

Impact and Visibility Report

World Press Freedom Day 2022



A snapshot of World Press Freedom Day 2022

- World Press Freedom Day Global Conference 2022, was opened by **Audrey Azoulay**, UNESCO Director-General and H.E. **Luis Lacalle Pou**, President of Uruguay.
- **3,400 registered for online and offline** participation during the three days of the Conference (2 – 4 May).
- **Over 300 speakers** and more than **60 sessions** organized by **68 partners**.
- World Press Freedom Day was also celebrated around the world through over **50 national and local events** where media freedom advocates rallied partners to raise the voice on press freedom. [Find more on the list of celebrations.](#)
- Around **20 major media organizations** from around the world joined UNESCO's global media campaign by printing the ads or sharing social media materials such as [Al Jazeera](#), [CNN](#), [Daily Maverick](#) and [Rapport](#) from South Africa, the [New York Times](#), [the Guardian](#), [Financial Times](#), [The Nation](#) and [Business Daily](#), Kenya, [Le Monde](#), [El Pais](#) Spain and [El Pais](#) Uruguay to only name a few.
- **660 articles** in 6 UN languages mentioned the **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2022**. A potential number of readers of **157M**.
- **160.000 articles** referencing “Journalism Under Digital Siege” when searched online - only in English.
- Data from UNESCO's [World Trends on Media Development and Freedom of Expression](#) featured in multiple media articles and official statements.
- An analysis made by the University of South Carolina reported that **#WorldPressFreedomDay** was mentioned **273,070 times globally in Twitter**, from which 7,845 mentions, **@UNESCO** was the most-tagged Twitter account during World Press Freedom Day. The conversations on the Day garnered more than **7 billion impressions on Twitter**.



UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Prize 2022

- The **Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ)** was named as the laureate of the 2022 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, following the recommendation of the International Jury of media professionals. The Award was handed over to **Andrei Bastunets**, Chairman of the Belarusian Association of Journalists during a ceremony in the presence of **UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay**, the participation of Jury members and a representative from the Guillermo Cano Isaza Foundation.

“By awarding the prize to the BAJ, we are standing by all journalists around the world who criticize, oppose and expose authoritarian politicians and regimes by transmitting truthful information and promoting freedom of expression. Today we salute and praise them; we find a way to say: we are with you and we value your courage.”

Alfred Lela
Chair of the Prize’s international jury. Founder and director of the political talk show *Politiko* on TopNews

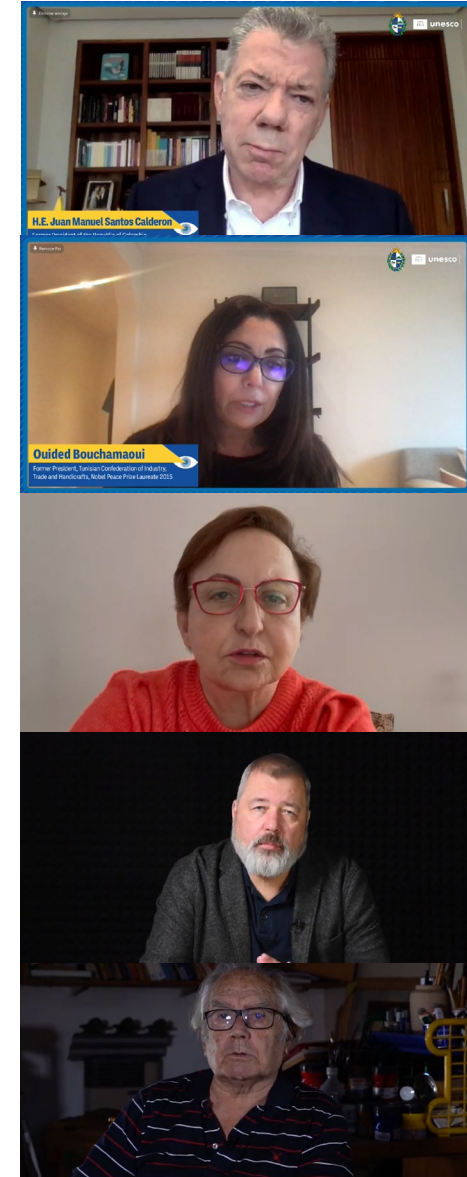


Session with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

- Following the decision to award the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to two journalists for the first time in 86 years, World Press Freedom Day Conference brought together former Nobel Peace Prize Laureates - participating virtually and via video messages - to discuss the role of journalism in promoting peace. The session was jointly organized with the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates to underscore the importance of freedom of expression as a prerequisite for peace and democracy. It also served to draw attention to the many attacks on press freedom and access to information all around the world and the threats faced by journalists all around the world.

