

Global #PressFreedom campaign targets African leaders

On the eve of World Press Freedom Day, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) launched the campaign, 'Great year for censorship', an ironic campaign about 12 heads of state who will be throwing parties tomorrow to celebrate their victories over media freedom.

Designed by the Paris-based advertising agency BETC for RSF's 2016 World Press Freedom Index, the campaign focuses on leaders in 12 countries who have trampled on media freedom and gagged journalists in various spectacular ways.



Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza

These include: grenades thrown at radio stations in Burundi; journalists fired over a tweet in Turkey; massive state propaganda in China, Russia and Eritrea; a blogger jailed and flogged in public in Saudi Arabia; military detention camps for journalists in Thailand... these are just a few examples of how these 12 “enemies” of media freedom behave.

RSF's 2016 [World Press Freedom Index](#) has highlighted a deep and worrying decline in the ability of journalists to operate freely and independently throughout the world, including these 12 countries.

Journalistic independence is being undermined in both state and privately-owned media as a result of enhanced mechanisms for censorship and news control, propaganda apparatuses, and ideologies – especially religious extremism – that are hostile to journalism.

15	JOURNALISTS IMPRISONED
0	INDEPENDENT MEDIA
32	JOURNALISTS FORCED INTO EXILE
✓	BAN ON COMMUNICATING WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD
✓	WORST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD FOR JOURNALISTS
✓	INHUMAN CONDITIONS OF DETENTION

ERITREA
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FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ISAIAS AFWERKI
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ERITREA

Eritrea leader Isaias Afwerki

And all over the world, oligarchs are buying up media outlets and subjecting journalists to pressure that adds to the existing pressure from government's often allied with leading corporate interests.

The campaign targets these leaders:

1. Pierre Nkurunziza (Burundi)
2. Isaias Afwerki (Eritrea)
3. Salman bin Abdelaziz Al Saud (Saudi Arabia)
4. Ilham Aliyev (Azerbaijan)
5. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (Egypt)
6. Prayuth Chan-ocha (Thailand)
7. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Turkey)
8. Kim Jong-Un (North Korea)
9. Ali Khamenei (Iran)
10. Nicolás Maduro (Venezuela)
11. Vladimir Putin (Russia)
12. Xi Jinping (China).

BETC has produced the World Press Freedom Day campaign free of charge for RSF for the fifth year running. The ad agency's staffers even posed for the photos on which the heads of these leaders were superimposed.

The campaign's posters can already be seen on the streets of Paris and in digital format on social networks.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>