
News, information and dialogue for a better understanding

Fondation Hironnelle is a Swiss **non-profit organization** of journalists and media development professionals, created in 1995. We defend the universal **right to information, based on Article 19 of the Declaration of Human Rights**.

Fondation Hironnelle creates or supports **independent, broad-based, civic-minded media** in conflict and post-conflict zones, countries in transition and any other situation where the right to information is under threat. In situations of war, post-conflict and serious political or social crisis, lack of information, rumours and propaganda have a devastating effect on civilians. By providing impartial information and platforms for dialogue, the media we support promote **reconstruction, peace and the emergence of democratic societies**.

Fondation Hironnelle's experience show that professional journalism, based on factual coverage of the news, and avoiding comments, help the population to **better understand their environment**. Better understanding contributes to restore or improve confidence between the population and the media. It allows creating **new platforms for dialogue between all components of the society**, especially between the local populations and their authorities.

Media that are independent ; Journalism based on facts

In order for our journalists to work independently, despite an environment which is often difficult, we follow clear and basic principles :

professional, fact-based journalism thanks to ethical Charters and codes of conduct, appropriate expertise and training support, with regular monitoring of media production.

We remind our media or those we support to avoid comments and stick to basic journalism : cover the facts,

don't give your own opinion (nobody cares and you will lose credibility), allow the public and Representatives of all groups in the society to express their opinion, in the most balanced manner.

Following these principles allow our media to help restore dialogue between the population and the authorities. They thus contribute to the **a better governance** and the resolutions of crisis. Acting as an

Icebreaker for other local media, they contribute in building or strengthening **communities of professional**

journalists and a culture of **public debate and dialogue**.

20 media projects in 15 countries since 1995

Since its creation in 1995, Fondation Hironnelle has created, supported or taken over the management of various media, including:

- **Radio Okapi:** the United Nations radio in the Democratic Republic of Congo, created in 2002 in partnership with Fondation Hironnelle. It is the benchmark media in the DRC and one of the leading radio stations in Africa with 14 million listeners daily. Fondation Hironnelle trained the 150 journalists of Radio Okapi, designed the programmes and managed the radio in partnership with the United Nations for 12 years.
- **Radio Miraya:** the United Nations radio in Sudan and South Sudan.
- **Star Radio:** the first independent news radio in Liberia, created and managed by the Fondation from 1997 to 2000 and then after the expulsion of Charles Taylor from 2005 to 2008.
- **Radio Blue Sky:** a radio in Kosovo created and managed in partnership with the United Nations from 1999 to 2000.
- **Radio Moris Hamutuk:** a radio created in East Timor with the United Nations and transformed into a public service media in 2006.



In 2016, 9 media operations in 8 countries and on the Web

- **Radio Ndeke Luka:** radio with the biggest audience in the Central African Republic (since 2000)
- **Kandindi agency and support to community radios** in the Democratic Republic of Congo (programme production, training and support in management, equipment and revenue generation)
- **Radio tunisienne:** support to the national radio in Tunisia in its transition to a public service media (since 2011)
- **Studio Tamani:** produces two hours of radio programmes per day, which are broadcast by a network of radios throughout Mali (since 2013)
- **Studio Mozaik:** a radio training studio which trains journalists and produces programmes for broadcast by a network of radios across Côte d'Ivoire (since 2014)
- **Studio Hironnelle Guinea:** a radio training studio which produces news and information programmes for broadcast by a network of radios across Guinea (since 2014)
- **Studio Kalangou:** produces two hours of radio programmes a day, which are broadcast by a network of radios throughout Niger (since 2016)
- **Public broadcaster of Burkina Faso:** Support to cover the election process and the new elected authorities (since 2015)
- **JusticeInfo.net:** the first bilingual (EN-FR) website with independent news and analysis on transitional justice throughout the world (since 2015)



