

# Introducing The Freedom of Information Defense Platform (PDLI)



## The FIDP

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*In Spain, legal reforms penalize the rights to protest and to disseminate information.*

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## What is the PDLI?

The Freedom of Information Defense Platform [in Spanish "**Plataforma en Defensa de la Libertad de Información**" (**PDLI**)] arose out of the concern of a group of organizations and individuals in the legal field, journalism and social movements after the rights to freedom of information and expression were threatened in Spain.

Legal reforms which penalize the rights to protest and to disseminate information, like the Organic Law Project on the Protection of Citizen Security, or those which impede the normal function of the Internet such as the reform of the Intellectual Property Law; rules that block access to justice, including court fees; or which neutralize the right to public information, as occurred with the poorly-named Transparency Law; or practices which, through political power, seek control of the media, such as the discretionary contracting of institutional advertising to ensure the survival of favorable media over those less favorable, all clearly highlight the precarity of these essential rights.

At the same time, in the context of the economic and political crisis which has inspired new forms of protest supported in large part by the freedom of information and enabled greatly by the Internet, the base of power has reacted with great force in attempting to squash their development through initiatives which amount to violations of these vulnerable rights.

## Goals

**The Freedom of Information Defense Platform (FIDP)** was formed to further actions which help arrest this dangerous trend, together with organizations of judges and lawyers such as the Bar Association of Madrid (ICAM), the Progressive Prosecutors Association (UPF), and the Sol Legal Commission; with journalists including the Federation of Journalist Trade Unions; with media outlets such as ElDiario.es, 20minutos, the press agency Disopress, and Mongolia magazine; consumer associations like the Consumer and Users Organization (OCU) and the Spanish Confederation of Organisations of Homemakers, Consumers and Users (CEACCU); university professors and research groups such as Manuel Sánchez de Diego of Complutense University, Madrid (UCM), Manuel Maroto of the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM), and the technopolitical network group of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC); and reporters, filmmakers and lawyers including Mario Tascón, Virginia Pérez Alonso, Juan Luis Sánchez, Stéphane M. Grueso and Carlos Sánchez Almeida.

## Activities

Among the activities the FIDP intends to carry out, special emphasis will be given to the **monitoring** and dissemination of **attacks on freedom of expression** against **journalists** and the **media**, as well as against **activists, social movements** and **citizens**.

The FIDP have developed and launched an **online tool** for the collection of data on legal threats to freedom of expression in a collaborative way, named "**mapea.cc**" [[www.mapea.cc](http://www.mapea.cc)]



The FIDP will also sponsor **campaigns** in reaction to proposed laws restricting the rights to freedom of expression and information, and will launch **training programs** for journalists, activists and social movements on how to "safely" exercise both these rights.

## FIDP founding members and organizations

### The Bar Association of Madrid (ICAM)

Founded in 1596, currently the Bar Association of Madrid (ICAM) has more than **77,000 members**. Since 2013, Sonia Gumpert has been chairperson, the first woman to hold this position. As part of their duties, the Bar has always been motivated by causes affecting the basic rights of citizens. Recent examples of this include the petition to waive court fees, the rights of detainees, and the defense of free legal aid. The chairperson, Sonia Gumpert, holds the Vice Presidency of the FIDP.

Twitter: @icam\_es Website: <http://web.icam.es/>

### The Progressive Prosecutor's Association (UPF)

The Progressive Prosecutor's Association (UPF) is a professional association of prosecutors founded in 1985. Together with other associations of European judges and prosecutors, including the Spanish Judges for Democracy (JPD), **they belong to the association of European Judges for Democracy and Freedom (MEDEL)**. The UPF have publicly spoken out against the curtailing of rights, court fees, and for the rights of migrant people and the right of free expression for judges and prosecutors.

Twitter: @UPFiscales Website: <http://www.upfiscals.com/>

### The Federation of Journalist Trade Unions (FeSP)

The Federation of Journalist Trade Unions (FeSP) joins independent unions of information professionals. The unions of the FeSP "represent workers whose principal livelihoods derive from periodic reporting in any format or medium, including presently active professionals as well as the unemployed or retired". The FeSP is a member of the **European Federation of Journalists (FEJ)**, the **International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)**, and the Forum of Journalist Organizations.

Twitter: @FeSPeriodistas Website: <http://www.fesp.org/>

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## The Sol Legal Commission

The **15M Legal Commission** emerged just hours after the end of the demonstration in 2011 which led to the encampment at La Puerta del Sol, the main plaza in Madrid. From that moment on, lawyers and people interested in the defense of the rights the occupiers came together in La Puerta del Sol as a working team whose functions were, and are: advising the participants of their rights as citizens, especially regarding the rights of assembly, protest, political participation and freedom of expression; advising commissions and working groups in the legal formulation of their proposals; facilitating the work of the first Madrid neighborhood and town assemblies, and in other cities around Spain, whenever a legal commission was lacking; and personal intervention in the defense of injured persons and detainees in cases where required.

