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Tribunal de Paris
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Dear Prosecutor,

I am writing to you to express my serious concern about the preliminary investigation that your office is currently undertaking against Geoffrey Livolsi and Mathias Destal, who work for the investigative online media Disclose, as well as Benoît Collombat, who works for Radio France. In April 2019, these three investigative journalists published crucial information regarding the sale of French weapons to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and the use of these weapons against civilians in the civil war in Yemen. The sales of these weapons violate the obligations of France under international law, including the Arms Trade Treaty.

The right to freedom of expression protects the right to seek, impart and receive information and ideas of all kinds, including information about serious human rights violations. Journalists play a crucial role in informing society and must be able to operate without being threatened and harassed. I am concerned that this investigation is being used as a means to harass journalists and force them to reveal their sources. Information about human rights violations is in the public interest and journalists should not be prosecuted for communicating such information.

I am urging you to immediately close the investigation against Geoffrey Livolsi, Mathias Destal and Benoît Collombat and respect their right to freedom of expression and ensure they are able to continue their work without fear of reprisals.

Yours sincerely,