“Remember, where war
propaganda begins, a
war will inevitably
follow.”

Taken from Dmitry Muratov’s message for
World Press Freedom Day Global Conference
Editor in Chief of Novaya Gazeta;
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2021





Key Launches and Initiatives

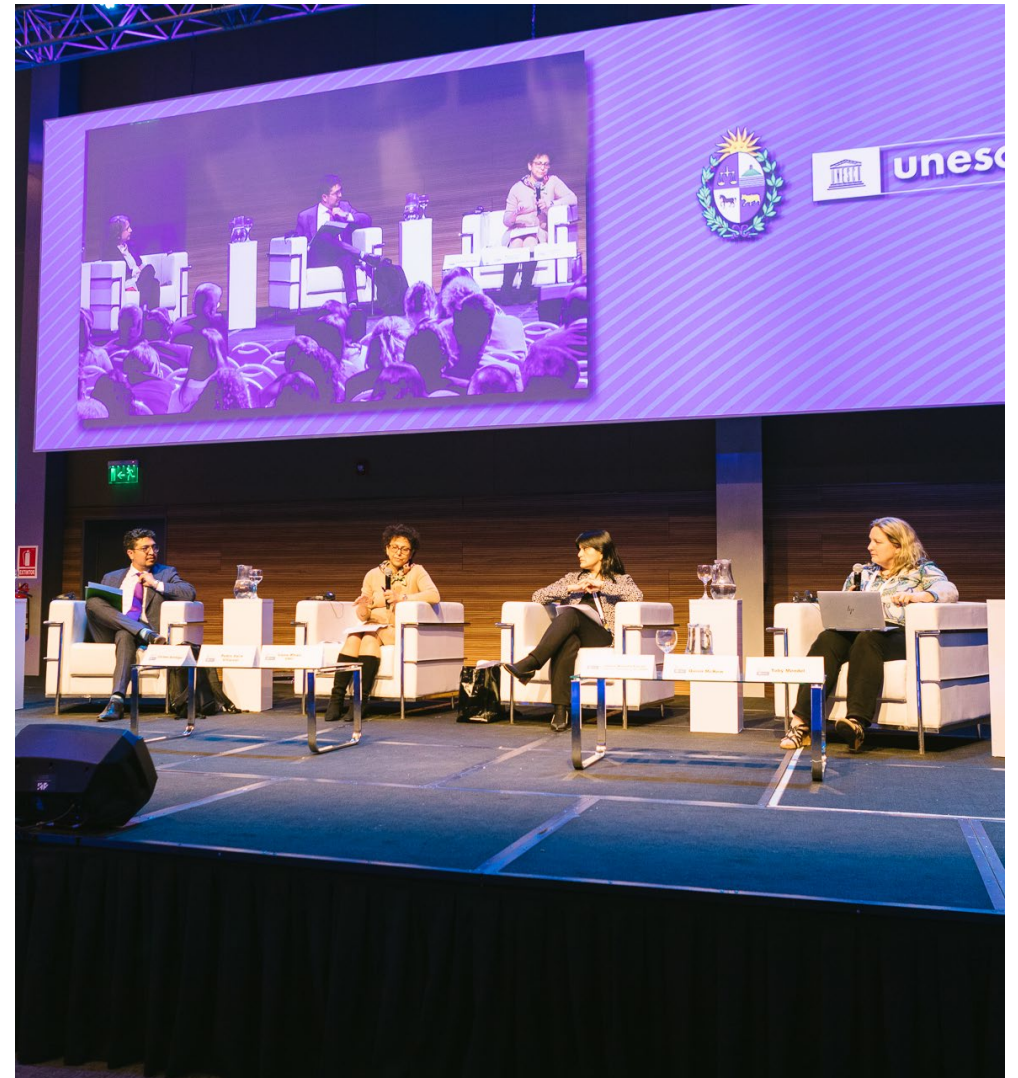
- The Conference was an **action platform for partners and stakeholders** to launch and showcase practical tools, new initiatives, and research to break the digital siege to independent, professional, pluralist and sustainable journalism.



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International partners mobilizing to address new and persisting threats

- **Joint Statement on the Safety of Journalists** on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2022 by the Presidents of the UN General Assembly, of the UNESCO General Conference, and of the UN Human Rights Council, available here: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Russian](#) | [Chinese](#)
- Joint Declaration by **Special Mandates on freedom of expression and gender justice**, to call attention to the structural barriers that prevent women from equal enjoyment of freedom of expression, access to digital technology and participation in the media: [Full text](#).
- Launch of the **Organization of American States' Group of Friends on Freedom of Expression and Journalism**.
- The [first consultations](#) on the **10th Anniversary of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity** were held, which will inform the future implementation of the Plan.
- Joint discussion **by Presidents of Regional Human Rights Courts**.
- Capacity building was also organized aside of the Conference including a **Workshop with Privacy Commissioners on Right to Privacy**, Freedom of Expression and Data Protection; a training for **UN staff** from the Region as well as the **Digital Drop-in Safety Clinic** by Access Now.



