



2021

forbidden stories

IMPACT REPORT



LAURENT RICHARD

Forbidden Stories' founder
and executive director.

” What a year for Forbidden Stories! With the Pegasus Project, our consortium published a massive investigation. The consortium’s work revealed that hundreds of journalists, human rights activists and opposition politicians had been targeted by this invasive spyware, setting off a worldwide scandal and new global debate about mass surveillance orchestrated by states and private companies.

The impact of this investigation has been felt worldwide. NSO Group was blacklisted by the US. Elsewhere, the Indian Supreme Court ordered an inquiry into the state’s use of the software, while Mexico arrested an individual on charges of using Pegasus to spy on a journalist.

The revelations keep on coming. Collaborative journalism can make a difference. When a threat as large as Pegasus emerges, imperiling fundamental rights like the right to free speech, journalists need to come together. Let's keep sending powerful messages to enemies of the free press.

Killing the journalist won't kill the story.

We are a collaborative journalism network whose mission is to protect, pursue and publish the work of other journalists facing threats, prison, or murder.

Protecting

Forbidden Stories ensures that journalists under threat can secure their information.

We provide them with the ability to drop their sensitive information through one of our secure communication channels. If something happens to them, we will ensure the survival of their stories, beyond borders, beyond governments, beyond censorship.

Pursuing

Forbidden Stories fosters collaboration among journalists to make the work of reporters who can no longer investigate visible and impactful. It is the only existing program with this mission.

Publishing

Our goal is to make sure a maximum number of people have access to independent information on critical topics, such as the environment, public health, human rights, and corruption.

By keeping their stories alive, we can send a powerful signal to enemies of the free press: even if you succeed in stopping a single messenger, you will not stop the message.

What is the point of killing a journalist if 10, 20 or 30 others are ready to carry on their work? Collaboration is the best form of protection.

The consortium

Forbidden Stories works as a consortium, gathering local and international media outlets from around the world in order to investigate on a global scale and to give the stories worldwide coverage.

