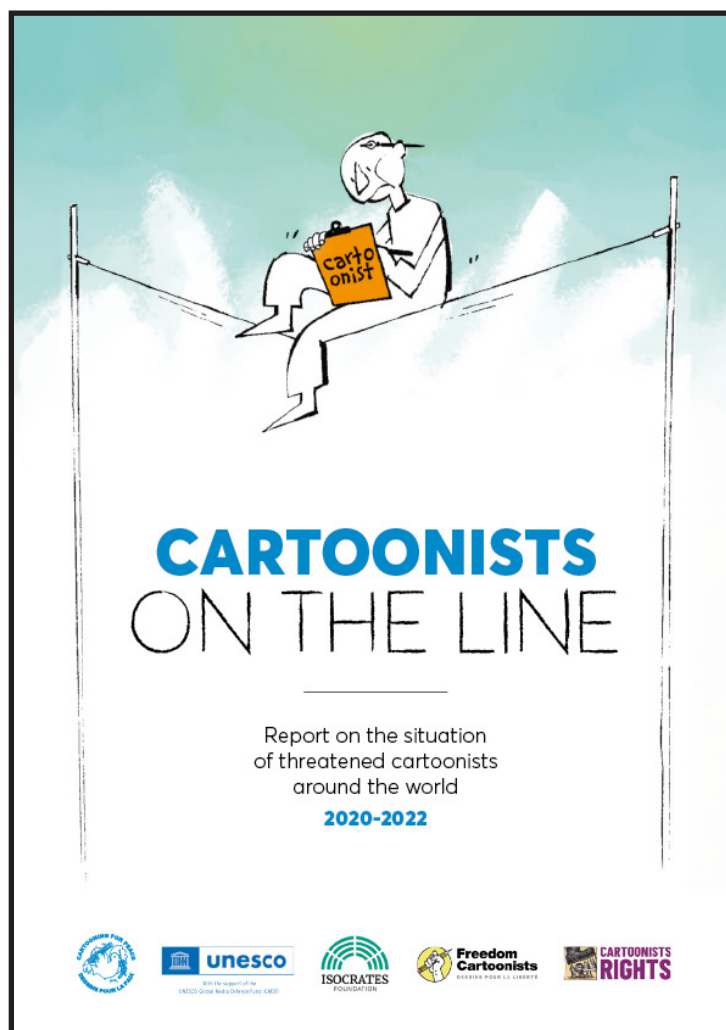




## PRESS RELEASE Paris, 7th of November 2023

### Cartooning for Peace and Cartoonists Rights publish a report on the situation of threatened cartoonists around the world



«The tyrants of this world have taken advantage of the turbulence of the period 2020-2023 (pandemics, wars, diplomatic tensions, digital disinformation, etc.) to tighten their grip on the media, and in particular on press cartoonists», notes cartoonist Kak, President of Cartooning for Peace, in [his tribune published in the French newspaper Ouest France](#) on 28 September.

Russia, Türkiye, Algeria, Afghanistan, Iran, Cuba, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, India... So many countries and so many cases of censorship of cartoonists that deserve our attention. As Matt Wuerker, President of Cartoonists Rights, points out, «These are not easy times for journalists and the free press, and that goes double for the courageous cartoonists with whom we work, many times under the heel of some of the most despotic and humourless bullies imaginable».

## « Cartoonists on the line »

### Report on the situation of threatened cartoonists around the world

---

Given the convergence of their missions and their constant efforts to help cartoonists, Cartooning for Peace and Cartoonists Rights have joined forces to produce this report, which presents the main challenges facing cartoonists in terms of freedom of expression that their monitoring and support work has enabled them to identify.

Although not exhaustive, this report is based on analyses and case studies from the period 2020-2022. It highlights the increase in State censorship in authoritarian regimes, the rise in online violence and hatred towards press cartoonists and their ever-increasing and disproportionate criminalisation, not to mention the difficult situation of exile that recent conflicts have exacerbated. Based on these observations, the report sets out recommendations for the protection of cartoonists.

Produced as part of the project «Enhancing legal support to press cartoonists in the digital age (2022-2023)» implemented by Cartooning for Peace and supported by **UNESCO's Global Media Freedom Fund (GMDF)** and the **Isocrates Foundation**, this work, enriched by numerous contributions, has also benefited from the support of the **Freedom Cartoonists Foundation** and the **World Democracy Forum**.

The report is launched on 7 November 2023 during the Forum Talk 9: «Cartoonists: an endangered profession» organised as part of the next [World Democracy Forum](#) at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

The report is intended to be accessible to as many people as possible and is available for free downloading from the Cartooning for Peace and Cartoonists Rights websites.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)

To coincide with the release of the report, Cartooning for Peace is also announcing the forthcoming release of three episodes of the podcast series «[Tough Laugh x Tough Law](#)», produced by Emanuele del Rosso and Federica Testi. The episodes will embody the message of the report through the testimonies of cartoonists who have been subjected to attacks on their freedom of expression in the course of their work.

---

#### Cartooning for Peace

The Cartooning for Peace organisation was created in 2006 at the initiative of Kofi Annan, Nobel Peace Prize and former General Secretary of the United Nations, and press cartoonist Plantu. Now chaired by French press cartoonist Kak, Cartooning for Peace is an international network of cartoonists committed to the promotion of freedom of expression, Human Rights and mutual respect among people upholding different cultures and beliefs, using the universal language of press cartoons.

#### Cartoonists Rights

Cartoonists Rights Network International - Cartoonists Rights for short - is a human rights NGO founded in 1999. Based in the USA, with a voluntary network of regional representative cartoonists, legal experts, and human rights defenders around the world, its mission is to strengthen the interconnectedness of cartoonists, campaign to protect their human rights, and defend those abused, threatened, criminalised or displaced because of their work.

---

#### PRESS CONTACT

Chloe Guerif

[chloe.guerif@cartooningforpeace.org](mailto:chloe.guerif@cartooningforpeace.org)

+33 (0)7 49 33 55 86