

# BEING A CORRESPONDENT

2010

## 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 ?

**140 local correspondents worldwide to defend press freedom and online free speech.**

**Be part of it in the United States**

### YOUR MANDATE - TO DEFEND PRESS FREEDOM

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

Reporters Without Borders works daily to

- . **denounce** press freedom violations around the world
- . **assist** journalists and media professionals who are victims of repression
- . **raise public awareness** through international information campaigns

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 that those responsible are held accountable. Media coverage 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 140 countries, national branches in 9 countries ( Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Canada, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland) and offices in New York, Washington and Brussels.

### **Reporters Without Borders USA**

The organization's International Secretariat is headquartered in Paris where it was first created in 1985. Reporters Without Borders USA was created in 2000 and incorporated in New York by Tala Dowlathshahi. A second bureau in Washington DC was opened 2004 and is managed by executive director Clothilde Le Coz.

Reporters Without Borders USA is committed to defending and promoting press freedom around the world and within the United States. The organization supports numerous campaigns and human rights causes that affect American journalists.

Journalist in the United States are rarely targets of violent attacks, but in the summer of 2007 **Chauncey Bailey** was murdered because of his work investigating a local Oakland business. Reporters Without Borders has been in contact with Bailey's colleagues and has followed every step of the police investigation and continuing trial of the alleged perpetrators. The organization also lobbies Congress to promote public access to information, protect the free flow of information online and confidentiality of sources.

Ensuring public access to information, protecting the free flow of online information and defending a federal shield law have become the priority of RWB advocacy with the House of Representatives.

Reporters Without Borders also organizes numerous activities and programs within the United States, including press conferences, rallies, online

### Our funding

**Memberships** : It is possible for everyone to become a member of Reporters Without Borders in Europe and Canada. The US branch is working on the possibility to have US membership. 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 (<http://en.rsf.org/reporters-without-borders-supports-06-05-2010,37405.html>)

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



On August 2nd 2007, Chauncey Bailey was on his way to work at the Oakland Post when a masked man shot him three times at point blank range. As news of the murder hit the Bay Area, the motive of the crime became frighteningly clear to Bailey's colleagues and fellow journalists. The former editor of the Oakland Post had been working on a story about Your Black Muslim Bakery, a once prominent business and community organization that had developed a reputation for violence and intimidation

Reporters Without Borders

demonstrations, campaign billboards and award ceremonies.

### The importance of state and local correspondents

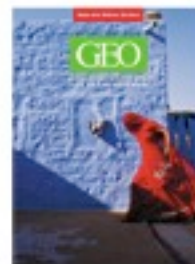
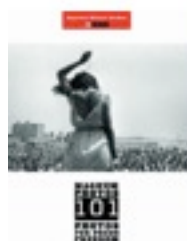
Given the importance of local and state press, it has become crucial for Reporters Without Borders to establish a network of correspondents outside New York and Washington. Our organization wants to work with journalists who are able to identify important local press freedom issues and relay our organizations message in their

communities. Our ideal objective is to be represented in each state by the December 2010.

Reporters Without Borders correspondents are the organizations spokesperson within each geographic area and help promote our campaigns on jailed journalists and censored media professionals.

With the help of regional correspondents, Reporters Without Borders hopes to continue to defend press freedom and increase public awareness through out the US.

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



For more than twenty five years now, Reporters Without Borders has been fighting to make freedom of information a reality. It's gaining a stronger reputation every day. Thanks to its regional correspondents, RWB is prepared to present its action plan throughout the United States to the various groups requesting assistance.

## YOUR ROLE

### 1. To represent Reporters Without Borders

Reporters Without Borders regional correspondents represent the organization in their respective areas. Their opinions and actions must reflect the position of the International Secretariat.

They present and explain Reporters Without Borders' actions to the media, local communities, schools and associations and keep the Washington DC Bureau informed in advance of various events, which they may be asked to attend.

