

# Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/cote-d-ivoire-newspaper-editor-arrested-for-01-02-2012,41792.html>

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Africa - Côte d'Ivoire

Detained over leak

## Le Patriote editor released after being held for 24 hours

2 February 2012

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Reporters Without Borders notes that **Charles Sanga**, the managing editor of the daily *Le Patriote*, was released at 6.35pm yesterday after being held for interrogation for 24 hours at the headquarters of the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance (DST) in Abidjan.

*Le Patriote* reporter **Jean-Claude Coulibaly**, who went to the DST yesterday afternoon with his lawyer, was released at the same time as Sanga.

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### 01.02.12 - Newspaper editor arrested for publishing "confidential information"

Reporters Without Borders calls for the immediate release of **Charles Sanga**, the managing editor of the daily *Le Patriote*, who was arrested by the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance (DST), an intelligence agency, last night in Abidjan for allegedly "publishing confidential information."

In an exclusive in yesterday's *Le Patriote*, journalist **Jean-Claude Coulibaly** reported that the Constitutional Council had decided [to annul the 11 December parliamentary elections in 11 districts](#) where the results were disputed. The council has not yet announced its decision.

The authorities reacted to the story's publication by summoning Coulibaly to the DST for interrogation and by demanding that the newspaper reveal its sources. Sanga refused to comply.

"If *Le Patriote* broke the law by pre-empting a state entity's prerogative to publish information, then it may be punished, but not by jailing its editor or the reporter who wrote the story," Reporters Without Borders said. "Under Côte d'Ivoire's 2004 media law, journalists cannot be detained for media offences, so Charles Sanga must be released. Furthermore, the DST's attempt to force him to reveal his sources violates a basic principle of media freedom."

Photo : cover of *Le Patriote* on January 31st, 2012.

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