



# ACTIVITY REPORT

**INFORMING TOMORROW'S WORLD**  
**INFORMING TOMORROW'S WORLD**



**2025**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 3 FOREWORD

## 4 2025: RSF IN IMAGES

## 8 2025: RSF IN MAPS

Press freedom violations in 2025  
2025 World Press Freedom Index

## 12 2025: RSF IN CAMPAIGNS

Liberating journalists  
Supporting and protecting journalists and their work  
Public trust  
The information space  
The news media market

## 20 2025: RSF IN ACTION

Aid for journalists  
RSF advocacy and litigation  
Equipment and training  
Press Freedom Centres  
RSF publications and documentaries

## 28 40 YEARS OF RSF

## 30 THE EXHIBITION "SHOOTING THE WORLD OF TOMORROW"

## 31 THE RSF PHOTO ALBUM

## 32 2026 STRATEGY

## 34 OUR TEAM

## COVER



Director General: Thibaut Bruttin • Editorial Director: Anne Bocandé • Director of Communications and Engagement: Zoé Boissel • Writer: Louise Milot • Editors: Anne-Laure Chanteloup (FR) and Rozena Crossman (EN) • Illustrators: Sophie Bourlet and Christina Atik • Graphic Designer: Stéphanie Barcelo

Photos : © RSF except if otherwise mentioned

## MAIN PARTNERS



Kingdom of the Netherlands



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



Funded by  
the European Union



**With the support of:** The Embassy of Switzerland in Dakar; Bloomberg LP; The Embassy of Canada to Thailand through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives; Charles C. Cahn, Jr. and Nancy Maruyama; Christy Walton; The Cultures of Resistance Network Foundation; Dominique Schmitt; The Dupage Foundation; Fondation Flores C; The Fritt Ord Foundation; Jean-Claude Dabin; The LuLu Foundation; SCAM; Seznam.cz; The Taipei Representative Office in France.

**RSF would also like to pay tribute to the donors who have made bequests to support its work:** Zoi Chatzidakis, Marie Darmillacq, Isabelle Larrègue, Jeanne le Neal, Leena Marttinen and Florence Pimont.

# FOREWORD



Thibaut Bruttin - © Manon Levet / RSF

**Thibaut Bruttin**  
RSF Director General

## INFORMING TOMORROW'S WORLD

Amid armed conflicts, geopolitical crises, forced displacement, and climate turmoil, journalists everywhere are constantly reminding us of the importance of independent journalism that serves the public interest. Yet the facts are inescapable: in 2025, more than half of the world's population lived in a country where press freedom is severely threatened. The spread of authoritarianism, which allows persecution to proceed with impunity, and the creation of illiberal regimes is obstructing journalists' work and trampling on their rights. And wherever journalists report the facts, they are discredited, threatened, censored, imprisoned, or killed.

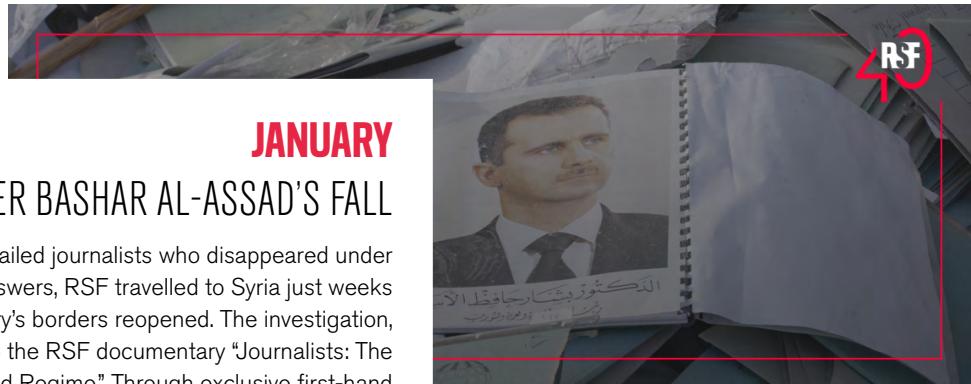
Once privileged witnesses to history, journalists have gradually become collateral victims, inconvenient observers, bargaining chips, pawns in diplomatic games beyond their control, men and women to be eliminated. Let us avoid journalistic euphemisms: no one gives their life for journalism, it is taken. Journalists don't just "die" — they're killed.

But there's no reason to be fatalistic. We must urgently reverse decision-makers' decline in courage and combat public indifference. It is our collective duty to stand alongside those who assure our right to reliable, independent, and unimpeded reporting. We owe it to them. The festival organised to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) showed that this change in perspective, this focus on involvement, can attract support. More than 2,000 people came to exchange ideas, listen, and debate the future of journalism. The enthusiasm generated by this event confirmed our strong conviction that the public will fight for press freedom.

As we look back on 2025, let us salute the courage of journalists and the impact of our campaigns. Alaa Abdel Fattah's release after nearly a decade in prison, the liberation of Ukrainian journalist Dmytro Khyliuk in a prisoner exchange with Russia, and the release of Belarusian journalist Maryna Zolotova offer hope for the future. These landmark liberations do not signify the end of repression against the press, but they show that impunity is not inevitable and that international campaigns to raise awareness about the plight of imprisoned journalists can save vital news sources.

In 2026, we will continue our work for press freedom with unwavering determination, knowing that journalists are murdered far too often and that journalism can die under the weight of censorship and economic or political pressure. More than ever, RSF is committed to being an NGO that defends your journalism — journalism that serves the public interest, journalism that is honest, independent and pluralistic. RSF must continue to develop as an international movement supported by communities of committed journalists and an increasingly engaged public. Only in this way, through action and innovation, can RSF continue to adopt combative and bold stances that influence power dynamics and anticipate journalism's transformations.

# I 2025: RSF IN IMAGES |



## JANUARY

### RSF GOES TO SYRIA AFTER BASHAR AL-ASSAD'S FALL

Where are the missing jailed journalists who disappeared under Bashar al-Assad's rule? To find answers, RSF travelled to Syria just weeks after the dictator fled and the country's borders reopened. The investigation, conducted on the ground, turned into the RSF documentary "Journalists: The Forbidden Witnesses of the Assad Regime." Through exclusive first-hand accounts, this film dives into one of the most ruthless anti-press systems that the world has seen in recent decades – at least 181 journalists were killed under Assad.



## FEBRUARY

### UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES VISITS RSF AND UNVEILS A PLAQUE IN HONOUR OF CHRISTOPHE DELOIRE

During a visit to RSF headquarters in Paris, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to press freedom and the public's right to access reliable news and information. He also paid tribute to the work of the late Christophe Deloire, former RSF Director General, unveiling a commemorative plaque in his memory in the presence of his family and RSF staff.

## MARCH

### IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, RSF SUES THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO DEFEND VOICE OF AMERICA

In response to President Donald Trump's executive order to dismantle the public media outlet *Voice of America* (VOA), RSF joined forces with its employees and their unions to file a lawsuit against the US Agency for Global Media (USAGM), the federal agency that manages public broadcasting abroad. The suit sought an injunction preventing VOA's immediate dissolution and mandating the reinstatement of its employees. It was the first time RSF acted as a plaintiff in the United States.



## I 2025: RSF IN IMAGES I

APRIL

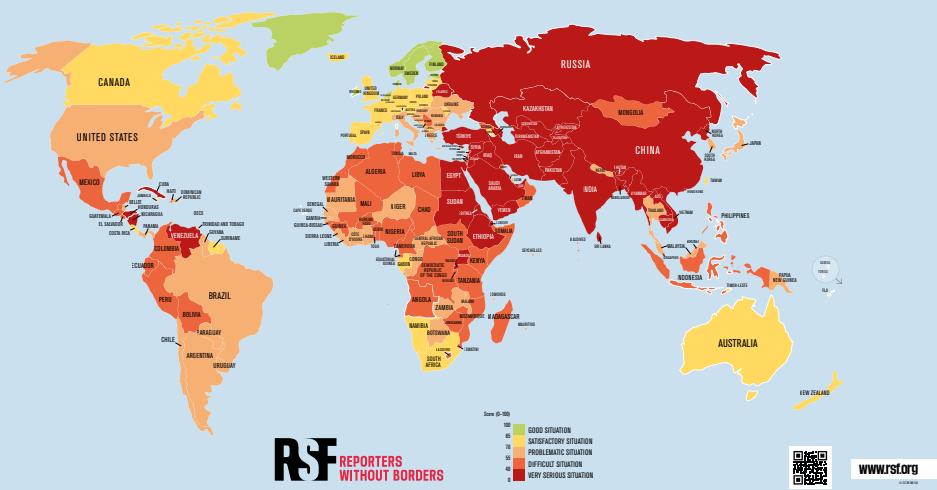
### SUPPORT FOR JOURNALISTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

RSF launched an initiative to support journalists and press freedom defenders in Central America. As part of the project, RSF conducted a series of meetings in El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica – a country that hosts many Nicaraguan journalists in exile – in order to improve crisis responses, strengthen support for independent journalism, and develop advocacy strategies to hold governments accountable for press freedom violations.



The RSF visit to the headquarters of the Association of Journalists of El Salvador (APES) in March 2025. From left to right: Herminia Guzmán (Executive Coordinator - APES), Vanessa Zanella (Senior Advisor for Projects and Local Alliances for Latin America - RSF), Thiago Mattos Moreira (Crisis Response and Assistance Officer for Latin America - RSF), Artur Romeu (Director of RSF Latin America), Suchi Chávez (member of the APES Board of Directors) and Eneyda Ramos (Project Manager - APES)

©RSF/Carlos Dominguez



MAY

### THE 2025 RSF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX: ECONOMIC FRAGILITY A LEADING THREAT TO PRESS FREEDOM

The release of the 2025 World Press Freedom Index revealed that, around the world, concentrated media ownership, pressure from advertisers and funders and the absence, restriction, and opaque allocation of public funding all pose a major threat to media independence.



Event at the RSF Paris headquarters on 14 October 2025 to promote Voices in Exile.

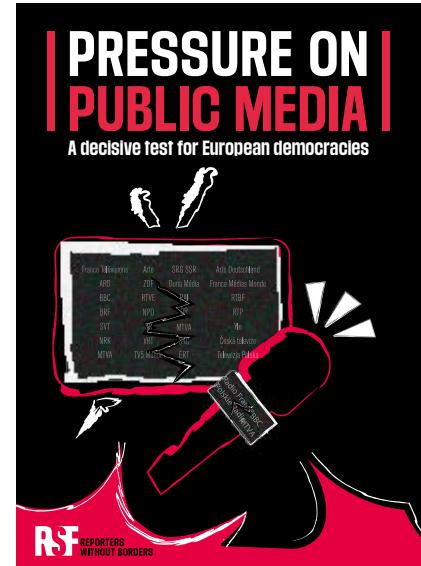
JUNE

### SECOND CONTINGENT OF VOICES IN EXILE WELCOMED

Building on the success of its launch, the Voices in Exile programme, in which RSF is a partner, welcomed a new contingent of 14 journalists from Afghanistan, Egypt, Haiti, Libya, Syria, Togo, Turkey and Yemen on 20 June, World Refugee Day. For nine months, the programme provides exiled journalists with extensive professional, administrative, and legal assistance.

