



PRESS RELEASE

JOURNALISM PRIZE FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL COHESION (JPSC)

In 2019, the Episcopal Conferences of Burkina-Niger, Mali, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), launched the Sahel Peace Initiative (SPI), with the aim of promoting integral human development, social cohesion, and lasting peace in the West African sub-region.

As part of the implementation of this initiative's activities, the Journalism Prize for Peace and Social Cohesion (JPSC) was established in Burkina Faso in 2022. This prize aims to foster greater commitment among media professionals around themes related to peace and social cohesion. Since its launch, the JPSC has gradually established itself as a framework for recognizing journalistic productions committed to the promotion of peaceful coexistence and conflict prevention.

For its 5th edition, whose launch press conference was held on March 13, 2026, the prize features a major innovation. Intending to scale up and encourage, beyond Burkina Faso, peace and social cohesion initiatives across its five countries of intervention, the SPI launched a *special regional prize* on the sidelines of the Bamako Forum. This communiqué outlines the main guidelines related to this development.

Revision of the Internal Rules for the 5th Edition of the JPSC

The Prize's internal rules have been revised to incorporate certain improvements, particularly the updated participation modalities under Articles 7, 10, 12, and 14.

Extension of the Application Submission Deadline

The application deadline has been exceptionally extended to May 24, 2026 at 7:00 a.m., in order to allow a greater number of candidates to submit their works.

Establishment of a Special Regional Prize

In a drive to promote peaceful coexistence beyond borders, a *cross-border regional prize*, awarded by the SPI Regional Coordination Office, has been established to recognize journalistic productions addressing cross-border issues related to the pursuit of peace and social cohesion in the five member countries, namely Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Niger.

Application files may be submitted in accordance with the procedures defined in the revised internal rules.

The updated internal rules are available on the Sahel Peace Initiative website (www.spiafrica.org) and that of the CJP-Burkina (www.cjpburkina.org).

The SPI Regional Coordination Office invites all media professionals to seize this opportunity to showcase their contribution to peacebuilding.

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Vice-President of the SPI Burkina Working Group

Brother Jean-Luc TRAORE

