

Lili Rutai

FREELANCE JOURNALIST

I'm a Budapest-born journalist covering Central and Eastern Europe, international politics and human rights for international media outlets, including The Guardian, Al Jazeera, RFE/RL, New Lines Magazine and more.

I have reported from Hungary, Ukraine, Morocco, Romania, and Poland. My work includes cross-border investigations and long-term projects in print, audio, and broadcast journalism. I contributed to critically acclaimed projects as a researcher and undercover reporter.

I began my career as an investigative journalist at one of Hungary's leading independent outlets. I stayed in London after completing my master's degree in International Journalism from City, University of London.

After university, I gained experience in OSINT, social media discovery, and news, working in fast-paced newsrooms. Since 2018, I have been working as a freelance journalist, and have built a strong network of experts and NGO professionals across Europe.

In my free time, I host and produce a Hungarian-language feminist podcast with thousands of listeners.

Skills Summary

Languages: fluent Hungarian and English, advanced German, intermediate Italian and Russian

Experience and qualifications: Dataminr, WordPress, Shorthand, CMS, Mailchimp, Adobe, Audacity, Hindenburg, Canva, Headliner, HEFAT (2024), drivers license

Education

International Journalism MA

2020 - 2021

City, University of London

Communication and Media BA

2015 - 2019

Eötvös Lóránd University (ELTE)

Experience

Freelance journalist

2023 - current

Working with The Guardian, RFE/RL, Euronews, Al Jazeera, New Lines Magazine, The Dial Magazine and more

Editorial assistant, EBU Investigative Journalism Network

2023 - current

Working on cross-border collaborations as a researcher and coordinator, and editing the monthly newsletter

News journalist at Storyful, Factal and Upday

2021 - 2023

Social media discovery, reporting on breaking news stories, and verification using open-source intelligence

Portfolio:

For the full list, visit https://lilirutai.com

- Hungarian film-makers struggle for funding despite production boom on The Guardian
- Surrogacy during war on The Dial Magazine
- Inspired by Hungary, Trump Is Turning to Natalism on New Lines Magazine
- Generation Apathy: How Peter Magyar Is Mobilizing Hungary's Youth on RFE/RL
- Access to abortion is shrinking in Romania on New Lines Magazine
- Despite risks, hundreds of women return to wartime Ukraine to give birth on Al Jazeera
- Young Hungarians who got "eastern jabs" and now wish they hadn't on RFE/RL
- Violence against LGBTQ communities in Hungary after new law on VICE
- The Men Who Sell Football with Al Jazeera Investigations

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