Twitter: @Legalsol Website: <http://legal15m.wordpress.com/>

### eldiario.es

eldiario.es is a digital news site launched in 2012, which has become a **reference point** as much for its independent news as for its member-supported financial model. From its **standpoint on human rights and freedom of information**, their editorial priorities include **cooperation with other social collectives** and projects as part of the larger discussion.

### 20minutos

Leader of Spain's freely-distributed press and the **first Spanish daily newspaper to publish under a Creative Commons license**, 15 years after its launch 20minutos is now a touchstone in social and citizen journalism, Internet innovation, and reader participation. It's the second most widely-read printed news in Spain (EGM), and the **second most-widely read in Spanish (comsCore)** and the fourth most-read online Spanish news (comsCore). Print editions are available in eight cities (Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Zaragoza, Seville, Granada, Cordoba and Malaga). Their **public service reporting** has been recognized with numerous **awards and distinctions**.

Twitter: @20m Website: <http://www.20minutos.es/>

### Mongolia Magazine

A "**satirical magazine with no message at all**", they first appeared on the street in March 2012. Their initial print run of 25,000 copies was sold out in just a few days. Since then, their reach and influence hasn't stopped growing. According to one of their editors, "Mongolia arose from the need to become the last bastion of freedom of expression and freedom of information, and we believe that these two fundamental rights have to be proclaimed and defended." In 2013, Mongolia was the **first winner of the International Press Club Prize** "for its defense of human values and freedom of expression", and has been favorably mentioned in international media outlets including The Guardian, The New York Times and The Financial Times, among many others.

Twitter: @revistamongolia Website: <http://www.revistamongolia.com/>



Protest in Spain

## The Consumer and Users Organization (OCU)

The Consumer and Users Organization (OCU) is a nonprofit, private, independent association founded in 1975 for the promotion of consumer interests, helping consumers to assert their rights. The OCU does not depend on subsidies; they boast **more than 300,000 members** whose fees fund all the organization's activities. Their actions are geared towards the continual improvement of living conditions for consumers and users. In particular, the OCU calls for the recognition by law and the full ability to exercise the following rights: the right to effective protection against risks that threaten the health and safety of consumers and users; the right to effective protection against risks capable of causing economic harm; the right to advice, assistance and reparation of damages suffered by consumers and users; the right to information and education; the right to a hearing, counsel and representation, and the right of consumers and users to participate in the process of making decisions which concern them.

Twitter: @consumidores Website: <http://www.ocu.org/organizacion/>

## The Confederation of Homemakers, Consumers and Users (CEACCU)

Founded in 1968, the Spanish Confederation of Organizations of Homemakers, Consumers and Users (CEACCU), is **the leading consumer organization in Spain** both in number of members and territorial reach. They have maintained a critical stance on issues like electricity deregulation, lack of protection for families in bankruptcy and those affected by fraudulent "preferred shares" bank investment schemes. Among its main activities is the publication of free legal resources (such as lawsuits) for citizens. They have launched more than 20 media campaigns or initiatives dealing with consumer rights. They were consulted by the so-called "Committee of the Wise" for its proposed reform of public TV (RTVE).

Twitter: @ceaccu Website: <http://www.ceaccu.org/>

## Manuel Maroto Calatayud

**Professor of Criminal Law** at the University of Castilla-la Mancha (UCLM). Doctorate in Law from the University of Castilla-La Mancha, with a thesis entitled "Corruption and funding of political parties: a political-criminal analysis" (2012). His main areas of research have been corruption and the financing of political parties, the criminal liability of legal entities, and notable tech-related criminal-political trends.

Twitter: @manumaroto Website: <http://uclm.academia.edu/ManuelMaroto>

## Manuel Sánchez de Diego Fernández de la Riva

**Professor of Constitutional Law** at Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), is a lawyer and journalist. Doctor (1991) and BA (1981) in Law from UCM. Degree in Information Sciences (Journalism) from UCM (1984). Advanced Studies Diploma (2010) in Communication Management: Public Relations, Information and Publicity from the University of Vigo. Diploma in Constitutional Law and Political Science (1981-1983) from the Center for Constitutional and Political Studies. Chairperson of the selection board for entrance examinations to Judiciary (2000 and 2001) and Public Prosecution (2001) degree programs. European expert in Phare anti-corruption programs in Romania and Slovakia (2002).

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/manuel-sanchez-de-diego-frdez-de-la-riva/18/38a/85b>

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## Networking, Movements and Technopolitics

**Research Group of the UOC (IN3-UOC).** Research group of the "Internet Interdisciplinary Institute" (IN3) of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). Defined as "a laboratory for the research and **analysis of network movements**, based on the experience and knowledge resulting from the intersection between movements and the university."

They're dedicated to contributing to the analysis of the processes of social mobilization "which have emerged in the world since the crisis began in 2008, and especially since 2011, in which networks have played a crucial role."