49

countries
of publication

+150

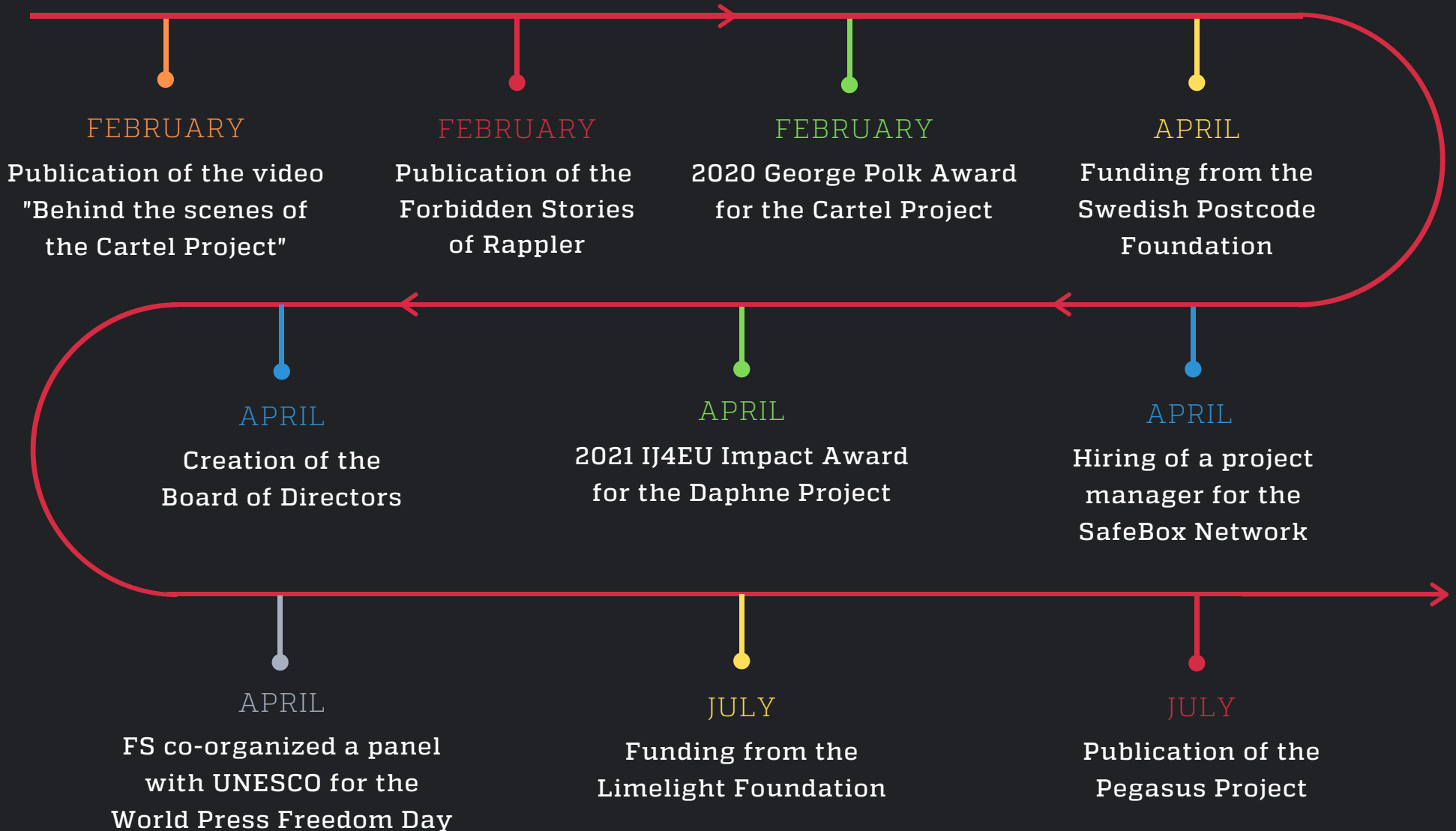
journalist partners

60

media partners

Since its creation, Forbidden Stories has coordinated the work of 60 news organizations based in five continents, including some of the most widely read newspapers in the world like The Washington Post, The Guardian, The New York Times, El País, The Wire, Le Monde and Die Zeit.

2021



2021



2021 PROJECTS

The Forbidden Stories of **Rappler.com**

Supported by Pulitzer Center



forbidden stories

KEEP STORIES ALIVE



The recently announced co-laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize, journalist and CEO of the Philippines-based news website Rappler, **Maria Ressa** has been released on bail 10 times in less than 2 years. Her crime? Pursuing stories that challenge the Philippine authorities.

30 news organizations and advocacy groups shared the five-part series, which focuses on the legal cases against Maria Ressa and Rappler's investigations into corruption, human rights abuses and other topics.

These media organizations shared the five-part series:



Rappler, Pulitzer Center, Washington Post, ICIJ, The Confluence, CLIP, Quinto Elemento Lab, Finance Uncovered, Knack, Le Soir, La Prensa, PBS / A Thousand Cuts, OCCRP, ARIJ, Proceso, Cellule Investigation Radio France, The Lede, IRPI, Coda Story, GIJN Arabic, DARAJ, Lovin Malta.

CPJ, Human Rights Watch, The Coalition For Women In Journalism, One World Media, James W. Foley Legacy Foundation, Namibia Media Trust: NMT, Un Bout du Monde, Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD).