Presentation of multiple publications, initiatives and solutions to address the digital threats to journalists and media

- The [SafeBox Network](#) by Forbidden Stories, which allows threatened journalists to keep their sensitive information safe - in case a journalist is kidnapped, detained or murdered, Forbidden Stories will be able to continue their investigations and publish them worldwide.
- A new report on the relations between [whistleblowers and journalists](#) and a policy brief [on media viability](#), part of UNESCO's World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Series.
- The launch of two chapters of [UNESCO's forthcoming global study "The Chilling"](#) on how news organizations and internet companies must address online violence against women journalists.
- [The UNESCO's World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development](#) and the launch of Global report [Re|Shaping Policies for Creativity](#) were launched in Latin American and the Caribbean. More launches of the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Report were organized in at least other 7 countries across the world.

Opportunities for funding

- The 2022 Call for proposals of the UNESCO [Global Media Defence Fund](#) was launched.
- The [International Fund for Public Interest Media](#) has launched an inaugural round of funding through an open call for applications.



Celebrations around the world

National and regional events were organized by UNESCO and partners to commemorate World Press Freedom Day and raise awareness of the digital threats facing journalism.

Africa

Eswatini
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Lesotho
Namibia
South Africa
South Sudan
Tanzania
Zimbabwe
Senegal
Nigeria
Zambia

Arab States

Morocco
Palestine
Tunisia

Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia
India
Iraq
Mongolia

Nepal

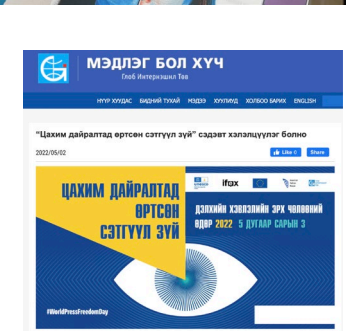
Pakistan
Philippines
Solomon Islands
Tajikistan
Timor-Leste

Europe and North America

Belgium
France
Italy
Sweden
Switzerland
UK
USA

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina
Chile
Guyana
Mexico
Paraguay



HONG KONG — The lines begin forming before lunchtime and wind up well into the night, with customers outside craving their needs for views of the city's selection through the window. It is not a newly assumed Michelin lister or the latest rhizogenic, Instagram-friendly concoction that has captivated Hong Kong, a famously epicurean city. It is a humble takeout box of white rice and two precooked main dishes of the diner's choosing. The average HK main-dishes restaurant offering these simple meals have become an unexpected food fad in Hong Kong, prompting an explosion of vendors, the fascination of food bloggers and even a 77000-member Facebook fan group.

The food itself hardly seems worth the attention. The offerings are standards of Cantonese cuisine, with options like stir-fried tomato and egg, sweet and sour pork, or braised beef and fungus. They are ordered mostly by pointing or showing one's order to an expectant server with a ladle. Even the same grubs at these establishments is as-so-fresh as their names: "Two dishes and rice." But that planter is the point. In a city pummeled by two years of political upheaval, economic downturn and seemingly endless pandemic cancellations, many are dining in after 6 p.m. and lined just late last month — two-dishes-and-rice there has become a lifeline.

For struggling restaurant owners, this business model is a rare source of surging demand.

A surge in devotion to what some jokingly call 'cursory rice.'

For dinner, the food is a cheap and convenient staple, the two dishes offering the comforting flavors and variety that define Chinese home cooking. There are now at least 233 businesses selling two-dishes-and-rice across the city, according to a crowdsourced map. No census exists of how many existed before, but Hong Kong food writers and diners agreed there was far fewer before the pandemic.

"You can be sure that when you go into this kind of restaurant, you can get something that won't go wrong," said Kitty Lee, a food writer with her boyfriend, Jack Fung, an IT worker in the blue-collar neighborhood of North Point.

Mr. Ho and Mr. Pung, both in their 20s, said they started eating the lunchboxes multiple times a week in recent months, especially after Mr. Ho, a lecturer who studies the city's food culture at Hong Kong Baptist University.

"It was seen as a food for commoners, people with low incomes," said Siu Yui Ho, a lecturer who studies the city's food culture at Hong Kong Baptist University.

