



NEWS

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RSF calls on the UN to accredit Taiwanese journalists

TAIWAN CHINA ASIA - PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL BODIES UNITED NATIONS



Reporters Without Borders (RSF) calls on the United Nations to authorize Taiwanese journalists to cover its events, including the General Assembly that opens today in New York and the World Health Assembly in Geneva next spring.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) urges the United Nations to let Taiwanese journalists cover its events, especially the 73rd annual General Assembly that opens today, September 18th, in New York and the World Health Assembly in Geneva next spring. In recent years, the UN has been under Chinese pressure to turn down requests for press accreditation from Taiwanese nationals on the pretext that their passports are not recognized.

“Accrediting Taiwanese journalists is not a political move, and it avoids unacceptable discrimination that contradicts all’s fundamental right to free information stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” said Christophe Deloire, secretary-general of RSF, who calls on the UN, *“to accredit all journalists of good faith, regardless of their nationality or the place of origin of their media.”*

The island of Taiwan, over which People’s Republic of China claims sovereignty, is the most populous state, with 23 million people, the equivalent of Australia, that is not a UN member. Over the past years, China has been lobbying in every possible way to isolate Taiwan on the international stage, including preventing its journalists from doing their job.

In May, Taiwanese journalists were denied, for the fourth consecutive year, **accreditation to cover the World Health Assembly** (<https://rsf.org/fr/actualites/un-and-who-deny-accreditation-taiwan-journalists>) hosted in Geneva by the World Health Organization. The same thing happened during the 2016 triannual Assembly hosted by **International Civil Aviation Organization** (<https://rsf.org/en/news/rsf-denounces-icao-discrimination-against-taiwanese-journalists-denied-accreditation-cover-tri>), a specialized UN agency.

Taiwan (<https://rsf.org/en/news/taiwanese-president-receives-rsfs-secretary-general>) ranks 42nd out of 180, topping Asia, in the **2018 RSF World Press Freedom Index (<https://rsf.org/en/ranking/2018>)**. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is ranked 176th with than 50 journalists and bloggers in its prisons.