

BEING A CORRESPONDENT

2011

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

FOR PRESS FREEDOM

Reporters Without Borders USA is looking for a correspondent in each state. Do you want to be the next one?

120 local correspondents worldwide to defend press freedom and online free speech

Be part of it in the United States

YOUR MISSION: TO DEFEND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Reporters Without Borders (RWB) is an international organization dedicated to defending press freedom and advocating for journalists' safety.

Reporters Without Borders believes democracy is weakened whenever a journalist is censored or imprisoned. As soon as the organization becomes aware of an attack on press freedom, it works to inform the public about the incident and works to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

Media coverage and exposure often proves to be one of the most effective means of putting pressure on governments and other parties responsible for press freedom violations.

An international organization

Reporters Without Borders has correspondents in over 120 countries, has national branches in 9 countries.

Reporters Without Borders USA

Reporters Without Borders was first created in 1985 in France. The organization's International Secretariat is headquartered in Paris.

Reporters Without Borders USA was created in 2000 and incorporated in New York by Tala Dowlatshahi, now a RWB USA senior advisor. The official US office opened in 2004 and is located in Washington DC. It is managed by executive director Clothilde Le Coz.

National branches in:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland



Interested? Keep reading to find out how to become a RWB Correspondent today!

WHAT IS A RWB CORRESPONDENT?

Reporters Without Borders' correspondents are the organization's local spokespersons. They perform their jobs as unpaid volunteers. As such, they will sign a one-year renewable contract with RWB upon the agreement of both parties. They are de facto members of the organization.

Correspondents are given a correspondent's business card that they can present to their contacts upon request. They receive the Reporters Without Borders' Newsletter.

YOUR ROLE

As a Correspondent for Reporters Without Borders, you are tasked with helping us carry out the mission to defend press freedom.

WE NEED YOU

1. To introduce Reporters Without Borders

Reporters Without Borders regional correspondents introduce the organization in their respective areas. Their opinions and actions must reflect the position of the International Secretariat and be discussed with the Washington, DC office.

Correspondents present and explain Reporters Without Borders' actions to the media, local communities, schools and associations while keeping the Washington, DC Bureau informed in advance of various events they may be asked to attend or organize.

Throughout the year, the local correspondents can teach members of their communities and young people about the many press freedom violations being committed worldwide. This is an important task because they are making members of the public and college and high school students more aware of how fortunate they are to live in a country in which press freedom is important.

- A presentation is available online for you to download and use during these presentations.

2. To distribute information to the local media on Reporters Without Borders and our events

Reporters Without Borders regularly calls upon the media to raise public awareness on the status of freedom of information in the world.

RWB's local correspondents help mobilize the media by forwarding information to local news organizations. We distribute protest letters and press releases, and then inform the International Secretariat of any reports or press releases picked up in the American media. Local correspondents also help the organization regularly update its local media lists, mainly by informing DC of changes and forwarding any media requests.

- **Note: A correspondent is not a spokesperson and cannot answer media inquiries on behalf of RWB.**

Reporters Without Borders correspondents are also tasked with promoting our events, awards and contests. In just a few months, we will be launching a Press Freedom Video Challenge to college students, asking them to describe why it is such an important issue both in the U.S. and internationally.

3. To distribute our reports

Correspondents can also help distribute the organization's scheduled informational publications. They notify the local press of such events in a timely way and make sure that all the media have the necessary information (such as copies of a country's press freedom ranking, a specific country report, press kits, etc.). They receive copies of the reports earlier than the set release date for circulation purposes.

Annual Reports & Indexes:

Enemies of the Internet, Women in the media, Environment issues and press freedom, Assistance report



Our Press Freedom Map
 The press freedom map is issued when the World Press Freedom Index is published. The DC office can provide you with copies upon request.

YOUR FIRST STEPS AS A CORRESPONDENT

GETTING STARTED

- Contact Clothilde at the DC Bureau at clc@rsf.org or 202-879-9295.
- Make a list of the local media and reporters who Reporters Without Borders can reach out to on press freedom and Internet freedom.
- Contact your local press club to ask for an introductory meeting (if your city has one).
- Let your colleagues know about this cause and send them the petitions.
- Introduce yourself to the heads of the publications in your state. You can ask them if they help expose RWB online or in the paper. Clothilde can write letters to describe your role if needed.
- Meet the journalism department of the nearest University to organize a talk in front of the students.
- Create a Skype account and give your contact to Clothilde who will make the introductions with the Paris office and the US network as well as give you an RSF email account.

REIMBURSEMENT AND EXPENSES

Reporters Without Borders' regional correspondents perform their jobs **on a voluntary basis**. Their travel expenses may be reimbursed upon presentation of the supporting vouchers, but they must have been approved in advance by the Washington DC Bureau.

Your supplies:

To successfully carry out our mission, the Washington, DC Bureau agrees to make all necessary information available to its correspondents and to provide you with all of the documents you need.

- Brochures presenting the organization
- Copies of the Annual Report on the Global Status of Press Freedom
- Photograph albums
- Press kits about major events
- RWB Press Freedom map (see left)
- RWB email account
- Correspondent business cards
- RWB publications
- Weekly updates

Annual Events

Reporters Without Borders is most frequently called upon on three different occasions throughout the year.