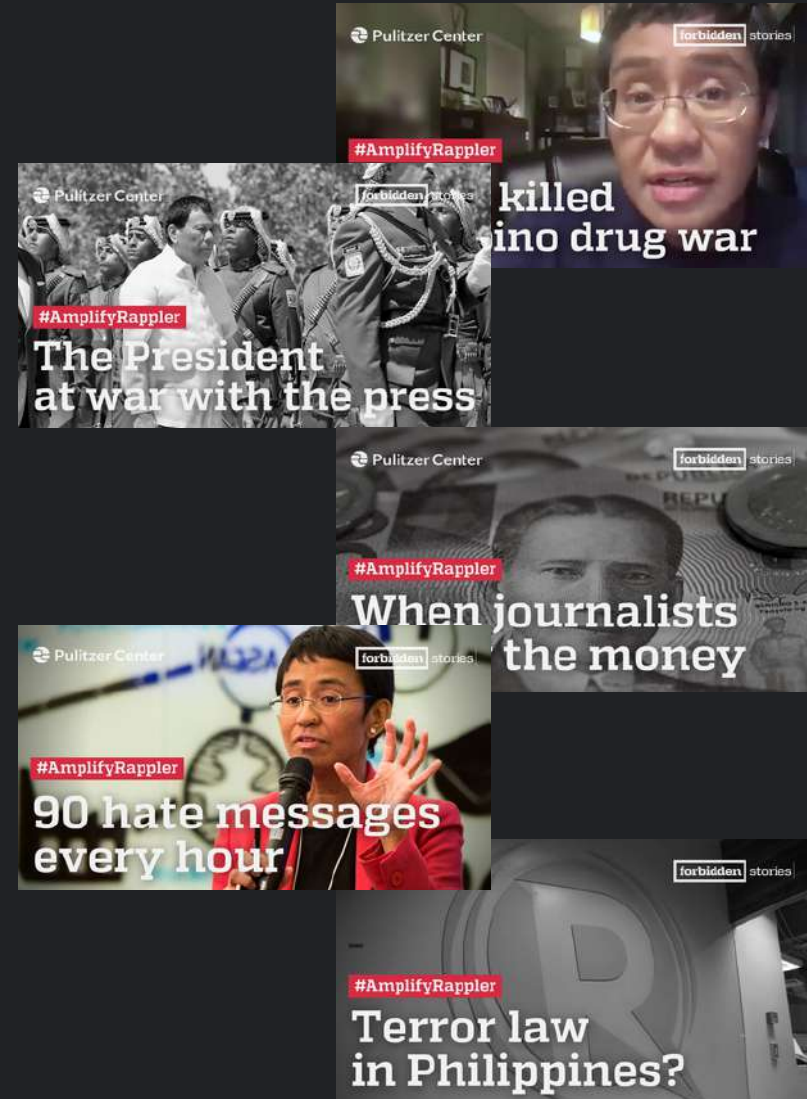
The Forbidden Stories of Rappler

forbidden stories

5

Forbidden Stories created 5 videos of 3-5 minutes on Rappler's investigations:

- into Rodrigo Duterte's "war on drugs," which has killed more than 30,000 people
- into Rappler's coverage of President Duterte
- into the man who is suing Maria Ressa for cyber libel, Wilfredo Keng
- into the massive disinformation campaign led by the Philippine government
- into the government's insufficient response to the Covid pandemic



The Forbidden Stories of Rappler |

With the hashtag #AmplifyRappler, the videos aimed to give a worldwide echo to the investigations that the Philippine authorities want to silence.

So far, these videos have been seen (in all languages) by **108,000 people** around the world. Additionally, the Washington Post offered us a full page in its print edition (see below).

By sharing these videos widely around the world, Forbidden Stories and its partners sent a powerful message to President Duterte: Rappler and Maria Ressa are not alone. We support them and we will continue to amplify the investigations that are challenging the Philippine authorities.

All the videos are available here: <https://forbiddenstories.org/rappler/>.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 - THE WASHINGTON POST

forbidden stories

Philippine American journalist Maria Ressa, founder of Rappler, has been released on bail 10 times in less than two years.

Her crime? Pursuing stories that challenge the Philippine authorities.

View the new five-part video series from Forbidden Stories, with support from the Pulitzer Center, on the cases brought forth against Ressa and Rappler's pursuit of the truth through its critical investigative journalism.

Available now at forbiddenstories.org/rappler

#AmplifyRappler

forbidden stories



forbidden stories



THE PEGASUS PROJECT

Global democracy under cyber attack

Global democracy under cyber attack



The Pegasus Project was the major investigation of the Forbidden Stories consortium in 2021.

The consortium investigated this new threat against press freedom for months, working alongside more than 80 journalists from 17 media organizations.



An unprecedented leak of more than 50,000 phone numbers selected for surveillance by the customers of the Israeli company NSO Group shows how this technology has been systematically abused for years.

At least 200 journalists around the world were selected as targets by clients of NSO Group.

The goal of the Pegasus Project? Reveal the chilling extent of global mass surveillance by states around the world. Through open-source research, matching colleagues' phone books to the dataset and the technical know-how of Amnesty International's Security Lab, we began to put together the outline of the stories.

The scale of this scandal could only be uncovered by journalists around the world working together: we needed to join forces with our partners to have the greatest impact.

Forbidden Stories' founder and director Laurent Richard and Editor-in-Chief Sandrine Rigaud made the first calls, in utmost secrecy, to newsrooms around the world.

The partners agreed to meet in Paris in the middle of a global pandemic knowing few details about the data and the stories they were about to discover. The Pegasus Project was launched.

By sharing access to this data with the other media organizations in the Forbidden Stories consortium, we were able to develop additional sources, collect hundreds of documents and put together the harrowing evidence of a surveillance apparatus that has been wielded ferociously against large swaths of civil society – outside of all legal restrictions.



The Pegasus Project

forbidden stories

80

journalists



Collaborating with the technical support of Amnesty International's Security Lab, journalists communicated through secure means and reported on the ground in more than 10 countries: France, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Lebanon, Mexico, the UK, and the US. They collected additional sources, documents and testimonies on more than 30 simultaneous investigations.

10

countries



From Paris, the Forbidden Stories team investigated leads and coordinated the stories from afar: Paloma de Dinechin on Mexico, Audrey Travère on UAE and Saudi Arabia, Phineas Rueckert on India. Laurent Richard and Sandrine Rigaud oversaw the small operation of 7 full-time journalists.

17

media outlets



6

months
of investigation

The Pegasus Project

Pegasus is a highly-sophisticated spyware tool developed by Israeli company NSO Group that gives clients access to the entirety of a phone's contents and can even remotely access the camera and microphone, according to forensic analyses by Amnesty International's Security Lab.



Invasive surveillance of journalists and activists is not simply an attack on those individuals – it is a way to deprive millions of citizens of independent information about their own governments.

When these actors hack a journalist's phone, they are able to extract the most sensitive information that it holds. What was that journalist working on? Who are their sources? Where are they stashing their documents? Who are their loved ones? What private information could be used to blackmail and defame them?

