

# The Media World after *WikiLeaks* and *News of the World*

Salle IV, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

16-17 February 2012



**Organizers:** World Press Freedom Committee, in cooperation with the UNESCO Communication & Information Sector.

**Co-sponsors:** the World Association of Newspapers & News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), World Editors Forum and the International Press Institute.

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## Background

With a stunning 2 billion persons estimated to be using the Internet and producing 156 million public blogs in 2011, there has been a surge of social networks, user-generated content and micro-blogging that has enabled all Internet users to become public communicators. Along with the spread of the Internet, WikiLeaks' release of a massive number of classified government documents and its initial collaboration with traditional news media has modified the media landscape and raised crucial questions for journalism.

Following a conference organized by the World Press Freedom Committee (WPFC) and the World Association of Newspapers & News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) at UNESCO HQ on "New Media: The Press Freedom Dimension" in February 2007, there is a need to explore further the future of traditional media and professional journalism -with their established practices, traditions and standards- as challenged by emergence of new actors and approaches like WikiLeaks.

## Objectives

The WikiLeaks episode raised many issues related to freedom of expression, freedom of information, national security, privacy and ethics. The WikiLeaks developments raise basic questions about how journalists do their jobs. The conference aims to explore a wide range of new questions for traditional media and journalism posed by the WikiLeaks phenomenon:

- How can journalists deal with the massive explosion of primary source data made available on the Internet?
- Should journalists' roles and their professional and ethical standards be reconsidered?
- What is the relationship between "citizen journalism" and traditional journalistic professionalism?

- What are the challenges for international and domestic law related to privacy, national security, public order and Internet freedom?
- What is the future of government-media relations?

This conference aims to gather leading media representatives, professional and “citizen” journalists and media law experts to exchange views and to discuss good practices in traditional professional journalism and citizen journalism in the digital era.

## **Thursday, 16 February**

**9 a.m. Opening session: Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General**

**9:15 a.m. Keynote speech: Heather Brooke, author, “The Silent State,” “The Revolution Will Be Digitised”**

### **9:45-11:15 a.m. Panel 1: How Professional Media Deal with the Digital Environment**

Description: WikiLeaks claims access to some 250,000 US diplomatic cables -mountains of raw data that confront society and professional media with dilemmas on their use. This explosion of primary source data has impacted newsgathering by journalists and their relation with governments. Editors of three media outlets chosen by WikiLeaks to review the dispatches for use discuss their experiences.

Moderator: **Guy Berger**, UNESCO Director of Freedom of Expression & Media Development.

**Sylvie Kauffmann**, columnist, former Editor-in-Chief, *Le Monde*, Paris

**Ian Fisher**, Associate Managing Editor, *New York Times*

**David Leigh**, Editor, *The Guardian*, London

**Charlie Beckett**, Director, *Polis*, media think tank, London School of Economics; author, “WikiLeaks: News in the Networked Era”

Sample questions: Was there a “silver lining” to WikiLeaks that reaffirmed journalistic professionalism? Have there been lasting effects on newsgathering? What is the fallout from WikiLeaks’ decision to release all the materials without its original redaction of sensitive sources? What effects on relations with democratic governments? Have there been changes in relations with officialdom that affect the ability of journalists to access information?

### **11:15 a.m. Coffee break**

### **11:30-1 p.m. Panel 2: Professionalism and Ethics in the New Media Environment after WikiLeaks and The News of the World**

Description: *WikiLeaks* and the illegal phone hacking scandal surrounding *The News of the World* have intensified public debates about journalistic practices and ethics in the Internet era. News media and journalists must come to grips with the ethical implications of dealing with information coming from many more sources and via more technologies than before.

Moderator: **Alison Smale**, Executive Editor, *International Herald Tribune*

**Borja Bergareche**, author, “*Wikileaks confidencial*”. London correspondent, ABC, Madrid. European consultant, Committee to Protect Journalists

**Guy Black**, Baron of Brentwood, Executive Director, *Telegraph* Media Group, former Director UK Press Complaints Commission

**Mikhail Fedotov**, Head, Russian Presidential Human Rights Council. Former Secretary, Russian Union of Journalists. Former Russian Press/Information Minister. Author of the 1991 media law

**Charles Onyango-Obbo**, Executive Editor for digital media, **Nation Media Group**, Kenya

**Aidan White**, Director of the Coalition for Ethical Journalism of the Global Editors Network. Former General Secretary, *International Federation of Journalists*

Sample questions: Is media self-regulation threatened by tabloid journalism? Does the quantity of information change its ethical quality? Should news outlets consult officials on possible endangerment of sources or persons cited? How much double-checking or contextualizing of information in leaked documents is enough? Do journalists need more training in ethics and law?

### **1-2:30 p.m. Lunch**

#### **2:30-4 p.m. Panel 3: International Law after WikiLeaks**

Description: WikiLeaks has posed challenges of legal jurisdiction since it is not located or operating in a single country. This raises tensions between national and international law concerning the online information flow's transborder nature. Wikileaks also raised challenges for governments to protect classified information. The relation of WikiLeaks to journalism raises questions of whether laws protecting freedom of expression, press freedom and freedom of information should apply to it.