@Anna Colpaert / RSF

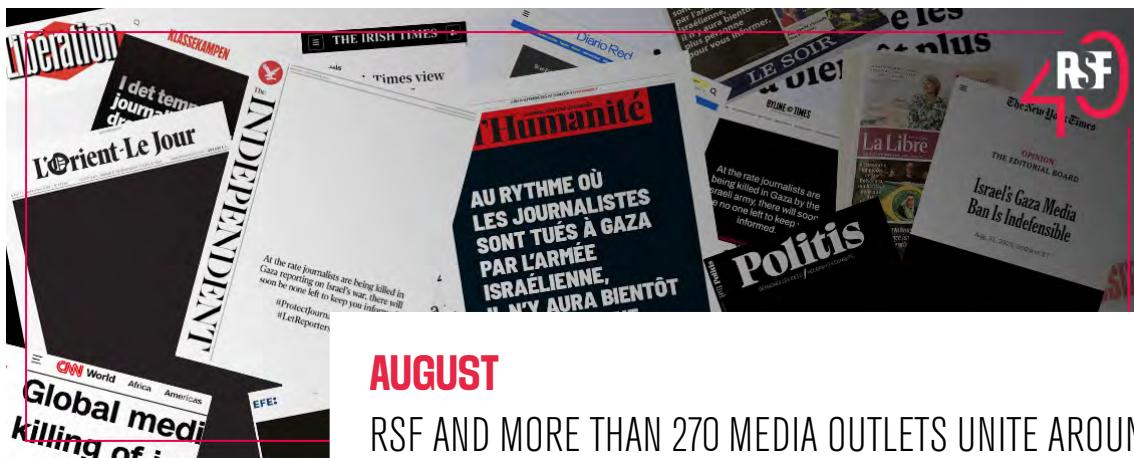
## I 2025: RSF IN IMAGES I



### JULY

#### RSF RELEASES "PRESSURE ON PUBLIC MEDIA: A DECISIVE TEST FOR EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES"

Published amid mounting threats to public service media in Europe and just weeks before the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) took full effect, this report sounded the alarm about the political and economic pressures undermining public media. It outlined several possible scenarios – some encouraging, others disturbing – and called on Europe to wake up to the need to revitalise its public news media.



### AUGUST

#### RSF AND MORE THAN 270 MEDIA OUTLETS UNITE AROUND GAZA

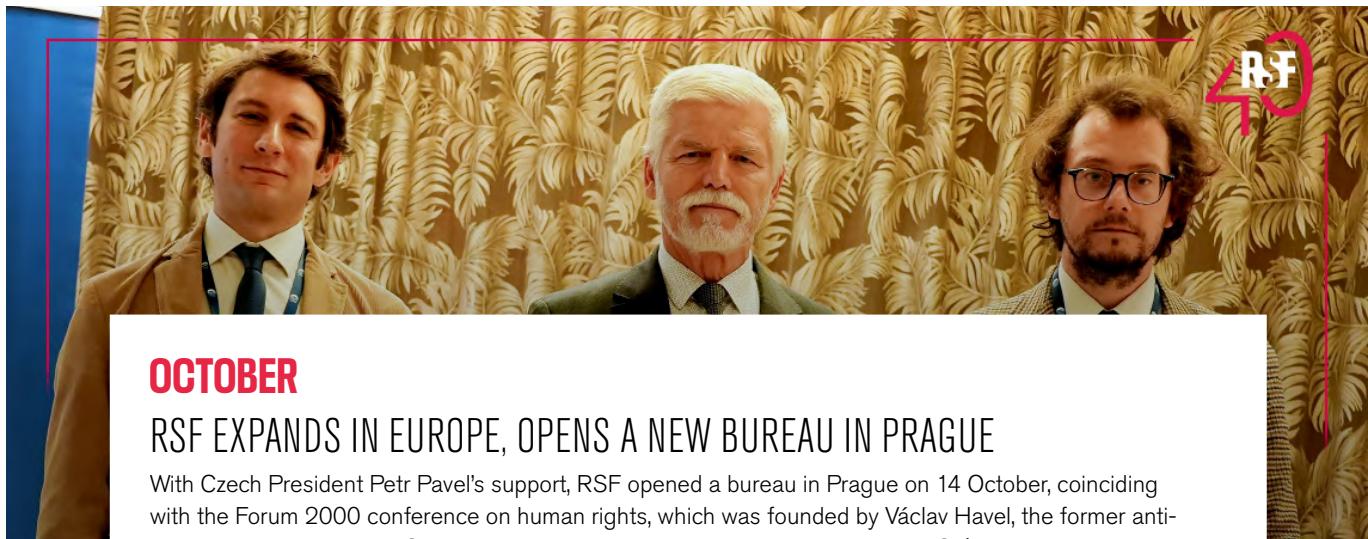
In an unprecedented global initiative coordinated by RSF and the campaigning platform Avaaz, more than 270 media outlets from 70 countries simultaneously blacked out their front pages, homepages, and disrupted their programming to denounce the Israel Defence Forces' killing of journalists in the Gaza Strip. They demanded an end to impunity for violent crimes against reporters in Gaza, the urgent evacuation of Palestinian journalists seeking to leave the Strip, and that independent access to Gaza be granted to foreign media.

### SEPTEMBER

#### DAKAR LAUNCH OF THE DOCUMENTARY "COMMUNITY RADIOS: THE FIGHT TO KEEP THE SAHEL INFORMED"

Through its focus on the daily lives of three community radio journalists in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, the documentary "Community Radios: The Fight to Keep the Sahel Informed" shows how these essential local news reporters continue to keep their communities informed despite serious threats, representing the last hope for a free press in rural areas. The film premiered in Dakar and is now available on the Franco-German public television channel Arte.





### OCTOBER

#### RSF EXPANDS IN EUROPE, OPENS A NEW BUREAU IN PRAGUE

With Czech President Petr Pavel's support, RSF opened a bureau in Prague on 14 October, coinciding with the Forum 2000 conference on human rights, which was founded by Václav Havel, the former anti-communist dissident and Czechoslovak president. The bureau will strengthen RSF's work in the eastern part of the European Union. At the same time, RSF created a desk in Paris to focus specifically on issues in France and Italy.

### NOVEMBER

#### RSF INVESTIGATION INTO FRENCH TV NEWS BROADCASTERS IDENTIFIES *CNEWS* AS MAJOR VIOLATOR OF "PLURALISM" RULES

In November, RSF published the findings of its meticulous survey of the content broadcast by France's four 24-hour TV news channels in March 2025. It shows that *CNews* is the only channel that blatantly and systematically deviates from rules established by French broadcast media regulator Arcom dictating how on-air media should showcase diverse ideas and viewpoints.



### DECEMBER

#### RSF CAMPAIGNS TO LIBERATE JIMMY LAI AND CHRISTOPHE GLEIZES

Two prominent journalists detained because of their work, Jimmy Lai and Christophe Gleizes, received harsh sentences in December. Jimmy Lai, the founder of the Hong Kong-based, Chinese-language opposition newspaper *Apple Daily* who has been detained for over five years, was found guilty of violating Hong Kong's draconian national security law on 15 December. A few days earlier, on 3 December, French sports journalist Christophe Gleizes' seven-year prison sentence was upheld on appeal in Algeria. RSF has been relentlessly campaigning for their release.

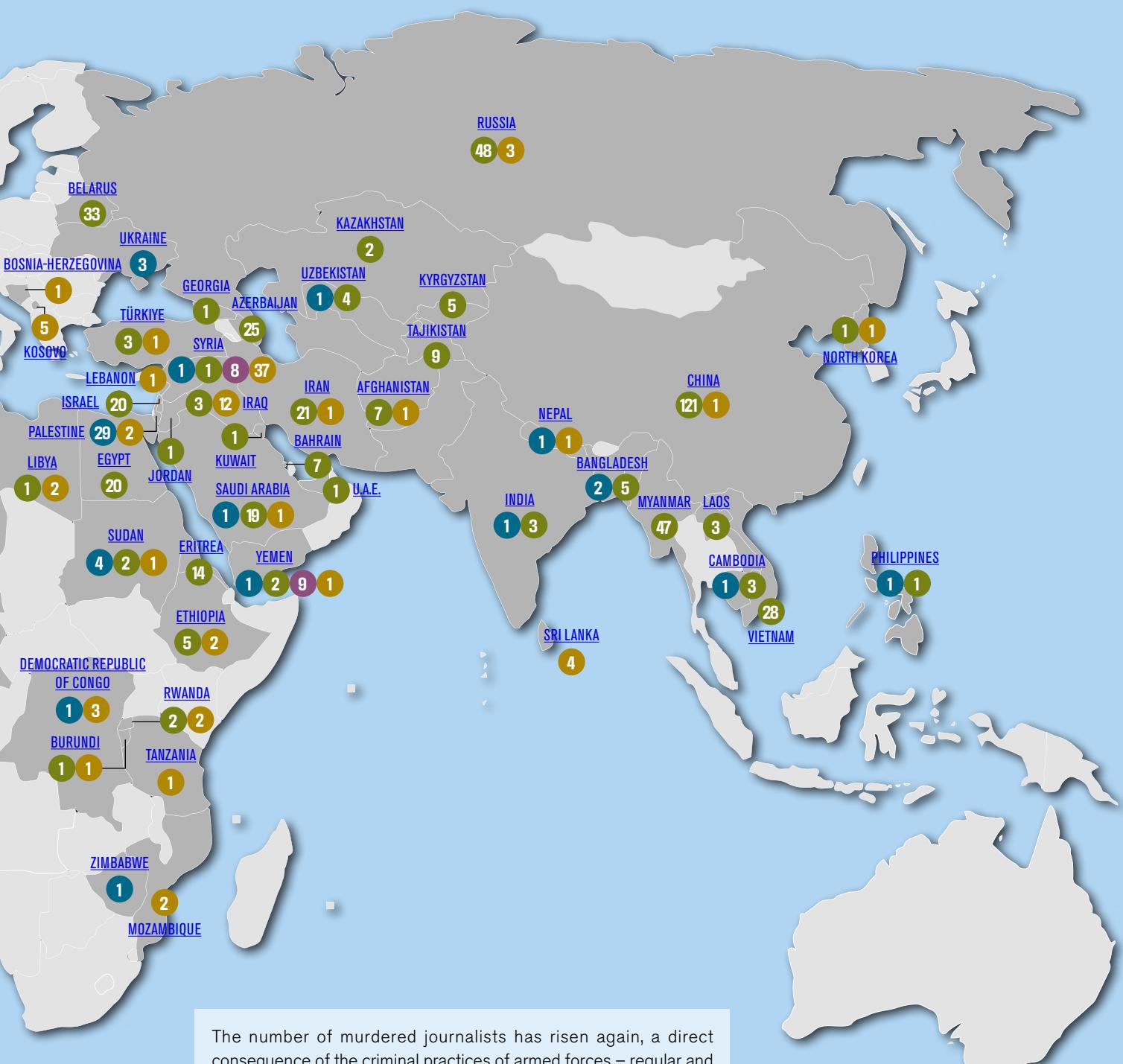
2025 IN MAPS

# I PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN 2025



**JOURNALISTS  
DON'T JUST "DIE."  
THEY'RE KILLED**

- Number of journalists killed (67)
- Number of journalists detained (503)
- Number of journalists taken hostage (20)
- Number of journalists missing (135)