In total, more than 200 journalists in 20 countries were selected as potential targets.

The list of journalists hacked by Pegasus is long: award-winning Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova; reporter Szabolcs Panyi from Direkt36, an Hungarian investigative media outlet; freelance Moroccan journalist Hicham Mansouri; the director of the French investigative site Mediapart Edwy Plenel; and the founders of the Indian independent media The Wire.

Some are local reporters. Others are renowned television anchors. Many investigate corruption and political scandals that threaten the highest levels of power. Most already face censorship and intimidation, while others have received legal threats, been arrested or defamed.



Pegasus spyware was not just used to snoop on journalists. The data leak showed that human rights defenders, academics, businesspeople, lawyers, doctors, union leaders, diplomats, politicians and several heads of states were also victims of this extensive surveillance.

103

activists and
lawyers



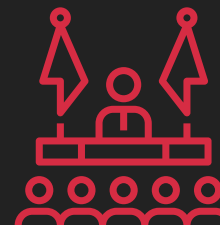
65

politicians and
dissidents



47

government
officials



12

academics



Source: Haaretz



**Modi Govt's
Spyware
Dismantled
National Security**
DELHI PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

Protests erupt in India's Parliament over spyware scandal. Credit: AP



17

Published **simultaneously** by 17 international media around the world on July 18, 2021, the project appeared on the front pages of the **world's most widely read newspapers** including The Washington Post, The Guardian, Le Monde, Süddeutsche Zeitung and Haaretz.

The Pegasus Project

forbidden stories

Our partners:



The Pegasus Project was also widely shared by non-partner publications after the initial publication date. Among them were many media outlets, including:

The New York Times, Mediapart, El Pais, Al Jazeera, Reuters, DW, AP, The Daily Telegraph, The Globe and Mail, Der Spiegel, NPR, Irish Times, CNN, Corriere della Sera, ABC News Australia, etc.

NGOs, including: RSF, Citizen Lab, CPJ, IPI, National Association of Hungarian Journalists, Press Club of India, etc. also shared the stories.

In France, for instance, the project was the leading story on several television news programs during the week of publication.

From the publication of the investigation to the present day, the Pegasus Project has had a large political, economic and judicial impact throughout the world.



The image shows a screenshot of the European Parliament's voting session. The title is "Final votes - Second voting session". The subject is "(B9-0138/2022) Committee of enquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware vote: decision (as a whole)". The voting results are: 691 in favor (AM), 635 in favor (Voting +), 36 against (Voting -), and 20 abstentions (Voting 0).

Subject	AM	Voting +	Voting -	Voting 0
(B9-0138/2022) Committee of enquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware vote: decision (as a whole)	691	635	36	20

European Parliament decision of March 10, 2022 to set up a committee of inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware.



Israël

Pegasus is a spyware tool developed by Israeli company NSO Group. The head of the Israeli parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee announced a commission to investigate the allegations of misuse of Pegasus. On November 11, 2021 the new CEO of the Israeli company resigned just 11 days after his nomination was announced. Israel's Defense Ministry released a new — and much shorter — list of countries that local firms are allowed to sell cybersecurity tools to.



USA

NSO Group was blacklisted by the US government. Amazon shut down infrastructure and accounts linked to the Israeli company. Apple stated that it had filed a lawsuit against the Israeli company to hold it accountable for the surveillance and targeting of Apple users. Four Democrats in Congress told Biden administration that such firms "should be sanctioned, and if necessary, shut down."



France

On July 22, French President Emmanuel Macron chaired an emergency cybersecurity meeting dedicated to the Pegasus case, and also changed his telephone number and replaced his phone. Furthermore, Macron ordered an overhaul in security procedures. Traces of Pegasus spyware were found on the mobile phones of at least five former French cabinet ministers.

On August 5, 17 journalists from seven countries, who were listed as potential or actual victims of Pegasus spyware, filed complaints with prosecutors in Paris against the NSO Group. Their complaints complemented the one RSF and two journalists with French and Moroccan dual nationality already filed on July 20.



India

In India, where the consortium reported on over 300 confirmed and potential Pegasus targets, protests erupted in what became known as “India’s Watergate.” The Supreme Court later opened an independent probe into the scandal, which is still ongoing.



Morocco

At least 35 journalists in four countries were selected as targets by an NSO client that appears to be the Moroccan government. Morocco sued Amnesty International and Forbidden Stories for defamation. It also issued defamation citations against Le Monde, Mediapart and Radio France on July 28, filed an injunction request against the German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung on August 2, and filed a complaint against the French newspaper L’Humanité on October 1. On March 25, the Paris court declared the defamation suits inadmissible.



