Reporters
Without Borders

Africa - Djibouti

Combating censorship
Reporters Without Borders creates mirror of radio station's blocked website
4 April 2012

Reporters Without Borders has today launched a mirror site of radio *La Voix de Djibouti*'s website, http://lavoixdedjibouti.com, in order to help circumvent the government's censorship and allow the population to have access to a news sources to which it is being denied.

The media freedom organization invites Internet users to go to http://lavoixdedjibouti.rsf.org in order to access an exact copy of the original site.

"As this is a country without media freedom, where only government propaganda is tolerated, we think it is crucial to help the population to gain access to other news sources," Reporters Without Borders said. "While it is true that the level of Internet use is still low in Djibouti, it is not negligible, and use of social networks in particular is growing. The population will now be able to read critical news bulletins online."

A Europe-based exile radio station that supports the opposition Renewal and Development Movement (MRD), *La Voix de Djibouti* began by broadcasting on the short wave and then switched to being a web radio but the authorities have blocked access to its website from within Djibouti.

More information about freedom of information in Djibouti

Read the latest Reporters Without Borders press releases about this country

Reporters Without Borders creates mirror sites to combat censorship

So that independent news websites that are targeted by cyber-attacks and government blocking can continue posting information online, Reporters Without Borders has started mirroring sites. The first sites to be mirrored were those of the Chechen magazine *Dosh* and the Sri Lankan online newspaper *Lanka-e News*. The organization has also been urging Internet users all over the world to create more mirrors of these sites in a chain of solidarity.

Mirror sites can be used to circumvent blocking by governments. Although the government of Djibouti is blocking access to *La Voix de Djibouti*'s site, http://lavoixdedjibouti.com, by blocking the site domain name or the hosting server's IP address, Internet users can still access the Reporters Without Borders mirror site, http://lavoixdedjibouti.rsf.org, because it is hosted on another server with another domain name.

The mirror site will be regularly and automatically updated with all the new content posted on the original site. If the mirror is itself later also blocked, the creation of further mirror sites together with a regularly updated list of these mirrors will continue to render the blocking ineffective in what is known as a Streisand effect.

Reporters Without Borders urges Internet users who want to help combat censorship and have the ability to host a site on a web server to follow suit. Send the URL of the mirror site you have created to wefightcensorship [at] rsf.org. The next mirroring operations launched by Reporters Without Borders will be reported on the @RSF_RWB and @RSFNet Twitter accounts with the #RSFmirror hashtag.