PRESS DOSSIER

LA MAISON DES JOURNALISTES

In the name of the freedom of the press and of the freedom of expression, since 2002, the Maison des Journalistes (MDJ) has welcomed exiled members of the media to France.

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Dream to reality, the Maison des Journalistes is an organization dedicated to the defense of press freedom worldwide. Presided by Christian Auboyneau (Journalist and Producer), the MDJ lodges and supports journalists in exile coming to France. In addition, the MDJ aids journalists with their asylum applications and provides them the means to express themselves freely with its online journal, L’Œil de la Maison des Journalistes. Director Darline Cothière summarizes the mission and goals of the association:

“...is a sort of barometer for press freedom worldwide. This place, the only one of its kind in the world, brings together men and women of diverse nationalities, cultures, and career paths. This diverse group of journalists share a common experience of exile and oppression. The MDJ helps them rebuild their lives and continue their fight for the freedom of the press.”

The MDJ has been recognized multiple times for its work, unparalleled in scope and in scale, as recipient of the 2005 Crédit Coopératif Award, the 2008 Augustin Merello Award, the 2008 Nonino Prize, the 2010 and 2013 Ilaria Alpi Award, and the 2017 European Union REVES Excellence Award. The MDJ benefits from an international network in the media and academia. It also works with students conducting research. In fact, graduate students have written their theses on the MDJ’s distinct mission and actions.

Since its creation, almost 400 men and women have found aid and refuge at the MDJ. In the same spirit, the MDJ engages the public, particularly students, outreach work which is featured in this dossier. To continue its mission, the MDJ receives financial support from French media sponsors, the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the City of Paris, individual donations, and partner organizations including Committee to Protect Journalists, il Caffè dei Giornalisti of Turin, the SCAM, and Presstalis.
WELCOMING JOURNALISTS IN EXILE

A team of specialists aid journalists (including those not lodged at the MDJ) with administrative and legal capacities. The MDJ offers cultural activities and professional development, including French courses, to residents.

The MDJ also organizes meet-and-greets with media organizations so that residents can connect with fellow French journalists.

ENTERING THE JOB MARKET

Often unable to return to their home country, journalists with asylum status have to integrate into French society. The MDJ connects journalists with organizations and employers, aiding them with their job search.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FROM THEIR ARRIVAL

African journalist Osman Ahmadi worked as an IT developer thanks to a partnership with start-up Simplon.

Our journalists have participated in televised debates on the media. Here, Guinean journalist Mandian Sidibe was on France 24 December 20, 2017.

LODGING

The MDJ welcomes asylum applicants and refugees for an average stay of 6 months.

Its headquarters in the 15th arrondissement has 14 rooms and common living spaces.

Over 400 members of the media have benefitted from these accommodations as they rebuild their lives.

Syrian journalist Ali Al Daher completed two internships at AFP in Paris and in Nicosie.

Afghan journalist Osman Ahmadi worked as an IT developer thanks to a partnership with start-up Simplon.

French courses at the MDJ taught by volunteer Margot Colinet.

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The Maison des Journalists created an online journal dedicated solely to journalists in exile. L’Œil de la Maison des Journalistes (www.oeil-maisondesjournalistes.fr) is a forum for discussion and commentary. Bringing a personal and lived experience to the news, the journalists are free to express their views. A unique perspective built on their day-to-day observations and personal stories, contributing journalists expose readers to powerful and original content.

A SPACE FOR FREE EXPRESSION FOR EXILED JOURNALISTS

To increase the visibility of the L’Œil de la Maison des Journalistes, the MDJ continues to develop partnerships with French and international media. In 2017, the MDJ partnered with Il Caffè dei Giornalisti in Turin, Italy. Thanks to this partnership, journalists from the MDJ were internationally recognized for their contributions relating diverse topics, including Syria.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE MEDIA

Their work is published in Italian on the website www.caffedeigijornalisti.com

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In line with its mission, the MDJ organizes cultural and professional activities and events. The MDJ’s programming is varied, taking many forms, including expositions, conferences, seminars, and film discussions. Guided tours and press passes expose journalists in exile to French culture and connect them to national media.

The MDJ presented “Waiting, une réflexion sur l’attente,” at the town hall of the 11th arrondissement from 9 to 28 January 2018. Journalists at the MDJ presented sculptures, paintings, photos, videos, and written work exploring the interminable waits of their journey, from fleeing their country of origin to applying for asylum in France.
Defending the freedom of the press, internationally and in France, and promoting democratic values, especially to students, is essential to the MDJ’s mission. The MDJ works with multiple partners in its outreach.

**OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

Renvoyé Spécial (RS), a school visitation program developed in 2006, allows students to hear from journalists in exile. The MDJ partners with CLEMI (an organization under the office of media education in the Ministry of Education of France).

**RENOVÉ SPÉCIAL**

Departments in red have hosted a Renvoyé Special between 2006 and 2018.