Algeria

The Pegasus Project investigation revealed that in Algeria, more than 6,000 telephone numbers were selected by Morocco to be targeted using Pegasus. On August 23, Algeria’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra announced that his country would end all diplomatic relations with Morocco. “History has shown that the Kingdom of Morocco has never stopped carrying out hostile actions against Algeria.” The Pegasus scandal was one of the latest developments in long-simmering tensions.



Hungary

At least 300 Hungarians were targeted using Pegasus software. On November 4, for the first time, a member of parliament from the ruling party acknowledged that Hungary's Ministry of the Interior had procured and uses Pegasus. The Pegasus Project revealed that Viktor Orbán's government is using this new weapon in its war on the media, targeting investigative journalists in particular.



Spain

On May 2022, the Spanish government sacked the country's spy chief, Paz Esteban, who reportedly confirmed that 18 members of the Catalan independence movement were spied on with judicial approval by Spain's national intelligence centre.



Germany

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for more restrictions on the spyware trade. However, on September 7, our German partners revealed that the Federal Criminal Police Office reportedly bought NSO's Pegasus spyware, which the German authorities admitted the next day.



Poland

A Senate committee was set up to investigate cases of spying on opposition representatives, particularly during elections, and Polish senators plan to draft a law to regulate the use of surveillance technology in the country.



Mexico

Mexico was NSO's first client, and three security agencies are known to have operated Pegasus over the past decade. In the aftermath of these revelations, President López Obrador committed to making all information on Pegasus public. In early November, a suspect was arrested for the first time since the publication of the Pegasus Project. He is accused of having used Pegasus to spy on Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui.



President López Obrador addressed the Pegasus Project revelations. Photograph: Mexico's Presidency/Reuters

The Pegasus Project spurred a **worldwide debate** about the cybersurveillance market.

07/19

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called for better regulation of the transfer and use of surveillance technologies: “Use of surveillance software has been linked to arrest, intimidation and even killings of journalists and human rights defenders.”

07/27

156 civil society organizations and 26 independent experts worldwide similarly called on states to implement an immediate moratorium on the sale, transfer and use of surveillance technology in a joint open letter.

08/12

UN experts called on all states to impose a global moratorium on the sale and transfer of surveillance technology until they put in place robust regulations that guarantee its use in compliance with international human rights standards.



09/10

5 organizations (RSF, Access Now, Amnesty International, CPJ, and Human Rights Watch) called upon the European Commission to follow up on their promise of creating a transparent market in cyber-surveillance technologies that is bound by effective human rights safeguards with immediate action, and to investigate the EU member states' role in the Pegasus affair.



09/14

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet once again issued a statement to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe, asking states not only to implement a moratorium on the sale of such technology but to “rein in the surveillance industry.”



09/15

The European Parliament dedicated a one-hour debate to the Pegasus scandal during its plenary session. Dozens of MPs came before the assembly, besetting EU Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, with questions left unanswered until now.



12/03

86 human rights organizations and experts (including Access Now, Amnesty International and the Digital Rights Foundation) called on the European Union to impose global sanctions on NSO Group and take “every action” to prohibit the sale, transfer, export and import of the Israeli company’s surveillance technology.



President Nayib Bukele at the bicentennial of El Salvador's independence. Photo: AFP PHOTO / EL SALVADOR'S PRESIDENCY PRESS OFFICE

The Pegasus Project journalists keep discovering and publishing new stories, and shockwaves from the revelations continue to reverberate several months on.

The number of spyware victims has continued to grow. Per our tally, as of November 25, 2021 at least 28 journalists had been notified by Apple that they were potential targets of "state sponsored attackers" in El Salvador, Lebanon, Bahrain, Ghana, Uganda, and South Africa. This brings the number of potential journalist victims of Pegasus spyware around the world to more than 220. The extent of surveillance seems particularly widespread in El Salvador where 24 journalists received Apple's notification.

The revelations have kept coming since July 2021.

The Pegasus Project: Impact

forbidden stories



Our video trailer has reached

3.5M

views on all platforms



Our thread on the "making of" has reached

1.2M

impressions



On September 23, Forbidden Stories produced and published a [first video](#) on the impact of the Pegasus Project, on the occasion of the European Parliament debate on the Pegasus scandal.



On November 18, Forbidden Stories produced and published a [second video](#) on the impact of the project on the occasion of the awarding of the RSF Prize for Impact.



” Stop what you’re doing and read this. This leak is going to be the story of the year.

EDWARD SNOWDEN

NSA whistleblower

” I commend the outstanding work of experts, journalists and civil society organizations in documenting the impact of tools like Pegasus and Candiru, their reports provided further evidence of the serious and global threat posed by the surveillance tech industry to civic space. The recent revelations of repeated malware abuse were a wake-up call.



