

# linfolibre.com

A right-wing website that has made unsubstantiated claims to advance its political views, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.**

## Ownership and Financing

LinfoLibre.com does not disclose its ownership. According to its Who We Are page, the website's editorial staff is managed by French author and journalist Jean-Moïse Braitberg.

LinfoLibre.com launched as a Facebook page in 2017, under the name La France Libre, a separate right-wing website. LinfoLibre.com did not launch its own website until 2019.

LaFranceLibre.tv, which later changed its name to Goldnadel.tv, and LinfoLibre's Facebook page shared the same logo: A blue and white radio microphone and the tagline "The resistance media."

LinfoLibre.com regularly republishes content produced by video site Goldnadel.tv and other Le Magasin Numérique websites, such as FrontPopulaire.fr and MichelOnfray.com, two news sites led by the French populist writer and philosopher Michel Onfray.

Despite these connections, Le Magasin Numérique's president, Stéphane Simon, told NewsGuard in a May 2020 email that L'Info Libre is not owned by his company. Lawyer and columnist Gilles-William Goldnadel, the co-founder of Goldnadel.tv, told NewsGuard in a May 2020 email that he also does not own L'Infolibre.

The site derives revenue from donations and does not carry advertising.

**Score: 39.5/100**



Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)



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

L'info Libre means "The Free News" in French. The site describes itself on its Who We Are page as an "online resistance media" service that "is interested in the real, does not give in to trends, considers that contemporary issues are not limited to the study of the collapse of industrial civilization, identity and victimhood

hypersensitivity, and doesn't recognize itself in the reflexes of the media class." ("L'info Libre s'intéresse au réel, ne cède pas aux modes, considère que les problématiques contemporaines ne se résument pas à la collapsologie et à l'hypersensibilité identitaire et victimaire, ne se reconnaît pas non plus dans les réflexes de classes médiatiques.")

The site publishes commentary on French and international news, with a focus on political and diplomatic scandals. Many articles are critical of the administration of French President Emmanuel Macron and promote right-wing ideas on the perceived loss of state sovereignty to globalization.

Typical headlines include "Refugees: An untenable situation for Europe in the face of Turkish arguments" ("Réfugiés: Une situation intenable pour l'Europe face aux raisons turques"); "Afghanistan: Why did the Americans hand over the country to the fundamentalist Taliban?" ("Afghanistan : Pourquoi les américains ont ils livré le pays aux talibans obscurantistes?"); and "Epidemic: How China swindled us" ("Épidémie: comment la Chine nous a roulé dans la farine.").

---

#### Credibility

Stories on LinfoLibre.com often cite reporting from well-known French news organizations such as Le Monde, Le Parisien, JDD, and Agence France-Presse. Headlines generally reflect articles' content and do not make false claims.

However, the site has published articles that make unsubstantiated claims, including about the COVID-19 virus.

For example, in April 2020, the site published an article titled "Humanity endangered by Chinese lies," ("L'humanité mise en péril par les mensonges chinois") which claimed that there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was transmitted to humans by an animal. "There is no evidence for this zoological version of the epidemic, but everyone believed it, starting with our authorities," the article said. "This is a serious error of judgement." ("Il n'existe aucune preuve de cette

version zoologique de l'épidémie mais tout le monde l'a crue, à commencer par nos autorités. Ce qui relève d'une grave erreur d'appréciation.”)

Several peer-reviewed studies in 2020 have concluded that the COVID-19 virus had natural origins. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement published on its website, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

In a March 2020 article, the site claimed that in January 2020, the French government labeled the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as “toxic” in order to limit its over-the-counter use, when officials knew that the drug could possibly be used to treat the COVID-19 virus. The article’s writer asked, “Was the January decision to make access to chloroquine more difficult part of an attack launched against this researcher?”, an apparent reference to French microbiologist Didier Raoult, an early proponent of using chloroquine to treat COVID-19 patients. (“La décision de rendre plus difficile l'accès à la chloroquine prise en janvier dernier s'inscrit-elle dans l'offensive lancée contre ce chercheur ?”).

In fact, the decision to label hydroxychloroquine as a “toxic substance” and to suspend its over-the-counter availability occurred before the coronavirus outbreak. Although the decree, signed by France’s general director of health, was published in January 2020, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety made the recommendation in November 2019. France’s health ministry reported the first three confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country on January 24, approximately two weeks after the decree was passed.

The *LinfoLibre.com* article also said that at the time that France issued the decree that limited the drug’s sales, “we already knew it had been tested on patients in

China, with encouraging results.” However, the first clinical trial to test hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment, which was conducted on patients in Shanghai, China, began in February 2020, several weeks after the decree was passed.

In a February 2020 article titled “Violence in lesbian couples: A real taboo” (“La violence dans les couples lesbiens: un vrai tabou”), the site claimed that domestic violence was more prevalent among lesbian couples than any other pairing, including same-sex relationships between men or heterosexual relationships.

