

28 April 2023, Yaounde, Cameroon

Press Release

Yaounde, 27 April, 2023

A Media Leaders' Forum on Hate Speech will take place in Yaounde on Friday 28 April to mark World Press Freedom Day, which comes up five days later on 3 May. Two non-profits, Rainforest Center for Policy Research and rOg agency for open culture and critical transformation have joined forces to organize the forum. Speakers at the Forum will include the Cameroon Minister of Communication, the German Ambassador to Cameroon and a host of leading media executive.

Ahead of the forum, Eugene Nforngwa, director of the Rainforest Center stated:

"We believe that free speech is crucial in shaping public opinion, influencing social change and advancing democracy. Therefore, we need to ensure that the media is free, diverse, pluralistic and responsible. We also need to address the growing phenomenon of hate speech in the media, which can undermine social harmony and peace. This forum is an opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives on how to achieve this delicate balance between free speech and hate speech in the media."

The forum will bring together media executives and senior editors, academics, civil society representatives and policy makers to discuss the current state of media freedom and diversity in Cameroon, the legal and ethical frameworks that regulate hate speech, and the best practices and strategies to balance the right to free expression with the responsibility to prevent incitement to violence and discrimination.

It aims to foster dialogue and collaboration among different stakeholders, share experiences and lessons learned from different contexts, and identify concrete actions and recommendations to promote a media environment that is conducive to democracy, human rights, and social cohesion.



cameroon@defyhatenow.org
eugene@rainforestcenter.org

+ 237 674 41 89 12
+237 675 11 43 96

West & Central Africa
Yaounde VI, Rue 7.488 Rond-Point Express,
Yaounde–Republic of Cameroon

28 April 2023, Yaounde, Cameroon

Desmond Ngala, the #defyhatenow Cameroon program manager, and representative of rOg Agency said:

"As an agency that works on peacebuilding and conflict prevention through digital media, we have seen how hate speech can fuel violence and division in society. We have also seen how the media can be a force for good, by promoting dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding. Through the #defyhatenow project, we aim to empower media actors and citizens to use digital media for positive social change."

The Rainforest Center for Policy Research is a Thinktank that aims to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient world through policy innovation and action learning. Meanwhile, #defyhatenow is an initiative of rOg_agency for open culture and critical transformation gGmbH (Berlin) which seeks to Mobilising Civic Action Against Hate Speech and Directed Social Media Incitement to Violence in Cameroon with support from the German Federal Foreign Office.


For more information contact :

Name: ABONG B Blaise,
Function: Public Diplomacy Specialist, Rainforest Center
Email: info@rainforestcenter.org:

Name: Nadage Laure NGANLAY
Function: Head of Communications,
#defyhatenow Cameroon
Mobile : +237 650703190, +237 683277776
Email : cameroon@defyhatenow.org



cameroon@defyhatenow.org
eugene@rainforestcenter.org



+ 237 674 41 89 12
+237 675 11 43 96



West & Central Africa
Yaounde VI, Rue 7.488 Rond-Point Express,
Yaounde–Republic of Cameroon