



Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in France

Permanent Delegation of Ethiopia to UNESCO

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From 1 to 3 May 2019, in partnership with the Ethiopian Government and the Commission of the African Union, UNESCO will organize the **World Press Freedom Day** in Addis Ababa. The theme of this 26th edition is "*Media and Democracy: journalism and elections in times of disinformation.*"

Host country of this event, Ethiopia was selected after an unprecedented transformation of her media landscape. Since April 2018, inspired by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia has been engaged into a liberalization of all media with the purpose to generalize a freedom of expression expected by all Ethiopians. The Prime Minister encourages information sharing and debate. This evolution has in particular enabled the activity of hundreds of previously muzzled media, the return of many journalists from exile and the emergence of new independent press outlets. The government has authorized the unconstrained outreach of 23 publications, 6 TV channels, as well as 264 blogs and other media platforms.

The annual report published by NGO Reporters Without Borders (RSF) highlights the progresses achieved by Ethiopia, a country that jumped 40 points ahead in the world ranking for media freedom. A new era is opening for Ethiopian media and they take full advantage of these new opportunities to reach a larger audience.

The events planned for the **World Press Freedom Day** will be organized at the Headquarters of the African Union. During 3 days, Addis Ababa will welcome representatives from governments, media, civil society, professional associations, universities and judiciary. Together, they will contribute to many meetings, conferences and workshops organized to share ideas on the principles of freedom and ethics that govern media ■

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**WORLD PRESS
FREEDOM DAY
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GLOBAL CONFERENCE
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
1 - 3 MAY

#WorldPressFreedomDay
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MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY
JOURNALISM AND ELECTIONS IN TIMES OF DISINFORMATION