“As for lesbian couples, not only does it seem that they generate more violence than gay couples but that they are also significantly more violent than heterosexual couples,” the article said (“Quant aux couples lesbiens, non seulement il semble qu'ils soient plus génératerurs (sic) de violence que les couples gays mais qu'ils soient aussi significativement plus violents que les couples hétéros.”), citing a report in *Jeanne Magazine*, a French lesbian magazine.

The *LinfoLibre.com* article also appears to cite a 2009 Canadian survey, which reported lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Canada were more likely to have experienced domestic violence than heterosexual people. However, the survey that the article cites did not provide information about domestic violence specifically aimed at lesbians.

Coraline Delebarre, a psychologist and sexologist interviewed in the *Jeanne Magazine* article, told *NewsGuard* in a phone interview that *InfoLibre.com*'s claim is not supported by evidence. “There aren't many studies in France on the topic,” said Delebarre, who co-authored an analytical review of studies on lesbian health in the French scientific journal *Genre, sexualité et société*. She added, “When I did my work on the issue, I used Canadian and American data, which demonstrate that there is violence in LGBT couples that is equivalent to what we found in heterosexual couples.”

Because LinfoLibre.com has made misleading or unsubstantiated claims and misrepresented other news organizations' reporting, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present information responsibly.

While the site's Who We Are page describes some of its views against media norms, it does not disclose a political point of view. Its articles, however, push a right-wing, sometimes populist agenda.

For example, in a May 2020 profile of Aurélien Pradier, the general secretary of right-wing party Les Republicains, the author wrote, "The old left has succumbed to the virus of ultra-liberalism," while "a young social and republican right rethinks the State, an essential tool to limit inequality and the ultimate resource of the working classes." ("Il est en tous cas rassurant de constater qu'après que la vieille gauche a succombé au virus de l'ultralibéralisme, une jeune droite sociale et républicaine repense l'Etat, incontournable moyen pour limiter les inégalités et ultime richesse des classes populaires.")

Another May 2020 article called a new decree promoting Arabic instruction in French public schools "a communitarian measure intended to make young French people of North African descent go back to their roots, in defiance of the values of equality and secularism, which are the basis of our republic." ("Une mesure communautariste destinée à renvoyer à leurs origines les petits français d'origine nord-africaine, au mépris des valeurs d'égalité et de laïcité qui fondent notre république.")

Because LinfoLibre.com publishes stories from an undisclosed political perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

LinfoLibre.com does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

The site did not respond to two Facebook messages seeking comment on the articles cited above, the site's handling of opinion content, and its lack of corrections.

---

Transparency LinfoLibre.com does not disclose its ownership. Its Who We Are page names the website's publishing director, Jean-Moïse Braitberg. However, no contact information is provided for him. A general email address listed on the site did not work when NewsGuard tried to use it to contact the site.

Because no contact information is available for Braitberg, NewsGuard has determined that LinfoLibre.com does not meet NewsGuard's standard for revealing who is in charge.

Articles generally include author names. However, LinfoLibre.com does not provide any contact or biographical information for its content creators.

LinfoLibre.com did not respond to two Facebook messages seeking comment on why the site does not provide contact information, does not disclose its owners or provide information about content creators.

The site does not run advertising.

---

History The site launched in September 2019.

**Written by:** [Sophia Tewa](#)

**Edited by:** [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Chine Labbe](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

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

## Sources

Ownership and Financing

<https://linfolibre.com/p/don>

<https://linfolibre.com/p/qui-sommes-nous>

<https://lafrancelibre.tv/>

[https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/medias/brunet-goldnadel-et-bercoff-lancent-une-webtele-a-droite-toute\\_1965666.html](https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/medias/brunet-goldnadel-et-bercoff-lancent-une-webtele-a-droite-toute_1965666.html)

<https://goldnadel.tv/mentions-legales>

<http://www.slate.fr/story/160633/stephane-simon-thierry-ardisson-reinformation-webtele-droite-france-libre>

<https://magasinnumerique.com/>

[https://www.liberation.fr/france/2015/06/15/gilles-william-goldnadel-avocat-de-philippot-contre-le-qatar\\_1329937](https://www.liberation.fr/france/2015/06/15/gilles-william-goldnadel-avocat-de-philippot-contre-le-qatar_1329937)  
<https://frontpopulaire.fr/p/cgu>  
[https://www.facebook.com/linfoLibre1/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/linfoLibre1/?ref=page_internal)

---

Content

<https://linfoLibre.com/p/qui-sommes-nous>  
[https://linfoLibre.com/p/page\\_international](https://linfoLibre.com/p/page_international)  
<https://linfoLibre.com/o/Content/co2242/refugies-une-situation-intenable-pour-l-europe-face-aux-raisons-turques>  
[https://linfoLibre.com/p/page\\_culture](https://linfoLibre.com/p/page_culture)  
[https://linfoLibre.com/p/page\\_france](https://linfoLibre.com/p/page_france)  
[https://linfoLibre.com/p/page\\_media](https://linfoLibre.com/p/page_media)  
<https://linfoLibre.com/o/Content/co46609/l-arabe-a-l-ecole-elementaire-les-islamistes-en-revait-macron-l-a-fait>  
<https://linfoLibre.com/o/Content/co15549/epidemie-comment-la-chine-nous-a-roule-dans-la-farine>  
<https://linfoLibre.com/o/Content/co15224/afghanistan-pourquoi-les-americains-ont-ils-livre-le-pays-aux-talibans-obsc>