January

World Press Freedom Ranking

Our organization's most important publication. It consists of an index that ranks press freedom in each country based on incidents that have occurred in the past year, with key numbers and our press freedom map.

March 12

Internet enemies report

This report lists the worst countries in terms of Internet freedom and includes a map indicating the situation in each country.

May 3

World Press Freedom Day

Reporters Without Borders publishes an Annual Report on the Global Status of Press Freedom, that outlines worldwide acts of violence committed against journalists and acts of censorship targeting the local media.

Our current campaigns

A Nationwide press freedom contest: Reporters Without Borders USA will be launching a contest aimed at University students studying journalism, challenging them to create a video about the importance of press freedom. The winning team will be selected by a board of judges and the video will be broadcast on national television. The winners will also be offered an internship with Reporters Without Borders.

Your task: Pass along the information to your contacts at universities, and act as the liaison between the DC Bureau and the schools, keeping in touch with them throughout the way.

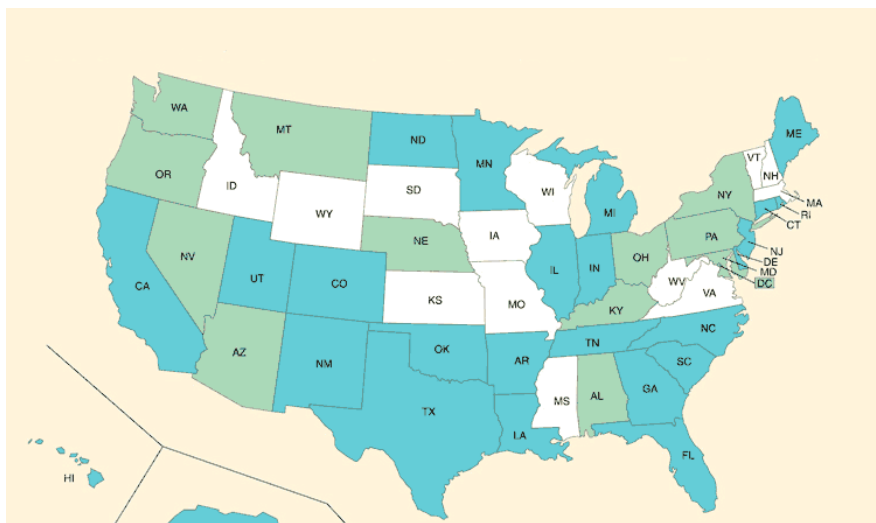
Helping Mexico: Mexico is the deadliest place in the Western hemisphere, and it shares a border with the United States. In addition to the danger journalists face in the country, they also face the risk of being killed by a gun produced in the United States.

Your task: Help us raise awareness by speaking about Mexico in college classes, during programs, to the media and in general. If anyone has a question about the state of press freedom and the violence journalists face doing their jobs, Mexico is a notable example of a country that is both deadly and a neighbor of the United States.

Protection of sources: For years, free speech and reporter advocates have been pressuring Congress to enact a federal shield law. This law would protect journalists who are called to federal court and are being asked to reveal confidential sources. While states may have shield laws that a journalist can use to refuse to reveal his or her source, this protection does not reach the federal level. Efforts to get this law enacted have recently stalled.

Your task: To write to your local representative and continue to keep pressure on members of Congress. Also, keep tabs on your own state shield law, as legislators can try to alter the laws or cases can have an impact on the strength of such laws.

• See the map to the left to find out if your state has a shield law.



Courtesy of Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

Our funding

Memberships: It is possible for everyone to become a member of Reporters Without Borders in Europe. The US branch will be launching US membership this year. As a correspondent, you will be in contact with the members in your state.

Donations: Reporters Without Borders receives donations on a daily basis, especially when we are promoting specific causes. You can donate via PayPal at www.rsf.org.

Reporters Without Borders has 501c3 status and all donations made in the US are tax deductible.

Photo albums: Reporters Without Borders publishes photo albums three times a year. The sales of the albums represent the majority of our organization's income.



You can buy them at www.rsf.org

Our staff

DC Director - Clothilde Le Coz

Email her at clc@rsf.org and follow her [@CloLeCoz](https://twitter.com/CloLeCoz)

Project and Development Manager (DC) - Regis Saxton:

Email Regis at regis.saxton@rsf.org and follow him [@RASaxton](https://twitter.com/RASaxton)

Senior Adviser (New York) - Tala Dowlatshahi:

Email her at tdowlats@gmail.com and follow her [@Tdowlats](https://twitter.com/Tdowlats)

DC Director Assistant - Lyndsey Wajert (susceptible to change. You will be informed about it).

Email her at rwb_dc2@rsf.org and follow her [@Lwajert](https://twitter.com/Lwajert)



THIS FACE

is part of our awareness campaign launched on World Press Freedom Day on May 3rd, 2010. Reporters Without Borders denounces the "Predators of Press Freedom" by releasing

Where to find us and let people know about us:

Website : <http://www.rsf.org>

Specific page on the US: <http://en.rsf.org/etats-unis.html>

RWB USA: <http://en.rsf.org/us>

Facebook: reporters without borders

Twitter: @RSF_RWB