The number of murdered journalists has risen again, a direct consequence of the criminal practices of armed forces – regular and paramilitary – and organised crime. Of the 67 media professionals killed in the past year, at least 53 were victims of war or organised crime. **Nearly half (43%) of the journalists killed from December 2024 to December 2025 were killed in Gaza** by Israeli armed forces. In Ukraine, the Russian armed forces continue to target national and international reporters, while Sudan is emerging as a particularly deadly war zone for news professionals. **In Mexico, organised crime was responsible for an alarming surge in journalist killings** in 2025, the deadliest year for the media in Mexico of the past three years. When they are not killed, journalists are the target of many other abuses. A total of 503 journalists are currently detained worldwide, notably in China and Russia, and 135 journalists are missing, more than a quarter of whom disappeared during Bashar al-Assad's rule in Syria.

2025 IN MAPS

# I 2025 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM



- Good situation
- Satisfactory situation
- Problematic situation
- Difficult situation
- Very serious situation



At a time when press freedom is experiencing an alarming decline in many parts of the world, a major and often underestimated factor – economic pressure – is having a deeply pernicious impact on the media. Worldwide, media outlets are now caught between protecting their independence and ensuring their economic survival.

In 2025, the low score of the economic indicator – one of the five indicators used to compile the World Press Freedom Index – was the main factor contributing to the decline in overall scores.

More than half of the world's population now lives in a country where press freedom is severely threatened. They constitute a total of 4.25 billion people in 42 countries, which are now dark red on the map of the RSF World Press Freedom Index.

# I 2025: RSF IN CAMPAIGNS |

## WHAT IS AN RSF CAMPAIGN?

MOBILISATION CAMPAIGNS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF RSF WORK. THESE CAMPAIGNS ALLOW THE NGO TO FOCUS ITS EFFORTS AND BOOST ITS IMPACT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. EACH CAMPAIGN AIMS FOR A CLEARLY DEFINED OUTCOME AND INVOLVES THE ENTIRE ORGANISATION.

### #FREEING JOURNALISTS

#### PHILIPPINES: FREE FRENCHIE MAE CUMPIO

PHILIPPINES  116<sup>th</sup>/180\*



##### CONTEXT:

Investigative journalist **Frenchie Mae Cumpio** completed her fifth year in prison in 2025. Detained in the eastern Philippines since 2020, she is accused of “financing terrorism” and the “illegal possession of firearms.” She could spend up to 40 years in prison for this “parody of justice,” as Johnray Luciano, Secretary General of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, called it.

##### RSF ACTIONS:

→ **RSF investigated the circumstances surrounding Frenchie Mae Cumpio’s imprisonment**, discovering a case so riddled with inconsistencies that it is difficult to understand how she could still be in detention. The latest charge – alleged involvement in an ambush that killed two soldiers – was finally dropped following the [RSF investigation](#). Advocacy targeting the 52 countries that are members of the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC) increased diplomatic pressure, leading to a dialogue with the justice minister and a prison visit to provide the journalist with medical assistance. News professionals from around the world also joined RSF and the #FreeFrenchieMaeCumpio coalition in calling on Philippine President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. to intervene for her release.



#### VIETNAM: FREE PHAM DOAN TRANG

VIETNAM  174<sup>th</sup>/180\*



##### CONTEXT:

Vietnam is one of the world’s biggest jailers of journalists, with 27 currently detained. After being held in solitary confinement for more than a year following her arrest in 2020 in retaliation for her journalistic work, **Pham Doan Trang** – co-founder of the online magazines *Luat Khoa* and *The Vietnamese* – was [sentenced](#) on 14 December 2021 to nine years in prison for disseminating “anti-state propaganda.” Her case is an example of how the persecution of journalists is part of the Vietnamese government’s growing offensive on the right to information.

##### RSF ACTIONS:

→ **In one of the year’s most notable initiatives**, RSF published a joint statement with a coalition of NGOs calling for Pham Doan Trang’s release and demanding an explanation for the deplorable conditions in which she is being held. In addition to advocacy targeting governments and international bodies, RSF also launched a public [petition](#) for her immediate release.



## AZERBAIJAN: FREE SEVINJ VAGIFGIZI

AZERBAIJAN  167<sup>th</sup>/180\*



### CONTEXT:

"For the government, every question is seen as interference" *Abzas Media* editor **Sevinj Vagifgizi** wrote in a letter from her prison in Baku. This journalist was sentenced to nine years in prison along with six of her colleagues. All pleaded not guilty to "smuggling foreign currency" but were convicted despite the absence of evidence. The grossly unfair trial was part of a broader crackdown on independent media in Azerbaijan, where 25 [journalists](#) are currently imprisoned, according to RSF information.



### RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF has repeatedly condemned the systematic crackdown on independent journalism in Azerbaijan and called for Sevinj Vagifgizi's immediate release. A symbolic campaign organised with exiled Azerbaijani media outlets mobilised the public to write postcards to the jailed journalist, which drew attention to her inhumane detention conditions. RSF also shared a letter she wrote from prison and is continuing an active advocacy campaign.

## ■ SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING JOURNALISTS AND THEIR WORK

### COMBATING THE HARASSMENT OF JOURNALISTS IN INDIA

INDIA  151<sup>th</sup>/180\*



### CONTEXT:

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's journalists have increasingly been subjected to both online and offline threats, as nationalist rhetoric intensifies and few measures are taken to punish those who harass, threaten, or physically assault them. These campaigns target women journalists in particular, as seen in the case of *Washington Post* opinion columnist **Rana Ayyub**, who has been subjected to years of harassment, lawsuits, online smear campaigns and doxxing, which exposes her to a serious risk of physical violence.



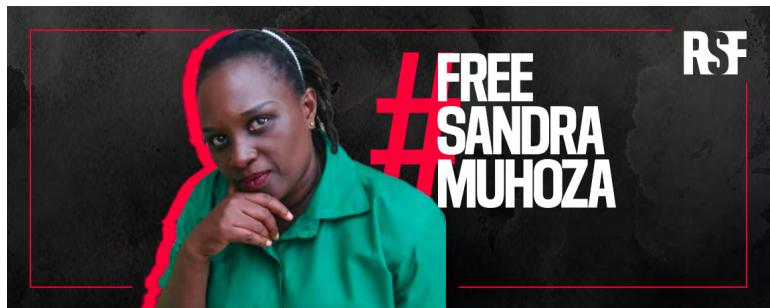
### RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF and ten NGOs have called for an official police investigation into the death threats against Rana Ayyub, and for her and her family to be given immediate protection. RSF also conducted a mission in India, meeting with local media correspondents and partner organisations. In 2025, more than 100 journalists participated in five digital security training courses provided by [SFLC.in](#), an Indian NGO, with RSF support. RSF has also developed a toolkit on its Resources for Journalists platform that provides practical security, mental health, and legal resources for journalists in India.

## PROTECTING JOURNALISTS EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE IN AFRICA'S GREAT LAKES REGION

### CONTEXT:

Journalists are often subjected to physical violence in Africa's Great Lakes region, especially in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which has witnessed a resurgence of armed conflict. Polarisation, disinformation and political attempts to control the news are contributing to the erosion of press freedom. In Burundi, journalist **Sandra Muhoza** is still behind bars even though her conviction was annulled.



### RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF has relentlessly campaigned for Sandra Muhoza's release and, in March 2025, referred the case to the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). In addition, RSF supplied equipment to some 20 journalists in the DRC, while also providing more than 70 journalists with financial and legal assistance. And in December, RSF enabled 55 journalists from the eastern DRC to participate in psychological support sessions that play a key role in strengthening their mental health, strained from exposure to the continuing armed conflict.

## PROTECTING JOURNALISTS IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL AND LEBANON

PALESTINE  163<sup>rd</sup>/180\*

ISRAEL  112<sup>th</sup>/180\*

LEBANON  132<sup>nd</sup>/180\*



### CONTEXT:

Nearly half (43%) of the journalists murdered in 2025 were killed by the Israeli armed forces in Gaza, making it the world's most dangerous country for journalists in 2025. More than 220 journalists have been killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023, at least 65 of them slain while working. The Israeli authorities have waged an intense smear campaign in parallel to these targeted killings in order to justify them. The war in Gaza has also had a profound impact on neighbouring countries such as Lebanon and Syria.



### RSF ACTIONS:

→ While the annual UN General Assembly took place in September 2025, RSF co-organised a meeting with 21 countries to call on the Israeli authorities to open Gaza to international media and allow journalists to be evacuated. A fifth complaint against Israel was filed with the International Criminal Court (ICC). Several public mobilisation campaigns were organised to denounce the media blackout imposed by the Israeli authorities and to call for the protection of journalists. Equipment was donated or loaned to 160 journalists in Lebanon and Syria, while 198 journalists also received training. RSF helped the Palestinian media outlet *Wattan Media Network* provide training in physical security, mobile journalism and fact-checking, and produce digital manuals for journalists on these subjects. In partnership with Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) and the Palestinian Journalists Protection Centre (PJPC), RSF also helped provide reporters in Gaza with professional equipment and workspaces.

## SUPPORTING JOURNALISTS IN THE SAHEL

SAHEL



### CONTEXT:

The worsening security situation in the Sahel is jeopardising the region's journalism. The growing number of restrictions imposed by governments, particularly on national security grounds, are helping muzzle journalists who are already exposed to attacks from armed groups.



### RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF organised the CREDI-SAHEL conference in Dakar in October as part of the International Media Fair of Africa (SIMA). Several participating government officials affirmed their commitment to the right to information by endorsing a 2024 declaration initiated by RSF. The NGO also asked the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to urge Burkina Faso's authorities to address the enforced disappearances of several journalists, including **Atiana Serge Oulon**. In partnership with the Association of Women for Civic Engagement in Chad, RSF organised a fact-checking training session in December to help 25 Chadian journalists, including 11 women, combat disinformation in the Sahel region. The RSF documentary, "Community Radios: The Fight to Keep the Sahel Informed" has been available on the Franco-German public television channel Arte since November.

## INDEPENDENCE AND PLURALISM IN FRANCE

FRANCE



25<sup>th</sup>/180\*

### CONTEXT:

France's National Forum on Information (Les États Généraux de l'Information, or EGI), a collective and collaborative project launched by President Emmanuel Macron, delivered its conclusions and recommendations in the autumn of 2024, while the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) became fully applicable in August 2025. RSF, which was involved in these initiatives, continued to work towards establishing a strong legislative framework to protect diverse and independent sources of news and information in France.

### RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF filed a complaint with the French broadcast media regulator Arcom, accusing the television channel CNews of fuelling a wave of hatred against journalists due to the channel's problematic coverage of a journalistic investigation into the 2023 murder of a teenager in the Drôme region. RSF also filed emergency and substantive appeals with the French Council of State against new powers granted to law enforcement in the National Plan for Urban Violence (SNVU) published in August 2025. What's more, RSF investigated the content broadcast by France's 24-hour news channels (BFM TV, CNews, LCI and France Info) and discovered CNews is guilty of blatant failures to adhere to the Arcom's pluralism requirements.



## PUBLIC TRUST

### JOURNALISM TRUST INITIATIVE (JTI)

#### THE CERTIFICATION FOR NEWS MEDIA

##### CONTEXT:

In the digital age, it is becoming increasingly difficult to identify reporting produced by professional, independent journalists who adhere to high ethical standards. As the circulation of misleading content increases and trust in the media and institutions erodes, this trend undermines the quality of public debate and everyone's ability to access reliable reporting. It is precisely to address these challenges that RSF works to defend and promote trustworthy news media.

##### RSF ACTIONS:

→ In 2025, RSF continued to roll out the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI), a professional standard designed to promote media transparency, independence and professionalism. Developed under the aegis of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and with a panel of around 130 experts from media outlets, journalists' associations, publishers' federations and regulatory and self-regulatory bodies, the JTI is now the leading international standard in journalism certification. It is a robust, neutral standard based on the



charters and codes governing the media profession. The certification is granted after an audit by one of approximately 20 independent bodies accredited worldwide, at the media outlet's request. The JTI is currently used by more than 2,400 outlets in 127 countries: 1,460 are currently conducting the JTI self-assessment test, 830 have published their JTI transparency report, and 132 have been certified following an audit. The JTI's recent achievements include the re-certification of nine French regional daily newspapers from the EBRA media group, counting 13 public media outlets from around the globe engaged in the JTI process, and facilitating support and mentoring programmes that enabled over 250 media outlets worldwide to conduct a self-assessment using the JTI standard by the end of 2025.

## THE INFORMATION SPACE

### CURBING RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA

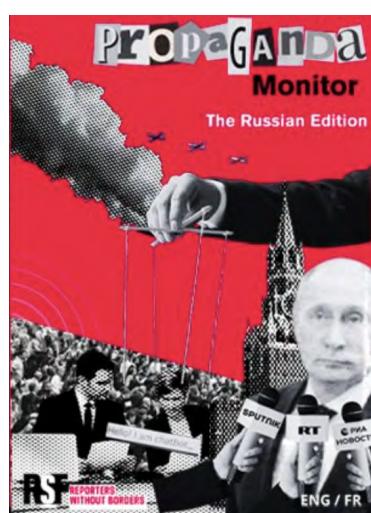
RUSSIA  171<sup>st</sup> / 180\*

##### CONTEXT:

Combatting propaganda and disinformation is fundamental to defending journalism. Vladimir Putin's Kremlin has developed a complex propaganda ecosystem involving many different actors and tactics, which include disinformation campaigns, stealing the identities of credible outlets, and the creation of fake journalism schools.

##### RSF ACTIONS:

→ In response, RSF published a report highlighting the first edition of **The Propaganda Monitor** — a website dedicated to analysing propaganda and disinformation mechanisms — which focused on Russia. Meanwhile, the ongoing RSF project Collateral Freedom ensures millions of people can access the websites of media outlets censored by the Kremlin, such as *Meduza*, *Moscow Times* and *Holod Media*. RSF also counters Kremlin propaganda by providing reliable news reporting through its *Svoboda* satellite television package, which provides access to 15 channels broadcasting content in Russian, mostly produced by exiled media outlets and journalists. At the same time, RSF stepped up litigation initiatives targeting Kremlin war propaganda, in particular the Doppelgänger and Matrioshka disinformation operations. These initiatives included several criminal complaints against the social media platforms X and Telegram, and a referral to the European Commission in connection with an investigation into violations of the Digital Services Act (DSA) by X.



## PREVENTING CHINA FROM IMPOSING A NEW WORLD ORDER IN THE INFORMATION SPACE

CHINA  178<sup>th</sup>/180\*



### CONTEXT:

China continues to be one of the world's most repressive countries for media freedom. The government has almost complete control over the flow of information through systematic censorship, mass surveillance and the jailing of hundreds of journalists. Repression has intensified even more in Hong Kong since the National Security Law took effect in June 2020. The Chinese government is now trying to export its authoritarian model of media control beyond its borders. This offensive on reliable reporting, waged on a regional and global scale, directly threatens press freedom and media pluralism.



### RSF ACTIONS:

→ In 2025, RSF continued its active advocacy against China's news control strategy. It campaigned around emblematic cases of arbitrarily detained journalists and defenders of the right to information, including Jimmy Lai, Zhang Zhan, Huang Xueqin and Gui Minhai. RSF stepped up its support for Chinese journalists and civil society, notably through the Circle 19 initiative and the Chinese Consortium of Investigative Journalism, combining investigations and litigation. RSF also provided training to more than 220 journalists to improve their professional skills and bolster their safety in the face of repression.

## THE NEWS MARKET

### A NEW DEAL FOR JOURNALISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

### CONTEXT:

The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), which started taking effect on 8 November 2024 and has been fully applicable since 8 August 2025, represents a major step forward for the protection of editorial independence and media pluralism within the European Union (EU). However, its implementation remains uneven and incomplete in several member states. RSF has continued to be fully engaged with European institutions to ensure that this regulation is applied. Preserving public broadcasting in the EU is also a key priority for RSF.



### RSF ACTIONS:

→ RSF called on national and European authorities to act swiftly to ensure the effectiveness of the rights, principles and freedoms that the EMFA aims to protect. An RSF report entitled "Pressure on Public Media: A Decisive Test for European Democracies" provided an overview of EU public media outlets, analysed their funding models and highlighted the political and economic threats they face.

→ RSF also advocated for an effective democratic shield for the European information space, involving increased support for journalism and media outlets, including exiled media, and requiring digital platforms to give prominence to news media.

## PROTECTING JOURNALISM AND RELIABLE INFORMATION DURING TRUMP'S SECOND PRESIDENCY

UNITED STATES  57<sup>th</sup>/180\*



### CONTEXT:

Press freedom is declining in the U.S. and trust in the media is at a historic low. The nation's president vilifies and sues media outlets, and relentlessly denigrates journalists. What's more, the world's leading digital platforms, based in the U.S., are resisting regulation by promoting a false dichotomy between freedom of expression and freedom of the press.



### RSF ACTIONS:

→ In an unprecedented move, RSF joined *Voice of America* (VOA) employees and unions in challenging an executive order by President Trump, which aimed to dismantle the US' international public broadcasting, in federal court. RSF also joined 60 other press freedom organisations and media outlets in filing three amicus briefs in support of law firms challenging other executive orders incompatible with media freedom.

## SUPPORTING A FREE, INDEPENDENT PRESS IN UKRAINE

UKRAINE  62<sup>nd</sup>/180\*



### CONTEXT:

Ever since Russia launched its large-scale invasion in February 2022, RSF has been working to support journalists and press freedom in Ukraine. RSF continued its work in 2025, adapting its strategy to focus on emergency aid and building the sustainability of Ukraine's media. RSF also seeks to ensure that the public is better informed about the violent crimes and disinformation campaigns targeting Ukrainian journalists, and the need to combat them.

### RSF ACTIONS:

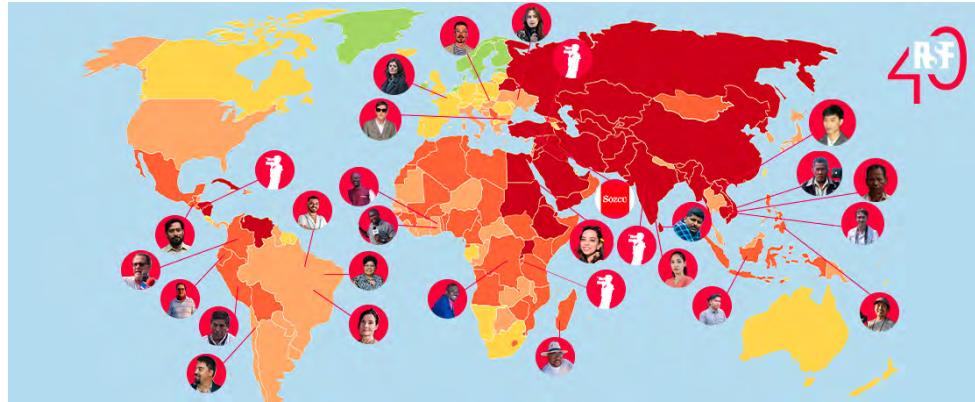
→ Russia has gone so far as to attack the hotels harbouring journalists in Ukraine, which also serve as reporters' workplaces. This was detailed in the report by RSF and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Truth Hounds, "Last Check-in: The Russian Strikes on Ukrainian Hotels Silencing the Press." RSF has stepped up its legal action and, since February 2022, filed 19 criminal complaints with Ukraine's prosecutor-general and ombudsman, the

International Criminal Court's prosecutor and French courts. This strategy yielded unprecedented results in 2025, when Ukraine's prosecutor-general opened 125 preliminary investigations, at least 14 of which were into cases brought forth by RSF. The NGO has also supported the creation of an International Fund for the Reconstruction of Ukrainian Media (IFRUM), as there is a great need to ensure the long-term sustainability of Ukraine's media. The proposal was presented to the EU Ukraine Donor Platform in April and launched publicly in September at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London. RSF provided direct assistance to 329 Ukrainian journalists and seven media outlets in the form of financial, psychological, and/or material aid. The NGO also published several investigations into the fate and whereabouts of Ukrainian journalists targeted by the Kremlin.

### PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

#### CONTEXT:

From Cambodia to the Amazon, from France to Egypt, journalists covering issues related to the exploitation and protection of natural resources are constantly threatened, detained, attacked and even imprisoned or killed. As COP30 approached, RSF highlighted emblematic cases and raised awareness on the need for reliable information on climate and environmental issues.



In the run-up to COP30, RSF highlighted [30 cases of journalists who had been persecuted in the past year for covering environmental issues](#). Read the press release from 27 October 2025.

#### RSF ACTIONS:

- In the run up to COP30, after initiating an [appeal](#) to the international community to urgently act to protect journalism and reliable information, RSF helped draft a declaration led by Brazil recognising environmental journalism as a crucial element in the fight against climate disinformation. Nearly three years after British journalist Dom Phillips was murdered in the Brazilian Amazon, RSF visited the region to witness the extent of the ongoing threats against journalists and provided assistance to ten of the region's journalists. In West Africa, RSF supported a training in environmental investigative journalism organised by Truth Reporting Post, which brought 25 journalists together in Togo. In all, 74 journalists received training related to environmental journalism.

### DISPLACED AND EXILED: HELPING JOURNALISTS STAY RESILIENT

#### CONTEXT:

RSF data on its aid to journalists shows a marked increase in the number of news professionals forced to flee abroad, which is directly linked to the rise of authoritarianism and political repression worldwide. Europe and North America are the main host regions, but countries bordering crisis zones are also exile hotspots.

– published a report on the resilience of Russian media in exile. During the G7 summit in Canada in June, RSF called for the issue of the protecting exiled journalists from transnational repression to be treated as a priority. RSF also conducted advocacy efforts with the governments of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), calling for measures to protect news professionals from transnational repression. The NGO's proposals were included in a report by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and in a report initiated by the European Parliament. 2025 also saw the launch of the second round of the Voices in Exile project, led by RSF, CFI, SINGA and the Maison des Journalistes (MDJ), as well as a new RSF project supporting journalists at risk in Central America.

#### RSF ACTIONS:

- More than half of the journalists assisted by RSF in 2025 had fled abroad. The NGO provided them with financial, legal and psychological assistance. The think tank The Fix and the JX Fund – a support fund for exiled journalists co-founded by RSF



# I 2025: RSF IN ACTION I

## RSF AID FOR JOURNALISTS IN KEY FIGURES



In 2025, RSF provided emergency aid to **749 journalists** in **76 countries**, above all Afghanistan, the DRC, Ukraine, Russia and Sudan.

Of the 749 journalists assisted in 2025, **more than half (55%)** had been forced to flee abroad because of death threats, the likelihood of imprisonment, their media outlet's closure and other imminent dangers. These journalists were from countries such as Afghanistan, Russia and Sudan.

**In 2025, 600 individual grants** were awarded.

In **76% of cases**, these grants enabled the resettlement of journalists forced to relocate or flee the country. An additional **50 grants** were awarded **to media outlets**.

In 2025, the digital operation **Collateral Freedom** created **14,000 mirror webpages** allowing access to the news site [Meduza.io](https://meduza.io), which is censored by the Kremlin.

### WHAT IS THE RSF ASSISTANCE OFFICE?

The Assistance Office implements concrete solutions to help journalists and media outlets in emergency situations around the world. The aid it provides is primarily financial and administrative in nature. The Assistance Office operates out of the RSF Paris headquarters, with the help of a team in Berlin and dedicated staff in the RSF bureaus and sections.



## ADVOCACY

RSF launched and executed several hundred advocacy projects in 2025 with the dual aim of countering threats against journalists and ensuring that every citizen has access to reliable sources of news and information. RSF advocacy is conducted from its headquarters, by its representative to the European Union, by the personnel in its bureaus and sections, and with the support of its representatives and the RSF network.

### RSF ADVOCACY HELPS FURTHER ITS PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS AND RESPOND TO A VARIETY OF ISSUES, SUCH AS:

- calling on the Colombian presidency to show more restraint in its violent rhetoric towards journalists;
- bringing together ten French parliamentarians willing to reform national legislation in the spirit of the National Forum on Information (EGI) and the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA);
- securing commitments from the presidents of Gabon and Mauritania to enact reforms to improve the working conditions of journalists.

To promote reliable sources of information, RSF also advocated – to representatives of the European Commission, EU Member States and European Parliament – for obliging digital platforms to modify their algorithms to increase the visibility of trustworthy news sources. In November, this proposal was presented at the only conference that the Danish Presidency of the EU organised on media and digital issues. RSF also defended its recommendations in Brazil before Parliament and the Supreme Court and in South Africa before the National Competition Authority.

## LITIGATION

In 2025, RSF initiated 40 legal actions in two dozen countries. Now more than ever, defending press freedom and the right to information requires strategic, innovative litigation involving all judicial bodies worldwide.

### JOURNALISTS' SAFETY AND FREEDOM

**Mexico:** RSF referred several cases of missing Mexican journalists to the UN Human Rights Committee. Together with the NGO Propuesta Cívica, RSF filed complaints against the Mexican state concerning the cases of the forcibly disappeared journalists María Esther Aguilar Cansimbe and José Antonio García Apac. RSF is also continuing its legal proceedings in the case of missing crime reporter Mauricio Estrada Zamora.

**Guatemala:** RSF and nine other international NGOs filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in the case of journalist José Rubén Zamora, arguing that his return to pre-trial detention constitutes a violation of his fundamental rights and urging the court to grant an *amparo* appeal that would allow him to be placed under house arrest.

### INTERNATIONAL CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

**Belarus:** RSF filed a complaint with the ICC against Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko for crimes against humanity due to his targeted persecution of journalists.

**Afghanistan:** Following a complaint RSF filed with the ICC regarding crimes committed by the Taliban against journalists since the fall of Kabul, the NGO has been cooperating with the ICC prosecutor's office in the ongoing investigation.

### MEDIA FREEDOM, PLURALISM AND INDEPENDENCE

**Brazil:** RSF contributed to the investigation conducted by the Administrative Council for Economic Defence (CADE) against Google, which supported the claim that the digital giant abuses their dominant position by using journalistic content in Google services without any compensation for media outlets. The CADE is expected to decide in the coming months whether it will open administrative proceedings against Google.

## EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

In 2025, RSF equipped more than 760 journalists in armed conflict zones where the human cost of reporting is exorbitant. More than half of them were from Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Madagascar and Myanmar. At least 250 journalists in Ukraine received protective equipment in 2025, including bulletproof vests, helmets and first-aid kits, while more than 140 received equipment in Lebanon, Palestine and Israel.

RSF also continued to support media professionals through various other programmes, including its Press Freedom Centres.

RSF conducted **96** training sessions in 2025, training **1,600** people in **22** countries. The trainings covered a range of topics, including physical and digital security and mental health.



**FOCUS**

- "What's up Doxx?" (Part 1): Define the perimeter of your online privacy - 05/03/2025
- "Journalism and trauma" Part 1: The personal toll of reporting Mental health - 26/12/2024
- Reporting from authoritarian regimes (Part 2): Advice to journalists and newsrooms Legal advice - 20/06/2024
- Cyberharassment Part 1: stalking and swatting Digital safety - 04/12/2023
- Don't get phished! Part 1: What are phishing scams? Digital safety - 11/10/2023

[All posts](#)

**RSF** RESOURCES FOR JOURNALISTS

## WEBSITE

The [RSF Resources for Journalists](#) website brings together practical, accessible and reliable resources to help journalists protect themselves and train and work safely, even in the most hostile environments. The content is tailored to the specific needs of journalists in different regions and is available in eight major languages. The website also provides access to external resources in other languages, including multilingual tools for journalists in India.

## PRESS FREEDOM CENTRES

### UKRAINE: RSF SUPPORT AFTER NEARLY FOUR YEARS OF WAR

#### 277 JOURNALISTS TRAINED OR EQUIPPED

Since its inauguration in 2022, the Kyiv Press Freedom Centre has provided aid to **more than 2,100** journalists and 230 media outlets in Ukraine. In 2025, the centre continued loaning bullet-proof protection equipment to news professionals and arranged retreat sessions with personalised psychological support for 24 Ukrainian journalists and their families. Retreats of this kind play a key role in enabling these reporters to continue their work amid a protracted war.

*"I am extremely grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. Thanks to you, I will be able to continue working and contributing to society."*

— A participant in one of the RSF mental health retreats for Ukrainian journalists

After a Russian strike hit the Dnipro office of the [Institute of Mass Information](#), a main RSF partner in Ukraine, RSF quickly dispatched 15 bulletproof vests, 15 helmets and 50 first aid kits to replace the equipment destroyed by the attack.

### LEBANON: TRAINING AND EQUIPPING JOURNALISTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

#### 208 JOURNALISTS TRAINED OR EQUIPPED

RSF [inaugurated](#) a regional press freedom centre in Beirut in March 2024. Since then, the centre has assisted more than 280 journalists, offering a [variety of services](#) that include training, psychological support, legal assistance, and the loan and distribution of protective equipment (bulletproof vests, helmets and first aid kits). The centre also operates a Spyguard service, providing journalists with free spyware detection checks that are carried out by the centre's coordinator, who is specifically trained in this anti-spyware tool.

*"As freelance journalists facing difficult conditions in the war, we've been able to rely on the centre to obtain essential protective equipment. Their swift aid has allowed us to work safely and keep reporting."*

Journalist assisted by the Beirut Press Freedom Centre

### THAILAND: RSF STEPS UP SUPPORT FOR MYANMAR'S JOURNALISTS

#### 253 JOURNALISTS TRAINED OR EQUIPPED

In response to the persecution of journalists by Myanmar's military junta, RSF launched the Myanmar Press Freedom Project in October 2024 to support news professionals who fled across the Thai border as well as those still working inside the country. Initially established in Chiang Mai, a Thai city near the Myanmar border, the project's facilities were extended to the border town of Mae Sot in July 2025. Since the project's launch, more than **400** journalists have received essential aid, including equipment, secure internet access and training. More than **160** of them received training in 2025.

*"I have become more attentive to the safety measures to be followed when travelling. Thanks to the knowledge and practical exercises in first aid, I will be able to apply these skills in emergency situations."*

Journalist who received Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT)



# RSF PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTARIES

## INFORMING AND INVESTIGATING

In 2025, RSF bolstered its editorial production by combining rapid responses to current events with the production of unprecedented content on press freedom and the right to information worldwide.

With a team of 14 journalists in Paris – including specialists in specific geographic areas and journalism-related subjects, as well as French and English editors – and editorial production from each international office, RSF produces between 20 and 30 articles a week available in English and French, and – depending on the subject – Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Ukrainian, Russian and Mandarin. RSF also tenured the role of a journalist dedicated to international crisis situations.

