

24journs.com

A website that previously described itself as satirical that now claims to cover “real” news, although it often publishes false stories. Articles often focus on French-speaking countries in Africa.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 20/100










Ownership and Financing

24Journs.com, which means “24 Days” in French, does not disclose its ownership. “Ngwa Kennedy,” an individual based in Douala, Cameroun, was identified as the administrator of the site in 2017, according to DomainBigData.com, a site that provides domain ownership data. 24Journs.com is now registered through a domain privacy service that hides ownership information.

In response to questions sent to an email address for 24Journs.com, a representative of the site who identified himself as Macjude Kennedy said that “Ngwa Kennedy is our web designer.” (“Ngwa Kennedy est notre concepteur web.”) The person did not provide further information about its owners.

According to an analysis by the non-governmental fact-checking organization EU DisinfoLab, 24Journs.com is part of a network of sites that appear to share ownership, including Africa24.info, Africanews365.com, and Diasporanews24.com. Most of these sites were down as of March 2020.

The site derives revenue from advertising and sponsored content.

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
-  Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
-  Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
-  Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
-  Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
-  Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
-  Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
-  Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
-  The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Content

24Journs.com was a self-described satirical site but currently states on its Terms of Use page that it “now covers real news from around the world. The news presented on our website, starting on July 1, 2019, is real and not false. Hundreds of people around the world tell us about their lives and their stories, which we publish daily.” (“Nous traitons désormais des vraies info du monde. Les informations affichées sur notre site web à compter du premier juillet 2019 sont réelles

et non fausses. Des centaines de personnes à travers le monde nous racontent leur vie et leurs histoires que nous publions quotidiennement.”)

The homepage features content categories including World (Monde), Oddities (Insolite), Miscellaneous (Divers), Health and Wellness (Santé et Bien-être), and Hi-Tech. Most articles on the site cover news from the African continent, with a focus on French-speaking countries. Articles are generally taken from, or based on, other sites, including France 24, CNN, and African news sites such as Face2FaceAfrica.com and AfrikMag.com.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “Cameroon: At 25, he innovates and creates solar drones” (“Cameroun : à 25 ans, il innove et crée des drones solaires”); “Why new diseases continue to appear in China” (“Pourquoi de nouvelles maladies continuent d’apparaître en Chine”); and “Scientists reveal ideal age to have children” (“Les scientifiques révèlent l’âge idéal pour avoir des enfants”).

Credibility

Many articles on 24Jours.com rely on information from unidentified sources (the terms of services state that “our sources are confidential and sometimes prefer to remain anonymous”) or come from sites known for spreading false stories, including Russian state-owned websites Sputnik and RT, conspiracy site ReseauInternational.net, and Iranian news site Press-TV, all of which NewsGuard have identified as unreliable.

Although the site no longer claims to be publishing satire, NewsGuard found that it still publishes fabricated stories and misleading content.

For example, in early 2020, 24Jours.com shared several articles containing false claims about the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. In March 2020, the site published an article titled “Coronavirus: A Canadian-American study could explain why blacks won’t get this epidemic in their countries” (“Coronavirus: Une étude Canado-américaine pourrait expliquer pourquoi les Noirs n’auront pas cette

épidémie dans leurs pays”). The article claimed that a Canadian-U.S. study showed that “black people have a stronger immune response to infection than white people, which could explain the low number of new coronavirus cases observed in sub-Saharan Africa compared to the rest of the world.” (“Les noirs ont une réponse immunitaire à l’infection plus forte que les blanc... Cela pourrais expliquer le faible nombre de cas du nouveau coronavirus observés en Afrique subsaharienne par rapport au reste du monde.”) The article does not say when the study was published.

The study cited in the article, which was published in the scientific journal Cell in 2016, involved 175 Americans and concluded that Americans of African descent have a stronger immune response to infection compared to Americans of European descent. However, the study had nothing to do with Covid-19, which first emerged in late 2019.

There is no scientific evidence suggesting that black people are less susceptible to COVID-19 or can better fight the virus. According to the World Health Organization, by the end of March 2020, more than 1,000 people had been infected by COVID-19 in Africa. WHO's Africa chief, Matshidiso Moeti, called the health crisis “one of the biggest health challenges Africa has faced in a generation.”

Asked about this story, the representative of the site who identified himself as Macjude Kennedy told NewsGuard in an email: “Yes It is true that there is a Canadian-American study which shows that the immune system of black people is stronger than white people. You can verify it. In the context of the coronavirus, I say Africa may not have this epidemic.” (“Oui C'est vrai qu'il y a une étude canado-américaine qui montre que le système immunitaire des noirs est plus fort que celui des blancs. Vous pouvez le vérifier. Dans le contexte du coronavirus, je dit (sic) l'Afrique pourrait ne pas avoir cette épidémie.”)

Another March 2020 story, titled “Hundreds of Italian migrants on their way to Africa to flee the coronavirus” (“Des centaine de migrants italiens en route vers l'Afrique pour fuir le coronavirus”), claimed that “many

Europeans, including Italians fleeing the virus in their country entered Africa under the guise of tourism." The anonymous writer, identified only as "Sandra," claimed to have met a group of Italians at Milan Malpensa Airport who were traveling to Ethiopia and said that other Italians had landed in Gabon and Cameroon to escape the epidemic. ("De nombreux Européens notamment des Italiens fuyant le virus dans leur pays sont entrés en Afrique sous couvert de tourisme.")