**2017: RENVOYÉ SPÉCIAL IN NUMBERS**

*More than 250 high schools visited*  
*107 debates in 19 Academies of which 11 occurred during Semaine de la Presse et des Médias dans l’École*  
*+218% increase in school visits since 2016*  
*More than 3100 students attended 33 journalists*

In 2018, the MDJ coordinated RS visits in partnership with the City of Paris, in collaboration with the ICORN Network, the SPIP (Paris Correctional and Probation Department), the youth crime prevention clubs of the Town Halls of the 11th and 12th Arrondissements. RS 2018 also partners with the department Seine-et-Marne, the DT PJJ Val d’Oise, CLEMI Lille, the Deportation and Resistance Memorial Loire, and the International Institution of Human Rights. Visits will also be organized with financial support of the Prefecture of the Pas-de-Calais and the parliamentary reservation of senators Corinne Bouchoux and Esther Benbassa.

In 2014, the MDJ created the Presse 19 program in reference to article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) pertaining to the right to free expression and of opinion. Presse 19 is a socio-educational program produced in partnership with several European organizations. The program is specifically aimed at students and members of the media.

**PRESSE 19**

New partners since 2016 aid the MDJ to launch multiple offshoots of the RS program.

**RS PROTECTION JUDICIAIRE DE LA JEUNESSE (PJJ)**

With the Ministries of Justice and of Culture of France - Created in 2016, this program works with children placed under judicial protection by the French government. The MDJ also offers visits to its comic strip exhibit, Cartooning for Peace and an online learning kit.

**RS ÎLE-DE-FRANCE (IDF)**

With the Region of Île-de-France - Since 2017, this RS Île-de-France has organized ten visits with writers in exile to regional high schools.

**RS HAUTE-GARONNE**

With the Departamental Council of the Haute-Garonne - Since 2017, program is has been dedicated to students enrolled in civics courses.

**RS PRIX DES LYCÉENS ET PRIX BAYEUX-CALVADOS**

With the City of Bayeux - Multiple journalists at the MDJ have been invited to high schools in Normandy for the selection of the Prix des Lycéens and to receive the Prix Bayeux-Calvados for war correspondents.
STAFF AND BOARD

THE STAFF

Other than the volunteers, French Civil Service members, and interns who aid in the MDJ's activities and upkeep, the staff forms the backbone of the organization.

Darline Cothière
Director

Antonin Tort
Head of Social Action and Lodging

Lisa Viola Rossi
Public Awareness and Communications Officer

Camille Peyroux-Magnan
Partnership and Fundraising Officer

Guillaume Wulfing-Luer
Community Manager

Damien Fondefeur
Administrative and Financial Assistant

Manuel Dos Santos
Building Manager

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Many of the members of the board of the MDJ are members of the media.

Christian Auboyneau
President
Journalist and Producer
(Au fil de l'eau)

Alberic De Gouville
Vice President
Journalist, Editor-in-Chief (France 24)

Marie Torti
Treasurer
Event Manager
(BJ Conseils)

Denis Perrin
Secretary
Journalist
Press Specialist

Claude Guibal
Chief Reporter
International Department
(France Inter)

Hervé Brusini
Journalist and Director of Web Content
(France Télévisions)

Darline Cothière
Director

Antonin Tort
Head of Social Action and Lodging

Lisa Viola Rossi
Public Awareness and Communications Officer

Camille Peyroux-Magnan
Partnership and Fundraising Officer

Guillaume Wulfing-Luer
Community Manager

Damien Fondefeur
Administrative and Financial Assistant

Manuel Dos Santos
Building Manager

Stéphane Bribard
Advisor to the 10th Arrondissement Public Relations
(Prestalys)

Christophe Joly
Journalist, Editor-in-Chief (LEil de la Maison des Journalistes)

Danièle Bergère
Teacher
(National Education)

Katty Cohen
Journalist
(ex Les Échos)

Soro Solo
Journalist
(France Inter), MDJ’s ex-resident

Prisca Orsonneau
Director of Social and Socio-medical Implementation
EXPENSES: €338,267
INCOME: €352,723

Social Action and Lodging
Direct Aid
Educational, Journalistic, and Cultural Projects
Communication and Development
Administration, Management, Compatibility

Sponsors and Partners

The Maison des Journalistes is supported financially by:

- Media Sponsors
- FAMI (EU - 2012 and 2013 pay and 2014 deposit)
- City of Paris
- Ministries of France (Culture, Foreign Affairs)
- The Scam - Presstalis - Audiens
- International NGOs - Foundations
- Individual Donations, Subscriptions, Money-Making Events
- City of Bayeux and the Department of Haute-Garonne

The Others Partners:

2016 Financial Assessment
IFIGHTING FOR THOSE WHO RISK THEIR LIVES TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, THE MDJ NEEDS YOUR HELP

The MDJ’s work depends on the solidarity and generosity of its patrons and partners, including the media, as well as funding from the European Union, regional governments, and the City of Paris.

THE MDJ DEFENDS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND OF EXPRESSION FOR ALL. DONATE TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS!

Please address your donation, with the form below (also available online), to the organization headquarters at the address listed.

NOTE: Consult your country’s tax bureau for information on deducting your MDJ donation. When your contribution is received, a tax receipt will be mailed to you.