Projects in partnership with the UN : radio stations in war zones

- Since twenty years, ***the United Nations have created radio stations in countries at war and post-conflict areas*** where the UN security council has decided to establish Peace keeping operations
- On several occasions, ***the UN have asked Fondation Hironnelle to help them create, manage and develop*** some of these radios
- Main goal : to provide independent news and create public service programs in contexts where they did not really exist, or where independent news medias are too fragile to operate
- These radios stations, under the UN mandate and with our journalistic expertise and management, allow to reunite through the waves populations that are divided by conflict.
- Our main achievements with the UN : ***Radio Blue Sky in Kosovo*** in 1999 – 2000 (then transfered to public broadcaster) ; ***Radio Okapi in the Democratic Republic of Congo***, from 2002 to present day (the biggest radio in Africa with 14 million daily listeners)



Support to national medias in post-revolution contexts and countries in democratic transitions

- In **Tunisia**, country of the first «Arab spring» revolution, in 2011, the public broadcaster has received Fondation Hironnelle's technical support from 2011 to 2016 to help the national radio reform, from state propaganda media, towards a real public service
- Our support has focused in the **regions**, where the revolution started and where the distrust of the population towards the state media was very strong
- We have **reconnected the population with its national media** by changing and modernising the programming grids of the regional channels of the public radio
- We identified and trained new journalists and young local correspondents, **better connected to the local life and preoccupations of the citizens**
- Thanks to these reforms, the local radio stations of the public service have **gained audience** in the past years



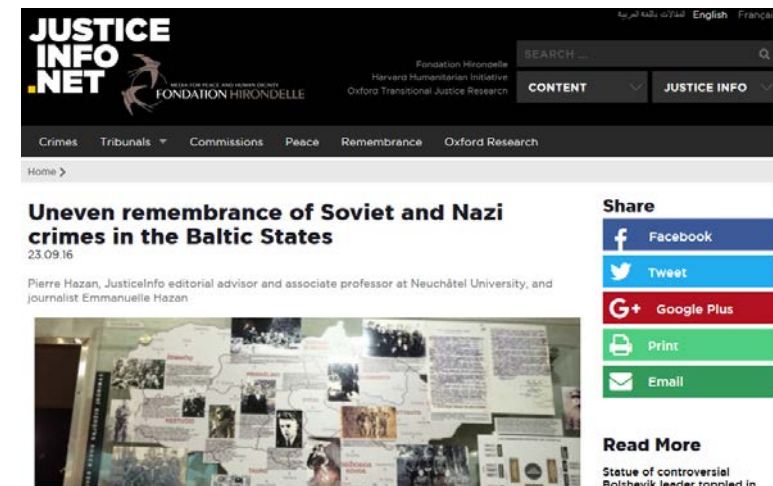
Support to networks of local medias to create platforms for dialogue

- In western Africa, **Mali** is facing a serious crisis since 2012 : invasion of **terrorists groups** in the Northern part of the country, connected to local separatists movements, followed by a coup in Bamako, and then a military intervention of the French army under a UN mandate to fight the djihadists
- A **peace agreement** was signed between rebel movements in the North and the government in Bamako in 2014
- Following a demand by the national union of independent broadcasters in Mali, we have created in 2013 a **daily radio and TV program** made of national news bulletins in 5 languages and a daily debate program, broadcasted by a network of 60 radio and TV stations across the country. **1.6 Millions listeners** every day.
- Factual news help the population to be **better informed about the conflict**. The debate program, where the authorities dialogue with armed movements and the opposition, **restore confidence in consensual ways** to resolve the conflict.



