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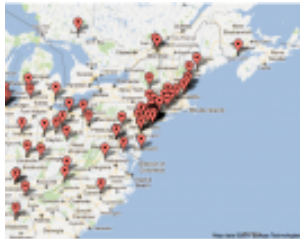
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## Is It Time for Transparency in Spain?

BY [ANTONELLA NAPOLITANO](#) | Monday, April 2 2012

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### NEWS BRIEFS



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#### DEMOCRATS RUN FOR COVER IN WAKE OF DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST'S COMMENTS ON CNN



Democrats quickly distanced themselves over the past 24 hours from Democratic strategist Hilary Rosen's comment on CNN Wednesday evening that Mitt Romney's wife Ann "had never worked a day in her life." Here's a look at how the commentary unfolded online in the past day. [GO >](#)



ABOVE: Image: [h de c](#) / Flickr

The right-leaning government of Spain is working on the creation of a new transparency and information access law.

Faced with economic hardship and in a turbulent political time — Spain's Indignados movement began less than a year ago — a freedom of information law would be one way to boost credibility with the public. But open government advocates say the proposed law does not go far enough, and fails to meet international standards.

Last Monday, the government [published the draft](#) of the “Law on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Government” and [opened it](#) to comments.

“Spain is one of the last democratic countries in the world to adopt an access to information law and it really should be in line with the minimum international standards such as the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents,” [argues Helen Darbishire](#), executive director of human rights organization Access Info.

In the expectation that Spain will adopt the new transparency law soon, Access Info and Spanish NGO Fundacion Ciudadana Civio recently launched a new site, [Tuderechoasaber.es](#) (Your Right to Know). The site helps citizens find the right body to address a freedom of information request. The

## WITH BATTLE OF THE MOMS, ROMNEY CAMPAIGN OPENS NEW DOORS ON TWITTER

Twitter became ground zero for the 2012 general election campaign on Thursday after [Hilary Rosen](#) a prominent Democrat, [sparked off a firestorm](#) with her suggestion on CNN Wednesday night that Ann Romney, who remained at home to raise her five sons, hadn't "worked a day in her life."

But the comment also created a new opportunity not only for Republicans, who have been looking to turn the Democrats' "War on Women" campaign theme around to their advantage, but also for the Romney campaign to start engaging more actively online with women as Ann Romney [finally established a Twitter account](#) to voice her thoughts.

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## WHITE HOUSE LAUNCHES NEW TOOL IN 'BUFFETT RULE' PUSH



know, the site helps citizens find the right way to address a freedom of information request. The process is similar to that of AskTheEu.Org, another Access Info initiative whose launch I covered back in October: The request will arrive via email, and the answer will go back to the requester through Tuderechoasaber staff and be made public on their website. In this way, the thinking goes, citizens will be able to track other people's requests and find useful information. The site was created with the help of 152 people who contributed €6,138 through the crowdfunding platform Goteo.

The scope of access excludes areas like national security, defense, external relations and Spain's royal family, Access Info writes in a list of areas of concern on the draft of the transparency law. Also, many exceptions to access are included and if the public administration does not reply in the fixed time of a month, the lack of a response can be considered a refusal.

"Spain is the only EU country with over one million inhabitants with no access to information law and research shows that over one in two requests (54%) never get any kind of response, while only 20% receive the information requested." Access Info and Ciudadana Civio staff wrote in the joint press release that launched Tuderechoasaber.

In Spain the only regulation on access to public documents and archives is contained in a 1992 law on public administration and, among other restrictions, requires citizens to show a "legitimate" interest related to the access request they're making. A specific access regulation exists since 2006 for issues related to the environment.

The Spanish government is expected to present the Transparency and Information Access law on April 17 during the Open Government Partnership conference, as part of their commitments as a member of the partnership. OGP is a multilateral group of governments that have made commitments to improve transparency and participation, and non-governmental organizations acting as advisors and watchdogs.

Spain joined the OGP last September; on the OGP website, it is listed as "developing commitments".

**RELATED TOPICS:** EUROPE, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, INFORMATION ACCESS, SPAIN


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**DISQUS** 

The White House has released a new tool where users can enter their tax information or their tax rate to get an estimate of how many "millionaires" are paying a lower tax rate than they are.

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## A FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, SET TO JAY-Z AND KANYE


Now making the rounds is this video, released on Tuesday, in which footage of French presidential candidate François Hollande's visit to suburbs of Paris and Lyon is set to a track from Jay-Z and Kanye West's recent collaborative effort, "Watch the Throne." GO 

## LAUNCHING TODAY: 'WORKER'S VOICE,' A REBOOT OF UNION POLITICAL ACTION

In D.C., a new labor group called Worker's Voice is just finishing up a launch event for what they're calling an update of labor's political organizing operations for 2012:

"The labor movement is the original social network," said Eddie Vale, the communications director for the new group. "Workers' Voice will be revolutionizing it for today's world by taking our traditional field and organizing knowledge and applying it to the digital era and making it available to all workers."

## TRANSLATING AMERICAN POLITICS

After previously helping to crowdsource translations of this year's [State of the Union address](#), PBS Newshour is stepping up its efforts to crowdsource translations of 2012 U.S. election events. Broadcasting & Cable [had reported in January](#) that PBS had received a \$420,000 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to organize the initiative with the help of crowdsourcing technology. The initiative uses technology now called [Amara](#) but previously known as "Universal Subtitles." This service, as the name implies, adds subtitles over the top of embeddable videos from services like YouTube or Vimeo. **GO** 



## CHANNELING THE BARTLET ADMINISTRATION, OBAMA'S ADVISOR BRIAN DEESE TAKES TO THE WHITE BOARD

The White House's newest edition of the White House White Board takes direct inspiration from television's fictional West Wing in a quest to explain the administration's Buffett Rule. In the February 2003 episode from the show's fourth season written by creator Aaron Sorkin, Deputy Communications Director Will Bailey, played by Joshua Malina, [is explaining the Jed Bartlet administration's new tax policy](#) to a group of interns as they prepare to help him work on public remarks. To illustrate the plan's impact on different tax brackets, Bailey



creates a table on a white board that shows the different earnings and taxes for non-union workers, public school teachers and doctors. [GO](#)

### **THIS FRIDAY, 1PM: PD+ CALL--HOW KICKSTARTER MAKES CROWDFUNDING EASY**

I've given to projects listed on Kickstarter ten times, according to my giving profile on the site. And every time I do, I marvel at how it all just seems to work. The platform has clearly found a sweet spot for connecting creative individuals and groups with other people who want to stake them on whatever crazy brilliant idea they have. ... [GO](#)



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