The pandemic hit. Unemployment jumped. Hong Kong's world-famous restaurant scene was left limping along. The most recent ban on dining in at restaurants in the evening and nearly four months, and even though it has been lifted, food still cannot gather in groups larger than four.

Many Hong Kongers also do not cook, in a city where groceries

Of Spyaure

By RAPHAEL MINDER

MADRID — Data was downloaded from cellphones used by the prime minister and the defense minister of Spain that were infected with powerful spyware known as Pegasus from an Israeli company, the country's government said on Monday.

The revelation that Pegasus reached the highest echelons of the Spanish government broadens a scandal over political spying in the country after a cyber security watchdog organization found that Pegasus had been installed on the devices of dozens of politicians from the pro-independence government of Catalonia.

Pegasus is sophisticated spyware that allows for remote surveillance, and while it has been used by dozens of governments to hunt down criminals, terrorists and drug traffickers, the developments in Spain will add to concerns that there are insufficient checks on the use of the hacking represented an "illegal and extrajudicial" intrusion into Spanish politics, said Pilar Rahola, a minister in the Spanish government at a news conference, adding that the use of the spyware is a violation of national agencies and is not allowed any kind of judicial oversight.

"Two dishes and rice" shops in Hong Kong have a lifeline for struggling restaurant owners. The food itself hardly seems worth the attention. The offerings are standards of Cantonese cuisine, with options like stir-fried tomato and egg, sweet and sour pork, or braised beef and fungus. They are ordered mostly by pointing or showing one's order to an expectant server with a ladle. Even the same grubs at these establishments is as-so-fresh as their names: "Two dishes and rice." But that planter is the point. In a city pummeled by two years of political upheaval, economic downturn and seemingly endless pandemic cancellations, many are dining in after 6 p.m. and lined just late last month — two-dishes-and-rice there has become a lifeline.

Mr. Botafas said that the national court, which is charged with cases of terrorism and other serious crimes, would investigate.

Pegasus is software that was developed by NSO Group, an Israeli company, in part to help governments track criminals and terrorist activity. The software allows users to monitor every aspect of a target's phone — text messages, calls, messages, photos and more.

But the group has led to scandals in recent years, and last November, the Biden administration sued NSO Group, saying it had illegally spied on a U.S. senator and his family.

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Top officials were hacked with Pegasus software a year ago.

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Macron tente de suspendre le temps politique

Le chef de l'Etat assume une « phase de décatation » avant la nomination du nouveau gouvernement

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On and around World Press Freedom Day, top media organizations shared UNESCO's campaign printed ads, digital banners and social media materials, and published them in their newspapers, web portals and social media account. Among participant media are:

- Financial Times, USA
- The New York Times, USA
- Los Angeles Times. USA
- The Guardian , UK
- The Globe & Mail, Canada
- Le Monde, France
- Media24 - the Daily Maverick, South Africa
- Sunday Times, South Africa
- Rapport, South Africa
- El País, Spain
- ABC, Spain
- France 24 , France
- RFI, France
- MC Doualiya , Arab regional
- Nation Media Group, Kenya
- BBC, UK
- Al Jazeera , Arab regional and global
- The Business Daily, Kenya
- El País, Uruguay
- El Observador, Uruguay
- Busqueda, Uruguay
- Infobae, Argentina
- Daily Monitor, Uganda
- Groupe Centre France, France



inc://digital.olivesoftware.com/dliver/dm/fmk/rntmsooc_sony?Mov=FTT16%2F02%2F05%2F03&from=12&tr=12&tr=20220502104214&tr=20220502104214

Examples of digital and print ads

ENVIRONMENT

- Conference on the future of Europe: Macron to address EU Parliament
- Several killed in Siberia fires as high winds hamper rescue
- Can Europe afford to wean itself off Russian gas?

Read more about the environment →

PARTNERSHIP

- World Press Freedom Day
- ONDES, Residency program for artists from the French overseas territories
- CARTOONING FOR WOMEN

France 24

ERROR_2022

JOURNALISM IS BEING BLOCKED

DETECTED THREATS: Hacking, surveillance and all sorts of online harassment and abuse

UPDATE YOUR PROTECTION TOOLS

Journalists are under threat since which countries they were not put their lives at risk. It is not only from the media to protect them. Because now Journalism is blocked. Free is blocked.

WorldPressFreedomDay | unesco

Los Angeles Times

ERROR_2022

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WorldPressFreedomDay | unesco

The Guardian

ERROR_2022

EL PERIODISMO ESTÁ SIENDO ATACADO

ARENAS DETECTORAS: Haces de vigilancia y acceso y abuso digital.

ACTUALIZA TUS HERRAMIENTAS DE PROTECCIÓN

Journalists are under threat since which countries they were not put their lives at risk. It is not only from the media to protect them. Because now Journalism is blocked. Free is blocked.