### IN 2025, RSF PRODUCED:

- **700 articles** (a 16% increase in content) covering 140 different countries and regions.
- **60% of the content** was related to **priority campaigns** (28% more than in 2024).
- The priority campaigns most often covered in 2025 concerned press freedom developments in Palestine, Lebanon and Israel in connection with the war in Gaza; the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel; Ukraine since Russia's large-scale invasion; the United States since Donald Trump's return to the presidency; and China, the world's biggest jailer of journalists.



### LAUNCH OF THE RSF WEBSITE IN MANDARIN

In 2025, RSF launched a Mandarin version of its website. As Beijing intensifies its crackdown on journalism and seeks to extend its methods of controlling information beyond its borders, RSF works to ensure that over a billion Chinese speakers worldwide can access reliable content about the state of press freedom. Since Xi Jinping took over in China in 2012, the regime has constantly [reinforced its censorship techniques](#) and stepped up efforts to disseminate propaganda globally, sending the country to the bottom of the [World Press Freedom Index](#) (178<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries in 2025). China continues to be the world's biggest jailer of journalists. In addition to making its resources available in Mandarin, RSF [provides access in China](#) to 33 news websites that are otherwise blocked by the regime.

## IMPACTFUL INVESTIGATIONS

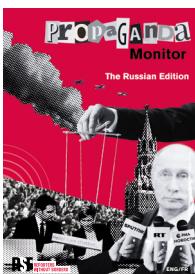
RSF has been using an investigative team of two journalists within its editorial department to produce innovative content related to the NGO's mandate. In 2025, RSF investigations shed light on crimes against journalists and attacks on the right to reliable information. These reports contribute to RSF advocacy work with political and judicial bodies. Produced in both written and video formats, RSF investigations reach a wide audience.

### NOTABLE RSF INVESTIGATIONS FROM 2025:

- [How French channel CNews is cheating its way out of new "pluralism" rules for broadcasters](#) (December)
- [Controlling information in the age of AI: how state propaganda and censorship are baked into Chinese chatbots](#) (September)
- ["Gazawood": The deadly accusations against Gaza's journalists](#) (September)
- [Benin's arrest of journalist Hugues Sossoukpé in Côte d'Ivoire: A state affair disguised as judicial cooperation](#) (August)
- [Frenchie Mae Cumpio: investigation into a fabricated case designed to convict a Philippine journalist](#) (July)
- [Declared dead by Russia: RSF reveals the brutal reality of Victoria Roshchyna's last months in captivity](#) (March)

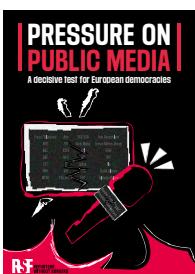
## REPORTS

IN 2025, RSF PUBLISHED SEVERAL LONG-FORM REPORTS IN PRINT AND DIGITAL VERSIONS. THEY INCLUDE:



### **The Propaganda Monitor: The Russian Edition**

Defending reliable information also means knowing how to counter the propaganda techniques opposing it for ideological purposes. This Propaganda Monitor report sheds light on the methods behind Russian propaganda and disinformation, thereby helping to counter them. Dedicated to the Kremlin strategies both in Russia and internationally, the report is illustrated by cartoonists from the Cartooning for Peace network. [September 2025](#).



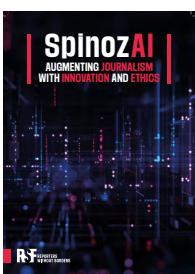
### **To protect Europe's public media, RSF published the report "Pressure on Public Media: a Decisive Test for European Democracies"**

This report assesses the state of public media in the light of a study carried out in the 27 countries of the European Union, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. In the report, RSF adopts a European perspective on the offensives against public service broadcasting throughout the continent – outlining possible scenarios, providing an overview of the European public media landscape, and issuing recommendations. [July 2025](#).



### **RSF and Truth Hounds reveal a deliberate Russian strategy to silence journalists by bombing their hotels**

Ever since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, both local and foreign journalists in Ukraine have been targeted by the Russian military — even in their hotels, which also serve as their workplaces. A report by RSF and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Truth Hounds revealed that, between 24 February 2022 and 15 March 2025, Russian attacks targeted 25 Ukrainian hotels, mostly in areas near the front lines. A total of 25 media professionals were caught in these attacks, which constitute war crimes, and at least seven of them were injured. [May 2025](#).



### **SpinozAI: augmenting journalism with innovation and ethics**

After developing the [Charter on Artificial Intelligence and Journalism](#) – created with 16 partner organisations and presented at the Paris Peace Forum in November 2023 – RSF unveiled a new report as the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit kicked off in Paris in February 2025. Entitled "SpinozAI: Augmenting Journalism with Innovation and Ethics," the report presents the findings of a joint experiment to create the first AI tool designed with the help of French news media publishers and their journalists, conducted by RSF and l'Alliance de la Presse d'Information Général (a news media alliance more commonly known as l'Alliance). The report concludes that AI can enhance journalism if journalists are involved in the process and technological advances are shared across news media. [February 2025](#).



### **70% of RSF emergency aid funds allocated to resettling persecuted journalists**

In January, RSF published its annual report on the aid it provides to journalists and media outlets. It highlighted the frequency with which journalists are now being forced into exile in an international context of mounting risks for media professionals in conflict zones. RSF allocated 70% of its emergency funds to resettling journalists forced to relocate within their country or flee abroad to escape persecution. Supporting exiled journalists has become essential for the right to information. [January 2025](#).

## SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

### THE 2025 PRESS FREEDOM PREDATORS LIST

On 2 November, International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, RSF published a [list](#) of 34 “press freedom predators” who attacked journalists and the right to information in 2025. Their methods differ, but they share a common goal: silencing voices from independent media outlets and trampling on the right to reliable news and information. Murder, imprisonment, smear campaigns, propaganda, troll armies – these predators have many different tactics for muzzling the press. Highlighting their profiles on such a symbolic day serves as a reminder that impunity for crimes again journalism is not unstoppable. Those who violate the press’ right to inform must be named and held accountable.

The 2025 Press Freedom Predators List is a counterpart to the World Press Freedom Index published annually by RSF. While the World Press Freedom Index assesses the state of press freedom in individual countries, this list draws attention to those who attempt to dismantle press freedom in a very real way. The 34 predators are divided into the five categories of the Index’s five indicators: political, security, economic, legal and social.

### THE "GUESS WHO?" QUIZ

“Guess Who?” is the name of the online quiz accompanying the 2025 Press Freedom Predators gallery, which underscores nine of the most prominent predators. Players are shown nine cards, each of which provides one to four clues as to the identity of those hiding behind these faces of censorship and repression. The game offers a new way to raise awareness of the threats facing journalism worldwide.



### THE REVIVAL ISSUE OF *APPLE DAILY*



On 23 June 2025, the fourth anniversary of the forced closure of *Apple Daily*, Hong Kong’s leading independent Chinese-language newspaper, RSF published a special issue of the newspaper in collaboration with former staff members now living in exile. It pays tribute to the media outlets that continue to resist persecution in Hong Kong and around the world. *Apple Daily* was shuttered after nearly 500 police officers raided its offices and its parent company’s assets were frozen. Seven former staff members, including founder Jimmy Lai, remain in detention and face life imprisonment under the National Security Law.

## DOCUMENTARIES

The RSF studio stepped up its production of multimedia news content in 2025. Its team produced 147 short videos in multiple languages, which were shared on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. RSF also produced three documentaries, which were broadcast by outlets such as *Arte*, *Mediapart* and *Télérama*.



### "COMMUNITY RADIOS: THE FIGHT TO KEEP THE SAHEL INFORMED"

2025, 27 minutes

RSF premiered a groundbreaking new documentary in Dakar that addresses the declining security situation in several Sahel countries and the increasing pressure on the local press. "Community radios: the fight to keep the Sahel informed" focusses on the daily lives of three community radio journalists in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, showing how these vital local news reporters continue to keep their communities informed despite serious threats, embodying the last hope for a free press in rural areas.

*Directed by Robin Grassi (RSF). Cinematography: Caroline Le Hello (France), Robin Grassi (France), Mahamane Farka (Mali), Chaibou Mamoudou (Niger) and René Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso). Produced by RSF. Executive Producer and Coordinator: Charles-Henry Frizon - Bottoms Up. Edited by Elouan Joly. Voiceover: Elsa Le Peutrec. Sound Mixing: 6 HEURES Production Company. Colour Grading: Steven Le Guellec - Stuff Movie. Graphic Design: Elise Desmars-Castillo and Teresa Malheiro - Bottoms Up. Production Manager: Camille Montagu (RSF). Broadcast by [ARTE.TV](#).*

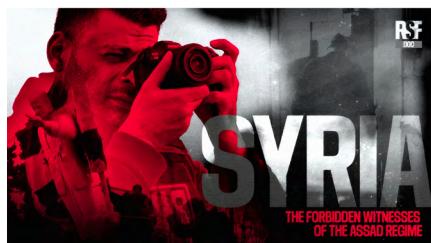


### "JOURNALISTS: THE FORBIDDEN WITNESSES OF THE ASSAD REGIME"

2025, 26 minutes

Closely surveilled, jailed and often killed, journalists in Syria were prime targets of Bashar al-Assad's regime. Backed by exclusive documents and first-hand accounts, this RSF investigation delves into one of the most ruthless anti-press systems that the world has seen in recent decades.

*Directed and edited by Noémie Bonnefous (RSF), Arnaud Froger (RSF), Robin Grassi (RSF) and Martin Roux (RSF). Cinematography: Anas Alkharboutli, Abdulmonam Eassa, Omar Haj Kadour, Martin Roux (RSF) and AFP. Coordinating journalist in Syria: Muaweya Hamoud. English subtitles by Beatrice Coldwell and Rozena Crossman. Voiceover by Rozena Crossman. Produced by RSF. Broadcast in French by Mediapart in December 2025.*



### "THE LAW OF SILENCE: THE LEGAL CLAUSES GAGGING FRENCH JOURNALISTS" ("LA LOI DU SILENCE : CES CLAUSES QUI FONT TAIRE LES JOURNALISTES")

2025, 23 minutes

Are journalists in France increasingly being forced to remain silent by clauses in their contracts? In this French-language documentary, RSF addresses an alarming trend: in some media outlets, journalists who wish to quit after a takeover are being pushed to stay quiet on important topics.