---

Coronavirus:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200518155327/https://linfoLibre.com/o/Content/co27117/le-coronavirus-est-un-travail-d-apprentis-sorciers-soutient-le-pr-montagnie>  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20200519141826/https://linfoLibre.com/o/Content/co26652/l-humanite-mise-en-peril-par-les-mensonges-chinois>  
<https://www.20minutes.fr/sante/2762791-20200417-non-coronavirus-cree-partir-vih-contrairement-affirme-professeur-luc-montagnier>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0820-9>  
<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/item/2112-intelligence-community-statement-on-origins-of-covid-19>  
<https://www.lci.fr/sante/la-chloroquine-est-elle-passee-sous-ordonnance-au-meme-moment-que-l-arrivee-du-coronavirus-en-france-2148517.html>  
<https://factuel.afp.com/non-la-chloroquine-na-pas-ete-interdite-par-un-arrete-en-janvier-2020>

<https://www.anses.fr/fr/system/files/ANMV2019SA0175.pdf>

[https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/2020/03/21/agnes-buzyn-a-t-elle-classe-en-janvier-la-chloroquine-dans-les-substances-veneneuses\\_1782466](https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/2020/03/21/agnes-buzyn-a-t-elle-classe-en-janvier-la-chloroquine-dans-les-substances-veneneuses_1782466)

[https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/01/24/coronavirus-deux-premiers-cas-confirmes-en-france-a-bordeaux-et-paris\\_6027158\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/01/24/coronavirus-deux-premiers-cas-confirmes-en-france-a-bordeaux-et-paris_6027158_3244.html)

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200317175442.htm>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200518211750/https://linfo libre.com/o/Content/co2133/violence-dans-les-couples-lesbiens-un-vrai-tabou>

<http://www.slate.fr/story/65941/violence-conjugale-couples-homosexuels>

<https://tetu.com/2019/07/12/violences-conjugales-chez-les-lgbt-deux-deputes-interpellent-marlene-schiappa/>

[https://www.jeanne-magazine.com/le-magazine/2019/09/02/violences-conjugales-entre-femmes-raisons-silence\\_9557/](https://www.jeanne-magazine.com/le-magazine/2019/09/02/violences-conjugales-entre-femmes-raisons-silence_9557/)

[https://www.jeanne-magazine.com/le-magazine/2016/11/14/sortie-de-jeanne-magazine-n34-novembre-2016\\_9429/](https://www.jeanne-magazine.com/le-magazine/2016/11/14/sortie-de-jeanne-magazine-n34-novembre-2016_9429/)

<https://journals.openedition.org/gss/951>

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-224-x/85-224-x2010000-fra.pdf>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200523190555/https://linfo libre.com/o/Content/co15746/chloroquine-et-covid-19-pourquoi-tant-de-haine-contre-le-professeur-didier-https://factuel.afp.com/non-la-chloroquine-na-pas-ete-interdite-par-un-arrete-en-janvier-2020>

<https://www.anses.fr/fr/system/files/ANMV2019SA0175.pdf>

[https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/2020/03/21/agnes-buzyn-a-t-elle-classe-en-janvier-la-chloroquine-dans-les-substances-veneneuses\\_1782466](https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/2020/03/21/agnes-buzyn-a-t-elle-classe-en-janvier-la-chloroquine-dans-les-substances-veneneuses_1782466)

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04261517>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(20\)30114-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30114-5/fulltext)

<https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=229914>

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/27/we-dont-know-hydroxychloroquine/>

<https://linfolibre.com/o/Content/co15571/face-aux-territoires-perdus-du-confinement-le-gouvernement-osera-t-il-recou>

<https://linfolibre.com/o/Content/co56311/front-populaire-michel-onfray-est-en-train-de-gagner-son-pari>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200518190913/https://linfolibre.com/o/Content/co2136/enfants-transgenre-monstruosite-environnementale-plutot-que-libre-choix-du->

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200518192700/https://linfolibre.com/o/Content/co43246/aurelien-pradier-le-nouveau-visage-d-une-droite-sociale-qui-veut-le-retour->

---

Transparency

<https://linfolibre.com/p/qui-sommes-nous>

---

History

<http://ecla.aquitaine.fr/Ecrit-et-livre/Annuaire-des-professionnels/Auteurs/Braitberg-Jean-Moise>

<https://www.sudouest.fr/2019/02/16/les-souvenirs-de-jean-moise-braitberg-5827286-3097.php>

<https://lookup.icann.org/lookup>