Moderator: **Richard Winfield**, Chairman, *World Press Freedom Committee*. Former General Counsel, Associated Press

**Agnès Callamard**, Executive Director, *Article 19*

**Jane Kirtley**, Director, University of Minnesota School of Journalism, Center for Study of Media Ethics & Law. Former Executive Director, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

**Geoffrey Robertson**, QC, UK media lawyer; author of the standard text, "Media Law". Legal counsel for Julian Assange

Sample questions: Implications for protection of sources, access to information, governmental protection of classified data? There is pressure for new international standards and law. Are they needed? If so, how would new standards and laws be framed, by whom?

### **4-4:15 p.m. Coffee break**

#### **4:15-5:45 p.m. Panel 4: Government-Media Relations after WikiLeaks**

Description: WikiLeaks showed that, in the 21st Century, information tends to be free and that the power to monopolize information has been weakened. This impacts relations between journalists and government officials in terms of journalists' access information. What, if any, antidote is there to the likelihood that governments will now try to exercise more control over relations between officials and journalists?

Moderator: **Henrikas Yushkivaitshus**, former UNESCO Assistant Director General for Communication and Information. Former Vice-Chairman, *Gostel Radio*, Moscow

**Rohan Jayasekera**, Associate Editor, *Index on Censorship*

**Kamel Labidi**, Head, Tunisian Independent Authority for Information & Communication. Former Tunisia Monitoring Group Advocacy Director/*IFEX*

**Justine Limpitlaw**, South African media lawyer

**Jan Malinowski**, Head, Media & Information Society Division, Council of Europe

**Michael Camilleri**, Senior legal advisor to the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Organization of American States

Sample questions: Can democratic officialdom and investigative journalists coexist? Should their interaction be organized. If so, how? Is there now a need to redefine relations of democratic governments and news media? How to go about that?

**Friday, 17 February**

**9:30-11 a.m. Panel 5: Internet Freedom after WikiLeaks**

Description: Many actors are concerned by and seek involvement in Internet governance -NGOs, news media, Internet service providers, protectors of children, police and surveillance authorities, governments, etc. They all deal with aspects of freedom that did not previously appear to be so immediately related to traditional media freedoms. Freedom of expression on the Internet can be eroded as the various actors pursue such separate and potentially conflicting interests as counter-terrorism, national security, privacy, protection of intellectual property, etc. Governance and regulation of cross-border issues have complicated the protection of freedom of speech in the cyberspace context.

**Moderator: Cynthia Wong**, Director, Project on Global Internet Freedom, Center for Democracy & Technology

**Frank La Rue**, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression

**Dunja Mijatovic**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**Paula Schriefer**, Vice President for Global Programs, *Freedom House*

**Doudou Ye**, legal affairs writer and lawyer, *Caixin Media Co.*, economic and financial news group, Beijing

**Mark Stephens**, Human rights lawyer, Chief of the media section of the UK law firm *Finers Stephens Innocent*, litigator at the European Human Rights Court. Former attorney for Julian Assange

**Jérémie Zimmermann**, Co-founder, *La Quadrature du Net*

Sample questions: Does the WikiLeaks approach alter the generally established democratic view that leakers may be prosecuted for revealing state secrets but media outlets should not? Should there be special protections for online journalism? What differentiates online journalism and social networking? Are controls of social networks justifiable to protect national security and public order?

**11-11:15 a.m. Coffee break**

**11:15-12:45 a.m. Panel 6: Professional and “Citizen” Journalism Working Together after WikiLeaks**

Description: Traditional news media are increasingly using materials contributed by non-professional “citizen journalists.” It is crucial to insure that professional standards are applied to outputs of bloggers and “citizen journalists” used by the news industry. “Citizen journalists” themselves need to understand and follow professional standards and to learn how to contextualize their outputs to make them effective, useable, and legitimate.

**Moderator: Alison Bethel McKenzie**, Executive Director, *International Press Institute*

**Lance Guma**, journalist, *SW Radio Africa*, Zimbabwe journalists forum on Facebook

**Pierre Haski**, founder of the French online news site *Rue89*

**Riyaad Minty**, Head of Social Media, *Al Jazeera*

**Sankarshan Thakur**, Roving Editor, *The Telegraph*, New Delhi

Sample questions: What are the professional criteria for accepting or rejecting citizen contributions for broadcast? What proportion of contributions is professionally acceptable for use? Are there contributions you regret having to turn down? Why? How can citizen journalists be taught professionalism? How often do citizen bloggers originate news, as opposed to commentary? Citizen contributions: full-fledged reporting and/or starting points for professional journalism?

**12:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Closing session**

**Rapporteur for synthesis: Cherilyn Ireton**, Executive Director, World Editors Forum

**Closing remarks: Janis Karklins**, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information

More information on the UNESCO’s Communication and Information Sector’s website:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/>