Twitter: @Tecnopolítica\_ Website: <http://tecnopolitica.net/>

## Disopress

**News agency** founded 2013, specializing in **social content**, "understanding that social is a broad concept encompassing politics, culture, ecology, feminism and labor". From this point of view, their coverage closely follows mobilizations and citizen protests (demonstrations, imprisonments, evictions, etc.) which do not always find room in the mainstream media.

Twitter: @Disopress Website: <http://disopress.com/index.php>

## Virginia Pérez Alonso

**Journalist.** Founder of 20minutos in 2000, Spain's first freely distributed newspaper. Became deputy director of its online edition between 2008 and 2012, during which time it rose as a leader in innovation and social journalism to become one of the three most-read online Spanish newspapers in the world. **Deputy editor-in-chief of Grupo 20 Minutos** since 2012, where she co-managed all publications and led the digital transformation of the editorial group. Won the iRedes award in 2012 for representing a new generation of media executives who understand the cultural transformation required in newsrooms. Formerly worked at La Voz de Galicia, EFE, Radiovoz and Cinco Días. Acted as juror for several of the most prestigious journalism contests, including the Gabriel García Márquez Journalism Award and the Miguel Delibes National Journalism Prize. Frequently attends conferences, symposia, congresses and seminars on journalism and its treatment of issues related to human rights and inequality. Occasional radio and television contributor. **Has been elected President of the FIDP.**

Twitter: @virginiapalonso.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/virginiapalonsoperiodista>

## Mario Tascón

**Journalist specializing in the digital world and new media.** Managing partner of the consultancy Prodigioso Volcán. Former deputy editor of **El Mundo** and the first director and driving force behind [elmundo.es](http://elmundo.es); general manager of digital content at **Grupo Prisa** and managing editor of [lainformacion.com](http://lainformacion.com), as well as consultant to more than 20 international media outlets. **Teacher at the Gabriel García Márquez New Latin American Journalism Foundation.**

Author or co-author of books including "Twittergrafía", "Writing on the Internet: a guide to new media and social networks", "Cyberactivism: the new revolutions of the connected masses" and novels like "The Bastard Bible". **Chairperson for FIDP.**

Twitter:@mtascon Website: <http://www.prodigiosovolcan.com/>



*Virginia P. Alonso, President of the FIDP*

## Carlos Sánchez Almeida

Practicing lawyer since 1987, involved in activism for civil liberties on the Internet since 1995. Contributor to numerous digital media outlets. Chairperson and Legal Director of FIDP.

Twitter: @bufetalmeida Website: <http://www.bufetalmeida.com>

## Juan Luis Sánchez

Founder and Deputy Director of eldiario.es. Specialized in new media and its connection with political and social debates. Radio and television contributor. Author of "The 10 Tides of Change" and other publications on communication and network society. He teaches at the Official Master of Innovation in Journalism program at Miguel Hernández University. He is a member and Information Director at FIDP. Twitter: @juanlusanchez



*Conference about Activism, Press and Freedom of Information, organized by the PDLI  
(Madrid, 2th of December of 2014)*

## Stéphane M. Grueso

**Documentary filmmaker.** Developed his career in Spain and Germany, where he has lived for 7 years. Creator of documentaries such as "Copyright, or the right to copy" and "15M: Excellent. A Wake-up Call. Important". Co-promoter of the project 15M.cc. Works in education, teaching transmedia, new formats, new technologies and media, cultural management and audiovisual production. Writes for #Interferencias, an ElDiario.es opinion blog. Active in networks, social actions and movements in Madrid. He is **Treasurer** of the FIDP, and **in charge of training**.

Twitter: @fanetin Website: <http://steph.es>.

## Yolanda Quintana

**Journalist.** Researcher on social movements and their relation to the internet and media. Author of books including "Society, consumers and media", and "Cyberactivism: the new revolutions of the connected masses" (co-authored with Mario Tascón). Works in a consumer organization. Writes for Diario Turing (ElDiario.es) on privacy, hacktivism and digital rights. **Coordinator and Secretary General of FIDP.**

Twitter: @Y\_quintana

## Organization

### Board of Directors

President: Virginia Pérez Alonso

Vice President: Sonia Gumpert Melgosa

Secretary General: Yolanda Quintana

Treasurer: Stéphane M. Grueso

Chairpersons: Juan Luis Sánchez. Mario Tascón. Carlos Sánchez Almeida.

### Team

Coordinator: Yolanda Quintana

Legal Advisor: Carlos Sánchez Almeida

Information Director: Juan Luis Sánchez

Network Communication: Catorce.cc

Training: Stéphane M. Grueso

Legal and Financial Management: DL22

Data Analysis and Digital Tools: Outliers Collective

Translation: Guerrilla Translation



## Contact

**Website:** [www.libertadinformacion.cc](http://www.libertadinformacion.cc) / [www.libertadinformacion.es](http://www.libertadinformacion.es)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/pdli>

**Youtube:** <http://goo.gl/8BVwkQ>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pdlinformacion>

**E-mail:** [contacto@libertadinformacion.cc](mailto:contacto@libertadinformacion.cc)