WorldPressFreedomDay | unesco

El Pais

ERROR_2022

JOURNALISM IS BEING HACKED

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WorldPressFreedomDay | unesco

Monte Carlo Doualiya

ERROR_2022

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WorldPressFreedomDay | unesco

Media 24 (South Africa)

Examples of social media posts from UNESCO



78 posts were published from UNESCO social media channels in English (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) reaching about **3M users**.



Media Coverage & Social media Interactions



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Coverage at Conference venue by major TV channels:

Aristegui (CNN en Español)
(7.4M Twitter followers)

interviews with:

- [Audrey Azoulay](#)
- Pedro Vaca Villareal
- [Maria Jose Cano](#)
- [Guilherme Canela](#)
- [Julissa Mantilla Falcón](#)



[Teresa Bo \(Al Jazeera English\)](#)
interviews with:

- Khadija Ismayilova
- Andrei Bastunets
- Irene Khan
- Federico Villegas



Articles published by UNESCO

English:

- [Belarusian Association of Journalists awarded the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2022](#) (Press release)
- [New policy brief on media viability launched a World Press Freedom Day](#)
- [UNESCO and ICFJ release new research on online violence against women journalists](#)
- [UNESCO launches must-read handbook on reporting on migrants and refugees](#)
- [Presidents of UNESCO General Conference, UN General Assembly and UN Human Rights Council issue a first statement on Safety of Journalism](#)
- [Journalists and Whistleblowers: A dynamic relationship to fight corruption](#)

Spanish:

- [Hoja de ruta para America Latina y el Caribe tras el #DíaMundialDeLaLibertadDePrensa](#)
- [Ser mujer y periodista es un riesgo en América Latina y el Caribe, alertan especialistas en Conferencia Global de la UNESCO por el Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa](#)

Uruguayan newspapers and social media: Around **20 Uruguayan newspapers covered the event**. For the first time, **UNESCO became a trending topic in Uruguay**, positioning WPFDF at the top 3 topics within 48 hours. 70 K impressions generated by the coverage of the Conference in Social media via @unescomvdo.



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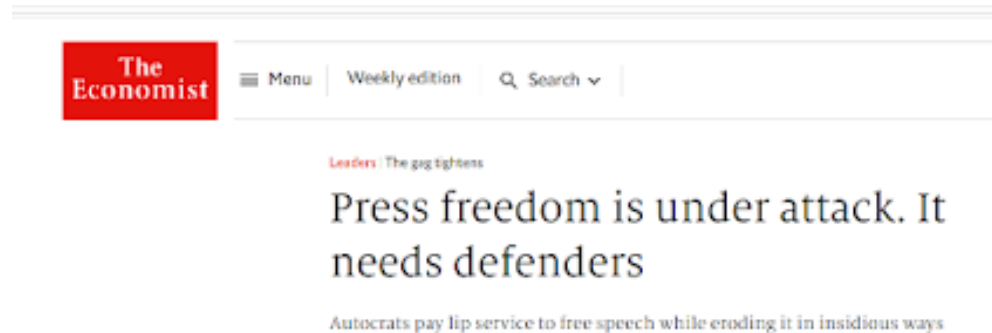
Special features on World Press Freedom Day by:

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) | [The Washington Post](#) | [The Economist](#) | [Al Jazeera Inside Story](#) | [Euractiv](#) | [CNN en Español](#)

Reuters



The Economist



Euroactiv



Washington Post



“Around 85% of people live in countries where it has declined over the past five years, according to analysis by UNESCO of data on freedom of expression from the Varieties of Democracy (v-dem) Institute.”

source: The Economist with data taken from [UNESCO's World Trends Report in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Global Report 2021/2022](#)

[Films](#) | [Muzzling the media](#)
[Long feature](#)

