

Beat: Politics

# FRENCH MEDIA SIGN A COLUMN AGAINST THE ART 24 GLOBAL SECURITY LAW THAT

## INFRINGES THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

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**USPA NEWS** - On November 20, the management of many French newsrooms reaffirmed their attachment to the 1881 law on press freedom and their vigilance regarding its preservation. "We will not accredit our journalists to cover the protests" in opposition to article 24 of the global security law under discussion in the French Parliament since November 17th. French editors managers expressed their dissatisfaction with article 24 of the global security law: « We are concerned about the willingness of Home Secretary Gerald Darmanin to undermine press freedom in the context of protests. The law expressed desire to ensure the protection of journalists amounts to supervising and controlling their work. This device is part of a particularly worrying context with the proposed law on "global security" which provides for the restriction of the dissemination of images of police and gendarmes. »

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The Editors of the Journal Le Monde, expressed their dissatisfaction with article 24 of the global security law and warn that they will not accredit their journalists for the demonstrations, if article 24 is maintained in this text of global security Act : « Journalists do not have to approach the police headquarters to cover a demonstration. There is no accreditation to have to freely exercise our profession on public roads. For this reason, we will refuse to accredit our journalists to cover the protests. We reaffirm our commitment to the 1881 Freedom of the Press Act and will be vigilant to ensure that it is preserved. » (Source Le Journal Le Monde)

### ARTICLE 24 OF THE GLOBAL SECURITY ACT PREVENTS THE FILMING OF POLICE OFFICERS & CREATES CONTROVERSY-----

Article 24 of the law under discussion apparently, this would create a new offense ie that would be punished by one year in prison and a fine of 45,000 euros for the dissemination, by any means, of "the image of the face. or any other element of identification "- with the exception of the registration number, known as" RIO "- of a police officer or a gendarme in intervention, when the purpose of this dissemination is" that his physical or mental integrity "[2]. The Media, consider (with good reason) that this article prevents freedom of expression, and moreover this text emanating from the Minister of the Interior, to lead to a bill, with this article 24, which brings a discredit to the whole law itself, global security. Article 24 is invoked, to better protect the police by preventing the discussion by social networks of videos that would put the police under arrest during demonstrations, and which would endanger them and risk reprisals: "Protect those who protect us "[2]. This is the objective according to article 24 of the bill "for a comprehensive security", which is due to be considered in the National Assembly from November 17.-----

This measure, in fact aims to limit the dissemination of images of law enforcement agencies, can only attack the freedom to inform - that of journalists, and more generally that of all citizens, according to the Journal Le Monde. However, the rapporteurs of the text assert that such a provision would only be applicable to clearly malicious broadcasts, aimed at provoking violence against members of the police, and that "it is not in no way acts to prevent journalists from working "[2] or to attack" the right to inform journalists or citizens "[2]. However, French law already represses, of course, threats, invasions of privacy and cyber-harassment. The very vague notion of the "goal" of attacking "physical or mental integrity" suggests a completely different reality.

### LIST OF FRENCH MEDIA AGAINST THE GLOBAL SECURITY LAW ARTICLE 24-----

Here is the list of French media which have signed their opposition to this Global Security Law and in particular article 24 which affects freedom of the press. "20 Minutes, AFP, BFM-TV, Le Canard enchaîné, Challenges, Charlie Hebdo, CNews, Courrier International, Europe 1, les rédactions de France Télévisions, le HuffPost, La Croix, La Croix hebdo, La Vie, LCI, Le JDD, Les Jours, Le Pèlerin, Les Echos, L'Express, Le Figaro, Le Figaro-Magazine, Le Point, Le Monde, Le Parisien/Aujourd'hui en France, Libération, L'Obs, M6, Marianne, Mediapart, Paris Match, Politis, Slate, Telerama, France 24, RFI, Monte Carlo Doualiya (MCD), les rédactions des antennes de Radio France, RMC, RTL, TF1, L'Alsace, Le Bien public, Le Dauphiné libéré, Les Dernières nouvelles d'Alsace, L'Est républicain, Le Journal de Saône-et-Loire, Le Progrès, Le Républicain Lorrain, Vosges Matin, la Nouvelle République du Centre Ouest, Centre-Presse, La Montagne, La République du Centre, L'Eveil de la Haute-Loire, L'Echo républicain, L'Yonne républicaine, Le Berry républicain, Le Populaire du Centre, Le Journal du Centre, Le Pays Roannais, La Ruche, Le Régional de Cosne, La Gazette de Thiers, La Voix du Sancerrois, Le Courrier du Loiret, L'Eclairer du Gatinais, Le Journal de Gien, L'Eveil hebdo, le Journal de la Haute- Marne, la Provence, la Marseillaise, Sud Ouest, La République des Pyrénées, L'Eclair, Charente Libre, Dordogne Libre". Source : AFP, Le Monde Journal, CNews TV, Tf1 TV.

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