MICHELLE BACHELET

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

What they said about the Pegasus Project



“ The Pegasus investigations have revealed a gross attack on press freedom, but, even more importantly, they have shown us once again why we need investigative journalism, now more than ever.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE



“ This is appalling. The revelations about the use of the Pegasus spyware inspire shock and revulsion, given the extent of the surveillance and targeting of journalists. No, NSO Group does not contribute to ‘global security and stability,’ contrary to what the company claims. Pegasus is a vile and loathsome tool, prized by ‘press freedom predators.’

CHRISTOPHE DELOIRE

RSF Executive Director



Members of the Greens/EFA
in the EU Parliament

Forbidden Stories also benefited from the visibility of existing regional and international events, such as conferences, festivals, and international celebration. Forbidden Stories was invited by its partners, press freedom organizations and philanthropic foundations to present its work at the following events.



- **February 2021:** a webinar organized by GIJN dedicated to the Cartel Project
- **March 2021:** Forbidden Stories was welcomed by the Wallace House of the University of Michigan (Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists) to speak about the Cartel Project
- **April 2021:** a panel with UNESCO for the World Press Freedom Day
- **May 2021:** a One World Media event to present the Cartel Project
- **October 2021:** a session on Investigative journalism in Europe organized by IFJ
- **November 2021:** the session “Investigating Attacks on Journalists” during the Global Investigative Journalism Conference
- **April 2022:** Laurent Richard and Sandrine Rigaud were welcomed by European Parliament inquiry committee for Pegasus and other spyware



In 2021, Forbidden Stories began developing the **SafeBox Network**. The goal? To deter crimes against journalists by sending a strong message to the enemies of the press: **killing the journalist won't kill the story**.

Threatened journalists can secure their sensitive information by sharing it with Forbidden Stories. If they are abducted, imprisoned or assassinated, Forbidden Stories and its partners will be able to continue their investigations and publish them worldwide.

Several training workshops will be held throughout 2022 with threatened journalists in Latin America, Africa and Asia, on how to protect their sensitive information with the SafeBox Network.

To ensure the development of the SafeBox Network, a project manager was appointed this year.

Within one year:



Twitter: +24.4K followers (more than double) | **42.8K followers now**



Facebook: +2.9K followers | **21.4K followers now**



YouTube: +2.8K followers | **7.4K followers now**



Instagram: **2.1K followers** (since July)



Newsletters: +3.9K subscribers | **9K subscribers now**



Website: 5.42 times more visits for the Pegasus Project than for the Cartel Project

Forbidden Stories has received many prestigious prizes in 2021. They are a confirmation of the quality, impact, and adherence to the mission pursued by Forbidden Stories, as well as a **prompting to continue to keep stories alive.**



2021 George Polk Award
For Technology Reporting
For the Pegasus Project



2021 RSF Press Freedom Awards
Impact Award
For the Pegasus Project



Human Rights Film Festival Awards Berlin
Honorary Award for Freedom and Democracy
For Forbidden Stories



**Daphne Caruana Galizia
Prize for Journalism**
2021 Award
For the Daphne Project



**2021 IJ4EU #Uncovered
Impact Award**
For the Daphne Project



2021 DIG Awards
Watchdog Award
For the Pegasus Project



2021 Maria Moors Cabot Prizes
Special Citation
For Regina Martínez and the Cartel Project



2021 Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism - For the Pegasus Project

Organized by the European Parliament, this prize is a tribute to Maltese anti-corruption investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was killed in a car bomb attack in 2017.

Our supporters in 2021

forbidden stories

Cross-border investigative journalism is among the most expensive and risky types of reporting in the world. Forbidden Stories is a non-profit project that **relies on charitable foundations and on financial support from the public.**

Forbidden Stories is extremely grateful to our supporters whose generosity makes our work possible. Thank you for all you do to keep journalists' stories alive.

They help us



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
PRESS & MEDIA
FREEDOM



NordVPN®

They are funding Forbidden Stories



Justice for Journalists
Foundation for International
Investigations of Crime against Media

FOUNDATION
Limelight

Luminate
Building stronger societies

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



Pulitzer Center



Seattle Foundation



VERENIGING
VERONICA

Wellspring
Philanthropic Fund

2020-2021

Revenue

Foundation grants: 931,860 €

Public donations: 32,612 €

Prizes: 6,321 €

Total Revenue: 970,793 €

Expenses

Staff salaries & taxes: 549,687 €

Operating expenses: 241,074 €

Total expenses: 790,761 €

These figures are based on our audited financial statements, our fiscal year covering September 2020 to August 2021.