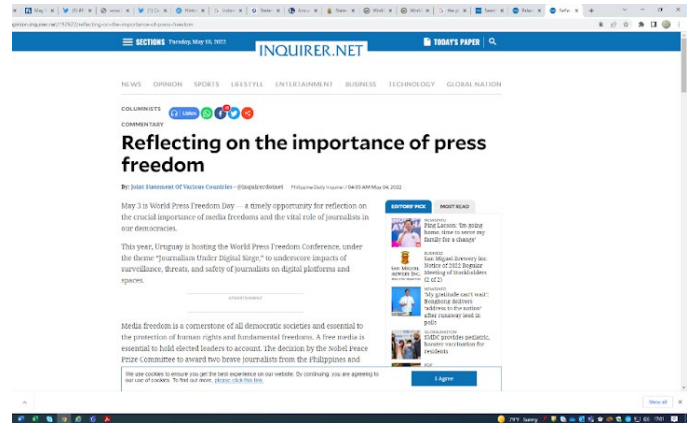
Al Jazeera



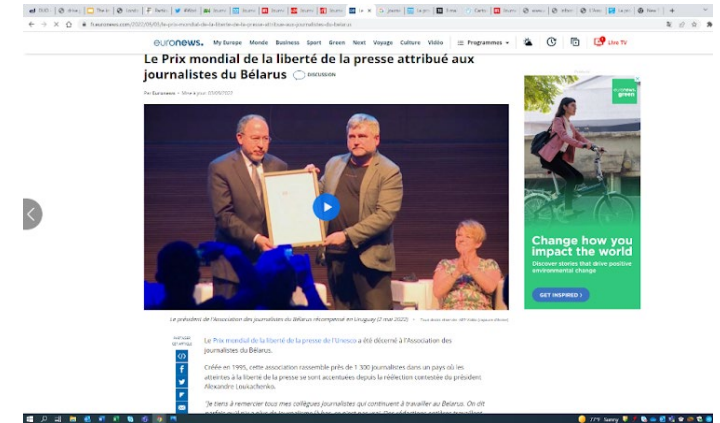
Examples of coverage by newspapers from around the world



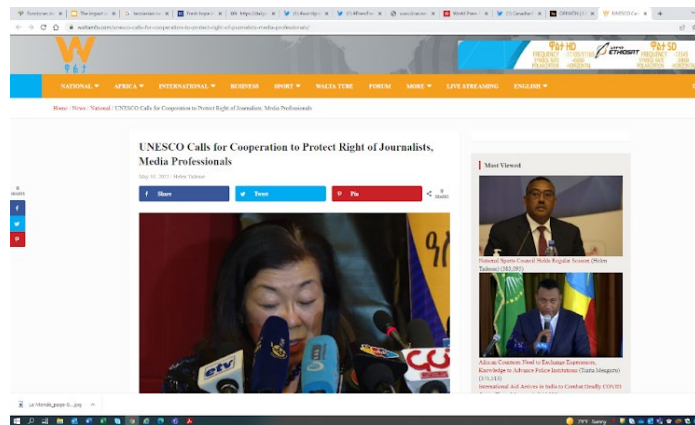
The Nation (Malawi)



Inquirer (Phillippines)



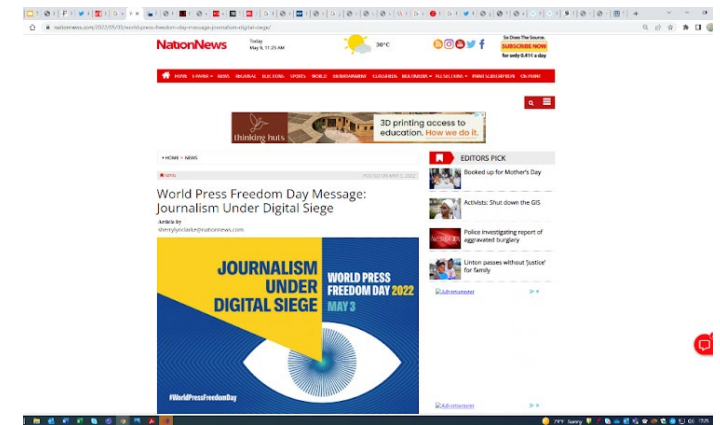
Euronews



Waltainfo (Ethiopia)

