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▲ Lvl. 1

State  
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France

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## Journalists Victims of Police Violence During Demonstrations

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists

**PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ, Index**

An upsurge in police violence against journalists has been observed since mid-May during demonstrations against the new labour laws. On 17 May, Joël Labat, cameraman, was the target of a teargas grenade shot at close range. On 26 May, an independent photographer was seriously wounded at the end of a demonstration in the vicinity of the Court of Vincennes, hit in the head by a sting grenade. On 31 May, in Rennes, a photographer was forced under threat to wipe his equipment clean of images. On 2 June in Rennes, the forces of order were violent with four journalists and damaged their equipment: Vincent Feuray, an independent photographer, Jérémie Verchère, photographic journalist and Bruno Van Wassenhove, a cameraman for the television channel, France 3, were beaten with truncheons. A reporter from the private television channel M6, was also thrown to the ground. These journalists could all be clearly identified (Press cards, helmets and branded cameras). They claim to have been deliberately attacked by the police.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  On 13 May 2016, the United Nations Committee against Torture published its Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of France. Doc. CAT/C/FRA/CO/7.
-  Statement by SNJ-CGT (in French) "Violences policières, ça suffit !"
-  Statement by FEJ (in French) "France: les violences policières doivent cesser "
-  News on Mapping Media Freedom "France: Police force journalist to delete photos of protest in Rennes"
-  News on Mapping Media Freedom "France: Police hit journalists with batons during protests"

 [Statement by RSF \(in French\) "France : RSF dénonce les violences policières commises contre des journalistes en marge des manifestations"](#)

## STATE REPLIES



**09 Feb 2018** | Reply of the French authorities

 [Letter from the Permanent Representation of France to the Council of Europe \(in French only\)](#)

## FOLLOW-UPS

**15 Jun 2016** | Recent police violence against journalists during demonstrations in France disturbing, says OSCE Representative

 [Statement by Dunja Mijatović](#)