Presentations in Colleges:

Throughout the year, the local correspondents can teach young people about the many press freedom violations being committed worldwide and make college and high school students more

### The 4 busy occasions of the year

Reporters Without Borders is most frequently called upon on four particularly busy occasions:

**January, Key numbers on WorldPress Freedom situation:** RWB issues a series of key statistics and figures on jailed reporters and bloggers, harassed journalists and other press freedom violation. The beginning of the new year is a good occasion to comment on the evolution of press freedom and the challenges ahead.

**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

aware of how fortunate they are to live in a country in which press freedom is relatively well.

### 2. To distribute information to the local media on Reporters Without Borders

Reporters Without Borders relies on the press to fight censorship. It regularly calls upon the media to raise public awareness on the status of press freedom in the world.

RWB's local representatives help mobilize the media by forwarding to local news organizations, at the request of the Washington DC Bureau, protest letters and press releases distributed by Reporters Without Borders. They inform the International Secretariat of any reports or press releases reported in the media.



### 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.

**End of October, World Press Freedom Ranking:** Our organizations 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.

Local correspondents also help the organization regularly update its local media lists, mainly by informing the Washington DC Bureau of the closing down or creation of any newspaper or of radio or TV stations, or of personnel changes among the senior managers of their state's media organizations.

### 3. To distribute the Annual Report

Correspondents must also help distribute the organization's scheduled informational publications (Annual Report, Press Freedom Index, etc). They notify the local press of such events in a timely way and make sure that all the media have the necessary information (copies of the Annual Report, or a specific country report, press kits, etc.). They receive the Annual Report earlier than the release date for circulation purposes.

#### Supplies:

- brochures presenting the association;
- copies of the Annual Report on the Global Status of Press Freedom
- photograph albums
- membership forms
- press kits about major events
- the Global Status of Press Freedom Map.
- The visual of awareness campaigns launched by RWB.

The Correspondents' contact person at the Washington DC Bureau is Clothilde Le Coz . In order to automatically receive protest letters and press releases distributed by Reporters Without Borders, correspondents may request to have their names added to organization's distribution lists.

#### YOUR TOOLS

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

Tools you can request the DC bureau anytime

- RWB Press Freedom maps
- RWB email account
- Correspondent Cards



**Your are our link with the local media**  
 Even fi they come for a week in you state, Clothilde or Jean-Francois , the director of Reporters Without Borders in Paris, would not be able to tell what is important to them. You

#### Come up with ideas for local events !

RWB needs to raise public awareness and/or funds for fight to defend press freedom.

Once they obtain the approval of the Washington DC Bureau, regional correspondents are free to put their imagination to work and create local events to discussing press freedom:

planting a tree for press freedom, presenting an exhibit at a local book fair or during a festival, scheduling a gala event in cooperation with a local organization, making a speech in a high school class, etc. Such activities are both very enjoyable to imagine and plan, and very likely to be of particular interest to the local press.

## OUR CURRENT CAMPAIGN AND FOCUS

Choose one of these two challenges and let Clothilde know about it.

Reporters Without Borders is looking for space in the local print newspapers and online newspapers to display a message like this. There is also a radio ad available. You can ask the DC office about this.



We ask for FREE space but of course, everything is negotiable. When you think you have someone interested, please put that person in touch with Clothilde at [clc@rsf.org](mailto:clc@rsf.org)

To enhance Reporters Without Borders' visibility, we also launched a sponsorship program, asking universities, journalism programs and publications to sponsor one jailed reporter (cf rsf website).

This sponsorship is symbolic. We just ask to put the picture/ story/situation of the reporter on the publication to raise the awareness among readers.

By september 2010, as a correspondent for RWB USA, your challenge is to get one newspaper and journalism program to sponsor a reporter.

By september 2010, as a correspondent for RWB USA, your challenge is to get one of our materials published (print, banner, radio)



### Correspondent status

Reporters Without Borders' correspondents are the organization's local spokespersons. They perform their jobs as unpaid volunteers. They are de facto members of the organization. As such, they must sign a one-year

renewable contract with RWB upon the agreement of both parties.

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