Libération's fact-checking team CheckNews After said it had contacted several airlines and found no evidence backing the claim that Italians were fleeing their country for African countries. The Italian fact-checking site Pagella Politica also said that it could not find evidence of an Italian "exodus" to Africa, as reported by Liberation.

Asked about this claim, Macjude Kennedy told NewsGuard: "We were at Milan Malpensa Airport where we interviewed passengers. An Italian source revealed to us that she knew families who were ready to leave the country for Africa because they were fleeing the virus. There is nothing false about this information." ("Nous étions à l'aéroport de Milan Malpensa où nous avons interrogé les passagers. Une source italienne nous a révélé qu'elle connaissait des familles qui étaient prêtes à quitter le pays pour l'Afrique parce qu'elles fuyaient le virus. Il n'y a rien de faux à propos de cette information.")

In March 2020, the site posted an article titled "A pastor prints his face on thongs to help women lure men into marriage" ("Un pasteur imprime son visage sur des strings pour aider les femmes à attirer les hommes pour le mariage"). The story asserted that a Nigerian pastor, whom it named, had printed his face on women's underwear to be used by single women "to lure men into marriage" ("pour attirer les hommes aux mariages (sic)"). The post included a low-quality photo of undergarments with the printed photo of a man in a suit.

The pastor named in the article told France 24 that the story was "completely false" ("totalement fausse") and that the photo had been photoshopped. He said he has

sued Nigerian sites that ran the story.

Asked to comment on the article, Kennedy told NewsGuard that the story would be deleted, although it was not immediately taken down. "Like any other news sites, sometimes we can make mistakes and publish information without thorough verification," the site said. ("Comme tout autre site d'actualités, Parfois, nous pouvons faire des erreurs et publier des informations sans vérification approfondie.")

In addition to recent articles such as the ones cited above, 24Jours.com has not deleted stories published before July 2019, when it was presenting itself as a satirical website. These articles are not labelled as false or satirical.

For example, in June 2019, the site published an article headlined "State of origin: Evidence of laboratory creation of HIV-AIDS" ("État d'origine: la preuve de la naissance au laboratoire du VIH sida"). The article, which stated that it was based on a text from ReseauInternational.net, claimed that the AIDS virus was created in a lab by the United States in order to target African-Americans for genocide.

The well-established scientific consensus about the origins of AIDS is that the HIV virus originated from the transmission of the simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) from chimpanzees to humans in West-central Africa.

Asked about this article and the site's overall standards, Kennedy, the site's representative stated: "If you read our terms of use, you will realize that previously some of our articles were incorrect or satirical. So we've been forced to stop sharing false information since Facebook started fighting FakeNews Websites. Now all the information we share on the site is real and not false." ("Si vous lisez notre condition d'utilisation, vous vous rendrez compte qu'avant, certains de nos articles étaient incorrects ou satiriques. Nous avons donc été forcés d'arrêter de partager de fausses informations depuis que Facebook a

commencé à lutter contre les FakeNews Website. Désormais toutes les informations que nous partageons sur le site sont réelles et non fausses.”)

Because 24Jours.com regularly publishes hoaxes and fabricated stories, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

24Jours.com does not publish a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Asked about the site’s approach to corrections, Kennedy said the site sometimes corrects stories, but not with public notice — which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for transparent corrections. “You can’t know which article has been modified or hasn’t, unless you’ve read it before it was corrected or changed,” the representative said. (“Oui parfois nous modifions un article quand il y a une mise à jour. Je n’ai pas trouvé de rectificatifs sur 24jours.com - En fait, nous mettons à jour l’article directement sans préavis. Vous ne pouvez pas savoir quel article a été modifié ou non à moins que vous ne l’ayez lu avant qu’il ne soit corrigé ou changé.”)

The site does not typically post opinion content.

Transparency

24Jours.com does not disclose its ownership. Asked about its owners, Kennedy told NewsGuard: “We don’t see why this should be brought to the attention of the public.” (“Nous ne voyons pas la raison pour laquelle cela devrait être porté à la connaissance du public.”)

24Jours.com does not reveal who is in charge of its content. Kennedy told NewsGuard that it does not name its editorial leadership “because we see no reason to disclose information about our editors and also because we are a small news site.” (“Parce que nous ne voyons aucune raison de divulguer les informations concernant nos éditeurs et aussi parce que nous sommes un petit site d’actualités”).

Articles are generally credited to a person identified only as "Sandra." The site does not provide contact or biographical information for this author or any other content creators. "The reason is simple, we have many contributors but only one editor, it's her who chooses the content to publish and what not to publish," Kennedy told NewsGuard. ("La raison est simple, nous avons de nombreux contributeur (sic) mais un seul éditeur, c'est elle qui choisit le contenu à publier et celui à ne pas publier.")

Advertisements and sponsored content are distinguished from editorial content.

History

The website was registered in 2017.

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#), [Chine Labbe](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Transparency

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