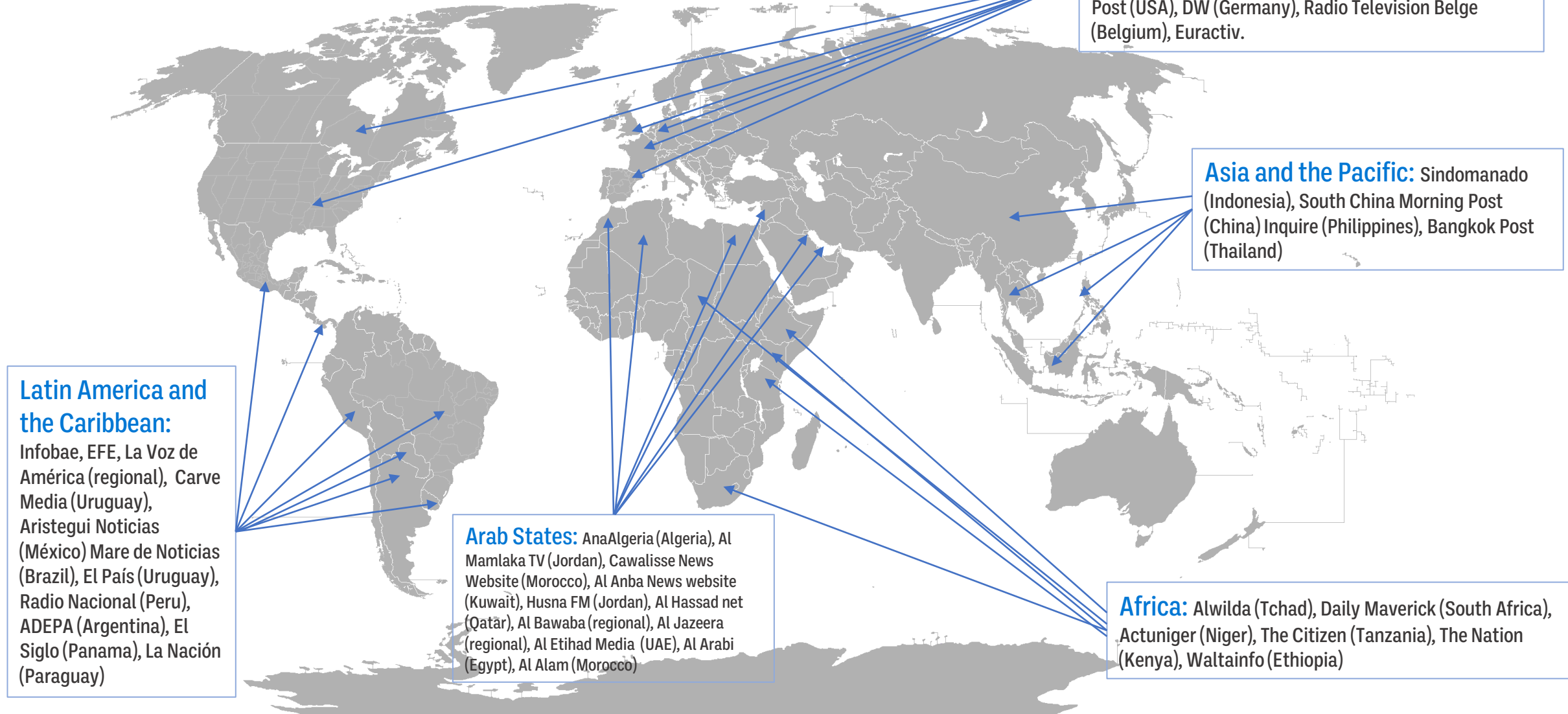


Infobae (Latin America)



NationNews (Barbados)

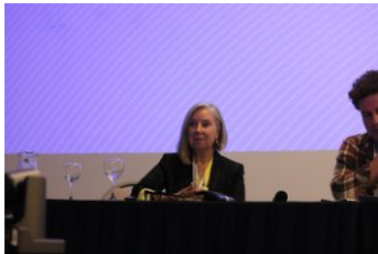
Examples of media outlets covering World Press Freedom Day by country:



The Youth Newsroom

UNESCO and the Catholic University of Uruguay hosted the Youth Newsroom as part of WPFDF, bringing together more than 17 young journalists from all over the world including **Italy, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Mexico, India, South Africa, Brazil, the United States of America, and Uruguay**, among others.

They produced over 40 news articles, interviews, videos and other and multimedia content covering the Conference. [Read them here.](#)



Post-traumatic stress in the media world

It is widely known that people who have encountered traumatic experiences in life go through a great deal of post-traumatic stress as well. Going through such situations, first-hand or second-hand, can have a major influence on our minds. So what about journalists who not only see immense amounts of trauma, but also repeatedly cover it through their



To be a female journalist: From harassment to self-defense

As women journalists from all over the world gather at the World Press Freedom Day Conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay, one thing is certain: if there is something that women journalists share, is harassment. Female journalists are threatened and harassed continuously in the work field. a problem



Cartoonists for peace: We make people smile

Since 2017, Argentinian cartoonist Ale Becares, in art Becs, is a great supporter of the consortium and a strong advocate for freedom of speech. His works have been published by Gurb Magazine (Spain), Digital Magazine and Metropia Magazine (Argentina).

Cartooning for Peace - UNESCO

[UNESCO and Cartooning for Peace](#) joined forces to alert on the digital threats faced by journalists and press cartoonists, with a new series of cartoons on World Press Freedom Day 2022 theme “Journalism Under Digital Siege”. [See them all.](#)



ARES
(Cuban press cartoonist)



BECS
(Argentinian press cartoonist)



DARÍO
(Mexican press cartoonist)



DLOG
(Tunisian press cartoonist)



Leaders and influencers posting on #WorldPressFreedomDay



Pope Francis @Pontifex · 3 mai

On this World [#PressFreedom](#) Day, let us [#PrayTogether](#) for the journalists who pay in person, with their lives or imprisonment, to serve this right. Special thanks to those who courageously inform us of the wounds of humanity.