Our media partners

forbidden stories

Belgium

Knack
Le Soir

Brazil

Folha de S. Paulo

Canada

The Star

Colombia

Connectas
Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP)
La Liga Contra el Silencio
Verdad Abierta

Ecuador

Fundamedios
GK
Periodistas Sin Cadenas

France

France Télévisions
Le Monde
Premières Lignes Télévision
Radio France

Germany

Die Zeit
NDR
Süddeutsche Zeitung
WDR

Ghana

Ghana Business News (GBN)

Guatemala

Prensa Comunitaria

Hong Kong

South China Morning Post

Hungary

Direkt 36

India

The Lede
The Wire

Indonesia

Tempo

Israel

Haaretz/TheMarker

Italy

IRPR Media
La Repubblica

Kenya

The Elephant

Lebanon

Daraj

Malaysia

Malaysiakini

Malta

Times of Malta

Mexico

Aristegui Noticias
Proceso

Namibia

The Namibian

Our media partners

forbidden stories

New Zealand

Radio New Zealand (RNZ)

Niger

L'évènement Niger

Panama

La Prensa

Peru

OjoPúblico

Philippines

Rappler

Poland

Gazeta Wyborcza

Portugal

Expresso

Puerto Rico

Centro de Periodismo Investigativo (CPI)

South Africa

AmaBhungane

South Korea

KCIJ Newstapa

Spain

El País

Sweden

Aftonbladet

Sveriges Television (SVT)

TT Nyhetsbyrån

Switzerland

Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS)

Tages-Anzeiger

Global

Centro Latinoamericano de Investigación Periodística (CLIP)

Bellingcat

Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)

The Netherlands

de Correspondent
de Volkskrant

UK

Reuters

The Guardian

USA

PBS Frontline

The New York Times

The Washington Post



Global Investigative
Journalism Network

Forbidden Stories is part of
the **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)**



Laurent Richard
Founder
& Executive director



Sandrine Rigaud
Editor-in-chief



Audrey Travère
Journalist



Phineas Rueckert
Journalist



Sara Guglielmi
Development
manager



Antoine Cauty
Communication
officer



Léa Peruchon
Journalist



Clément Le Merlus
Journalist & SafeBox
Network's project
manager



**Paloma Dupont de
Dinechin**
Journalist



**Cécile
Schilis-Gallego**
Journalist



Juliette Gache
Journalist

To advise us as we expand our mission and reach, Forbidden Stories is pleased to welcome **five new members** to its **board of directors**. As a news organization based in France, the expansion of our board to include members of various nationalities also reflects the emphasis we place on international partnerships and collaborations:



“In four years, Forbidden Stories has grown at a rapid pace. Our investigations have had a worldwide impact and our partnerships have multiplied. We are very happy to be able to surround ourselves with important players from the journalism, entrepreneurship, and civil society worlds to support us in this evolution.”

Laurent Richard, founder and executive director of Forbidden Stories



“Because of the ambitious work of Forbidden Stories, corrupt forces who seek to silence and intimidate journalists now know that there is a global network of reporters watching their misdeeds and that stories cannot so easily be killed. It is an honor to help steer the growth and reach of such an important journalism organization, and all of us look forward to serving and working together.”

Lynette Clemetson, new board chair of Forbidden Stories



Lynette Clemetson
Chair

Lynette Clemetson is the Director of Wallace House, Knight-Wallace Fellowships and the Livingston Awards at the University of Michigan. A longtime journalist, she worked as a correspondent for Newsweek magazine, and for The New York Times, and senior director of strategy and new initiatives at NPR.



Edouard Perrin
General secretary

Edouard Perrin is a French investigative reporter. In 2014, He brought to the ICIJ the Luxembourg Leaks investigation, based on secret documents, that revealed widespread aggressive tax avoidance by some of the world's biggest companies.



Luisa Handem Piette
Treasurer

Luisa Handem Piette is a highly regarded communications executive with vast experience as a broadcaster, human rights activist, media development officer and broadcaster. She has served in senior media positions with various organizations over the past three decades, including United Press International, UNESCO, the BBC World Service and Voice of America (VOA).



Doctor in Law and Member of the Paris Bar, Laurence Franc-Menget is a partner in the Disputes group in the Paris office of Herbert Smith Freehills. She has extensive experience both in international commercial arbitration and investment arbitration.

Laurence Franc-Menget
Member



Rémi Labeled is a French investigative journalist and documentary filmmaker. He advises and assists Forbidden Stories since its creation, both on its use of investigation and collaboration software and on its digital security.

Rémi Labeled
Member



2017 Pulitzer prize winner, Bastian Obermayer is the deputy head of the investigative unit of the Munich-based Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany's biggest newspaper. He's also member of the International Consortium for Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

Bastian Obermayer
Member



Joanne Levine is an award winning producer and media executive with three decades of experience working, reporting and leading teams around the world. (more than 10 years at ABC News, two Emmys for her work in Iraq, etc.).

Joanne Levine
Member

Forbidden Stories also seeks to increase the international exposure of our subsidiary **Forbidden Films' documentaries** to raise awareness of our organization and increase the impact of our investigations.

To that end, Forbidden Films produced a documentary on the **Cartel Project**, which was broadcast on French public television on Tuesday April 27, where it was seen by over half a million viewers.