*Directed by Robin Grassi (RSF). Research by Haifa Mzalouat (RSF). Cinematography by Noémie Bonnafous. Editing by Noémie Bonnafous. Voiceover by Laure Chauvel (RSF). Colour grading by Zafiro Ortega. Broadcast by Télérama.*

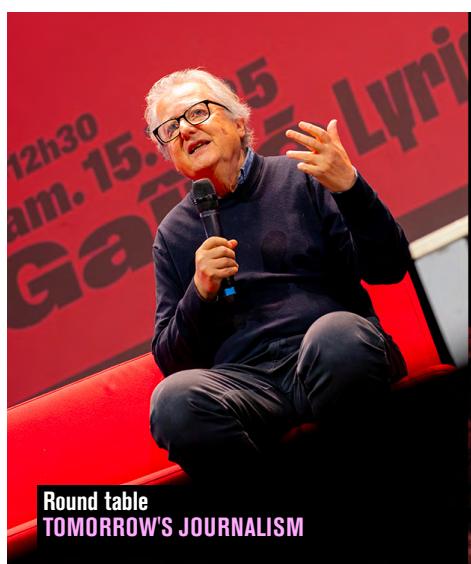


# 40 YEARS OF RSF



## THE PEOPLE'S FIGHT FOR PRESS FREEDOM

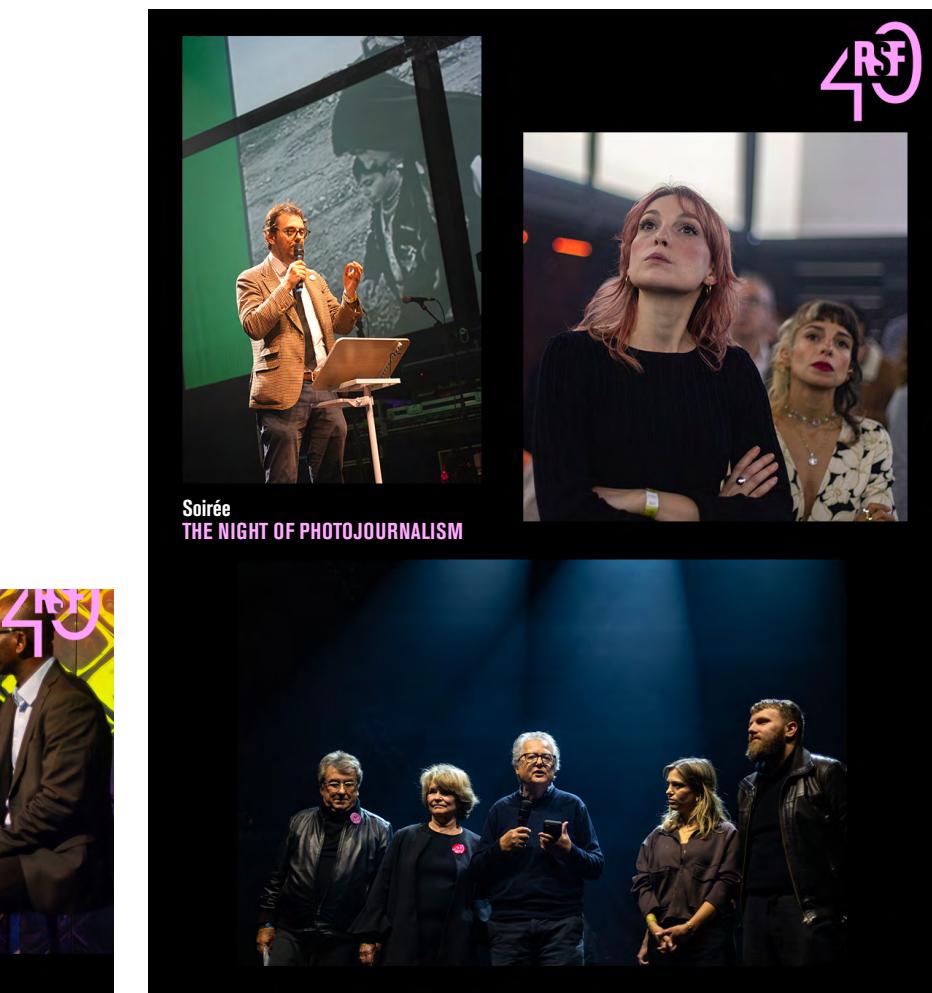
To mark its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, RSF organised the "Informing Tomorrow's World" festival at the Gaîté Lyrique cultural centre in Paris on 15 November. Nearly 2,000 people came to celebrate the freedom to inform and the right to be informed. Conferences, screenings, photo exhibitions and workshops for all ages filled the day and evening. Journalists, photographers and filmmakers from around the world shared their experiences and debated, questioned and explored the future of journalism in the age of social media, disinformation and democracies in crisis. This moment of solidarity centered around the strong conviction that the fight for press freedom is carried by the people.





## RSF in a few key dates

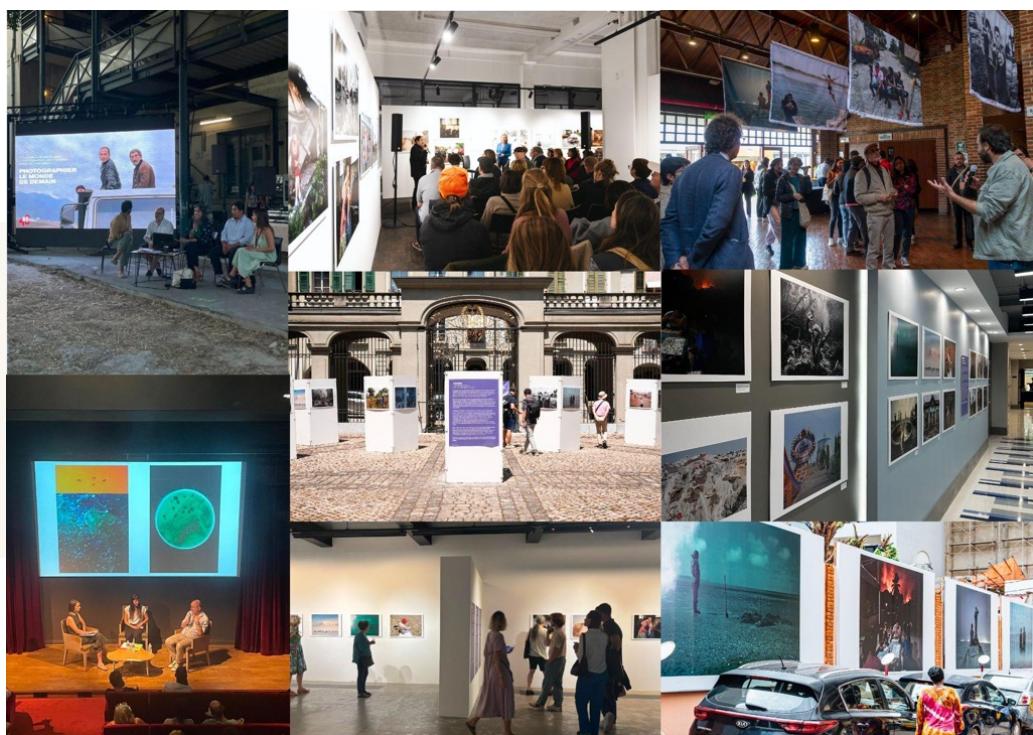
- 1985:** RSF founded by four journalists in Montpellier
- 1988:** launch of the Information Observatory (*Observatoire de l'information*)
- 1989:** First sponsorship campaign
- 1990:** Internal debate about whether to criticise media outlets
- 1991:** Creation of RSF International
- 1992:** Launch of the RSF Press Freedom Prize
- 1993:** Campaign for the newspaper *Osllobodjenje* in Sarajevo
- 1995:** Launch of the RSF Assistance Fund
- 2002:** Launch of the World Press Freedom Index
- 2005:** RSF obtains consultative status with the United Nations (UN) and is awarded the Sakharov Prize
- 2007:** RSF flash protest against the Beijing Olympics
- 2008:** Jean-François Julliard succeeds Robert Ménard as RSF Director General
- 2010:** Campaign for journalists held hostage in Afghanistan
- 2014:** Campaign for Turkish journalist Can Dündar
- 2015:** UN Security Council's adoption of Resolution 2222 on protecting journalists in war zones
- 2017:** Launch of the Forbidden Stories project
- 2018:** Launch of the International Declaration on Information and Democracy
- 2019:** Launch of Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI)
- 2020:** #HoldTheLine campaign for Maria Ressa
- 2021:** RSF evacuates journalists from Afghanistan
- 2022:** RSF opens two Press Freedom Centres in Ukraine
- 2023:** Creation of the Paris Charter on AI
- February 2024:** Historic French Council of State ruling in response to an RSF appeal
- March 2024:** Launch of the Svoboda satellite broadcast package
- June 2024:** Death of Director General Christophe Deloire
- September 2024:** Campaign to support Sahel community radio stations
- September 2025:** Launch of The Propaganda Monitor
- November 2025:** RSF 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations



# I THE EXHIBITION |

## “SHOOTING THE WORLD OF TOMORROW”

To mark its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, RSF organised an exhibition entitled "Shooting the World of Tomorrow" celebrating the perspectives of 40 photojournalists from all corners of the earth on major contemporary and future challenges. Their images illustrate the changing state of the world in three key areas: the environment, exile and crises. Whether documenting the effects of climate change, bearing witness to conflicts or following in the footsteps of those fleeing persecution, journalists play a crucial role in society. They reveal vital information, raise awareness and keep the public informed.



From left to right:  
Les Rencontres d'Arles,  
the F3 gallery in Berlin,  
the Gabo Festival in Bogotá,  
the European House of Photography  
in Paris,  
the True Story Festival in Berne,  
Columbia University in New York,  
the Hangar in Brussels and  
the French Institute in Dakar.

The 40 photographers and photojournalists were chosen in close collaboration with the 14 RSF international bureaus. Particular attention was paid to the inclusion of women photojournalists, as their place in the profession is still blocked by many obstacles.

In 2025, the exhibition toured Switzerland, Belgium, Colombia, New York, Sweden, Dakar, Berlin, the European House of Photography in Paris and the French festivals Rencontres d'Arles and the Couthures Journalism Festival. It was also publicly displayed on the outdoor railings of the Saint-Jacques Tower in Paris. Whenever possible, each stop was accompanied by a discussion between the public and the photographers to raise awareness about the challenges and realities of photojournalism.

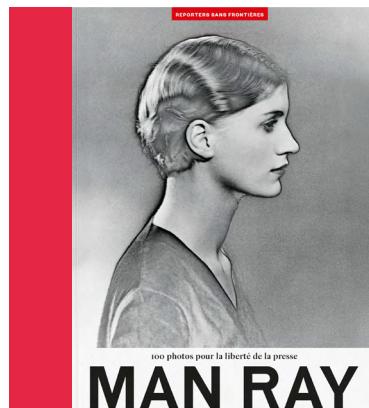
## AND IN 2026?

