

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/france-pierre-veilletet-former-chairman-09-01-2013,43878.html>

Europe/Ex-USSR - France

Tribute

Pierre Veilletet, former chairman of Reporters Without Borders France, dies aged 69

9 January 2013

It is with great sadness that Reporters Without Borders learned of the death yesterday of the former president of its French section, **Pierre Veilletet**, at the age of 69. For many years Pierre was engaged in the press freedom organization's battles. He had been a member of its board since it was founded and chaired the French section from 2003 to 2009.

Born on 2 October 1943 in Momuy in the Landes department of south-west France, he began his career with the daily *Sud-Ouest* in 1968 and remained closely involved with the newspaper. He was promoted to senior reporter and in 1975 wrote a series of articles on the dying days of the Franco era in Spain, for which he was awarded the Albert-Londres prize.

In 1979 he was appointed editor of the Sunday edition of *Sud-Ouest* and the same year he founded *Les Cahiers de la Corrida*, a magazine for fans of bullfighting. A devotee of the region's culture, Pierre also had a career as an author in parallel with his duties as *Sud-Ouest* editor, a post he held until May 2000. His first novel, "La Pension des Nonnes" published in 1986, won the François-Mauriac prize.

He was a meticulous and noted writer who espoused high-quality journalism. As a member of the French Press Council steering committee (APCP), he was among those who launched a code of professional ethics and standards. Reporters Without Borders honours his memory and expresses its condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.