Connect local and international audiences on major global issues

- To cover international and transitionnal justice cases, we launched last year the JusticeInfo.net website
- **A news and in-depth analysis** website focused on one **major international issue**, supervised by an editor-in-chief based in France, with correspondents all over the world, including at the International criminal court in The Hague (Netherlands)
- Contributions from the best international researchers and specialists in International Justice, thanks **to partnerships with Oxford** transitionnal justice research and **Harvard** Humanitarian Initiative
- **Connection between audiences** from various countries affected by international and transitionnal justice cases, thanks to partnerships with local and international medias
- We work on developping other media platforms of that kind, for example about the coverage of **the migration crisis in Europe**



Awards and distinctions

Since its creation in 1995, Fondation Hironnelle has received several international prizes and awards, notably :

- The **2003 Henri Dunant Prize** for “exceptional accomplishments in the field of information in crisis zones”.
- The **2006 Condorcet-Aron Prize** for “cultivation of independent radios notably in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Central African Republic, in Liberia, in Sudan, and in the Great Lakes Region”.
- The **2010 Free Media Pioneer Award** presented by the International Press Institute to Radio Okapi, honoured as “a shining example, not only for media in other conflict or post-conflict areas, but for radio stations around the world”.
- The **Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) Prize 2014 for the protection of journalists**, given by the organization of the same name in recognition of Fondation Hironnelle’s support to the journalism profession in Africa and its efforts to fight propaganda and hate speech, which fuel conflicts.



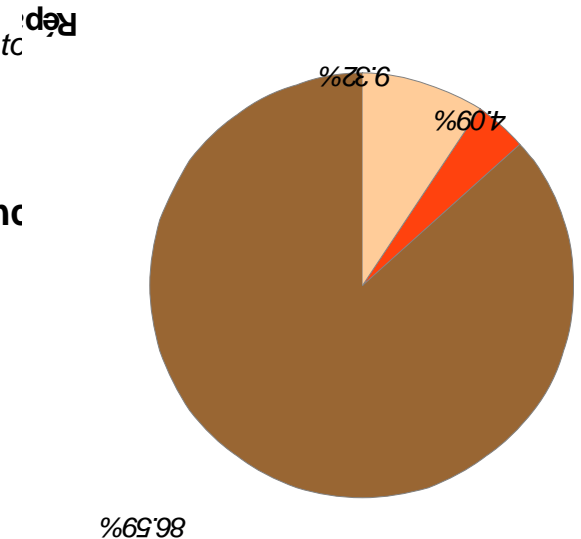
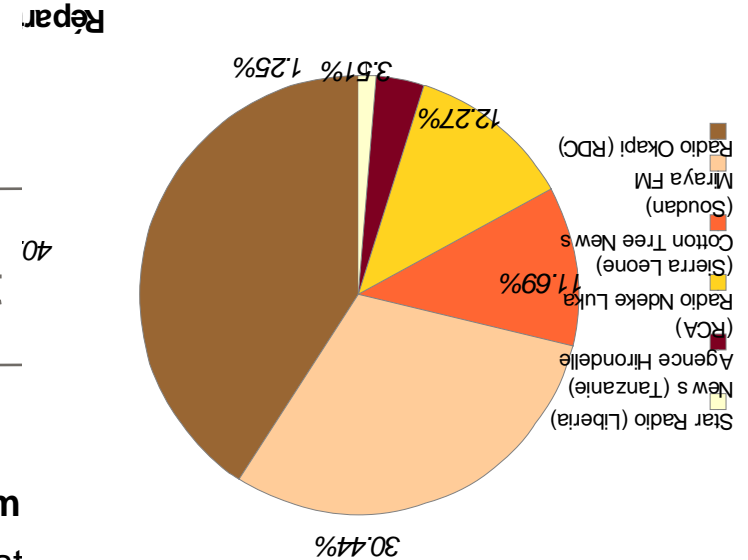
Team and budget

Fondation Hironnelle has a team of **195 em** throughout the world, of some 20 different nat

- 30 people at its headquarters in Lausanne
- 15 expatriates on the ground
- 150 journalists, presenters, technicians, administratc and other national staff on contract

In 2015, its annual budget was **11 million Swiss franc**

Fondation Hironnelle's accounts are audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA.



Our supporters

Fondation Hironnelle operations are supported by:

- **governments**, such as Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Union...
- **private partners and donors**, like OSIWA (Open Society Initiative for Western Africa), Cordaid, Swiss broadcaster RTS, Fondation Pro Victimis. ..
- by **individual donors**.