533 2 562 13,8 k



Jen Psaki @PressSec

United States government official

We take questions from journalists – a challenging and rewarding task we don't take for granted because we understand a free press is essential to democracy. Today, we celebrate [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#) and the journalists who risk their lives to ensure the truth is covered.

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



António Guterres @antonioguterres

Journalists & media workers are facing increased politicization of their work & attempts to silence them from many sides.

On [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#), we honour their essential work in speaking truth to power, exposing lies, and building strong, resilient institutions & societies.

[Traduire le Tweet](#)

1:38 PM · 3 mai 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Wopke Hoekstra @WBHoekstra · May 3

On [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#) we stress the importance of free and independent media and safety for journalists. Online and offline. It requires continuous effort to safeguard [#PressFreedom](#), also in the Netherlands. That is why we are a member of the [@MediaFreedomC](#) & [@FO_Coalition](#).



Ursula von der Leyen @vonderleyen · 3 mai

On [#WorldPressFreedomDay2022](#) Europe stands by those who speak truth to power.

No journalist shall be silenced or intimidated.

Protecting media freedom and pluralism is protecting democracy.

This is why we are fighting against abusive lawsuits and preparing a Media



Josep Borrell Fontelles @JosepBorrellF

Free press allows for a democratic, stronger and inclusive society and is instrumental in the protection and promotion of human rights.

The EU stands with journalists and media workers around the world and will continue to fight for press freedom.

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



Ann Linde @AnnLinde · May 3

Freedom of expression and media freedom are cornerstones of democracy. On [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#) we salute all the brave journalists & other media workers for their invaluable work. 🇸🇪 is proud to be a member of [@MediaFreedomC](#) [#DriveforDemocracy](#). Statement: [mediafreedomcoalition.org/activities/joi...](#)

4 24 44



Emmanuel Macron @EmmanuelMacron · 3 mai

Officiel du gouvernement - France

À l'occasion de la journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse et comme chaque jour, la France sera toujours du côté de ceux qui luttent pour nous informer, qui se battent pour écrire la vérité.

1 441 866 3 342



Roberta Metsola @EP_President

Journalists should never have to choose between uncovering the truth and staying alive.

They should never be forced to spend years and savings to argue against intimidating lawsuits or SLAPPs.

A strong democracy needs a strong press.

[#WorldPressFreedomDay](#) [#WPF2022](#)



Maria Ressa @mariaressa

Happy [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#)!!! Without facts, you can't have truth. Without truth, you can't have trust. Without these, we have no shared reality, no rule of law, no democracy. [#CourageON](#) [#PHVote](#)

[Traduire le Tweet](#)

4:48 AM · 3 mai 2022 · Twitter Web App



Michelle Bachelet @mbachelet

On [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#), I pay tribute to the courage and determination of journalists who seek to bring us truth, information and ideas.

Their work is crucial to ensure we live in democratic, just and peaceful societies.

[Traduire le Tweet](#)

1:40 PM · 3 mai 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.



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Official statements on #WorldPressFreedomDay *(non-exhaustive list)*

- [Statement by the President of the United States of America and US Department of State](#)
- [Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada](#)
- [Statement by the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland](#)
- [Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France](#)
- [African Union's message on World Press Freedom Day](#)
- [Statement by the Foreign Minister of Germany](#)
- [Statement by the Media Freedom Coalition](#)
- [Statement by Members of the Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists at UNESCO](#)
- [Statement by the Informal OSCE Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists](#)
- [Statement by the High-Representative of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the European Union](#)
- [Statement by the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse](#)
- [Joint Statement by European Human Rights Ambassadors](#)
- [Statement from Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa](#)

“Over the past five years, UNESCO estimates that 85 percent of the world’s population have experienced a decline in press freedom.”

Taken from the statement by President Joe Biden on World Press Freedom Day 2022

High-level and ministerial video messages received for World Press Freedom Day

- H.E. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (OPGA)
- H.E. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- H.E. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.
- H.E. Mr. Nikos Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic
- H.E. Wopke Hoekstra, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- H.E. Ms. Emine Dzhaparova, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.
- H.E. Minister Kwame McCoy, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Republic of Guyana.
- H.E. Mohamed Rahman Swaray, Minister of Communication and Information of Sierra Leone.
- H.E. Mantas Adomenas, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.
- Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner for Transparency and Values.
- Julissa Mantilla Falcón, President, Inter-American Commission for Human Rights.
- Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission.



Thank you

en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldpressfreedomday

 @UNESCO