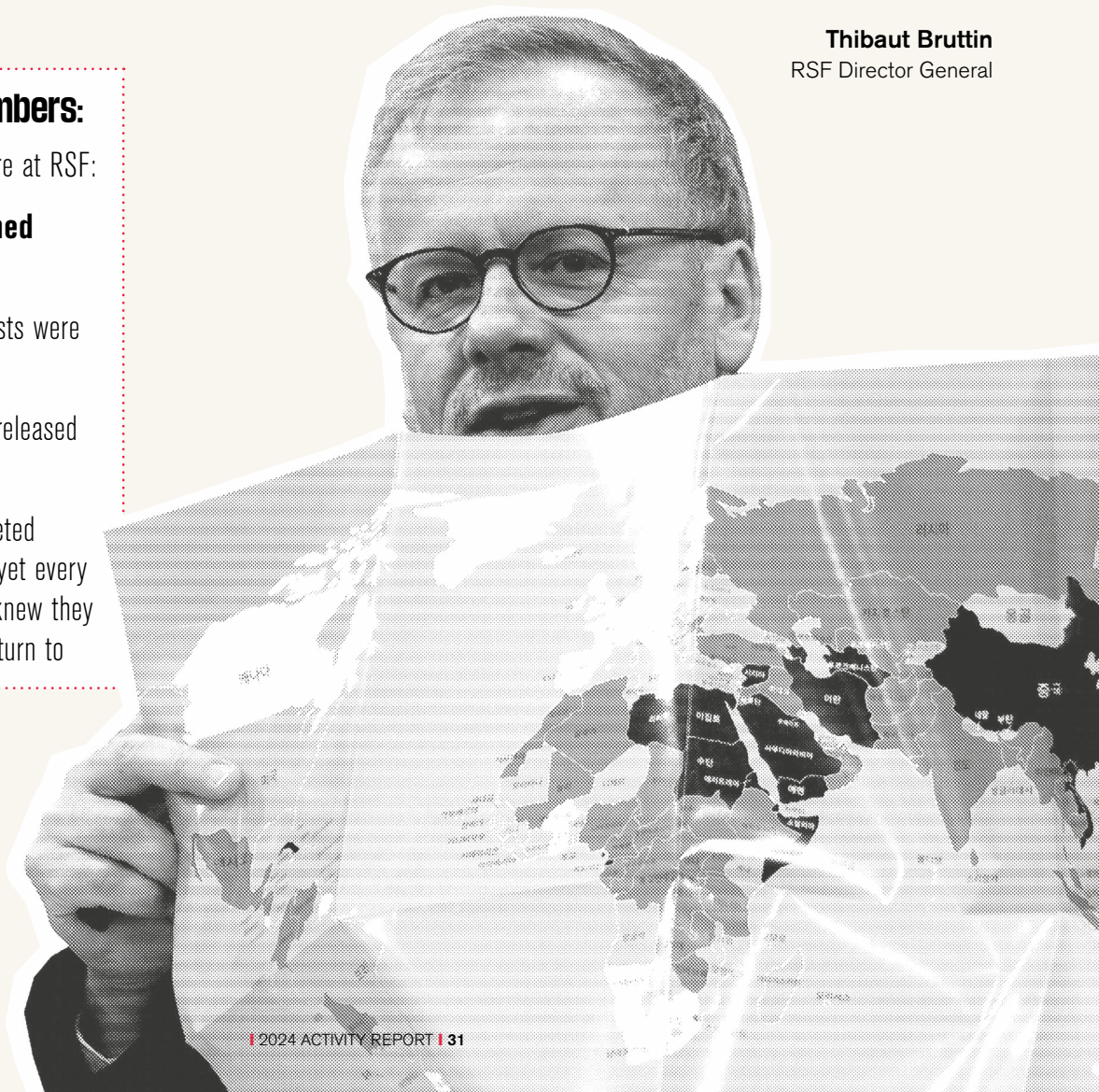
Now, we stand without him – but we are filled with his legacy. At RSF, each of us carries a piece of Christophe. There is still so much to do and we must do it together. Christophe carved a path for us to follow, and it is up to us to carry the torch of press freedom forward.”

Thibaut Bruttin
RSF Director General

His victories in numbers:

During Christophe’s tenure at RSF:

- At least **1,655** detained journalists were freed
- **127** missing journalists were located
- **169** hostages were released
- **13,000** journalists worldwide were targeted over these 12 years – yet every journalist in the world knew they had an organisation to turn to





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