

Data Journalism Story Memo
by Ana Maria Margarita “Ayee” Macaraig

My story presents trends on global populism and press freedom so I aim to pitch it to an international publication. *The Guardian* would be the ideal outlet because of its [new populism series](#). The paper launched the project last year tracking the populist phenomenon. It has published stories [profiling populists](#), analyzing [Trump and Brexit](#), relating populism to [conspiracy theories](#) and [surveys](#) on populism. While *The Guardian* [reported on the Global Populism Database](#), it has yet to relate it to press freedom. My piece would be a fitting addition to the series, especially ahead of an event such as World Press Freedom Day.

To extend the story, I aim to interview 4 sources: a Turkish journalist imprisoned under Erdogan, a representative of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), and academics [Cas Mudde](#) and [Paul Kenny](#). I contacted RSF and Turkish journalist-turned-politician [Ahmet Şık](#), who was imprisoned for supposedly defending “terrorist” organizations, but they did not respond in time for the deadline. I would like to interview Şık about his experience and his thoughts on Erdogan’s populism and how it relates to media freedom in Turkey. For RSF, I would ask why the group thinks populism endangers press freedom and its outlook on these two topics for the next decade, especially in the post-Trump era. For the academics, these are foremost populism scholars and I would ask them about the implications of Trump’s defeat on media freedom in the US and the rest of the world, and why they think populism threatens press freedom.