The Green Blood documentary won the 2021 Prix Tournesol at the Green Film Festival on September 4.

Additionally, Forbidden Films produced the documentary "**The Caviar Connection**" about Azeri journalist Khadija Ismayilova, which was broadcast on September 28 on Arte.

Another documentary, "**Slovakia, the murdered lovers**," was also broadcast on French TV on December 19.



In addition to the documentaries on the Green Blood Project and the Cartel Project, a documentary on the **Daphne Project** was broadcast on December 19 on French TV.

Forbidden Films is also producing two documentaries, in partnership with Arte and PBS Frontline which will be broadcast next year. One is about the **Pegasus Project**; the other is about the **Wagner Group**.



Laurent Richard
Producer



Sandrine Rigaud
Producer

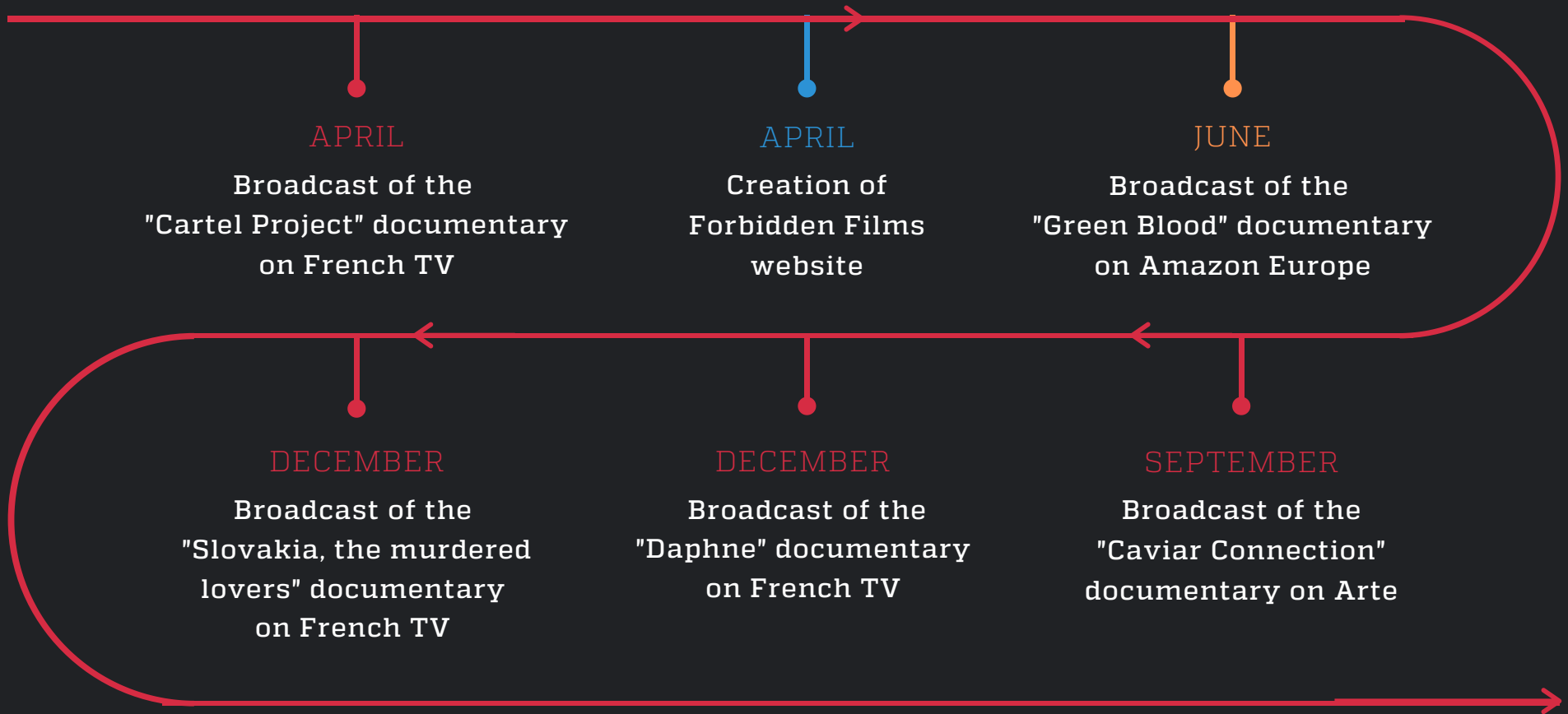


Thierry Mangeard
Head of production



Louis Goncalves
Production assistant

2021





People march during a protest against the Hungarian government for using Pegasus spyware in Budapest, Hungary, July 26, 2021. REUTERS/Marton Monus

Killing the journalist won't kill the story |

forbidden stories | .org

Media inquiries:
media [at] freedomvoicesnetwork.org