

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/guinea-minister-closes-radio-station-22-07-2013,44958.html>

Africa - Guinea

Government censor

Minister closes radio station, blocks new TV station

22 July 2013

Reporters Without Borders is disturbed by communication minister Togba Césaire Kpoghomou's decision on 18 July to close *Liberté FM*, a radio station based in N'Zérékoré, a southeastern city that has seen inter-ethnic clashes during the past week.

The minister has also refused to give the green light to *Espace TV*, a privately-owned TV station that was to have begun broadcasting on 30 July. The ministry has not offered an explanation for either of these two cases of censorship.

"The suspension of news media is normally a matter for the media regulatory body and cannot be ordered by the government," Reporters Without Borders said. "We are astonished that the communication ministry prefers to silence news outlets instead of guaranteeing pluralism and freedom of information."

Reporters Without Borders added: "His attitude is inappropriate, to say the least, especially at a time of unrest, when the public's need for information is greater than ever."

The head of *Liberté FM* told Reporters Without Borders: "The minister accused me of being the person who is giving information to the national and international media about what is happening in N'Zérékoré."

Following the minister's refusal to allow *Espace TV* to be broadcasted on 30 July, the station's owner, Lamine Guirassy, has appealed to *CanalSat Overseas*, a TV satellite company that operates in most African countries including Guinea.

Although Guirassy signed a contract with *CanalSat*, the operator has finally decided not to carry *Espace TV* without offering any explanation.