**The exhibition will continue its tour.** The new stops include Taipei, at the headquarters of the Central News Agency (CNA); Vienna, at the university's Institute of Communication Sciences and Journalism; Toulouse, at the Haute Garonne Departmental Council starting in January; and Strasbourg, at the city's Historical Museum starting in May.

**Special thanks to the following photographers and photojournalists:** Forough Alaei, Anush Babajanyan, Irène Barlian, Salih Basheer, Ingmar Björn Nolting, Christian Bobst, Paula Bronstein, Michele Cattani, Alejandro Cegarra, Alessandro Cinque, Laurel Chor, Emile Ducke, Samar Abu Elouf, Johanna Maria Fritz, Emily Garthwaite, Kiana Hayeri, Nada Harib, Nanna Heitmann, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, Ksenia Ivanova, Olivier Jobard, Sakir Khader, Bruno Kelly, William Keo, Kostiantyn Liberov, Adriana Loureiro, Steve McCurry, Davide Monteleone, Mads Nissen, Katie Orlinsky, Emin Özmen, Alice Pallot, Paolo Pellegrin, Fred Ramos, Moises Saman, Sebastião Salgado, Adrienne Surprenant, Eric Thayer, Gaël Turine and Ley Uwera.

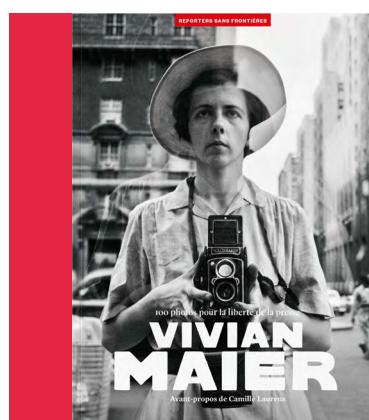
# THE RSF PHOTO ALBUM

IN 2025, RSF OFFERED EXCEPTIONAL EDITIONS OF ITS PHOTO ALBUMS TO MARK THE NGO'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



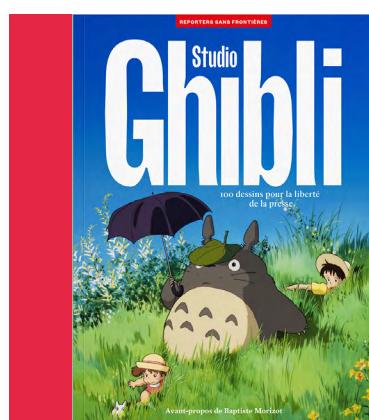
## Man Ray

An American painter immersed in the Paris of the Roaring Twenties, Man Ray redefined the contours of modern photography. A visionary craftsman, he transformed the lens into a paintbrush and light into a medium. His work, poised between technical audacity and flamboyant surrealism, transcends eras. A friend of Marcel Duchamp, Paul Éluard and Salvador Dalí, this multifaceted artist bequeathed us far more than images: he gave us true icons.



## Vivian Maier

She boasts one of the most fascinating stories in contemporary photography. Throughout her life, Vivian Maier, a discreet nanny, roamed the streets of New York and Chicago, camera slung over her shoulder, quietly creating a masterful body of work. A series of chance encounters led to the discovery of her thousands of photographs. From unknown to iconic, Vivian Maier left behind an immense portfolio that placed her at the forefront of street photography.



## Studio Ghibli.

My Neighbour Totoro, Grave of the Fireflies, Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away... For 40 years, Studio Ghibli has revolutionised the way we see and dream, blending art, activism and magic. Founded the same year as RSF, the Japanese animation studio is the subject of a special photo album sprinkled with animated forests, mischievous spirits, resilient children and comforting creatures. Through this album, RSF paid tribute to the studio's unique universe, now a global heritage of humankind.

YOU CAN FIND OUR PHOTO ALBUMS AT OUR ONLINE STORE: <https://boutique.rsf.org>

100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

# 2026 STRATEGY

## RSF PRIORITIES IN 2026

IN LINE WITH ITS PAST COMMITMENTS, RSF WILL CONTINUE ITS WORK ON PRIORITY ISSUES AND CASES TO:

- **Secure** the release of Filipino journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio
- **Secure** the release of Azerbaijani journalist Sevinj Vagifgizi
- **Support** journalists in the Sahel
- **Combat** the harassment and abusive prosecutions of journalists in India
- **Protect** journalists facing violence in Africa's Great Lakes region
- **Protect** journalists in Palestine, Israel and Lebanon from war crimes
- **Safeguard** the right to reliable information in the United States
- **Defend** media independence and pluralism in France
- **Ensure** the protection, freedom and independence of the press in Ukraine
- **Defend** the right to information in the European Union
- **Protect** environmental journalism
- **Support** displaced and exiled journalists and strengthen responses to transnational repression
- **Combat** China's emerging new world order in the information space
- **Curb** Russian propaganda and disinformation campaigns

RSF ALSO INTENDS TO FOCUS ON NEW PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS:

- **Liberating journalists:** RSF never stops trying to free journalists and will continue its fight to liberate Christophe Gleizes, a French reporter jailed in Algeria.
- **Promoting media sustainability:** RSF will strengthen its capacity to defend the economic sustainability of the media. The press' financial health is an essential condition for the survival of reliable information from independent sources.



# 2026 STRATEGY

At the end of 2024, the RSF Board of Directors adopted new strategic guidelines, the result of work by the entire organisation on how best to advance RSF campaigning and methods of action during the period 2025-2028.

**Here are the main points.**

## 1. AN NGO THAT DEFENDS CITIZENS' RIGHT TO RELIABLE INFORMATION

RSF will refocus its mandate on journalism and the right to reliable information, which is an essential extension of press freedom. The NGO will seek to eradicate the confusion between press freedom and freedom of expression, take public criticism of the media into account and take action on four issues: press freedom, the relationship between the public and journalists, the news media market and the online information space. RSF seeks to strengthen its capacity in every area of activity – be it campaigning, assistance, negotiation, litigation, or innovative crisis response – while placing media pluralism and diversity closer to the heart of its work.

## 2. INTELLIGENT EXPANSION

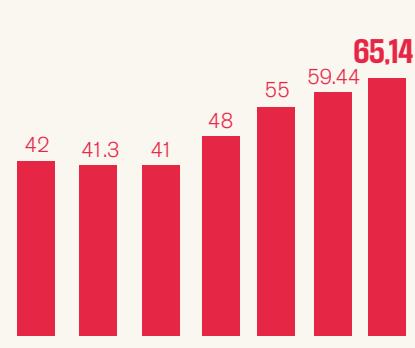
To further its aim of becoming a global movement, RSF will seek to foster a decentralised structure by strengthening its bureaus and sections and promoting cross-functional operations at headquarters. It will work towards a more flexible and expert structure, founded on internal mobility, targeted talent acquisition and modernised management practices. It will also seek to consolidate strategic alliances to prevent fragmentation in the sector, create structured communities of journalists around RSF and expand citizen involvement, which is considered as a means of influence and sustainable funding.

## 3. A CULTURE OF ACTION AND INNOVATION

RSF aims to move from a primarily defensive posture to an offensive one by improving its crisis response capabilities, bolstering the impact of its publications, and taking a more decisive stand against propaganda. It intends to assert its combative and innovative identity — adopting divisive positions when necessary to mobilise support — and encourage bold actions internally. It also aspires to develop a genuine culture of innovation by operating in “project mode,” staying open to external stakeholders, fostering a spirit of experimentation (and the right to make mistakes), and increasingly focusing on the future of journalism.

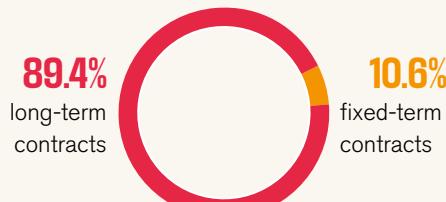
# RSF HEADQUARTERS

## PARIS TEAM OVERVIEW

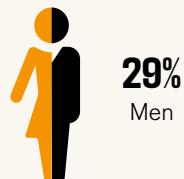


Average number of  
RSF employees  
(full-time equivalent)

### A GROWING TEAM



71%  
Women



29%  
Men

## THE RSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The RSF General Assembly elects its Board of Directors every two years. The Board of Directors elects the RSF Executive Committee.

The Board meets four times a year and is responsible for setting RSF strategic plans. One-third of the board is renewed annually. The first outgoing members are chosen by lot.

### BOARD EXECUTIVES

#### President

#### PIERRE HASKI

Journalist, geopolitical commentator

#### Vice-president

#### CÉCILE MÉGIE

Director of Editorial Strategy & Cooperation, France Médias Monde

#### Treasurer

#### GÉRARD TSCHOPP

Former news director at Radio Suisse Romande (RSR) and former president of RSF Switzerland

#### Secretary

#### FRANÇOISE SIVIGNON

Physician, former president of Médecins du Monde, member of France's Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE)

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### RIMA ABDUL MALAK

Director of the newspaper *L'Orient-Le-Jour*, former French Minister of Culture

#### MICHAEL BERGMEIJER

Former Reuters Europe CEO

#### PHIL CHETWYND

News Director at Agence France-Presse (AFP)

#### MICHEL CORMIER

Former News Director at Radio-Canada

#### MALEK KHADHRAOUI

Journalist and Director of Publications at the Tunisian media outlet *Inkyfada*

#### ANTOINE KABURAHÉ

Founder of the Burundian newspaper *Iwacu*

#### STÉPHANIE LEBRUN

Journalist and Director at *Babel Doc* and Director of *CFJ*

#### MICHAEL REDISKE

President of RSF Germany

# AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE



## OUR SECTIONS:

RSF has a significant presence in a number of European countries through its sections in Finland, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Spain, which stay close to news sources, the media, advocacy stakeholders and donors in order to synergise efforts and boost the impact of the NGO's work.

## OUR CORRESPONDENTS:

RSF has a big international network that gives it a strong global presence, **with actors in 90% of the world's countries**. In 163 of the 180 countries it covers, RSF has at least one actor present at the local level, be it a correspondent, representative, local partner, or an RSF bureau or section. This global coverage is evenly distributed across the different geographic regions.

## OUR PARTNERS:

In 2025, RSF worked in collaboration with **46 local organisations in 32 countries around the world**. This work enabled investigative projects in Syria, legal and digital support against cyber-harassment in India, the protection of journalists in Palestine, and support for environmental journalism in Cambodia.



For 40 years, REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS (RSF) has defended media freedom, independence and pluralism all over the world. Headquartered in Paris with 14 bureaus and sections and more than 150 correspondents worldwide, it has consultative status with the United Nations and UNESCO.